

Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust (PQST)

Funding Request: Memory Stones Project at Tout Quarry

Tout Quarry – Portland

Tout means 'lookout' and was once one of over 100 quarries on the island worked by hand. It is the best example of traditionally hand-worked quarry, saved from further mineral extraction through PSQT landscape and environmental sculpture project, with commissioned work by well known and emerging artists many of whom are now Royal Academicians. Their work creates vantage points where sculpture, geology, quarrying and ecology meet.

Portland Quarries Nature Park

During the last 18 months we have successfully attracted funding for a new landmark feature / arrival point overlooking Tout Quarry Sculpture Park and Nature Reserve on the West Cliff. This arrival point will provide visitors with key interpretation messages that signpost routes that diversify interest in the northern arc of Portland's Quarry Park.

Proposals for sites specific sculpture will create a cultural route through the Quarry Park leading to a planned amphitheatre /outdoor performance environment (OPE) overlooking, the East Cliff where the stone was quarried for St Paul's Cathedral and other Wren churches.

What is the Memory Stones project?

The project comprises the installation of a semi-circle of large monoliths (Memory Stones) on an aggregate platform at one of the highest point on Portland. This semi-circle of stone on a raised platform will create a unique arrival point from which visitors can explore Tout Quarry and the landscape of Portland. Each stone will be lettercut with references to the geology, ecology, working histories art /architecture

First Stage of Project (completed)

Funding from Dept for Communities & Local Government, Dorset Wildlife Trust, PSQT, DCC and the Portland Court Leet enabled the initial stage of surveys, landscape drawings, geotechnical reports and groundworks.

Second Stage Project Aims

We are asking support from WPBC to match fund the 2nd stage applications to Arts Council England (ACE) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

For this second stage, the Memory Stones will be core drilled to enable images/text to be projected into pools of sunlight within the stones shadows, and letter-cut, becoming a key to accessing additional layers of information via GPS activated App, video and website.

Shafts of sunlight projected year round into the centre of a circular platform of white aggregate will create a continuous changing space for artists collaborations, community sound/light performance and visitor engagement in the Quarry Park.

The applications to ACE and HLF will need £20,000 match funding and on a grant of £75,000 would represent 26%, making a total project cost possible of £95,000.

Opportunities will be created for knowledge and skills transfer between established and emerging artists with site specific work that establishes a cultural route for the Quarry Park, identified within South West Coast Path.

The Memory Stones project and the planned coastal amphitheatre project will jointly create the curatorial support and focus for mentoring of artists working with community - where the development of new skills can take place within an inspirational site.

Interpretation

The project Memory Stones will engage ten Royal Academy artists who have previously made work in Tout Quarry, and have connections with PSQT's art and environmental project.

The interpretation will draw connections between the areas of ecology / geology-quarrying / architecture-art / science to give visitor an overview of the landscape and cultural route connecting 4 related locations, Heights Hotel, Fancy's Farm, St George's Church and the Portland Museum.

The stones will be placed in an ellipse calibrated to the sun's path (projecting shadows 66' long in mid-winter) in proportion to the scale of the earth's orbit around the sun relating to climate change today.

The stones will show evidence of life at the molecular level and previous climate change that gives a local and global view of our environment today. The installation of the stones will show levels of the landscape and its quarry strata, to be used as a key / timeline that will take visitors from the present to the past, walking along a pathway where every footstep is equivalent to 250,000 years, reinstating 18 stages of the fossil record, leading to the level of the Jurassic sea floor of 150 m years ago.

Future phase of the project: Coastal Amphitheatre

The location of the Coastal Amphitheatre is alongside the start of a Nature Route on the SW coast-path, walking north to Durdle Pier and returning on the lower path along Penns Weare to Church Ope and Portland Museum. For the Coast Amphitheatre the funding routes are the next round of the Coastal Communities Fund in summer 2017.