



IMAGE: X

Light Commission for Berwick-upon-Tweed

Open Call for Expressions of Interest



**Create
Berwick**

NE North East
Combined
Authority

 Northumberland
County Council

 Funded by
UK Government

 Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

1. Introduction

The Maltings (Berwick) Trust in partnership with Create Berwick and the Living Barracks Project wishes to appoint an artist or arts organisation to develop an ambitious new light commission for Berwick Barracks in early 2025.

Berwick Barracks was built in the 18th century to the design of the distinguished architect Nicholas Hawksmoor and the Barracks was among the first in England to be purpose built. This imposing, grade 1 listed structure has acted as a significant landmark on the border of England and Scotland for centuries, fulfilling a military role for some 250 years until its closure in the 1960s.

Today the Barracks is home to the Kings Own Scottish Borderer's (KOSB) Museum, Berwick's Town Collection, alongside English Heritage displays about the history of the Barracks all of which provide a rich context and can be drawn upon to inspire this commission.

We are now looking for innovative and imaginative proposals from artists based across the UK that will respond to the heritage of the site and engage with local communities by being resident in the town to develop a light-based commission that will be presented at the Barracks.

The commission signals a new era for the Barracks via the Living Barrack's project, which aims to develop the Barracks into a thriving cultural hub for the town, bringing its buildings and spaces back into use to support tourism in the town and our local economy.

This exciting commission is the first in a programme of cross art form contemporary commissions and residences for the site over the next 2 years funded by the Cultural Development Fund which supports the development of this ambitious multi-partner project for Berwick.

For more information about the history of Berwick Barracks please visit – <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/berwick-upon-tweed-barracks-and-main-guard/history/>

2. The Commission

We are looking for creative and imaginative proposals that interpret the history of Berwick Barracks and Berwick through the use of light, which will engage with local communities and result in a light-based creative outcome at the Barracks in February 2025.

The creative outcome could include digital mapping, community performances, sculpture and installation and could be a one-off event or a work that is in-situ for a specific period of time but must incorporate some element of light.

This list is not exhaustive and at this stage we are looking for creative imaginative proposals that will spark the interest of the selection panel.

3. Key Requirements of the Commission:

The commission must:

- Reference or be informed by the rich history and heritage of Berwick Barracks and / or Berwick itself.
- Be contemporary and outward looking, but also accessible to a broad public without compromising on quality of concept, production and presentation.
- Engage with identified schools and community groups to inform the development, co-creation or active participation in the making and / or final public presentation of the commission.
- Encourage more people to visit Berwick during the winter months to support the town's local economy.
- Be appropriate for outdoor display and resilient enough to withstand winter weather in a coastal location.
- Consider environmental sustainability and physical accessibility throughout the project.

4. Artist Requirements

Applicants should have:

- An established art practice and experience of developing and producing work within the public realm and / or non- gallery settings with a similar scale budget.
- Have a practice that responds and / or is informed by the social and heritage history of historical sites and can reinterpret these in engaging and contemporary ways to engage with new audiences.
- Experience of working with community members and groups in the development, co-creation or in active participation of artworks.
- An understanding of working in heritage contexts and are sensitive to conservation issues and working with significant listed buildings.
- Can work with and effectively communicate to a wide range of stakeholders to develop and deliver the project including the Living Barracks partners and local community groups.



5. Artist Engagement

The appointed artist will be managed and supported by The Maltings Head of Visual Art and Living Barracks Creative Producer to develop the commission. Support will be offered to access information, archives and resources within English Heritage, Kings Own Scottish Borders and additionally Berwick Record Office to help inform the commission.

The Living Barracks Engagement Producer will support the appointed artist with any required community or schools' engagement to inform the commission and will develop community engagement programmes to complement the commission.

It is envisaged that the appointed artist will spend time in town during the development of the commission to foster relationships with project partners, community members and the town as a whole.

We recognise that the timescales to engage with local communities and deliver a commission are short and therefore expect the appointed artists to have an idea of what the final outcome will be and how local communities will engage with this at an early stage, rather than the engagement activity being primarily used to inform the final outcome.

6. Commission Budget

A budget of £50,000 (inc. VAT) is available for artist fees, travel and accommodation, production and presentation of the final outcome, including install and de-install costs and site permissions.

7. Timetable

An indicative timeline for the artist recruitment and commissioning process is as follows:

9am Monday 5 August	Deadline for expressions of interest
5 - 9 August	Expressions of interest assessed and up to 3 artists shortlisted to develop detailed proposals
Wk. 12 August	Shortlisted applicants notified and invited for site visits
Wk. 19 August	Site visits take place and applicants develop proposals.
Friday 13 September	Deadline for submission of detailed proposals
Wk. 23 September	Artists interviews take place, artist appointed, project timelines agreed and artist contracted.
Oct 24 - Feb 25	Engagement activity and development of the commission takes place, with the artist expected to spend time in Berwick to do this.
February 2025	Commission takes place at Berwick Barracks



8. How to Apply

Stage 1

We are inviting initial expressions of interest from artists and art organisations for the commission.

This expression of interest should outline in no more than 1 side of A4 or a 3-minute video/ audio clip the following:

- A short overview of your current artistic practice
- Details of your proposal and how it responds to the aims and themes of the commission including the history and heritage of Berwick and the Barracks.
- Any community engagement activities related to the commission and how this will inform or contribute to the final outcome.

Please also send:

- A current CV (no more than 2 sides of A4)
- Examples of previous work (max. of 6 jpeg images no larger than 1MB, 1 PDF if writing based, MP4 film if performance/dance based).

Deadline for applications is Monday 5 August at 9am and should be sent to galleries@maltingsberwick.co.uk with 'Light Commission' in the email header.

Any queries regarding the commission opportunity in advance of submitting an expression of interest can be emailed to galleries@maltingsberwick.co.uk in the first instance.

Stage 2

Expressions of interest will be shortlisted by representatives from The Maltings (Berwick) Trust, Create Berwick and The Living Barracks project.

Up to three applicants will be shortlisted and invited to undertake a site visit to Berwick Barracks and develop a full proposal including a budget to be presented to the project partners at an interview.

The detailed proposal should include –

- A detailed description of the work you plan to develop including how it responds to the history and heritage of Berwick Barracks and Berwick itself and how you will engage with commission and community partners as part of the commission. (2 sides A4 max or a 5-minute audio / video clip)
- Up to 4 images / sketches or mock-ups of the final outcome.
- A timetable for delivery of the commission including where appropriate planning and development of the work, fabrication, community engagement, permissions and RAMS sign off, install and details of the periods you plan to be in Berwick-upon-Tweed.
- A budget which details, where appropriate: Artist fees (For rates of pay we recommend using Artist Union England rates of pay or similar guidance), Materials, Fabrication, AV Equipment Hire, Technical Support, Site Permissions, Install / De-install costs, Travel and accommodation, VAT, Contingency

Additional funds are available for access costs to support the development of the work if required by the artist.

Shortlisted applicants will be paid a fee of £500 to attend the site visit, develop a detailed proposal and attend an interview in Berwick-upon-Tweed during the week of the 23rd September.

9. Further Information

The Maltings

The Maltings (Berwick) Trust is the key professional hub for culture and creativity across North Northumberland and the eastern Scottish Borders.

Working across three venues - The Maltings, The Granary Gallery and The Gymnasium Gallery - we curate and present a wide-ranging programme for everyone to enjoy. We deliver over 600 events each year including live performances (theatre, opera, music, dance, comedy), workshops and classes, visual art exhibitions, community productions and digital cinema screenings.

The Maltings (Berwick) Trust is a registered charity (No: 701194) and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). We receive investment to support our work from a range of sources including Arts Council England and Northumberland County Council, our Friends, and supporters.

More information at www.maltingsberwick.co.uk

Create Berwick

Create Berwick is a project funded by the North East Combined Authority and Northumberland County Council. It is one of three Cultural and Creative Zones in the region funded by North East Combined Authority.

With £1.5m of funding from 2022 – 2027 the project will work in partnership with organisations in Berwick to:

- Attract more visitors.
- Increase visitor spending.
- Support local creative businesses.
- Create jobs in creative and cultural fields.
- Provide new opportunities for everyone to take part in creative activities.
- Offer more opportunities for artists.

For more information, please visit www.createberwick.co.uk

The Living Barracks Project

The Living Barracks is an ambitious multi-partner project, using the heritage asset of Berwick Barracks, designed by the renowned architect Nicholas Hawksmoor, and the home of the King's Own Scottish Borderers since 1881. Standing as part of the immense fortified walls, the Ramparts, surrounding the town of Berwick, the Barracks serves as a powerful reminder of the turbulent history of the Anglo-Scottish Borders.

Currently managed by English Heritage, the Living Barracks partners also include the King's Own Scottish Borders, Northumberland County Council and the Maltings (Berwick) Trust.

Since the Spring of 2023 a significant amount of work has taken place supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund to consult with local people and to plan for the new museum collections, the relocation of the archive and the restoration of the site. A pilot Community Engagement programme has also taken place to trial a range of activities, inspired by the heritage site and the museum and archive collections, with local people of all ages.

The Living Barracks project will deliver a thriving cultural hub and visitor destination as a focal point for public life in Berwick-upon-Tweed. The historic Parade Ground and wider site will continue to play an important part in the life of the town as the striking new home for the town's archives and collections, and as a venue for contemporary visual art and public events. Alongside the cultural offer the Barracks will be made vibrant through a mixed use as residential and as a base for local artists and makers, and the wider creative industries. Integral to the project is a commitment to engaging the local community, enabling greater participation with a particular focus on education and volunteering.

Through the Living Barracks Cultural Development Programme, artists and professional arts partners will be invited to take up residencies of differing durations to explore an open interpretation of the Barracks environment, physical spaces and heritage resources. These include the specific resources of the Berwick Archive, The King's Own Scottish Borderers archive and the museum, all of which will provide a stimulus for artistic interpretation and storytelling, to embrace and include the town, its communities, and the wider region beyond.

