



**Forest of Dean District Council**

High Street  
Coleford  
Gloucestershire  
GL16 8HG

27 March 2021

**Our Ref: D-FDST-ST-21-002**

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail - Temporary Sculpture Installation**

Further to our earlier conversations, I am pleased to submit information about our planning application for a time limited, temporary sculpture installation to be located on land at the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail, Speech House Road, Coleford, Gloucestershire between July 2021 and October 2021.

**Background Information**

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust and Forestry England have worked in partnership for the last 30 years to create this vital 4.5 mile long Sculpture Trail that enjoys visitors of over 300,000 people per year. The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail was established in 1986, and was one of the first to open in the UK.

The original commissions, collectively titled Stand and Stare, came out of the land art movement, in which landscape and the works of art were seen as inextricably connected. Following that first wave of commissions the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust was set up to oversee the maintenance of the trail and to commission new works – both permanent and temporary.

The Trust has sought to stay true to the vision of our founders, whilst reflecting current movements in sculpture.

**The project**

Forest to Forest is a new temporary sculpture trail running alongside the existing trail on the Beechenhurst site. It has been conceived to create a shorter, more accessible, fun and family orientated trail. As a post-lockdown offering it complements the wider trail it is intended to allow for a one way route to be formed and for shorter audience visits than the 4.5mile route currently allows for and adds an alternative offer to the huge number of visitors that will be coming back to the site through the summer months.

**Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust**

c/o The Forestry Commission, Bank House, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 8BA

Selecting works that reflect and respond to the natural environment of the site but utilising a light touch approach that has low impact on the site and brings colour and family friendly works to the site.

Creation of a trail of temporary works for a period of up to 6 months also reinvigorates the site / trail for our regular local audiences that are keen to see new works on the site as plans for new longer term / permanent commissions have been delayed due to covid lockdown.



One of the proposed installations - Shovel Bugs - Atelier LandArt

### **The Site**

The Beechenhurst site managed by Forestry England lies at the heart of the Forest Of Dean, one of Britain's oldest and largest woodlands and is a focal point for family activities. As well as the world renowned Sculpture trail, the site also hosts a cycle trail, Go Ape centre among other activities. The existing sculpture trail is a 4.5 mile route encouraging visitors to explore the woodland and discover works along the way. With no explanatory text the works are there to be discovered and for the viewer to draw their own conclusions about. The sculptures on this trail are inspired by the forest - its trees, wildlife and industrial past. It features pieces by famous artists set in the beautiful surroundings .

**Covid-19**

The team at the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail understand the changes to the current Covid-19 Roadmap restrictions mean that the planned programme may be curtailed or cancelled altogether – however this application is made in the hope that the installations can take place and that the site will remain open to the public this summer. The operations will run within the Covid-Secure guidelines and in line with extensive risk assessment and planning, to keep our staff and visitors safe.

**Further Information**

Further information is included in the documents and drawings attached to this application. We have attached an index to these for ease of use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any further information you might need.

Yours,



pp. Cathy Mager

**Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust**