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Contact : Gemma Cooper
Direct dial number : 0131 472 4000
E-mail address : gemma.cooper@nfus.org.uk

AGRI-ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE SCHEME- IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS FUNDING RELEASED

1. The Improving Public Access (IPA) option opens for applications today-Monday 1 March 2021 and closes on Wednesday 30 June 2021. Members wishing to manage public access may wish to consider this funding option.
2. The format of the scheme remains in line with previous rounds with support available for a range of capital items for creating new paths or improving existing paths with the fixed cost payment rates remaining unchanged.
3. Applications for Improving Public Access must be made separately to other applications for the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme as it has its own separate assessment process. payment is made.
4. Improving Public Access (IPA) projects may be small scale, to enhance a single path or improve signs and gates; or they may tackle larger network improvements or long-distance paths. The Improving Public Access option can be summarised as:
 - Select from a menu of path infrastructure capital items, these have a fixed payment rate linked directly to meeting the standard requirements specification
 - Design your path, selecting from the menu of items, and prepare a map showing location of each menu item
 - Complete the schedule of works listing the items chosen, quantity and location
 - NatureScot case officers will assess all applications and make a site visit

- If successful you must build the path and infrastructure exactly as stated in the contract and in the requirements document
 - Once built you claim for payment, the path may be inspected and if all is good payment is made
5. More information is available at: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/improving-public-access/guidance-for-improving-public-access/>

Ends.