



Ridges & Furrows

HISTORIAN BRIEF

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Contents

1. Introduction to Ridges & Furrows
2. Purpose of brief
3. Locations
4. Research by Heritage Lincolnshire
5. Who is eligible to apply?
6. Timescale and fees
7. How to submit an application

1. Introduction to Ridges & Furrows

Ridges & Furrows is a creative heritage project that draws on and celebrates the history and heritage of towns and villages across the district of North Kesteven. The programme starts in Welbourn in Autumn 2016, moves over to North Hykeham for Winter 2016 and then takes place in Waddington in Spring 2017.

The project will ultimately inspire a new arts and heritage walking trail linking together two leading arts venues in the district: The Terry O'Toole Theatre in North Hykeham and The National Centre for Craft and Design in Sleaford.

The initiative began in spring 2015 with a series of four artist-led action research projects, in the host locations. Each research project brought together local people to explore their history and heritage through a range of interventions including: a craft collecting project, writer's workshop, community storytelling, and photography group. Information and images about this are available here: <http://www.artsnk.org/ridges-furrows-artist-residencies/>

We have just received a grant of £55,700 from Heritage Lottery Fund to enable this next phase of the project to be delivered.

2. Purpose and shape of the next phase of Ridges & Furrows

Ridges & Furrows is a long-term initiative to develop a new arts and heritage walking trail linking Sleaford with North Hykeham, via a number of different rural communities. The project will focus on uncovering the rich history of the walking route and will deepen engagement with key communities in the locations of Welbourn, Waddington and North Hykeham.

This project will offer greater access to local heritage through inspiring activities and interpretation by:

- Bringing the historian, artists and residents together, using imaginative techniques and creative means to research village folklore through memorable and exciting activities.

- Getting children and young people working together with older people to share experiences and discover and record personal stories.
- Communicating the rich social histories and the village morphologies in a fresh and accessible way.

The outcomes will ensure that local people can act as champions for their own heritage, prompted by innovative interpretation, written guides and a website. We want people to understand their heritage. If they understand it they are more likely to care about it. If they care about it, they are more likely to preserve it.

Local steering groups are now established in each location. They have suggested themes and events to help focus the research in each location:

- Welbourn 'Horkey' - exploring changes to the farming heritage in the village and re-imagining the celebration of harvest
- Waddington 'Well Dressing' and 'Rites of Way' – plotting the rights of way to, and the locations of, wells, springs and water access/drainage and celebrating traditional customs through a contemporary response
- North Hykeham Winter Fair - re-inventing the local tradition of a Winter Fair on the village green which is inspired by village customs and folklore and traces the story of the village and how it became a town
- All locations - recording the former uses of buildings and historical sites on a newly illustrated map (mills, bakeries, coach houses, inns, wells and springs)

We are inviting historians to apply for a key role in this project to explore all of the above.

Applicants will be required to:

- Work closely with artists to explore the Ridges & Furrows project themes further
- Work with local historians in each location
- Make a log of interesting archival material that is unearthed in each location
- Enthuse and bring together local people, and work with them to collect and uncover social histories and personal stories through a range of techniques (oral reminiscence, photo sharing, field walking, site visits, guided walks, online research)

- Lead the gathering, recording and sharing of oral reminiscence with local volunteers (we will set up training in each location with an experienced provider to support this, with a different budget)
- Deliver lively and engaging heritage learning activities on location - in the community, with local schools and groups, and working with the artists.
- Write up the research, interpretation and outcomes for publication on the website and in a written guide.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

This project is open to historians who have experience of working in communities in this way.

Applicants will need to understand the different needs of these varied locations and communities, demonstrate their understanding of the brief, show how they have delivered similar socially engaged projects, and how they have used interpersonal skills to encourage people to participate and learn.

Applicants will need to be either based in Lincolnshire, and / or able to travel to rural parts of Lincolnshire on a regular basis. Use of a car with a valid licence and business-use insurance is essential.

We require an applicant who has all, or a strong mix, of the following skills and experience:

- track record of heritage research projects
- previous experience to demonstrate imaginative approach
- track record of preparing and delivering innovative heritage activities that successfully engage with the community
- excellent communication and presentation skills, both spoken and written
- experience of undertaking risk assessments for events and activities in a range of settings, and with people of different ages/abilities
- experience of monitoring and evaluation processes
- experience of working within tight budgets
- ability to arrange accommodation and reliable travel arrangements
- public liability insurance

- an understanding of equal opportunities and confidentiality and procedures relating to working with vulnerable people (we will undertake a DBS check).

4. Locations

North Hykeham is a town on the southern edge of Lincoln, comprising around 4,900 dwellings. There are two secondary schools (North Kesteven School and the Sir Robert Pattinson Academy) and three primary schools (Fosseway Primary School, Ling Moore Primary School and All Saints C of E Primary School). The NK Centre, incorporating the Terry O'Toole Theatre, also includes a swimming pool, gym, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and climbing wall. There is a village hall, known as 'The Ark', a 24 hour Asda supermarket, allotments, a skate park and other play parks/green spaces and a wide variety of local clubs and community groups. The three churches in North and South Hykeham work together as the United Parish of Hykeham.

North Hykeham Town Council website:

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/NorthHykeham/>

Waddington is a large village, located approximately 4 miles south of Lincoln, well known for its association with RAF Waddington, one of the oldest airfields in the UK. There are two primary schools – All Saints Primary School and Redwood Primary School and two community venues, the Redwood Community Centre and Waddington Community Hub. The village has a vibrant community scene, including a youth club, three pubs, a pharmacy incorporating a post office and library, as well as other smaller shops. The church of St Michael's was destroyed by a bomb during WWII and rebuilt in the 1950s.

Waddington Parish Council website:

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/waddington/>

The smaller village of **Welbourn** is situated 11 miles south of Lincoln and 8 miles north west of Sleaford. There are two schools, the Sir William Robertson High School and the Welbourn CofE Primary School. There is a village shop and post office, a restored Blacksmith's Forge, earthworks of a medieval moated castle and a pub. St Chad's Church sits within the village and has strong links with the schools and community.

Welbourn Parish Council website:

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Welbourn/>

Other useful links:

North Kesteven District Council: <http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/>

artsNK: <http://www.artsnk.org/>

Design Factory: <http://www.designfactory.org.uk/>

National Centre for Craft and Design: <http://www.nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk/>

Terry O'Toole Theatre: <http://www.terryotooletheatre.org.uk/>

5. Research by Heritage Lincolnshire

NK Arts Partnership commissioned Heritage Lincolnshire to research the history and heritage of the locations to provide detailed background information for the residencies and the festival. This document is available to download from <http://www.artsnk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Heritage-Lincolnshire-Research.pdf>

6. Timescale and fees

Each location has budget for fees for the historian of £5,000 (£15,000 in total) plus an allowance for travel expenses. There is also a small budget for materials. The project begins immediately and will run until July 2017.

Suggested breakdown of fees in each location:

R&D, initial meetings with groups/schools/local historians, programme set up (3 days)	£ 750
Workshops and activities with community groups (5 days)	£ 1,250
Workshops and activities in schools (5 days)	£ 1,250
Attending the event in each location (1 day)	£ 250
Writing up research and interpretation for website and guide (6 days)	£ 1,500

Activity in Welbourn needs to begin straight away, culminating in an even in October 2016. North Hykeham activity will be delivered in September – December, with a Winter Fair taking place in mid December 2016. Waddington will be delivered in January – May 2017.

7. How to Submit a Proposal

Please send a copy of your CV (max 2 pages) and a covering letter, which should clearly show how you meet our requirements and why you are interested in this project.

If possible, please also send supporting visuals / videos which demonstrate your previous projects / approach taken on similar initiatives.

Please either email a single PDF or PowerPoint with all images included, or a link to videos online.

Applications must be received by **9am on Friday 22 July 2016**. Interviews will be held in the district (either in Sleaford or Welbourn tbc) **in the week of 8 August 2016**.

Applications can be sent by email to lucy.lumb@litc.org.uk or by hard copy to:

Lucy Lumb, artsNK,
3rd floor - National Centre for Craft and Design
Navigation Wharf
Carre Street
Sleaford, NG34 7TW

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any queries or questions, either by email or phone: lucy.lumb@litc.org.uk 01529 411193 or 07825 048 055.