Press Release

Re-discovering and Re-wilding a ‘Lost Landscape’: Lincolnshire’s Ancholme Valley. A local community project where everyone can get involved.

Thanks to National Lottery players a new project is about to start in the Ancholme Valley area between Brigg and South Ferriby. ‘Re-discovering and re-wilding a ‘lost landscape’: Lincolnshire’s Ancholme Valley’, organised by the South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group (SYBRG) and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is set to run a series of discovery workshops over the next eighteen months.

On Saturday 22nd February 2020, SYBRG will be holding a launch event at The Buttercross, Market Place, Brigg from 10.15am to 2.30pm. This will be an informal drop-in event where you will have an opportunity to meet the team and learn more about this exciting new venture with a couple of short talks during the day. There will be displays and information about the discovery workshops & events programme with contributions from the local heritage and nature interest groups and experts who will be involved in helping to deliver them. These include: North Lincolnshire Museum Service, Brigg Heritage Museum, Lincolnshire Bird Club, South Yorkshire Bat Group, Winteringham Village Conservancy and Caring for God’s Acre.

The ‘Re-discovering and re-wilding a ‘lost’ landscape’ project is taking place in the remarkable and unique Ancholme Valley, primarily in the area north of Brigg towards the Humber Estuary. Starting at the present day, we are peeling back the layers of history to discover hidden landscape heritage and biodiversity. Much of this heritage may still be found in the countryside fabric of this ‘lost’ wetland landscape – in hidden river courses, ponds, meres, streams, old lanes and greenways, derelict farms and cottages, and more. The place-names and lanes tell a story of landscapes past, and the buildings and families bear evidence of the changing communities. Documentary research and historical wildlife records combined with outdoor events will add to the window from the past.

A series of half-day and one-day events and training sessions across the area covering a range of different topics will be organised to connect people with the nature around them. Some of the events will be family oriented, and at least one ‘bio-blitz’ is being planned, where everyone across the Valley can get involved. There will also be a number of reminiscence sessions, where people who have grown up in the area can share their memories and the changes that they have seen.

The activities will help create an eco-historical record of this remarkable but under-appreciated landscape, and of the communities that have inhabited the area throughout its long history. These historical landscapes and their very special heritage will be brought back to life with written outputs plus computer graphics and artwork to create written and visual interpretations available on the project website. All the materials will be presented as online resources and there will be a downloadable wildlife and heritage trail.
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Professor Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University said 'The Ancholme represents a unique opportunity to unravel past wildlife and heritage and to inform an emerging vision of a rich and vibrant future for the area. We want local people to come along and help us discover the amazing story of this valley’s past.’

Project officers Jenny and Lewys are busy planning the launch event and organising the discovery days! Any project such as this always needs lots of help! If you are interested in finding out more, becoming a volunteer or have any information that you would like to share, please let get in touch via the ‘contact us’ page on www.ukeconet.org. Information on the project can be found on https://www.ukeconet.org/ancholme.html and regular updates are shared on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WilderAncholme.

The team would like to invite everyone to the project launch event at The Buttercross, Brigg on 22nd February from 10.15am to 2.30pm to see what’s on offer and learn how you can get involved.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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

Who we are: South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group’s Mission Statement is that the Biodiversity Research Group will promote biodiversity and environmental conservation issues to all sections of the community throughout South Yorkshire and beyond by providing practical training in ecological and archaeological survey techniques; a forum for dissemination of information and collaboration on biodiversity and landscape research; and by publicising biodiversity, landscape and environmental issues through seminars, conferences, publications and via electronic and other media.

What is happening: The project is about working with local communities and stakeholders to re-discover the heritage of a lost landscape. This will be done through a series of heritage days and workshops over the next two years with the aim of producing a digital archive of a ‘lost’ landscape that can be used to inform a ‘re-wilding’ project within the valley..

PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS:
Christine Handley, Events Coordinator, Tel: 0114 272 4227 (day); info@hallamec.plus.com

Please pass this information and circulate to any interested groups, organisations, individuals or related media. We are happy to provide interviews and can supply images for websites or for newspapers and magazines, etc. ENDS