



**The Trustees of one of Europe’s most significant Bronze Age sites, Flag Fen,** near Peterborough, have recently confirmed that heritage experts PLB – working with Alison Farmer Associates and 3Ps – will be helping them to plan for the site’s future development with a series of consultancy studies funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Fenland Archaeological Trust’s members include Dr. Francis Pryor who led the team that originally discovered the site and is now a regular on Channel 4’s Time Team programme. That popular programme has also previously featured Flag Fen and it’s amazing story.

Nearly 25 years ago a survey of fenland drainage channels unearthed the remains of a huge timber ‘platform’ buried in the fen and made up of many layers of wood. Radio Carbon dating showed that these timbers were around 3,000 years old. The platform would have covered an area as large as a football stadium and further excavations also revealed that a kilometre long palisade of at least 60,000 vertical posts – each driven deep into the fenland peat – bisected it. Today we can only guess at the spiritual and symbolic significance of these structures to the people who lived near the Fens in the Bronze Age.

Over time, waterlogging in the peat preserved huge amounts of the Bronze Age wood and this now offers archaeologists and visitors to Flag Fen a fantastic insight into the types of woodworking technology that existed in the past. However, with the gradual drying of the fens it is estimated that large parts of the site will be lost within the next 20 years. The Fenland Archaeological Trust is aiming to retrieve as much valuable data as possible before it is all lost. The Trust also aims to provide a centre ‘of archaeological excellence for all to see and enjoy’.

## Press Release

PLB is based in Yorkshire and works with clients nationwide and internationally including local authorities, national agencies, independent trusts and museums. The company is acknowledged as one of the leading consultancies in conservation issues, often advising sites where there is a delicate balance to be struck between environmental and conservation requirements and visitor access. PLB's previous studies have included York City Walls, numerous World Heritage Sites and recently, a development study for the Lincoln Magna Carta.

PLB also works alongside Alison Farmer Associates (AFA – Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Consultants) and 3Ps (community consultation specialists) on a regular basis. Joint projects with AFA have included a masterplan for Furness Abbey, Cumbria, an Access Management and Interpretation Plan for Quarrendon, Aylesbury, and a proposed boundary extension study for the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Joint projects with 3Ps have included Audience Development Plans for the Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire, for the Wigan History Shop, for Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire and for Thwaite Mills in Leeds.

The HLF award will be used to undertake audience development and access plans to help the Flag Fen team to understand their visitors and potential audiences, what they want to see and how they want to see it, as well as to understand why people do **not** visit the site and what could change that. A conservation management plan will be produced which will set out how to look after the artefacts, museum and park for the benefit of visitors for years to come.

The studies will run until Spring 2007. For more information about Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre and details of special events go to [www.flagfen.com](http://www.flagfen.com)

### **Note to editors:**

PLB is a successful, multi-disciplinary team providing specialist support to the heritage, cultural and environmental sector. We offer design and consultancy services that help our clients to plan and implement their projects. We work with museums, historic houses, industrial and natural heritage locations, World Heritage Sites and other places of special interest. Please see [www.plbltd.com](http://www.plbltd.com) for more details.

## Press Release

**Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre** is situated 3 miles west of Peterborough City Centre at The Droveaway, Northey Road, Peterborough, PE6 7QJ.

The site includes: The Museum of the Bronze Age, the Bronze Age Park (with mere, nature walk and ancient animal breeds), reconstructed Bronze Age and Iron Age Roundhouses, Preservation Hall (with exposed Bronze Age timber causeway) and Visitors Centre with shop and café.

**For more information contact: Georgia Butters, General Manager, or Sharon Shortland, Fundraising Officer, at Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre t.01733 313414 f.01733 349957 e. [generalmanager@flagfen.co.uk](mailto:generalmanager@flagfen.co.uk) www.flagfen.com**

The Heritage Lottery Fund enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy.

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