



“BRANCHING OUT”

a participatory arts project inspired by railway history and heritage

ARTIST’S BRIEF

Northern Heartlands is seeking an individual artist, arts organisation or arts collective to work with community groups and schools across the Northern Heartlands area to address the question:

What did the railways do for me?

The work will need to

- be participatory in nature
- support the development of plans for celebration and commemoration of the opening of the S & D Railway in 2025
- activity that takes place between September 2019 and March 2020
- connect in some way with activity that has been delivered/is planned as part of the Tees Valley Great Place Scheme’s ‘Heritage On Track’ project and link with the work of the S & DR Heritage Action Zone, the Friends of S & DR and other relevant partners
- enable participants to explore the impact of the development of the railways on landscape and place as well as on communities
- enable participants to explore the history and heritage of the former Stockton & Darlington Railway (S & DR) in particular and its associated branch lines in general. The work will need to take place within the boundary of the Northern Heartlands area (see attached map) and have a particular focus on communities in Shildon, finding creative ways to ensure that local people feel ownership of the impact of the S & DR, proud of their heritage and recognise its impact
- culminate in an event, exhibition or performance of some description

The budget available for the work is up to £10k, although please note this is a maximum figure.

It is expected that the fee would include a period of R & D ensuring that the project and the work is historically accurate as well as being playful, fun, accessible, creative and appropriate for the intended audience.

The outcome of the work will be

“People living in the Northern Heartlands area have a greater understanding of the impact of the S & DR and its heritage and increased pride in their area”

Northern Heartlands team will be able to support the delivery of this work by

- Providing introductions to relevant partners
- helping to identify community groups and/or schools to take part
- identifying venues for activity

Background to Northern Heartlands

Northern Heartlands is the Durham Great Place Scheme – one of 16 Great Place Schemes running across England and funded jointly by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England.

Northern Heartlands' Mission is to deliver cultural activities that transform people's understanding of the heritage, landscapes and places they live in, building their confidence and ability to influence policy and decision-making.

We work with communities to shape creative projects, commission artists and events, run a Community Initiative Fund and also host a series of Speaker & Discussion Events ("HeART of the Matter") to explore the issues that affect us and Imaginative and new ways of shaping decisions.

Our work is informed by a place-based 'cultural landscape' approach, recognising that landscape and places are shaped by what has happened in the past, what is happening now and what may happen in the future.

Northern Heartlands accountable body is Visit County Durham.

We have a team comprising

A Director, two Community Facilitators, a p/t Head of Learning & Influence and an Administrator.

Our office base is in Barnard Castle.

Application Process

Please submit up to 4 sides of A4 outlining your ideas and your approach to the work including:

- your creative approach
- who the project is aimed at (this could be the type of group/age/ability rather than specifics although we would be interested to hear of any particular group/s or school/s you have already approached).
- how you will measure success
- a timeline for the work
- details of 2 referees able to talk about your participatory work
- confirmation that you have DBS clearance
- confirmation of at least £1million public liability insurance
- links to social media or websites providing visual evidence of your previous work together with a current CV

Applications should be submitted electronically or by post to:

Northern Heartlands, 3 Witham Studios, Hall Street, Barnard Castle DL12 8JB
info@northernheartlands.org (please put **BRANCHING OUT** in the subject line)

to arrive no later than midday on Friday 15th June 2019.

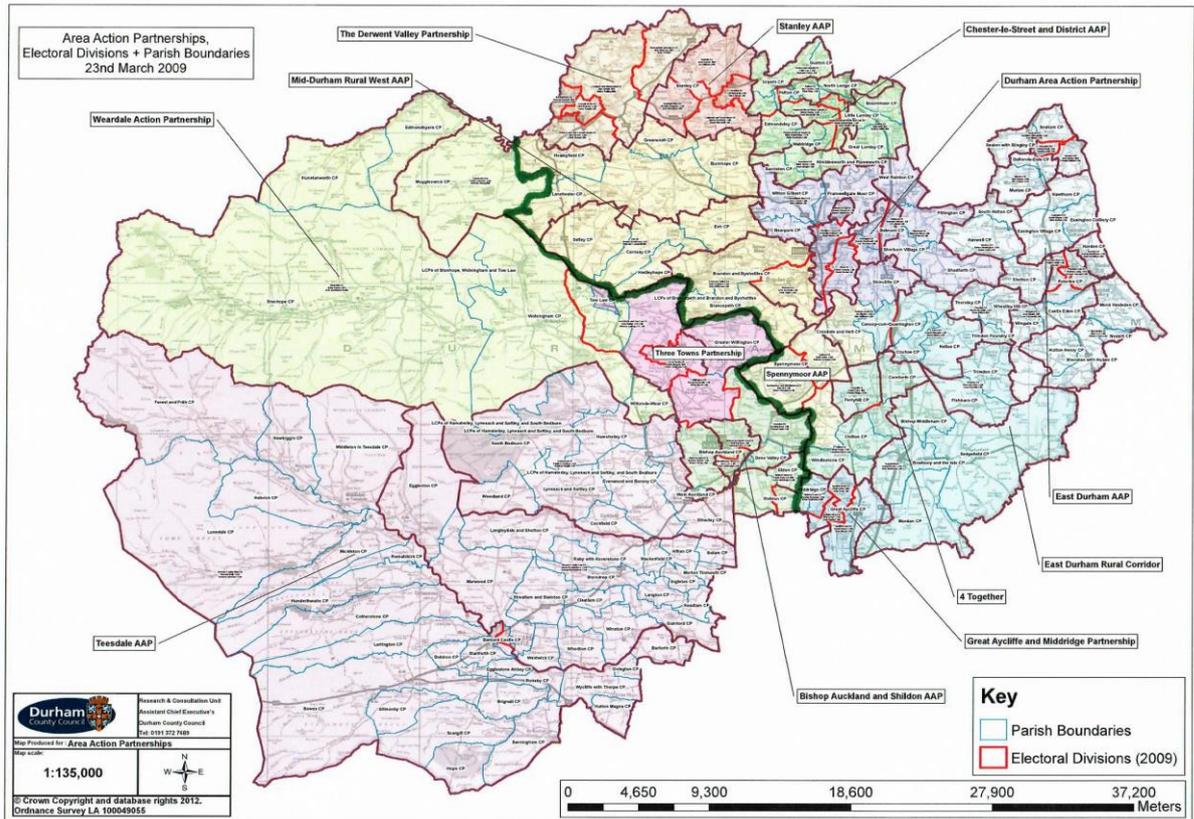


OUR PAST
OUR FUTURE
OUR HOME



The Northern Heartlands area in County Durham includes four Area Action Partnership areas: Teesdale, Weardale, Bishop Auckland & Shildon and Three Towns AAPs.

(everything to the west of the green line)



Northern Heartlands

3 Witham Studios, Hall Street

Barnard Castle, Co Durham DL12 8JB

01833 200220

www.northernheartlands.org