

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Update April 2016

Milestones

On 31st October 2015 the Forest of Bowland AONB was informed that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme had been successful. This releases £156,400 of grant aid for an 18 month Development Phase, which we will match with £59,750 of cash and support in kind.

On 1st April 2016 the AONB seconded Cathy Hopley to the post of Development Officer for the Pendle Hill LP scheme, with the aim of submitting a stage 2 application to HLF in September 2017

Objectives of the Development Phase

The key objectives are to:

- Appoint a Development Officer
- Review the landscape character assessment for the project area
- Undertake consultation and 'Gathering' events
- Develop the scheme and individual project proposals under the headings of Environment, Economy and Everyone
- Raise match funding for at least year 1 of the Delivery Phase (due to start April 2018)
- Develop and produce a Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) and stage 2 application to HLF

Progress to date

As the project was delayed in starting, a number of 'development stage commissions' were lined up to start and preliminary discussions have been held with a number of partners:

Start-up meeting held with HLF officers and the 'mentor' appointed by them to support us:
Alison Millward

£15,000 grant secured from Arts Council England to support the 'Pendle Hill Gatherings' arts development programme for 2016

Application submitted to Natural England for £104,000 for a 'Pendle Famers Network' under the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, this would be a five year project running from 2016 with 3 years in the Delivery Phase. We should hear back on this in June/July

Web page set up www.forestofbowland.com/Opportunities and utilised to advertise contracts so that we are openly procuring services

Facebook page set up for 'Pendle Hill HLF Project' – please visit and 'like' us! This will be the main communication channel for early news on the project

In-Situ arts have been appointed to manage the arts development activity – this involves managing three artistic commissions which will gather information to help build our 'Pendle Hill Story Map' and the Audience Development Plan; they will also support local artists' professional development, draw up artists' briefs, and submit applications for match funding for the Delivery Phase.

Rigby Jerram has been appointed as the contractor to carry out a habitat and boundaries survey of the LP area. This is a crucial piece of work as it will record the condition of traditional boundaries (walls, hedgerows and railings) and identify lengths and clusters most in need of restoration. The habitat survey will assess the entire 120 sq km of land and identify sites which can be conserved, restored and extended for wildlife.

Robin Gray has been appointed as the contractor to carry out and review the Landscape Character Assessment of the LP area, and to adjust or confirm the boundaries proposed in our application.

Initial meetings and discussions have been held with partners including: Burnley College, RSPB, Pendle Tourism, Lancashire LEADER programme, Natural England, County Council, East Lancashire community re-start service, and the Dry Stone Walling Association.