

## **Glebe Farm: Public Art Statement**

*At Trumpington, not far fro Cantebrigge  
Ther goeth a brook and over that a brigge,  
Upon the which brook ther stant a mill  
And this is very soth that I you telle...*

### **New Opportunities**

Glebe Farm and Clay Farm are two new residential developments on Cambridge's Southern Fringe. Both sites will offer new urban extensions to the village of Trumpington and are intrinsically linked to the expansion of a third nearby site, the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, all three sites are being brought forward by Countryside Properties. Bell School and Trumpington Meadows are the other developments that make up the Southern Fringe.

Both Glebe Farm and Clay Farm will be home to more than 5800 people with a mix of homes, new schools, transport connections and a new health centre. This mix of activity for all ages will create a bustling, mixed community. We see the use of public art providing a strong focus for both sites around the community involvement as well as providing support for a placemaking strategy for the new developments.

Immediately to the East of the Clay Farm site, a major new public parkland development - the 'Green Corridor' will provide amenities such as wetland areas and children's play areas along the edge of the western edge of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. It also informs the key concept underpinning the Glebe & Clay Farm Cultural Strategies – the use of natural materials, craft and materiality as an appropriate thematic strand for public art that is a continuation of an established tradition within the City.

The Interconnected design and relationship of all three schemes offers a unique opportunity for a 'connected' approach to integrate public art across the area. Futurecity is developing a public art strategy and cultural vision with an emphasis on themes of cutting edge science, materiality and Arts & Craft, informed by a series of innovative community engagement and consultation programmes to develop participation, ownership, vision and legacy.

### **Glebe Farm: Ancient Craft – Modern Design**

Glebe Farm is the 'gateway' for the new Southern Fringe development and has a pivotal role to play in defining the quality and aspiration of the cultural vision to come. The public art proposal will encourage the use of traditional craft skills and materials to create an 'artisan' approach to the project. One which will see the use of contemporary artists, suppliers of materials such as stone, steel and wood joining forces with writers, the community and local fabricators to work on a public art commission for Glebe Farm. The arts and craft themes will also be underpinned by a conceptual template for later further commissions throughout Clay Farm as part of a wider artisan approach to public art in the area.

The briefest examination of historic buildings in Central Cambridge reveals a long history of craftsmanship linked to art and architecture. It is however important to combine the arts and

materiality concept with a strategy that celebrates the history of the site itself and the neighbouring village of Trumpington. Glebe Farm provides numerous opportunities for public art projects that celebrate the areas archaeological history of early Iron Age, Saxon and Roman settlements. There is a Roman cemetery to the North of the site, where pottery and metalware were found in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery nearby at Dam Hill. The strong tradition of local crafts can be found in records showing that by the mid 19th century there were tailors, shoemakers, wheelwrights, sawyers, coopers, blacksmiths and carpenters in and around Trumpington.

The area also has long religious history, St Mary & St Michael Parish Church was established by 1200 and the nave rebuilt in the early 14th century in five bays, with tall, finely moulded arches. Under the richly cusped and curved arch supporting an embattled parapet stands the tomb chest, with foiled, ogee-tipped arcading, on which, in a Purbeck marble slab, rests the well-known and often rubbed Trumpington brass.

Trumpington now has a thriving community, proud of both the history of the area and the community that currently dwells there. There are many active community groups, such as the 'Trumpington Residents Association' who have a regularly updated website and meetings where local matters are discussed. Other features of Trumpington are a new contemporary pavilion built on the King George V Playing Fields, an active Church (St Mary & St Michael Parish Church) and local schools including Fawcett Primary School, known for developing 'young people who's behaviour is outstanding.' (OFSTED inspections report 2006).

### **Artists Brief: Overview Artisan Approach**

*'The true secret of happiness lies in taking a genuine interest in all the details of daily life.'* William Morris

The public art commission would see a series of workshops designed to

- Draw out the history and stories of Trumpington from as diverse a range of people and organisations as possible.
- Craft Event days in which local fabricators and artisans would show techniques connected to making, casting, welding and carving and show the range of materials available to a modern artist. The intention would be to show the community how artworks are commissioned and the issues of longevity, ownership and professional practice
- A presentation of a longlist of contemporary artists whose practice uses making and crafts skills
- Presentation of the sites and spaces available in Glebe

The resulting collaboration between 3 shortlisted contemporary artists and fabricators/studios in Cambridge, would be in keeping with the artisan approach proposed in the Clay Farm public art strategy, which introduces the concept of materiality & craft working alongside advanced design & engineering.

Following the council's emerging SPD on Public Art, '...should enhance a sense of community and place making, crucial to the new community at Glebe Farm to encourage excellence and innovation in the commissioning and implementation of public art', Futurecity intend to deliver a high quality piece of public art by ensuring that the selected artist is also a member of the design team for Glebe Farm with the freedom to explore materials and fabrication with the landscape architects at *Countryside Properties*. As a result Glebe Farm should become an exciting model of an artisan approach to embedded art within new communities.

## **Locations, Site and Scheme:**

On reviewing the landscape plans several sites were considered for possible introduction of public art elements. These included the Northern open space, which was not considered visible enough. The allotments to the Eastern side of the development and the central areas of the site, along the three Pocket Parks designated for public and residents' interaction, relaxation and activity. These areas could provide a suitable location for a striking piece of artwork with the possibility of wayfinding elements built into the design, that lead away from the artwork along paths and other features of the area. This would compliment the approach towards the landscaping of these locations as central meeting points for the site.

Glebe Farm's landscaped parks draw on Cambridgeshire countryside's ancient Barrow clusters. It seems appropriate in this instance to work with these parks as major features of the site, signposted through the use of public art. Countryside Properties has designated these as landscaped areas including an interactive maze with a central feature for a sculptural marker. The other Pocket Park is a large raised mound, which measures approximately 25m in diameter. This could give a platform to a contemplative sculpture, visible from the local area. Consideration would be given to public access and any specialist ground surface and lighting dependent upon the artwork and materials selected.

## **Access**

Trumpington Park and Ride is one of 5 stations around Cambridge and is located at one of the entrances to Cambridge from the M11 motorway. The Waitrose supermarket, opened in 2000 on the busy junction of Hauxton Road and Shelford Road, adding to the traffic of commuters from the villages south of Cambridge and the motorway.

With access and visibility from both the Addenbrookes Access Road and the existing Hauxton Road, the sculpture would be highly visible as well as easily accessible, both by car, the Park and Ride system and the cycle paths that run around the perimeter of the site. The main public pathway to the site, leading from the Addenbrookes access road, provides a clear route to the central pocket parks, as well as a clear line of visibility to a sculptural piece. Public Art proposals could mark the entrance to the new Glebe Farm development and set a tone for the nature of engagement throughout the site and the wider public art strategy for Clay Farm and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

## **Materials and Application**

*'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.'* – William Morris

Choosing the right materials and the type of fabrication will be key to creating a high quality piece of public artwork for Glebe Farm. Choosing materials that will age and patinate over a period of time, ensuring and enabling longevity (in the quality of the materials and craftsmanship) is important from the beginning.

The use of traditional sculpture materials for the artwork, will lead the commissioning process and encourage a skills based approach to the Glebe Farm commission. Materials such as stone, iron and wood and processes such as carving, engraving, lettering, blacksmithing, mosaic, jointing and casting will be considered. The commission would also encourage a collaborative approach to the project between makers and artists. This could include:

- High quality metal workers, who work with interesting metals that could be welded, cast or sculpted
- Stonemason's with a track history of working with some of Cambridge's most prestigious buildings, in marble and Cambridge stone, also working with poets and writers
- Wood Carvers and carpenters using traditional techniques for more sculptural outcomes

## Commissioning

The commissioning process will offer Trumpington residents an opportunity to work alongside makers, artists, and professional contributors to direct the Glebe Farm commissions. The commissioned artists would be free to introduce technological design to work the materials such as wood, stone or metal, either through their studio production methodology, or by working in conjunction with a specialist engineering company to realise their design. The final piece would use local craftsmen and knowledge where possible.

They would be supported by an Advisory Panel, who would provide advice and comment on the Glebe Farm public art proposal and ultimately select a final artist to create the public artwork.

The advisory artists will consider artists proposals based on the following criteria:

- An innovative and fresh approach to a collaborative work
- The ability to work with a local skilled craftsperson
- The strength in the concept of their proposed artwork
- The viability of their proposal
- The relevance to Glebe Farm and the surrounding area

This panel would include a representative from:

- The client, *Countryside*
- A project director, *Futurecity*
- The Urban Design Team, *Cambridge City Council*
- A local curator, such as Rod Mengham, *Curator of Work of Art, Jesus College*
- Trumpington residents
- The Crafts Council

3 artists would be shortlisted for the commission and asked to produce a proposal to take before the Advisory Panel. The initial proposal would consist of the following:

- Visualisation of the proposed artwork/s relating to the landscape architects' plans provided, including drawings, models and photographs
- Accompanying text that describes the concept and design of the piece and how it relates to the identity of the site, including the historical aspects of Glebe Farm and the themes addressed by the landscape designers.
- Proposal for a partnership or collaboration
- Evidence of a long term dialogue with the Trumpington community

The three short listed artists will be invited to present their proposals to a selection panel consisting of the client, curator and a number of local and national cultural commentators and experts.

## Consultation and Community Engagement

Consultation & Community Engagement will kick-start the Glebe Farm consultation and engagement process and will involve from the outset communities and stakeholders in and around the development including:

- The existing Trumpington community
- Local Schools and Colleges
- The City of Cambridge
- Business-surrounding Glebe Farm
- The professional cultural community

A creative 'Craft Workshop' programme will stimulate interest, excitement and debate about commissioning public art and encourage the community to take seriously current ideas about interdisciplinary practice and collaborative partnerships in public art

The consultation, engagement and selection would be led by a specialist consultation and engagement group such as *Cambridge Curiosity and Engagement* or *The Caravan Gallery*, followed by a community selection of three artists to be taken forward to the shortlist. The workshops would not only involve local residents, community groups and schools to decide on a shortlist of artists. It is vital to have community support in the approach of this public art proposal on such a sensitive site as Glebe Farm, the first in three developments in the Trumpington area.

As part of the public art proposal, a public consultation would involve existing residents from nearby Bishops Court, Trumpington Residents Association and an education project involving Fawcett Primary School. Futurecity would create a long-list of artists and crafts specialists to present to a meeting of local residents to consult on the approach to public art on the Glebe Farm development, and take on board the community's opinions.

### Identified Groups

- **Trumpington Residents Association**
- The Trumpington Residents' Association was founded in 1992 and established as a company limited by guarantee in October 2008. The aim of the Association is to make Trumpington a better place for the future, by working to maintain and improve the quality of life of local residents. The website has information about the Association's work, the local area and the major developments.
- **Bishops Court**
- Bishops Court is a residential area on the outskirts of the Glebe Farm development, adjacent to Hauxton Road.
- **Fawcett Primary School**
- Fawcett Primary Schools in Trumpington was praised for *'the school's caring, family ethos makes it a very safe and welcoming place to be. Pupils develop into mature and confident young people whose behaviour is outstanding.'* OFSTED report 2006. Their ethos is to *'aim to make teaching and learning the most talked about feature of Fawcett School. Each child will have the opportunity to celebrate learning achievements. Above all educational experiences should be enjoyable and fulfilling so that each child is motivated to continue their learning and realise their own unique potential.'* Fawcett primary school is proudly linked to the area of Trumpington and as such would be an ideal group for Cambridge Curiosity to work with.

## **Community Shortlist**

An important aspect of creating a shortlist of artists to produce proposals for Glebe Farm would be involving members of the community to select three artists from a long-list. This would give members of the community influence over the final shortlist, and the final artwork.

The community would be asked to select artists based on the following criteria:

- The artists suitability for Glebe Farm and the location of the artwork
- Suitability to work with a local craftsman
- Appeal and attraction to the artists practice
- Demonstration of their collaborative skills
- Understanding of the areas history, community and topography

Comments could be collated as part of a project website, created for the Glebe Farm public art project. This could encourage visitors view aspects of the public art project, and vote on their favourite artists work to go forward onto a shortlist of artists. The website could continue to track the continuation of the project, until the final artwork is selected by the Advisory Panel.

## **Engagement Management**

### **The Caravan Gallery:**

- The Caravan Gallery is a travelling exhibition and project group, who document their travels around Britain, collaging their experiences this into physical and online exhibitions. The Caravan Gallery aims to make a document of how Britain is changing, including regeneration, capturing areas that change and areas that stay the same. They currently have 60,000 photographic images resulting from their travels and have journeyed from the Isle of Wight to Tokyo. The Caravan Gallery could run a project to document Glebe Farm, looking at the positive aspects of what the new development will add to the area and what the existing community can add to Glebe Farm
- The result could be an exhibition in the Caravan Gallery, or locally, of the resulting works that created as a result of this project.

### **Cambridge Curiosity:**

- Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination (CCI) is an artist led initiative. Founded by a group of Cambridge professionals with a range of backgrounds in the arts, museums, drama and education, they have a common interest in fostering the curiosity and imagination of young and old, and work to develop the creativity of every individual. Their workshop model would support a community engagement project for Glebe Farm. Tailor made for groups of 8 to 24; these workshops offer participants the opportunity to explore both the working practices of creative practitioners in CCI and the creative processes experienced during the session. CCI has developed a unique body of individually tailored training packages, workshops and seminars for educators and other professionals.

## **Craft Specialists**

Cambridge has a rich tradition of craftsmanship, from the detailed stonework found at Kings College Chapel to contemporary craftsmen working in small studios dotted around Cambridgeshire. It could be said that Cambridge has been built on craft and intellect, which is exactly the approach that Futurecity wish to take with the new residential development of Glebe Farm and Clay Farm. This would be an investment into the infrastructure of Cambridge economically, and a legacy piece to mark the new expansion towards the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

Futurecity have identified the following crafts specialists in Cambridgeshire that could be considered for this commission:

### **Cambridge Stonecraft**

- Cambridge Stonecraft Ltd are based at Wilberton in Cambridgeshire and have a long tradition in stonemasonry. The stone masons have a varied and distinguished portfolio of projects, with *Wesminster Abbey, Tower of London, Shuttleworth House, Fitzwilliam Museum* and *Cambridge University Colleges* to name just a few.
- They specialise in English limestones and sandstones and have worked on private commissions, as well as larger buildings. An artist could work with Cambridge Stonecraft Ltd. to direct an impressive sculpture, perhaps engraved with local poetry or a surface design.

### **Woodcarver**

#### **MARK GOLDSWORTHY [www.woodcarver.co.uk](http://www.woodcarver.co.uk)**

- Mark grew up in East Anglia and studied at Art Schools in Great Yarmouth and Manchester, His career began with the sale of paintings, drawings and prints and his first public sculpture was commissioned in 1991. Since then he has specialised in figurative sculptures carved mainly in wood. Commissions have come from Sandringham Estate, Royal British Legion, Norfolk Contemporary Arts Society, South Norfolk District Council, Waveney District Council, North Walsham Town Council, North Norfolk District Council and many private individuals

### **Wood/Stone Carver**

#### **Andrew Tanser [www.andrewtanser.com](http://www.andrewtanser.com)**

- Andrew Tanser has had many years` experience as a commercial Stone/Wood Carver and Sculptor, working on many of the UK's most prestigious buildings, training as an apprentice from the age of 16 in 1981, has given him a thorough grounding in carving skills and techniques.
- *"Through his unique training and involvement with some of the most prestigious restoration projects and demanding new commissions, Andrew Tanser has reached the pinnacle of his craft and now ranks as one of the leading carvers and sculptors in the country."*
  - Vic Franklin, Former Restoration Director of Rattee & Kett, 1999

### **Ironworks**

#### **<http://www.uk-ironworks.co.uk/ironworks/index.htm>**

- Paul Mckrell and Richard Walton formed Ironworks in 2001, the company specialises in innovative and traditional custom ironwork using simple blacksmithing techniques, and now have the largest operational blacksmith's workshop in East Anglia. Their facility produces high quality custom designed ironwork for your home, garden & business, using a range of machinery both old and new. Both directors have extensive engineering backgrounds and have applied this to the artistic freedom of blacksmithing enabling us to create beautiful and functional ironwork. They have a real passion and expertise for quality and have carefully selected fine products and services to give our clients great choice, service and satisfaction.

## **Mentoring**

In the same way Cambridge can start to train a new level of professional artists to create the next generation of public artwork, continuing this strong tradition in Cambridge. As part of the commissioning process, Futurecity envisage developing a mentoring programme for a young and emerging artist to shadow the winning artist and craft specialists during the development process of the artwork, be this a sculptural or wayfinding project.

The appointed artist and design team will work in collaboration with a locally based early-career artist to mentor them through the project process, from the point of their appointment to completion. The objective of this community engagement project will be to provide an artist, at an early stage in their career and with no previous experience of working on public art projects, insight into the processes, opportunities and pitfalls of working on a major public art project. The chosen mentee will be invited to attend site visits, meetings with the artist, design team workshops, planning presentations and other related opportunities that arise as the project progresses.

It is hoped that *Countryside* will be able to work with a local education provider such as Anglia Ruskin University or Cambridge Regional College to appoint a mentee. Early career artists based in the Cambridge area will be invited to apply for the mentoring scheme. Applications will be reviewed jointly with the client, design team and appointed artist to select a candidate who they consider would benefit the most from such a collaboration and who can demonstrate in their own practice a predisposition towards working on collaborative projects in the future.

## Evaluation

The success of a project can be judged primarily on the changes it makes and the impact it has on the people involved. Once completed and delivered and if required by Cambridge City Council, Futurecity propose that Arts & Business ([www.aandb.org.uk](http://www.aandb.org.uk)) is appointed to undertake an independent evaluation exercise. The objective of this piece of work will be to answer the following key questions;

- How effectively have the aims and objectives of each project been met? What can be learnt from the projects to inform future projects?
- Has effective use been made of the resources available?
- The process of evaluation will be structured to the following staged programme;
- Aims — the prime purpose of the project and the changes it is hoped will be achieved as a result Objectives — The specific things that the people involved in the project want to achieve, describing the areas of activity that need to be undertaken to achieve the aims Measures of Success — this tells you how successfully the objectives have been achieved.
- Data Collection — the methods through which data can be collected, both as the projects are undertaken and afterwards questionnaires, interviews etc
- Benchmarks — the targets for the projects, for example these may be set by conducting a pre-project survey to establish a 'baseline' before the actual projects take place
- Outputs - quantifiable statistics, such as the number of people attending, number of press articles, webpage hits etc.
- Outcomes - the changes and effects that happen as a result of the projects Impact/the long term change and broad effects of the project

## Scope and Limitations

There are possibilities of widening this artisan approach to other areas of the Glebe Farm site, which could include paving, gates, embedded works in walls and street furniture, although the arts budget will set limitations on the amount of interventions that are possible.

Of particular interest could be the main gates leading into the site and patterning or poetry being embedded into buildings and paving, connecting with the Addenbrookes Access Road. The artisan approach could be achieved by creating collaboration between an artist and sculptor, and possibly a poet or writer to draw out some of the historical themes of the area, and use these to lead residents and visitors around Glebe Farm. This work would fall within the constraints of the

Section 106 funds and also be subject to building materials used in other areas of the site. Futurecity would work alongside the artist, *Countryside Properties* architects and landscape designers to review opportunities on Glebe Farm and Clay Farm for this type of joined-up approach.

This is subject to the constraints of the Section 106 budget.

## Appendix

### Trumpington Timeline

- 1615 Perse School founded (now nearby on Hills Road) to provide for 100 local boys
- 1766 Addenbrooke's Hospital founded on Trumpington Street (farther in town)
- 1841 During the time that Victoria became Queen, it is recorded that the village blacksmith John Nichols was very busy in his forge, shoeing and making household articles- making items such as 'one new poker and two new locks and keys' to order in 1841, as well as leading the church choir on Sundays<sup>1</sup>.
- 1842 Church School was founded
- 1893 In the parish churchyard of St Mary and St Michael there is a monument to the blind academic Liberal politician Henry Fawcett (1833–84) who introduced parcel post and postal orders as Postmaster General. The primary school in Trumpington is named Fawcett School after him. The churchyard was enlarged in 1872, but closed in 1893, when the vicar sold 4 acres of his glebe in the angle between the Harston and Shelford roads for a new graveyard<sup>2</sup>.
- 1921 War Memorial by Eric Gill unveiled on the site of the ancient village cross- the base of which was not, in fact, discovered until the foundations were being laid for the new one. The memorial is a notable work of art, designed and produced by Gill, who also designed and carved the crocodile on the wall of the Cavendish Laboratory. The structure stands on a square panelled base mounted on steps and tapers towards the top, with sculptured panels of three saints on its lower sides. Gill said that the panels "have been executed with a view to Symbolism rather than Naturalism"; they portray St George, St Mary, St Michael and a soldier. The lettering is in typically striking Roman style and was long considered a model of its kind, attracting particular attention as it stands at a bend in the street, so is hidden from both directions.
- 1932 The parish of Trumpington included in the borough of Cambridge and by 1939 the continuation of houses from Trumpington to the village of Shelford blurred their boundaries.
- 1945 Cambridge Borough Council purchased land to the east of the High Street and developed as one of their first post-war housing estates
- 1951 *English Village, The Story of Trumpington*, DW Lloyd
- *In* Trumpington there are farms and market gardens, certain small firms, some with an agricultural bias, others of craftsman type, others more urban in their nature; there are scattered shops (not enough for present needs), and the six inns, which do a good trade, especially at weekends (for Trumpington has always been a favourite excursion from Cambridge), and there is the Hall estate and the Ministry of Agriculture at Anstey Hall.
- 1976 Addenbrooke's Hospital moved to present premises

---

<sup>1</sup> *Trumpington, A Cambridgeshire Village*, Edith Carr, 1973

<sup>2</sup> British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66760>

### **Archaeology of Trumpington, documents produced for Countryside Properties**

Scott Wilson Ltd. (2007). Mitigation Proposal. An Archaeological Specification for Excavation and Evaluation at Clay Farm, Cambridge. In Clay Farm Environmental Statement, Volume 1B, Appendices, pages 43-59.

Produced for Countryside Properties, as part of the Clay Farm planning application, April 2007. It includes a brief summary of previous archaeological work and references and the specification of seven sites where work would be undertaken.

Scott Wilson Ltd. (2007). An Archaeological Specification for Evaluation, Land East of Hobson's Brook, Clay Farm, Cambridge.

Produced for Countryside Properties, as part of the Clay Farm planning application, December 2007. The document is a specification for the archaeological evaluation of the area of Clay Farm between Hobson's Brook and the railway line. It includes a brief summary of previous archaeological work and references.

Scott Wilson Ltd. (2007). An Archaeological Specification for Excavation at Clay Farm, Cambridge.

Produced for Countryside Properties, as part of the Clay Farm planning application, December 2007. The document is a specification for the archaeological work in the area of Clay Farm to the west of Hobson's Brook. It includes an updated summary of previous archaeological work and references and the specification of seven sites where work would be undertaken.