



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

April 2022

### **500 trees and planting**

#### **Six Lancashire schools carry out treerific work planting saplings**

#### **Sabden has a new woodland thanks to six local schools**

Six schools from Pendle Borough and Ribble Valley have helped play their part in tackling climate change and flooding by planting over 500 tree saplings in the Pendle Hill landscape, during February and March.

Nine different groups of young people were invited to help create the new woodland in Sabden. Pupils from Grindleton Primary, Pendle Community High School & College, Bowland High School, Pendle Primary, St Michael and St John's RC Primary School, and St James Primary School planted native tree saplings on the edge of Sabden near Whins House. Each trip was fully funded, thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the educational charity The Ernest Cook Trust.

In 2018, the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership partnered with the Ribble Rivers Trust to help create 19 Ha of woodlands, by planting about 34,000 trees and improving management of existing woodlands, by 2022. The Woodland and Invasive Non-Native Species Project aims to improve biodiversity on Pendle Hill. This tree planting scheme is one of 14 projects started by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

The partnership's Outdoor Learning Officer Alison Cross, whose role is funded by The Ernest Cook Trust, ran an outdoor learning session for each class.

Pupils identified tree species already growing on site, learnt about their growth requirements and even calculated the age of trees.

Alison said: "There were two very large oak trees in the field, which the year 5s and 6s calculated as being over 225 years old. This really shocked the pupils and teachers, that something they plant could live for that long. When we planted our two-year-old oak trees, we all agreed to come back in 200 years to see how big they have got."

Ribble Rivers Trust gave each group a tree planting demonstration before the pupils got to work on planting 14 different native tree species.

Saplings included alder, goat willow, hornbeam and rowan. Each tree was protected with a stake and tree guard, some made out of plastic and other guards made of upcycled cardboard.

"Single use plastics is a big topic in schools, and the pupils were quick to point out the downsides of plastic in the landscape. Bowland High school BTEc Countryside and Environment course students were very interested in the eco tree guards, but they are waiting to see the success of those saplings before they decided what material is best to protect a tree from hungry deer," Alison added.

Ribble Rivers Trust's Projects and Citizen Science Officer, Leanne Tough, explained: "The reason we planted trees in this location was to help slow the flow of water into Sabden, to boost the biodiversity of the area, and to help improve water quality in Sabden Brook, to name a few. It's all about the right tree in the right place, and so we ensured water loving species such as alder were at the bottom of the hill where flooding often happens."

Pendle Primary School in Clitheroe was able to bring all year 5 and 6 classes tree planting. Teachers commented how "the opportunities for cross curricular learning were great and it exemplified to our teachers how outdoor learning can engage children and provide relevance for their maths, science and English work. It was delightful to see the children really enjoying their activities and develop skills such as resilience, collaborative work and perseverance".

Alison said she was pleased to hear teachers were able to see how important outdoor learning opportunities are to bringing natural history terminology to life. The partnership hopes that teachers can implement these lessons into their own practise.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership works with many schools within the Burnley, Ribble Valley and Pendle borough area, to help teachers with outdoor learning. Alison said she hopes these six schools will repeat some of the activities within their school grounds and local green spaces.

Plants and soils lesson plans and free resources can be found on the Pendle Hill Partnership website at <https://www.pendlehillproject.com/resources-teachers>. Schools wishing to take part in tree planting next winter are invited to get in contact with Ribble Rivers Trust by emailing [admin@ribbletrust.com](mailto:admin@ribbletrust.com).

## EDITORS NOTES

- The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is led by the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- The partnership aims to:
  - I. restore, enhance and conserve the heritage and landscape of Pendle Hill
  - II. reconnect people with their past and their landscape

III. bring the two sides of the hill together

IV. create a sustainable future for the environment, heritage and for visitors' experience of Pendle Hill

- The scheme was awarded a National Lottery grant of £1.8million by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in January 2018. These funds will be delivered from 2018-2022 and will be matched with a further £1m raised locally.
- The scheme is made up of a dozen projects which safeguard the area's wildlife and heritage and improve people's access to this popular countryside area. We will do this by providing opportunities for training and volunteering; by supporting research and devising creative and digital interpretation to inspire a new generation about our heritage; by restoring important landscape features, and by working with communities to re-tell the stories of radical Pendle people. The scheme will increase pride in this special place and raise aspirations amongst communities, and it will bring in new investment to support the environment and the economy.
- The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Fund and by the Forest of Bowland AONB. Partners include representatives of parish councils, the landowning and farming community, Pendle and Ribble Valley Borough Councils, Lancashire County Council, statutory bodies, tourism businesses and volunteers.
- Projects will be delivered by the AONB team, plus local delivery partners including In-Situ Arts, the Dry Stone Walling Association, Mid Pennine Arts and Ribble Rivers Trust.
- The Pendle Hill LP covers 120 square kilometres, stretching from Gisburn down to Whalley, and from Clitheroe across to Nelson and Padiham.
- The Hill is well known as a beauty spot and is heavily visited by residents of the local towns: it is a perfect place for walking and cycling. The area's heritage is dominated by the story of the Pendle Witches, but there are lots more stories to tell including the founding of the Quaker movement, non-conformists and radicals, Roman and Bronze Age settlers, medieval farming systems and early industrial developments. The network of dry stone walls and hedgerows give the area a distinctive feel, and the landscape is also important for its wild moorland, rare birds and woodlands.
- For further information contact the LP Scheme Manager [cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk) on 07891 537835 / 01200 420420
- Visit the project website at [www.pendlehillproject.com](http://www.pendlehillproject.com) or visit our Facebook page 'Pendle Hill Project' for up to date news and views.

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

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)

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### **About The Ernest Cook Trust**

The Ernest Cook Trust is a UK-wide educational charity, creating outdoor experiences for children, young people and their families. A landowner in six counties, it runs outdoor

education programmes on its own estates, as well as with partners' estates, and offers grants for outdoor learning activities. <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>.



*Figure 1 Grindleton Primary tree planting in the hail*



*Figure 2 Year 5 and 6 pupils carry out tree planting in Sabden*



*Figure 3 Pupils learn about different tree species with Pendle Hill volunteer.*



*Figure 4 Bowland High School students measure the girth of the tree to work out its age.*



*Figure 5 Bowland year 10 students carry out tree planting*



*Figure 6 Bowland year 10 students put eco guards over their newly planted sapling.*