

## **The Scottish Soldiers, the Ouse Washes; the Origins of Landscape Change in the Fens**

### **Summary of presentation given by Peter Daldorph at the Fens for the Future Meeting, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The primary aim of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project is to tell the story of the Scottish Prisoners and their work on the Great Level in the 17th century so that it takes its deserved place in the heritage of the people who live in the Cambridgeshire Fens. Alongside others, their labours transformed the landscape and created the place where we live today. Firstly, archival and historical research has aimed at providing a factual account of the events that led to the transfer of the Scottish soldiers and how they were employed and treated during their time working in the Fens. This will be combined with research into the nature of the landscape at the time, including the physical conditions and natural history, as well as the engineering challenges they faced such the nature of the ground they had to dig and rivers they had to cross to better understand their labours. Research has also been carried out into the key individuals who were involved in the drainage works.

This information will be presented in a publication but also through performance and film that will form part of a celebration event at Welney Wetland Centre on the 29th/30th June 2019. An Open Day will also take place at Ely City Church on the 29th March at which we will share on our work and ask people in the area if they have any local knowledge that might be relevant. The aim is to bring the historical information to life and make it part of how we see our surroundings. The event will also look to the future of the Fens, and, in particular, ways in which the landscape may change.

Please contact Florence Tong at [Florence.Tong@babylonarts.org.uk](mailto:Florence.Tong@babylonarts.org.uk) if you would like to know more, have any relevant information or would like to be added to our mailing list to receive further information about our project outputs and events.