

Bordley's past to come to life

The archaeology, history and landscape of Bordley Township, north of Skipton, is to be investigated, thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant. The award of £48,000 from HLF, will assist a project spread over the next 3 years.



Bordley Township is in a relatively remote area on the watershed between Airedale and Wharfedale, with a history dating back to the stone age. Surviving features include enclosures, stone circles, drovers roads and packhorse routes, monastic remains, medieval buildings, and lead and coal mining.

It is therefore important to record and conserve as many of these features as possible for both the local community and a wider audience. The Bordley Township Project group members are mostly volunteers and come from not only the local area but from as far a field as Harrogate, Ilkley and Bingley. They have spent several months walking the area with the support of the local farmers in order to produce the initial feasibility study which led to the application for HLF funding. Professional archaeologists and landscape historians have been very interested in the group's preliminary findings. The group is now very busy researching historical documents as well as recording buildings and various features in the landscape, whilst learning new skills such as the professional surveying of features.

The project will engage local villages and schools by means of walks, talks and hands-on activities. At the end of the project, the results of the investigation will be communicated by means of public meetings, exhibitions, a website and DVD.

The picture above shows Weets Cross, a medieval monastic wayside cross just west of Bordley Township. It stands near the junction of five townships and may have been used as a boundary stone as well as a route marker to and from the Fountains Abbey estates on Malham Moor.

Fiona Spiers, Head of HLF Yorkshire and the Humber said, "This is a fantastic project which will allow people to try their hand at something new and unusual. We're committed to funding projects that every community can take pride in and learn about their local heritage."

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For further information please contact Lynne Primmer, Secretary to the Bordley Township Project, tel no 01756 791833, email: bozpup@talktalk.net website: www.bordley.kk5.org

Notes to Editors:

Using money raised through the National Lottery, since 1994 the **Heritage Lottery Fund** has not only revitalised hundreds of museums, parks, historic buildings, landscapes and wildlife sites, but has also given new meaning to heritage itself. People from every walk of life are now involved with the heritage that inspires them, making choices about what they want to keep and share from the past, for future generations. HLF has supported more than 33,900 projects, allocating over £4.4billion across the UK,

including £341million to more than 2,500 projects across the Yorkshire and the Humber region alone.
Website: www.hlf.org.uk