

WallCAP & The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre

Invitation to Tender: Temporary Exhibition Concept Development, Design, and Installation

1. Introduction

The Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project (WallCAP) at Newcastle University in collaboration with The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre at Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) wishes to appoint an individual or team to develop the concept(s), design, and installation of a temporary exhibition to be hosted at The Sill June-July 2020.

The exhibition will be located in the Stell exhibition space of The Sill and will focus on Stories in Stone relative to the geology and landscapes of the Hadrian's Wall corridor and Northumberland National Park. The exhibition will be supported by a program of activities delivered in partnership between WallCAP and NNPA staff and volunteers.

2. Brief for Consultants

WallCAP, based in the McCord Centre of Newcastle University, is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund (NLHF) to deliver a three-year project linked to capital investment in the conservation of heritage for the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and complete a program of activities to better research and understand the monument in the landscape. The activities focus on developing an improved awareness and involvement of existing and new audiences on the changing, sometimes fragile state of heritage and how heritage is incorporated into their own communities. The majority of activities are planned around two major strands: Heritage At Risk (HAR) and Stone Sourcing and Dispersal (SSD). These strands are supported by secondary strands consisting of training activities, public events and engagements, and development and use of digital resources. Full details of these strands, target audiences, and planned activities can be found in the Activity Plan, which can be provided on request.

The SSD strand is focused on helping local communities and professional audiences better understand how Hadrian's Wall was constructed from the natural environment, and how its structure has changed from the time of its construction to the present day by focusing on the stone that was used to construct the Wall. SSD activities focus on: (1) the natural

geology of Central Britain, to make volunteers aware of the raw material the Romans built with; (2) observation and recording of the building fabric of the Wall itself; (3) attempting to source the fabric of the Wall with quarrying locations; and (4) identifying and recording the reuse of Wall fabric in post-Roman buildings and structures.

Northumberland National Park is the northernmost national park in England. It covers an area of more than 1,050 square kilometres between the Scottish border in the north to just south of Hadrian's Wall. Of the 11 National Parks in England and Wales, Northumberland is the most northerly, most remote from large urban areas, least visited and least populated.

The Sill, Landscape Discovery Centre, is the most significant initiative to be undertaken in rural Northumberland in a lifetime and the largest undertaking by any National Park. Opened in July 2017, The Sill is an iconic, award-winning visitor attraction that harmoniously reflects the distinctiveness of the Northumbrian landscape in both its shape and the materials used in its construction. Its centrepiece is a beautiful grass roof, planted to replicate the unique natural grasslands of the surrounding area. The Sill's fully accessible living roof sweeps gently upwards, giving visitors a bird's eye vantage point across one of the UK's most magnificent landscapes and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall. Named after the world-famous 'Whin Sill' geological feature nearby, it incorporates a free-to-enter landscape exhibition, a fully accessible green roof and viewing platform, café, a shop selling local produce and gifts, a modern 86-bed youth hostel and a learning centre.

Designed to appeal to people of all ages and abilities, it aims to reveal more about our landscapes, history and heritage through exhibits, events and activities on site, as well as inspiring visitors to venture further into the National Park and beyond, to find their own unique adventure. Our ambition for The Sill is to transform how people of all ages and all backgrounds experience our great landscape.

The Sill currently attracts around 150,000 visitors a year.

3. Outputs and Content Guidance

The appointed individual or firm (the consultant) is expected to deliver an interpretative concept and content, design, production and installation for a 6-week temporary exhibition.

Using geology, the exhibition should address the links between the natural and cultural landscapes of the Hadrian's Wall corridor, telling the story of the Hadrian's Wall *Landscapes* both prior to and following the construction of the Wall. Landscapes may evolve through the impact of changes in socio, economic, cultural and environmental use, but the geology that underpins it remains constant and provides an unbreakable connection throughout time.

Whilst natural processes create the landscape, it is human processes and interaction which shape it. An opportunity to explore the area from geological to earliest communities, looking at the natural features (and how societies have utilised them) – the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms and soils along with the natural processes that shape the landscape to help build a picture of landscape already settled and inhabited for 4,000 years before the Romans.

Key guidance for development of exhibition concepts, and content creation and design include:

1. The underlying premise of the exhibition is Stories in Stone, to communicate principles of geology and human relationships with geology in the Hadrian's Wall corridor and Northumberland National Park.
2. Communicate to a range of audiences, including but not limited to families and multi-generation visitors, engaged enthusiasts, and other groups.
3. Take into account a range of audience learning styles and varying needs to ensure accessibility and equality within the exhibition
4. The exhibition should work in complement with a program of activities managed and run by NNPA and WallCAP staff.
5. Enhance visitor experience beyond the exhibition itself.
6. Make use of information and data provided by NNPA and/or WallCAP to generate content.
7. Design content appropriate to the space and features of The Stell exhibition space (see Appendix 1).
8. Account for covid impacts on the exhibition (e.g. ease of management, degree of touch/contact, etc.).

4. Budget and Indicative Timescale

A budget of not more than **£20,000-25,000** (excluding VAT) is allocated for this contract, including reasonable expenses. Payments can be scheduled according to an agreed timetable, but the client (Newcastle University) will withhold the final 25% until satisfactory completion of the contract.

Key milestones for delivery include:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Tender submission deadline | 18 Jan 2021 |
| • Appointment of consultant | 1 Feb 2021 |
| • Agreed concept development | 8 March 2021 |
| • Sign-off on design and production | 19 April |
| • Exhibition installation | 1-3 June |

5. Project Management, Communication, and Resources

The consultant will need to liaise with WallCAP Project Manager and Head of Activities and Exhibitions at the Sill regularly. All aspects of the project are expected to be managed by the consultant, with information and data provided via WallCAP and/or NNPA. While the work is collaborative between WallCAP and the Sill, funding is provided via Newcastle University, and the contact must comply with the university's terms and conditions.

6. Publication and Copyright

The final products of the exhibition must be made freely available to NNPA and WallCAP during the course of the contract, and to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for free dissemination and re-use on completion of WallCAP (Dec 2021).

It is anticipated that no licences or proprietary software will be necessary for functionality of elements of the exhibition.

7. Bidding Requirements, Process, and Award

Consultants interested in the project should submit the following:

1. An outline of the proposed concept(s) and suggested design approaches.
2. Track record of the bidder delivering similar or related work.
3. Details of key personnel to be involved.
4. Costs to be charged (excluding VAT) and day rates of all personnel involved.
Additional charges, e.g. equipment, production of materials, sub-contractors, should be itemised.

WallCAP and Newcastle University, in consultation with NNPA, will award this contract according to the following criteria:

- Price (30%)
- Experience (20%)
- Approach and methodology (30%)
- Timeliness of delivery (10%)
- Adherence to University tender terms and conditions (10%)

Consultants are referred to the University's terms and conditions:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/media/wwwnclacuk/business/files/terms-conditions-purchase-services.pdf>

Final installation of the exhibition is necessary by 3 June 2021.

Bids will only be considered if they are received by email by the WallCAP Project Manager, Rob Collins, not later than **12pm Monday 18 January 2021**. Emails should be marked "WallCAP/Sill Exhibition Consultancy".

Dr Rob Collins
WallCAP Project Manager
School of History, Classics and Archaeology
Armstrong Building
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU

Email: robert.collins@newcastle.ac.uk

Informal enquiries can be made to Rob Collins via email. At request, a meeting can be held via telephone or videoconference.

8. Payment

25% of the consultant's fee will be payable on commission. A further 50% will be paid at agreed stages of the evaluation and 25% on completion of the contract.

9. This brief can be made available in alternative formats if required.

Appendix 1: The Stell Exhibition Space

The exhibition will occupy 'The Stell', the temporary exhibition space within The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre. The following will provide further background, information and specifications of the space available.

Background

The Stell is a flexible space which has been used for a variety of functions since opening, including installations, learning sessions, craft markets and a gallery space. It features a rolling programme that will cover science, art, heritage and much more.

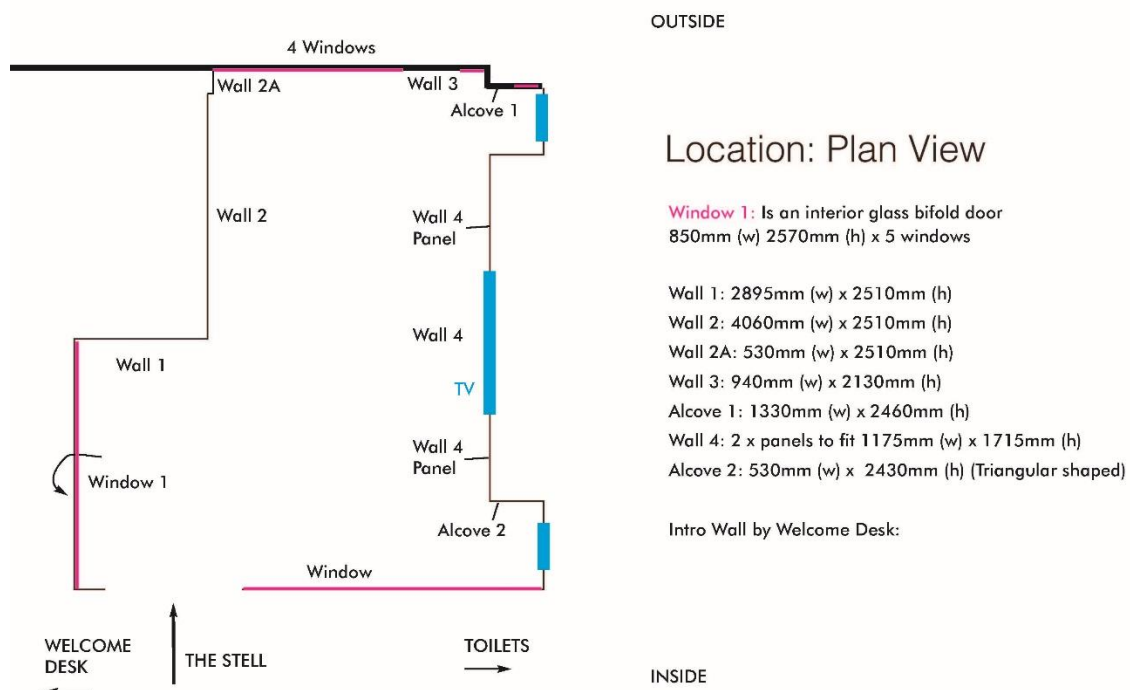
We have hosted exhibitions covering a wide variety of themes. From a celebration of the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park to the award-winning Digital Landscapes, an exploration on how digital technology can be used to help gain a deeper understanding and enjoyment of landscape and the natural world.

Over the Summer of 2019, The Stell was home to Yours Since 1949 which explained how your 15 National Parks, 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and 16 National Trails came into being. The exhibition featured specially commissioned films and animations telling the history of the Campaign for National Parks and their influence on the formation of National Parks.

In Winter 2019 we presented Inspired by Our Land in The Stell, showcasing artists from across the area who take their inspiration from the landscapes.

We have also hosted travelling exhibitions such as: The Flow Country, a major national exhibition focusing on the peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland-led by The Peatlands Partnership and RSPB Scotland; and The Lost Words by Compton Verney, a celebration of the relationship between language and the living world, and of nature's power to spark the imagination, using original works by artist Jackie Morris and author Robert Macfarlane.

The Stell



Description

The Stell is located on the ground floor of the building with external views through glass bifold doors and windows facing The Vallum and Hadrian's Wall beyond.

Internally, the space provides views of the atrium and main exhibition hall of the building, through a combination of fixed and adjustable glass interior walls. Access routes to the space are via these moveable panels, which can also be locked to secure the area.



The Stell exterior showing entrance and glass wall panels on the left and fixed glass walls to the right.



Space between The Stell and the main exhibition



Entrance

The main spotlight display wall features a central AV monitor with HDMI and USB hook-ups housed in the cupboard below and a control panel accessible to operational staff. We also have the ability to display content via our own remote connection. The monitor is flanked on either side by space for display panels. The screen can be hidden from view by the use of removable panels in a white laminate finish.



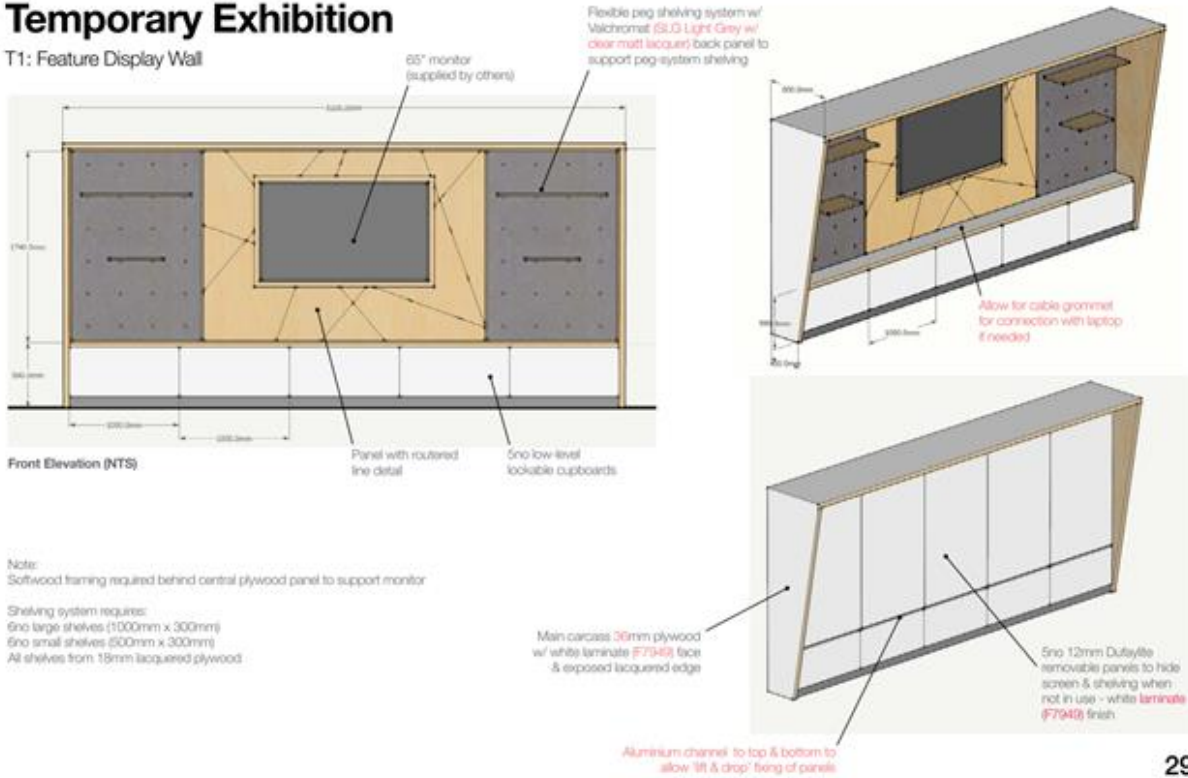
Feature wall with AV screen accessible.



Feature wall with panels in position.

Temporary Exhibition

T1: Feature Display Wall



Alcoves to both sides of the feature wall give access to a storage room used primarily by the operational staff of Northumberland National Park.



The Stell interior – AV Wall with alcove area shown to both left and right side

The solid interior walls are fitted with clip rail tracking as part of a STAS picture hanging system. This allows for the suspension of artworks up to a max load of 45kg/m.



STAS Picture Hanging System in use in The Stell.



The Stell interior – looking towards the AV Wall looking towards the Gallery Wall

Please note that the area provided will not contain any additional furniture and will be an open floorspace to be occupied as exhibition design dictates.

<p>WALL FINISH GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS</p> <p>FLOOR FINISH GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS</p> <p>CEILING FINISH GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS</p> <p>SKIRTING & PANELLING GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS GWS - 100mm plaster with 10mm GWS</p>	<p>ROD LEARN - EXHIBITION 3 - SPACE REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>AV7 - Wall mounted touchscreen [Tno 607] 5100</p> <p>T1 - Feature Display Wall</p> <p>AV7 - Wall mounted touchscreen [Tno 607] 5100</p> <p>Elevation 1:100 @ A3</p>	<p>Elevation 1:100 @ A3</p> <p>Elevation 1:100 @ A3</p> <p>Elevation 1:100 @ A3</p> <p>Elevation 1:100 @ A3</p> <p>Plan 1:100 @ A3</p> <p>Elevation 1:100 @ A3</p>	<p>Notes</p> <p>Bright 3D Fit-out Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T1 - Feature Display Wall T4 - Table T5 - Table T6 - Table T7 - Table T9 - Table TS - Stools TS - Low Stools T11 - Window Blinds T11 - Window Blinds <p>Graphics & AV included within Bright 3D fit-out</p> <p>Note: Acoustic foam to fit out</p>
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Colours Key

- Graphics
- AV
- Cables

CONSTRUCTION

bright3d

Northumberland National Park

1562 303

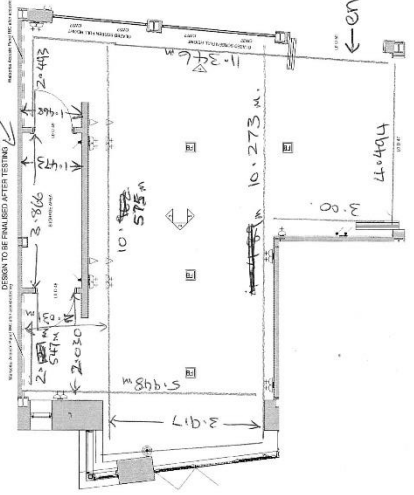
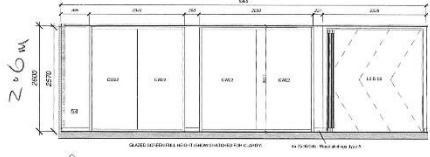
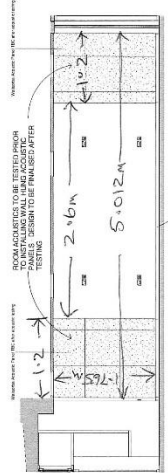
NOTES:

1. DIMECT SCALE from the drawings.
2. Further dimensions required by the consultant from the drawings.
3. Report incorporation for 2020 project team.
4. This report contains the following information:
 - a) 27% CAD 22-00-00-M01-17m_2A
 - b) 10% CAD 22-00-00-M01-17m_2B

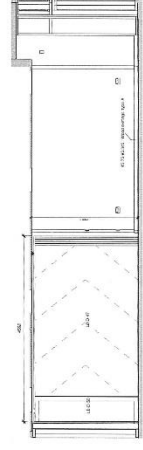
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHKD	APP'D
1	ISSUE FOR TENDER	2022-09-15
2

RDS LO-R56 - EXHIBITION 3 - SPACE REQUIREMENTS	
WALL FINISH	Skirting & Paneling
FLOOR FINISH	...
CEILING FINISH	...

3.917
2.031
5.948



Total floor space = 75m² includes storage area at the back.



PROJECT TITLE	THE SILL PROJECT
NO.	LO-R56 - EXHIBITION SPACE 3
MAIN CONTRACTOR	SIR ROBERT McALPINE
CLIENT	NPFA/YHA
DESIGNER	Jane Dabryshire and David Kendall Ltd
DATE	2022-09-15

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this drawing is for the use of the client only. It is not to be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the architect. The architect is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this drawing. The architect is not responsible for any delays or costs incurred by the client as a result of any changes to this drawing. The architect is not responsible for any claims or damages arising from the use of this drawing. The architect is not responsible for any claims or damages arising from the use of this drawing.