



Rhos Pasture Restoration Project

Historical research study brief

November 2021

Background

Rhôs pasture is species rich marshy grassland, traditionally managed by extensive cattle grazing. It is a frequent component of the landscape of Mid Wales, though it is undervalued for its species richness and ecosystem services potential. Focussed on the area surrounding Rhayader, this project aims to restore biodiversity and raise the cultural value of rhôs pastures with both landowners and communities.

The project plans to:

- Survey and monitor the restoration of rhôs pasture.
- Improve the biodiversity, soil structure, carbon and water storage of rhôs pasture.
- Survey and monitor the biodiversity and evaluate the management methods applied.
- Help sustain farm businesses by investigating markets for products and developing tourism facilities.
- Use arts and heritage activities to engage the public, create a positive identity for rhôs pasture and provide educational, health and well-being benefits.
- Monitor and evaluate outcomes and use this information to inform others.

The Rhôs Pasture Restoration Project is a two year funded project funded by the Welsh Government Sustainable Management Scheme. This collaborative project is managed by Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and is supported by CARAD Rhayader Museum and Rhayader by Nature.

More information on the project can be found at www.rwtwales.org/rhospasture

Brief for Tender

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust wish to engage a contractor to undertake some initial research into the history of rhos pasture habitat within Radnorshire.

Little is known about the historical scale of rhos pasture in this area or when significant land use change occurred, resulting in the reduction of this habitat.

As well as being able to calculate how much rhos pasture has been lost, we also hope to better understand the social history of this habitat.

Rhos pasture is a term used for wet, marshy grassland. However we know it has not always been used extensively and this is thought to be part of the reason for a lack of knowledge on the area.

Through this initial piece of research we hope to:

- **Begin to understand the historical extent of rhos pasture** across the project area and within the wider Radnorshire landscape.
- **Detail when and why the habitat has reduced in size**, i.e farming policy changes, afforestation etc.
- **Gather evidence on the ways in which rhos pasture was managed**, this could be finding extracts of farmers diaries, photographs and records from the area.

If through this initial piece of research it is evident that significant records exist a larger piece of research may be possible to further document the history of rhos pasture.

The focus of the Rhos Pasture Restoration Project area lies between Rhayader, Nantmel, Newbridge-on-Wye and Llanwrthwl. It may be for this research that the area of focus needs to be increased.

You will have some experience of historical research and have knowledge of and access to relevant archive facilities. It is imagined that most of this work could be completed remotely but some meetings with local people may be beneficial.

Contract details

The fixed price for the contract is £1000.

Your tender document needs to include:

- Your day rate, and how you anticipate that the budget will be spent
- How you plan to deliver the contract and timescale
- Your skills and experience that make you a good candidate for this contract

Closing date for a tender is 31 January 2022 at 5pm. The Report needs to be completed by 25th March 2022 with a first draft for discussion by 11th March 2022.

Please email your tender to Jenny Mottershead, Community Arts & Heritage Officer – jenny@rwtwales.org

Tender documents will be assessed by members of the arts & heritage working group.