



**North
Pennines**
National
Landscape



Arts micro-bursary opportunities

North Pennines National Landscape: Adders Up project

November 2024 – May 2025

SUMMARY

The North Pennines National Landscape team has created three micro-bursary opportunities through the Adders Up project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Northumbrian Water Branch Out Fund. The micro-bursaries are for artists living or working in the North Pennines National Landscape to develop their practice. Each bursary is £500.

BACKGROUND TO THE ADDERS UP PROJECT

The North Pennines National Landscape team is working to learn more about adder populations in the North Pennines through the Adders Up project. 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 MICRO BURSARIES

In response to insights collected through other North Pennines National Landscape project micro-bursaries, we have created three micro bursaries of up to £500 to provide funding to artists and producers who live or will work in the North Pennines National Landscape area. Artists and producers who do not live or are not prepared to work in the North Pennines National Landscape are not eligible to apply.

Applications for a micro-bursary should identify potential outputs and must be explicit about how the money will be spent to create high quality arts activity/outputs that respond with imagination and ambition to the Adders Up project priorities.

We will engage three separate artists/artist teams/creative producers to produce arts projects that connect with project priorities. Each commissioned micro-bursary project will produce a high-quality creative output. The work 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. These bursaries are intended to support artists/producers to develop work that will appear in an exhibition at the end of the project in spring 2026. 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 three micro-bursary opportunities will artistically respond to one of the following broad themes:

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

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

TIMELINE

Application deadline 27 September 2024 at 4pm for the micro-bursaries.

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

The three successful micro-bursary opportunities will be announced in October 2024.

Milestones for the micro-bursaries, including completion date, will be agreed with successful artists.

APPLYING FOR A MICRO-BURSARY

To apply, please send a PDF (no more than 300 words) to Sarah Ingwersen SarahI@northpennines.org.uk no later than the deadline outlined above. Please include within your application:

- A brief biography and indication of the stage you are at in your arts career
- A description of the creative output this bursary will support
- A brief description of how this bursary will support you in your arts development

We encourage applications from artists or producers at any stage of their career. To apply you must live or be willing to work in the North Pennines National Landscape or in close proximity. We especially welcome applicants from artists/producers who have felt historically marginalised or excluded from arts and cultural professional development opportunities.

SELECTION

Through the application process we will assess the following:

- Quality and ambition of the artistic approach, 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/

