A new mountain bike shelter and viewpoint for Purdom Pike

Aim

To create a new viewpoint, shelter and new focal point on Purdom Pike for mountain bikers and others enjoying Kielder Water & Forest Park’s Lonesome Pine trail.

Context

Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust (KWFPDT) has a 25-year history of developing and delivering high quality creative projects across the Park through its commissioning programme Kielder Art & Architecture (KA&A), and during that time has worked with a range of world-renowned, mid-career and emerging practitioners. In the past 15 years we have moved towards a model of integrated commissioning where projects often link to specific recreational infrastructure projects, such as cycling, mountain biking, engagement with Kielder’s rich wildlife and community needs, however, we always strive to protect creative excellence as a key element in each commission and recognise the value that this approach brings to the overall visitor experience.

We are really keen to encourage all those reading this to apply. If you are concerned that you have limited experience of this kind of work, or are an artist or architect at the start of their career, this should not deter you from applying as we have support structures in place to work with newcomers to this type of commission and are used to supporting even very experienced practitioners who discover Kielder is a bit more of a testing situation than even they were expecting. We are also particularly interested in practitioners who are interested in bringing different cultural perspectives and vision to Kielder.
Location

OS map ref: NY 60789194 The location is open moorland with the Lonesome Pine trail running across it along a boardwalk. The site is close to the ‘Lonesome Pine’, a mature and prominent self-seeded tree from which the trail takes its name. As the hilltop has never been planted, the tree is major feature visible from afar and views out from this site are extensive for many miles in all directions. James Turrell’s Kielder Skyspace sculpture lies 1000m to the northwest of the site and Kielder Observatory 1400m to the north. The site is approximately 800m from the nearest driveable forest road.

Examples such as Kielder Observatory (Charles Barclay Architects 2008), Silvas Capitalis (SIMPARCH 2009), Specere (Adjaye Associates 2009) The Nick (Newcastle School of Architecture 2019) and Timelapse (David Rickard 2019), give some idea of the range of work that has been produced by both artists and architects at Kielder in recent years.

The Trust also operates a studio in Kielder village that comprises of a self-contained flat with adjacent 70 sqm workshop space. The winning designer will have the use of this facility if they wish.

Phase 1 of this commission has been funded by Arts Council England.

For further information on all projects visit www.kielderartandarchitecture.com

Brief

The Lonesome Pine cycle trail running through the forest on the way up to Purdom Pike
KWFPDT invites expressions of interest from artists, designers and architects who wish to be considered for this commission.

*Project aspirations*

- To create a striking viewpoint, shelter and destination on a popular red grade mountain biking trail that offers some of the most wide-ranging views of Kielder Water & Forest Park.

- To encourage visitors to take photos from this location and raise awareness of this part of the Park by sharing them on social media.

- To offer artists, architects or designers, whatever their background, the opportunity to create a new work as part of the Kielder Art & Architecture programme.

- To support the chosen designer in realising their personal response to the richness of Kielder.

- To offer our audiences fresh perspectives on the Park.
Project requirements

The structure will:

- Provide some form of shelter (although note that visitors to this location are likely to already be wearing some form of protective clothing).
- Offer a striking design for visitors to appreciate and be inspired to use as a backdrop for photography. Many art and architectural works at Kielder are popular visitor destinations and add to the profile of the Park by encouraging visitors to share their experience, frequently featuring on Instagram and other social media, even when sited at remote locations.
- Be accessible to visitors reaching its location.
- Touch the ground lightly. Purdom Pike is a unique and sensitive environment, hence the use of the boardwalk structure. As the ground here is made up of a mix of heather and deep grass tussocks growing on a layer of peat, consideration will need to be given to the design of appropriate foundations (see phase 2 below for further details).
- Be designed to survive Kielder’s often extreme winter weather and require minimal maintenance across a design-life expectancy of at least 10 years.

The selected designer will responsible for creative content but can also rely on the support of the Kielder Art & Architecture Curator, Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust members and mountain biking/trail building specialists, particularly with regards to the practical aspects of their proposal’s development, however, the challenges of creating a work at this location should not be underestimated.

Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust is keen to encourage the creative practices of artists/architects as they seek new different perspectives and contexts for their work and who may not have worked in rural locations before. Kielder Art & Architecture has extensive experience developing projects such locations and also in supporting less experienced practitioners as they work to realise their creative ambitions.
Project timeline and key dates

The project will be delivered across two distinct phases.

Phase 1

Phase 1 will cover:

- Receipt of expressions of interest, shortlisting from those applications of interest, interview (assumed via Skype or Zoom) and selection of a winning designer.

- A site visit (COVID restrictions permitting) by the commission winner and sufficient design development to enable the artist/designer to produce a realistic estimate of delivery costs, and a planning application to be made by the Trust.

Deadline for expressions of interest: 31 July 2020

Notification of shortlisted applicants: 10 August 2020

Interview date for shortlisted applicants: Week beginning 17 August 2020

The successful applicant will be notified within a week of interview and Stage 1 will complete by 6 November 2020.

Phase 1 Fee structure

Following receipt of expressions of interest, we will shortlist three submissions and pay a proposal development fee of £500 (excl. VAT) to each shortlisted applicant to enable them to refine and represent their ideas prior to our selection of the winning proposal.

The winning applicant will be paid a further fee of £1500 (excl. VAT but including travel, if required) to work with KWFPDT to develop their proposal to the stage described above and to produce a realistic estimate of delivery costs including all fees.
Phase 2

Phase 2 will cover realisation and include all remaining project delivery costs including fabrication, ground preparation, transportation and installation, as well as a designer's fee to cover their work undertaken during this stage.

Work on Phase 2 is currently expected to take place between May and October 2021.

*Phase 2 funding, materials and installation costs*

We anticipate a realisation budget of 15-25K (incl. all fees) will be allocated to this project. Although Arts Council England funding is in place to deliver Phase 1, fundraising to deliver Phase 2 will be undertaken once a realistic realisation budget has been agreed. The confirmation of and timescale for the realisation phase is therefore dependent on the availability of Arts Council England and other funding post Covid-19.

Interested designers should anticipate that the ground on Purdom Pike is likely to be made up of a half metre of peat covering boulder clay with no bedrock close to the surface. Any proposal will be required to support the structure using foundations that cause as little damage to the underlying ground and its vegetation as possible.

A materials and installation budget will be agreed dependent on nature and ambition of the selected proposal and once its design has progressed to a point sufficient to estimate delivery costs.
Application process

Key dates:

Deadline for expressions of interest: 31 July 2020
Notification of shortlisted applicants: 10 August 2020
Interview date for shortlisted applicants: Week beginning 17 August 2020
Commission awarded: 31st August 2020

If you are interested in being considered for this commission, please provide:

- A brief outline in words and visuals that describe how you think you might approach this project.

This could include initial ideas of the form your structure could take; what it is about the location that you find interesting; and why you would like us to consider you for this project. We are also interested in hearing about what you might have worked on before, particularly if you think might be relevant to being considered for this opportunity.

We are not expecting fully developed ideas at this stage and will continue to work with the successful applicant as they evolve their project for delivery in 2021.

Printable area for this information to be no more than 2 sides A4

- Evidence of previous work – no more than 5 images, with text descriptor for each.
  
  Sent as a Powerpoint or as individual JPEGs.
  
  **Each image file should be no more than 1Mb and do not send a collection of images or practice profile as a single PDF**

- In addition, *but not instead* of your images, you may also wish to provide links to a website or to online work - limited to 2 links

- Return of the equality and diversity monitoring form provided with the brief

Deadline for expressions of interest: 31 July 2020

Expressions of interest should be emailed to peter.w.sharpe@btinternet.com using the subject line ‘Purdom Pike Commission Expression of Interest’
The Lonesome Pine cycle trail running through the forest on the way up to Purdom Pike

Useful links:

www.kielderartandarchitecture.com

www.visitkielder.com

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/EnglandNorthumberlandKielder

Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust members are:

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER, FORESTRY ENGLAND, CALVERT KIELDER, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL, NORTHUMBERLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY and KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.