

BRIEF FOR MOSAIC ARTIST (rev.1)



Fish Tales: working with schools to celebrate engineering on the River Severn

Project background:

The Unlocking the Severn project is underway, with major engineering taking place at Diglis and Bevere weirs on the River Severn. We are unlocking the River Severn for people and wildlife through this 3 year conservation and river-engagement project that is made possible by modern engineering and the support of volunteers.

The Fish Tales mini-projects have been designed as a way to engage young people and their families living close to the new fish passes.

The interpretive themes that underpin our work are:

- Overarching Theme: our project helps UK fish, including the rare twaite shad, to pass human-made barriers and to thrive in the mighty River Severn.
- Theme 1: Epic Engineering. A creative team has designed passes to adapt Worcestershire weirs for fish, solving many logistical challenges.
- Theme 2: Shad Succeed. New technology, fisheries experts and citizen science combine to track and make discoveries about the 'May Fish' as it journeys to ideal spawning
- Theme 3: Water Worlds. The UK's longest river is both dynamic and sensitive with habitats and wildlife boosted by the shad's return.
- Theme 4: River Relationships. What is my own, the project partners' and people's wider relationship with the Severn and river, and how can it improve?

Overall purpose of the Fish Tales mini project:

Children will feel proud that their river is part of a large important restoration project. They will be supported to respond to the project themes in creative ways, and make their own works of art and design inspired by the river. They will share their new knowledge and enthusiasm with their families and class mates in a whole school celebration in Summer 2020.

Overall approach of the Fish Tales mini project:

One school, Cherry Orchard Primary School near to the River Severn Diglis weir site has been selected, and they are very excited about being involved. The offer is completely free for the school (being funded through project grants), and includes:



- A whole school assembly to discover the amazing fish species that live in the river and learn why people built weirs in the past, and the clever modern engineers who are helping endangered fish return to the river.
- A class visit for each year four group to see the exciting engineering in action and a chance to take part in a river themed engineering activity.
- Year 4 engagement on Diglis Island with a mosaic artist so that children can creatively design and produce a piece of artwork that celebrates the return of the shad.
- Whole school engagement with an animator so that children can work cooperatively to produce a short film about the river and the return of the shad.
- A celebration in the Summer term where children will share what they have learnt and created with their families.

Specific brief for a mosaic artist:

We are looking for a mosaic artist to deliver the following for 3 x Year 4 classes from one school. Each class contains approximately 30 children aged 8 years old. Delivery will take place in a former lock-building workshop on Diglis Island in the River Severn, which is also where the mosaic will be displayed.

Engagement with children:

- Work with the Unlocking the Severn Education Officer to develop 3 x full day mosaic arts workshops based on site in the workshop on Diglis Island. One group of 30 children will visit each day and will work cooperatively to produce a final piece of art that will be displayed in the workshop as a legacy of the project.
- Deliver workshops across 3 days during the week commencing 20th April 2020.
- Attend a celebration event that will ideally take place on Diglis Island, where families are invited to attend. Likely to be either 29th, 30th June or 1st July.

Output:

- Design (with Education Officer and school children) a mosaic that will be displayed for a period of 5 years in the workshop on Diglis island. Although all interpretive themes outline previously are relevant, themes 2 and 3 (Shad Succeed and Water Worlds) are the two that are most important for this.
- The mosaic should prioritise UK fish species (including the twaite shad) and should be inspired by the colours of the river ecosystem, serving to 'bring the river in' to the workshop space. Natural tones and inspiration could include:



- Create (with school children) the mosaic. Durability is important. The mosaic should retain its quality over time and not fade or disintegrate within a couple of years. The workshop that it will be displayed in can be damp and cold.
- The following image shows the possible space for the mosaic; the wall space on either side and above the doorway. There is also potential to also utilise the glass in the doorway to add a stained-glass effect, this would need to be removable after the 5 year period.



- Install the mosaic and educate the Unlocking the Severn team on best practice for maintenance of the artwork.
- Help us document the workshops and artistic outputs and gather feedback from children/parents/teachers about what they have learnt and enjoyed from the workshops and celebration event.

- There is flexibility and opportunities for artistic input to the brief based on further insights into the space and how it will be used. The workshop is a listed building so sensitivity is needed, and there will also be other items installed by a design team we are working with. Our aim is to build intrigue and excitement and encourage children to tell their parents and families all about the amazing rivers Severn and Teme and the exciting modern engineering helping species to return.
- As a conservation charity we are keen to use environmentally friendly materials and methods and recycle and avoid waste wherever possible.

Overall Fish Tales timeline. Yellow highlight indicates dates you would need to attend:

Feb/March 2020 Two assemblies to introduce the project to the whole school.

March 2020 Year 4 site visits to meet the engineers and take part in river themed activity.

3 days w/c 20th April Series of artist-led mosaic workshops for year 4 on Diglis Island.

May 2020 Whole school engagement with an animation artist.

Either June 29th or June 30th or July 1st Welcome Shad celebration event for school and families.

Next steps:

If you are interested in this contract please contact us with the following:

- An outline of a design for a mosaic that fits the space and serves to 'bring the river in' with UK fish.
- An outline of how you plan to deliver the workshops and how children could be involved in the design process as well as creation.
- A quote based on a day rate to include the 3 contact days with the school and 1 day celebration event, plus days needed for preparation (including a half day site visit), completion and installation of the mosaic, all material costs and any additional expenses.

Send your proposal to Rosie Croggon, Education Officer by 5pm on Sunday December 1st to:

rosie.croggon@severnrivertrust.com

Phone: 01886 888394

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please get in touch.

