Lottery funding for the North Northumberland Coast area

The board of Peregrini Lindisfarne are delighted to announce that their revised Landscape Partnership Scheme has been given the seal of approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The re-worked scheme will receive an award of £1.3 million.

The revised scheme is the product of years of collaborative working between the community and a variety of agencies. The £1.8million project will fund a wide variety of conservation and engagement projects on Holy Island and the adjacent mainland. The Peregrini Board are anticipating the project starting in earnest at the beginning of 2015.

The Peregrini Lindisfarne Board realised soon after the successful submission of the original scheme in 2013 that the required match funding of 25% was no longer attainable and the original scheme was unworkable due to scale and cost. The board is immensely grateful to Northumberland County Council for funding the reworking and re-profiling of the project.

It is felt that the new Peregrini Lindisfarne scheme will ensure the protection and enhancement of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne and surrounding areas by reconnecting the community’s relationship with the land and seascapes, heritage and history, making the area a better place to work, live and visit.

The Accountable Body for the delivery of the Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership Scheme is the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership and the board includes representatives of the Holy Island Community (Parish Council and Development Trust), Belford and Lowick Parish Councils as well as Natural England, Northumberland County Council, English Heritage and the National Trust.

Cllr John Woodman, the chair of the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership, said “This is an excellent project and it will be good for Holy Island and the surrounding shore side areas as well as much of the wider community of Northumberland. The success of this re-submission is testament of all the hard work done by the board and many others over the last three years. We are really looking forward to getting started and seeing positive things happen on the ground.”

Cllr Ian Swithenbank, policy board member for Streetcare and Environment at Northumberland County Council, and executive member for the AONB, said: “It’s great news that this project has secured Lottery funding. The cultural and natural heritage of the area is very significant to the local communities who live, work and enjoy this part of Northumberland. It’s also an area which is renowned
internationally and anything which can be done to preserve and protect our history has to be welcomed.”

Holy Island is known as the Cradle of Christianity with connections to St Aidan, St Cuthbert and the associated monasteries, cells and hermitages and has strong associations with The Golden Age of Northumbria and the Lindisfarne Gospels. The landscape is rich in biodiversity, including very rare plant species such as the delicate and unique Lindisfarne helleborine, rich wildlife habitats (particularly for migratory and breeding birds) and high geological interest.

ENDS

NO EMBARGO

Photograph – St Cuthbert’s Island, please credit Gavin Duthie
NOTES FOR EDITORS

A range of different projects are proposed including protecting historic buildings; conserving scheduled ancient monuments; protecting the extensive military defences in the area. Work on the natural landscape may include restoring and managing Whin grassland habitat; enhancing and protecting areas for shore nesting birds; and replacing the hide at the Lough.

Heritage Lottery Fund
• *HLF’s Landscape Partnerships are helping bring together members of the community as well as local, regional, and national organisations to deliver schemes which benefit some of the UK’s most outstanding landscapes and rural communities. Grants currently range from £250,000 up to £2m. From 2013 this range changed to £100,000 up to £3m.
• From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players’ money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. www.hlf.org.uk.

The Northumberland Coast AONB
The Northumberland Coast has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) since 1958 in recognition of the quality of the landscape. AONBs are a national landscape designation and together with National Parks they make up our finest landscapes. The Northumberland Coast AONB covers 135 sq.kms, between Berwick and the Coquet estuary. The area is best known for its sweeping sandy beaches and open views, rolling dunes and rocky cliffs, isolated islands, dramatic castles, ancient relics and rich wildlife.

The Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership
The Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership is a broad partnership of representatives from local authorities, statutory organisations, interest groups and the local community. The Partnership guides management of the AONB, offers advice to land managers and the local community and takes action to improve the wellbeing of the AONB for all those who value it, now and in the future.

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