

# Guidelines for Access for All funding in Protected Landscapes

Access for All '25-26

1. Access for All funding is for physical and digital infrastructure improvements to make Protected Landscapes (PL) more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds.

The funding is for capital spend only. Capital spend is a one-off itemised cost where funding is provided to purchase or invest in a physical item or asset (capital item) to achieve a stated outcome, in this case to improve accessibility for all users.

Some examples of what would be classed as capital expenditure include:

- Access infrastructure, buildings, machinery and equipment, for example:
  - Disabled toilet facilities
  - Replacement of gates
  - Additional seating areas
  - Improved access to waterways for the mobility-impaired
  - Widening and resurfacing of paths for multi-user use
  - Purchase of trampers, mobility scooters, electric bikes and storage/charging facilities
  - Purchase of specially adapted tools and personal protective equipment for volunteers
  - Provision of accessible signage and visitor information, physical and digital
- Creation of a new or improvement of an existing piece of access infrastructure, such as building a toilet or fitting a new accessible gate or adapting a minibus or visitor centre.
- Research and development, defined as:  
“Creative work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge, and use of this stock of knowledge for the purpose of discovering or developing new products, including improved versions or qualities of existing products, or discovering new or more efficient processes of production”.

Not classifiable as capital:

- Removal of a stile- unless it's being replaced by an accessible gate
  - Hire of a minibus
  - Staff time that is not directly attributable to creation of asset
2. When considering accessibility improvements we advise consulting with disability representatives. Adopt a pan-impairment approach and consider what the barriers to access are for all disabled people.
  3. Any accessibility infrastructure change or intervention should be accessible for all users, and, where possible to do so, should avoid the requirement of extra

tools to use (for example, gates locked with RADAR keys) and consider safety, value for money and sustainability.

4. Landscapes may wish to work together to pool their existing resources and knowledge and to obtain better value for money through the sharing of equipment and facilities etc. National Parks England and National Landscapes Association can support and provide opportunities to discuss collaboration.
5. Spend must improve public access to and within the protected landscape and should serve the broader interests of the PL and their communities. PLs are reminded if working with private businesses to consider the rules on subsidy reporting.