

Site locations: Winchester Science Centre

The South Downs National Park is recognised as a fantastic landscape of outstanding beauty, the South Downs are also rich with cultural history. The South Downs National Park is also the youngest of Britain's National Parks.

The proposed site (and what will be the first location) for the Observatory will probably be on the site of the Winchester Science Centre.

The Science Centre is in a fantastic location at the Eastern tip of the South Downs National Park and with stunning views back across the rolling landscape. Winchester Science Centre is the South of England's hands-on interactive science and technology centre, which houses 100 hands-on science exhibits and the UK's largest capacity digital Planetarium.

Open seven days a week the Science Centre is located within the South Downs National Park on the outskirts of historic Winchester, in a purpose-built iconic building.

The combination of stunning natural location and the science centre provides an amazingly rich opportunity for the first of the residencies to take place. We will be working closely with partners at Winchester Science Centre, South Downs National Park Authority and Winchester City Council.

For further information visit:

www.winchestersciencecentre.org

www.southdowns.gov.uk



Site locations: Lymington Salt Marshes

The coastline near Lymington has great historic significance. During the 18th century, Lymington was the biggest producer of sea salt in the country. The area between Lymington and Keyhaven was completely industrialised in the production of salt, with the greatest concentration of activity in the Oxy and Pennington Marsh areas.

There would have been boats delivering coal and taking away the salt, the air would have been thick with white salt dust and there would have been countless small windmills pumping the brine into the boiling houses. The Lymington Salt Marshes lagoons, reeds beds and mud flats will be home to The Observatory in its second location. We will be working in partnership with Hampshire County Council Countryside Service, St Barbes Museum and Gallery and other partners responsible for this site.

The Marshes support a number of vulnerable plants and rare species and provide rich feeding grounds for a wide variety of birds, particularly during the spring and autumn migrations. The lagoons support nationally important breeding populations of little terns.

There are also excellent views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, Lymington Marinas and Hurst Castle and Spit.

For further information visit:

www.lymington.org/placestovisit/lymingtontokeyhaven.html

www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/lymington-keyhaven.htm



THE OBSERVATORY

A PLACE TO LOOK IN - A PLACE TO LOOK OUT

Site locations: River Tamar

We will be working closer with our partners from the River Tamar Project in this location. The River Tamar Project has been established to re-connect the people with their maritime and industrial heritage and to discover a new and sustainable human purpose for the River.

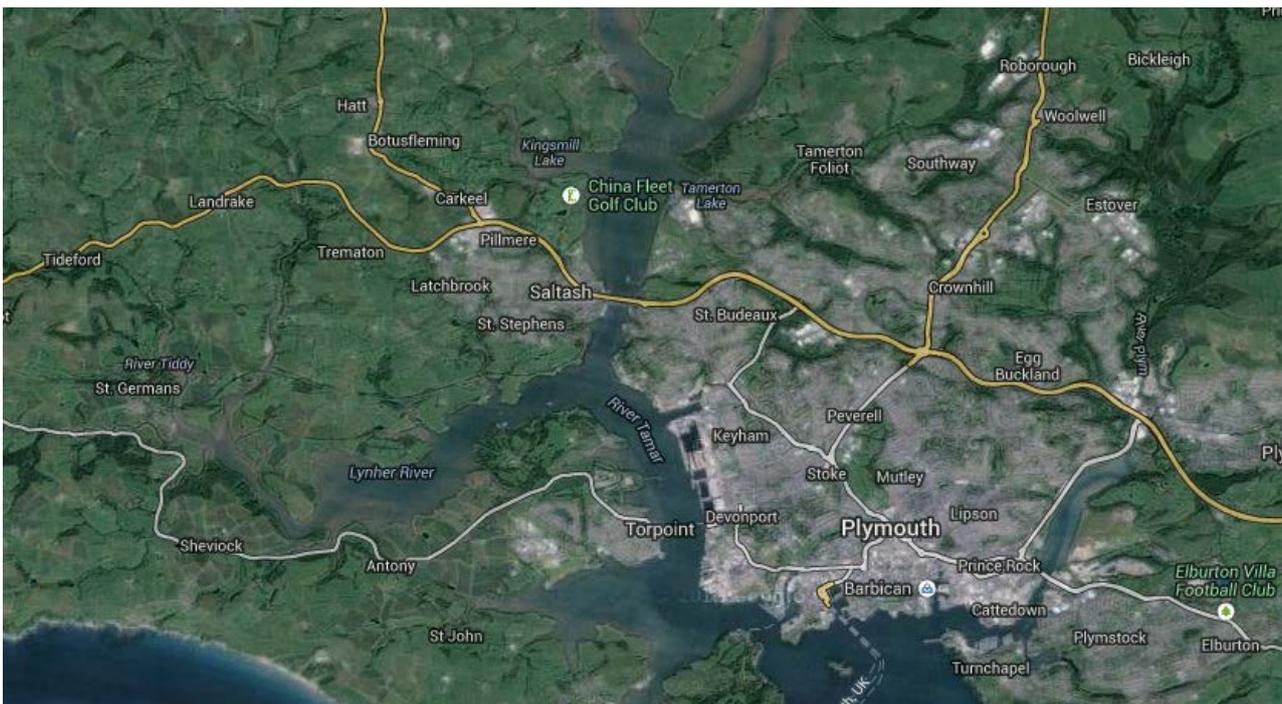
The River Tamar creates a natural border between the two counties of Devon and Cornwall with the Naval City of Plymouth to the South. The River has an illustrious industrial history, it was more important in its heyday than the Mersey in the City of Liverpool, and it was the thriving thoroughfare of the area, providing minerals for the world market and bricks, boats, fruit and vegetables for the City and Navy of Plymouth.

Today it is a remarkable natural environment protected by every level of national and international designation; World Heritage Site, European Special Area of Conservation, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A specific site has not been identified yet and it could potentially be within an urban area such as the Royal William Yard or in an area of quarrying or salt flats. The Tamar has an incredibly diverse and rich landscape and wherever the Observatory is placed it will be sure to provide an engaging and very special location for the artists to undertake their residencies.

For further information on the area and the River Tamar Project visit:

www.tamarproject.org.uk



Site locations: South Dorset Ridgeway

Not just one beautiful landscape, the South Dorset Ridgeway is a collection of beautiful landscapes - each with different histories, ways of working and stories to tell.

The South Dorset Ridgeway offers uninterrupted panoramic views across the complex pattern and textures of the surrounding landscape. The landscape includes numerous individual landmarks, such as hilltop earthworks, monuments and tree clumps, and supports a range of habitats and associated species that are unusually rich.

The South Dorset Ridgeway is home to the internationally famous and important Jurassic Coast. It covers 95 miles of truly stunning coastline from East Devon to Dorset, with rocks recording 185 million years of the Earth's history.

For further information visit:

www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway-partnership

Over the centuries, Dorset's landscapes have inspired poets, authors, scientists and artists, many of whom have left a rich legacy of cultural associations.

The best known of these is Thomas Hardy whose wonderfully evocative descriptions bring an extra dimension and depth of understanding to our appreciation of the Dorset landscape. Other literary figures inspired by Dorset's landscapes include William Barnes, Jane Austen, John Fowles and Kenneth Allsop.

