

**PRESS RELEASE:**  
**23.12.14 for immediate release**

**'Breaking New Ground' awards the first community grant from the 'People's Pot Grant Fund'.**

**The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership is delighted to award the first community grant of £3100 to the 'Sandlines' creative writing project.**



The 'Breaking New Ground' Landscape Partnership Scheme has a small grants fund available to support individuals, organisations and communities seeking funding for their own Landscape or Heritage projects in the scheme area. The Breaking New Ground team were pleased to receive a number of fantastic applications for the first window back in September and are happy to announce the first of two successful applicants as the 'Sandlines' project.

(Left to right; Nick Dickson (BNG, Project Manager), with 'Sandlines' team Lois Williams and Melinda Appleby.)

*Sandlines*, a creative writing project linking landscapes, nature and memory, has received a grant of £3100 to offer writing workshops in The Brecks. With its extensive forests and heathland punctuated by rivers and meres, its wildlife and its history — from Iron Age flint mines and Norman rabbit warrens to recreational and agricultural landscapes — the Brecks is an inspiring and distinctive place for all kinds of creative work. The Sandlines workshops offer participants the opportunity to respond to Brecks landscapes through poetry, nature writing and time spent outside. Melinda Appleby, writer and landscape adviser, and Lois Williams, poet and creative writing tutor, will guide the activities. Participants will also be invited to continue their practice with on-line support and their work can be included in a publication later in the year.



*"This is such an exciting opportunity for local people to explore the Brecks on their doorstep and to use writing to celebrate and remember aspects of Breckland life." Melinda Appleby*

*"We're delighted to be part of Breaking New Ground's vision for building community through the arts, and especially to see writing and nature highlighted together in the Brecks." Lois Williams*

*"We are delighted to make the first grant from the Breaking New Ground People's Pot Fund. This project involves a range of exciting activities and will bring a new dimension to the Scheme, as well as boosting community engagement in the Brecks and its fascinating heritage." James Parry, Vice Chairman BNG Board*

The next window for applications is now open until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Breaking New Ground is particularly keen to encourage projects that help conserve or restore the natural and built heritage of the Brecks. For more information please visit [www.breakingnewground.org](http://www.breakingnewground.org) or you can contact the team directly.

Contact:  
Breaking New Ground Grant Fund  
C/O the Visitor Centre  
Brandon Country Park  
Brandon  
Suffolk IP27 0SU

Tel/Fax: 01842 815 465  
Email: [bng.admin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:bng.admin@suffolk.gov.uk)  
[www.breakingnewground.org.uk](http://www.breakingnewground.org.uk)

## Notes to Editors

The Breaking New Ground partnership will be delivering a £2.2M scheme with a series of new and exciting landscape and heritage conservation projects for the Brecks, thanks to a £1.5M grant from the Heritage Lottery. The partnership is made up of regional, national and local organisations with an interest in the area, community groups and members of the community and includes:

Suffolk County Council, Norfolk County Council, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury District Councils, RSPB, Natural England, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, University of East Anglia, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, The Breckland Society, Farm Conservation, Icení botanic Artists, Green Light Trust, Plantlife, Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership, Orchard Barn Environmental Education CIC, Ancient House Museum

The funding comprises just under £1.5million for delivery of the project with the remainder contributed by the partner organisations and volunteer input.



Breaking New Ground will be hosted by Suffolk County Council at Brandon Country Park which is in the heart of the area and provides a convenient and accessible location for participants and partners, and is the location for a number of public participation events.

The Scheme outputs will concentrate on a 253km<sup>2</sup> area within the Brecks, including Brandon and Thetford, with the aim of delivering real understanding and changes on the ground. This area encompasses a unique landscape in Britain with an incredible and much overlooked heritage and biodiversity. It has been selected to be a representative core of the whole Brecks area and contains the three main landscape character types of the Brecks, the two main population centres, and the greatest concentration of heritage assets.

See [www.breakingnewground.org.uk](http://www.breakingnewground.org.uk) for more information

#### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

HLF's Landscape Partnerships are helping bring together members of the community as well as local, regional, and national organisations to deliver schemes which benefit some of the UK's most outstanding landscapes and rural communities. Grants available now range from £100,000 up to £3m.

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, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 36,000 projects, allocating £5.9billion across the UK. Website: [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

#### Contact:

For more information and images or to arrange interviews, contact:

Nick Dickson  
Breaking New Ground Manager  
c/o Brandon Country Park  
Bury road  
Brandon IP27 0SU  
01842 815 465  
Email: [nick.dickson@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:nick.dickson@suffolk.gov.uk)  
Twitter: [@TheBrecksBNG](https://twitter.com/TheBrecksBNG)