



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The Romans in Clitheroe:**

### **Call for help with community excavation of a Roman road**

VOLUNTEER DATES: 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Have you been inspired by time team and Digging for Britain on TV? Do you fancy taking part in a real archaeological excavation close to home?

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership are running an excavation this July and welcome anyone from around Pendle Hill to take part. You will have the chance to work alongside other volunteers and professional archaeologists, to uncover the secrets of the road and its construction.

This is a continuation of last year's excavation of a short section of Roman road between Clitheroe, Worston and Chatburn. The route of the road can be seen on OS maps and using LiDAR technology. There is a high chance of finding Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval artefacts along the route, due to the rich historic nature of Pendle Hill.

This is your chance to unearth more of the Roman remains and learn about excavation and geophysical survey. It is a great training opportunity and open to everyone. Northern Archaeological Associates will be leading the way, showing how excavations involve the meticulous removal of earth from specific trenches to answer burning questions. Geophysical survey is walking through a field with fancy machines that essentially show any possible features hidden under the earth.

Jess Wight, who is co-ordinating the volunteer effort on behalf of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership said "Our excavation is absolutely free, we just need volunteers to sign up via our weblink so we can keep everyone safe on site. Please bring your enthusiasm and a packed lunch, we can sort out the rest. Please dress for the weather and expect to get muddy!"

Where: Henson cement works field Clitheroe (private land)

Who: Anyone and everyone is welcome, we specifically encourage those who live around Pendle hill to come and have a day digging but anyone willing to dig is welcome on site. Children 7 and up are permitted to dig but anyone under 18 will need to be accompanied by an adult all day.

When: From 9am till 4pm each day running from the 18<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July, specific days (Monday, Tuesday and Fridays) are available for volunteers.

How: sign up for free here <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BQBL>

MEDIA:



<https://www.pendlehillproject.com/project/archaeology>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR-ZCoVk-WE&t=183s>

## 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.

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