



## **Report of the Gower AONB Officer**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 14 March 2022**

### **Gower Landscape & Biodiversity Grant Scheme**

This grant scheme, which will be a subsidiary of the Sustainable Development Fund, and will be managed locally on behalf of Welsh Government, aims to support a range of landscape and biodiversity enhancement initiatives within Gower AONB.

The grant will be aimed at landowners, Community Councils and other groups, to encourage and support projects where biodiversity gains can engage and benefit those who live within the local community. Priority will be given to schemes where there is greatest biodiversity gain, and where community benefit can be demonstrated.

The scheme will provide grant support for the following activities:

- Drystone Walls
- Hedge Laying and Planting
- Small Woodland Creation
- Coppicing
- Orchard Creation and Restoration
- Pond Creation
- Wildflower Meadow Restoration
- Community Wildflower Corridor Creation
- Small Historic Features

A series of guidance notes will set out what standards and conditions apply, and where you can find additional information and advice.

Grants will be up to £3,000, at up to 50% funding and eligible costs can include labour, materials, survey work and management plans. We expect to start inviting applications in April 2022.

A simple application form will be used to apply for funding, with advice and support from the AONB Team. A maintenance period of 10 years will be expected, and a simple management plan will be required as part of the application.

The scheme will run as a pilot in 2022/23, so that it can be reviewed and any amendments made to improve the outcomes in following years

Copies of the scheme documentation will be distributed to the SDF Grant Panel members, and the members of the AONB Steering Group – comments and suggestions will be welcome.

Mike Scott,  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2022