

Artist Brief

Kingshurst Brook/Queen's Garden Sculptural Commission Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Project Summary

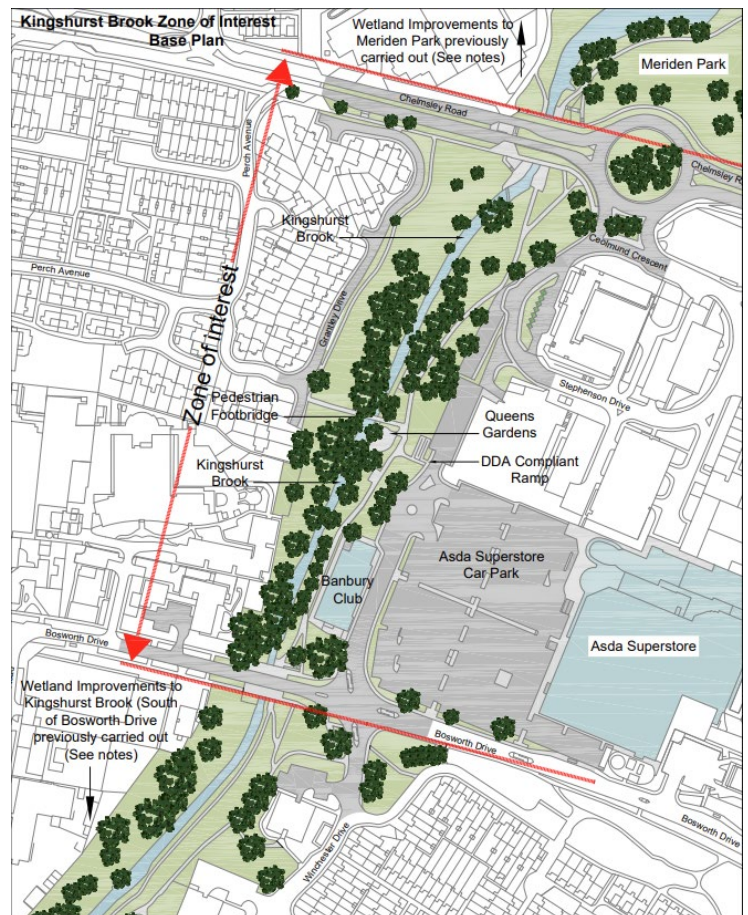
Solihull Council wishes to commission an artist to develop a sculptural piece of public art within the Kingshurst Brook and Queen's Gardens in Chelmsley Wood.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/fNYaytKzH8F9rGop7>

The Zone of interest is where the sculpture or sculpture trail should be installed.

The commissioner seeks for this public artwork to complement public realm and natural environment improvements taking place in the area.

The Kingshurst Brook/Queen's Garden redevelopment project is part of a wider initiative called Your Future Chelmsley Wood, which is designed to enhance residents' health and wellbeing through sustainability and community-driven improvements. The project prioritises access to green spaces, allowing the community to help shape improvements in local open spaces and natural areas.



For more information see: [About Your Future Chelmsley Wood | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Commission Methodology

Solihull Council seeks to commission an artist who can produce a sculpture or sculpture trail along the Kingshurst Brook. The sculptures should address the themes of nature, wildlife, local environment, and should seek to create a sense of place.

The commission offers an opportunity for a professional artist to design, develop and deliver a finished artwork that will form a permanent part of the public realm. The commissioners are looking for an engaging piece of work that will speak to all ages and demographics within Chelmsley Wood and surrounding wards. The artworks should provide focal and discussion points increasing dwell time along the Kingshurst Brook, enhancing the public realm and increasing civic pride.

The commissioners are open to any/all interpretations of the theme and would also encourage linkages to the following:

- The Solihull Green Man Trail [Green Man Map](#)
- The history of Chelmsley Wood
 - [Chelmsley Wood history | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council](#)
 - [Chelmsley Wood - Wikipedia](#)
- Nature and species found in the area including but not limited to: **Hedgehog, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Small Tortoiseshell, Three Spined Stickleback, Bluebell, Little Egret, Buff Tailed Bumblebee, Comfrey.**
- Here is a list of recorded species in the Kingshurst brook area from both NBN and iNaturalist, not exhaustive but gives an idea of what has been found there:
- https://records.nbnatlas.org/explore/your-area#52.4801|-1.7434|14|ALL_SPECIES
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?nelat=52.48313107672404&nelng=-1.7410002636416033&subview=map&swlat=52.473480371857235&swlng=-1.747388943829118>

The commissioners are open to creative solutions that prompt community engagement with culture and positive interaction with spaces, whilst discouraging graffiti and anti-social behaviour.

Project Specifics

The project seeks to utilise metal for the sculptures and could seek to reuse/recycle the metal shopping trollies that are often found discarded in the Kingshurst Brook.

The commissioners would like the artist to engage with local groups in co-designing the final sculptures. The Council are engaged with WMG Academy for Young Engineers which is located close to the project area: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/mJrrXdMgKtFkB25LA>

Students from WMG Academy would be keen to help with clearing works of the river and to feed into the artistic process. Students have facilities on site to even help in some way with delivery of a small element of the project.

Artists should also produce an information sheet about themselves and the project to be presented on the community notice board in the area.

Application Process

To be considered for the commission, artists must provide a proposal (expression of interest) in response to this Artist Brief, to be submitted by email to lisa.cleaver@solihull.gov.uk

Outline proposals must include a CV, examples of past work and a short statement of interest in response to the brief. Artists should specify the amount of wall space they propose to work on, the theme and style the work will take and general concept, alongside the materials they would use to realise the work. The expression of interest should be no more than 800 words.



Deadline for submission: 5th April 2026

Commissioning Process

Stage 1 – Proposals submitted

Stage 2 – Proposals shortlisted

Stage 4 – Shortlisted artists invited to present their ideas to a selection panel which will award the final commission to the successful artist/s.

Stage 5 – The successful artist/s will be contracted to realise the artwork in further consultation with the commissioners to deliver the finished piece.

The fee for the full commission is £25,000

All costs for realising the work (including materials and any associated realisation costs) must be budgeted for within the £25,000.

(Installation costs for the sculptures can be separated as the Council has contractors on site in the area for the public realm improvements and could schedule the installation of the sculptures as part of the wider work.)

Artist Selection Panel:

The artist selection panel will include:

- Solihull Council staff including staff from Your Future Chelmsley Wood Project Team and Culture.

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected on the basis of their past work and on the response to the brief.

We will also consider the following:

- Ability to generate creative art works of uncompromising quality
- Ability to work collaboratively with the project team and commissioners
- Ability to understand and work with a diverse range of stakeholders
- Proven ability to meet established budgets and work to a schedule

This opportunity is open to all visual artists, although links to Chelmsley Wood or the Solihull borough would be preferable.

Artist's Role

The artist will seek to understand the context of the commission and generate a piece of exceptional artistic quality

- To work with the commissioners and other stakeholders (including WMG Academy) to familiarise themselves with the overall project objectives to inform the artwork
- To develop concepts, ideas and proposals for the artwork
- To ensure the work can be realised within budget and timescale
- On completion, agree to input into a short evaluation report
- Attend meetings with the commissioners, and make presentations in relation to the project as appropriate

Timeline and Schedule

Stage 1 – Proposals submitted

5th April 2026

Stage 2 – Selection Panel which will award the final commission to the successful artist/s.

w/c 13th April 2026

Stage 3 – The successful artist/s will be contracted to realise the artwork in further consultation with the Commissioners to deliver the finished piece.

Stage 4 - Work realised by

End of July 2026

Stage 7 – Evaluation

August 2026

Budget

1 x Commission Fee of £25,000 for the successful artist to design and deliver the final artwork.

The above fee is exclusive of any VAT, and this should be added if applicable.

Intellectual Property and Copyright

The artist shall retain copyright of the artwork, however the copyright and any other intellectual property right in any materials produced during this commission shall belong to commissioner including reproduction rights.

Ownership

The commissioned artwork shall on completion, become the property of the commissioners, and maintained by the commissioners.

Further copies of the work may not be made by the artist for sale or via commission without the permission in writing of the commissioner (permission not to be unreasonably withheld).

Practicalities

Permissions - all work will be subject to relevant permissions prior to implementation.

Equal opportunities – Solihull Borough Council's Equal Opportunities Policy will be applied to this Commission.

Maintenance

The maintenance of artwork and removal of any graffiti will be the responsibility of the commissioner.

Decommissioning

The art works will be reviewed on a yearly basis and decommissioned when upkeep is no longer feasible. Although this decision will lie with the commissioners the artist will be consulted and kept abreast of all decisions around decommissioning.

Evaluation

Solihull Council and will support the artist in producing an evaluation, including gathering feedback from the selection panel and community. A detailed record of the project will be produced for future reference to include a project overview, successes, challenges/lessons learned and a photographic record of the project process and completion. This information will be made available on request to help promote the successes of the project and share learning from the process.

Contracts

Artist contracts will set out:

- definition of involved parties, names and addresses
- details of the commission, the design stages and the artist's brief
- confirmation of budget, fees and methods of payment
- overall timetable stages and schedule of work
- agreement of roles and responsibilities of both parties
- delivery of work and insurance requirements
- ownership
- risk of loss or damage and maintenance of work
- decommissioning policy
- copyright, reproduction rights, credits and moral rights
- termination of agreement
- disputes procedure

Contact

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