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## **The Forest of Bowland's Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership secures Heritage Lottery Fund support**

A project to boost the economy, environment and culture of Pendle Hill has received an earmarked grant of £2million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The Forest of Bowland AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) will receive the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Landscape Partnership programme for the Pendle Hill project.

The project aims to reconnect people from both sides of the hill to their landscape and to their past. It will restore important wildlife and landscape features, tell the stories of radical Pendle people from the past, explore the geology and heritage of the hill, and inspire a new generation to enjoy the area.

This week's announcement means the project will receive development funding of £156,400 to help the AONB Unit progress plans to apply for a full grant, and further work will take place over the next 18 months on a bid to unlock the full £2m.

If successful a wide-ranging programme of activity is proposed, to include restoration of hedges, dry-stone walls and paths, research into local history, outdoor activities for schools and local people, and the creation of digital guides to Pendle Hill's geology and archaeology. The project will also provide opportunities for volunteering and job training, and funding for the creative arts.

Sara Hilton, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund NW said "There's a lot more to Pendle Hill than just the witches, and this project is designed to open up, preserve and share other aspects of the area's incredible heritage."

The landscape partnership programme is proposed to be delivered by a number of local organisations, including local district and county councils, Natural England, RSPB, Ribble Rivers Trust, Pendle Heritage, and Pendle Leisure Trust.

Lancashire County Council acts as the lead authority for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee, a partnership comprising Lancashire County Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils, Yorkshire Local Councils Association, DEFRA, Natural England, United Utilities plc, Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Forest of Bowland Landowning and Farmers Advisory Group, and the Ramblers Association.



The Honourable Ralph Assheton, chair of the newly formed Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board said: "Pendle Hill is part of our folk history, and an ever present backdrop to our lives. This investment from HLF will help local communities to enjoy, explore and learn more about Pendle, and to take care of it for future generations."

Councillor Albert Atkinson, chair of the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership said: "I am delighted to hear that the grant has been awarded. Pendle Hill is a vastly important part of the AONB and an area which is in great need of this new investment in the environment, in the economy and for everyone who enjoys living near to, or visiting, this much loved Lancashire landmark."

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for environment, planning and cultural services, said: "We're very pleased to be supporting this ambitious plan to regenerate Pendle Hill which will safeguard its heritage and environment for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to working with our partners to put together an exciting and creative programme of activity."

Robert Thompson, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's community services committee and a member of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board, said: "Pendle Hill plays an important part in the heritage of Ribble Valley and is much-loved by residents and visitors."

I would like to thank everyone behind this successful bid, which will be a fantastic boost for the area."

Councillor Ian Tweedie who leads on tourism for Pendle said: "We're passionate about Pendle Hill and this funding unlocks some exciting opportunities for our local community, our landscape and for national and international tourism."

Councillor Brian Newman, who sits on the Landscape Partnership, added: "Pendle Council has been working on plans for a Quaker Trail and other projects."

This fantastic news means that we can go up a gear, working with this strong partnership to get some exciting projects underway."

**-Ends-**

### **Notes to editors**

A Landscape Partnership (LP) earmarked grant means that money has been set aside by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the scheme in question. The applicant then progresses to the second round and submits a further, fully-developed application to secure the full award. This early level of strong financial commitment means that LPs



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can build strong partnerships with the assurance that funding for their scheme is in place provided that their final proposals fully meet the programme's criteria.

HLF's Landscape Partnerships are helping bring together members of the community as well as local, regional, and national organisations to deliver schemes which benefit some of the UK's most outstanding landscapes and rural communities. Grants range from £100,000 up to £3m. The next closing date for LP applications is May 2015.

### **About Forest of Bowland AONB and the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership**

- The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 40 AONBs in England and Wales.
- The Forest of Bowland is important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and breeding birds. The 800 sq km of landscape in Lancashire and North Yorkshire encompasses tranquil wooded valleys, open moorland and historic villages.
- Pendle Hill is an outlier of the AONB, separated by a narrow strip of the Ribble Valley and Clitheroe.
- The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership is managed by the AONB, and is made up of organisations and communities from both sides of the hill. The LP area covers 120 square kilometres of moorland, valleys and villages including Barley, Sabden, Downham and Roughlee.

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and

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collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery. For more information please contact: Katie Owen, HLF Press Office, on 020 7591 6036/07973 613820.

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