

Pendle Hill LP Legacy Plan

National Lottery Heritage Fund stress that **the legacy** of a programme like a Landscape Partnership (LP) is vital, and that as part of closing down the programme we should describe what the longer term plan is for the work we have delivered.

In our view, LP legacy is diverse: it relates both to individual projects and across the wider scheme, it will often include the impact partnership work has had on partner organisations; it may also be manifest in the emergence of new organisations or activity.

As a partnership we have agreed to look at 3 elements of Legacy:

1. Scheme Legacy
2. 10 year Management & Maintenance Plan
3. Project and Partner Organisational Legacy

Introduction

This plan describes how the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership will have a lasting impact on the landscape, heritage and communities of and around Pendle Hill. It relates back to our Landscape Conservation Action Plan, prepared 2016-17 which identified needs and risks in our proposed area of work, together with the 15 projects we designed to tackle these issues. The plan should also be read alongside our scheme evaluation, produced by Simon Lees of the Countryside Training Partnership.

This Legacy Plan was approved by the PHLP Board on 22nd February 2023.

Background

The Pendle Hill LP was launched in April 2018 and was initially set to run for 4 years. However, with the pandemic of 2020/21 severely disrupting activity the National Lottery Heritage Fund granted an extension to take our completion date to October 2022, and a grant expiry of 31 January 2023.

The Pendle Hill LP centres on the isolated piece of upland known as 'Pendle' the name in itself reflecting on its heritage, having been named by the Celts, Saxons and modern residents of the area: 'Pen' 'Dhul' 'hill'. The hill abuts the major conurbation of Pennine Lancashire, with the key towns of Nelson and Colne; plus the more rural areas of Ribble Valley on the opposite side, providing the audience and participants for our activity.

The PHLP was led by the Forest of Bowland AONB who led the partnership via its host authority Lancashire County Council who employed the LP team. The partnership comprised the AONB, Dry Stone Walling Association, the Ernest Cook Trust, In-Situ, Mid Pennine Arts and Ribble Rivers Trust. Also represented on the Board were Lancashire County Council, Pendle and Ribble Valley Borough Councils; local parish councils, Champion Bowland, the Environment Agency, Marketing Lancashire, Pendle Hill farmers network; and our chair, Hon Ralph Assheton of the Downham Estate.

The scheme had a value of £2.5m (plus £140,000 of volunteer time and £173,000 gifts in kind) and this was supported with a grant of £1.8m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In addition, substantial cash match funds were also secured via partners, agencies and landowners and farmers.



The PHLP Board, team and delivery partners atop Pendle, summer 2018

The Scheme Vision

A landmark of Pennine Lancashire, this iconic hill will become a focus for bringing town and country people together to understand, restore and celebrate the distinctive landscape and heritage of this much loved and inspiring place.

Aims and Objectives

AIMS

- A. To restore, enhance and conserve the heritage and landscape quality of Pendle Hill
- B. To re-connect people with the landscape
- C. To re-connect people and the past
- D. To bring together the two sides of the Hill
- E. To create a sustainable future for the environment, heritage and for visitors' experience of Pendle Hill

OBJECTIVES

1. To better manage and increase the species diversity of natural habitats at a landscape scale
2. To reduce the risk of flooding through the use of natural flood management measures
3. To provide opportunities for volunteering and engagement in the environment
4. To increase knowledge, skills and opportunities for employment in the heritage sector
5. To restore and celebrate distinctive heritage features of Pendle Hill
6. To connect a wide range of people and local communities with their heritage and landscape
7. To develop a unique sense of place to help bring the two sides of the Hill together
8. To increase understanding of the value of a high quality landscape and the benefits it can deliver
9. To improve the physical and cultural access to Pendle Hill
10. To implement the programme through a creative, sustainable and inclusive approach

We also aimed to deliver all 9 of the then Heritage Lottery Fund outcomes:

HERITAGE			PEOPLE			COMMUNITIES		
Heritage is managed better	Heritage is in a better condition	Heritage is better identified/recorded	People will have developed skills	People will have learnt about heritage	People will have volunteered time	Environmental impacts will be reduced	More, and a wider range, of people will have engaged age	The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

The scheme proved to be incredibly successful and during its lifetime it not only improved access, conserved and celebrated heritage but it also inspired, supported and educated many thousands of people and re-affirmed their love for their local landmark: Pendle Hill.

The scheme has become well known nationally for its inclusivity; it's quality of work and its innovative and creative approaches.



Scheme Legacy

From an AONB perspective, the greatest legacy from the PHLP will be work embedded into wider AONB activity: with the continuation of community engagement, outdoor learning; and the delivery of access improvements. We want to continue to work collaboratively with creative organisations and to embrace digital interpretation. Above all we want to continue to work with more and a wider range of people.

“We’ve discovered through PHLP the importance of cultural heritage and what other organisations can bring to a partnership when thinking about landscape scale activity.”

The experiences we have had working in the Pendle Hill area, working with more and a wider range of people; delivering benefits for wellbeing and outdoor learning; thinking and working creatively with artists and arts organisations; will now be rolled out to other parts of the Forest of Bowland and in other projects we deliver.

We are already exploring ways in which we can integrate arts practices in nature recovery work for example, and will also look to apply for Arts Council England grant funding – something we have not previously had the confidence to do by ourselves.

Our work around equality, diversity and inclusion is also spearheading the way other AONBs want to work – next we want to look at how our governance and workforce can be made more inclusive. We are considering ways in which we can develop a community forum or annual conference for the AONB

It feels like PHLP was somewhat ahead of the game including these principles and methodologies in our plans back in 2018. Covid happened and other factors like Black Lives Matter and nature connectedness have changed the strategic context and moved the sector along in the five years we have been delivering; now our work is seen as best practice and to be emulated by others.

The AONB has also recognised the role the 'Pendle Hill outlier' brings to the wider AONB and partnership. The hill is very different in character to other more remote parts of the Forest of Bowland, and is often considered to be of lower nature value. On the other hand, it has far higher visitor numbers and this creates different issues to elsewhere. This strengthens the argument to maintain and develop the Pendle Hill Advisory Board and to continue to provide a range of activity and awareness raising events as this is where the demand is higher and will have more impact on the health, wellbeing and awareness of the neighbouring population.

"Before PHLP, Pendle Hill was perhaps overlooked and received less attention from the AONB Partnership, certainly since the loss of a dedicated Countryside Officer well over 12 years ago. It now feels like this landscape sits at the heart of our work, particularly in our approach to engaging people in their local landscape, nature and heritage."

The scheme and projects have also had a lasting impact on the **delivery partner** organisations. It has created new links with environmental issues and professions for the arts organisations involved; and vice versa for the environmental bodies. It has built new connections, collaborations and professional networks as well as lasting personal relationships: friendships.

Finally, PHLP has had an impact on **residents and visitors** to the area. It has informed behaviour, built confidence and opened minds. It has given skills for work, education and enjoyment. It has supported our mental and physical health through one of the toughest times in living memory. By simply being there, Pendle is a constant presence and a beautiful backdrop to our lives, within reach and welcoming to everyone.

Board Legacy

The LP Board met in 2021 to discuss their long term future, and the overwhelming feeling was that after the scheme ended there was little or no role for the Board going forward. This was not a negative statement, as the Board members were very committed to the work delivered and the partners involved. Rather they felt that their oversight of programme delivery would end, and a landscape scale forum that was so wide ranging would struggle to continue long term with no funds to deliver activity. Some of the original 'Pendle Hill Advisory Group' members will continue to meet with support from the AONB Partnership. The AONB Partnership will continue to work with project partners to extend or develop new project activity, such as the new 'Connecting People and Nature' project working with the Ernest Cook Trust and through a the 'Arts in the Landscape' proposal being developed at a national level linking AONBs and arts organisations with a potential 'Nationally Significant Project' (NSP) bid to the Arts Council.



Project Legacy

What is a project legacy?

Legacy in this context, means *the enduring **assets or activity** which result from NLHF-funded activities, and which **continue to exist** after completing delivery of the project.*

This document now focuses on the legacy of the 16 individual projects that make up the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, plus describes how these will be managed and maintained into the future.

Project Legacy can include:

- How a physical feature or improvement will be maintained into the future (eg maintenance of paths, walls, meadows)
- How an activity may continue to be delivered in the future (eg volunteering, activity sessions, artist commissions or provision of advice and information)
- How interpretation or data will be managed in the future (eg websites, publications, archives etc)

The Board also requested that we:

1. draw up a 'network map' showing the various partners, agencies, funds showing who does what in the LP area: for future collaborations and support
2. consider an annual/biennial Gathering celebration to bring partners back together and to enable collaborations to continue

1. Traditional Boundaries

- Landowner Agreements are in place to maintain capital works delivered during the PHLP scheme
- Future support to farmers and landowners will be provided via AONB and Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (FiPL)
- AONB is committed to continuing training for volunteers and farmers in walling & hedgelaying; and partnership with the Dry Stone Walling Association and National Hedge Laying Society. This may be delivered in part via the Connecting People and Nature project planned for 2023-26, and also by the established programme run annually by the AONB team.

2. Wild About Pendle Hill

- Management plans for 3 Discovery sites (Barley, Clarion & Worsaw) shared with owners: no obligations to deliver but owners have been encouraged to follow the plans. Possible AONB commitment and parish council involvement to continue annual mowing at Barley
- Pendle Meadow sites – will go into Stewardship or FiPL agreements so farmers will manage appropriately. A combined FiPL grant has recently been awarded to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to support the management and improvement of a number of meadows across the AONB, including several from our original Pendle Meadows project – thus securing their medium term future.
- Mearley Moor peatland area is monitored (by Ribble Rivers Trust)
- Pendle Summit peatland restoration is now monitored by AONB/Lancashire Peat Partnership.
- A peatland restoration plan has already been funded and prepared (through a Nature for Climate, Peatland Discovery Grant Scheme) to continue works on the summit peat; and funds to deliver this will be actively sought by the AONB.
- AONB/Friends of Spring Wood will continue citizen science i-Naturalist work at Spring Wood

3. Pendle WINNS

- Landowner agreements for capital works to be maintained
- Ribble Rivers Trust will continue to encourage farmers and landowners to create and manage woodland in the area, and to survey and eradicate INNS, where funds and volunteers are available

4. Pendle Hill Summit

See notes in Wild About Pendle (peatland restoration) and Access for All (paths)

- 'Peat Freaks' self-guided walking route will be managed by AONB on Outdoor Active app
- 7 Stone way markers
- Walkers Shelter at summit
- Summit Stones will be maintained by the AONB in conjunction with In-Situ

5. Access for All

- New and restored PROW and concessionary routes, including new furniture, will be maintained by Lancashire County Council, landowners and in some cases AONB
- Volunteer monitoring and practical maintenance of paths and water-bars (AONB to set up annual contract for small contractor to do this)
- Promoted Routes will be monitored and minor works carried out by volunteers, managed by AONB
- AONB will continue management and maintenance of interpretation at Gateway Sites
- Tramper – will be managed by volunteers at St Nicholas' Church in Sabden, with support from the AONB. Added to capital works spreadsheet
- New routes at Pendle Way, (led by the landowner via FiPL) and AONB/PROW's restored bridleway to Sabden via Badger Wells are happening as a result of works undertaken by PHLP: proving an increasing awareness and commitment to improving accessibility by the farming community

6. Trainees

- All funded trainee roles will expire by the end of the programme: all 5 graduate roles to date have been employed at the completion of their traineeship; 4 of these within their host organisations (2 at the AONB, 1 at RRT and 1 at In-Situ)
- All partners will look to include trainee roles in future funding applications, based on the success of the roles. This has already been achieved in the NLHF supported 'Connecting People and Nature' project.

7. Discover Pendle Hill

- Tourism businesses will continue to be supported by Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network
- Communities and businesses engaged in Dark Skies work will continue to liaise with the AONB and to promote good practice and to host events locally
- AONB will continue Pendle Hill tourism business support, promoted routes development, Festival Bowland, Sense of Place, Dark Skies Festival, Discover Bowland Guide and other training as core work
- 4 Treasure Trail publications will continue to be available locally, and re-printed as required utilising any advertising/sales income held in the Pendle Hill Legacy Fund by Champion Bowland, the local AONB-linked charity (CIO)

8. What's a Hill Worth?

- The AONB will continue the promotion and dissemination of the Pen Farm research study (eg via the recent Land Use Policy publication) and the 72 Seasons resources in AONB wide activity
- A 72 Seasons Toolkit has been produced and will continue to be made available to other areas to develop their own resources. The Evaluator is already utilising this in other work in the region and nationally.

9. Pendle Hill Fund

- The AONB will continue to encourage and support 'visitor giving' and donations to **Champion Bowland**
- Champion Bowland already hold 'ring-fenced' funds in the form of the **Pendle Hill Legacy Fund** and this will be made available as small grants after the LP ends, with a dedicated Trustees grants panel
- Future themes of funding to be considered for this fund include Access improvements and maintenance work to partner with the Parish Lengthsman scheme, Arts in the Landscape, and Wellbeing.

10. People Enjoying Nature (PEN)

- The AONB has secured funds to extend PEN and other community work across the Forest of Bowland in partnership with the Ernest Cook Trust in a new project to run 2023-26: **Connecting People and Nature**
- The AONB will look to develop further links with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (mental health services) and other social prescribers in other parts of the Forest of Bowland to support this wellbeing work (above)
- The AONB will develop future work in partnership with farmers/landowners delivering health, wellbeing and outdoor learning via the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme

11. Pendle Radicals

- Mid Pennine Arts will continue to promote and develop the Radicals Trail, including the series of associated themed walks Walking with Radicals.
- They will maintain and promote the Pendle Radicals website, project blog and Facebook sharing group. Website hosting costs will be covered by residual project income. Radicals group membership will be set up in 2023. MPA will continue to promote the body of enduring work produced, including podcasts, short films, publications and portable exhibitions. The podcast format has proven particularly fruitful, and they will seek further opportunities to add to the portfolio.

- MPA will seek further funds from a variety of sources to enable future commissions of new work exploring the themes of the project. Sources to approach will include Arts Council England, Historic England through their new Everyday Heritage fund, charitable trusts eg Bowland Trust, and future opportunities from central and local government.
- Explore the feasibility of a future, micro visitor centre for the Radicals Trail. This is conceived as a seasonal rural retreat, offering variously a study centre for academic partners, a residency location for artists, and an exhibition and project space for our Radicals participants. MPA are seeking suitable (eg 'Levelling Up') funding for this vision.
- MPA will continue to share supervision with Reading and Exeter Universities of the collaborative doctorate on the writings of Ethel Carnie, which was initiated as a part of Pendle Radicals in 2021. This PhD study will extend over four years, with a total funded value of approx. £100k.

12. Community Archaeology

- We have encouraged community archaeology volunteers to join existing/other archaeology groups. The Ribble Valley Archaeology group set up as a result of the LP project, and they will continue to work with the team at Clitheroe Castle
- AONB to continue to offer summer internship opportunities to UCLan Archaeology department when and where appropriate
- Staff at Clitheroe Castle (LCC Museums Service) will continue to use the resources we produced for family archaeology events and activity, including the Penny Time Trail and How to be an Archaeologist (produced by Lunchtime Practice)

13. Volunteering

- PHLP volunteers have been supported and trained in a variety of conservation skills and also supported one another in a calm atmosphere and outdoor environment, All have been signposted to join other local volunteer groups (Friends of Bowland and Spring Wood, Ribble Rivers Trust etc)
- The PHLP Tool store will be kept at Wycoller country park, which is LCC owned and maintained. Tools and equipment will be made freely available to the AONB and volunteer activity locally
- The AONB will continue to support occasional volunteers and other volunteer groups (eg Police Cadets) via future activity locally where the need/opportunity arises (via AONB Countryside Access officer) and in partnership with landowners, farmers, LCC Countryside Service etc

Outdoor Learning

- Much of the Outdoor Learning work will continue locally via the extension of funding for the Outdoor Learning Officer post supported by the Ernest Cook Trust in partnership with the AONB (**Connecting People and Nature** funds secured)
- Little Sapling and family event participants have been signposted to similar local provision, and some will continue through the new project
- Educational and John Muir Award resources are now available online via the archived PHLP website
- Teachers have been provided with skills and resources to continue to undertake outdoor learning, school trips and use of local greenspace or school grounds independently of OLO support

14. The Gatherings

In-Situ have now secured the continuation of their National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status with the Arts Council for a further 4 year period, 2023-27. Along with other strands of work, In-Situ hope to continue with a landscape and ecology theme which they developed and strengthened through The Gatherings.

- In-Situ will continue using Corky the Hut and Pendle Peat Pie in their work.
- The Summit work with young people is already being followed up and continued as a result of its success
- We will explore the idea of securing funds for a regular Gathering event to bring together artists, radicals, environmentalists and communities to celebrate aspects of Pendle Hill
- The AONB will continue to collaborate with arts organisations, including In-Situ and MPA, to deliver high quality engaging arts practice in and around the protected landscape, building on the skills, knowledge and experience developed during this partnership

15. Interpretation

- Gateway and site interpretation panels will be adopted and maintained by local communities
- AONB will maintain digital outputs for 5 years: website and videos, walking apps etc
- The Countryside Code and other signage will be maintained by the AONB Countryside Access Officer as budgets allow

16. Staffing and Programme Management

- The PHLP Programme Manager and Countryside Access Officer staff have been retained by the AONB Unit in existing/previous roles (Development and Funding officer for the Programme Manager)
- The AONB has secured funding to extend posts for the Community Engagement and Outdoor Learning Officers in post with AONB/ECT to continue in their roles, and extending engagement work across the Forest of Bowland AONB area from April 2023
- The Graduate Trainee and Programme Assistant roles will end with LP closure. However, we plan to recruit an outdoor learning and wellbeing trainee as part of the Connecting People and Nature project; and we have secured funds to employ a facilitator for a new 'Bowland Farmer Contact Group'