

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Heritage Lottery Grant for grazing skills training

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £260,121 under its fiercely contested *Skills for the Future* programme to the Grazing Advice Partnership (GAP) to set up and run a national three-year conservation grazing apprenticeship scheme.

Called the 'Heritage Grazing Project', the scheme will offer six and twelve month placements with leading traditional livestock farms and grazing schemes. The placement hosts will be expected to offer apprentices a mix of 'on-the-job' work experience as well as instruction in the practical skills associated with conservation and extensive grazing. All the training placements will receive a bursary to meet their living expenses, ongoing mentoring support and will attend a GAP training course as part of their induction training.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's *Skills for the Future* programme is supporting heritage organisations across the UK to create new training places. Grants range from £100,000 to £1million for a number of traineeships with an emphasis on high-quality work-based training. The programme will help equip organisations to engage with the widest possible range of people and inspire them to get involved with heritage.

Tom Cairns, The Grazing Advice Partnership's Development Manager said "GAP is embarking upon this ambitious programme of work in the firm belief that the future of much of Britain's most cherished wildlife, landscape and cultural assets is dependent upon the availability of traditional livestock management skills that are currently under threat. "

The Heritage Grazing Project will be aimed particularly at young adults and placements will be arranged across the country in a variety of different environmental situations and grazing systems. The progress of the project will be closely monitored so that good practice can be recorded and made available to as wide an audience as possible.

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Note to Editors:

1. The Grazing Advice Partnership (GAP) is a partnership of farmers, land managers and land management organisations that are committed to promoting the benefits of conservation grazing and to providing advice, information and networking support to graziers. It was formed August 2008 and its current investing partners comprise Natural England, the National Trust, Defence Estates and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust who are the lead organisation for the partnership. Website: www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk

2. The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) was established in 1973 as the world's first national non-governmental organisation created for the conservation of farm animal genetic resources. During the first seven decades of the 1900's, 26 native breeds of livestock became extinct in Britain. Since the formation of the RBST no native breeds have been lost. Website: www.rbst.org.uk

3. Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, it invests in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,900 projects, allocating £4.4 Billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk. For further details about HLF's grants, contact Katie Owen, HLF press office on Tel. 020 7591 6036 or 07973 613 820

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