



**OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS WORKING IN ANY MEDIUM
BASED IN THE NORTH EAST, NORTH WEST,
YORKSHIRE, AND HUMBER**

THE LAND WE WALK ON: art, archaeology and climate change

**Artist residency at Roman Vindolanda Fort and Museum
with additional opportunity to make a new work
for October 2025**

**Please find attached artist brief with details of this exciting opportunity
DEADLINE OCTOBER 18TH 5PM**

The Land We Walk On: art, archaeology, and climate change

Artist residency at Roman Vindolanda Fort and Museum with additional opportunity to make a new work for October 2025

Open call for artists working in any medium who are based in North East, the North West, Yorkshire and Humber

EARTH



The Vindolanda Charitable Trust is inviting artists who live and work in North East, the North West and Yorkshire and Humber to apply for a 20 day on- site research residency in February and March 2025 at its internationally acclaimed Vindolanda Roman Fort and Museum in rural Northumberland.

The total residency budget also includes 10 days of off-site studio proposal development time and a separate budget has been set aside to realise a new work that we intend to present at Vindolanda during October and November 2025. Vindolanda is one of Europe's most important Roman archaeological sites and is situated on the Stanegate Road, one mile south of Hadrian's Wall. It is managed and owned by The Vindolanda Trust.

Accommodation at Vindolanda will be provided during the 20 day on -site period of the residency along with access to curators, historical/archaeological researchers and the events and marketing teams along with support from a dedicated member of staff.

The selected artist will be expected to be on site for a period of 20 days and to commit to a further 10 days for off-site proposal development. A separate budget for the production of a new work has been set aside and will be available once the artist's proposal has been agreed.

Background to the Residency

This artist residency has grown from a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project, funded by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Newcastle University and Northumberland County Council between Newcastle University and the Vindolanda Charitable Trust that was completed in May 2024. University researchers, Vindolanda curators and operational site staff embarked on a two year learning exchange programme, resulting in the development of a cultural strategy for 2024-2027 written by the KTP Associate for Vindolanda. The strategy also referenced strategic sites along The World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall and indicated the potential for collaborative working in the future.

A successful funding application to the John Ellerman Foundation has enabled the strategy to be implemented and together, with Arts Council England funding and additional financial support from Newcastle University, we are able to offer this artist residency and the opportunity to make a new work for the site that we intend to install in the autumn months of 2025.

About Roman Vindolanda

[Vindolanda](#) is a Roman frontier fort and settlement that has been the scene of exciting excavations for over 50 years. During this time some truly remarkable things have been found, including the [personal and military documents](#) of the people who lived on the site nearly 2000 years ago. Other notable finds include objects such as leather [boots and shoes](#), textiles and [everyday wooden objects](#). These discoveries have advanced our understanding of the history of Roman Britain and provided an intimate and personal window into the lives of the people who once lived on the site.

Situated one mile south of Hadrian's Wall, Vindolanda (meaning 'white' or 'shining lawn' or 'enclosure' in the ancient Celtic language) had its first Roman settlement c. AD 85. By the time the Roman army had withdrawn in the early fifth century, no fewer than nine successive Roman forts and towns had been built at the site. It continued to be inhabited long past Roman rule in Britain and surviving objects and buildings show a thriving post Roman Christian community dating up to AD800+.

During its Roman occupation, the townspeople of Vindolanda would have been made up of soldiers, veterans, soldiers' families and merchants, freedman and slaves as well as local Britons. It is likely that people from all parts of the Roman Empire, from regions as far away as North Africa and Syria to France and Germany would have lived at the town. Fashions, diet, smells, religions and dialects would have been varied and objects found at Vindolanda reveal an amazing diversity of gender, ages and ethnicities living at the site across its years of habitation.

Today's visitors to Vindolanda are encouraged to explore the archaeological site, as well as visit the award-winning museum. Nestled within a secluded valley, with picturesque gardens, the museum holds unique collections of personal items including clothing, jewellery and household domestic items, as well as military equipment. Each artefact on display has been excavated, conserved and researched on site, offering every visitor a unique perspective on the ancient people of Vindolanda.

The archaeological site of Roman Vindolanda is owned and administered by the [Vindolanda Trust](#), an independent registered charity. It was founded in 1970, with the purpose of preserving and exploring the ancient monument and sharing the incredible stories and discoveries from the site. The Trust is committed to the sustainable future of not only the charity but also the archaeological land and collections which it holds in its care and all future projects must endeavour to meet the organisations [green policy](#). The Trust's collection of artefacts is a [Designated collection](#) of national importance with thousands of unique finds. Each year more discoveries are made, and the Trust's collection grows. The excavation of the site is done by the Trust's on-site archaeologists who are supported year on year by hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Visitors can watch as excavators discover finds and many have found this a moving and memorable experience. The Vindolanda Trust estimates that it will take another century before the site and its buried secrets are completely revealed.

In addition to Roman Vindolanda, the Trust also manages the [Roman Army Museum](#), located next to the [fort of Magna](#). With support from a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, ground-breaking excavations commenced at Magna in 2023 and is ongoing.

The Vindolanda Trust is a key partner in the [Hadrian's Wall](#) community and an important collaborator in the wider transnational [Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site](#).

Please check hyperlinks for more information as this will give you a more detailed description of Roman life in this part of Britain.

Details about the Vindolanda artist residency, including proposal development for a new work

The Vindolanda Trust is inviting artists who live and work in the northern region to stay at this exceptional Roman site during the months of February/March 2025 and engage in research and development for a new work that we intend to show on site during October and November 2025. The residency funding is offered to an artist who will actively engage with the Vindolanda organisation, talking to archaeologists, curators, the marketing and events team as well as front of house staff and volunteers, hearing about the work they do, spending time with the collections /finds that are held in the museum, as well as exploring the archaeological site, collections and surrounding landscape. As the Vindolanda theme for 2025 is to reflect upon EARTH we are interested in artists who can relate their practice to this theme in some way, taking

inspiration for the extensive and internationally important collection that has resulted from decades of excavation and research.

The Vindolanda team is keen to not restrict their definition of artist to mean just visual artists and is keen to encourage sound artists, craftmakers, architects, filmmakers, socially engaged artists or those who work with text to apply. We are interested in all artistic disciplines.

The time spent at Vindolanda can be taken as a block of time or spread over February and March as we recognise family and work relationships are important. However it is also important to us that a commitment is made to the site and that the artist is visible and engaged with its daily activity at some level. Vindolanda staff are passionate about the work they do and eager to meet with the artist which is why we do want the artist to use the 20 days available to fully engage with the Northumberland site. We are open to discussion about how the 20 days may be spread over the February and March months and this can be discussed at interview. Ten days of proposal development time is included in the £7500.00 residency budget.

After the on site residency period, the artist will be required to present ideas for a new work to the Vindolanda team and following discussion and agreement, invited to work up one idea to full proposal during the months April/May 2025. Should the proposal be agreed by the Vindolanda team, a separate commissioning budget has been set aside for the production and installation of the work that will be shown on site during the months October and November 2025.

We are a friendly, supportive organisation that respects each other's professionalism and we strive to create a rich, creative environment where we learn from each other. We hold regular social gatherings, often have lunch together and enjoy each other's company.

We want the Vindolanda staff and volunteers to become aware and engaged with the artist whilst they are here and we have learnt through the KTP that a presentation, by the artist, about their practice at the beginning of the residency is beneficial for all.

We also want to meet with the artist on a regular basis, so that we can understand how we might help with providing relevant information to support their research and give guidance regarding how visitors interact with this important heritage site.

Budget, travel, accommodation and facilities

The residency budget of £7500.00 includes the artist fee for the 20 day residency and 10 day proposal development time, making a total of 30 days. The fee is inclusive of VAT and includes all travel and food costs whilst at Vindolanda.

The development of the ideas and proposal can be put together after the on site residency period and the team is entirely open to ideas for work that respond to the EARTH theme. The proposal could be for work/s that could be physical/sculptural, digital/audio, writing, community co-produced works, film or architecture. All artistic disciplines will be considered and at this stage, we urge artists to think creatively and ambitiously, informed by their residency stay and the knowledge gleaned from their research and from access to the Vindolanda collections.

Artists will then be expected to present a proposal for a new work for Vindolanda that has been scheduled for presentation on site during October/November 2025. Following the acceptance of a proposal in April/May by the Vindolanda team, we will discuss the budget that has been identified for the new work.

Accommodation whilst the artist is in residence is covered by the Trust and the artist will be provided an en –suite room in Vindolanda’s self-catered [Hedley Centre](#). The Hedley Centre is used by volunteer excavators each year and is a fully accessible space, equipped with towels, bedding, access to kitchen facilities and open plan dining and living spaces, the latter of which could also be used as a working space during the day. It is very important to note that Vindolanda is located in rural Northumberland and although it can be accessed partly by public transport (train/taxi), if the artist wishes to explore Hadrian’s Wall and the surrounding area, use of a car is advised. Vindolanda is located five miles from Haltwhistle and 12 miles from the historic market town of Hexham, which includes an impressive Abbey, park, hospital and independent shops as well as large supermarkets. Deliveries from Tesco and Waitrose in Hexham cover Vindolanda. For more information on location and transport links please visit the Vindolanda website: [Getting here | The Vindolanda Trust](#)

We want artists to be very aware that the location is rural, with impressive dark nights and the vibrant sounds of wildlife. Due to its unique geographical position, the weather at Vindolanda can be quite challenging during the early spring months but there are often staff members on site/ on call should there be an issue.

Please note: The Hedley Centre has one wheelchair accessible bedroom. However, there are varying levels of accessibility across the archaeological site, with uneven and steep footpaths in places. Vindolanda has worked hard to provide alternative routes and access points where possible. [Accessibility Information | Roman Vindolanda](#)

The support offered during the residency period

A dedicated staff member will be the main point of contact during the residency period and the site is occupied during the working day by operational, curatorial and front of house staff. The museum and site is open daily from 9.30am until 4pm.

The Vindolanda staff are very supportive of this developing cultural programme and will support the artist as best they can during the residency period. The artist will have access to the museum, archaeological site and ‘behind the scenes’ conservation as well as current research activities. The nearby Roman Army Museum (Vindolanda’s sister site) also provides a rich resource of information.

What is expected from you (the artist)

- A curiosity and enthusiasm for the Vindolanda site, collections and ethos of the organisation

- A commitment to spending 20 days at this spectacular Roman Fort and to engage with curators, operational and front of house staff, volunteers and archeologists
- A commitment to developing one idea to full proposal stage during a subsequent 10 day period, proposal details will include visual presentation, production, installation, budget and de installation.
- To give a presentation about your practice to staff and volunteers (social event) at the beginning of the residency period
- Regular meetings with the Vindolanda team to identify how we might support your research
- An understanding that Vindolanda is a heritage site and to respect all restrictions regarding the preservation/presentation of a heritage landscape and collections
- An understanding that this is a rural location that provides a quiet and solitary experience

What to do next

If you are interested in this residency opportunity, please send an Expression of Interest (Eoi) that should include:

- A short description of your artistic practice (this will be read by the Vindolanda team and accessible language would be appreciated. *(Please limit to 500 words, you do not have to use the maximum)*).
- Your cv. If this is very long, please edit down to maximum of 4 sides of A4
- Why you find Vindolanda interesting and how this relates to your practice/research and the theme of EARTH *(up to 500 words, you do not have to use the maximum)*
- Up to 10 images of your previous work and/ or film/ audio clips etc *(please edit film and / or audio to maximum three minutes)*.
- Any links to works online
- An indication of how you might use the residency time (ie as a block of time/split over a period etc)
- Any specific needs/requirements that you might have over the residency period

Format: Please send your Eol as a single PDF file. If you are including images, please include these within the PDF. If you are including film and/ or audio please embed a link via Vimeo, YouTube or Sound Cloud in the PDF also.

The deadline for responding to this brief is October 18th at 5pm. Please email all applications to Barbara Birley, barbarabirley@vindolanda.com

What happens next

If you would like to visit Vindolanda prior to the deadline, please email Barbara (barbarabirley@vindolanda.com) who can arrange your free entry. Following the deadline for Expressions of Interest, up to 5 artists will be invited for an interview at Vindolanda on November 14th 2024. Travel to interview will be reimbursed.

The residency period will begin from February 2025 details of the structure of stay at the site can be discussed at interview.

If you have any questions about the residency, please contact Judith King on Judith.King@newcastle.ac.uk.

To access Vindolanda's social media accounts please scan the QR code below:



ENDS



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**