



# LUMB BANK



## THE HOME OF NORTHERN WRITING





‘Lumb Bank is a unique kind of machine or organism that looks out over ancient valleys and woods, listens to the wind chasing across epic moorland, feels the nervous system of streams and becks, and tracks the parabolas of clouds and stars. Then it translates everything it senses into language’

– **Simon Armitage**, Poet Laureate



‘Arvon has been one of the most important literature development organisations in Britain for over 50 years’

– **Bernardine Evaristo**, Booker Prize winner



## ABOUT LUMB BANK

**Arvon is the UK’s leading creative writing charity, reaching over 6,000 people each year.**

We offer a home for the imagination, where anyone can step away from routine, be inspired by experienced writers and release their imaginative potential. Our residential courses take place at three historic houses in idyllic rural settings – and our fourth house, Arvon at Home, extends the Arvon experience to people online. Over its 55-year history, Arvon has supported the development of thousands of writers and has earned its epithet: ‘the home of creative writing’.

Deep in the Calder Valley lies Arvon’s Northern writing house Lumb Bank, former home of Ted Hughes and an important literary heritage site. Since 1975, Lumb Bank has welcomed over 75,000 writers of all ages and stages through its doors. Half a century later, our ambitious plans to redevelop Lumb Bank will transform Arvon’s Northern writing house both physically and operationally, making the site more accessible and sustainable and enabling us to dramatically expand our programme, as we turn Lumb Bank into an engine-house for creativity across the North.



'The freedom and the peace that the surroundings of Lumb Bank gift participants, particularly those who struggle to trust, is immeasurable.'

– Shyama Perera, Arvon tutor reflecting on a residential week with children in foster care

## THE VISION

**Lumb Bank, one of the key literary heritage sites in the North, will be opened to a wider audience and developed as a home for creative writing across the region.**

Arvon North will increase our reach by 400%. Alongside our residential courses, we will deliver a rich variety of creative writing engagements both at Lumb Bank and in towns and regions across the North.

We will celebrate the legacy of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, with exhibits and interpretation linked to local museums and other heritage settings, and through the creation of a library of Northern writing.

We will open up Lumb Bank to a wider audience for non-residential events and activities, and we will develop a strand of work to enable individuals from our region's most marginalised and underrepresented communities to come to Lumb Bank to tell their stories.

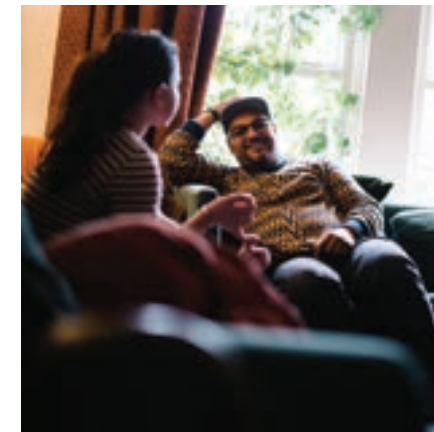


## WHY NOW?

**Lumb Bank is in urgent need of upgrading.**

There has been no substantial development or restoration of the site for over 40 years, and access data has revealed barriers to participation that include health and wellbeing challenges, caring responsibilities, and financial considerations.

In order to transform Lumb Bank into an engine-house for creative writing across the North, to extend Arvon's reach – locally, regionally and nationally – and to make ourselves truly accessible for everyone, Lumb Bank must be made fit-for-purpose and brought up to 21st century standards.





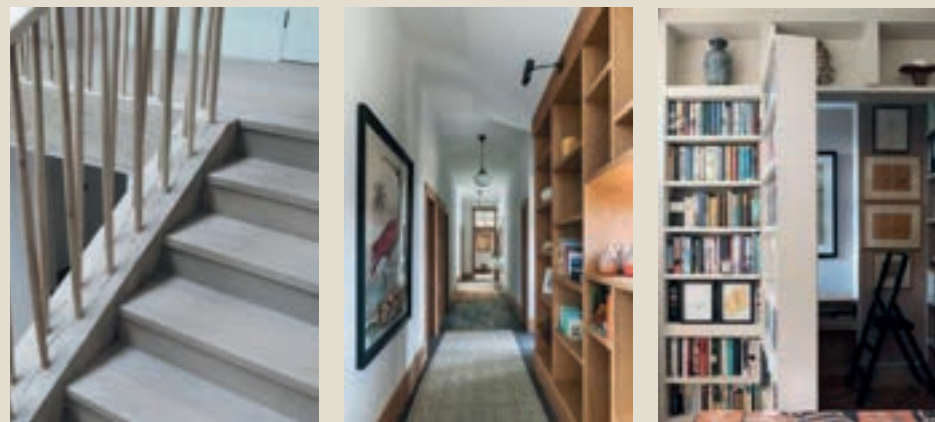
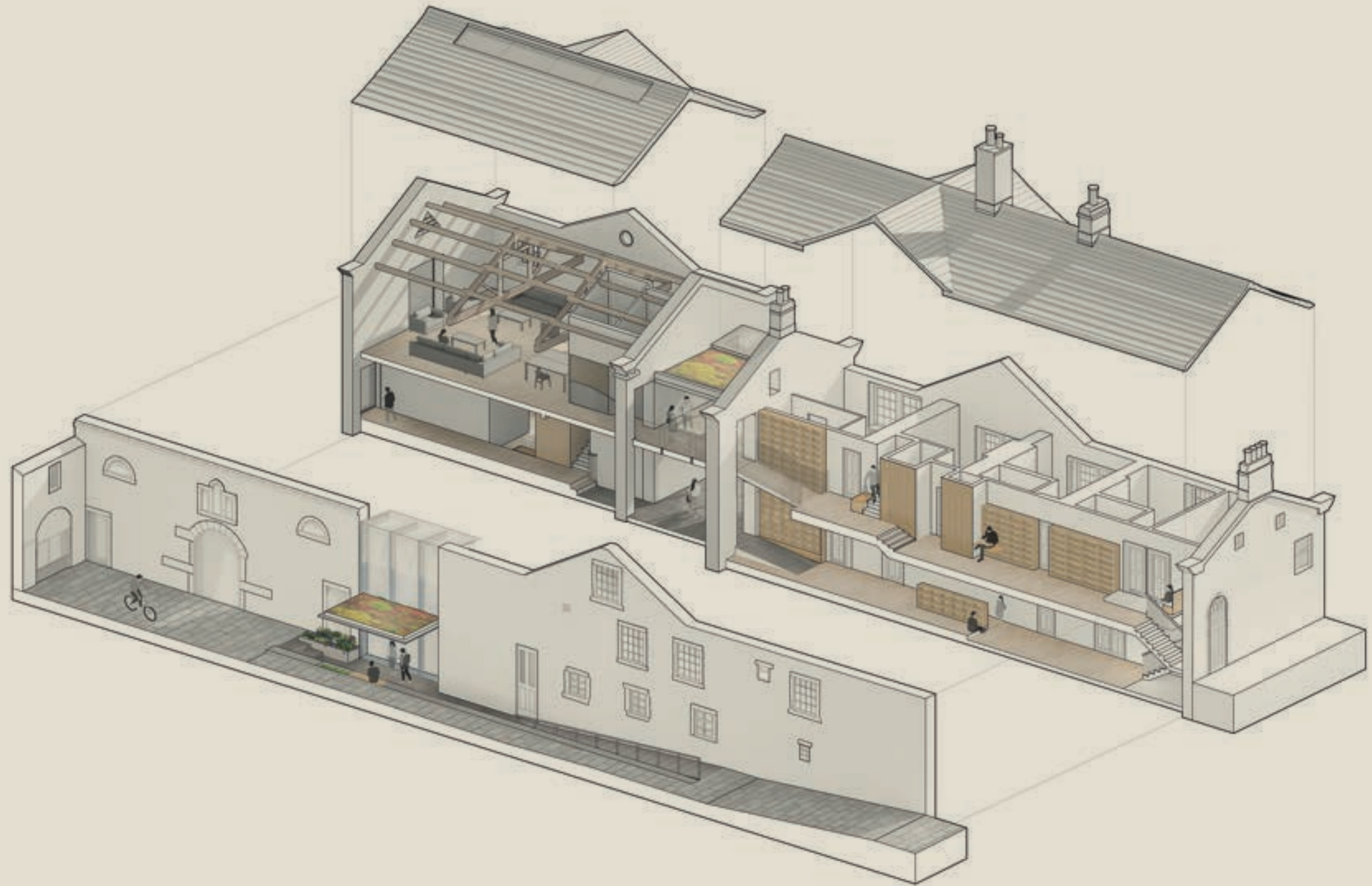
# WHAT WILL A REDEVELOPED LUMB BANK LOOK LIKE?

**A redeveloped Lumb Bank will feel open and accessible from the moment you arrive, with all its spaces embodying the creativity that lies at the heart of Arvon.**

The landscape will be connected to the inside of the house, and Lumb Bank's rich history will be interpreted within our walls and in the gardens.

**This will include:**

- Making the buildings more sustainable (better insulation, lowering energy costs and carbon emissions)
- Repurposing one of the two main buildings into a Writing Barn and Social Hub to deliver community outreach work
- Upgrading the accommodation across the site to include access ramps, a lift and accessible bedrooms on all floors
- Establishing a library celebrating Northern writers and the lives and work of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath
- Transforming one of Yorkshire's most celebrated literary locations into a beacon for creativity in the North



We will engage **400%** more Northern and working-class writers with our Arvon North programme.

## WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR THE NORTH?

### The redevelopment of Lumb Bank will:

- Engender a deeper connection and engagement with the history of Lumb Bank and its immediate surroundings: industrial heritage, the natural world, and the literary history of the area, both past and present
- Offer employment for writers and individuals living and working within the region, contributing to local economic and cultural recovery and to the development of the arts sector, while also drawing more visitors to the area
- Generate new income streams for Arvon and strengthen its resilience
- Future proof one of the region's most inspiring literary heritage sites and extend and amplify access to high-quality, world-leading writing opportunities both locally and regionally
- Treble our engagement with local schools and regional partners and increase our engagement with Northern and working-class writers by 400%
- Increase the diversity of our writers, tutors and participants
- Provide a new, accessible community space



## WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?

**Lumb Bank will close for redevelopment in spring 2024 and will remain closed for a year.**

During this period, our new programme of creative writing activity, Arvon North, will reach aspiring writers, disadvantaged young people and vulnerable adults across the North.

Hebden Bridge will become our creative writing hub, but we are also planning creative writing 'takeovers' in locations including Bradford, Hull, Manchester and Leeds.

### This programme will include:

- Live masterclasses, readings and workshops
- Residential writing weeks at IOU in Hebden Bridge
- Writing days
- Non-residential writing weekends
- Arvon Creative Writing Festival in the North

## HOW MUCH?

**The total cost of this redevelopment project is £2.75 million, and we have already raised £1.83 million towards that target.**

We have been awarded a generous grant of £725k from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme, the largest amount awarded to any Northern arts organisation. We have also received large grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Unwin Charitable Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and the Charlotte Aitken Trust. Arvon is contributing £275k from our own resources, and we are now seeking to raise the remaining £920,000 by the end of 2024.

We have also scoped the project to be delivered in two phases – with approximate budgets of £1.9 million and £850,000 respectively – which ensures we will be able to proceed on schedule once the £1.9 million threshold is reached.

Funder	Status	Amount
Arts Council England	Confirmed	£725,000
Charitable Trusts & Foundations	Confirmed	£830,000
Arvon Contribution	Confirmed	£275,000
Other Charitable Trusts & Foundations		£370,000
Individual Giving: major gifts		£150,000
Statutory Funding		£150,000
Corporate Donations		£150,000
Individual Giving: crowdfunder		£100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£2,750,000</b>
<b>Total raised to date</b>		<b>£1,830,000</b>
<b>Amount outstanding to be raised</b>		<b>£920,000</b>



'One of the best experiences in my life for sure [was] that week in Lumb Bank. Words cannot describe that feeling, you just have to experience it.'

– Asylum-seeker from Halifax, who attended Lumb Bank in August 2022

## HOW CAN I HELP?

**We need your help to realise our ambitious plans to transform Lumb Bank.**

You can donate via our website: [www.arvon.org/arvon-north](http://www.arvon.org/arvon-north)

Or, alternatively, via cheque, bank transfer, through a trust or foundation, or through your corporate business. We will work with all supporters to make sure you can give in the best way to suit you. To discuss further, please contact Dean Stigwood, Head of Development, at [dean.stigwood@arvon.org](mailto:dean.stigwood@arvon.org)

### **Name a space**

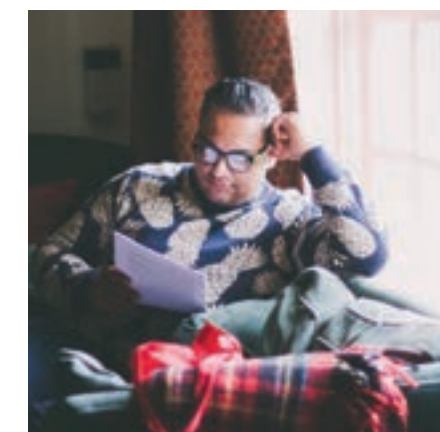
There are naming opportunities available, starting from £25,000, throughout Lumb Bank, including the Library and the Writing Barn.



## ESTIMATED TIMETABLE

Date	Action
September 2022	Planning consent approved
October 2022	Appointment of design team for RIBA stages 4-7
February 2024	Mobilisation/staff decant from site
Spring 2024	Main construction works begin
Early 2025	Fit out/contingency
March-May 2025	Lumb Bank, the home of Arvon North, reopens

## LET'S MAKE IT THE HOME OF CREATIVE WRITING





**'Lumb Bank is the most inspiring place imaginable for writers. The rich history of the house, the beautiful views over the Calder Valley and the walks from its doorstep – I defy anyone not to be inspired by this most magical of settings. I fell in love with it when I first visited as an Arvon tutor over two decades ago, and it and its surrounding area have a very special place in my heart. I hope Arvon can make this wonderful setting as accessible to as many writers as possible – it's been crucial to me and a place I love to return to again and again.'**

**- Louise Doughty**

[www.arvon.org](http://www.arvon.org)



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