**Finding Lost Norton Park**: uncovering the history and prehistory of an ancient landscape.

The Friends of Graves Park (FoGP) have succeeded in being awarded a £10,000 grant, from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to explore and research the history of Graves Park.

This exciting project focuses on the Norton Park Estate which lies on the Derbyshire fringe of south Sheffield. Today the site is called ‘Graves Park’ following the bequest to the city by Alderman J.G. Graves in the 1920s and is the most popular public park in Sheffield. Norton is recorded in the Domesday book in 1087; the estate is first recorded in 1002. There is also evidence of prehistoric settlement.

Graves Park has a unique history and heritage. In this project, local communities, visitors, and schools will find out about this remarkable place and resource on their doorstep. The work will engage local people as heritage champions and will produce a technical report plus on-line materials and a leaflet to provide information to local communities and schools.

Led by volunteers with professional support, the aim of this exciting project is to uncover the history, heritage, and archaeology of the Historic Norton Park Estate and its historic stately homes, past and present. Volunteers will find out about: landscape history, heritage and archaeology, the medieval park and the designed landscape of the 1700s to 1900s, the boundaries, buildings and trackways, the park areas, the field systems, botanical indicators and the prehistoric features.

The FoGP’s initial Lost Norton Park discovery event was attended by around 40 people. The open community event enabled volunteers and members of the public to meet, listen to introductory talks and look at initial display material.

The Friends of Graves Park say: “We are very grateful to National Lottery Players, who have made this project possible. We hope that all local people who are interested will join us in making this project a success.”

Anyone who is interested in helping or would like to attend one of the workshops, can contact FoGP by email friends@gravespark.org. More information about the project and material to download can be found in the project webpages.