

## Secrets of the High Woods – The next 20 months

This project is being seen as “an exemplary project” by a very well-respected landscape archaeologist and a senior archaeologist at University of London wrote recently that:

*“you and your team should be very proud of the achievement to date, I have worked in professional and academic archaeology for over twenty five years and your project must stand as one of the seminal moments of that period.”* (Mark Roberts).

This is an exciting time to join the project - the Lidar survey is captured, processed and being used by the project team and consultants (English Heritage and Cornwall Archaeology) and over 80 volunteers have been trained and are actively ground-truthing the sites (until the vegetation grows too high). So now we need a project manager with a good appreciation of community heritage and interpretation work to guide the project through the exciting delivery stages between now and project close at end of Dec. 2016. This post will also manage time and budget and make reports to the SDNPA and to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The next stages of the project are a series of threads of work that weave together into a really exciting project. The text below is not necessarily totally inclusive and there is opportunity for some development and change subject to securing approval from the funders (SNPA and HLF).



Volunteers and the team ground-truthing Feb 2015

Particular highlights for the project manager will be firstly managing the two project staff and consultants to gather a range of information:

- The Archives Research with a consultant appointed to support the 60 volunteers signed up for this, alongside the rest of the project team. We will target the research on key themes which

have been identified from the Project's Research Agenda (completed), using the great wealth of maps, documents and photo's for the great estates – going back to the 1600's.

- The Oral History project, with a consultant now appointed and training due for 40 volunteers in May 2015. Starting with a review of recordings already made and defining a list of interviewees (we already have many contacts). The trained volunteers will undertake the recording supported by the team and also summaries of all recordings and transcripts of important ones.
- A second season of rapid field assessment in autumn 2015 – spring 2016 and some more detailed work as leaders develop in the volunteer team and some other fieldwork may be possible.
- Developing the proposal for Computer Generated Images from the lidar data and using the other research where possible and informed by our archaeological understanding of the project areas. This work will be delivered by consultants that the Project Manager will select after a tendering process.

All of this work will then feed into the outputs of the project's Activity Plan – including:

- Developing a DVD of the project, professionally filmed and produced (company to be selected)
- Web site development in the SDNP web site and web content to support the touring exhibition
- Producing with the project staff and maybe some volunteers a touring exhibition to go to museums and other venues in the project area drawing on all the sources of information and imagery and sound
- Resources for learning by schools and others to be commissioned from a specialist consultant
- Walks, talks and self-guided material for the public to use in ways appropriate to the landscape, its management as a productive landscape and sustainable travel
- Developing the SDNPA's first e-book to share the discoveries of this project
- Working with a parish council using project result's to inform their Neighbourhood Plan
- Continuing the evaluation work that is already underway and securing evaluation on the new elements of the projects working with graduate students and volunteers
- A conference to share and celebrate the results of the project
- Securing the project legacy to the HERs, our own GIS and IT systems and the volunteers as part of the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service.

