



PRESS RELEASE

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Restoring the traditional field boundaries of Pendle Hill

Some of the many beautiful features of Pendle Hill are the dry stone walls and hedgerows that make up a patchwork of field boundaries, stretching out from the valley floors and up towards the poorer ground on the slopes. Visitors often marvel at how the walls appear to run straight up the side of the hill in places – who built them, when and why?

The answer is that field boundaries have been created by farmers since the Iron Age, to protect homesteads and to keep livestock in enclosures, or fields. Walls, made of the stone that was collected when the fields were cleared, and later from quarried local stone, reflect the area's geology of millstone and limestone across the higher land on the hill. There is a special skill required to building a wall that will stand strong for over 100 years!

Hedgerows tend to dominate the lower lying fields, and as well as keeping the sheep and cattle in the right place they also provide them with shelter from the weather. Hedges can provide an abundance of food for birds and small mammals. Both hedges and walls offer valuable wildlife habitat for plants, animals and insects and act as wildlife corridors for species to move about safely. Not something a fence can offer.

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership aims to restore over 1000m of wall and 5000m of hedgerow in the next two years, and the first boundaries are now being repaired. Working in partnership with the Pendle Hill Farmers Network and the Dry Stone Walling Association the project has identified a number of boundaries in need of repair which are also important to the landscape and valuable to the public. This repair work is being funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the landowners.

The first wall to be re-built is along the track to Pendleside farm at the bottom of the steps up Pendle. Here, Master Craftsman Peter Isherwood and his gang from Bolton, are working through the winter weather to re build 180m of gritstone wall, and it's looking great! (image supplied)

The first hedge has also been laid in traditional Lancashire and Westmorland style on High Whitaker farm alongside the Pendle Way footpath, and another six will be completed by Spring at locations around Pendleton, Roughlee and Sawley. (images)

People who are interested in learning the skills of dry stone walling and hedge laying are welcome to join the free training courses that the Landscape Partnership organises. There will also be chance learn more, have a go, and to see professional wallers in action at the first Pendle Hill walling competition to be held on May 17th at Fence village. For more information visit the project website www.pendlehillproject.com or contact pendlehill.lp@lancashire.gov.uk

“Traditional boundaries are an integral feature of our countryside's rich heritage and tradition, creating a sense of history and place, they also offer a practical form of stock proof boundary, some of which may date back hundreds of years. It is so important that these field boundaries are maintained so that generations to come can enjoy their aesthetic and practical value to our landscape.” Linda Clarkson of the Dry Stone Walling Association

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 on 07891 537835 / 01200 420420
- Visit the project website at 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. www.hlf.org.uk Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported



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