

Update on development of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme

JAC members may remember a year ago when we met in Barley village hall and the AONB Unit presented their new fundraising strategy which set out the need to raise significant external funds. This was followed up at our meeting in October where the JAC agreed that a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme bid should be developed for the Pendle Hill area.

A Landscape Partnership Scheme is a collection of projects set within a cohesive landscape unit, focussing on developing outcomes around heritage, people and communities. The focus for our bid is obviously Pendle Hill itself, and to begin with we have been looking at what needs and issues there are in the area. These include:

- There is increasing bracken on the hill, to the detriment of heather and grassland
- A need for more tree planting, especially in cloughs and along rivers and streams
- Loss of village character and mistreatment of some historic buildings and landscapes
- Lack of knowledge or recordings about pre-industrial archaeology
- Loss of traditional farming methods and consequent loss of wildlife value
- Neglect of traditional boundaries
- Some visitors lack understanding of, and respect for, the farmed landscape
- River water quality is moderate and there are some areas at risk from flooding
- Poor connection between urban and rural communities

We have also been looking at what themes could run through the bid and what the overarching vision should be. Suggested themes are:

1. Restoring and recording the natural heritage
2. Understanding historic landscapes
3. Exploring Pendle Hill's cultural heritage
4. Re-connecting people with the landscape

We are currently working on developing a 'programme vision' and we think this will focus on how Pendle Hill inspired George Fox in 1652, and his vision of a great gathering of people. This could link to other gatherings of people, water, wool etc.

To date a number of discussions have been held with a variety of groups and organisations, a steering group has been set up and an advisor appointed to support the bid development process. I have also met with Lancashire County Council's outdoor education centre at Whitehough near Barley to discuss how we might work together to find some accommodation for an eventual project team. We are also continuing to liaise with key match funding opportunities, particularly European

ERDF LEADER funds and Natural England's new agri-environment scheme which will both be launched early in 2015.

Our next steps are to continue to gather evidence of needs and issues, but also to begin to pull together project ideas which will begin to build up a programme of activity. To this end we will hold a stakeholder event in June to which JAC members will receive an invitation. For further information contact

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Decision to be taken

The Committee is asked to:

- i. note the reports and offer comments