

Article for Blacko News

Pendle Hill landscape partnership uncovers evidence of the past

The new landscape partnership for Pendle Hill, led by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has just been awarded a major grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for a 4 year programme of activity in and around Pendle Hill.

One of the 15 projects planned will focus on the archaeology of this area and it kicks off this summer with an excavation at Malkin Tower Farm.

Informed by a great deal of 'geophysical' surveys, which you may have seen on TV's *Time Team*, the project has been using magnetometry and electrical resistivity equipment to penetrate the surface of the fields to see if there is anything interesting underneath. The focus is of course to find the remains of Malkin Tower itself, but anything found will surely be of interest!

The surveys were carried out last summer by Mike Woods, a Masters student in archaeology from the University of Central Lancashire. The University is also supporting the dig this summer which will be led by Professor Chuck Orser from the USA, together with a number of international and local students who will be working on site for 6 weeks from mid June. There will be plenty of opportunity for locals and visitors to view progress and to get involved in the excavation. There will also be an artist involved who will be creating their own interpretation of the finds.

Mike Woods also carried out surveys at Watermeetings which suggest that the area was originally a large Iron Age settlement with fortifications. The Iron Age in Lancashire is notoriously understudied, so this site will certainly be looked at in more detail over the coming four years together with a number of other lesser known prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites across the Pendle Hill area.

For more information see our website <http://www.forestofbowland.com/Pendle-Hill-LP> or contact cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk or catch up with news on our Facebook page Pendle Hill Project.