



**North
Pennines**
National
Landscape



Arts commission bursary opportunity

North Pennines National Landscape: Adders Up project

November 2024 – May 2025

SUMMARY

The North Pennines National Landscape team is commissioning an arts bursary to work with communities and schools in the North Pennines and respond to the priorities of the Adders Up project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Northumbrian Water Branch Out Fund. The arts commission bursary value is **£7,000**.

BACKGROUND TO THE ADDERS UP PROJECT

Led by the North Pennines National Landscape team, the Adders Up project is working to learn more about adder populations in the North Pennines National Landscape. Through surveying activities, genetic research, conservation and community engagement activities, the project is gathering data and engaging with communities to develop nature recovery goals for this vulnerable species while celebrating its presence in the North Pennines. The Adders Up project is made possible with funding by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Northumbrian Water Branch Out Fund.

Make the Adder Count, a recent study, suggests that all small adder populations in the UK could be extinct by 2032. Despite the evident importance of the North Pennines for adders, little is known about our adder populations in this landscape. This three-year project, beginning in February 2024, has the following principal activities:

- Locate adder 'hotspots' by engaging audiences new to wildlife recording, including the public, farmers and visitors, plus our extensive social media and volunteer networks.
- Counter the adders' 'bad press' by engaging with schools, and using arts activities, press and social media to engage the public.
- Train volunteers to survey for critical hibernacula and feeding habitat for adders, using the information produced to engage with landowners, volunteers, and the scientific community.
- Secure land management for adders and connectivity of adder populations, prioritising the understanding and consent of landowners from the start. We will build and support ongoing, volunteer-led monitoring for adders and encourage the scientific research required to ensure the correct management decisions are made for adders across the North Pennines National Landscape.
- Disseminate our work and good practice development on land management, signage, social media messaging, education and arts engagement with networks such as ARGUK, The Wildlife Trusts, and with neighbouring and other protected landscapes.

THE COMMISSION BURSARY

We will engage artists/artist teams/creative producers to produce arts projects that connect with project priorities. The commissioned project will work with schools and communities across the North Pennines National Landscape. The commission bursary can take a variety of formats, and we welcome your ideas. We are interested in visual and performing arts, and produced work that exists physically or digitally. Final outputs could be installed work, published work, performance or events. The work will be part of an exhibition in spring 2026 celebrating the adder in the North Pennines National Landscape. Please note that the work will need to be stored until the event, so durability and manner of storage (based on medium) will be discussed at the agreements phase.

The commission will artistically respond to one of the following broad themes:

1. 2025: Year of the Snake
2. Exploring the serpentine
3. Vanishing viper

Submissions are welcomed from visual artists, sound artists, photographers, and performing artists to work with schools and community groups within the North Pennines.

THE COMMISSION BURSARY BUDGET

The value of the commission bursary is **£7,000**. The appointed artist(s) will deliver a minimum of 12 days (or equivalent) of engagement with schools and communities. The remainder of the budget will cover all other costs including materials/production, planning/prep/delivery time, expenses, and anything that supports the development of the final output. The budget also includes VAT if applicable.

COMMISSION BURSARY SPECIFICATION

As part of the commission bursary, we intend to:

- Create high quality arts activity/outputs that respond with imagination and ambition to the Adders Up project priorities.
- Meaningfully involve and respond to the participation of schools and/or community groups.
- Increase the likelihood of participants staying creative post-project and engaged with adder conservation in the North Pennines National Landscape.
- It is desirable but not essential that cultural opportunities for children and young people are made available.
- Work with the Adders Up Education and Engagement Officer to publicise and share the activity and work created.

See Applying for a commission bursary below to find out how to apply.

TIMELINE

Application deadline 27 September 2024 at 4pm.

A decision on the commission bursary will take place in the week commencing 30 September 2024 (please note: ahead of a decision, we may ask for follow up information to clarify your application).

The commission bursary applicant will be announced in October 2024.

The commission bursary will run from November 2024 - May 2025.

Please note: milestones for the commission bursary, including completion date, will be agreed with successful artists as part of project initiation and contracting.

APPLYING FOR A COMMISSION BURSARY

Please send a written application or video application (no longer than five minutes) to Sarah Ingwersen SarahI@northpennines.org.uk by the deadline above. In your application please include:

1. One PDF (no more than 1000 words) or video (no longer than five minutes) that sets out:
 - Your core artistic idea and how this meets the specification above. (NB. Please note we understand that the full development of this idea/output is likely to change following community engagement activity).
 - How you plan to involve specific communities and, if applicable, which partners/collaborators you plan to work with.
 - Any perceived challenges and requirements that you feel will be critical to the development of your work.
 - A brief biography of your work and for any other artists/contributors that will be involved with you in this commission.
 - Please confirm that you have Public Liability Insurance cover of up to £5 million. An enhanced DBS clearance will need to be in place and ideally a first aid certificate to cover workshops and field work.
2. One PDF that sets out a proposed timeline and includes contingency should delivery be required to change.
3. One PDF that includes a detailed budget. We encourage applications from artists, producers and arts organisations who live or work in the North Pennines National Landscape area, or close to the area.

SELECTION

Through the application process we will assess the following:

- Quality and ambition of the artistic approach, and relevant track record
- Quality of approach in producing impactful arts activity/outputs with community and school participants, and relevant track record
- Achievability
- Value for money

Thank you for your interest in the Adders Up project artist opportunities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. About The National Lottery Heritage Fund
As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places, and communities. www.heritagefund.org.uk Follow @HeritageFundUK on X, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

2. The North Pennines is one of England's most special places – a peaceful and vibrant landscape with a rich history and abundant natural beauty. It was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1988 with a rebranding as a National Landscape in 2023. The purpose of this nationally recognised designation is the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area.
3. At almost 2,000 sq. kilometres the North Pennines is the second largest of the 46 National Landscapes (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and is one of the most peaceful and natural places in England. Visit www.landscapesforlife.org.uk for information about the National Landscape Family.
4. The North Pennines lies between the National Parks of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and Northumberland with the urban centres of County Durham away to the east. Parts of the National Landscape are within the boundaries of four local authorities: Cumbrian Council, Durham County Council, Northumberland Council, and Westmorland & Furness Council.
5. The North Pennines National Landscape partnership is an alliance of public, statutory and voluntary sector bodies with an interest in the future of the North Pennines. The work of the partnership is carried out by the National Landscape team which takes action to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, to raise awareness of its special qualities and to improve the quality of life for local people.
6. UNESCO Global Geopark - As well as being a designated National Landscape, the North Pennines is a UNESCO Global Geopark. This puts the area's Geopark status in the same UNESCO family as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. UNESCO Global Geoparks are places with outstanding geology where special effort is made to make the most of geological heritage to support community and economy. Locally this includes producing geo-trails, developing projects with school and community groups, producing displays for visitor attractions and holding geology festivals and events.
7. The Adders Up project is led by the North Pennines National Landscape team, for more information please visit: https://northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/citizen-science/adders-up/

