



Ridges & Furrows

Artist Brief – Ridges & Furrow Waddington

Introduction to Ridges & Furrows

Ridges & Furrows is a creative heritage project that draws on and celebrates the history and heritage of towns and villages across the district of North Kesteven. The programme is already underway in Welbourn and North Hykeham and will take place in Waddington between January and July 2017. Each location is managed by a steering group of local residents supported by the Parish Council and the NK Arts Partnership.

The project will ultimately lead to a new arts and heritage walking trail linking together two leading arts venues in the district: The Terry O'Toole Theatre in North Hykeham and The National Centre for Craft and Design in Sleaford. The artworks for Waddington will be the first new commissions on the trail.

The initiative began last year with a series of artist residencies in the villages. Each research project brought together schools and residents to explore local heritage through a range of interventions including: a craft collecting project, creative writing workshops, storytelling and photography.

<http://www.artsnk.org/ridges-furrows-artist-residencies/>

A description of what has already happened in Welbourn can be found here:

<http://www.artsnk.org/projects/ridges-furrows-arts-heritage-trail/ridges-furrows-welbourn/>

Waddington Parish Council and the NK Arts Partnership will co-commission the artist to deliver this project. The NK Arts Partnership have received a grant of £55,700 from Heritage Lottery Fund which supports activity in all three locations and Waddington Parish Council are submitting an application in December for Grants for the Arts to part fund the project in Waddington. A decision on this will be due at the end of January, at which point the available budget will be confirmed.

The NK Arts Partnership is comprised of four arts organisations working collaboratively to create high quality arts experiences in Lincolnshire and beyond: artsNK, Terry O'Toole Theatre, Design Factory and The National Centre for Craft and Design.

Role of the artist

The artist will:

- Work with the R&F historian, local community groups and schools to deliver a programme of public engagement (workshops, events and activities) that will collect, reveal and discover histories, folklore and personal stories in relation to the theme for Waddington (see below)
- Interpret these findings through temporary interventions and (funding pending) permanent artworks that will create links (both with people and with locations) between upper and lower parts of the village – the East and West wards of Waddington
- Devise an artistic and celebratory way to reveal and announce the outcomes and installations.

If the G4A bid is successful, the programme of public engagement will result in new contemporary commissions of artistic quality and public ownership, that resonate with the history of the village. The works could take the form of a small series of permanently sited interventions that can be discovered by residents and visitors. The artist is responsible for ensuring that viewers can interpret the artworks (and the meaning/concepts behind them) along their journey or at a given location ie: the church or Memorial Field.

The project will form part of the wider Ridges & Furrows initiative and the work of the NK Arts Partnership, and will also explore:

- How art can enrich the public realm and provide a trigger for learning, investigation and the sharing of stories and memories
- How art can be a galvanising community tool
- How art can be build a sense of place, pride and well-being.

Theme

Water has been, and remains, a key element in the founding and evolution of the settlement that is Waddington - it is often taken for granted and hardly noticed until there is flooding. When there was plague in Lincoln, those who could, fled to the clean spring water of the village in order to live. There is no part of life - in all its variety - that is not dependent upon water.

Traditional and long established rights of way, footpaths, bridleways, lanes and tracks leading to wells, springs, rivers, dykes and drains still exist. 'Rites of way' connected to the sources of sacred water, customs, routes through life, myths and stories evolve, change, vanish and can be brought back to life and celebrated through contemporary visual art.

The location – Waddington

Waddington is located approximately four miles south of Lincoln, well known for its association with RAF Waddington, one of the oldest airfields in the UK. Waddington is an expanding and developing village with three distinctive areas: upper Waddington, lower Waddington and the RAF base. The communities of these areas can often feel isolated from one another, and this project is partly designed to help create links between the communities through both the community engagement activities and the permanent artworks.

Upper Waddington has a greater concentration of historic buildings whilst lower Waddington is predominantly newer homes. There are community buildings and playing fields and a primary school in each area. There is also the Memorial Field that was bequeathed to the Parish for the use of the people of Waddington villagers that is centrally situated. The project should link upper and lower Waddington, and where possible work with the RAF base and its residents too.

There are a number of community venues, including the Redwood Community Centre, the Community Hub and Waddington Village Hall. The village has a vibrant community scene, including a history group, a drama group, youth club, three pubs, a pharmacy incorporating a post office and library, as well as other smaller shops and is home to a successful brass band.

Research by Heritage Lincolnshire

We commissioned Heritage Lincolnshire to research the history and heritage of the locations to provide detailed background information for the residencies and the festival. This document is available here www.artsnk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Heritage-Lincolnshire-Research.pdf

Timescale and fees

Initial phase (funding confirmed)

Fees: R&D, initial meetings with groups/schools/communities	£ 1,000
Fees: Workshops and activities with community groups and schools	£ 2,500
Fees: Temporary interventions, celebratory event, heritage interpretation	£ 2,500
Budget for workshop materials and celebratory event (including temporary artworks)	£ 3,000

It is expected that the artist will spend a minimum of 14 days working in the community with local residents and schools in both upper and lower Waddington.

Second phase (funding pending decision on Grants for the Arts)

Fees: Developing/designing permanent artworks	£ 2,000
Budget for fabrication and installation	£ 8,000

Outline timeline:

Initial period of research completed by historian Dave Reeves	Dec- Jan
Schools and community groups contacted about project	Dec - Jan
Artist appointed	End of Jan
Grants for the Arts decision	End of Jan
Artist / historian programme planning and R&D	Feb
Programme of community engagement	March - April
Celebratory event	May/June
Fabrication of artworks (if funding successful)	July – August
Installation of permanent artworks	September

How to apply

This project is open to visual artists working in any medium, individually or in collaboration, who are keen to deliver high quality arts projects and to motivate people to engage with arts experiences.

We require an applicant who has:

- an art practice of quality and distinction
- a high quality track record of preparing and delivering innovative projects that successfully engage with the community
- clear interest in working with, uncovering and sharing heritage / history
- experience of managing events
- experience of undertaking risk assessments for events and activities in a non-art environment with people of different abilities
- experience of monitoring and evaluation processes

- experience of working within tight budgets
- ability to arrange accommodation and make reliable travel arrangements (a car is essential)
- public liability insurance for £5million
- an understanding of equal opportunities, confidentiality and procedures relating to working with vulnerable people.

Applications should be sent to artsNKintern3@litc.rg.uk including links to videos or 'cloud' files.

Please send a copy of your CV (max 2 pages) plus a covering letter, which should explain your interest in the commission and demonstrate how you meet the requirements. Please also include your phone, email and website details and supply a maximum of ten images / videos (no more than 5 mins) that reflect your artistic practice and provide evidence of previous work.

Applications should be received by 5pm on **Wednesday 5 January 2017**.

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 18 January 2017** in Waddington/Sleaford (location tbc)

Please don't hesitate to contact Lucy Lumb, Visual Arts Projects Officer for artsNK with any queries or questions about the brief: lucy.lumb@litc.org.uk / 01529 411193 / 07825 048 055

parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Waddington

artsnk.org nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk terryotooletheatre.org.uk designfactory.org.uk

