

Interpretation Engagement Strategy

1. Context

Celebrating the stories of the water artery is integral to the restoration of the Cascade. During the development stage of the project, we worked with partners to develop a plan for interpreting the Cascade.

With our partners and colleagues, we developed three key messages that tell the story of the Cascade and the people that care for it:

- Chatsworth as an ecological haven.
- Chatsworth as a place of community.
- Chatsworth as a place of ingenuity and ideas.

Interpretation will take a variety of forms, layered across the site. This offers us a variety of opportunities to work with our partners to develop content.

- We will install physical interpretation along the water artery: benches, wayfinding, interpretation boards and interactives.
- We will develop an interactive digital experience that includes oral history audio stops.
- We will develop a series of paper trails that fit into two camps: content and experience. Content trails will layer specialist content and experience trails will offer routes around a particular type of experience – for instance, a playful trail.

2. Partnership working

We are keen to continue to work with our partners to build on our plans and develop content. Our partnerships will:

- Create interpretation that is directly reflective of its target audiences, their lived experiences, their needs and values.
- Strengthen partnerships.
- Co-curate content.
- Empower audiences with opportunities to feed into final designs.
- Create opportunities to work with and support local creatives.

Successful partnership working will:

- Collaboratively create interpretation and content.
- Strengthen partnerships with key groups and individuals.
- Create interpretation that feels relevant and representative of the target audiences.

Our partnership principles

- Participants and their expertise should be recognised and valued.
- Participants should be appropriately reimbursed for their contribution via a method that is best suited to them and their circumstances.
- Potential methods and principles of participation should be shared, discussed, negotiated, and agreed with community participants before beginning the process.
- Use a variety of tools and methods of participations (agreed on with the participants) to enable maximum engagement that suits the individual/group.
- Establish and maintain clear roles, responsibilities, and expectations (on all sides of the process).
- Embrace the 'chaos' of collaboration and allow enough room and flex for discussion and change of direction.
- Create a safe, friendly, and inclusive space for all.
- Make use of staff and volunteers and their skills, interests, and potential – look at who might like to champion the engagement scheme and support them in doing so.
- Participation should be as equitable as possible throughout.
- Ensure transparency wherever possible.

The Level Centre

During the development stage of the project, we created a suite of designs for on-site interpretation.

Building on the interpretation plan, we would like to continue to work with The Level Centre to gain their insight into the content and details of the designs. We've developed a framework of interpretation themes across the site and have designs for the physical interpretation, so we'd like to develop the graphic design and interpretative text.

We'd like to run workshops on site that combine time in the park and garden with a creative session. We would share the stories we've built and develop creative responses to these stories.

The consultant will use the outcomes of these sessions to steer the content of our physical interpretation on site. We could then meet with The Level Centre again to get feedback from the group on designs alongside feedback from our colleagues.

Derbyshire MIND

We would like to continue our work with Derbyshire MIND. We will collaboratively create a mental health, wellbeing and accessibility booklet. This will be co-curated using Derbyshire MIND's support staff and their users to ensure a robust and useful resource that is representative of people's lived experiences.

With Derbyshire MIND and with support of our consultants, we will run creative workshops to develop a look and feel document and content structure for the booklet. Throughout the project we will meet with Derbyshire MIND to review the learning from their public programme sessions and include this in the booklet. The format of these sessions and how we gather responses will be confirmed with Derbyshire Mind and might be on site or digital.

We will work with our interpretation consultant to develop the graphic design and production of the final booklet. The design will be reviewed with Derbyshire MIND staff and users. Our consultant will then edit the design using this feedback. We will share drafts internally to get the CHT team's input as well. This is to ensure all our interpretation is cohesive across the site.

Minerva Learning Trust: Woodthorpe Primary

We will run a series of workshops with our consultant to develop our experience trails. Ahead of the workshops, we will agree with the school what themes they would like to cover. The themes of the trails could be decided with schools based on the skills they would like to develop, for instance creative writing, geography or history.

We suggest running 2-3 workshops taking place at schools and on site at Chatsworth. The first will introduce the project, Chatsworth and the type of trails we are planning to provide visitors. It will introduce what interpretation means. During this workshop, the children will create a trail for the school playground to contextualise map and trail making. We'd share a design brief similar to those we use with designers.

During the second workshop, pupils will visit Chatsworth to help us design a trail for the site. Using a design brief, we will look at considerations like access, themes of different trails and what different audiences like to do and see. Pupils will visit the garden and make notes on their favourite places and things they've seen before taking part in a creative session where they make their own trails.

The designs pupils create will be shared with the consultant and will directly influence the final design of our experiential trails for visitors. The work of pupils will be credited in the final published trail. A final workshop will take place at school to share the trail design with pupils.

3. Key Considerations

- The interpretation consultants should consider the outcomes of the workshops (Eg. Producing the trails and wellbeing guide) in their budgets.
- When agreeing the budget and programme with the consultant, we will agree what workshops will be run internally (by interpretation editor and facilitators) and which will be run by the consultant.
- The consultant will design final products using the outcomes of the workshops.

- The level of co-production with each group will be developed in line with the group's capacity.
- Ultimate sign off will sit with the project board. We will share designs as they develop and highlight elements that particularly draw from co-production.
- We will acknowledge participants work in our final products.