



FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Scoping Report, October 2013

Background

At the April 2013 meeting of the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) the committee agreed that the AONB Unit should put the 2013 Fundraising Strategy into action, in order to seek external funding for the Partnership.

A key element of this strategy is to bid for large scale funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS).

The LPS is for schemes led by partnerships which aim to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character, aiming to create a holistic programme of work at a landscape-scale, over a five year period and with significant grant aid of up to £3m and up to a 90% intervention rate. Match funding does need to be secured in advance and this typically makes up 20-30% of total programme costs. This is going to be a challenge to generate in our current economic climate. LPS schemes typically employ a staff team of 3-5 people, either as a team or out-posted with partner organisations.

The application process is competitive, with normally just one application per region being successful each year. The process is also lengthy, taking on average 3 years from starting bidding to the start of a delivery phase.

LPS schemes have to deliver against HLF 'outcomes' and make a significant difference to the heritage (natural and cultural), communities and people in the project area. The outcomes are as follows:

Outcomes for heritage

Heritage will be:

- Better managed
- In better condition
- Identified/recorded

Outcomes for people

People will have:

- Developed skills
- Learnt about heritage
- Volunteered time

Outcomes for communities

- Environmental impacts will be reduced
- More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage
- Your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit

In essence, LPS programmes seek to make significant improvement in a defined area.

One further issue is that this defined area should be a maximum of 200 sq kilometres, and in an AONB the size of Bowland (800 sq km) this means we have to select the most appropriate and distinctive area which:

- **has significant needs and issues**
- **can demonstrate a level of improvement over 5 years**
- **meets both HLF and AONB Partnership priorities**

A Landscape Partnership Scheme bid for the Forest of Bowland AONB

The AONB Unit originally identified 4 potential areas for a LPS bid, and this has now been reduced to 3, with two areas in the north of the AONB merging into one larger landscape unit. Over the summer a scoping study has taken place to assess the potential for each of these areas to make a bid to HLF. The results of this study are set out below and will be presented to the AONB JAC in October 2013 to make a decision on which area we will develop a bid for.

The AONB Unit would like to stress that all three areas hold massive potential for action, and the level of interest in pursuing a bid in all areas is high. We would therefore like to propose that the two areas NOT selected for a bid will become a focus for activity by the Partnership, and a number of pilot schemes and funded activity will be delivered there whilst HLF resources are focussed on the successful LPS scheme elsewhere in Bowland.

Next Steps

Once the JAC has decided which area should be developed as a Landscape Partnership Scheme the timetable could be as follows:

October 2013 to May 2014

A partnership board will be created to guide development of a stage 1 bid

External advice will be brought in to assist with the bid preparation, although this will largely be done within the AONB Unit

May 2014

Stage 1 bid to be submitted

October 2014

HLF Board decision on phase 1 bid, if successful a Development Grant (up to £100,000) will be available to further develop the bid

January – December 2015

Development stage, putting together a stage 2 bid, with support from a dedicated project officer

Spring 2015

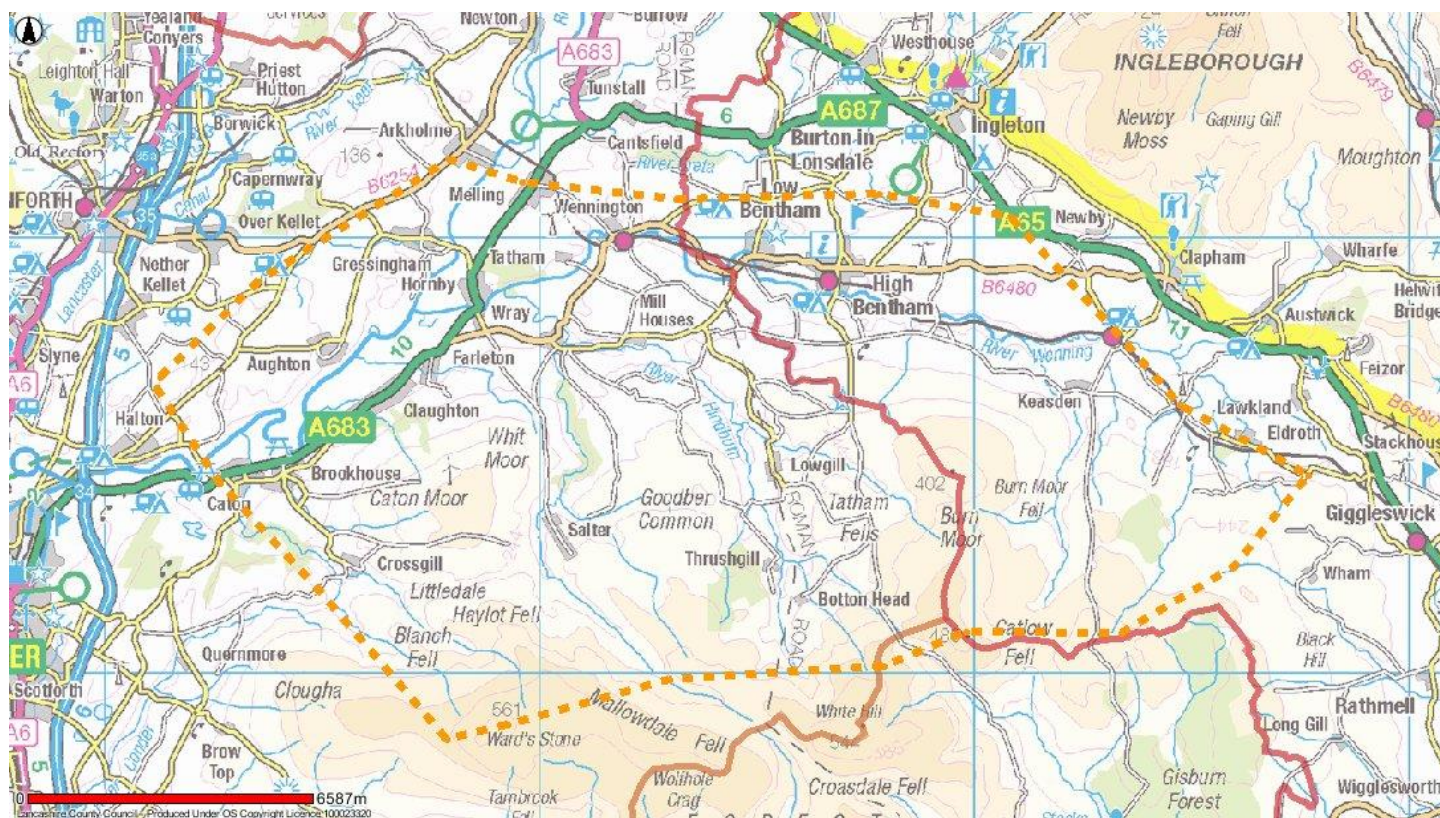
submission of stage 2 bid with a decision later that year

2016

Programme to start delivering

Northern Arc

This large portion of Northern Bowland (c 230 sq km) includes the catchment of the Lune and its key tributary from the east, the River Wenning. It stretches from Clapham and Austwick on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, through Bentham and Wray and to the main centre of population within the AONB: Caton. It also includes a large upland area which is largely unpopulated apart from scattered farmsteads and hamlets, located in 'dead end' valleys which offer spectacular views and important refuges for biodiversity in the form of ancient woodland, meadows, peat moorland and wooded river valleys. The area includes the last known site of a rare orchid in North Lancashire, plus an important colony of large heath butterfly found on Goodber common. However, the changes in agricultural practice since the war, and especially since the 1970's, are leading to a gradual degradation of the landscape and an erosion of landscape quality and species diversity.



The following issues, opportunities and needs have been identified:

Heritage

The old brick quarry at Cloughton is an interesting example of rural industry in decline, there is also much undocumented history of the railway line and aqueduct crossing the area, plus Wennington/Ingleton coalfield

Need to preserve locally distinct hedge banks and droving roads

Design guidance needed for farmhouse restorations and farm building and other conversions; loss of field barns: require a new use?

Opportunity to re-introduce the Black Grouse, last known lecking site is at Thrushegill: re-introduction has good interest from the Estates locally

Threats from intensification and modernisation of agriculture which is reducing the quality of the landscape and richness of biodiversity: need to encourage more 'High Nature Value' farming to restore the fabric

Need to bring more woodlands and meadows into positive management to improve economic viability and species diversity

A Landscape Partnership Scheme bid for the Forest of Bowland AONB

Need to improve the upland moor habitat: particularly areas of degraded blanket bog and peat, in order to reduce flooding downstream, to prevent erosion and 'wash-outs'; to stabilise the loss of carbon; improve water quality/colouring; and to improve biodiversity, particularly wetland plants, invertebrates and birds

Loss of traditional farming methods and families: need to record stories (milking kits, Methodist chapels, postmen routes, water power, charcoal making, coppice crafts)

People

Need to retain traditional crafts: apprenticeships in hill farming to include woodland management

Opportunity to work with Lancaster University and local schools to increase the educational opportunity in the area – studying and recording a range of habitats and species, as well as heritage and industrial heritage features

Communities

Need to manage the perceived conflicts between users of quiet lanes: cyclists, horse riders and motorists and farm traffic

Need for improved promotion of access to the countryside in this currently under-used area, with potential to offer a rich visitor experience, especially to those interested in wildlife watching, hidden heritage, and close-to-nature opportunities – potential to build in 'visitor giving' to support biodiversity and community projects (eg lengthsman)

Key theme emerging

Farming and woodland heritage

Needs

Skills training and access

Halt loss of biodiversity

KEY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Parish councils and Bentham Town Council

Lancaster City and Craven District councils

Lancashire County Council (environment, schools, outdoor education, health and social care, youth service)

Abbeystead Estate, Farrer's Ingleborough Estate; Halton Park estate; Commoners Associations

RSPB, Lancs and Yorks Wildlife Trusts, Lune Rivers Trust, YDMT, SUSTRANS

OfGem (Undergrounding)

Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage

Farmers, tourism businesses

Pioneer Projects and Green Close studios

Lancaster University

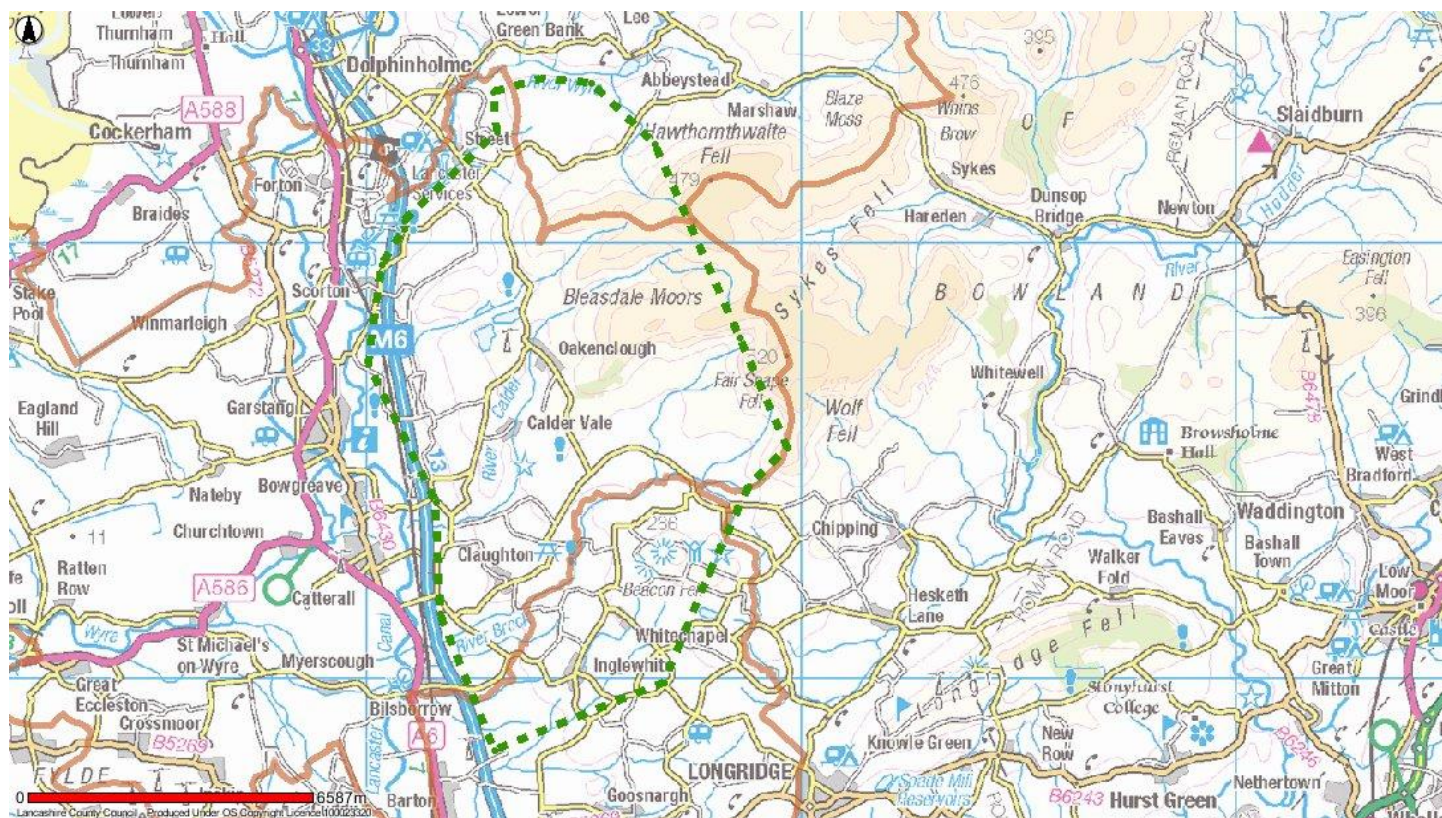
schools, museums service, arts development, etc etc

Potential match funding

OfGem; Environment Agency; LIFE; Natural England; RDPE LEADER; AONB; visitor giving; Arts council

Western edge

The western edge of Bowland is often overlooked in favour of the high fells of the AONB, however it is an important farming area, with a degree of tourist pressure around Brock, Beacon Fell, Parlick fell foot and Nicky Nook. It includes the upland which is easily and often seen from the west coast; the foothills of the fells around Bleasdale, lowland farmland extending to the M6 corridor, and the old gravel pits of Wyreside. See map below.



The key issues discussed in this area can be summarised as:

Heritage

Industrial heritage of the area needs documenting – medieval vaccaries on the fells; sand and gravel extraction alongside the River Wyre; water extraction and reservoirs; textile mills and village at Calder Vale; historic houses and gardens as part of Victorian gentry estates

Interesting links between the area's underlying geology, historic use of the land, and the current landscape

Need to identify and control invasive species, especially along watercourses

Bluebell woods and roadside verges are locally distinctive – need to improve management and recording

Excellent examples of conservation farming for wading birds – yet more needs doing to reverse the impact of intensive management of grassland and loss of traditional skills

Iconic area for small-scale family production of Lancashire Cheese – links to landscape and dairy farming: opportunity to support traditional farming and biodiversity, plus generating local income and jobs

People

Opportunities for increased volunteer engagement – in practical conservation work, wildlife recording, heritage skills, walks leaders, and volunteer rangering

Need to retain heritage skills – opportunity to work with Wyre and Lancs County councils, plus Tamarack Outdoors?

Opportunity to engage with young people via schools and colleges: junior rangers etc

Communities

Opportunity to connect with disadvantaged coastal communities in Wyre, Fylde and Blackpool – links with the landscape seen in the distance: opportunity for community exchanges, outreach work, educational trips and volunteering

Visitor management needs improving at honey pot sites – to tackle erosion, fly camping, damage to dry stone walls etc – requires better visitor education, dispersal to other sites, volunteer rangers

Opportunity to improve horse riding and bridleway links to north and west (complete N Lancs Bridleway?)

Potential to generate funds via community hydro scheme at Calder Vale? Link with industrial heritage and education

Need to support local tourism businesses, use Fairtrade and artistic input locally: good track record of activity

Need to refurbish visitor centre and generate income at Beacon Fell country park

Opportunity to build on the success of Wyre Walking Festival

Key theme emerging

Water as a resource (power for industry, cheese production, extraction industry, shaping the landscape)

Needs

Visitor management

Halt gradual loss of biodiversity

KEY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Parish councils

Wyre borough and Preston city councils

Lancashire County Council (environment, schools, outdoor education, health and social care, youth service)

Friends of Beacon Fell

United Utilities, Bleasdale, and other small estates

RSPB, Lancs Wildlife Trust, Wyre Rivers Trust

OfGem (Undergrounding)

Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage

Farmers, landowners, tourism businesses

Wyre Tourism Association

Representatives of coastal urban communities

schools, museums service, arts development, etc etc

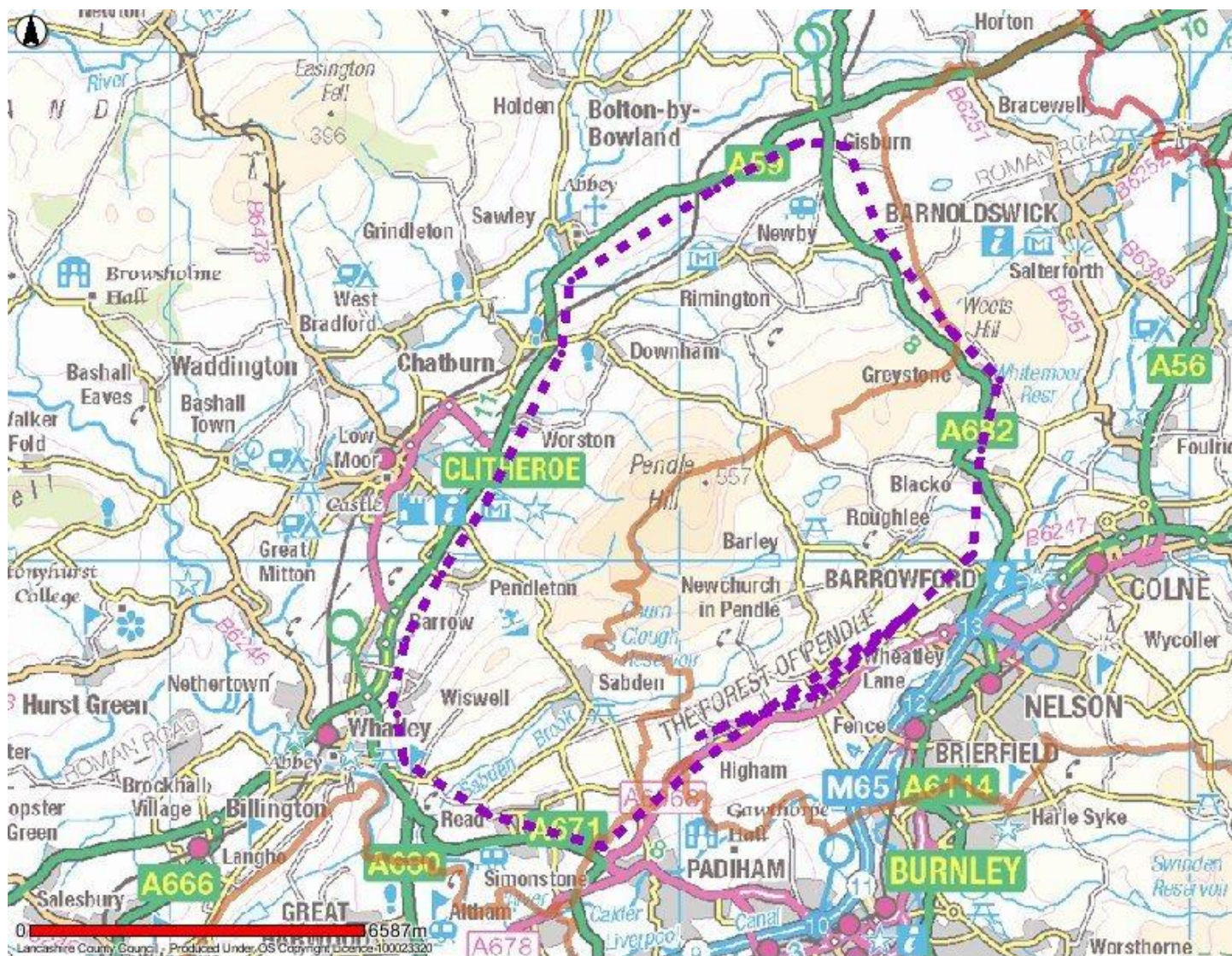
Potential match funding

Environment Agency; Natural England; RDPE LEADER; AONB; visitor giving;

Pendle

Pendle, or Pendle Hill, is a clearly defined and iconic landscape on the southern edge of the Forest of Bowland AONB. Lying between the Ribble Valley and the communities of East Lancashire, Pendle has traditionally offered a place for visitors to enjoy recreation, contemplation, and inspiration whilst also supporting a thriving community within a picturesque setting.

Pennine Lancashire is a target area for Heritage Lottery funding and includes a number of LCC's Priority Neighbourhoods (ie most deprived communities).



A number of issues have been raised by communities and agencies in the area which could form the basis of a bid for Pendle:

Heritage

A large number and range of historic landscapes exist – from pre-historic, medieval and industrial; including vaccaries, parkland and enclosures. There is also great potential for archaeological exploration which has been limited to date.

Potential for better recording of habitats and species

Need to identify and control invasive species

Potential for undergrounding power cables at key sites

Neglected roadside walls in need of restoration to improve landscape quality

Industrial heritage of the area, and the links with industrial communities which made Pendle a 'playground for workers' in the C19th and early/mid C20th – eg swing boats, cycling, walking, teashops etc

Need to improve biodiversity, eg monitoring of heather and blanket bog restoration works, improved management for breeding waders (predator control?), hedgerow restoration and woodland management

Loss of traditional small scale farming methods – meadows, hedgelaying etc: degradation of the landscape

Cultural/religious links are strong, eg Easter processions, Islamic and BME groups, Quaker and non conformist groups have historically sought inspiration and shelter in area (also Catholic persecution)

People

Need for more volunteer rangers to patrol the area and reduce anti social behaviour, possible apprenticeships in countryside management skills and hill farming

Opportunity for increased volunteering: practical countryside management, wildlife recording, community projects

Need to retain and develop heritage skills, eg dry stone walling, building restoration, woodlands and hedgelaying

Opportunity to work with Burnley, Nelson and Clitheroe schools and colleges on vocational courses, plus supporting Duke of Edinburgh schemes which currently are mis-managed. Opportunity to work with LCC's Whitehough outdoor education centre.

Communities

Need for improved access to the hill and surrounding features for all abilities, with improved signage and interpretation

Need for improved visitor management at honey pot sites and at key times/dates

Opportunity to engage a wider range of people from nearby urban areas in heritage activity, improving understanding and respect for the area

Need to secure a sustainable source of funds for the parish lengthsman service in the villages

Potential to provide volunteer staff and refurbish Barley and Spring Wood cabins

Key theme emerging

Landscape and cultural history – Pendle as a 'sanctuary' providing recreational space and spiritual inspiration

Needs

Engagement and education of visitors to respect the landscape

Halt gradual loss of biodiversity and landscape quality

KEY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Pendle Hill advisory committee

Parish councils

Ribble Valley and Pendle district councils

Lancashire County Council

United Utilities, Downham and Huntroyde estates

RSPB, Lancs Wildlife Trust, Ribble Rivers Trust

NW Heritage Trust (Pendle Heritage Centre) & Higher Mill artists collective

Hanson (Ribble cement)

OfGem (Undergrounding)

Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage

Farmers, tourism businesses

Representatives of urban communities

schools, museums service, arts development, etc etc

Potential match funding

OfGem; Environment Agency; Natural England; RDPE LEADER; AONB; visitor giving; Pendle Hill fund

From 'An original History of the parish of Whalley and Honour of Clitheroe' Whitaker:

PENDLE FOREST.

The Forest of Pendle was so called from the celebrated mountain of that name, over the long declivity of which it extended. The name of this mountain is an instance of the gradual operation of language upon the names of natural permanent objects. Having been originally denominated Pen or the head, its first appellation becoming insignificant the Saxons superadded hull, and Penhull was its orthography probably before the Conquest ; but the latter syllable in turn lost its meaning by being melted down into Pendle; and the modern " hill " was once more superadded, to design the nature of the object. The perpendicular elevation of this mountain, after many attempts and notwithstanding the facility of obtaining a base line from the sea, has never been exactly ascertained; but it is an enormous mass of matter, extending in a long ridge from N.E. to S.W. and on the S.E. side forming a noble boundary to the forest, which stretches in a long but interrupted descent of nearly five miles to the Water of Pendle, a barren and dreary tract excepting on the verge of the latter, which is warm and fertile.

A PAPER WRITTEN BY MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY, AND DIRECTED BY HIM TO RICHARD TOWNLEY, ESQ. THE PHILOSOPHER. From Addenda to the Third Edition.

On August the 18th, 1669, between nine and ten o'clock in the morning, there issued out of the north-west side of Pendle Hill a great quantity of water, the particulars of which eruption, as I received them from a gentleman living hard by, are these : the water continued running for about two hours. It came in that quantity and so suddenly that it made a breast of a yard high, not unlike (as the gentleman expressed it) to the eager at Roan in Normandy or Ouse in Yorkshire. It grew unfordable in so short a space that two going to church on horseback, the one having passed the place where it took its course, the other being a little behind, could not pass this sudden torrent. It endangered breaking down a mill-dam, came into several houses in Worston (a village at the foot of the hill), so that several things swam in them. It issued out at five or six several places, one of which was considerably bigger than the rest, and brought with it nothing else but stone, gravel, and earth. He moreover told that the greatest of these six places closed up again, and that the water was black like unto moss pits ; and, lastly, that fifty or sixty years ago there happened an eruption much greater than this, so that it much endamaged the adjacent country, and made two cloughs or dingles, which to this day are called Burst or (in our Lancashire dialect) Brast Cloughs.

Next steps

Accountable Body

Now that the scoping work has been completed the AONB Unit has held an initial discussion with the Director and Assistant Director of Environment at Lancashire County Council (host authority for the AONB Partnership) about the potential for LCC being the accountable body for any bid. They have identified certain key criteria that they would like the AONB Partnership to address prior to a bid being submitted to HLF. One of the key criteria is the identification of external match-funding.

Match Funding

In order to construct a good bid to HLF we need to identify and secure match funds of between 10 and 30% of programme costs. The key likely sources of funds are as follows:

NATURAL ENGLAND AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES: capital payments can act as match provided they are identified in agreements drawn up during the lifetime of the HLF scheme (i.e. once the phase 2 grant is secured). This scheme is linked to European funding and is currently closing down and a new scheme (NELMS) may not be in place until 2015/16. A transition scheme may be put in place for 2014/15, but will have much more limited funds.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD) FUNDING: capital funds for peatland restoration and catchment improvements may be available, usually as part of a larger scale programme such as the Pennine Peat partnership

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND (RDPE) is another pot of EU & Defra funding which has a current programme, but is closed to new applications. However, a new programme may be in place and available in Lancashire for 2015/16.