

## ‘A Place to Look In A Place to Look Out’

### Context

The Observatory - [www.lookinlookout.org](http://www.lookinlookout.org): will create a unique and exciting structure, which can be visited by the public. It will offer artists the opportunity to engage with a specific place, providing space and shelter to investigate the landscape and share with an audience.

### Vision:

- A place for artists and audiences to experience the landscape
- A space for artists and audiences to meet and explore and create artwork
- A place for artists to work and for audiences to see their work
- A point of interest and a reason for visitors to linger when the artist is not present

The Observatory needs to intrigue people and act as a beacon that draws attention to a place - in this case 4 very special locations along southern England from the South Downs to the River Tamar. The Observatory will need to be movable, flexible and reconfigurable. It will offer opportunities for a variety of artists (working in differing media) to create new work in response to the special locations.

Beginning in November 2014, the two-year programme will provide opportunities for audiences to engage with the artists. It will take art to new audiences in places where they would not normally see art, resulting in new encounters between artists, audiences and places. The Observatory will enable 12 artists to undertake close investigation covering geology, geography, heritage, social history, nature and environment, leading to a better understanding of place, with artwork(s) that can be shared with an audience.

At the end of its time in each location (6 months, 3 artists per location) there will be an exhibition in the local area.

### Costs

The cost of the Observatory structure will be a maximum of £50,000.

### The Sites

- South Downs – on the site of Winchester Science Centre
- Lymington Salt Marshes and Sea Wall
- South Dorset Ridgeway – exact site to be confirmed
- River Tamar (Devon & Cornwall) - potential sites such as Royal William Yard, silted tidal areas and historic mining sites

See the appendices for further information on each location and aerial images of the proposed site locations.

## Design Issues

Observatory: a position or building that gives an extensive view.

Latin observatorium, from Latin observat- 'watched', from the verb observare

Observe: notice or perceive (something) and register it as being significant take note of or detect (something) in the course of a scientific study

*Latin observare 'to watch', from ob- 'towards' + servare 'attend to, look at'*

## The Observatory Should:

- Ask 'What is an Observatory?'
- Act as a 'beacon' to engage people
- Encourage people to question what can they can see.
- Explore the concept of 'Look In - Look Out'. What does this mean to the artist and the public?
- Encourage people to get involved with The Observatory, the Artist & their work.

## The Observatory Must:

- Touch the ground lightly and ground fixings need to be removable.
- Provide lockable, waterproof storage.
- Fit onto one regular flat bed lorry or trailer in either parts or as a whole. The structure itself could be towable like a trailer from site to site.
- Have the provision for renewable energy to power the use of a laptop, camera charger.
- Be robust and withstand the environment and the possibility of vandalism.
- Appropriate and flexible working space(s) that can accommodate Artists working in a range of media e.g. writer, sculptor, film maker, painter etc...

## Items to Consider:

- Potential for on board non-drinking water or collection
- Be capable of future use, re-use or recycling at the end of the two-year residency programme.
- The structure could make use of recycled materials.
- The structure needs to withstand potentially extreme weather conditions over two years.