

Three Towers Landscape Partnership Project

An application has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership scheme for a large programme of activity in the West Pennine Moors. A decision is expected following the HLF board meeting on 18th July, 2012. Due to the limited time available after this before the Area Management Committee meeting, proposals for the next steps will be presented at the meeting.

If successful, this project will start with a development phase where project details will be developed further to submit a stage 2 application, and project delivery will not begin until this is successful.

A summary of the project is given below. If you would like a copy of the full bid (48 pages) that was submitted to HLF then please contact Fiona Cruchley Fiona.cruchley@lancashire.gov.uk or 01772 533906.

AAThe Three Towers: Beacons to the West Pennine Moors

HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Outline

Situated in the North West of England, the West Pennine Moors covers 90 square miles of rural Lancashire and Greater Manchester. As part of the South Pennines, it is the westerly outlier of the landscape, forming part of the chain as it links areas of the Peak District with the Yorkshire Dales to the north and stands out as the separation of the major conurbations in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. It is a 'wild space' on the doorstep for people of the 'old Lancashire' towns (680,000 people live in the surrounding towns of Bolton, Blackburn with Darwen, Bury and Chorley). The area receives large numbers of visitors, particularly at a few honeypot sites (such as 841,000 visits per year at Rivington), so that wider visitor facilities, co-ordination and access offer opportunity and need for development.

Though both an iconic landscape in the view of local rural and metropolitan communities and a wildlife hot spot, it has little in the way of designation. Only 0.26% of the area is designated as SSSI, though there are 150 non-statutory Biological Heritage Sites covering 34% of the area. In terms of priority species of local concern for conservation on Lancashire's Long List of BAP Species, the area has 185 species listed (including 84 plants and 61 birds). It is also noted for holding 38% of Lancashire's Blanket Bog habitat resource, and 18% of the grassland resource. In addition to this natural heritage, the area has a rich cultural heritage. The focal point for this project will be the 3 prominent towers: Peel tower, Rivington Pike and Jubilee tower, Darwen. They offer the inspiration and panoramic views that connect the moors across the plains of the North West of England. There is a need to empower and educate communities on the value of their local heritage with the archaeological jewels, industrial past, and early mass trespasses long before Kinder Scout grabbed the headlines. This will help sustain the value and protection of the powerful and unique landscape past the timeframe of the scheme.

The vision for the West Pennine Moors is built out of successful history of partnership working across county and local authority boundaries, the strength of which will be taken forward but the changing circumstances in society mean we need to make the most of the unique situation for the West Pennine Moors and evolve:

The West Pennine Moors will be celebrated as an iconic place where inspirational visitor experiences and vibrant communities have come together to sustain its spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage to make a significant contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

The Landscape Partnership Scheme will develop a portfolio of projects to help deliver solutions to the varied pressures and key issues impacting on our important landscape and its heritage. The aims of the scheme are:

1. Recognising and celebrating the West Pennine Moors as a heritage, cultural and recreational destination that is regarded as both accessible and central to the people of Greater Manchester and Lancashire.
2. Enabling communities within and around the West Pennine Moors to identify, interpret and celebrate their relationship with its landscape, enabling its distinctive local character to be better maintained, understood and appreciated.
3. Coordinating, connecting and communicating imaginative, high quality and sustainable experiences so that many more people (and a greater diversity of people) can access, appreciate and enjoy a stunning and significant heritage landscape.
4. Sustainably developing this diverse, working and cherished landscape to provide an irreplaceable source of inspiration where natural and cultural resources are assets to be managed and used wisely for future generations.
5. Bringing together the countryside, towns, villages, businesses and recreational facilities of West Pennine Moors, linking culture, heritage and the arts with the natural environment to forge a positive sense of place.
6. Facilitating sustainable communities where people have the appropriate skills and confidence to imaginatively engage and actively participate in the conservation and preservation of the West Pennine Moors.

Project work strands

Please note many projects are cross-cutting and have aspects in more than one theme.

Lead organisation (s)	Project description	Potential partners	Cost & match identified	Links to other themes	Notes
Theme A: Conserving and Restoring					
Blackburn with Darwen Council Bury Council <i>Chorley Council</i>	Restoration of the Three Towers: Rivington Pike Tower; Jubilee Tower and Peel Tower. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restorative works - Interpretation - Sensitive lighting 	Capita (BwD PRow) National Trust, Holcombe Society	£193,200 £27600 volunteer contribution	Access/learning Training	
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Ecological Infrastructure Restoration of Blanket bog, grassland resource and the woodland/clough and flush habitats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peat restoration for water quality, climate change adaptation and ecological restoration of 38% of Lancashire's, 10% of NW, resource - Habitat survey and management on Local Wildlife Sites as core components of the ecological network, primary focus on grassland, 18% of Lancashire's resource. 	National Trust, Holcombe Society	£120,000 from SITA ENRICHING Nature. £4800 match in expertise and advice	Training Access/learning	Targeted species advice linked to habitat work and FEPs. Dwarf Cornel and other rare plant species, adder, brown hare, and many known bird species (pied flycatcher; snipe; merlin; stone chat; Dublin; curlew; lapwing; short-eared Owl; Golden Plover) together with future indicators for success (Ring Ouzel, Twite, Hen Harrier).
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	Hare Today Gone Tomorrow Targeted Brown hare survey and management linked to key population around Anglezarke, and moorland transition holding key population in the region.	LWT, United Utilities	£21,000 £3000 volunteer contribution	Training Access/learning	

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Theme B: Community Participation					
Lancashire Wildlife Trust Groundwork Pennine Lancashire Mid Pennine Arts	Creative Sense of Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using local ideas to celebrate value of local heritage, its visitor attraction and facilitate inclusive involvement and ownership - Co-ordinated and themed heritage events together with creative projects to increase involvement - Heritage and health walks/routes to increase involvement and the use of WPM as a resource for wellbeing and community value - Talking Shop for engaging creative and leisure business in area, creative media competitions to celebrate, and business forum push issues and central sell of area - Community Spaces Heritage Places targeting local community resource and involvement to enhance heritage. 	Community groups, villages, people, Local Businesses, recreational groups	£306,070 £30,000 Volunteer input		Events may include community open days, researching local heritage, developing local trails, developing local sites, promoting local food production, youth work, walks and family events It is believed that Thomas Mawson was responsible for some of the woodland planting and the creation of a number of features on the site at Barlow Institute which will be used as a model to complete 4 such community projects.

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Theme C: Access and Learning					
United Utilities, Blackburn with Darewn, Bury, Chorley, Lancashire County Council	Restoring Access to the Moors Focusing on areas linked to the Three Towers as access points to the WPM, as well as some of the consequences of visitor concentration near Rivington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remedial path and access works at Jubilee and Peel towers, also spitlers-edge and winterhill erosive problems - Co-ordinated visitor destination branding and promotion across visitor centres, community hubs and access points - Interpretive and promotion of network approach to paths/access in WPM 		£454080 £100,000 match from United Utilities £27,000 officer in-kind contribution from United Utilities Volunteer input for West Pennine Moor Way £29,000	Conservation due to habitat enhancement and remediation of erosion. Links to Talking Shop (Participation), Virtual Visitor Centre (Training)	Ensuring restored routes remain interesting for mountain bikes
Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Groundwork Pennine Lancashire, Mid Pennine Arts	Moor Education, Discovering the resource Targets educational work for creative learning, forming school clusters, educating groups and developing WPM as outdoor classroom. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of open farms and links with schools for education - Proving youth qualifications - Facilitate site visits and involvement - Use of artists to deliver tailored interpretive and creative projects 	Local schools, local community groups Large number of other additional partners	£193,577 Match from £30,000 youth focussed funds, £15,000 extended schools services £30,000 local sponsorship £15,000 charitable trusts	Participation Training?	A mix of practical action and creative learning

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Theme D: Training					
Lancashire Wildlife Trust and partners	<p>Volunteer Hub Opportunities for anyone to do anything for heritage in the WPM requires co-ordination and infrastructure. This is the one place to open all the doors to the moors, with defined Strategy and best practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management, co-ordination and liaison for volunteers together with role development, training and support - Bring together all heritage organisations and opportunities - Target recruitment for hard to reach groups - Volunteer leaders and training to give sustainable legacy across heritage themes - Tailored training in natural and geological heritage - Moor archaeology community digs and training - Traditional natural heritage skills and grazing best practice - Virtual visitor centre as online resource and community hub for WPM identity 	All other relevant people and groups across WPM	£290,000 With volunteer input of £150,000 Specialist input from Geolancashire £3000		Volunteer leaders could link to Fire Operations work, monitoring of access and paths, assessing heritage, rangers etc.

Groundwork Pennine Lancashire	<p>Nursery INNIT (I'm not NEET I'm Training) Taking best practice and horticultural innovation from Offshoots (Burnley) to work with NEETs and local communities to train and participate in restoring habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propagation of plug plants - Softwood cuttings - Volunteer training, school groups and young people accredited training - Work on rare plants to develop both donor populations and restoration works 	Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Lancashire Biodiversity Partnership, GMEU, local naturalists, local community groups	<p>£144,152</p> <p>With expertise from Endangered Plant Group at Lancashire Wildlife Trust/Lancashire Biodiversity Partnership £6000</p>		
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In addition to this there will overall new media and communications development funding, overheads, and be core staff Team: Scheme Manager, Natural Heritage Officer, 0.5FTE Community Engagement Officer, 0.5 FTE Community Education Officer, 0.5FTE Admin support

Current Delivery Cost: £2,538,936

HLF ask/cost: £1,655,600

65% HLF funded, 35% Match including 7.6% Volunteer contribution, 4.3% In-kind contribution and 22.8% Cash (from a range of additional grant applications and other sources).