

**Ecology**

This plan covers all traditional field boundaries including earth banks and stone-faced earth banks (cloddiau) with or without hedges. There is a separate linear features plan that covers all transport routes including road verges, railway tracks, cycle ways & footpaths.

Pembrokeshire's traditional earth stone banks often support a rich and varied flora and fauna. Some of these date back to medieval times and have significant archaeological and cultural importance. Those found in sheltered inland areas support woodland edge plants such as red campion, sitchwort, bluebell and mature trees such as oak, ash and hazel. In upland areas hedgebanks support heathland plants such as harebells, heather, billberry and western gorse. Coastal facing hedgebanks support sea-cliff grassland with sea campion, spring squill, thrift and kidney vetch. In more exposed wind swept areas you often see ancient wind sculptured hawthorns and gorse, which are evocative of the landscape and an inspiration for artists.

Traditional field boundaries provide vital links between habitats but also are a key to maintaining healthy populations for small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects such as the brown hairstreak butterfly. Large mature hedgebanks are particularly important as feeding and navigating features for bats. They are essential to maintaining healthy vibrant biodiversity in Pembrokeshire.



**Why are they in trouble?**

The main threats include:

- Removal of traditional field boundaries e.g. changes in agricultural or infrastructure / other development due to insufficient legal protection of traditional field boundaries.
- Neglect – leading to structural deterioration of earth banks; supporting banks and eventual decay & loss of hedgerows on top of banks where present.
- Unsympathetic management e.g. frequency, timing and techniques of cutting hedgerows.
- Nutrient enrichment of banks can lead to hedgebank plants being shaded out by more vigorous species such as nettle and goose-grass.
- Invasion by bracken and non-native species often indicating neglect e.g Japanese knotweed, Winter Heliotrope, Himalayan Balsam.
- Browsing and trampling of un-fenced hedgebanks by livestock leading to erosion.
- Loss of mature traditional field boundary trees due to unsympathetic management.

**What can you do to help?**

- Volunteer your time to attend a training day to find out how to manage traditional field boundaries.
- Encourage your neighbours to sympathetically manage traditional field boundaries within your community.
- Take part in surveys for species using traditional field boundaries advertised in the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership newsletter.
- Contribute to the historical mapping of traditional field boundaries and the species they support within your community.

For more information on species identification, where to send records or how you can get involved with specific projects see part 2 of the plan or contact the Biodiversity Officer.

**Where in Pembrokeshire?**

Traditional field boundaries are an integral characteristic of Pembrokeshire's landscape. They occur throughout the county from exposed cliff tops and headlands to sheltered lowland areas. Without hedgebanks Pembrokeshire's landscape would be very different.

**What's being done?**

There are some legal mechanisms to protect species rich and ancient hedgerows but there is no legal protection for traditional field boundaries. Local Planning Authorities and land owners are legally obliged to have due regard to the importance of traditional field boundaries and other linear features, in the wider countryside for biodiversity. There is limited protection for hedgerows supporting mature trees through Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

Agri-environment schemes offer grant aid to manage hedgerows sympathetically for wildlife. The Welsh Assembly Government have published the Welsh Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan which encourages highway authorities to manage road-side hedgebanks sympathetically. Advice relating to hedgerow management is provided by various agencies including Farming Wildlife Advisory Group, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, Countryside Council for Wales and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. There is however currently no guidance available for the management of traditional field boundaries.

**FREEPOST**

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## TRADITIONAL FIELD BOUNDARIES ● FFINIAU CAEAU TRADDODIADOL



The actions listed below aim to

- Maintain current extent and distribution of traditional field boundaries in Pembrokeshire.
- Maintain quality of traditional field boundaries in Pembrokeshire.
- Restore traditional field boundaries in Pembrokeshire in areas where they have been removed where appropriate.

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>Link to Group</b>
1	Promote the importance of traditional field boundaries to the general public, local authority staff and farming and landowning communities.	PLANED, WTSWW, PCC, PCNPA	Dec 2004	Event to launch the plan. Set-up community-based projects, hold training days for local authority staff, contractors and communities on traditional techniques such as hedge-laying and hedgebank construction. Western Telegraph/ Pembs Radio / Wildlife Trust	PBP Awareness sub-group
2	Seek adequate recognition of the need to support training courses on maintenance and construction of traditional field boundaries.	ALL	On going	Promote professional craftsmen's skills to landowners/managers seeking to maintain, restore or recreate traditional field boundaries in Pembrokeshire.	PBP Awareness sub-group PBP Development Action Group
		ALL	On going	Promote courses available aimed at training professionals in traditional countryside management techniques through PBP's monthly bulletin's and newsletters.	PBP Awareness sub-group Clynfyw Countryside Centre, Pembs College, Denmark Farm,
3	Protect traditional field boundaries from damage, erosion and destruction through the implementation of the Hedgerow Regulations where appropriate, and policies in the JUDP.	PCC, PCNPA, CCW	On going	Ensure that hedgerows and traditional field boundaries are fully considered during any development which may have an impact on them.	PBP Development Action Group
		PCC, PCNPA, CCW	On going	Develop and implement best practice concerning the conservation of traditional field boundaries in relation to all developments, in particular linear schemes such as pipelines and cycle ways.	
		EA-W	On-going	If erosion of a bank causes runoff to a watercourse EA-W be able to serve notice for restoration.	EA-W
4	Encourage the retention and construction of traditional field boundaries as part of road improvement projects through implementing the Trunk Road Estates BAP on both Trunk roads & where possible on county roads.	PCC, PCNPA, CCW, WAG, Carmathenshire Trunk Road	On going	Through the planning process seek to avoid / minimise the loss of traditional field boundaries. Develop and implement best practice concerning the conservation of traditional field boundaries in relation to road widening, and road building, across the whole of Pembrokeshire.	PBP Development Action Group
5	Re-instate ancient traditional field boundaries where appropriate.	CCW, PCC, WTSWW, NT, PCNPA, EA-W	On going	Identify opportunities for re-instatement of traditional field boundaries where appropriate. Use the code of Best Practice (to be developed under action 6) for the construction and maintenance of new traditional field boundaries.	PBP Development Action Group PBP Farming Action Group

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>Link to</b>
6	Promote the sympathetic management of traditional field boundaries by farmers, landowners and managers through agri-environment, hedgerow schemes, and other local policies and initiatives. Management should be appropriate to locations, landscape setting and species associated with hedgebanks, in line with the code of best practice.	FWAG, CCW, WTSWW, RSPB, PCC, PCNPA	2006 Ongoing	Develop and promote with partners, a Code of Best Practice on management of traditional field boundaries management in Pembrokeshire, incorporating current advice leaflets (RSPB hedgerow management). Ensure that the Code of Best Practice is promoted and implemented and by all partners.	PBP Farming Action Group PBP Awareness sub-group
		FWAG, CCW, WTSWW, RSPB, PCC, PCNPA	2006 On going	Provide advice on sources of possible funding for implementing management of traditional field boundaries.	PBP Funding Action Group PBP Farming Action Group
		CCW, WTSWW, PCC, PCNPA	Review 2007 On going	Ensure that management, plans and agreements (including tenancy agreements where appropriate) address the requirements of sympathetic management of traditional field boundaries.	PBP Farming Action Group,
		PCC,	Review 2007 On going	Ensure highways authorities' policies and sub-contractors manage traditional field boundaries sympathetic through following code of best practice where appropriate.	Highways Dept.
7	Encourage communities to undertake historical mapping of their village.	PLANED, PCC	On-going	Work with communities undertaking historical mapping projects to encourage mapping traditional field boundaries and the species they support.	PLANED sustainability & biodiversity sub-board. Cambria Archaeology
8	Survey traditional field boundaries for LBAP, CROW act Section 74 species and priority species protected by European and National legislation.	PCC, PCNPA, CCW	March 2005	Identify species to survey for along traditional field boundaries.	PBP LBAP Sub-group
		PORC, PEVN, WTSWW, PCNPA	On-going	Organise survey work, volunteer training / survey days.	PBP Biological Data Action Group PEVN.
		PORC, Plantlife, RSPB, BTO, PEVN	On-going	Ensure national survey schemes are promoted through PEVN	PBP Biological Data Action Group, PEVN
9	Where appropriate monitor LBAP species in traditional field boundaries.	-	-	Action details can be found in individual species plans.	PBP Biological Data Action Group

This plan contains all known information on November 2005, future schemes will be updated on the website plans. The whole plan will be reviewed in 2010.

**INTERACTION WITH OTHER HAPs AND SAPs**

Management for many species and habitats is compatible with that for the traditional field boundaries, eg. roadside verges, dormice, bats, chough, linnet, reed bunting, yellowhammer, tree sparrow, bullfinch, brown hairstreak, bastard balm.

A glossary for the abbreviations used in this plan can be found in the full Local Biodiversity Action Plan available from the website or the biodiversity officer.  
**Website:** [www.biodiversitywales.gov.uk](http://www.biodiversitywales.gov.uk) **Tel:** 0790 154 1728