



THE PARKS TRUST DESIGN BRIEF

Date: 19/05/2026
Job Name: Carved wooden piece for Linford Wood Art Trail
Deadline: 24/06/2026
Budget/Actual Cost: £5000

Objective, Context & Target Audience:

To create an engaging art piece from a tree trunk to be part of a developing art trail at Linford Wood.

Background

Sculptures made by a local artist gradually emerged over time in the woods. Most of the original work has decayed naturally or been damaged and removed. The Parks Trust would like to create a trail to replace this popular feature. We have identified a site in the newer part of the woodland to prevent disturbance to the ancient woodland and allow easier access from the main paths. Our aim is to add to the trail every year to enable the trail to gradually develop. We would like different artists to take part over the years, but we will review this periodically.

Each piece will have a nature theme that is relevant to Linford Wood. The piece/s should be for the enjoyment and engagement of the general public, and we would like it to be interesting and quirky rather than a standard piece that could be found anywhere. For example, a feature of an animal may be hidden within the piece so that they have to be spotted, or the wildlife is seen from a different angle.

Linford Wood is used by local residents, including dog walkers, families and school groups. It also attracts people from across Milton Keynes. The area is open to the public and exposed to the elements at all times, so it needs to be durable and safe.

Messaging/Branding:

It should be nature-theme and be relevant to Linford Wood, an ancient woodland.

It needs to be sensitive to the woodland and The Parks Trust brand.

The Parks Trust, Campbell Park Pavilion, 1300 Silbury Boulevard,
Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, MK9 4AD

Tel: 01908 233600 | theparkstrust.com

Milton Keynes Parks Trust Limited is a Company Limited by guarantee, registered in England No 02519659
Registered Charity No. 1007183 VAT Registration No. 608 3041 69

Deliverables & Format:

- The piece/s should be carved from a suitable wood, with a life expectancy of at least 15 years.
- The pieces/s will be exposed to the public and weather at all times, so it needs to withstand weathering, anti-social behaviour, and be safe (not too sharp/easily damaged and it should not be too easy to climb on).
- It either be freestanding (so securing it in the ground needs to be considered) or carved on site from a stump.
- We would like one element of public engagement, for example, at an Education Centre Open Day in the summer holiday or during a school session.

Budget

- The total commission budget is £5000 inc. VAT. This includes all fees, design work, fabrication/delivery costs, PM costs, installation and contingency.

- Period for questions to be submitted to The Parks Trust from 19th May
- Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 24th June
- Successful submission informed by Friday 10th July
- Public Engagement – preferably one morning in the summer holiday
- Piece carved /fixed on site in September

Considerations

- Consideration must be given to health and safety implications of the commission. The successful respondent will be expected have sufficient insurance(s) in place.
- Consideration should be given to the future care and maintenance needs.
- The appointed applicant will be required to support any planning or other permissions required for commission delivery.
- The appointed applicant will be expected to work closely with the Interpretation Manager to oversee all aspects of production and delivery.
- Sufficient time and resource should be allocated throughout commission development and delivery.
- Consider, if appropriate an 'exit' or repurposing strategy for the commission which will mitigate any negative environmental impact.

Other Relevant Information:

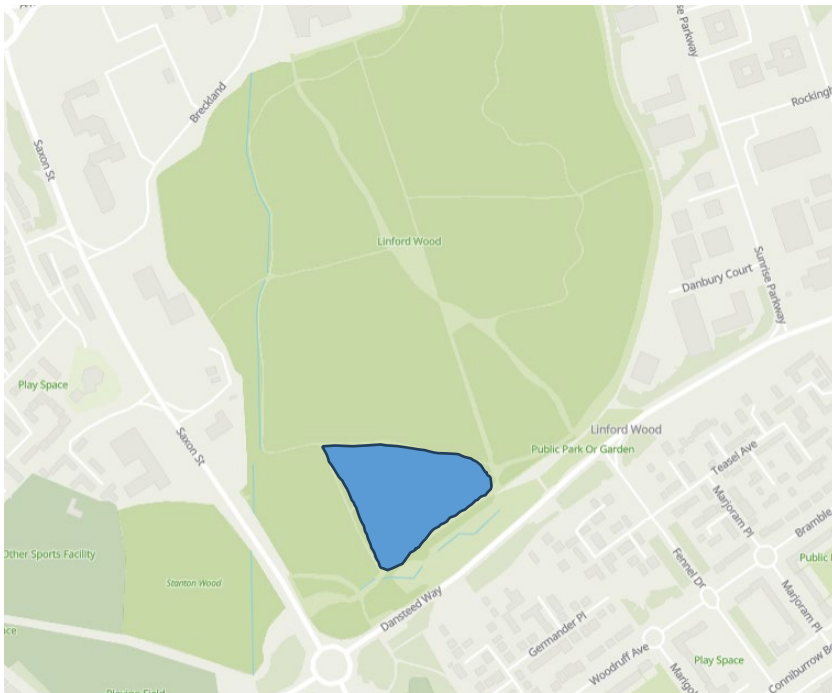
- The park is always open to the public so feel free to visit the site

Marketing and Communications:

- The Marketing and Communications of the commission will be completed by the Marketing and Communications Team at The Parks Trust and the successful artist will be expected to help provide copy and images to support communication and interpretation.

Images of Linford Wood

Exact location in this compartment tbc: What3Words: ///camps.decking.narrating



This is the area where the piece will sit. It's at the front of the ancient woodland.

The Parks Trust, Campbell Park Pavilion, 1300 Silbury Boulevard,
Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, MK9 4AD

Tel: 01908 233600 | theparkstrust.com

Milton Keynes Parks Trust Limited is a Company Limited by guarantee, registered in England No 02519659
Registered Charity No. 1007183 VAT Registration No. 608 3041 69



The owl is the remaining piece on the site. Left shows old pieces. We would want native wildlife.

Interpretation on site

Welcome to Linford Wood

Linford Wood is an ancient woodland that provides rare habitats for wildlife.

Ancient Woodlands have evolved over hundreds of years and provide biodiverse habitats. 165 plant species have been found here, providing food and shelter for hundreds of animals. For example, 6 species of bats and 174 species of beetles live within the wood! If you arrive at dusk or dawn, you may see deer, badgers, voles, foxes and hedgehogs roaming on the paths.

Ancient woodlands also store a significant amount of carbon, so they are important in fighting the climate crisis.

Scan to find out more about habitats, or visit theparkstrust.com/biodiversity

Did you know?
 Much of the ancient oak was probably cut down in WWII, and ash dieback is killing a lot of ash trees.
 We are replanting trees and artificially ageing some to restore the woodland! By adding hollows, cracks and crevices, the habitats that veteran trees offer are maintained.

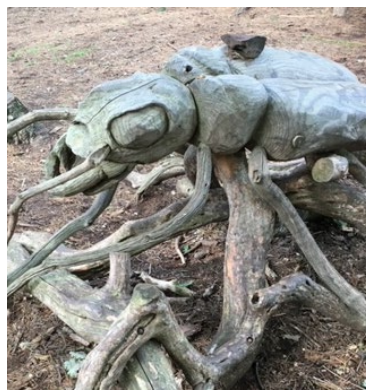
Wildlife watch
 Can you spot any of the the wildlife that Linford Wood supports?

- Bat box
- Hazel catkins
- Red Admiral butterfly
- Speckled Wood butterfly
- Veteranised tree
- Leper Stag beetle
- Jay
- Orange-tip butterfly
- Wood Anemone
- Violet
- Peacock butterfly

As this is such a rare and fragile ecosystem, we ask all visitors to **stick to the paths and keep dogs on leads**. We have reserved the south compartment for exploring, as this is not part of the ancient woodland.

01908 233600 | info@theparkstrust.com
 The charity caring for Milton Keynes' parks, forever.

Sculptures that we have been impressed by:



The Parks Trust, Campbell Park Pavilion, 1300 Silbury Boulevard, Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, MK9 4AD

Tel: 01908 233600 | theparkstrust.com

Milton Keynes Parks Trust Limited is a Company Limited by guarantee, registered in England No 02519659
 Registered Charity No. 1007183 VAT Registration No. 608 3041 69