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

The Friends of Graves Park are pleased to announce that have succeeded in being awarded a £10,000 grant, from the Heritage Lottery 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 and the prehistoric features.

Our initial Lost Norton Park discovery event will introduce people to the project. It is an open community event to enable volunteers and members of the public to meet, listen to introductory talks and look at initial display material. Anyone who is interested can contact us by email friends@gravespark.org and we will circulate the schedule of workshops as soon as they are finalised.

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.”
About the Heritage Lottery Fund
* HLF [grants programme] applications are assessed in two rounds. [x project] has initially been granted round one development funding of £x by the Heritage Lottery Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £x.

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 #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.

The route of the Old London turnpike road through Graves Park, which closed in 1806