

FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Progress update

The Project Steering Group (supported by the AONB Unit) is in the final stages of putting together the Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme and plan to submit this before 1st June 2015.

Recent milestones in the scheme's development include:

- Agreement from Lancashire County Council to act as lead applicant and accountable body for Stage 1 application
- Presentation of the bid to Lancashire County Councillors 'Bitesize Briefing' at County Hall
- First meeting held of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board
- Chair of the Partnership Board appointed – Ralph Assheton, Downham Estate and Bowland Bio-energy

The scheme is currently estimated to cost £2.4m and £1.8m grant will be requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The remaining £600,000 will be raised from partners, including: the AONB Partnership, Defra's Countryside Stewardship grants, RDPE/LEADER funding, landfill tax funds, local businesses/private sector and others

Summary details of all 15 projects are listed below for information:

Project 1: Pendle Gatherings

Our Gathering projects will consist of a series of arts commissions based around the proposed projects listed below. Each will aim to engage new audiences and build cohesion by creating performances, illustrated interpretation, interactive activity and inspiring art works that will leave a legacy for the entire programme. We will also organise annual gatherings to bring projects and participants together to celebrate and review activity.

Environment Theme

Aim: to restore historic landscape features and species diversity

Project 2: Traditional Boundaries

We will restore over 5km of dry stone walls and hedgerows in order to maintain these key landscape features in locally distinctive styles and to allow wildlife to flourish. The project will include opportunities for volunteering and training in traditional countryside skills.

Project 3: Strengthening Ecological Networks

Working with landowners, farmers and volunteers we will bring at least 10 important wildlife sites back into good condition and management. We will also assess the wildlife value of the LP area, and seek to restore, connect and create our four priority habitats at greatest risk from climate and agricultural changes: woodland, species-rich grassland, wet grassland and blanket bog.

Project 4: Pendle Hill Rocks

Four year-long projects will explore the important relationship between Pendle Hill's underlying geology to the area's landscape, building materials, habitats and wildlife, and the economic resource that fuelled the nearby industrial revolution. Exciting digital interpretation and new school resources will inspire a new generation of geologists.

Project 5: Pendle Hill Community Heritage Fund

We will develop a locally managed small grant scheme for landscape and heritage projects, to be identified and delivered by the community. Working with local tourism operators we will develop a 'visitor giving' scheme to contribute to the Fund. This will enable both large and small businesses to offer sponsorship or to collect donations that will sustain the Fund into the future.

Economy Theme

Aims: to reduce erosion, conflict and congestion caused by visitors; to seek innovative ways to create sustainable solutions for tourism, recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation; and to support the rural economy

Project 6: Improving Access for All

We will upgrade at least 5km of footpaths and seek to disperse walkers by promoting a series of more sustainable routes from four identified visitor hubs. The four hubs are existing sites at Downham, Barley, Spring Wood and Nick of Pendle that are currently owned and operated by parish, district and county councils. These will be improved and upgraded and interpretation will be provided; support will be provided to enable one hub to become a community-managed asset.

Project 7: Countryside Trainees

This scheme will provide apprenticeships for 20 young people in partnership with a local college. Training in countryside management, farming skills, visitor access, forestry etc will be delivered by the college in partnership with private sector partners. An annual heritage placement will be offered by University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)

Project 8: Sense of Place

During the development stage creative consultation and activity will create the Pendle Hill Story Map which will capture information, images and stories

about the LP area. This evolving and interactive resource will then be utilised to support the development of visitor information, business training and support, and training for local 'ambassadors' who promote and interpret the LP area to visitors.

Project 9: What's a hill worth?

We will commission research into the value of the area's ecosystem services, in particular the value that outdoor activity, volunteering and exercise can contribute to health, wellbeing and community cohesion. This research will focus on the impact of our education and outreach work and will contribute to the evaluation of the LP programme.

Everyone Theme

Aim: to re-connect people with the landscape and their past

Project 10: Pendle Radicals

Reflecting the area's importance to religious non-conformists such as the Quakers, Wesleyans and Methodists; and to political radicals including the Chartists, Free Traders and Trades Unionists; we will support research and interpretation led by local volunteers and groups, and organise walks and talks around some of the people and places that made this such a distinctive and radical place.

Project 11: Around the Houses

Four village history groups including an 'urban village', will work with Lancashire County Council's community heritage team to research a series of house histories in each locality. The project will include training in research skills, visits to libraries and archives, village open days and the creation of digital archives. It will offer residents and contractors the opportunity to learn traditional building and restoration skills in order to retain and strengthen local vernacular styles.

Project 12: Community Archaeology

Working with volunteers from at least two local history groups and Pendle Heritage Centre we plan to carry out topographical surveys at Portfield hill fort and a number of other archaeological features currently being identified in Sabden's 'Hidden Valley'. Targeted geophysical surveys and excavations will be undertaken with the support of professional archaeologists; and open days and community events will assist with interpretation and engagement with wider audiences.

Project 13: Education, Training and Outreach

We will bring at least 20 urban school and college groups to visit and learn about the Pendle Hill area's natural and cultural heritage. We will also manage a community outreach programme: working with up to 1000 people from

disadvantaged and hard to reach groups from 'priority neighbourhoods' in Pennine Lancashire, and arranging transport and activities for them into the Pendle area which will enable them to re-connect with their landscape. We will co-ordinate an integrated programme of events, training and volunteering opportunities for all 12 projects.

Project 14: Interpretation

Interpretation of the LP scheme will integrate all project activity together, helping to tell the story of Pendle Hill. The project will develop a communications plan and a marketing brand for the LP scheme based on the Sense of Place approach. Creativity and arts engagement from the Gathering projects will feature strongly alongside digital interpretation and social media to help with the promotion of the LP programme and taking us into the 2020s.

Project 15: Evaluation

This project will provide a framework for all delivery partners to monitor the activity and outputs of the above projects. It will also lead on the mid-term and end of programme evaluation by measuring the impact of activity, in terms of outcomes generated.

Next steps

Outline below are the next steps in preparation for application submission and if the bid is successful the early stages of the scheme development phase:

Milestone	Date
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board Meeting to approve final bid	12 th May 2015
Submission of Stage 1 application to HLF	28 th May 2015
HLF visit to Pendle Hill	July/August 2015
Decision from HLF on Stage 1 application	Late October / early November 2015
Agree HLF Development Grant and appoint Development Officer	November – December 2015
Development Phase	January 2015 – June 2016

Decision to be taken

The Committee is asked to note the report and offer comments.