



Tees-Swale: Creatively Connected Arts Programme:

Call for Expressions of Interest from Creative Collaborators

The Opportunity:

'Creatively Connected' is being developed as the arts programme of 'Tees-Swale: naturally connected' led by the North Pennines AONB Partnership. This major natural heritage project covers an area of 829 km² located in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and UNESCO Global Geopark and Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Beam, on behalf of North Pennines AONB Partnership, are currently seeking expressions of interest from 'Creative Collaborators' for the *Creatively Connected* programme. We are interested in a broad range of creative specialisms including (but not limited to) - Visual Artists, Designers, Musicians, Writers, Performers & Digital Artists, who are either based in the Tees-Swale project area, the surrounding regions, or who have a particular connection, interest or affinity to this landscape and place.

The arts programme will be delivered over 5 years (2020-2026) and will begin with an initial research and development phase. We would like to collate a long-list of interested potential 'creative collaborators', which we can draw from as projects and commissions as part of the arts programme develop and unfold.

Please be aware that this is a long-term programme and any creative collaborators long-listed will be subject to a further procurement phase in response to a specific Artist/ Creative brief as projects develop.

Programme Overview:

The North Pennines AONB Partnership and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority are working with partner organisations to develop the 'Tees-Swale: naturally connected' project. The project is currently nearing the end of a 16-month development phase supported by the National Lottery Heritage

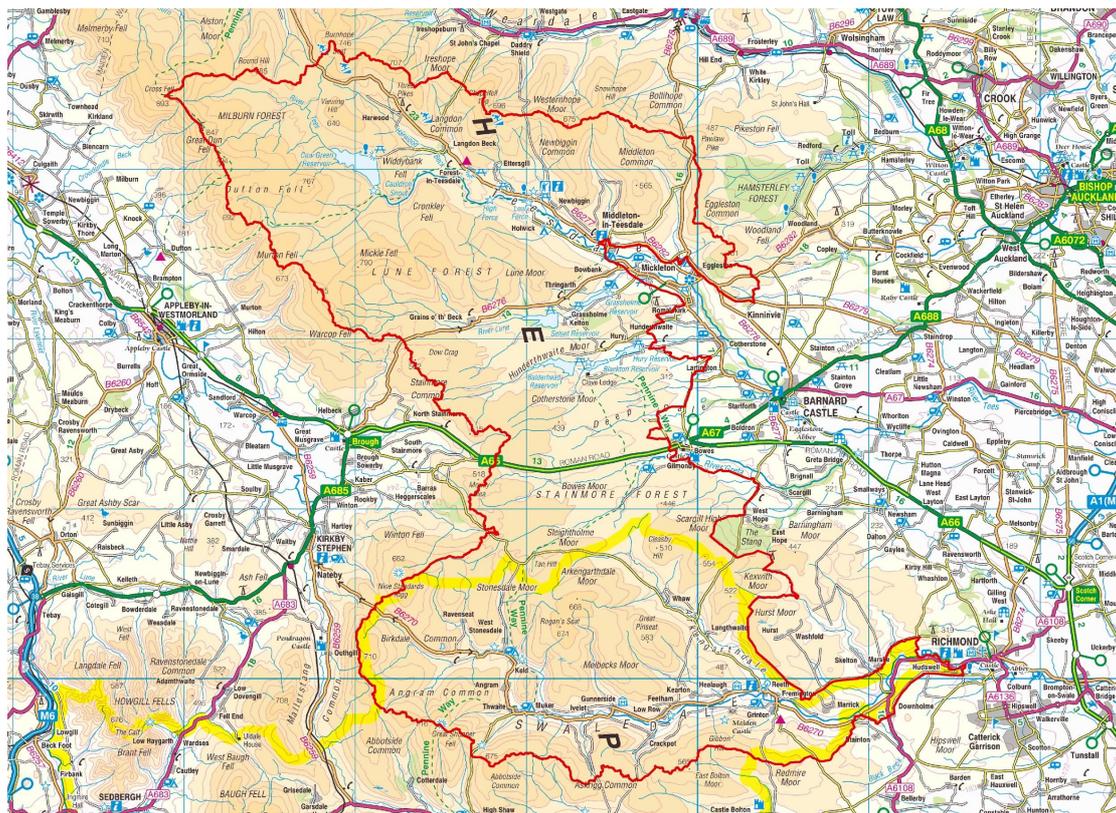
Fund. It is anticipated that delivery of the full five-year programme will begin in autumn 2020, subject to further funding approval from National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Arts organisation Beam has been appointed as a contractor to develop the arts programme for Tees-Swale on behalf of the North Pennines AONB Partnership. Delivery of the arts programme will be dependent on funding being secured.

'Tees-Swale: naturally connected' was inspired by the report 'Making Space for Nature' and aims to restore, expand and connect habitats across the uplands of Teesdale and Swaledale, enhancing wildlife and delivering multiple public benefits.

In partnership with farmers, landowners and conservation agencies, we will support and increase the skills needed to sustain the High Nature Value farming systems that work well in upland areas. We will be working across an area of Teesdale in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which covers 829 km².

The map below shows the boundary of the project area in red:



‘Creatively Connected’ Arts Programme:

The arts and creativity have been recognised as an important opportunity to achieve many of the aims and objectives of the Tees-Swale project. The arts provide the opportunity to engage with communities, celebrate what makes the area so special and develop local skills.

Whilst the *Creatively Connected* programme is a defined strand it is the intention that it will be integrated into the programme as a whole. It is being structured so as to create the chance to deploy artists to work across the programme in innovative and creative ways.

At this stage we plan to draw together a long-list of potential creative collaborators locally, regionally and nationally to learn from each other, understand the area and use their creative skills to meet the objectives of the Naturally Connected programme over the 5-year delivery period to 2026.

If the funding is secured then the long-list will be used by the project delivery team to commission artists (through a procurement process) in response to a series of briefs. These briefs will range in scale from £2,000 to £15,000 (and potentially higher). They will be across art forms and respond to a variety of themes, geographical areas of focus, audiences and projects. Being on the long-list will not be a guarantee of securing a commission but the long-list will be used as the primary approach to sourcing artists for specific commissions.

There is also the potential for future artist networking and professional development opportunities, community arts workshop facilitation and socially engaged art project opportunities/ residencies as part of the programme delivery phase.

Potential Audiences:

The focus for the audiences in terms of the arts programme is to connect people to the heritage of the landscape (both physically and culturally), increase their understanding of the way the upland landscape is managed, and developing their skills. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through a range of workshops, artist residencies, public art commissions, exhibitions, festivals, events, training and arts focused activities.

Identified audiences include -

- **Hill farmers and farming communities** - sharing their skills and knowledge of farming, the landscape and its heritage.
- **Local people not involved in hill farming** - developing their skills, engaging them with the wider programme, increasing their understanding of the area they live in. There will be a particular focus on working with young people.

- **Visitors to the area** - This will include those visiting for the day, overnight stays, those holidaying in the area and special interest groups (whether it is naturalists, geologists or ecologists). There will be a particular focus on working with the communities outside the area, who live downstream along the Rivers Tees and Swale.

Useful links for further information

- <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/tees-swale-naturally-connected/>
- We have a public Facebook group where we plan to share information and discuss the wider project <https://www.facebook.com/groups/teeswale> and you can keep up to date on our social media channels using the hashtag #teeswale.
- Twitter @NorthPennAONB
- Instagram @northpenninesaonb
- <https://www.beam.uk.net/>
- <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/>

How to express your interest in this opportunity:

As *Creatively Connected* is in a research and development phase, we are mindful not to ask too much from potential creative collaborators at this stage.

We have however structured a series of questions below that it would be very useful if you could complete so that we are able to contact and connect you to future opportunities as part of the arts programme.

Submission of an expression of interest will be taken as agreement to your details being kept on file by North Pennines AONB Partnership for future contact regarding arts opportunities. Please indicate if you do not give consent for your details to be held.

Please submit no more than 2 x A4 sides of information in total (may include web links) in pdf format.

- Contact details, website and social media accounts (if applicable)
- Please state your area of creative practice (up to 200 words)
- Please provide details of your previous relevant experience (up to 500 words and up to 6 project images)
- Do you have a connection with the Teesdale / Swaledale area? If so please explain the connection. If not, what is your interest in the area? (up to 500 words)

- As part of this programme we are looking to provide training/ networking for artists - what, if any training/ networking would be useful to develop your artistic practice? (up to 200 words)

Deadline for submissions:

Please submit your expression of interest to -

Frances Smith - frances@beam.uk.net
by **12 noon on Thursday 19th December 2019.**

Equal Opportunities Monitoring:

Beam is committed to building an organisation that makes full use of the talents, skills, experience, and different cultural perspectives available in a diverse society. The aim of our policy is to ensure that at all stages of the recruitment, selection and employment process (including the artist commission process) we consider all applicants in fair and considered manner so that the most appropriate person is selected, regardless of age, colour, disability, gender, marital or family status, nationality or ethnic origins, race, religious belief or sexual orientation.

It would be extremely useful if you could complete the attached anonymous Equal Opportunities monitoring form - however this is not compulsory and failure to complete the form will not impact on any future decision making regarding artist long-listing or appointment.

Access Needs:

Please contact us if you would like to express your interest in this opportunity, but have access requirements that prevent you from responding in the format requested above.

Contact Details:

For all enquiries please contact –

Frances Smith, Principal Consultant, Beam
E: frances@beam.uk.net
T: 07718 564 376

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