



# Press Release



## ***Re-discovering and re-wilding a 'lost landscape': Lincolnshire's the Ancholme Valley***

**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 the Ancholme Valley' is being organised by the South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group. It is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and is set to run over the next two years.**

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. It will combine ecological and historical information with research into memories and reminiscences of recent landscape change, and the drainage of once-extensive wetlands. Starting at the present day, we will be peeling back the layers of history to discover hidden landscape heritage and biodiversity. Much of this heritage that we want to investigate still exists 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 ecological records will add to the window from the past.

Investigations will be carried out in association with volunteers from local communities and we will be running a series of ecology and heritage events / training sessions in landscape history fieldwork, biodiversity survey techniques, and archival research. 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 on-line resources and there will be a downloadable wildlife and heritage trail.

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.'

Any project such as this always needs lots of help! So, if you are interested in finding out more, becoming a volunteer or have information that you would like to share, please let us know via the 'contact us' page on [www.ukeconet.org](http://www.ukeconet.org). We are advertising for a part-time project officer to assist us in carrying out the project. Once we have appointed someone, we will be meeting

people and planning a launch event where you will have an opportunity to meet the team and learn more about this exciting new venture! We've created a new webpage with some basic details <https://www.ukeconet.org/ancholme.html> and will be setting up other social media channels once our project officer is in post.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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](http://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. A project officer will soon be appointed to lead the development of the project.

### **PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Christine Handley, Events Coordinator, Tel: 0114 272 4227 (day); \*0114 269 4978 (evg & wkends) \*email: [christinehandley@aol.com](mailto:christinehandley@aol.com) \*[not for publication]**

**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**