

Landscapes Unlocked – Project brief for exhibition design and production

Purpose

The document is a Brief for professional services to design and produce an exhibition of images for the Landscapes Unlocked project.

Project Outline

Landscapes Unlocked is a partnership project between the Peak District National Park Foundation, the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) who together have received a grant from the **Archives Revealed** fund to secure a unique and extraordinary image archive belonging to the National Park. Thanks to this funding our historic archive - made up of over 44,000 images - is to be catalogued and made available to the public. Archives Revealed is a funding partnership of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and The National Archives. The project is particularly timely as 2026 marks the **75th anniversary** of the Peak District's designation as the UK's first national park.

The collection documents the people, places and landscapes of the Peak District, revealing a fascinating history throughout the second half of the 20th century to the present day. The images offer insights into all aspects of life in the National Park, and of the important work of the National Park Authority. As well as classic views and stunning scenery the collection documents special events and the cultural heritage, rural customs, craft skills and traditions of local communities. It also sheds light on the 'everyday', showing that many of the issues that challenge our landscapes today, such as litter, car parking and people pressure, have been ongoing for many decades.

This incredibly rich and varied collection will help us to explore and share the stories of our cultural landscapes. Importantly, the collection also documents changes to people and nature in our national park, and has huge potential to help us better understand and communicate landscape change, a vital research area in the face of climate change.

When the image archive has been catalogued, a curated collection of around 3000 images will be digitised and made available to the public on the **Picture the Past** website (<https://picturethepast.org.uk/>). The whole of the collection will be available for research, secured in archival conditions at the Derbyshire Record Office for the long-term.

Requirements

As part of Landscapes Unlocked we will be producing a temporary exhibition to showcase a selection of the imagery. We envisage the exhibition to be largely image-based, with only a small amount of explanatory text - the internal project team will produce the text. The exhibition will be moved between venues so it needs to be able to adapt to different spaces and be relatively easy to move. The proposed venues for display are:

- The Pump Room, Buxton Visitor Centre (for the opening of the Buxton Festival, 10th July 2026)

- Bakewell National Park Centre (this is the main venue; the exhibition may be here for c.12 months after the Buxton Festival. The space is on the mezzanine floor – there is a lift and stairs. There is a TV screen which can also be used to display imagery.)
- Millers Dale Goods Shed (a *possible* subsequent venue - an open space during the day, not staffed/attended)
- Castleton National Park Centre (a *possible* subsequent venue)

There is some funding for light boxes, slide viewers and loupes to enable people to engage with a handling collection (35mm slides). This should be incorporated into the exhibition.

We require the following professional services:

- liaison with the project team to finalise the project scope and timetable for delivery
- working with the project team to create the exhibition theme/story and help select a short list of images prior to digitization (digitization is being commissioned separately)
- mock-ups/sketches of creative and flexible design proposals for the exhibition
- exhibition design, production and delivery
- exhibition installation support (the PDNPA team and volunteers will assist with installation)

Quotations

We have a fixed maximum budget (excluding VAT) for this work:

- **£2000** professional fees
- **£2000** exhibition production costs
- **£500** for loupes, slide viewer, light boxes and materials costs (handling collection)

There may be scope to move funds around between these headings, but we would need prior approval from the funder. Quotations must include:

- a breakdown of proposed days and tasks
- your approach to this project
- examples of similar projects that demonstrate relevant experience
- **proposals for enhancement of the project scope and output**, if additional funding can be secured – we are actively seeking additional funding. This could include opportunities for extending the reach of the exhibition outside of the National Park boundary

Timetable

Project liaison should commence in late January 2026 in order that images can be selected for digitization before Easter.

The deadline for the exhibition to be produced is **1st July 2026 latest**. Installation will take place prior to the opening of the Buxton Festival which is on **10th July 2026**.

Relocation of the exhibition to Bakewell National Park Centre later in July will be done by the internal project team.

Deadline for submissions

The deadline for submission of quotations is **Sunday 11th January**. Please send quotations and supporting documentation to: Anna Badcock anna.badcock@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Please contact Anna (by email, or 01629 816206) if you would like to discuss the project. All the exhibition venues are freely open to the public if you wish to visit these spaces. We may hold an interview as part of the selection process.

Funded by:

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A selection of imagery from the archive



