



BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY THE WALES WAY IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT 2018-19

Viewpoint interpretation bench art installation Artist's Brief

28 January 2019

1.0 Introduction

With Visit Wales funding BBNPA wish to implement a series of works alongside the stretch of the A470 which runs through the National Park with the help and co-operation of partners. This Artist's Brief concerns one of these – an artistic interpretative bench.

2.0 Project objectives

- A place to sit and appreciate the view
- A thought provoking and informative item celebrating the place
- Help visitors know where they are/have arrived.
- Convey a sense of place.

3.0 Viewpoint interpretive bench brief

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority wishes to commission an artistic interpretive bench installation to encourage users of the A470 who stop at Craig y Fro layby to sit, appreciate the view and learn about it. It will be a one off feature in the vicinity of a proposed sandstone marker which will have specially commissioned poems by Owen Sheers and Ifor ap Glyn sandblasted into its surface.

Description: A sculptural, aesthetically tasteful item celebrating and conveying the distinct sense of place with regards to Craig y Fro, Glyn Tarell within the Brecon Beacons. It could include some of the word composed by Owen Sheers (English) and Ifor ap Glyn (Welsh) for the location. Hardstanding/gravel will need to be laid below people's feet in order to avoid puddling of the ground.

General location: Layby on the eastern side of the A470 overlooking Glyn Tarell known locally as 'biker's corner' Grid ref: 972209



Detailed location: There is considerable length of rough ground along the edge of this layby on which the bench could be situated and so there are several options regarding exact siting of the seat. Its position should be partly determined by its visibility from the carriageway since it would be best for the seat to be most visible from the north and car drivers travelling along the eastern side of the road.



Dimensions: Approx. 4,500 mm long, 800 mm – 1500 mm deep. These and other dimensions subject to design detail.

Material and structure: A robust structure, probably built of stone redolent of the area, which can withstand the vagaries of the weather – temperature range -5°C to 24°C and rainfall of up to 100mm – and likelihood of

vandalism. It will be a permanent feature which should be a welcome addition to the landscape.

Background: This layby, otherwise known as ‘biker’s corner’ is a popular stopping place for people to enjoy this part of Glyn Tarell and the stunning views up and down the valley. This classic U-shaped valley is the result of glaciation which ended around 18,000 years ago. The lumps and bumps scattered along the valley bottom were probably created by several ‘landslides’ when masses of rock and stone moved and settled after the glaciers had carved overly steep sides and left unstable mounds of sediment.

Fforest Fawr Geopark description: Possibly the ultimate in roadside experiences of the Ice Age. The A470 has been cut through the mounds of debris (**glacial moraine**) left behind by the melting ice. Geologists are still debating the relative importance of **landslip** and glacial action in forming the landscape features at this site.

This lay-by is known as ‘Craig y Fro’ after the long sweep of an escarpment carved by glacial ice which forms a dramatic backdrop behind it. This was quarried at the spot where a waterfall forms after rain adjacent to the A470. The old farmstead, which is now discernable as ruins beside the mountain wall to the south west of the lay-by was known as ‘Y Fro’. You can clearly see the transition from lush valley vegetation marked by clumps of trees to open sparsely vegetated mountain land here.

Considerations: The successful artist should consider how to overcome the potential dysfunctionality of people whilst sitting on the bench enjoying the view also sitting on any interpretation as they do so!

Access: Access is via the sizeable roadside layby to be entered from the north only at this point, which will probably need to be closed during construction.

Phase 1 of commission: BBNPA requires an artist to develop **three proposals** to be presented in outline during **up to two consultation meetings**. The artist will then develop the favoured option as a concept to be submitted as a planning application by **18 April 2019**.

BBNPA wish to commission this first phase only at this stage.

Fee for phase 1: £800

Phase 2 of commission: Subject to gaining planning permission the artist will fully develop the concept to include detailed designs and all plans, breakdown of costs for manufacture and installation to the highest aesthetic and health and safety standards.

Fee for phase 2: £10,000 to include all costs

- Responsibilities: The selected artist will:
- be responsible for ensuring that the installation complies to all Health and Safety strictures and will supply a Method Statement to this end
 - be covered by Public & Products Liability Insurance to the limit of £5m indemnity and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the limit of £5m
 - bear in mind environmental impact and will supply a statement regarding how they will minimise this
 - be experienced at participating in consultation sessions and will be happy to explain the options for the Interpretation Bench to members of the public and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
 - check all underground cables and utilities and arrange rerouting if necessary
 - arrange closure procedures for the layby
 - undertake a structural engineer’s investigation and report if necessary.

Selection process: A panel of BBNPA staff and partners will select three artists to develop proposals for an interpretive bench. **The three shortlisted artists will each receive £200 to come up with these proposals.** They will be invited to attend an interview on or around 5 March 2019.

- Expressions of interest and selection: Interested artists should submit:
- an up-to-date CV
 - examples of similar commissions in the form of up to 10 digital images in a PDF document or a Powerpoint presentation. All work should be numbered and include, title, date, dimension and media;
 - a description - max 250 words demonstrating your understanding of the brief and how you would go about translating an idea into a fully realised project
 - an explanation max 250 words of why you wish to be commissioned
 - two letters of support in relation to this project

When sending large files (over 5MB), please provide hyperlinks to online files or send via Wetransfer. Information submitted in other formats will not be accepted

Timetable:	Artist’s brief issued for Expressions of Interest	28/1/19
	Deadline for Expressions of Interest	15/2/19
	Shortlisted artists informed	19/2/19
	Interviews to discuss initial ideas	on or near 5/3/19
	Selected artist informed	on or near 6/3/19
	Planning application submitted	18/4/19
	Planning decision	18/6/19
	Installation subject to planning permission	1/12/19

Arrangements for Expressions of Interest:

Please submit your expressions of interest by e-mail or post to [sian.shakespeare@beacons-
npa.gov.uk](mailto:sian.shakespeare@beacons-
npa.gov.uk) by **17.00 Friday 15 February** clearly noting the commission you're interested in. Please submit any queries to Sian Shakespeare, Project Officer: Public Engagement via email. **We will not consider any expressions of interest we receive after the deadline.** Please be aware that submissions may be copied for our use.

N.B. BBNPA has issued two Artist's Briefs for installations in association with the Wales Way. You are welcome to submit an Expression of Interest in this commission for an artistic interpretive bench installation at Craig y Fro layby only or together with the Gateway Feature.