



Wigan♥
Council

Haigh Hall Art Consultant Job Pack

Haigh Hall

Art Consultant

Job Pack

1. Purpose and Context

Haigh Hall, a Grade II* listed estate in Wigan, and its 300-acre estate are undergoing a major transformation into a cultural and visitor destination. As part of this ambitious restoration, Wigan Council is seeking an experienced arts consultant to develop a commissioning strategy that integrates contemporary art into the Hall's architecture, landscape, and programming. The strategy will help shape a distinctive artistic identity for Haigh Hall—one that reflects its rich heritage, engages diverse audiences, and contributes to its future as a nationally significant cultural destination.

2. The Brief

The appointed consultant will work closely with the Head of Cultural Programming and key stakeholders to develop a five-year commissioning strategy that shapes Haigh Hall's artistic identity ahead of its public launch in 2028.

The strategy should be forward looking yet reflect the Hall's layered history that is intertwined with narratives of wealth, power, colonialism, and Empire and stories that have shaped its place within a borough moulded by working-class resilience and environmental regeneration. We expect an approach that is inclusive, ambitious, and socially responsible, creating opportunities for diverse voices and contemporary responses that engage with history, identity, and environmentalism. The consultant will identify opportunities for permanent and temporary art commissions, outline funding and procurement methods, and ensure integration with design, conservation, and accessibility plans.

This is a unique opportunity to influence the creative direction of Haigh Hall and position it as a nationally significant cultural destination that is honest about its past and forward-looking in its vision.

The consultant will:

- **Develop a five-year commissioning strategy** aligned with Haigh Hall's vision and Wigan's cultural strategy.
- **Research Haigh Hall's heritage**, architecture, landscape, and people's history to inform the approach.
- **Embed inclusive practice** and interpretation of Haigh Hall's layered history.
- **Design engagement methods** for dialogue, co-creation, and fair remuneration.
- **Identify opportunities** for permanent and temporary commissions for the 2028 launch and beyond.
- **Outline commissioning processes**, procurement options, indicative costs, and funding sources.
- **Collaborate with design and conservation** teams to integrate art into visitor experience and site plans, ensuring accessibility and environmentally sustainable practice at every stage.
- **Develop a fundraising approach** to support the commissioning strategy.

3. Objectives

1. **Position Haigh Hall's cultural programme** within regional, national, and international contemporary art contexts.
2. **Celebrate and interpret Haigh Hall's heritage** and architecture through art integrated into design and landscape.
3. **Foster inclusive engagement** that connects diverse audiences and reflects local identity.
4. **Support the development of a clear vision and mission** for Haigh Hall's cultural and creative strategy.

4. Deliverables

Commissioning Strategy: A document outlining vision, themes, and approach for integrating art at Haigh Hall.

Commissioning Plan & Artist Longlist: Opportunities for permanent and temporary commissions, indoors and outdoors with procurement and feasibility considerations.

Stakeholder Engagement Framework: Methods for consultation and collaboration with design teams, council, and community.

Implementation Timeline: Phased delivery plan with milestones and dependencies.

Budget Outline: Indicative costs for commissioning strategy delivery.

Fundraising Strategy: Potential funding sources and partnership approaches to support the cultural programme.

5. The Contract

Contract fee: up to £10,000

This is exclusive of VAT but inclusive of all other costs to deliver the work including community engagement and consultation. The contract will be made to a freelance individual or an organisation. The successful candidate will be responsible for their own tax affairs.

6. Timeline

Strategy to be delivered within 4 months of appointment.

The commissioning of artworks will take place in phased stages between 2026 and 2030. This brief focuses on developing the strategy, with the actual commissioning subject to a future phase of work, dependent on funding, planning, and project development.

Task	Dates
Art consultant appointed	December 2025
Initial research and consultation	January – February 2026
Development of commissioning strategy	March 2026
Submission of commissioning strategy and presented to project team	April 2026

7. Skills and Experience Required

We are seeking a consultant with a strong track record in curating and commissioning contemporary art, particularly within heritage or culturally significant settings. The ideal candidate will bring strategic insight, creative vision, and collaborative working practices to help shape Haigh Hall's future cultural identity.

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Experience developing and delivering public art strategies in complex, multi-stakeholder environments.
- A strong network of contemporary artists and fabricators, with knowledge of commissioning processes and production.
- Proven ability to work with multidisciplinary teams including architects, designers, and planners.
- Understanding of heritage sensitivities, planning frameworks, and accessibility considerations.
- Experience engaging communities and stakeholders in the commissioning process.
- A successful track record of fundraising to support public art delivery.

8. Recruitment Process

Applications will be assessed by the project delivery team. We aim to work towards the following timeline:

Process	Date
Open Call announced	Tuesday 11 th November 2025
Deadline for submissions	12pm (midnight) Sunday 7 th December 2025
Shortlisted candidates notified by	Thursday 11 th December 2025
Shortlisted candidates interview online	Monday 15 th December
Candidates notified of outcome	w/c 15 th December 2025
Candidate contracted to start work by	w/c 5 th January 2026

8.1 How to Apply

Please ensure that your proposal responds to both the brief and the supporting documents found in the Appendix of this document.

If you would like to discuss the opportunity, please contact Kate Brindley, Head of Cultural Programming, Haigh Hall at K.Brindley2@wigan.gov.uk.

Please submit an application that includes the following:

- **Contact details:** Name, email, phone number, website, and social media handles (if applicable).
- **A statement of interest:** Why you are interested in this opportunity, referencing relevant experience and your initial response to the brief.
- **Proposal:** Your proposed approach to delivering the commission, including any early concept ideas, installation considerations, and a budget outline.
- **Up to 3 relevant examples** of your work, including images and short descriptions.
- **Fee structure and availability:** Outline your proposed fee and availability to deliver the strategy within the required timeframe.
- **Contact details for two referees** (References will only be requested for the selected candidate prior to contracting).

Submissions will be accepted as:

- **Word or PDF documents** (maximum 10MB, up to six sides of A4)
- **Filmed or audio presentations** (maximum 10MB, up to 10 minutes, saved in MP4 format)

We are committed to ensuring this opportunity is open and inclusive to all. Please get in touch if you require further support to access this opportunity.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and particularly encourage applications from people from the global majority and from protected characteristics.

Please submit your application to katrina.houghton@wigan.gov.uk with **HAIGH HALL ART CONSULTANT** in the email subject line.

Deadline for applications: 12pm midnight, Sunday 7th December

9. Appendix

Supporting documents, images, and background information are provided in the separate Appendix.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Appendix for:

- A. [Background on the Haigh Hall restoration project](#)
- B. [Architects Commissioning Strategy](#)

A. Background on the Haigh Hall restoration project



Haigh Hall and the surrounding estate is undergoing an exciting multi-million-pound restoration programme.

This masterplan will transform Haigh Hall into a nationally significant arts, culture and heritage destination providing a world class visitor experience.

Many of the projects are already well underway with exciting milestones on the horizon.

Lovingly described as the 'Jewel in Wigan's Crown', Haigh Hall is close to the hearts of so many residents across Wigan Borough, and we share their pride and passion for the estate. With a talented project team behind these wide-reaching plans, we are fully committed to delivering this important project for everyone.

As part of Wigan Council's commitment to community health and wealth building and providing social value, the project is providing employment and training opportunities.

Many of these are in partnership with Wigan and Leigh College and the local business network, designed to give back to the local community and voluntary sector.

For further information please visit: [The Restoration of Haigh](#)

B. Architects Commissioning Strategy

Wetherford Watson Mann Architects (WWM)

24th October 2025 – Haigh Hall

Art Commissioning Strategy – an introduction to the Hall



Life and Use

Haigh Hall seems simple, natural, and effortlessly aristocratic. It is anything but. Since it began life in the 13th century, high on the hill above Wigan, both the house and gardens have been continually added to and altered. There are few traces of these earlier iterations, but some remain.

The current house is the product of 19th-century reconstruction, funded by the fruits of industry and slavery. The Lindsay family rebuilt it almost entirely, using wealth from coal mining and compensation received after the abolition of slavery. While the wider estate was being mined, cut, and consumed for industry, the landscape at Haigh was naturalised, transformed from medieval formal gardens into pastoral woodlands. Within this, traces of industry still mark the land.



Democratising the Hall, opening the house

The tensions and contradictions of its different pasts are starting points for thinking the future of Haigh, considering what remains present and must be kept at all costs, and where intervention can be accommodated. They also offer important cues to interpreting Haigh's social history. This project is but the next step in a process of constant evolution: an additional layer that will sit within and speak to its history.

The use of artwork widely within the hall is a welcome resource in opening it up and rewriting its history, amplifying voices that have yet to be heard and reassessing those that have previously been told from a singular point of view. The theme of three Hs – humanities, hospitality, horticulture – will guide its new start, introducing themes related to its past while allowing a blank canvas for the stories of its new users.

Haigh Hall is first and foremost a house and retaining its personal character is essential to offering a different type of art gallery – one that is informal and welcoming, offers space for discussion and reflection, and breaks down the threshold between audience and art. The aim is to maximise its accessibility, especially for those who are unfamiliar with art and museum spaces.

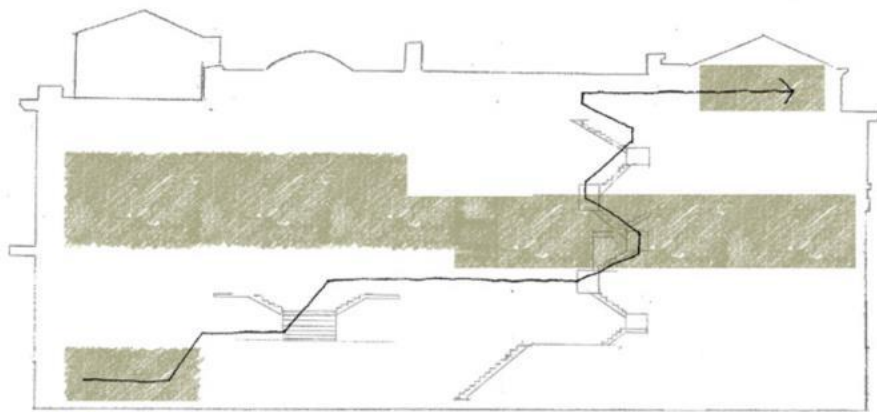
As the Hall was originally conceived as the focal point of the wider estate, views out to the landscape are also key to the visitor experience. Art embedded in the surrounding grounds should be considered from these vantage points within the Hall.

Can artwork be lived in rather than simply looked at?

The ambition is to create a welcoming and inspiring cultural offer at Haigh Hall with a consolidated circuit of versatile gallery spaces proposed on the first floor, comprising two distinct suites that will house the most significant exhibitions.

As Haigh Hall does not currently have a collection of its own, it will be largely dependent on loans from other collections and institutions, as a start. The programme seeks to attract local and regional visitors, and should comprise a mix of contemporary art, including historic works related to the original collection, and modern art of regional significance.

The proposal extends to embedding art throughout the hall, in reference to its past as private home with an extensive art collection. This will allow for varying levels of art to coexist within the house, serving as a conduit for elucidating Haigh's social history.



Consolidated main floor with social and cultural history told through secondary and support spaces



Art at Haigh

Some spaces and rooms seem particularly relevant for commissioning artwork that engages with the building directly and has the potential to live longer than rotating exhibitions – a future reading of the passage of time at Haigh, that engages with its past and will simultaneously be part of its future. Outside the first floor gallery circuit, the following spaces are of particular relevance and potential for art commissions:

1. The Hall entrance, externally – a buffer space is proposed just outside the main entrance on the southern approach, visible all the way down the promenade, this could house an art piece with significant impact.
2. The grand staircase – which offers the opportunity for a hung installation or sculpture immediately below the dome; immersive projections on the walls or ceiling; wall installations that could continue from one artist to another.
3. The rooftop bar – a site-specific ceiling fresco related to horticulture, potentially extending to the external cladding, could be commissioned; decoration to the domed ceiling above the bar relating to astronomy and the transit of Venus.

4. The cafe/restaurant – the walls and timber linings in the hospitality spaces offer opportunity for commissioned murals integrated into the architecture.

These are not fixed proposals, but an indication of the discussions thus far.

Overall, this holistic approach necessitates spatial flexibility, supported by high-quality infrastructure and careful planning, to enable the long-term viability of Haigh Hall as a regional beacon for art.