

Design Statement Access to Custodians Sculpture

Background

Over recent years the Forestry Commission and partners have invested heavily in Dalby Forest to develop the site into a regionally significant visitor attraction, which provides recreation facilities for a wide range of audiences. Visitor numbers have increased from 350,000 to 460,000 over the last 10 years. Interpretation of the landscape and its history is a key part of the offer to visitors.

Context

Dalby is also home to many scheduled and unscheduled monuments, many of which go unnoticed. To enhance knowledge and enjoyment by the public of these landscape features, FE are working with Layla Khoo a local artist to provide an art installation that relates to that particular piece of historical landscape. In this case it is a well-preserved Rabbit Type, one of many in Dalby.

Design

Bit about the reason for the rabbits and Custodians, life span, size fixing etc.

Dalby Forest has many Rabbit Types, used in the Victorian times to catch rabbits for the hat making and boot lining industry. To highlight this part of the historical landscape, this art installation is created. The rabbits, presented as custodians of the forest, are individual ceramic pieces, approx. 30cm tall, which will be installed at the base of the Rabbit Type pit, to be observed from above.

The access path is designed to allow wheelchair and more able-bodied users access to see the monument and the sculpture leading from an existing car park. Avoiding the remaining wall sections of the Rabbit Type structure which are visible alongside the access path. Around the monument there will be no excavation only the vegetation on the ground will be removed and the path constructed on geotextile.