

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Two sides to the hill, hill, hill

Pendle Hill is an iconic landmark to many Lancastrians, yet it has two very different sides: light and dark, and its summit is a divide between places, people and economic activity. The hill and its surrounds have a very definite landscape character and this is made up of concentric zones of upland plateau, moorland, lowland farmland and parkland; yet its very bedrock creates the differences on the two sides: to the north lie limestone and shales, whilst the summit and southern slopes are of the darker millstone grit and siltstones. This geology has also influenced the way in which the land has been managed and its resources exploited since humans first settled the area.

Pendle Hill acts as a weather vane to many of us, and is a constant backdrop to our lives. Yet different people look to the hill from different sides – from the Ribble Valley side people see lush green fields and hedgerows topped by moorland criss-crossed with dry stone walls and track ways. The land is largely owned by private estates and this side of the hill is generally more wealthy and populated by commuters. From the Pendle side, the hill rears up from the old industrial settlements, with more ethnically mixed and disadvantaged communities living in the towns and a wealthier population in the peripheral suburbs and villages. They tend to see a darker side to the hill, complete with its stories of witches.

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership will conserve the heritage assets of this iconic landscape, and it will bring together these two sides and two communities to celebrate its value to both sides of the hill.

Heritage assets

Pendle Hill has a rich history, having been settled since at least Bronze and Iron Age times, it was explored by the Romans and then taken into hand for medieval farming estates and hunting forest. In more recent times the area was exploited for its mineral resources and was associated with early industrial developments prior to the explosion of activity during the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries in the neighbouring cotton towns.

In between times, Pendle Hill was often a sheltering ground (maybe because of its remote location and inhospitable terrain) for radicals and idealists including George Fox, who had a vision on the hill which led to the founding of the Quaker's Society of Friends; and others like Richard Cobden, Thomas Leonard, and the pioneers of the Clarion, the Independent Labour Party.

Pendle Hill is also an asset to the many walkers, fell runners and cyclists who view the hill as a challenge, a vantage point and an open air gym. Their numbers are swelled by those who come here for picnics and sightseeing, a day out in the countryside and a breath of fresh air. Yet Pendle Hill is also a living landscape, populated by farming families and villagers who can often trace their roots back for many generations. These are the people who built the network of dry stone walls and who gather their sheep off the fell. And the place is also an important sanctuary for wildlife: a stopping off point for passing migrants, a breeding site for waders, and a home to precious meadows and rich woodlands.

Threats and opportunities

Using the Forest of Bowland's Landscape Character Assessment and a number of consultation events, we have identified five clear threats to the heritage assets of Pendle Hill:

- Loss of landscape features and species diversity
- Erosion, conflict and congestion caused by visitor pressure
- People losing touch with the past
- People losing touch with the landscape
- Reduced finance for recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation

We have then considered what opportunities could be developed, and how these might be delivered as projects:

THREAT	OPPORTUNITY	PROJECT IDEAS
<p>1. Loss of landscape features and species diversity: slow degradation and loss of landscape character and features (eg dry stone walls); intensification of farming leading to loss of species diversity and fragmentation of habitats; modernisation and suburbanisation of housing eroding the area's character and sense of place</p>	<p>Restore features (natural and historic)</p> <p>Encourage nature friendly farming</p> <p>Manage the best wildlife sites better and extend them if possible</p> <p>Encourage traditional skills</p> <p>Celebrate a sense of place</p>	<p>DRY STONE WALLS & HEDGEROWS</p> <p>NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING & MANAGING SPECIAL SITES</p> <p>VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE FUND</p>
<p>2. Erosion, conflict and congestion: over concentration of visitors in some villages and on certain routes, leading to path erosion, conflict with farmers and landowners. Over reliance on private cars leading to congestion, erosion and pollution</p>	<p>Disperse visitors and spread benefits to other areas</p> <p>Reduce erosion and damage</p> <p>Interpret and signpost alternative routes</p> <p>Maximise the opportunity of existing 'gateways' and utilise public transport</p> <p>Encourage cycling & walking</p>	<p>IMPROVE ACCESS FOR ALL</p> <p>DEVELOP VISITOR HUBS</p>
<p>3. People losing touch with the past: a slow loss of knowledge and understanding about the historical significance of the place and its people caused by changes in education and use of leisure time; local stories are being lost and forgotten; membership of local groups can be limited and narrow</p>	<p>Encourage research, to educate and inspire people</p> <p>provide training and support to develop skills and knowledge</p> <p>make links between local history groups and extend membership with outreach work and new technology</p> <p>Education about local distinctiveness and vernacular buildings</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY</p> <p>PENDLE RADICALS</p> <p>VILLAGE HOUSE HISTORIES</p> <p>VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE FUND</p>
<p>4. People losing touch with the landscape: lack of traditional skills and knowledge due to changes in education and in farming practice; fewer people inspired by nature so fewer enthusiasts for the future; children and some sectors of urban communities finding it difficult to explore the countryside, leading to low levels of understanding, and low levels of exercise and well being</p>	<p>Provide guidance, inspiration and support to people who do not normally visit</p> <p>provide training and education in recording, conserving and enjoying wildlife and geology</p> <p>provide outreach opportunities to engage with urban residents</p> <p>develop care and a sense of identity for the area</p>	<p>GEO CONSERVATION</p> <p>APPRENTICESHIPS</p> <p>EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH & WELLBEING</p> <p>INTERPRETATION & SENSE OF PLACE</p>
<p>5. Reduced finance for recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation caused by reductions in central and local government funding</p>	<p>Identify new sustainable sources of income and systems to support community-led activity into the future</p>	<p>DEVELOPING VISITOR GIVING</p> <p>WHAT'S IT WORTH? RESEARCH</p>

Creating a programme of activity

In order to create a cohesive programme of projects, and in order to manage, finance and integrate this programme we are proposing the following thematic approach:

Bringing Together the Two Sides

Pendle Hill has its environment, it has economic aspects, and it is a place for everyone.

Each of these elements has two sides – the physically different two sides of the hill, its divided economy, and the variety of people who live, work in and visit the area.

Our proposal is to weave together the two sides of each element with a creative approach, building cohesion, introducing dialogue and creating shared points of view. Each theme will incorporate a 'gathering project' to deliver this.

Environment

Projects will include:

- Repairing the network of dry stone walls and hedgerows that give the landscape its characteristic appearance
- Surveying and bringing into management our special wildlife sites, and seeking to link these with farmland managed for biodiversity
- Interpreting the area's important geology and the contribution this has made to the area and its economy
- Managing the Pendle Hill Fund to support community-led projects focusing on heritage and landscape
- Gathering projects

Outline costs **£420,000**

Economy

Projects will include:

- Developing visitor hubs at established 'honeypots' using digital technology and traditional methods to inform people, to reduce pressure on over used sites and to reduce conflicts
- Improving access for all by promoting key routes, dispersing pressure and providing for all abilities
- Creating a visitor-giving scheme for the Pendle Hill Fund
- Research into the value of Pendle Hill's ecosystem services and its contribution to wellbeing
- Gathering projects

Outline costs **£412,000**

Everyone

Projects will include:

- A series of local history group surveys into village house histories which will create a digital archive
- Community archaeology and heritage placements: investigating the Iron Age fort at Portfield and the secrets of the Hidden Valley and using digital techniques to widen understanding and interest
- Apprenticeships for young people in traditional rural and heritage skills
- A series of linked projects investigating and interpreting the Pendle Radicals: free thinkers and non conformists
- Education and outreach work, introducing new audiences to the area: building understanding and confidence
- Gathering projects

Outline costs **£530,000**

Making it Happen

The programme will be delivered by a partnership of organisations overseen by a LP Board, and led by a small programme team comprising:

- Programme Manager
- Natural Environment Officer
- Community Heritage Officer
- Administrative Support Officer (part time)

There will also be central costs to cover accommodation (based in the LP area), interpretation materials (largely digital but also some printing and site display panels), evaluation costs and 3% programme contingency.

The team will also be responsible for running an annual Gathering to bring together the 'two sides' and all of the project activity.

Outline costs **£740,000**

In addition, the Development Phase (2016/17) will have a budget of approximately **£140,000** to employ a Development Officer and to carry out a number of consultations and to commission specialist research and surveys to further develop these proposals.

Programme Leads and Match Funding

The proposals above make a total bid of £2.24m of which we will be asking HLF for approximately 75%. This leaves a challenging £550,000 to be raised by the Landscape Partnership, over the course of four or five years.

Although the programme will be partly delivered by a programme team, we will be encouraging partners to take on the responsibility of leading some of the projects, and bringing the match funds to the table – either from their own resources or from other grant pots.

The programme team will be based together, possibly at LCC's Whitehough Education Centre in Barley, and we will also be seeking partners who are able to offer support and be the employers of the Natural Environment and Community Heritage officers, and also possibly the part time administrative officer.

The AONB Unit is committed to contributing a share of this match fund, approximately £20k a year, via our existing projects budget.

We are also anticipating that the new RDPE programme, focussed on Bowland and North Lancashire, may be able to support both the Development Phase and specific projects in the delivery programme which meet their criteria, most likely for 'Enhancing Natural and Cultural Heritage' and support for rural tourism. We will seek approximately £200,000 in total.

We are hopeful that the new agri-environment scheme, NELMS, will also support activity, possibly via its proposed landscape scale facilitation budget as well as through its land management payments to farmers. And as the programme has a major creative element we will also be seeking support from the Arts Council.

Governance and Timescale

The existing Pendle Hill Advisory Group has agreed that it will act as a shadow Landscape Partnership Board until the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme is approved (hopefully November 2015). The existing group will be widened to include other partners and interest groups so that it represents the range of players involved. A Partnership Agreement will be drawn up during the Development Phase (2016/17). The LP Board will oversee delivery of the Programme and it will also report directly to the Forest of Bowland AONB's Joint Advisory Committee.