



## **Nature Calling – Artist Brief for Tamar Valley National Landscape commission**

If you would like this artist brief in an alternative format, please get in touch.



*Wonderfolk, by Becca Gill, Dorset*

Tamar Valley National Landscape is seeking to work with an artist in 2025 as part of the national **Nature Calling** project, aimed at connecting people with nature through art in its widest sense.

£4,000 is available to commission an artist and fund works involved to help new audiences to feel welcome and start their own story in this protected landscape. This will cover your artist fee, equipment, materials and evaluation. As we are funded for this project, you will need to evidence purchases.

### **Timeline**

Deadline to apply: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, midnight

Interviews: week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Appointment: week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Project start: You could propose to work with community groups to create the artwork before May 2025 and then exhibit the work at any time between May and October, or alternatively, start working with the community groups during the period of May – October with the exhibition period before the end of October.

### **Community Group(s) involved**

We recognise that Tamar Valley National Landscape may not be accessible to all due to barriers of proximity, perceived barriers and potential organisational barriers. We hope that through the **Nature Calling** programme, more communities and groups of people who haven't previously felt comfortable to visit us, will do so in the future.

We're asking the artist to work with refugees and asylum seekers from within and around Tamar Valley National Landscape's border.

### **Support available**

We understand the importance of creativity among artist's work and don't want to hamper that creativity in any way. If you felt, however, that you may benefit from any information or advice regarding [Tamar Valley National Landscape](#), we are here to help.

Whilst the majority of this project will be independently led by yourself, the Information & Communications Officer and the Community & Volunteer Officer from the Tamar Valley National Landscape team will be on hand to provide support. The Community & Volunteer Officer can be present to assist during interactive sessions with community groups and members of the public, in addition to providing funding towards transport, refreshments, and venue hire costs (if required) for these group sessions.

You will also have support from community group leaders when working with the community group(s).



### **Audience**

We would like the outputs from Nature Calling to be experienced, exhibited, or performed to a wide range of audiences both within Tamar Valley National Landscape, and also those on its borders.

### **Food and Nature**

We've found that food is a universal language and acts as a powerful medium to cross barriers, borders and helps to connect communities. We would like food to be present in the sessions with the community groups, so please do factor in.

*Dreaming Places, Becca Gill, Dorset*

### **Collaboration with another artist on the project possible**

We anticipate that we will receive plenty of wonderful project proposals and some proposals may work harmoniously with others. Please let us know whether you are open to collaborating with another creative practitioner to share this project. If you would prefer to operate solo, please indicate so – please note, this will *not* be detrimental to your application.

### **Evaluation**

We require an evaluation and monitoring process as part of this project. The impact that this project has on the community group will need to be evaluated as well as those who experience the artwork outputs.

We are particularly interested in measuring impact through before and after measurements as well as utilising different methods of evaluation such as drawing pictures, noting emotions, and assessing confidence in natural spaces.

### **Payment**

Three equal instalments will be made throughout the programme. One payment at the beginning of the project, the second in the middle and the final payment will be made after the evaluation has been conducted and completed.



*Heartfelt, Becca Gill, Dorset*

### **How to apply**

Please apply to the **Nature Calling** project in Tamar Valley National Landscape by completing an application form. We're keen to hear your ideas, how you envisage this project, and more about you. If you would like this application form in another format, please do get in touch.

### **Interview process**

We will be shortlisting during the week commencing the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2025. We will invite successful applicants to interview during the week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. Depending upon your location and access needs, this can be done in person or online. During the interview, we will ask you more in-depth questions relating to your application and proposal. We're a friendly team and excited to meet you!

## Funding

The **Nature Calling** project is funded by Arts Council England, Department for Environment Food Rural Affairs (Defra) and National Landscapes in England. The National Landscapes have been working with Activate Performing Arts to roll out the **Nature Calling** programme.

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## A little background information...

Through **Nature Calling**, it is our hope that new audiences will feel welcome in National Landscapes and free to explore and fall in love with them on their own terms.



Be a part of our journey...

### What is Nature Calling?

**Nature Calling** is an innovative new art programme being held nationally by National Landscape Associations. We're inviting all artists of all disciplines and spoken and written word writers to have contemporary conversations about our landscape.

This programme will provide creative ways for people to engage with the countryside on their doorstep. Importantly, this is a project which invites people who haven't previously felt comfortable visiting National Landscapes.

Together, we will create incredible new ways for us all to experience and understand the Nation's most iconic places. It is hoped that a new relationship will be formed with the landscape because of this programme.

**Nature Calling** is designed to amplify new voices and creative innovative artwork in collaboration with communities close to National Landscapes and building a national 'season' sharing the work between May and October 2025.

We are looking at art in its widest sense and the work will be exhibited, performed, or experienced anytime between May and October 2025.

### Importance

Connecting with Nature is a tool for improved and sustained wellbeing. People with high levels of Nature connectedness have better overall wellbeing, are happier and more satisfied

with life. We hope to inspire a legacy of connectedness with Nature through this project so that participants feel the benefits of engaging with Nature and feel empowered to protect and conserve Nature into the future.

### What is a National Landscape?

A National Landscape is an iconic area of the UK which used to be called an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are 46 all over the UK and the Tamar Valley is one of these special places. The Tamar Valley National Landscape lies at the heart of Devon and Cornwall with the River Tamar at its centre. The Tamar Valley covers 195 square km (75 square miles) and was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1995.

The Tamar Valley National Landscape is one of three national landscapes based on river valley systems in England and Wales. The landscape within the national landscape was heavily shaped by the last ice age which has created a diverse set of landscapes all within the space of a few miles. The River Tamar and its tributaries are of national, even international importance for their wildlife.

### Hub and Spoke model

Every National Landscape in England is partaking in the Nature Calling programme. There are six selected 'hubs' which will deliver larger scale art projects inspired by new writing commissions. The remaining National Landscapes act as 'spokes' producing smaller scale art projects delivered by creative practitioners with nearby communities.

We are a 'spoke' linking with Dorset National Landscape, who will be our local 'hub'. There will also be some other local National Landscapes acting as 'spokes' to Dorset as a 'hub'. Dorset National Landscape are exploring the theme of mythology by creating a 55m 'consequences' style fabric artwork that will feature next to the chalk Cerne Giant. This artwork will be produced by different underserved members of their community and will be exhibited in September. Their aim is to foster a new sense of belonging in the landscape which we will be mirroring through our project.

### Good to know

Need a minimum of £5 million public liability insurance.

### Resources, Inspiration and Additional Information:

Nature Calling website: <https://www.naturecalling.org.uk/>

National Landscapes Association: <https://www.national-landscapes.org.uk/>

Tamar Valley National Landscape website: <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/>

Becca Gill, artist involved in Dorset National Landscapes project: <https://www.naturecalling.org.uk/comissions/becca-gill>

Louisa Adoja Parker, artist involved in Dorset National Landscapes project: <https://www.naturecalling.org.uk/comissions/louise-adjoa-parker>

We look forward to receiving your application, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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