

Public Art Strategy

4.1 Background ...

Public Art involves the commissioning of artists and craftspeople to make new site specific work that can be permanent, temporary, internal or external. It can involve artists' unique creative abilities in the development and design of the fabric of spaces. Public art includes work that is integrated into a scheme, through bespoke street furniture, lighting, boundaries and landscape to internal details. It can also be sculpture, photography, performance, moving image or events. Public art need not be within public spaces, but has to be accessible to the public realm, or available in the semi-public areas of completed developments.

Public art has developed to embrace not only permanent sculptural works but also festivals, performances and other temporary art forms. Artworks in the public realm are diverse in form and function and contemporary practice ensures that trends are rapidly changing. As a result of these changes, public art by definition has also changed. It no longer refers to just sculptures and monuments but now encompasses a multitude of media and approaches.

The benefits of public art are recognised in the Chester Public Art Strategy and the Cheshire Public Art Guidelines (see Page 95), which are currently being adapted for Cheshire West and Chester.



The Pits by Janet Hodgson, Whitefriars Development Canterbury. Client:Land Securities © inSite arts-Archeological drawings of sites below etched into the paving.