



Curlew Calling — **Have your say**

A new landmark for Darwen?



You're being invited to have your say on plans for a striking new public artwork at a gateway to the West Pennine Moors in Darwen.

Curlew Calling

What's being proposed?

'Curlew Calling' is a four-metre-high sculpture of a curlew – one of the moor's most distinctive and increasingly threatened bird species.

The sculpture has been designed by Darwen-based artist Marjan Wouda.

Where would it be?

The proposed location is beside the popular walking route from the Sunnyhurst Pub up to Darwen's iconic Jubilee Tower.

A number of potential locations have been considered, with the preferred site identified following discussions with Natural England.

We've provided a map opposite to show you where it would be.

Has the proposal been fully assessed?

Yes. Over the past year, the artist has carried out extensive work to assess the project's financial feasibility, environmental considerations, technical requirements, ground conditions and installation and maintenance requirements.

Now it is time for you to have your say.

Who is involved?

Marjan has worked with local engineering and fabrication specialists WEC Group to develop the design.

As with the Darwen Spitfire Memorial in the town centre, there are plans for apprentices to be involved in fabricating the sculpture, giving them valuable hands-on experience of delivering a major public art project. And locally based Premier Steel is also proud to be supporting the scheme.

How would it be funded?

Marjan also successfully secured funding from Arts Council England to develop the proposal.

Subject to public support and the necessary approvals, funding support has been identified in principle from Destination Darwen – part of the Darwen Town Deal – and Darwen Town Council.

Why a curlew?

The curlew is strongly associated with the moorland landscape around Darwen.

The sculpture aims to celebrate this distinctive species, while encouraging people to stop, look and appreciate the wildlife and landscape on their doorstep.

It would also create a new landmark and help attract more visitors to Darwen, supporting local businesses and the wider Destination Darwen programme, which includes the upgrades of routes up through the town's parks on to the moors and to the Tower.

What happens next?

Your views, the views of fellow residents and visitors will help determine whether the project progresses.

If consultation feedback is positive, the proposal will move forward to the formal permissions stage, including planning approval and any other necessary consents.

No final decision has been made.



Have your say

If you live in Darwen or regularly visit the moors, we want to hear what you think.

Please complete this short online survey now:



Or complete the survey opposite and overleaf.

It only takes a few minutes to fill in and your views will help make a difference.

**The consultation will close on:
5th October 2026**



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Proposed Location

