



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 0001**

## **OUR COMMON CAUSE: OUR UPLAND COMMONS**

**Enabling vulnerable communities to enhance iconic places**

A new partnership to support the uplands in four of England's most iconic landscapes is in line for a £2.3m National Lottery grant\*.

The **Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons** project will enhance and protect upland commons in the National Parks of Dartmoor, Yorkshire Dales, Lake District and the Shropshire Hills AONB, where hill farming commoners have collectively grazed the land for centuries.

Commons make up just 3% of English land, and the uplands provide 70% of our water. They are brimming with wildlife and ancient monuments, and all have public access. But these benefits are under threat. Changes in farming systems, economics, climate, and reducing opportunities for people to connect with the countryside put commons at risk. This project will address these challenges, by building management skills, undertaking conservation and training volunteers to survey the wildlife and plants of commons.

This project convened by the Foundation for Common Land will bring together partners including National Trust, Commoners Federations and Councils, Duchy of Cornwall, National Farmers' Union, Natural England, Open Spaces Society, RSPB, South West Water, Wildlife Trusts and our National Parks and AONBs to empower hill farmers and the owners of commons to better manage the land for the general public while producing good quality local produce.

In addition, young people from local and urban communities will participate in learning and conservation through the John Muir Award. Training and apprenticeship opportunities will also be developed to enable young people to gain the skills necessary to be the next generation of commoners, while events and activities will reach a wider range of young people through schools and community workshops.

The project aims to conserve and protect common land by preserving key wildlife, habitats and architectural features, as well as supporting commoners to continue to manage the land.

Commenting on the award, Julia Aglionby, Executive Director of the Foundation for Common Land said: "We're delighted that we've received this support thanks to National Lottery players. Upland Commons welcome millions of visitors each year and with this funding we will be able to ensure the pleasure commons give and the benefits they provide are secured and improved for the future."

Mike Innerdale, Assistant Director for the National Trust in the Lake District said: "This is fantastic news for the upland commons and it's a project we're really pleased to support. It's one of our key



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responsibilities as a conservation charity to look after the uplands along with hill farmers. Thanks to National Lottery players we'll be able together to explore better ways to manage these landscapes."

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund said: "The centuries-old heritage of commoning is little-known, but contributes to the upkeep and enjoyment of some of England's most valued landscapes. We're pleased to be able to support the Foundation for Common Land and its partners with this National Lottery funding and in so doing ensure this part of our heritage is maintained and cared for by generations to come."

### Notes to Editors

\* Heritage Grants (HG) applications are assessed in two rounds. Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons has initially been granted round one development funding of £409,200 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £2,316,000.

### About the 'Our Common Cause' Partnership

The project partnership is convened by the Foundation for Common Land with the National Trust acting as the accountable body. The national partners include: Dartmoor, Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks, Shropshire Hills AONB, Cumbria, Devon, Shropshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts. NFU, Natural England, RSPB, South West Water, Duchy of Cornwall, Moorland Association, Open Spaces Society. National Sheep Association and the John Muir Award. Many regional farming and conservation organisations are also involved.

### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #HLFsupported

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### Further information

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*Images are available from this link:*

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5lrcef6i6qey2rs/AACubdc1\\_1ebEIVtbE9PY0cxa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5lrcef6i6qey2rs/AACubdc1_1ebEIVtbE9PY0cxa?dl=0)