



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

September 2022

50 teachers head outside for lessons

If you go down to the woods today, you are sure of a big surprise. If you go down to your local woods today, you might see teachers in disguise. For every teacher that attended the Outdoor Learning Day, will gather there for certain because today's the day teachers go outside to teach hooray.

Fifty teachers have gathered at Whitehough Outdoor Centre, for an Outdoor Learning training day, staged for schools located within the Pendle Hill Landscape.

The fully-funded event celebrated the end of the four-year Outdoor Learning project, which has been delivered in partnership with The Ernest Cook Trust and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme. The day provided an opportunity for teachers to gain knowledge, skills, and resources to support Outdoor Learning within their education establishment and the local landscape.

Teachers took part in workshops which ranged from natural history identification to bushcraft skills and art in the landscape. There were also networking opportunities, where teachers and education organisations could share resources and ideas about the importance, benefits, and methods of embedding Outdoor Learning into a school.

In 2018, the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme was awarded a National Lottery grant of £1.8million by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It then partnered with The Ernest Cook Trust, which funded the partnership's Outdoor Learning Officer Alison Cross, who has gone on to work with 43 East Lancashire schools and delivered 160 school trips.

Alison said: "The Outdoor Learning training day was a wonderful event that celebrated the four-year learning project and allowed me to share all the best aspects with fellow teachers. I invited local environmental educators and experts to pass on their knowledge and advice for next steps. Thanks to everyone for attending and to Burnley in the Community for hosting us at Whitehough Outdoor Centre "

The day also focused on the barriers to teaching the national curriculum outside, and how to overcome these with practical solutions. One Pendle primary school teacher commented: "Today I learnt that barriers shouldn't stop us from getting outside at school. I need to use organisations, grants, and experts to help us."

Schools left the event with a buzz and ignited with the passion for Outdoor Learning. Some schools have already put plans in place to take story time and lessons into their school grounds. Clitheroe St. James's school commented: "We had a brilliant day! We got so much from the training and can't wait to extend upon our outdoor leaning! Thank you."

Carrie House, from Rural Skills Hub, provided ideas to teachers about using dry stone walls and hedges to teach about habitats. Carrie commented: "I had a discussion with a teacher that made me realise it's not just about providing experiences and skills; some school grounds need physical improvements to help them deliver outdoor activities."

Lancashire Wildlife Trust education team handed out information about best techniques for school ground developments, while The Country Trust charity was informing schools about trips to local farms. Other external organisations involved included In-Situ Pendle, Grow to School CIC and the Ribble Rivers Trust, which delivered a pond dipping workshop. Jess Wight, from Lancashire Museum service delivered a local history and archaeology workshop, which teachers fully enjoyed.

Teachers left the event with resources, lesson plans and grant funding information in hand. These can be found on the Pendle Hill Partnership website at <https://www.pendlehillproject.com/resources-teachers>.



Figure 1 Outdoor Learning Training Day for the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership



Figure 2 Teacher Training day, Natural Art workshop



Figure 3 Outdoor Learning conference



Figure 4 Outdoor Learning conference, Local History workshop by Lancashire Museums Jess Wight.



Figure 5 Outdoor Learning Training Day, Pond dipping workshop by Ribble Rivers Trust



Figure 6 Outdoor Learning Training day, Bushcraft skills and Forest School workshop by Whitehough Outdoor Centre and Lancashire Wildlife Trust

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 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

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

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/>.



TOGETHER FOR OUR LANDMARK

