



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

beam

PUBLIC ARTIST BRIEF: A SENSE OF CHESTERFIELD HERITAGE ARTS TRAIL



1. KEY DETAILS

All inclusive budget: £43,000 + VAT (Artist Fees for Community Engagement, Design Development, expenses, materials, fabrication costs, installation costs for realising the final artworks)

Timeframe: July 2025 - October 2026

Deadline for applications: Midnight - Monday 14th July 2025

In person Interviews: 22 / 23 July 2025 tbc

We are seeking to commission an experienced Public Artist to design, produce and install a series of sculptural art installations that create a strong visual presence with a tactile nature to celebrate Chesterfields' diverse heritage through a contemporary lens as part of 'A Sense of Chesterfield' project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and the 'Animate' public art programme, linked to the regeneration of the town centre.

2. ABOUT THE COMMISSION

2.1 Aim

To create a sculptural art trail with a strong visual presence and tactile nature to celebrate Chesterfields' diverse heritage through a contemporary lens acting as a catalyst for people to discover more about their place, in a fun, accessible, interactive and family friendly way.

2.2 Context

About 'A Sense of Chesterfield': The project will focus on celebrating the heritage of Chesterfield in unique and engaging ways in public spaces as part of the regeneration of the town centre. People will learn more about heritage through researching their place, collecting stories and then sharing these with a wider audience. It will be led by Chesterfield Borough Council and guided by a Project Steering Group.

The project will develop a fun multisensory, accessible heritage trail across Chesterfield town centre incorporating display panels augmented by digital interpretation enabling visitors to explore well known and lesser known heritage stories. The arts trail will be enhanced by a range of public art interventions that express a contemporary interpretation of the heritage stories.

A Sense of Chesterfield is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to The National Lottery players.

The overall aim is to help raise the profile of heritage in the town by providing physical permanent interventions, which form a distinct trail, to enable people to interact with heritage as part of their everyday lives. Locating these physical interventions (e.g interpretation panels and public artworks) in public places, the heritage of the town will not only exist online or behind closed doors, but will be highly visible and will act as a catalyst for people to discover more about the heritage of their place.

About Animate Public Art Programme: The vision for Animate is one of dynamism, playfulness and exploration. Communities will be at the heart of the programme and will shape, influence and participate throughout all commissions, ensuring that they are an authentic celebration of the place. All commissions will be developed to act as creative catalysts to enhance a sense of place.

With a strong history of public art in the borough, this programme will look forward and explore what brave public art should look like now and how it can support the vibrant future of the town, connecting with the forthcoming public realm improvements.

Animate Aims:

- Engage communities at the heart of all commissions in impactful and meaningful ways.
- Build a creative buzz through creative animation in the town centre, increasing footfall and dwell time.
- Employ the skills of artists to support the process of change happening in the town, for the benefit of communities and businesses.
- Reimagine the town centres visually demonstrating the borough's growing reputation as a place which supports innovative cultural and creative activity.

2.3 Heritage Themes

You will work with the Community Engagement and Interpretation Consultant to draw out heritage stories that are meaningful and relevant to local people. We will be guided by the research & community engagement phases to explore yet undiscovered stories and have outlined heritage below that could be included -

NOTABLE PEOPLE - Phyllis Annie Hanson, Artist (1910-1994); Barbara Castle born in Chesterfield - famous British politician of twentieth century; Mercury Mallows, "a black man, servant to Joshua Jebb" was buried at St Mary & All Saints in 1801; Gay Rights pioneer Edward Carpenter had Chesterfield connections; Olave Baden-Powell - first leader of Girl Guides; John Hurt, Actor; a host of working class narratives that help showcase our modern, social & cultural history.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE - Robinsons of Chesterfield - makers of boxes, cotton wool, & bandages - the story of 4,000 workers on a day trip to London goes down in local folklore; Glass works; Iron making; Coal mining; Railways - George Stephenson, 'the father' of railways spent the last 10 years of his life living at Tapton House; Bryan Donkin - makers of valves for gas industry from 1902; Tube Works cylinders, once the largest producer in the world; Markham engineering - makers of the machine that dug the channel tunnel; Sheepbridge manufacturers - components for automotive and aerospace industries; Trebor Bassett - exporting to 50 countries.

HERITAGE PLACES - Elder Yard Chapel - oldest non-conformist chapel in Derbyshire; Church of St Mary & All Saints - building of the 'Crooked Spire' showed wealth of the town at the time & gaining national & international recognition; Chesterfield Canal; Chesterfield Markets.

SOCIAL HISTORY - Chesterfield's Windrush Generation; Chesterfield is the birthplace of "Walking Football"; Junction Arts, oldest arts organisation in the county & history of lantern parades since

the 1970's; we will explore our modern history - how our people & culture make Chesterfield distinctive.

2.4 Objectives

- To interpret Chesterfield's heritage through a series of permanent sculptural interventions.
- To form a trail through the town centre that is engaging, surprising, fun and educational.
- Collaborate in engagement activity led by the 'Engagement and Interpretation Consultant' who will share heritage stories gathered to inform design development.
- The artworks will amplify the heritage trail creating interest, supporting orientation and wayfinding.
- Produce artworks that require minimal maintenance.

2.5 Deliverables

- Artworks will be realised at a range of different scales e.g artworks accessible at a level to small children, artworks accessible to wheelchair users etc. We envision a larger scale artwork to be created at the start of the route followed by a series of smaller scale works that may be inlaid in the paving / hard landscaping (tbc with the appointed artist).
- Community and stakeholder engagement – Co-deliver a minimum of three community engagement sessions with the Engagement and Interpretation Consultant
- Liaise with the Engagement and Interpretation Consultant to harness the heritage stories sourced from their wider research and community engagement activity
- Access and inclusion - consider accessibility of the artworks
- Undertake design development and present concept designs for approval
- Refining design and present detailed designs for approval
- Supporting documentation required for planning application or other necessary permissions or licences
- Fabrication of artworks
- Installation of artworks
- Participation in evaluation process
- Liaison with and attendance at project meetings.
- Permanent sculptural artworks - minimum expected lifespan 20 years.
- Presentation of concept and detailed design proposals to the Steering Group.
- The artworks must be durable, weatherproof, and vandal resistant with a clear maintenance plan and thoughts regarding decommissioning in place.
- The Artist will be required to (or work with their sub contractor/s which may include a structural engineer) to design, fabricate and install their work including specification for foundations, arranging the necessary equipment for safe installation and liaise with CBC to ensure all necessary information is available for a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS).

- Support collection of data / information for evaluation purposes and participation in an evaluation meeting.
- Artists are required to have their own Public Liability Insurance and work in accordance with Chesterfield Borough Council's health and safety and child protection guidance.

2.7 Potential Locations

The Artist will work closely with the project team to review and confirm locations for the art trail. Locations on publicly owned land that Chesterfield Borough Council manages will be prioritised alongside considerations about the overall route, key gateways, desire lines, Conservation Area guidelines and connection to heritage stories.

Please see Appendix I for a map and images of potential locations.

The trail will start at the Northern Gateway with a larger sculptural artwork. Four other key locations have been identified that will guide trail participants around the town including: Stephenson Memorial Hall on Corporation street, St Mary and All Saints church yard, The Shambles / The Yards, and Shentall Gardens. Opportunities for the art trail are likely to be embedded into paving but we welcome alternative suggestions.

3. INDICATIVE TIMELINE & PROCESS

- This commission is part of A Sense of Chesterfield and Animate led by Chesterfield Borough Council, each guided by a Steering Group and Project Managed by Beam.
- Beam is a cultural development organisation working across the North of England.
- Beam will work closely with the Artist to provide support throughout which may include:
 - Regular catch up meetings to monitor progress and budget
 - Ensure open communication with the team
 - Helping to enable engagement activity with stakeholders and the community
 - Facilitate connections to share learning across commissions
 - Facilitate design presentations for approval
 - Signpost to relevant expertise where necessary
 - Offer guidance re materials and equipment
 - Guidance on risk assessments and installation methodologies etc.

Activity	Date
Deadline for Applications	Midnight - Monday 14th July 2025
Artist interviews (in person)	22 / 23 July 2025 tbc

Artist appointed and contracted	w/c 4 August 2025
Briefing and site visit to artwork location	w/c 4 August 2025
Research, community Engagement and Design Development	August - December 2025
Concept design proposal to Steering Group	w/c 8 December 2025
Detailed design proposal to Steering Group	w/c 9 February 2026
Planning permissions / licences (if required)	March - May 2026
Fabrication	June - August 2026
Installation	September - October 2026
Evaluation meeting and completion	October 2026

4. BUDGET

- **43,000** plus VAT if applicable. This fee is inclusive of all artist fees, expenses, materials and equipment required to achieve the deliverables set out in **Section 2.5**.

Indicative Budget Breakdown

- *Artist Fees for Community Engagement & Design Development, expenses, materials: £3,000*
- *Artist fees, fabrication costs, installation costs for realising the final artworks : £40,000*
- Payments will be scheduled to align with specific milestones being achieved.

5. ACCESS

- If you require support or have any access requirements to complete your response please do not hesitate to contact us.
- Please let us know if you have an Access Document that you would like to share with us or if you would like to make us aware of any particular needs so that we can best support you. If so, please be assured that we will keep this information confidential.

6. APPLICATIONS

Deadline: Midnight - Monday 14th July 2025

Please send a cover letter (Up to x10 sides of A4 saved as a PDF) to kate@beam.uk.net addressing the following:

- Name, email, phone, web, social media accounts if applicable

- Please outline how your practice, passions, interests, experience, skills and knowledge will enable you to meet the brief.
- Outline your methodology and approach to meeting the brief
- Two Referee contact details (References will only be sought for the selected artist before contracting)

PLUS

- Images and descriptions of up to 6 relevant projects (or weblinks).

If you feel that it would be beneficial to your application, you can also share a short video or audio recording to accompany your application (max 5 minutes).

Completion of anonymous Equality and Diversity Monitoring form (this is optional) via this [link](#).

Applications will be appraised on the following:

- *How the commission aligns with the artist's practice and areas of interest.*
- *Ability to demonstrate delivery of previous high quality permanent sculptural artworks.*
- *Ability to demonstrate the technical expertise and or trusted subcontractors to fabricate and install permanent artworks.*
- *Previous experience of community engagement to inform design development.*

7. CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries please contact:

Kate Watson, Principal Consultant, Beam

kate@beam.uk.net / 07718 564 376 / www.beam.uk.net / Instagram - @beam_artsUK

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

8.1 CHESTERFIELD AND STAVELEY PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME KEY VALUES

- **Fun, Playful & Brave:** Curate an ambitious and brave programme of public art which engages with people in a fun and creative way and supports positive perceptions of the town centre.

- **Creative Engagement:** Embed opportunities for creative participation and skills development, building positive connections with local people.
- **Inspire Future Generations:** Embed opportunities across the programme to inspire people to look to the future of the area.
- **Wellbeing:** Support positive health and wellbeing, including physical activity and active travel.
- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion:** Embed equity, diversity, inclusion throughout the programme including commissioning processes and audience engagement.
- **Accessibility:** Consider accessibility and a broad range of lived experiences at all stages of commission delivery.
- **Valuing Artists:** Value and enable the skills of artists to challenge and think differently.
- **Creative Sector Development:** Embed opportunities for emerging artists - e.g. mentoring, artist talks, skills development etc.
- **Tell the Story:** Adopt a transparent process and tell the story of commissions throughout the process ensuring that the narrative around the context and funding is clear.
- **Collaboration:** Take a collaborative approach and strengthen connections/ increase the capacity for delivery of public art aligning the programme with Long Term Plan for Towns and Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield.
- **Authenticity:** Reflect the place, sharing distinct and diverse stories.
- **Sustainability:** Adopt a sustainable approach to commission delivery, including thinking about materials, processes, supply chains and impact on biodiversity.
- **Local Suppliers:** Support local creative sector and other businesses by utilising local supply chains where possible.
- **Quality & Maintenance:** Develop high quality, robust, durable artworks which address longer term maintenance issues at design development stage.

8.2 PERMISSIONS

All relevant Beam and Chesterfield Borough Council's policies and procedures will apply to this commission and any related work. All work will be subject to relevant permissions prior to implementation.

8.3 HEALTH & SAFETY / CHILD PROTECTION

Beam and Chesterfield Borough Council's Health & Safety and Child Protection Policies will be applied to this commission and any related work as appropriate.

8.4 COPYRIGHT

Copyright in the designs and work will be retained by the Artist in accordance with The Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

8.5 OWNERSHIP

Upon completion the ownership of the artworks will be transferred to Chesterfield Borough Council.

8.6 EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Public Arts trading as Beam is fully committed to providing equal opportunities for all board members, employees, freelancers (including Artists), job applicants, participants and audiences and to eliminating unlawful and unfair discrimination.

The Company aims to create a culture that encourages and values diversity, and that appoints, rewards and promotes board members, staff and freelancers based on merit and are committed to taking positive action to address lack of equity within their working practices and to being an anti-racist organisation.

The Company will not unlawfully discriminate against any board members, employees, freelancers, job applicants, participants and audiences because of any 'protected characteristic', as stated in the Equality Act 2010, namely: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership status; pregnancy and maternity; race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin); religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation.

Beam and Chesterfield Borough Council's relevant Equal Opportunities, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policies will be applied to this commission.

8.7 SUSTAINABILITY

The appointed artist will be encouraged to adopt a sustainable approach to their participation in the project which may include:

- utilising public transport to attend meetings / holding virtual meetings whenever possible;
- utilising digital options for promotion and minimising print requirements;
- minimising impact of community engagement activity, e.g. ensuring that catering utensils / tableware is recyclable, minimising packaging, selecting a location that is accessible via public transport etc

APPENDIX: POTENTIAL LOCATIONS - See overleaf

A. Northern Gateway

Larger scale sculptural artwork
Accompanying interpretation panels



Front planting



Front Entrance



Side view

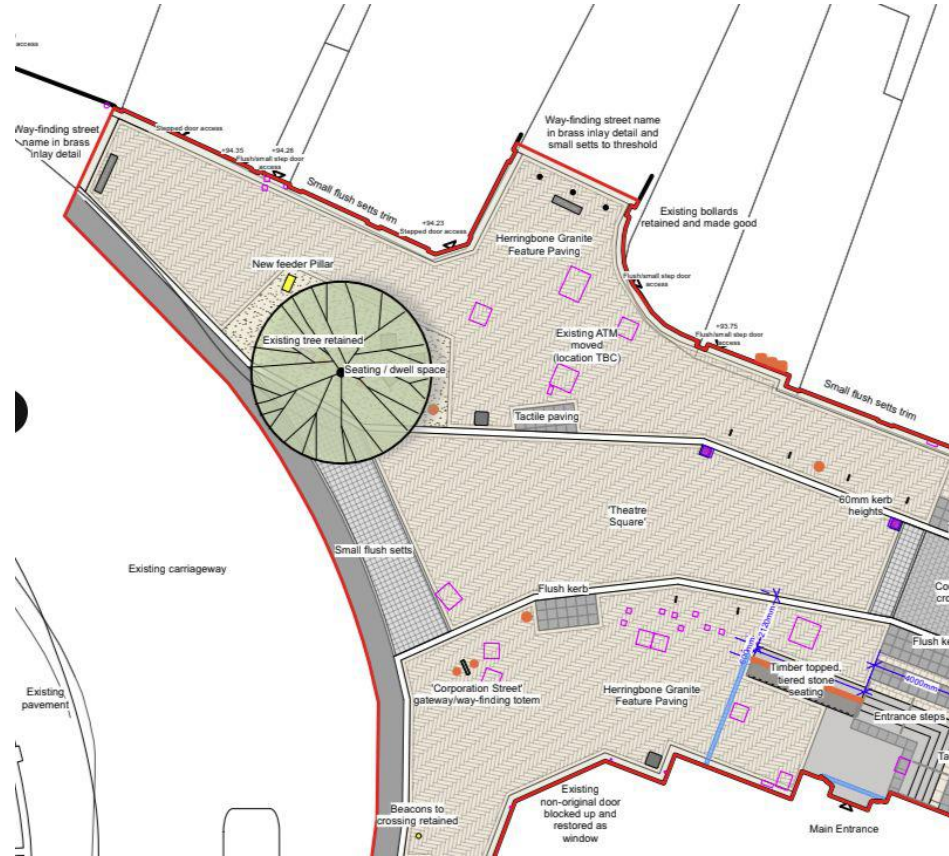


Side view

B. Stephenson Memorial Hall - potential for floor inserts on Corporation Street



View down Corporation Street



C. Churchyard (next to Rykneld Square)

Potential for interpretation panels / sculptural work / floor inserts



St Mary and All Saint's Churchyard



Rykneld Square

D. Shambles / Yards - Potential for floor inserts



Views through The Shambles



View through to The Yards



The Yards / Outside Library

E. Shentall Gardens - Potential for floor inserts / interpretation panel (constraints around War Memorial)



Views down Shentall Gardens



1. Corner of Elderway /
Knifesmithgate



2. Start of Packers Row



3. Bottom of New Square, Side of Park Road -
next to Wetherspoons