

## News release

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### Where Contemporary Art Meets Historic Market Town

The Louth Art Trail to be launched on July 5th will provide a significant tourist attraction in the heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds, leading visitors on a journey of discovery of public art linked to the history and landscape of the market town that inspired this unique project.

The Trail celebrates three of Louth's most memorable features – Westgate Fields, an attractive and much cherished open space linking the town with Hubbards Hills; the River Lud from which the name “Louth” derives and which provided the lifeblood of the town during the 18th and 19th centuries; and the Greenwich Meridian Line from which world time is calculated and divides the town into West and East. These three lines which intersect the town create the catalyst for this pioneering art project.

Community consultation played a significant role in the selection of artists who have worked with local groups and schools in the development of ideas for the art.

Artist Howard Bowcott was awarded the Westgate Fields commission. Well known for his use of natural materials, Bowcott has carved four wooden leaves on the upper slopes of Westgate Fields which function as lookouts, seats and picnic tables.

Two sculptures along the River Lud are the response by artist Simon Percival to the navigation, movement and waterflow of the river. Constructed from stainless steel his sculpture in the town centre provides a new focus along the riverside path that is illuminated at night for dramatic effect. Further downstream at Riverhead his 5.5 metre stainless steel and bronze wind direction indicator gently rotates with changing winds.

#### **Commissions East**

St Giles Hall, Pound Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AE

**T** 01223 356882 **F** 01223 356883 **E** [info@commissionseast.org.uk](mailto:info@commissionseast.org.uk) **W** [www.commissionseast.org.uk](http://www.commissionseast.org.uk)

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In a unique collaboration, sculptor Lawrence Edwards and book artist Les Bicknell have produced bronze figures outside the library, St James Church, and Kidgate School. The figures are seen discovering, contemplating and understanding the Meridian Line which is represented by a steel ribbon engraved with text by local people, that appears and disappears as it traces the path of the Line through the town.

To celebrate the completion of the Trail, a series of walking tours are being offered free of charge to local people and the artists will be revisiting their commissions with the school groups that participated in the education programme.

The Louth Art Trail has received funding from the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England, European Regional Development Fund and Town and District Councils with support from East Midlands Arts. A leaflet about the Trail is available from the beginning of July through Louth Tourist Information Centre tel. 01507 609289 and more information can be obtained from the website [www.loutharttrail.info](http://www.loutharttrail.info)

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**For more information contact:**

**Charity Green** Director of Development  
01223 356882 [charity@commissionseast.org.uk](mailto:charity@commissionseast.org.uk)