

The monks, the beams and the cow that jumped over the Moon

1(a) Project Summary (100 words)

In North Craven several monasteries had a huge impact on the lives of local people and on the shaping of the landscape in which they lived. As many of the documents were lost at the Dissolution, it is difficult to discover the detail of the land the monasteries owned and where their tenant farmers lived.

To develop the story we need to use a combination of the documents that do survive and archaeological detective work on surviving building fabric. We plan to use tantalising clues such as old roof timbers, stone walls and field patterns to unearth this important story.

3(a) What is the heritage your project focuses on (200 words)

The project's focus is an exploration of Long Preston's monastic links with Bolton Priory (which date back to 1155 AD, when Walter Amundeville gave our Anglo-Saxon church and its living to the Priory), and of Sawley Abbey's influence on building fabric in its grange at Lower Winskill, Langcliffe near Settle.

Secular buildings of the monastic period do not survive in North Craven, but a few 17th/18th century buildings have re-used cruck frames from earlier buildings as roof supports. We are in the unique position of having re-used crucks in two buildings which documentary evidence enables us to associate with former monastic foundations.

We plan to dendro-date the crucks at Lower Winskill, which was part of a grange belonging to Sawley Abbey, and those in Guys Villa Barn in Long Preston, which documents associate with Bolton Priory tenants known as the Moons as far back as 1473. A descendant of this family was Prior Richard Moon, the last prior of Bolton Priory, who left his chalice to Long Preston. After the dissolution, the lands passed to the Cliffords of Skipton castle, under whom the Moon family continued to hold their former monastic land until the 18th century.

3(b) Help people explore their heritage (Each of the sections below allow 200 words to describe and explain the detail)

Visits to historic sites. How will this help people to explore and learn about our heritage?

An important part of the project is to provide the children at Long Preston school with an exciting way to explore the historic links between the development of their village and the role of the monasteries. Bolton Priory owned 8 oxgangs of land in the village, purchased in 1304 to endow the church. They also purchased the tithes, making Long Preston one of the priory's most important sources of income.

The children will have a half-day visit to the priory. Trained priory guides will explain its history and take the children on a tour of the extensive remaining parts of the

monastery. The children will be able to see the church tower built by the last prior before the Dissolution; Prior Moone who was born in Long Preston and who left his personal chalice to St Mary's church.

The children will see the laughing dogs carved into the stonework of the tower built by Prior Moone. Whilst at Bolton Priory it would appear that Prior Moone had a dispute with a local farmer that resulted in the well-known nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle". The guides will undertake a quiz with the children and provide refreshments for them. Costs: Donation for the time of guides plus refreshments £100. Transport costs: £195.

The children will visit Skipton castle to find out what happened to the Bolton Priory land in Long Preston after the monasteries ceased to exist. It passed into the hands of the Cliffords of Skipton and a survey was undertaken in 1579 to establish George Clifford's income when he became the 3rd Earl of Cumberland. The children will have a guided tour of the castle and will be able to see the 1579 document and pictures of Long Preston's Lords of the Manor (3rd Earl of Cumberland and Lady Anne Clifford).

The visits to these 2 large, imposing, historic buildings provide "living history" for the children in the work they will be doing on the history of Megastructures, commencing in the spring term (2013). It will form a major part of their creative curriculum.

There will be 35 children involved from the 9-11 age group. It is planned that the results of their studies will be translated into information packs and into a presentation to residents, thereby allowing them to link in with their other courses/classes. (see later sections of this form).

Costs: Entry to the castle £4.10 per child x 35 is £143.50. Transport costs: £195

Towards the end of the project the children will also visit Lower Winskill visitor centre to explore and experience a building with re-used crucks. This will give them the chance to see the results of the dendro-dating element of this project and to experience the influence of Sawley Abbey (the land being given to the Abbey by Elias de Giggleswick in 1240) in a stunning Dales landscape setting.

Costs: transport £180

Using collections like archives, libraries etc How will this help people to explore and learn about our heritage? Name the collections. (Each of the sections below allow 200 words to describe and explain the detail)

Dr Tony Stephens has published extensively on what may be learnt about the history of Long Preston, including its field systems and agricultural practices, from records such as those of Bolton Priory in the early monastic period, the Cliffords of Skipton Castle (held at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society), and later Long Preston deeds at the Deeds Registry in Wakefield. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Christ Church College, Oxford inherited the Long Preston tithes previously held by Bolton Priory, and records survive at Christ Church College relating to Long Preston which have yet to be studied. Dr Stephens will obtain/purchase the relevant Christ Church records, and will analyse what he finds to discover what more may be learnt about Long Preston's history in both

the monastic and later periods. It is hoped that the Oxford records may give insights into Long Preston agricultural practices between the 16th and 19th centuries, and show what use the Long Preston tithe barn was put to. The tithe barn, whose position close to Long Preston church is marked on the Tithe survey of 1839, fell out of use early in the 19th century.

Costs: photocopying and postage: £75

Talking to people who know about your heritage or holding workshops, talks etc (How will this help people to explore their heritage)

A public lecture will be given in Long Preston village hall by Alison Armstrong, who will coordinate the dendro-dating project with the university chosen to do the work, and Tony Stephens, who will coordinate the documentary research. Ms Armstrong's talk will include slides which illustrate what Long Preston cruck framed buildings would have looked like (the last cruck framed building survived in the village into the 19th century), the science of dendro-dating, and what it tells us about the age of the buildings and the possible source of the building material. Some fragments of cruck frame buildings will be shown. Slides will be shown of the dendro-dating of the two barns and an explanation will be given of the findings. Dr Stephens will show examples of the historic documents from various sources which enable us to associate Guy's Villa barn with the Moon family, the Bolton Priory tenants from whom the last prior was descended. Dr Stephens will also summarise the documentary sources which associate Lower Winskill farm with Sawley Abbey, and show slides of late medieval walls at Lower Winskill farm which are likely to be of the monastic period.

Costs: Hire of village hall: £15. Refreshments: £15. Travel costs for speaker: £9

Recording digs or surveying historic buildings

Guys Villa Barn in Long Preston and the barn at Winskill are both historic buildings. Dendrochronology plays an important part in producing local chronologies and giving analysis of how the form and plan of vernacular buildings has changed over the centuries. It also aids understanding of local landscape, and socio-economic development.

Re-used timber locally has been largely ignored as its context was poorly understood. Building recording work and documentary evidence has shown that most older timber was almost certainly re-used on site as buildings were modernised during the "great rebuilding" of the 17th/18thcs. Guys Villa barn for instance is a large building with a plinth, re-used crucks, a heightened thatch roof line, with documentary evidence of being on Bolton Priory land. Most significant are quality crucks re-used in roof trusses dated 1708, all indicating a modernisation at that time of a possible late medieval Craven barn that had survived. It would establish a significant link between Long Preston and a Bolton Priory building.

The dendro-dating will be undertaken by Nottingham University and the works will be overseen by Alison Armstrong who sits on the dendro sub-committee of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group.

Costs: 5 days for dendro-dating specialists from Nottingham University @ £350 per day is £1750.

5 days for technical co-ordinator of the project @ £150 per day is £750

3(c) How we will share what we have learnt

A weekend event in Long Preston village hall will give all residents the chance to share in the results of this project and the school children school will contribute their work. Exhibitions will be staged at Skipton Castle, Bolton Priory, Winskill, the Folly Museum in Settle and the Craven Museum in Skipton thereby ensuring extensive coverage at several popular visitor sites in Craven.

We will design a separate section on our website www.longprestonheritage.org.uk (set up and run by volunteers since the Heritage Group began in 2008).

We intend to publish a book about the influence of the monasteries in North Craven .

The children would like to produce a leaflet that provides an easy guide for visitors exploring the links between Bolton Priory, Skipton Castle and Long Preston. This will be available at all three locations.

They will also produce school packs for later classes to use as they move up through the school and these can also be made available for other local schools, such as Hellifield and Settle.

We will submit our findings to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to be included on their Historic Environment Records, thereby making them available to a much wider audience.

Costs: Hire of village hall: £60 and free refreshments: £70.

Exhibition materials: £360. Exhibition setting up costs: £200

Printing of new book: £698

Visitor leaflet: £226. School information packs £280.

3(d) How will we celebrate what we've achieved

We will have a Heritage/Art Weekend in the village based around exhibitions (in various historic buildings) by local groups and residents that will use a range of media to interpret the monks' story. This will include groups such as the Over 70s, the Women's Institute, the Guides the Brownies and the Art Class. We will encourage different categories of entries such as photography, painting, drawing, wood carving, embroidery and soft toys (for the children).

We plan at least 2 concerts to celebrate what we have achieved. This will include both classical and modern music.

Early discussions have taken place regarding concerts at St Mary's Church in Long Preston and at Bolton Priory. We have also had preliminary discussions with Magdalene

College, Cambridge about a concert at Fountains Abbey (Fountains once owned land in Long Preston). The Long Preston children's choir will be involved in these concerts.

A concert by a local folk group in the village is also planned for a younger audience. The children, as part of their normal music classes, will set the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle" to music. This will be placed on the website and Youtube as well as being available for the children to perform at other events.

3(e) Which digital media will we use

The Chair of the Heritage Group is a retired BBC film archivist and would welcome the opportunity to make a video record of the project both for our own archive and for promotional purposes.

We will use both video and digital images for the project in the section of the Heritage Group's website referred to in 3c.

The children would like to put their ICT skills to practical use and, with the help of the ongoing ICT support at the school, have suggested developing a phone app to tell their story.

Costs: Video camera: £450.

3(f) When will the project start and finish

We propose to commence the project at the beginning of December 2012 with the aim of completing it by the end of November 2013.