

Embargoed until 01:00 on ????

Carmarthenshire County Council wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

A partnership led by Carmarthenshire County Council has been successful in receiving a grant of £43,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project – Carmarthenshire Bogs – exploring their past, celebrating the present and conserving their future.

Working on five commons near Brechfa and Llanfynydd the project, also supported with funding from Natural Resources Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council, will seek to explore the history of the bogs, celebrate the special bog habitats and species, and take action to conserve these important habitats for the future.

Formed over thousands of years, lowland bogs are increasingly rare examples of an important peatland habitat supporting specialised but threatened wildlife. Bogs lock-up carbon in the peat, and when in good condition capture more from the atmosphere, helping to address climate change. They filter water for slow release into streams and are valuable in terms of our heritage, providing a unique, living peat archive that records climate, vegetation and landscape change.

One of the main aims of the project is to provide opportunities for local people to find out more about the importance of these sites and work with project partners - Swansea University, the National Botanic Gardens of Wales, Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the Council – to investigate and promote the ecological, cultural and landscape importance of the bog habitats they contain. Together they will discover our local climatic and vegetation history and explore how our ancestors lived within those landscapes, and in particular their links with climate change, both past and present.

The public will be able to support studies of the peat on one of the bogs and help them with their investigations on site. Dyfed Archaeological Trust will work with local schools to Mynydd Bach common to explore a remarkable group of Bronze Age round barrows and find out more about the prehistoric landscape and the people who lived there and there will be a day in celebration of peat at the National Botanic Garden Wales . Through participating in the project, volunteers will get the opportunity to develop new skills and better understand these fascinating sites.

Councillor Pam Palmer, the Council's Biodiversity Champion said, 'We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is an excellent example of partnership working on a project that will allow us to discover more about these fascinating habitats and will allow local people to discover more about the key role the bogs play in the environment'.

Richard Bellamy, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales said: *"HLF supports a wide range of heritage projects and we are particularly keen to support organisations seeking to provide opportunities for people to explore and enjoy the rich natural heritage of Wales. Thanks to National Lottery players money, this exciting project will give people the opportunity to learn about a*

landscape that is often inaccessible and help ensure that these habitats are better understood and protected in the future.”

Notes to editors:

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

About the Heritage Lottery Fund:

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.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is the UK's largest dedicated funder of heritage:

- It invests around £430million a year on a broad range of projects - from museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions
- HLF has supported just over 38,000 projects allocating more than £6.6billion across the UK since the establishment of the Lottery in 1994
- In Wales HLF has invested over £323million and supported over 2,300 projects in local communities all over the country.
- Visit our website www.hlf.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @HLFCymru

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Isabel Macho, Biodiversity Officer at Carmarthenshire County Council on 01558 825390; IMacho@carmarthenshire.gov.uk