Connected Worsbrough Sculpture

Patrick Murphy

Together We Rise
Connected Worsbrough
Sculpture

This vertical sculpture presents a layered pictorial narrative of Worsbrough, developed directly from stories, memories and ideas gathered through community workshops. The imagery reflects what local people identified as defining moments in the area's history — from early agriculture and milling, through the mining era, to the present day and future generations. The composition reads from bottom to top as a visual timeline, allowing viewers to trace the evolution of place through recognisable symbols and figures. Alongside the visual narrative, a newly commissioned poem by Ian McMillan has been written to echo and expand this story of Worsbrough's development in words.

The lower section references Worsbrough's agricultural and industrial foundations. The water wheel, wheat sheaves and mill architecture speak to early rural life and the importance of the river and flour mill. Above this, the pithead structure and mining figures acknowledge the coal industry that shaped both landscape and identity. The inclusion of working women alongside miners reflects the broader social fabric of the community, recognising contributions often less visibly recorded in traditional monuments.

Water is presented throughout the sculpture as a driving force in Worsbrough's development. The flowing forms at the base suggest the movement of water, while the reservoir and canal boat higher in the composition reference water as a source of industry and transport. The surrounding landscape — rooftops, church tower and open skies — situates these industries within a living, evolving community shaped by both natural and human forces. A line from Ian's poem will be reproduced at large scale along the side of the sculpture, rising vertically through the structure so that language and image move together.

At the summit, a parent lifting a child high above their shoulders symbolises aspiration, protection and hope. The presence of the child reflects the involvement of local young people in the workshops that helped shape the design, ensuring that their voices form part of the narrative. At the same time, the figure represents the future generations who will continue to build and define Worsbrough. Fabricated in Corten steel, whose weathering surface echoes the tones of industry and earth, the sculpture and poem form a single artwork — steel and verse intertwined — creating a collective portrait of place that honours Worsbrough's past, acknowledges its foundations in water and work, and rises confidently toward its future.

Sculpture
Patrick Murphy

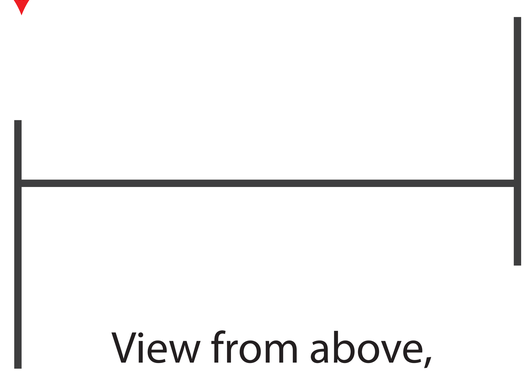
Poem
Ian McMillan

WORSBROUGH IS WATER, REFLECTING
IN THE RESERVOIR'S SHINING.
DROPS LIKE SHIFTING JEWELS
IN THE GREAT WHEEL'S TURNING.

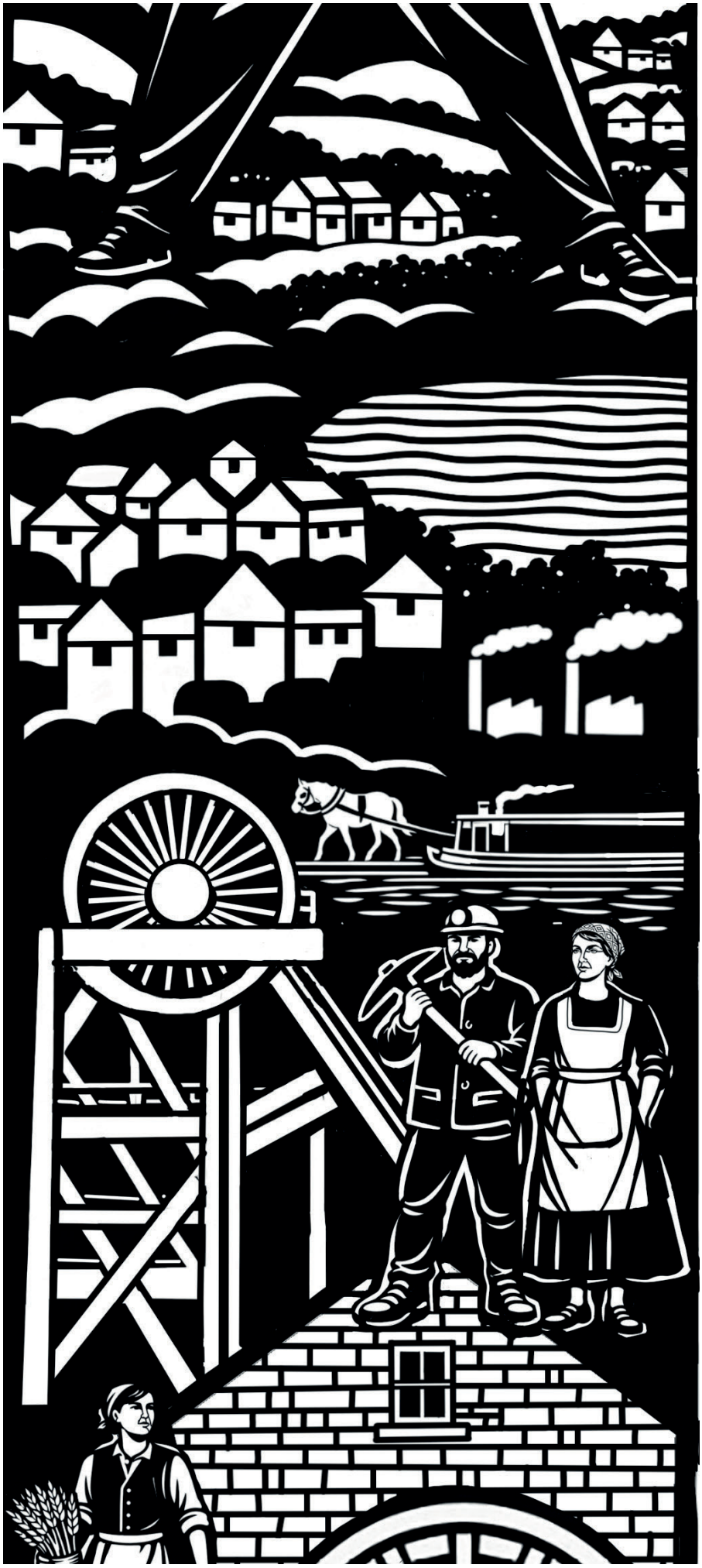
WORSBROUGH IS MILLING, CHANGING
RHYTHMS OF GROWING; MORNING, EVENING
FEEDING THEM THAT WORK HARD EARTH
TIME'S CYCLE OF SOWING, HARVESTING

WORSBROUGH IS MINING, COAL BURNING
DEEP BELOW THE CAGE IS LOWERING
HEAT DRAGGED FROM THE FACE'S DARK
REMEMBER THE LOST, THE LIVING

WORSBROUGH IS PEOPLE, ALL SHAPING
THE FUTURE OF THIS PLACE. NEW THINKING
AS TIME'S WHEEL HAS TURNED AGAIN
TOWARDS TOMORROW'S SUN RISING.



View from above,
showing welded sides.



Worsbrough is water, reflecting
In the reservoir's shining.
Drops like shifting jewels
In the great wheel's turning.

Worsbrough is milling, changing
Rhythms of growing; morning, evening
Feeding them that work hard earth
Time's cycle of sowing, harvesting

Worsbrough is mining, coal burning
Deep below the cage is lowering
Heat dragged from the face's dark
Remember the lost, the living

Worsbrough is people, all shaping
The future of this place. New thinking
As time's wheel has turned again
Towards tomorrow's sun rising.

Ian McMillan

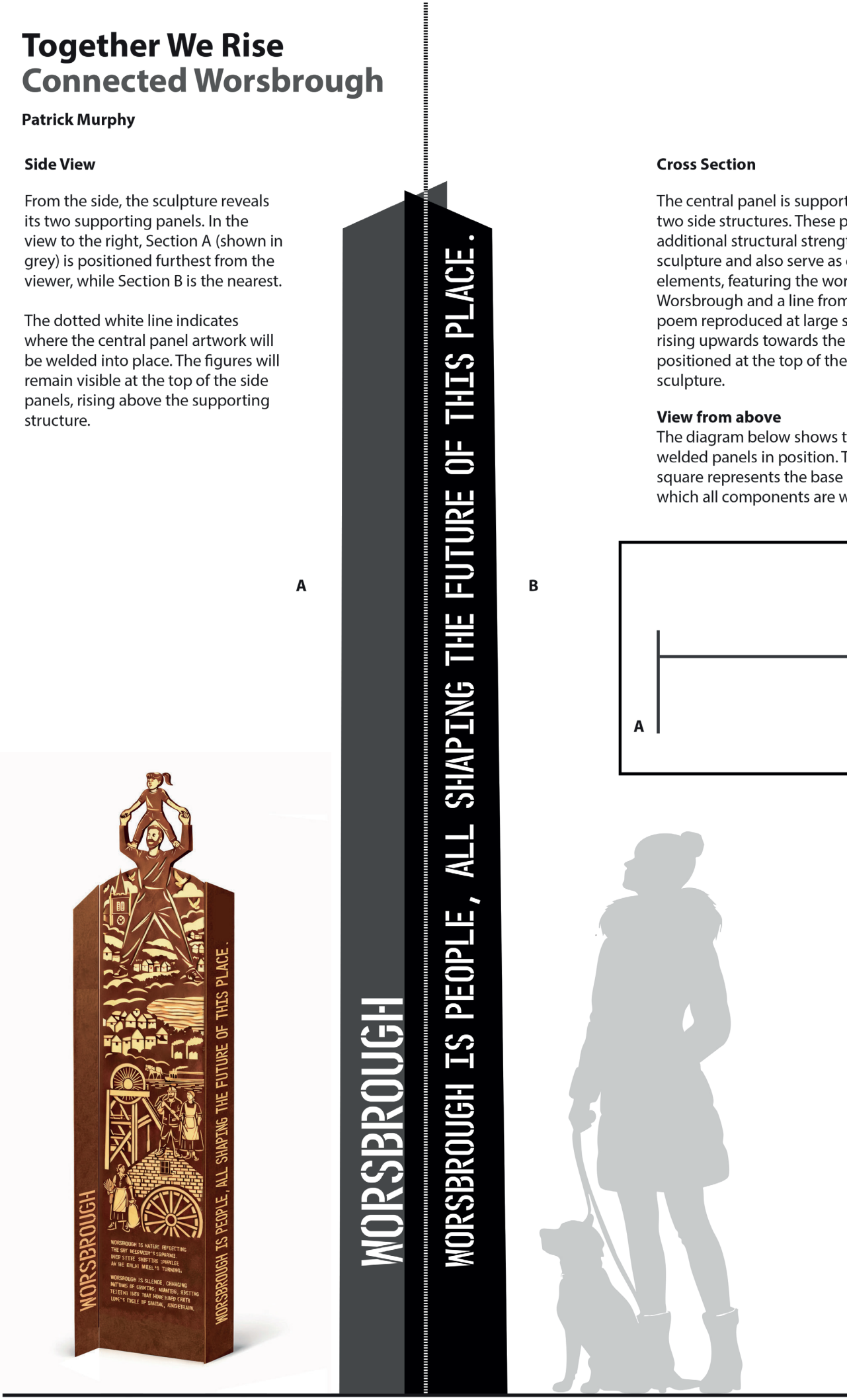
Together We Rise
Connected Worsbrough

Patrick Murphy

Side View

From the side, the sculpture reveals its two supporting panels. In the view to the right, Section A (shown in grey) is positioned furthest from the viewer, while Section B is the nearest.

The dotted white line indicates where the central panel artwork will be welded into place. The figures will remain visible at the top of the side panels, rising above the supporting structure.

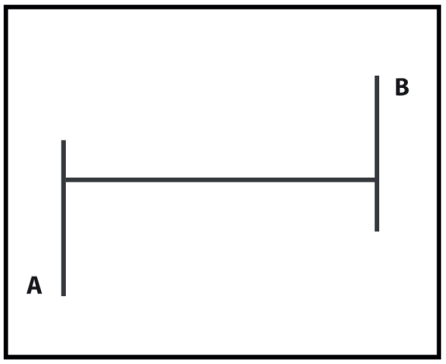


Cross Section

The central panel is supported by two side structures. These provide additional structural strength to the sculpture and also serve as design elements, featuring the word Worsbrough and a line from the poem reproduced at large scale, rising upwards towards the figures positioned at the top of the sculpture.

View from above

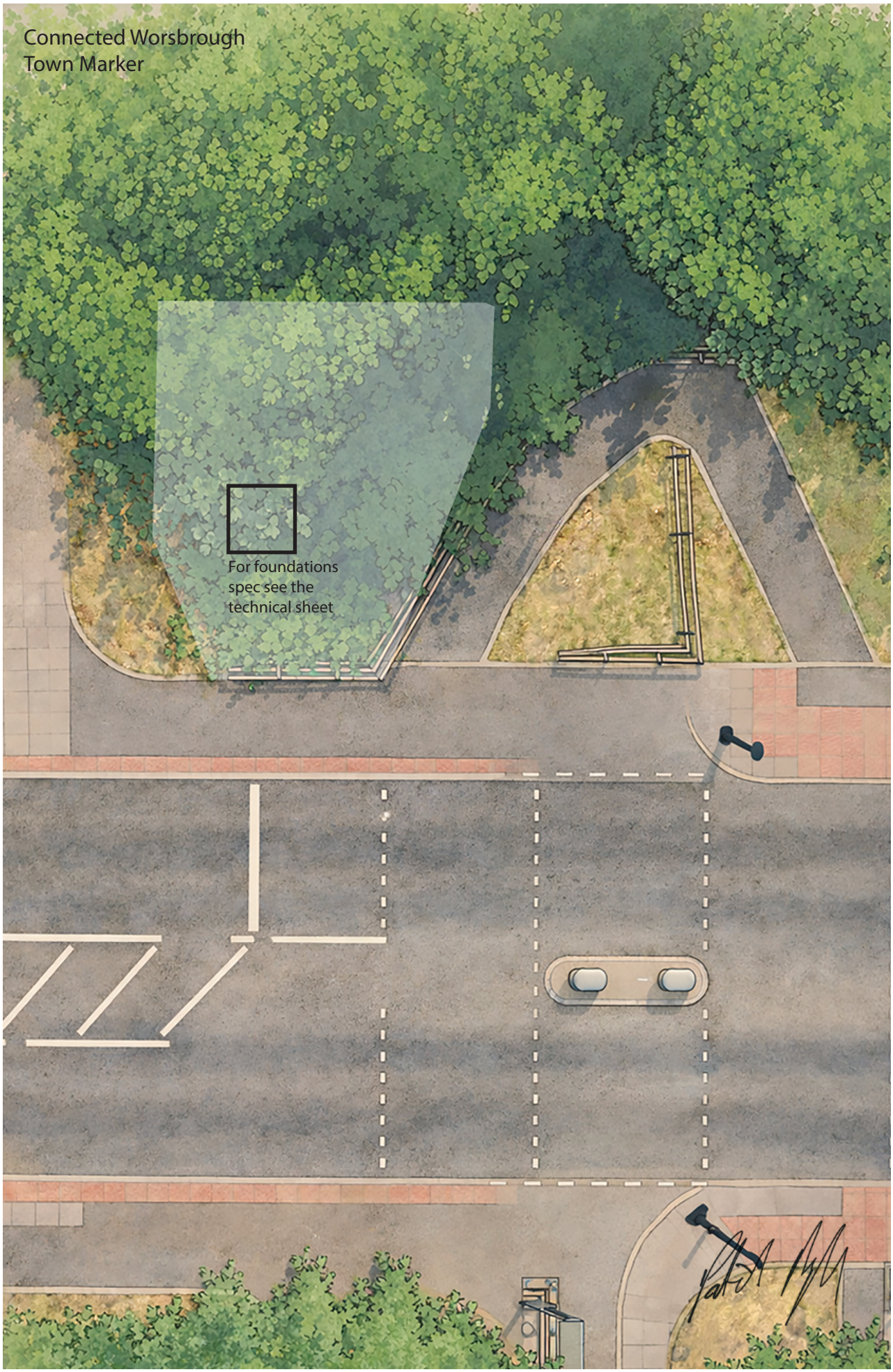
The diagram below shows the welded panels in position. The square represents the base plate to which all components are welded.



Sculpture
Patrick Murphy

Poem
Ian McMillan

Visual showing Corten Steel



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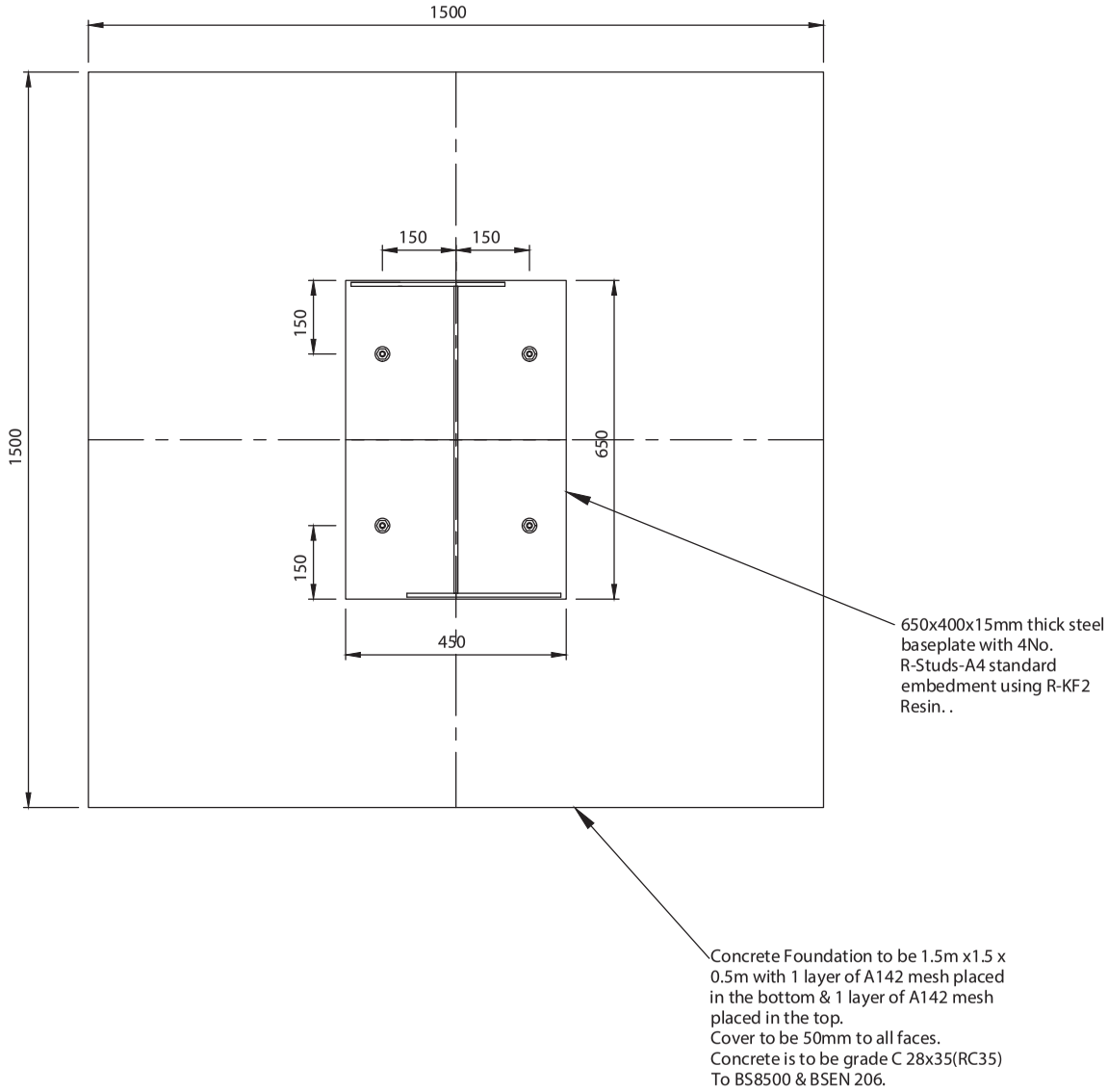
Connected Worsbrough
Town Marke
Front View

Side View



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Worsbrough, Public Art

Structural Details Sheet 8.

J-26051-010

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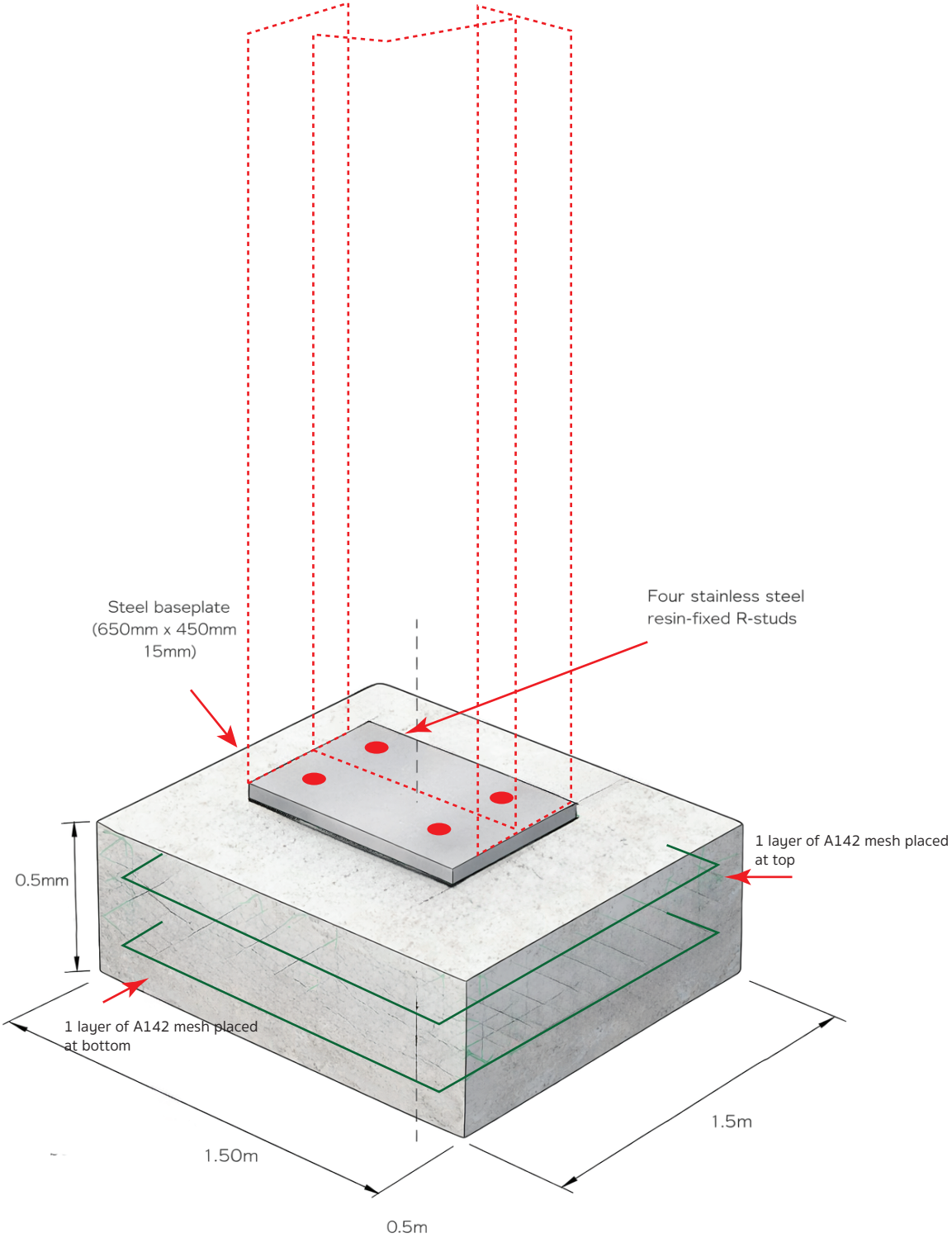
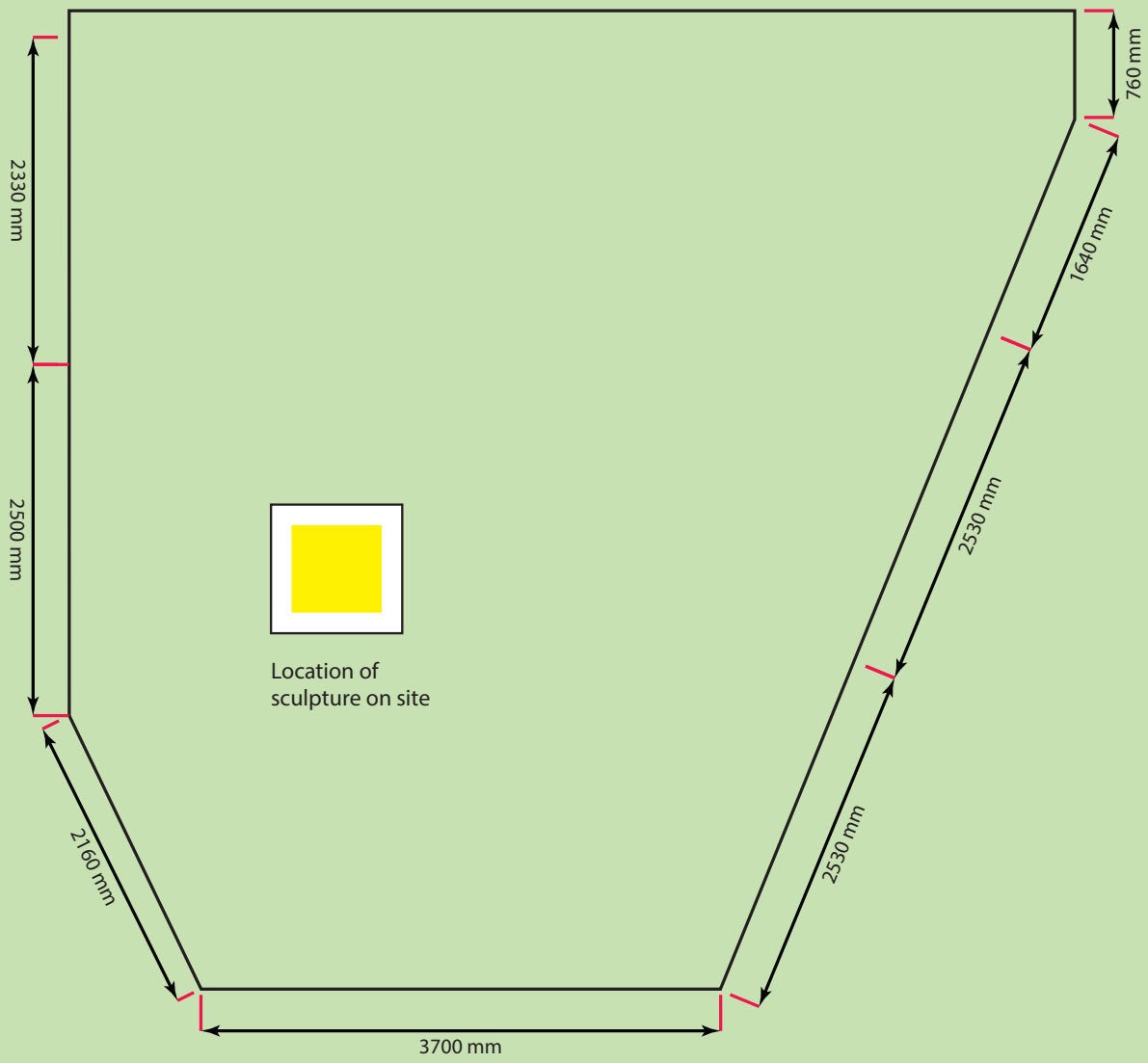
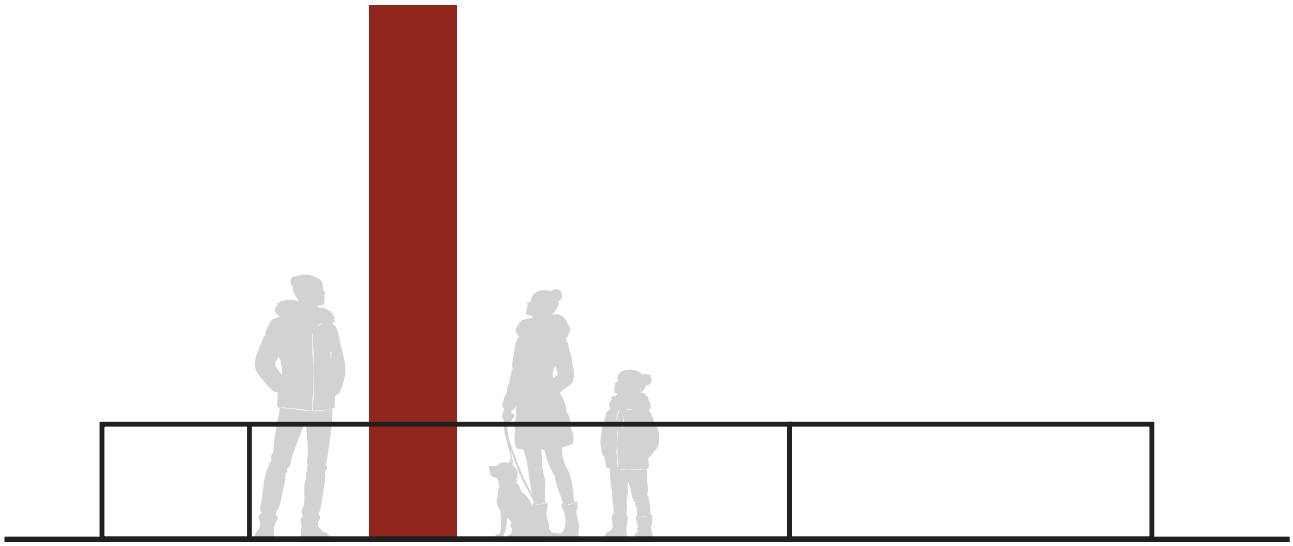
Connected Worsbrough
Town Marker
Foundations



Site Plan: Showing position of the concrete base



Connected Worsbrough
Town Marker



© Patrick Murphy

The Mill
Connected Worsbrough
Sculpture

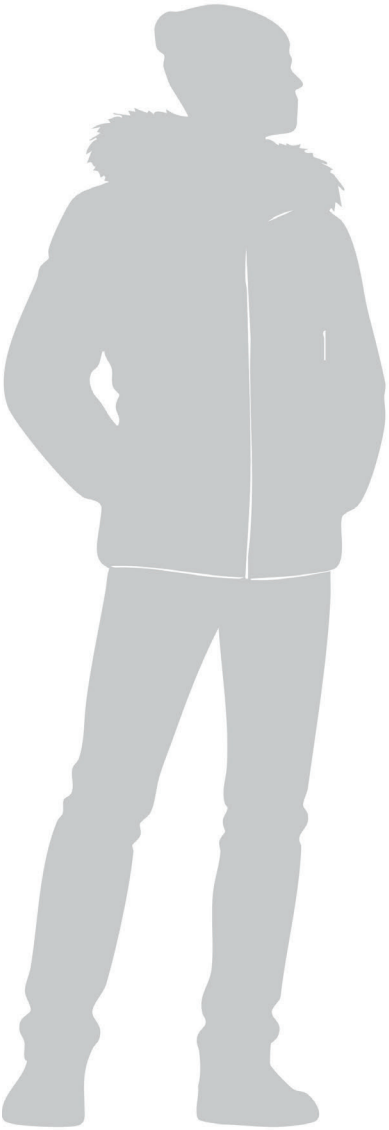
This sculpture forms a companion piece to the larger Worsbrough Town Marker called Together We Rise. Designed in the same bold graphic language, both works share a consistent visual style so they are clearly connected as part of a unified project. The strong aesthetic allows the two sculptures to speak to one another across the landscape while presenting different chapters of Worsbrough's story.

Where the Town Marker introduces the wider identity of Worsbrough, this second sculpture focuses more closely on the historic heart of the area. The composition centres on Worsbrough Mill and Reservoir, set within the surrounding landscape and alongside the nearby village. The imagery reflects the relationship between water, industry, agriculture and community — elements that have shaped Worsbrough for generations.

The mill wheel, flowing water and surrounding fields reference the working history of the mill and the importance of water power in grinding grain. The nearby village and church anchor the scene within the everyday life of the community, while birds and sky suggest movement, continuity and the passing of time across the landscape.

A newly commissioned poem by Ian McMillan accompanies the sculpture. The poem reflects on the long journey of the mill — from water, to grain, to flour, to bread — capturing the quiet rhythms of labour, memory and place. Together, the artwork and poem create a layered narrative that connects the physical landscape with lived experience.

Both sculptures in the project combine poetry and visual storytelling. By placing imagery and language side by side, the works invite people to pause, look closely and reflect on the past while considering the future of Worsbrough. Celebrating the village's heritage while creating a lasting piece of public art for future generations.



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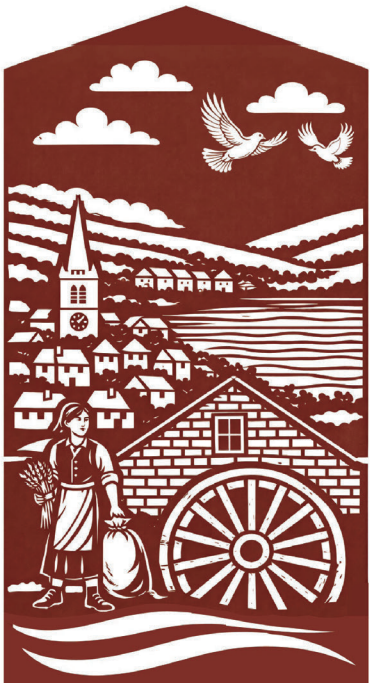


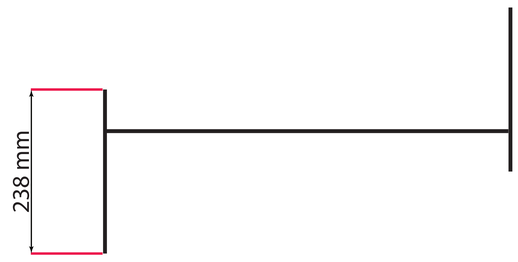
THE MILL'S LONG JOURNEY
FROM WATER TO BREAD:
FOOTPRINTS IN FLOUR

THE MILL'S LONG STORY
TOLD BY ITS PEOPLE:
WORDS FOR THE GRINDING

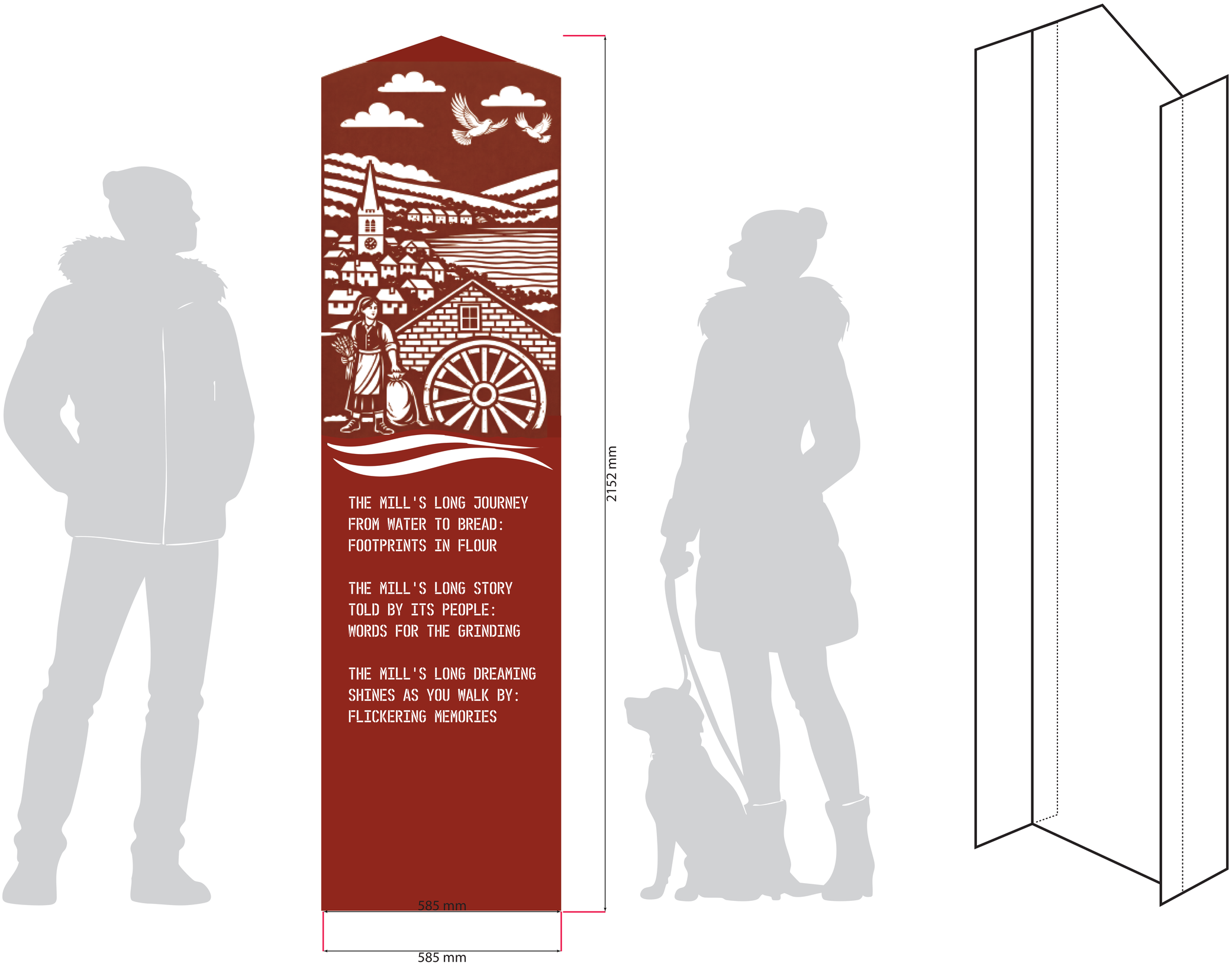
THE MILL'S LONG DREAMING
SHINES AS YOU WALK BY:
FLICKERING MEMORIES

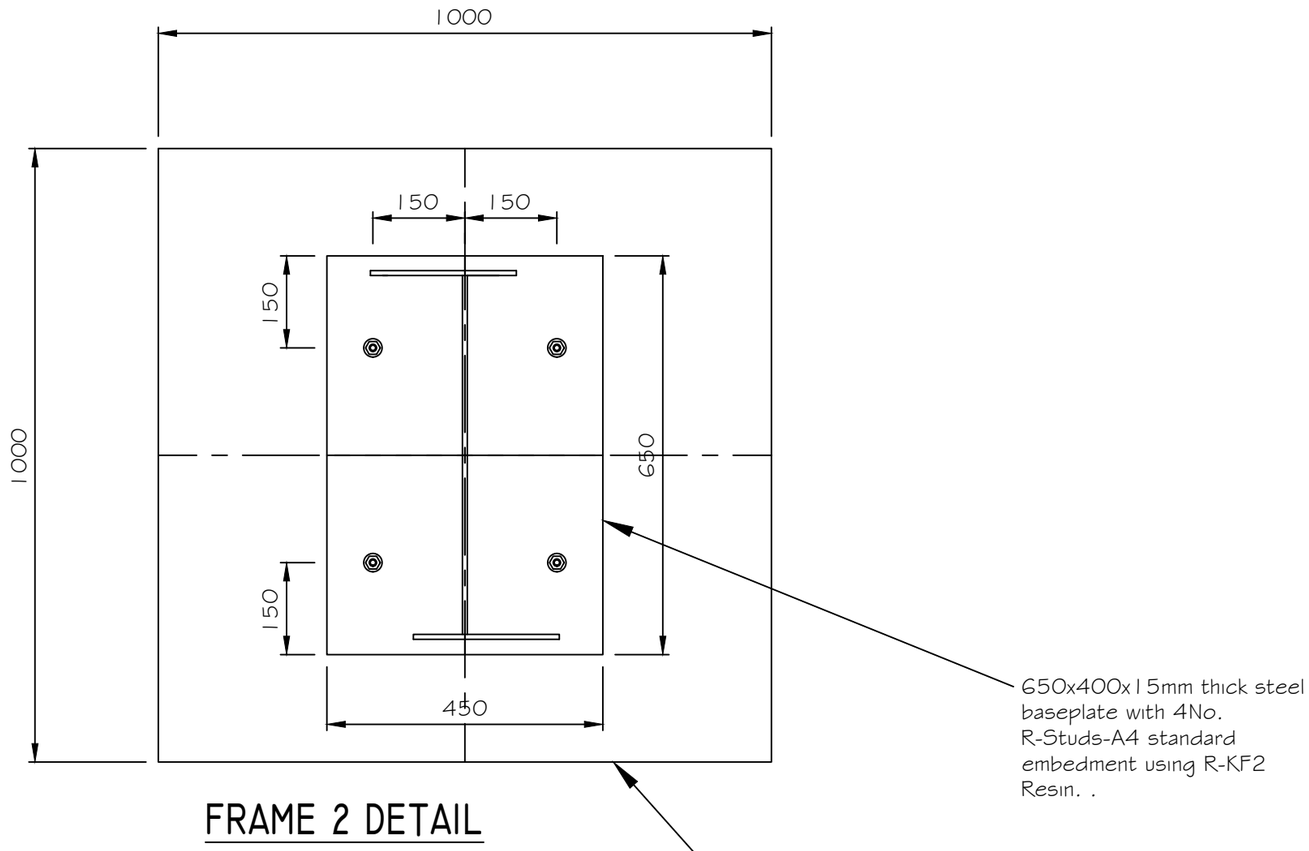
Cross Section

This shows two side supports at each end of the sculpture.



All steel is Corten 8mm thick.





FRAME 2 DETAIL

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Worsbrough Mill
Smaller Sculpture Location