

A green-tinted photograph of a lake. In the foreground, there are tall reeds. In the middle ground, a sailboat is visible on the water. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

A time to dwell: to make ones
home; to reside; inhabit; live

A Public Art Strategy for Conningbrook Lakes

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ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



LATIMER



Westerhill Homes



Francis Knight
Public Art Consultancy

Executive Summary

The willingness by Chartway Group Ltd (CGL), Latimer Developments Ltd and Ashford Borough Council (ABC), to open up the discussion about how public art should be delivered for Conningbrook Lakes has allowed the writing of the Public Art Strategy (PAS) to evolve into a framework for innovative and intriguing outcomes. By listening to the people that work in and use the country park the PAS explores the potential for artworks and advises on how, through collaboration, commissions can be realised.

The PAS has been developed as a result of extensive consultation and research undertaken by Public Art Consultants FrancisKnight and Lead Artist Kerry Lemon. Four commissions invite artists and artist collectives to shape and transform the ways people interact in, respond to and learn about Conningbrook Lakes. View, Dwell and Explore are titles for permanent commissions while Interact focuses on a temporary public engagement programme delivered by artists specialising in outdoor education.

There is an openness and flexibility to the commissions, which is rare and ground-breaking. Whether the artwork is 'stand alone' or integrated, they focus on celebrating the unique landscape and creating opportunities for people to appreciate, learn about and engage with the habitats, flora and fauna of the site and surrounding area.

The PAS supports a holistic approach to commissioning high quality artwork, bringing together 300 new market homes development of contemporary design with a strategic country park. It highlights opportunities within the design process

to encourage people to explore the great views and footpaths to the Wye Downs, good access links from Ashford and the gateway to the Stour Valley.

The commissions are to be reminiscent of Stour Valley Arts at King's Wood, Challock, a treasured resource in the area, and repeatedly mentioned by consultees. As such they echo and propose a space for artists to spend time, promoting an ethos of collaborative working and a sharing of expert knowledge, with a local site-specific focus. Success will be measured through a robust framework and methodology for commissioning, creating a blueprint for artists to create new work and a benchmark for both CGL / Latimer Developments Ltd and ABC to demonstrate quality and value for money.

Whether it be a group of parents and pre-school children who need a shelter from the weather, volunteers working with Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT), who need a place to sit, residents welcomed into their lakeside location, or visitors encouraged to enjoy the circular walk enhanced by artworks along the way, the public art at Conningbrook Lakes will offer something to surprise and delight everyone.

Vision

Conningbrook Lakes will promote a reputation for outstanding public art that is considered, thoughtful and resonates with the lakeside location. Artists will collaborate to create new work that will delight and surprise, extending the visitor experience and contributing to a unique and attractive place to live in and visit.



Studio Weave



Jaakko Pernu



Stuart Ian Frost

Background

Full planning consent was granted on 24 October 2014 for the creation of a major leisure and recreation facility at Conningbrook Lakes together with 300 new market homes of a contemporary design. The former Conningbrook quarry lies within 2 km east of Ashford Town Centre and forms part of a green route forming a linear park system running through Ashford town centre and linking existing and proposed development areas. The opportunity to build on the existing leisure facilities at the Julie Rose Stadium in the creation of a country park will facilitate a range of water-based sports and other new activities through the new park area to include an additional 33 ha; a visitor centre to include a café, a pub/restaurant, farm shop and associated offices.

Latimer Developments Ltd, part of the Clarion Housing Group, in partnership with leading Kent-based developers CGL, owns the 31-acre site and is working in partnership with ABC to deliver the public art installations across the new housing development and country park.

Public Art Consultants FrancisKnight were appointed by CGL and ABC to produce a PAS for Conningbrook Lakes. As part of the strategy development, Lead Artist Kerry Lemon was appointed to collaborate with FrancisKnight and the design team, undertaking research, public consultation and contributing to an overarching vision.



Purpose of Document

The recognition that public art will play a key role in the development site is set out in Condition 45 of the detailed Planning Decision Notice dated 24th October 2014 (planning application reference no: 12/01245/AS).

This PAS seeks to provide a working document specific to Conningbrook Lakes to aid the CGL in discharging Condition 45 and ABC in fulfilling the aims and objectives of its Local Plan. It will also assist with the delivery of the design and placemaking aspirations of both CGL and ABC in a manner that builds on good practice and urban design principles whilst maintaining value for money and cost effectiveness for each stage of the project.

The public art consultants have established a good balance between understanding the potential public art opportunities whilst not being too prescriptive.

Having reviewed the plans for the development and considered the 10 original locations, this PAS identifies an alternative approach to commissioning public art, allowing artists to develop ideas that cannot be completely planned for in advance.

The alternative approach proposes 3 permanent commission themes View, Dwell and Explore. Each commission theme will be delivered by an appointed artist/s who will be expected to deliver 1- 3 pieces of artwork.

Interact is a commission that focuses on a temporary engagement programme delivered by artists specialising in outdoor education. Interact will support the permanent artworks.

The approach also offers a selection of potential locations across the site to be considered by the commissioned artist/s. These locations are informed by feedback from the public consultation, design team and client team.

Within the residential development it was concluded that the three residential locations should be reassessed, due to their proximity to each other and their lack of purpose. The new locations promote an improved relationship with the country park and include opportunities to enhance gateways, seating, and wayfinding.

Within the country park the seven locations have also been reconsidered and in some cases removed such as the island artwork due to limited access and environmental concerns. Artworks now extend into new areas including the Activity Centre.

The PAS delivers a blueprint for artists to create new work and a benchmark to demonstrate quality and value for both CGL / Latimer Developments Ltd and ABC. The commissioning programme promotes a collaborative working ethos and a sharing of expert knowledge, with a local site-specific focus. The commissioning process will allow for interpretation, flexibility and an open mind to make more effective use of budgets, materials and elements that are already considered as part of the design process.



Introduction

Kerry Lemon

Conningbrook Lakes is full of inspiration for any artist. It is an extraordinary place, home to a diverse range of plants and animals and host to a range of leisure and sport pursuits. What makes Conningbrook Lakes unique (and I would really want to see celebrated!) is the diversity of the waters, both from the three lakes and the River Stour. I have really enjoyed the process of exploring what makes the site so special, particularly finding out about the discovered mammoth tusk, the Willesborough Windmill and the Wye Crown, but the richest seam has been the collaboration with KWT, learning all

about the wildlife. As part of the consultation I spent time meeting local partners, visitors and residents to explore the potential for public art. My highlight was the opportunity to work with Brambles (a pre-school outdoor session held at the lake), learning about what local parents hoped to see from the proposed artworks, and the Kennington Beavers Group, working with 6-8 year olds to brainstorm ideas and design new park benches. These commissions have been designed to delight and excite the residents, visitors and the artists themselves, and offer the opportunity to create celebratory, memorable and thoughtful interventions for this most unique site.

FrancisKnight

Talking to a wide range of lake users and visitors, it is clear that Conningbrook Lakes is a special place for people to spend time. Some people currently enjoy the lakes as they are, and do not necessarily want change while others have higher expectations of what should be experienced within a country park.

Major improvements to Conningbrook Lakes to be made by ABC will be enabled by the delivery of the residential development by CGL and Latimer Developments Ltd. This brings an opportunity for a cohesive and holistic approach to commissioning public art that considers Conningbrook Lakes as a whole, connecting the country park and residential development.

Our consultation revealed a local fondness for King's Wood, Challock, and for the legacy of Stour Valley Arts, an organisation that commissioned high quality art, which engaged the public in the natural environment. The spirit of Stour Valley Arts is echoed in the Conningbrook Lakes vision, which allows artists to collaborate and make work that responds to nature. By appointing artists from conception to completion of the scheme, CGL, Latimer Developments Ltd and ABC are creating a unique opportunity for a genuine working relationship between artist, client and design team. Importantly this approach will help to make sense of the whole site. Public engagement is integral to the commissioning process maintaining a programme of artist-led activity at Conningbrook Lakes.



Kerry Lemon



Kerry Lemon

Policy Context

The PAS has been developed in line with the Local Plan 2030 – Publication Draft (Regulation 19 - Publication June 2016).

Key Design Qualities

3.166 a) Character, Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The Borough is made up of many different places, each with their own distinctive characteristics of development form, landscape and surrounding space, both historic and new. All development proposals need to reflect their local context, particularly where this has a special character or features of interest, whether built or natural.

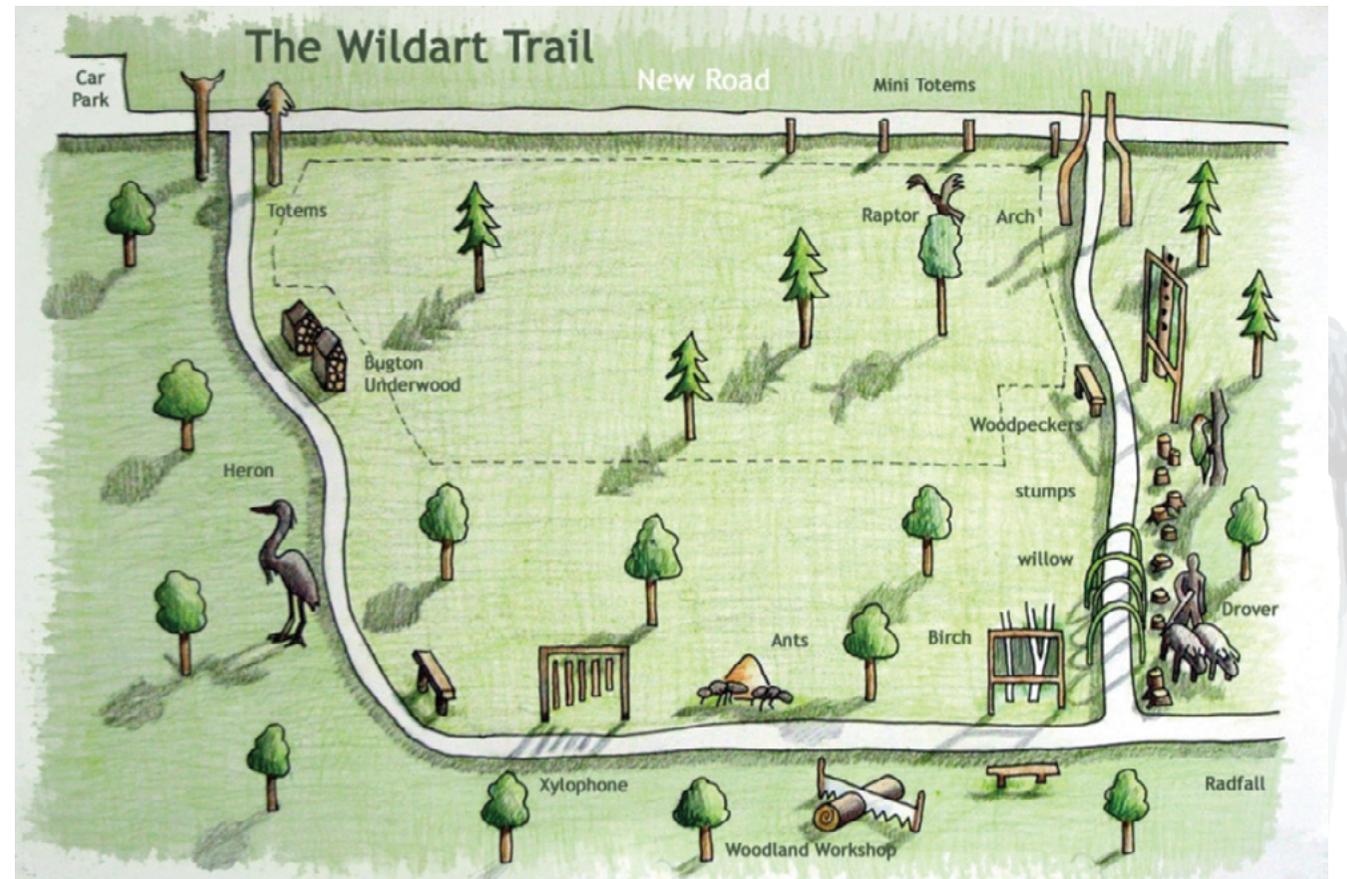
3.167 Where the built environment is of decent quality, new proposals should be sensitive in terms of scale, height, layout and massing to the surrounding buildings. Where the surrounding development is fragmented or of poor quality, development proposals will be expected to help repair the urban fabric and generate distinctiveness, with good quality architecture and careful treatment of the space around the building. **Public art** has a key role to play in helping to add to local character and people's enjoyment of places.

Case Study

West Blean and Thornden Woods
The Wildart Trail
Kent Wildlife Trust

The Wildart Trail is an all-access art and sensory sculpture trail within an ancient woodland setting. Artist in residence Rob Turner, used natural, local materials to create sustainable, non-invasive artwork, which is created to evolve and change through the years.

Wildlife totem poles, log cabin insect homes, sculptural features and willow arches can be found along the one-mile circular route.



Public Art Objectives

When planning public art for inclusion in the development of Conningbrook Lakes and fulfilling the vision, the commissions and the appointed artists would need to refer to the following objectives as stated below. These provide the framework and methodology with which success of this vision can be measured:

- A cohesive and holistic approach to public art, considering Conningbrook Lakes as a whole connecting the country park and residential development.
- Celebrating the unique environment of Conningbrook Lakes with particular focus on the diverse and abundant wildlife.
- Creating artworks that make you view, dwell, explore and interact in a playful and joyful way.
- A collaborative commissioning process that allows for the unexpected and remarkable.
- Considering a variety of art works and approaches including temporary as well as permanent artworks, ephemeral and functional.

Research and Consultation

Lead Artist Kerry Lemon and Public Art Consultants FrancisKnight undertook a series of consultations to help inform their research and thinking. This included attending the annual Fun Day at Conningbrook Lakes in September 2017, meeting families and users of the lakes and country park. A further one day consultation held in October combined art activity, conversation and presentations with children and adults across a range of ages. They included

Brambles (0-4 yrs plus parents, grandparents and carers), Conningbrook Lakes Conservation Volunteers (recruited through KWT a drop-in chat open to all lake users, a formal presentation with stakeholders including ward councillors and local authority officers, art activity with Kennington Beavers and an open consultation session held by the WI in Kennington.



In addition FrancisKnight invited interested stakeholders as part of an Advisory Panel to attend two sessions specific to developing the PAS. This panel was a platform to disseminate information, gather local specialist knowledge and experiences and invite feedback to help shape potential commissions. It is hoped that these community champions will promote the public art programme and enthuse local communities to engage in the participatory opportunities that surround the public art commissions.

The panel included:

Len Mayatt, Cultural Projects Manager, ABC; Kathy Putnam, Head of Planning, CGL; Helen Hoffman, Sailing Development Officer and Bernard Sealy, Principal, Conningbrook Lakes Sailing Centre; Will Douglas, Conningbrook Lakes Conservation Officer and Ian Rickards, Ashford Area Warden, Kent Wildlife Trust; Cllr George Koowaree, Willesborough North Ward, ABC; Cllr Jessamy Blanford, Great Chart with Singleton North Ward, Portfolio holder for Parks and Open Spaces, ABC.

The feedback from all the consultation sessions has helped to define the commissions and the approach to commissioning public art.

During discussion and debate, early opportunities have also been highlighted, in particular the influence of street naming for the residential development. The abundance of flora and fauna at Conningbrook Lakes has inspired a number of references that could be adopted.

Public Art Themes

The PAS has developed the following public art themes to be developed into commissions located across the site.

- View
- Dwell
- Explore
- Interact

View, Dwell and Explore are permanent commissions and can be 'stand alone' or integrated artworks. Artists will be invited to create a minimum of 1-3 artworks per commission, drawing attention to the landscape, habitats, flora and fauna of Conningbrook Lakes.

Interact focuses on a temporary public engagement programme that will support the permanent commissions and should be delivered by artists specialising in outdoor education.



Commissions and Potential Locations



View



Dwell



Explore

Commission 1 – View

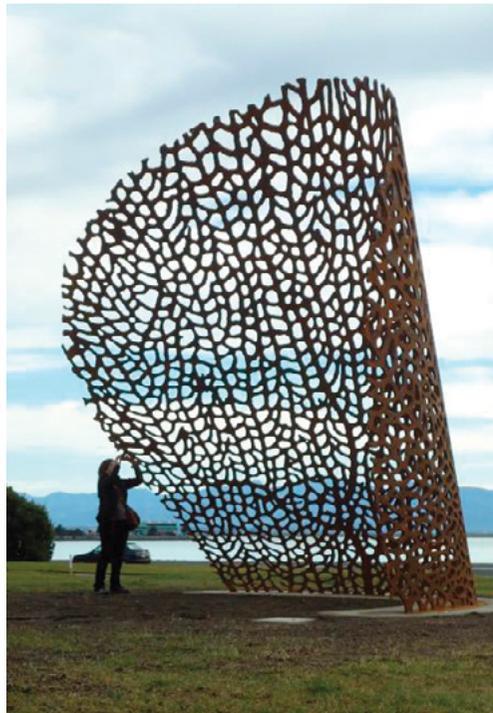
Conningbrook Lakes will be a unique place in which to live, enjoy a wealth of leisure activities or visit for the day. Artists will be invited to create their own response to View with hidden gems as well as open vistas. An element of surprise and delight could be included in this commission.

Potential Opportunities:

- Viewing point or shelter such as a bird hide
- Attention to gateways such as stand-alone sculptural artworks
- Design elements incorporated into a nature trail
- Functional artwork such as a vehicle barrier



John Sturrock



Juanjo Novella



Simon Hempzell



Stuart Ian Frost

Commission 2 – Dwell

Conningbrook Lakes offers a new residential development complemented by a healthy, outdoor lifestyle. It establishes a new community alongside a country park. Dwell reflects on living in or inhabiting space at Conningbrook and artists could explore reasons to dwell, ponder or contemplate.

Potential Opportunities:

- Bespoke timber seating
- Shelter or viewing point such as a bird hide
- Embedded artwork as part of a new activity centre



Heather and Ivan Morison



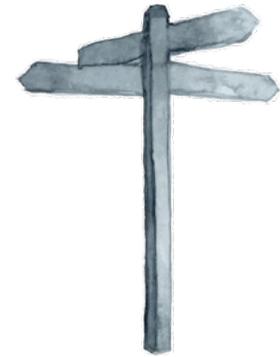
London Fieldworks

Commission 3 – Explore

There is a significant opportunity to connect the new development and special landscape together and into the new built environment. The creation of circular walk(s), gateways, meeting places and squares in the residential area could be enhanced through public art interventions. This commission should seek to capture the imagination of visitors and residents.

Potential Opportunities:

- Creating markers to embed into the surface of the circular path / interpretation boards
- Bespoke platforms / seating
- Bridge design collaboration linking up to the Stour Valley Walk



Henry Krokatsis



Natalya Zahn

Commission 4 – Interact (Public Engagement)

This commission supports the permanent artworks and provides engagement activity particularly in the quiet moments of the commission programme. It centres on collaboration with the commissioned artists, local schools and community groups and interaction in its widest sense with the landscape, people and wildlife. The focus should include outdoor workshops and learning to elicit playful responses from residents and visitors to interact with their environment and each other across a range of ages and abilities. There is also the opportunity to incorporate artwork from this activity on the build hoardings throughout the construction phases of the residential development and within the country park improvements.



Stacy Levy



Cas Holmes



Tim Norris

Residency Space

For true collaboration to take place artists need to spend a period of time together and be in residence at Conningbrook Lakes. The PAS proposes the temporary use of a space for this purpose, for example a portacabin, an empty property or the residency space at King's Wood previously used by Stour Valley Arts. The permanent commission proposals will be researched and developed through this residency activity, allowing for sharing of knowledge and a holistic approach.

Materials

The current materials palette for the country park includes timber: boardwalks, pontoons, benches, fencing, bins, gates and cycle stands. The landscaping accommodates functional sporting and recreational spaces, informal play, wetland habitat, grassland habitat, tree cover and wild flora cover. A significant play area and an activity centre are also planned for the country park.

The residential side of the development also includes a materials palette of timber: fencing, finger posts and seating. Resin-bound gravel, natural clay, slab paving, gabion steps, boarding, cladding and slate, cast iron, galvanised rain-water goods and stainless steel also feature. This builds on a Kent local vernacular but using a modern idiom and style of architecture. The landscaping scheme incorporates native species, with areas of meadow grass planting and informal play areas.

Case study

Founder and Director Sandra Drew established Stour Valley Arts (SVA) in 1993 and based the organisation at King's Wood, a 1,500-acre forest in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Challock, Kent. The Forest is managed to this day by the Forest Enterprise for conservation, recreation and timber production.

SVA worked with artists, other arts organisations, scientists, health professionals and environmental organisations to create artworks that encouraged the public to interact with the natural environment.

Many artists were commissioned to create sculptures within the forest, spending long periods in the location and responding to the nature of this working forest. Using found materials the artwork changed with the seasons and the weather, eventually decaying and becoming part of the forest again. In 2015 SVA organisation closed due to funding difficulties and a new creative partnership was established called The Stour Valley Creative Partnership, which has taken forward the legacy of Stour Valley Arts.



Tim Norris

Phases and Delivery

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS (Budgets include the artists fee including: artists' research, design and development time, expenses, design implementation costs, materials, fabrication and engagement)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Phases/Build Programme	Sales	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	TOTAL
	22 plots	51 plots	61 plots	71 plots	60 plots	35 plots	300 homes
VIEW							
Residential Development	•						
Country Park		•					
DWELL							
Residential Development							
Country Park			•				
EXPLORE							
Residential Development				•			
Country Park				•			
Residency Space	•						
INTERACT	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Delivery Plan

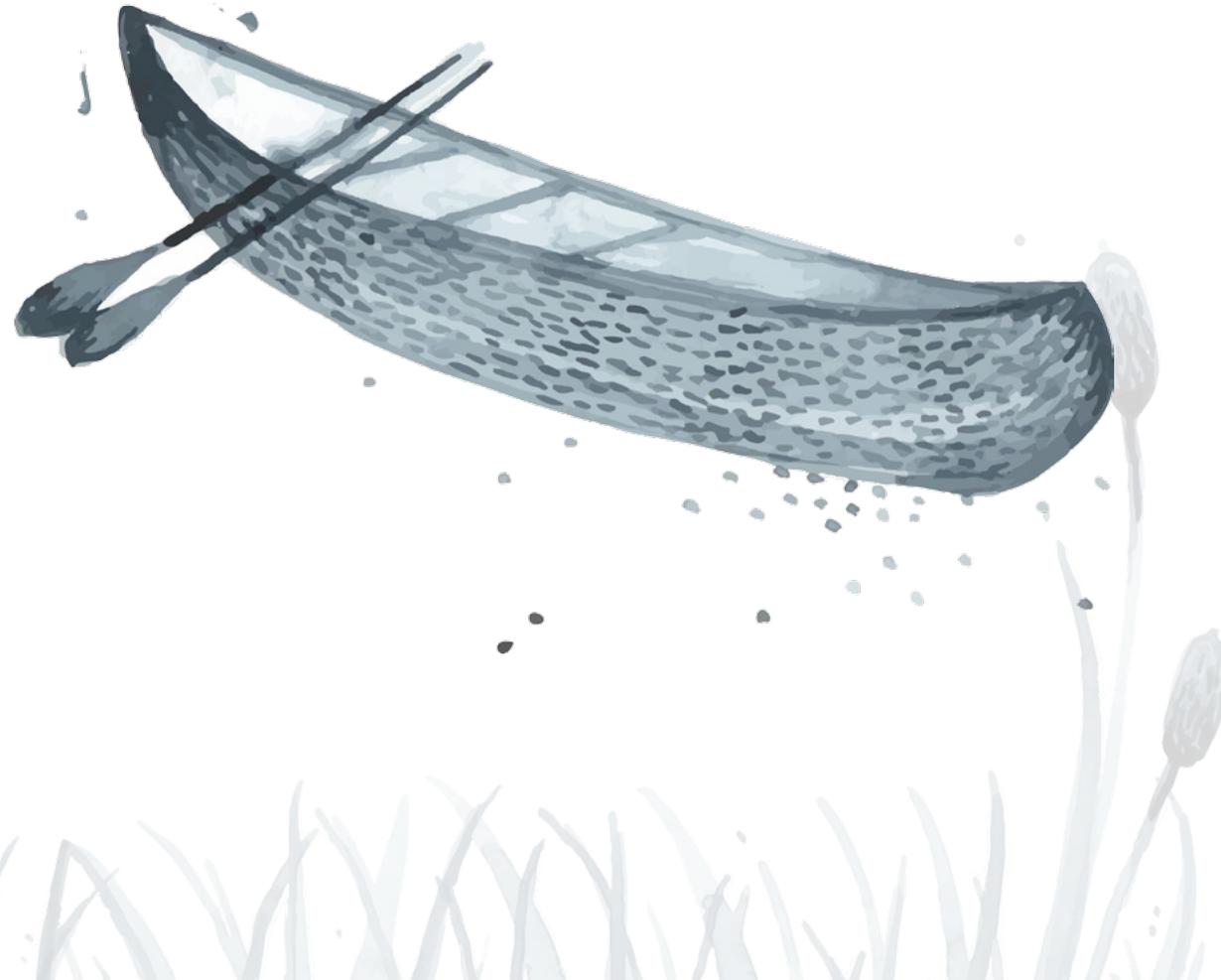
The PAS will be delivered jointly by CGL, Latimer Developments Ltd and ABC; they will be responsible for allocating a public art budget, signing off proposals and approving expenditure. Public art specialists will be appointed on behalf of the client team to manage the commission process and fulfil the objectives set out in the PAS.

It should be noted that due to different build programmes for the residential development and regeneration of the country park the commissioned artworks will be delivered in phases in accordance with the respective timeframes. Each organisation will liaise separately with the local planning authority if planning permissions for public art elements are required.

Commission process:

Each phase of the public art works will require the following work:

- Partner liaison
- Planning advice and information
- Development of schedules of work
- Artist briefs, recruitment and liaison
- Artist management
- Monitoring design development and production of commissions
- Managing installation and de-installation where applicable
- Public engagement coordination
- Coordinating marketing and public communication
- Project monitoring, documenting and reporting
- Identifying and managing risk
- Creating and coordinating exit strategies for all public art projects



Partner Development

Funding for the public art commissions at Conningbrook Lakes will come from a combination of S106 money and developer contributions. The funding, as it stands, could be used as partnership funding for applications to public grant sources such as Art Council England (Grants for the Arts) and Kent County Council (Arts Investment Fund). However there are high demands on these grants and the application process can be lengthy.

Locally based businesses could be invited to invest in the public art commissions to assist in making a positive impact on the local environment which will benefit employees and the local community. For example the Interact Commission would be ideal for event-based sponsorship, while cash, material or a donation of time could support the permanent commissions. Both examples would create good news stories and positive public relations for businesses. Approaches should be made early in the programme to allow for relationships to develop. Likewise foundations and charitable organisations could be contacted where opportunities exist and ideas align.

Alternative sources of funding could come from collaborative working with organisations already invested in Conningbrook Lakes such as KWT and Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. This could be in kind support and joint working. Likewise RSPB and Sustrans could be organisations to approach.

Maintenance

Maintenance requirements will be provided by the appointed artist and agreed with CGL, Latimer Developments Ltd and ABC and assessed through the detailed design development. Assessments will ensure that materials and fabrication are fit for purpose and that the design life is appropriate for the context.

The maintenance plan will include details on the type of care that the materials and design require. Cleaning, wear of materials, specialist equipment or treatments such as anti vandalism requirements should be included. On completion of installation, the maintenance and cleaning of the work falls under the responsibility of the commissioner (CGL and ABC); a budget should be set aside to cover the lifetime maintenance of the work.

Responsibility and Ownership

Artworks that are sited in either the residential development or the country park will be owned and maintained by the respective organisation. It will be a requirement that commissioned artworks will be as durable and maintenance-free as possible. A maintenance plan for each artwork will be provided by the commissioned artist and will take ownership details into consideration. For the residential development CGL and Latimer Developments Ltd will be establishing a Management Company to maintain all the public areas including the public art elements

located within. The maintenance documentation for the public art commissions will be included in the administration agreements handed over to the Management Company.

Artist Appointment and Selection

Artists with an established track record (of at least five years experience) of producing public art works and or specialising in outdoor education across the UK will be invited directly following an internal selection process by CGL and ABC. Artist collectives will be proposed as well as individuals.

Artist Brief

For each commission an artist brief will be developed to provide a set of artist specifications that are relevant and particular. This will help to identify the criteria for selection and develop a long list of suitable candidates for direct approach.

Concept Development

Research and development will be key to the permanent commissions. CGL and ABC will approve artists' proposals before continuing onto design development, production and installation.

Public Engagement

A specific commission for public engagement has been developed to support the permanent artworks. It centres on collaboration, public engagement and interaction in its widest sense with the landscape, people and wildlife. A comprehensive list of groups and individuals produced during the consultation for the PAS is a starting point and reference for the appointed artists to work with, but is not exclusive. This will be included in an artist brief.

Contracts

On appointment of artists, a contract will be drawn up that will cover artist and commissioner obligations, scope of works, agreed fees, budgets and milestones, ownership & maintenance responsibilities – with decommissioning criteria where applicable, IP rights and copyright, accreditation and dispute resolution.

Detailed and Technical Design

The artist, along with any specialist technical experts required, will execute and submit paperwork related to feasibility testing, cost analysis and Health and Safety assessment of commission proposals. The technical and fabrication process will be fully reviewed in terms of sustainability and maintenance against existing design guidelines.

Fabrication and Installation

Where the artist proposes specialist methods or expertise, external contractors and fabricators will be subcontracted in line with CGL and ABC procurement processes. Work will be installed in line with the phases and programme. Full risk assessments and method statements will be prepared for approval prior to installation. Artworks will be supplied with appropriate warranties and maintenance manuals.

Review and Monitoring

Regular meetings will support the successful delivery of the PAS. Artists will be invited to present ideas and progress when appropriate.

Communications and PR

Both ABC and CGL are committed to involving their communication teams so that key milestones, activities, community engagement and commission news is communicated through the press, websites and social media as part of the recording and monitoring process. This will continue to promote the value of public art to creating distinctive places.

Legacy

As part of the commission process the artworks and activities will be documented through film and photography to create a record and provide information for press and marketing. The commissioned artists will also be encouraged to use social media to share their practice.

Decommissioning

The continued integrity of an artwork can over time become compromised through changes in use, character or design of a site for which the artwork was commissioned. Physical deterioration of the artworks, need for costly repairs or damage beyond repair may occur. If this cannot be resolved through restoration, removing the work may be the best solution. Where applicable, artist contracts for Conningbrook Lakes will include decommissioning criteria covering considerations such as life expectancy, review periods and maintenance plans.



Recommendations

1. Commissions are Collaborative: Artists to work with; each other, the Client Team, Design Team, and major stakeholders such as KWT and the Environment Agency.

2. Public art specialists are appointed to project-manage the delivery of the permanent commissions and public engagement programme.

3. Artist-led public engagement continues throughout the delivery of the development to maintain a presence at Conningbrook Lakes.

4. The Client Team to remain open minded and flexible to allow for the unexpected.

5. A holistic approach to commissioning is adopted by the Client Team.

6. Set artist fees in line with good practice and make more effective use of budgets, materials and elements that are already considered as part of the design process.

7. A space or place for artists to spend time to develop their ideas is accommodated.

8. Whether the public art is conceived as integrated or as stand alone, it needs to be:
 - A. Ambitious
 - B. Distinct
 - C. Responsive
 - D. Site-specific
 - E. Robust

9. Decommissioning criteria should be clear and agreed. It is recommended that permanent artwork is re-visited every 20-25 years and assessed according to agreed criteria, to ensure that it is still relevant and attractive in its setting.

Artist Research

Research

Wye Downs

The site has great views + footpaths to Wye Downs. A stretch of chalk downland and woodland located near the village of Wye in Kent. It's a national nature reserve with lots of orchards

Willesborough Windmill visible from site 1869



Architectural Inspiration - local Kent villages: Tenterden, Wye, Charing + Rye, Colswold Water Park, Conyer Quay

Canterbury ↔ Ashford railway line (Ashford → Ramsgate via Canterbury West)

link to National Cycle Route 18 - 61 miles from Canterbury → Tunbridge Wells

Wye Crown Grid ref: TR 0713 4660
1902 coronation of Edward VII
Mammoth Tusk found in one of the gravel pits - speak to Ashford Museum



Great Stour

site follows 1.5 miles of Great Stour (just outside Eastern site boundary) In Roman + Medieval times the river connected Canterbury with the Continent

Activity

- Canoeing, rowing, angling, kayaking, wind surfing, dingy sailing, triathlon, duathlon, cycling, orienteering, walking, running, fishing
- Bird watching, dog walking, nature trails

Geology/soil (Not interesting)

- Alluvial soil on gravel bed
- isolated areas of sand from quarry
- Palaeolithic strata undisturbed

History of site: Shallow river valley part of floodplain grasslands and arable system - more recently owned by Brett

positive + negative aspects of human intervention in environment

MAN MADE ENVIRONMENT: Sand + gravel quarry → now flooded + redeveloped

Canningbrook Manor Grade II listed farmhouse:

Route of Stour Valley Walk follows the river (Great Stour)

Open ground vegetation

Vulpa fescues, annual meadow grass, Yorkshire fog, common bent, Thyme leaved sandwort, wall speedwell, heath pearlwort

Emergent vegetation + Swamp.

Greater reedmace, common reed, reed sweet-grass, reed canary-grass, water mint, common spike rush, gypsywort, great willow herb bitter sweet, soft rush, hard rush, sallow, water plantain

Open water

North + Eco lake - elodea waterweeds, duckweed lerna, rigid hornwort. Main lake - blanket weed, invasive elodea pondweeds.

CP Habitats (CURRENT)

(discuss + confirm with WT for relevance - 30 yr life of Commission)

MEADOWS, SCRUB, THRIVING REED BEDS.
LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE OF COUNTY IMPORTANCE
RIVER
WOODLANDS
LAKES, PONDS, GRASSLANDS
WILD FLOWERS

Succession grassland

Yorkshire fog, red fescue, perennial ryegrass, timothy, common couch, common + creeping bent, cock's-foot crested dog's-tail, soft brome

Rank grassland

creeping thistle, himalayan balsam
Hedgerow stinging nettle, dock

Hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, English Elm, ash field maple, oak

hogweed, henlock, false oat grass

Trees

Broad leaved woodland
crack willow, goat willow, grey willow, white willow, osiers

Non woodland
balsam poplar, hybrid black poplar

Scrub

self-sown / salix dominated

River

Potamogeton pectinatus, yellow water lily, spiked water milfoil, amphibious bistort, emergent branched bur-reed

Flora

Common spotted orchid,
Black Poplar (BP)
(BP is the UK's
most endangered
tree. The banks of the
river are covered in
Himalayan balsam
(but don't celebrate
as this is invasive)

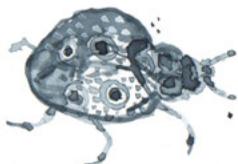
- thoroughfare
for migratory
birds

Birds

shoveler, tufted duck, gadwall,
wigeon, Pochard, Teal, Great white egret,
little egret, Kingfisher, Barn Owl,
Cuckoo, Skylark, Green sandpiper, Grey
partridge, Yellow wagtail, Yellow hammer,
white throat, Swallow, House martin, Swift,
Green woodpecker, Turtle dove, Fieldfare,
starling, Song thrush, Kestrel, Duncock, Greylag
Goose, Lapwing, Meadow pipit,

Mammals

Nathusius' pipistrelle, Soprano
pipistrelle, long-eared bat, Noctule
bat, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's
bat, otter, badger,
harvest mouse



CURRENT

CP Notable Species

(discuss + confirm with WT
for 30yr life of commission)

Insects/Butterflies

Tumbling flower beetle,
Cinabar moth, Ground nesting
Sand wasp, banded tree ant,
cuckoo bee, pyralid moth,
variegated ladybird, Willow
tree tortrix moth, six-belted
clearwing, hairy dragonfly,
Yellow faced bee, solitary bee,
flea beetle, Roesel's bush-
cricket, blue + red leaf beetle

Fish ^{underwater life}
stock - TWO TONE!
(see mid Kent policies)

Amphibians

Great-Crested newt,
Smooth newt, Common
toad, Marsh frog

Reptiles

Common lizard,
Slow worm, Grass
Snake (Contact KRAP)
Kent Reptile
Amphibian Group

SHEEP +
LIVESTOCK
ON SITE



Ideas from Consultation Events

integrated work for the whole site

willow dens / sculpture (woven withies and living willow)

reflect the movement of the landscape, especially the water

lift and look trail

things to play with

tunnels to climb through, organic / natural interventions

tactile

gateway features – highlight all entry points

bridge to Stour Valley Walk

make sense of what you're seeing

artwork to rot away and be replaced (temporary)

