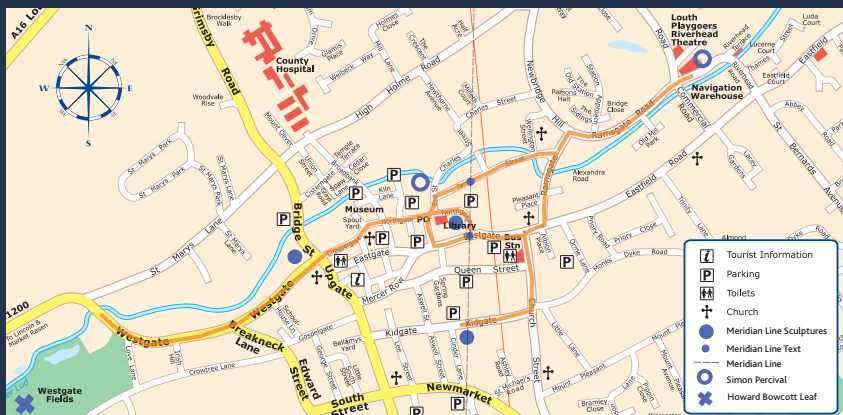


THE LOUTH ART TRAIL

Discover Louth's historical and cultural heritage through a trail of public art works.

A walk around the historic town of Louth will reveal streets, buildings, monuments and public spaces reflecting the prosperity, foresight and civic pride of past generations. It was this spirit of the past and focus on the future that inspired Louth to commission the works that now form the Louth Art Trail.

The original trail consisted of three commissions covering a range of styles and media, including sculpture and street furniture, each focusing on a particular aspect of Louth's heritage: its waterways, its natural beauty and its position on the Meridian Line.



@loutharttrailactiongroup

the **LOUTH**
ART TRAIL

East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

June 2023 Version 1

A Town Shaped by its Waterways

The Inspiration

The River Lud gives the town its name. In its present form, it has both an ecological and aesthetic appeal, but has also in the past been a valuable resource for powering local industry. Fed by water running off the Wolds, the Lud in 1920 brought Louth its greatest tragedy when a flash flood destroyed hundreds of homes and killed 23 people.

In 1770 the opening of Louth Canal helped transform Louth into a manufacturing port. The excavation of a 12-mile canal that allowed navigation from the River Humber to the Louth Riverhead was a major engineering feat. Through the 18th and 19th centuries, the canal stimulated growth and prosperity and transportation of new building materials into the town, via the canal, had a major impact on its physical appearance.

The Artist

Gloucestershire based sculptor Simon Percival was commissioned to create the works honoring Louth's waterways. Percival has worked as a designer sculptor since 1996 creating both one-off commissioned art works and batch produced work specializing in water features.

Since working on the Louth Art Trail, Percival's commissions have included the Echo water feature in the silver medal winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show 2012, a work that was also used in a temporary exhibition at the V & A.

www.simonpercival.com

The works

Wave Sculpture, Wind Direction Indicator and Riverhead Seating
Simon Percival. 2001
Oak, Stainless Steel and Bronze.

Two sculptures and specially commissioned seats by Simon Percival celebrate the River Lud and the Navigation Canal.

The sculptures are a response to the navigation, movement and flow of the river. 'Wind Direction Indicator' outside the Navigation Warehouse refers to the navigation process, with the wavelike form of 'Wave Sculpture' towards the town centre echoing ship construction. The sculptures are complemented by seating made by the artist at the Navigation Warehouse.

The sculptures encourage the public to follow the path of the river into the town centre from the Navigation Warehouse.



A Town in Two Hemispheres

The Inspiration

Since 1884, the Greenwich Meridian has been the line from which world time and longitude are measured. From pole to pole the line links Louth to villages, towns and cities in France, Spain, Algeria, Mali, Burkino Faso, Togo and Ghana.

Hundreds of residents and visitors move between the Eastern and Western Hemisphere every day in the town's busy shopping area of Eastgate. A plaque installed in 1948 marks the point where the Greenwich Meridian crosses the street.

The Artist

Suffolk-based sculptor Laurence Edwards and book artist Les Bicknell worked together to create Louth's Meridian Sculptures.

Edwards works primarily in bronze and is one of the few sculptors to cast his own work. Casting mainly male figures, Edward's work often explores the transformational process of the lost wax method. Since establishing his first foundry in 1990, Edwards has won many awards including the Royal Society of Portrait Sculpture Award in 2006. In 2012 he became an Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculpture.

www.laurenceedwards.wordpress.com



Les Bicknell teaches at University of Arts Camberwell and Norwich University and specialises in working with the public in his creation of commissions. Bicknell has had a number of solo and group exhibitions and worked on commissions from universities and councils including the 6 steel plasma-cut public art sculpture for Goldday Square in Chelmsford in 2018.

www.lesbicknell.blogspot.com

The works

Searching, Mapping, Solution.
Les Bicknell and Laurence Edwards. 2002.
Bronze and Steel.

Three sculptures and text lines by Les Bicknell and Laurence Edwards mark the Greenwich Meridian Line.

The sculptures discover, contemplate, and interpret the Meridian Line as it appears and disappears in the town centre. The first discovers the line, holding and struggling with the idea, the second contemplates its existence, with the third, a female figure, acknowledging, and celebrating its universal ideas.

The texts engraved on the line were developed in workshops by local people working with the artists.

The public are encouraged to find the three locations where the sculptures and lines appear. These are close to important local buildings – St James's Church, the library and Kidgate School.

A Town Rich in Natural Beauty

The Inspiration

On 1 August 1907 the population of Louth celebrated the opening of Hubbards Hills. The Hills had previously been in private ownership but were given to the town by the trustees of August Alphonse Pahud. Pahud came to Louth as a schoolteacher in 1875 and married a local girl. Pahud never recovered from the death of his wife in 1889 and in 1902 committed suicide. The purchase of Hubbards Hills for the town was the trustees' way of carrying out his wishes to perpetuate the memory of his wife.

The Artist

Howard Bowcott is based in North Wales working on arts and regeneration projects creating public art as an advisor, designer and sculptor and was commissioned to create works inspired by the town's natural public spaces.

Bowcott's regeneration schemes can be found in England and Wales and include a series of artworks for the new Rural Life Centre in Bala, North Wales and the 2005 award-winning redesign of the Chepstow High Street.
www.howardbowcott.co.uk

The works

Oak Leaf, Beech Leaf, Horse Chestnut Leaf and London Plane Leaf.

Howard Bowcott. 2002.

Oak.

Four sculptures by Howard Bowcott celebrate Westgate Fields, an important area of public open space linking the town centre with Hubbards Hills.

The sculptures of leaves native to the area, appear scattered on the upper slopes of the park encouraging people to leave the path and discover and explore the local area.

Primarily intended as sculptures these giant leaves had a practical use and could be used as viewing points, seats or even picnic tables.

The sculptures installed in 2002 had an estimated life-span of approximately 15 years. After a period of natural decline, three of the works became unsafe for the public and rather than begin the decommissioning immediately, railings were erected to allow the sculptures to remain in place until consultations could be carried out to decide on their future.

Completed in 2002, the original project was initiated by Louth Town Council with support from East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and was developed with funding from the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England and the European Regional Development fund. The commissioning process took over two years and involved public consultation through exhibitions and focus groups, workshops and public lectures along with a programme of events introducing the work and the artists to local schools, colleges and community groups.

Leaflet compiled by the Louth Art Trail Action Group. A team of passionate volunteers who wish to highlight the importance of Louth's public art. The group is being supported by East Lindsey District Council's Vital and Viable Market Town's initiative.



Logo kindly shared by Lincolnshire County Council

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