



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### **A new chapter for Spring Wood**

The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is drawing up plans to improve the visitor information building at the popular Spring Wood picnic site just outside Whalley, and they need your help to decide on priorities.

Working with Lancashire County Council countryside service, who manage the site, the landscape partnership are hoping to update and improve the building which has been largely closed since the service was re-organised a few years ago. The landscape partnership hope that the visitor centre and woodland will become one of four key gateways to the Pendle Hill landscape and will help deliver their aims of re-connecting people to their landscape and their heritage. They already run the popular Little Saplings outdoor toddler group at Spring Wood twice a month, and many other outdoor groups meet there or use the site for learning and recreation. Close on 50,000 visitors come to Spring Wood each year.

The plan is to create a permanent refreshment kiosk inside the building, which will then be open for visitors to find out more about the Spring Wood site and the surrounding area. The current information room will be redesigned and new interpretation created to help people learn more about this pretty patch of woodland and the wildlife that lives there. People can also find out about how to get involved with the Friends of Spring Wood: volunteers who meet monthly and care for the site.

A survey to gather feedback on the building and woodland picnic area is currently being carried out on site and on-line and you can have your say by answering a few short questions and contributing any comments here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y57SWHG> or access it via the project website [pendlehillproject.com](http://pendlehillproject.com)

The landscape partnership hopes to secure funds later this year and to undertake the building refurbishment works early in 2021.

Pendle Hill landscape partnership is led by the Forest of Bowland AONB and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

## **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 are being 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 Heritage 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 collections to rare wildlife.

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