

High Weald National Landscape Partnership

Project Brief: An arts project with community involvement to positively connect new audiences with the High Weald National Landscape



1. Background

The **High Weald National Landscape** is designated in law as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a much-loved and precious part of the English countryside. There are 46 designated landscapes in the UK.

[High Weald National Landscape home page](#)

[National Landscape Association home page](#)

Nature Calling is a National Landscapes Association arts initiative funded by the Arts Council. It is designed to engage new audiences with the National Landscapes and create innovative artwork in collaboration with communities.

[Nature Calling | Home](#)

As well as major arts commissions by six National Landscape Partnerships (project hubs), smaller commissions are being placed by additional National Landscape Partnerships, including the High Weald.

2. Artist Brief

We are inviting proposals from artists of all disciplines and backgrounds, for an interpretive, site-specific, or site-responsive arts project involving the community.

We are open to the artistic form of the project and how the artist involves the community. What is important is the artist/s creative response to the landscape and site and that they engage and involve the community with the desired outcomes in mind. These elements need to feature clearly in the proposal.

The site: Tilgate Forest, an ancient woodland habitat on the edge of Crawley and the High Weald National Landscape. It was once part of Worth Forest - a medieval hunting forest. Ancient woodland is one of the key features of the High Weald National Landscape. highweald.org/document-library/exploring-the-high-weald/nature-reserves/tilgate-forest-panel/?l-ayout=file

The community: Woodgate, Pease Pottage RH11 9SL. A large development within the

High Weald that abuts Tilgate Forest. This is a newly established, diverse community with many residents having moved to it from urban areas.

In Woodgate there is a new primary school, a volunteer-run community shop, a hospice, a café and a large green [Woodgate Community Hub - Pease Pottage](#).

The High Weald Education Officer already works with Woodgate Primary School. The school would not be a target audience for this project but our relationship with the school may be used to facilitate access to the community.

3. Desired outcomes for residents engaged with the project

- a new or deeper engagement with Tilgate Forest and the High Weald National Landscape as a special place
- a greater understanding of the special and fragile nature of Tilgate Forest
- more confidence in exploring the forest and the High Weald generally
- residents more likely to adopt a simple behaviour/s that will help look after this habitat such as: leaving no trace, picking up litter, clearing up after dogs.

4. Desirable contractor attributes

- Experience of working creatively with community groups.
- A genuine interest in the environment and engaging people in nature.
- Familiarity with the High Weald landscape.

5. Timing

The national Nature Calling project will run between 1 May 2025 and 31 October 2025 and the High Weald arts project needs to be delivered within these six months.

6. Budget

Up to £4,000 is available for the whole project to include development, resources, expenses, workshops and a final art output e.g. artworks/ performance. We are happy for our Arts Council funds to be matched with funds from other sources to enable a larger project.

7. High Weald team support

The High Weald team can offer basic project support, answer questions and provide background information. We may be able to organise activities with Woodgate primary school that complement the project.

8. Application deadline

Please send applications to rachel.bennington@highweald.org by Friday 18 April 2025. The contract will be placed by 2 May 2025.

9. Contractual arrangements

The contract will be with East Sussex County Council on behalf of the High Weald National Landscape Partnership. A purchase order will confirm the contract. East Sussex County Council make payments in arrears on receipt of an invoice. Interim payments can be made if needed.

10. Invitation to walk in Tilgate Forest

We are inviting interested artists to come for an informative walk in the forest with High Weald team members to discover more about this special landscape and ask questions about the contract.

Walks will be on Tuesday 25 March at **either** 10.30am **or** 12.30pm for about an hour.

Please book a place:

10:30 walk <https://buytickets.at/highwealdnationallandscapepartnership/1606310>

12:30 walk <https://buytickets.at/highwealdnationallandscapepartnership/1607965>

For more information contact:

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