



East Devon
National
Landscape



**Blackdown
Hills**
National
Landscape



**Nature
Calling**

Artist Brief for Nature Calling Project

Led by East Devon National Landscape and Blackdown Hills National Landscape

The brief

We are seeking an enthusiastic and creative artist to lead an exciting and meaningful project that connects people with the breathtaking East Devon and Blackdown Hills National Landscapes. This is a unique opportunity to inspire two Honiton-based groups – Honiton Dementia Friendly Community members and Year 7 students from Honiton Community College – to explore and express their relationship with these extraordinary places.

Through artistic engagement, we aim to celebrate the landscapes that shape our lives, capturing their beauty, history, and cultural significance in innovative ways. As the lead artist, you will guide participants in experiencing the landscape firsthand, translating their perspectives into creative works to be shared with the wider community. This project is about more than art – it is about storytelling, connection, and creating a lasting dialogue between people and place.

Project requirements

- **Creative, arts-led activities** for each group, including at least one immersive field trip in our National Landscapes, followed by reflective and hands-on indoor sessions.
- **A public celebration of the artwork**, whether through an exhibition or interactive/audio/visual experience, which provides an opportunity for the wider community to engage with the project.
- **A means by which the outcomes of the project are captured**, digitally or physically, to provide a legacy for the work and serve as an advocacy tool, encouraging greater engagement with the National Landscapes in the future.

Evaluation

We will be conducting a simple evaluation and monitoring process as part of this project to assess the impact this project has on each group. We will require your assistance to deliver this.

Project timeline

- Work with students to take place within a designated week of **22nd to 27th September 2025**, including field trips & classroom sessions.
- Work with **Honiton Dementia Friendly Community** will ideally take place in line with their regular meet-up dates scheduled on the first and third Thursday afternoon of each month. It may be possible to do work outside of these dates if required.
- If an **exhibition space** is required, we have provisionally booked the upstairs exhibition space at Thelma Hubert Gallery between the **27th September and 25th October**.
- All work needs to be completed between **the start of June 2025 and end of October 2025**.

The participants

Not all participants will be able to attend field trips so there needs to be a mix of activities, some outside in the landscape and others bringing the outside indoors. We envisage that there will be at least two field trips.

Dementia Friendly Honiton

We will be working with the Honiton Dementia Café and amblers group. These groups meet regularly and offer an informal social support network for local people who are experiencing the challenges of memory loss or have been newly diagnosed with some form of dementia. A dementia awareness session can be offered as part of this role.

Honiton Community College

We will be working with three groups of about 15 to 20 new entrants in Year 7. The school also has music, photography and art teachers whose work could support/complement the art activities proposed. They would also be available to supervise the students.

Who we're looking for

We invite artists from all disciplines – whether you are a writer, musician, visual artist, or theatre-maker – to bring this project to life.

You should be:

- A skilled facilitator with experience working with diverse communities and varying abilities.
- An experienced project leader who can independently manage co-creation initiatives and exhibitions/performances.

- A passionate advocate for nature and art, ready to engage, inspire, and elevate voices that may not have previously been heard in the conversation about National Landscapes.
- Have your own liability insurance and able to complete risk assessments.

While you will independently lead most of the project, support will be available from the East Devon National Landscape Project Officer and the Blackdown Hills National Landscape Communication Officer when needed, for example in attending workshops or helping to choose locations for field trips.

Budget

The total commission: Up to £7,200.

We envisage this would be split approximately as follows:

- £5,000 artist fee for project delivery (we expect at least half of this to be for delivery of engagement sessions).
- £2,200 materials and equipment, travel for groups, expenses etc. to deliver the sessions, celebration of the project and advocacy tool.

What is Nature Calling?

Nature Calling is a national initiative bringing art and the natural world together, funded by Arts Council England, Defra, and National Landscapes in England. Nature Calling is an innovative new art programme being held nationally by National Landscape Associations. This is a chance to be part of a transformative movement, amplifying voices that may not have traditionally engaged with these landscapes and creating innovative, thought-provoking artwork in collaboration with local communities.

We believe in the profound impact of nature on wellbeing. This project isn't just about art – it's about forging lifelong connections between people and the landscapes that surround them. Through creative exploration, we hope to inspire a legacy of engagement, appreciation, and conservation.

How to apply

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!

- Complete our application form and submit it to Steph Aburrow at Stephanie.aburrow@eastdevon-nl.org.uk.
- **Deadline:** 5pm, Sunday 11th May, 2025.
- **Shortlisting and interviews:** 12th – 23rd May, 2025.
- **Contract Awarded By:** 1st June, 2025.

We expect there to be a period of adjustment to develop your idea in line with the availability and logistics of the groups.

If during shortlisting, there is more than one idea we'd like to see developed further then a £150 payment will be provided to support this stage.

For any questions or to receive this brief in an alternative format, please contact Steph at 01404 642005 or stephanie.aburrow@eastdevon-nl.org.uk (East Devon National Landscape) or Clare (Blackdown Hills National Landscape) on 01392 383613 or clare.groom@devon.gov.uk .

Awarding Criteria

We will shortlist candidates based on:

- Understanding of the brief (20%)
- Experience of facilitating underserved audiences through art (20%)
- Confidence you can deliver (track record, safety etc) (20%)
- Approach to the commission (20%)
- Value for money (20%)

Terms and Conditions

East Devon National Landscape Partnership is hosted by East Devon County Council and so East Devon County Council's standard contract terms apply.

Before the Council engages a contractor to provide services, it must ascertain whether the contractor's employment status meets the requirements of the IR35 tax rules relating to services provided through an intermediary. Should the Council determine that the contractor is to be regarded as employed for tax purposes, the Council is required to deduct income tax and national insurance contributions from payments to the contractor. (See Chapter 10, Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions Act) 2003.)

Bidders will fully co-operate with the Council to provide all necessary information to enable the Council to accurately determine employment status. Note: The intermediary may be liable for tax and national insurance contributions if fraudulent information is provided. By providing us with a quotation you agree to be bound by East Devon County Council Terms and Conditions, [view the Standard Purchase Order Terms and Conditions](#) which will apply to any contract awarded to you after you have provided us with our quotation.