

PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR Q1 2018/19

The majority of projects have begun in some form or other, some with planning and recruitment, others with large scale activity.

ENVIRONMENT

1. TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES has not yet started although we have held discussions around match funding, the grant agreement and recruitment of the graduate and project co-ordinator.

2. WILD ABOUT PENDLE HILL Additional Phase 1 survey work has been commissioned and is now underway, and is being led by John Lamb of Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The project has been set up to run as a volunteering and training opportunity and will cover phase 1 and traditional boundary surveys in the two areas of the LP not originally surveyed. Two days have been undertaken in June, with the rest of the field work planned for July, and GIS mapping to be completed during August. Thirteen people have volunteered to be part of the project.

At the three BHS and community sites for year 1 – Barley Car Park, Worsaw Hill and the Clarion Club – Sarah Robinson has been developing plans for their management. The next steps are to consult on these plans and then have them confirmed in time for the work to begin in the autumn. In addition a scrub management contractor has been put in place for Barley and Worsaw.

The Farmer Network was launched in March at Barley Village Hall, with a visit from a member of the Ribblesdale group, Anthony Bradley. He gave an informative and entertaining account of why it was a good idea to be involved. In June the group visited Twiston Beck with Jackie Monk from the Environment Agency.

3. PENDLE WINNS – Ribble Rivers Trust have commenced the final design process for their woodland planting sites. This has included a site visit with the LP Farming and Wildlife Officer to agree the final design and specification for Twiston Valley – this identified an additional access and visual amenity output (we should see a significant area of Bluebells in place of grazed grassland within a new woodland site within 1 year of the project starting). The procurement process for one woodland site has been started. One volunteer day at Barley has been undertaken, pulling Himalayan balsam.

4. PENDLE SUMMIT Work commenced on April 24th led by Sarah Dornan, with a joint site visit by Conservefor (footpath contractors), In Situ, Henrietta Armstrong (Artist in residence) the Downham Estate, Phil Dolphin (walling contractor) and LP staff; looking at the various aspects of the project and how we might collaborate and schedule work to enable smooth running of the operation. A few pieces of work were tweaked – eg a new section of path to link the seating area to the main route, and the need for a replacement gate post and additional stone for use in the dry stone wall shelter. Through the kind generosity of the Downham estate, we have sourced some dry stone walling stone and gate post which already come from the estate so will be sympathetic with the area and true to the heritage of Pendle Hill. 20 tonnes of stone have been loaded into tractor and trailer by at a Downham Estate Farm and delivered to the summit. No mean feat considering gradient and distance travelled. Ironically, the stone comes from the summit of Pendle Hill originally but was moved some years ago, but now it is back in its original setting.

Phase one of the summit restoration project began in June with Conservefor starting the path restoration, most of the paths on the summit have now been restored and topped with stone collected and crushed on site; the cart track is due to be completed in July.

Henrietta, our artist in residence, has held a week of workshops to discuss the concept of the panoramic summit stones with communities throughout the landscape partnership area ranging from Nelson to Clitheroe either as drop in information sessions or with pre-existing groups in the Pendle area.

Activity is being documented by Catapult Films and by a volunteer photographer, Graham Cooper.

ECONOMY

5. ACCESS FOR ALL: The LP Countryside Access officer, Sarah Dornan, has spent 2 days with Ian Hart who did the plans at development stage, reviewing and assessing preliminary Access for All work. Site visits have been held with Ralph Assheton in relation to the planned concessionary Bridleway at Downham which will be developed later this year; contacts have been made with LCC highways relating to delivery and vehicle movements for that route; RVBC were contacted relating to planning issues for the proposed bridleway; and LCC land agents are now involved in drawing up a legal agreement for it.

Preliminary contact has been made with RVBC and our AONB tourism officer to look at development possibilities for the Information Barn upgrade at Downham.

6. TRAINEES The funding for the facilitator post attached to this project has been secured by a partnership led by University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) called 'Upskilling Lancashire'. This is ESF monies and our element of the project is to be delivered by Myerscough Agricultural College.

Cathy Hopley has attended a partnership meeting about the funding and an initial planning meeting with Myerscough College. We have drawn up a draft project brief with criteria for the selection of both employers and employees on the scheme. Myerscough hope to recruit a facilitator to start in September, so at that point we hope to start identifying employers and young people.

7. DISCOVER PENDLE HILL: Invitations have been sent to tourism businesses within the LP area to a business networking launch at the beginning of July. The purpose of the event is to engage with businesses, and encourage them to be involved with the other delivery elements of the Discover Pendle Hill Project. The first ones being the Sense of Place work and a Foodie Foray event, both being delivered in Q2 & Q3 of Year 1.

Hetty Byrne has drawn up initial ideas for the Foodie Foray event to take place 8th to 11th October – to engage with tourism businesses and entice visitors in a celebration of the landscape, producers and local delicacies around Pendle Hill.

8. WHAT'S A HILL WORTH: project not yet started

EVERYONE

9. PENDLE HILL FUND: project not yet started

10. PEN – People Enjoying Nature - has commenced the first 6 sessions for year 1. So far Jayne Ashe has led workshops making bat boxes at Whitehough Outdoor Centre; taken part in one of Henrietta's workshops focusing on her commission for the summit stones project; and carried out some Himalayan balsam pulling at Spring Wood. There will be three more Thursday afternoon sessions in this first block. The project has attracted a number of new participants who didn't attend

the PEN pilot programme in summer 2017 and the advertisement and reach of the sessions is still expanding, thanks to our partnership with East Lancashire Community Restart.

11. PENDLE RADICALS led by Nick Hunt of Mid Pennine Arts, who has been continuing development work towards the 'Radicals Trail' – partner contacts and meetings, landowner permissions, site visits etc. There has been an initial call for volunteers and promotional work towards recruiting a core group of volunteers. Further work has taken place to secure match funding, develop social media and other promotional activity to build awareness and attract volunteer involvement.

12. COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY: The IFR (Institute of Field Research) excavation started on 18th June at Malkin Tower Farm, with 10 American and Canadian students taking part, along with 4 University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) students. The excavation is making good progress with small finds being made, along with some structures under the ground. Local volunteers have been out on site one day, learning basic excavation skills and receiving support from some of the students. Other community sessions have now been planned for the rest of the excavation period – which include 2 primary school groups, two PEN sessions, one training day and one open day (tours of site.) Northern Archaeological Associates have been commissioned by Jayne Ashe to deliver the role of Community Archaeology Co-ordinator and also to deliver the training programme for this project. We also have an intern student from UCLan who is involved in the excavation but will also continue for 5 weeks afterwards, working on interpretation and resources.

THREADS

13. VOLUNTEERING & LEARNING is co-ordinated by Alison Cross with input from Jayne and Sarah D. To maintain the momentum built up from the development phase volunteering activity we held a series of walks for volunteers in April and May, looking at future work which they could be involved in for the future. During 1st – 7th June - Volunteers' week, a national initiative organised by NCVO - we developed opportunities locally to thank current volunteers as well as to advertise the scheme to more and a wider range of people. We ran a series of activities which included a family friendly bushcraft session; a wildflower planting session, drop in information session, practical session, a volunteer walk and a map and compass skills training session. To thank current volunteers we held an evening social event, inviting them to join us at a local café for pie and peas. Throughout this week we signed up new volunteers and also publicised the wider elements and projects of the PHLP.

For the 'Get Into Volunteering' initiative we have started to make connections with local community groups and projects, with ideas for activities which will be advertised in the next few weeks.

We have been gifted the support of an Outdoor Learning Officer from our partnership with The Ernest Cook Trust. The role will link up with all the LP scheme projects, to strengthen the education element of the LP. Alison Cross was appointed and started in mid-May and is currently researching, scoping and identifying links between the PHLP projects and the local community. Through meetings, site visits and community networking events (such as the local North West Eco-Schools Conference), a plan is being created for the next four years of the project. The role will allow for further events, school engagement and hard to reach communities being included more within each project. This will be through;

- researching into perceived barriers of learning outside the classroom in local countryside,
- providing outdoor national curriculum linked learning sessions,
- offer training to local teachers in how to teach outdoors,
- support for the planned LP Summer School in 2020.

14. THE GATHERINGS in May In-Situ appointed Andy Abbott as Environment Programme Co-ordinator. Working with the In-Situ team, Andy has appointed Nastassja Simensky as artist in residence at the Malkin Tower archaeological excavation for the 'Material Culture Unearthed' commission. This commission began in mid June alongside the IFR dig, and Nastassja will spend 4 weeks on site, followed by further work to develop a collaborative music based performance.

15. INTERPRETATION: at the beginning of April consultants (Creative Council) were commissioned by Hetty Byrne to undertake the branding work for the LP scheme, including development of the partnership brand and communications toolkit. Two face-to-face consultation workshops were carried with the team, board and partners to inform the development of the brand. The ideas were developed further by Creative Council who then presented them online for final feedback. The consultation process with partners will ensure a strong affinity with the brand to encourage adoption and consistent use. The final consultation finished on 29th June and the brand and toolkit will be finalised and disseminated during July.

Also at the beginning of April, 2 separate consultants were commissioned to undertake 2 pieces of filming work:

1. Introductory Film (tender awarded to Northern Heart) with a brief of developing a short, engaging film to inspire people to find out more about the Scheme and to get involved. The filming will be completed in July and will be edited and delivered for the Scheme launch event in October.
2. Detailed documentary filming of the first projects: the Summit & the Archaeology Projects (tender awarded to Catapult). This film includes more in-depth filming of work in progress, including drone and time-lapse and interviews with consultants, delivery partners and participants on-site. The filming will continue throughout the summer, capturing the start of the peat restoration work in the autumn and will be delivered by beginning November.