



TRANSPORTED



SPALDING & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Spalding Public Art Trail

by Joseph Hillier

This project is part of Transported's On Your Doorstep programme - public realm enhancement projects where artists, designers and sculptors are commissioned by local groups, residents and organisations to improve public spaces, making them more interesting, attractive and cared for. After Spalding town centre was nominated for the programme, Transported and Spalding Civic Society commissioned artist Joseph Hillier for their ambitious commission, the first of many, to celebrate the town's markets. Pupils from Spalding High School took part in shortlisting and were involved in final selection after the maquettes were exhibited around the town. The project has involved local people being 3D scanned by Joseph and then cast into bronze.



1. Chain Bridge Forge, High Street, Spalding
PE11 1TX



2. Riverbank Studios, 57A Double Street,
Spalding PE11 2AB



3. The Lincolnshire Poacher, 11 Double Street,
Spalding PE11 2AA



4. Gentlemen's Society, 9 Broad Street,
Spalding PE11 1TB



5. 26 Red Lion Street, Spalding PE11 1BS



6. Boston College, Red Lion Quarter, Crackpool
Lane, Spalding PE11 1WD



7. Penningtons, 2-3 Red Lion St, Spalding PE11
1SX



8. The Red Lion Hotel, Market Place, Spalding
PE11 1SU



9. Crown Affair, 24 Hall Place, Spalding PE11
1SG



10. Ringrose Law Solicitors, 18 Hall Place,
Spalding PE11 1SQ



11. The Prior's Oven, 2 Sheep Market, Spalding
PE11 1BH



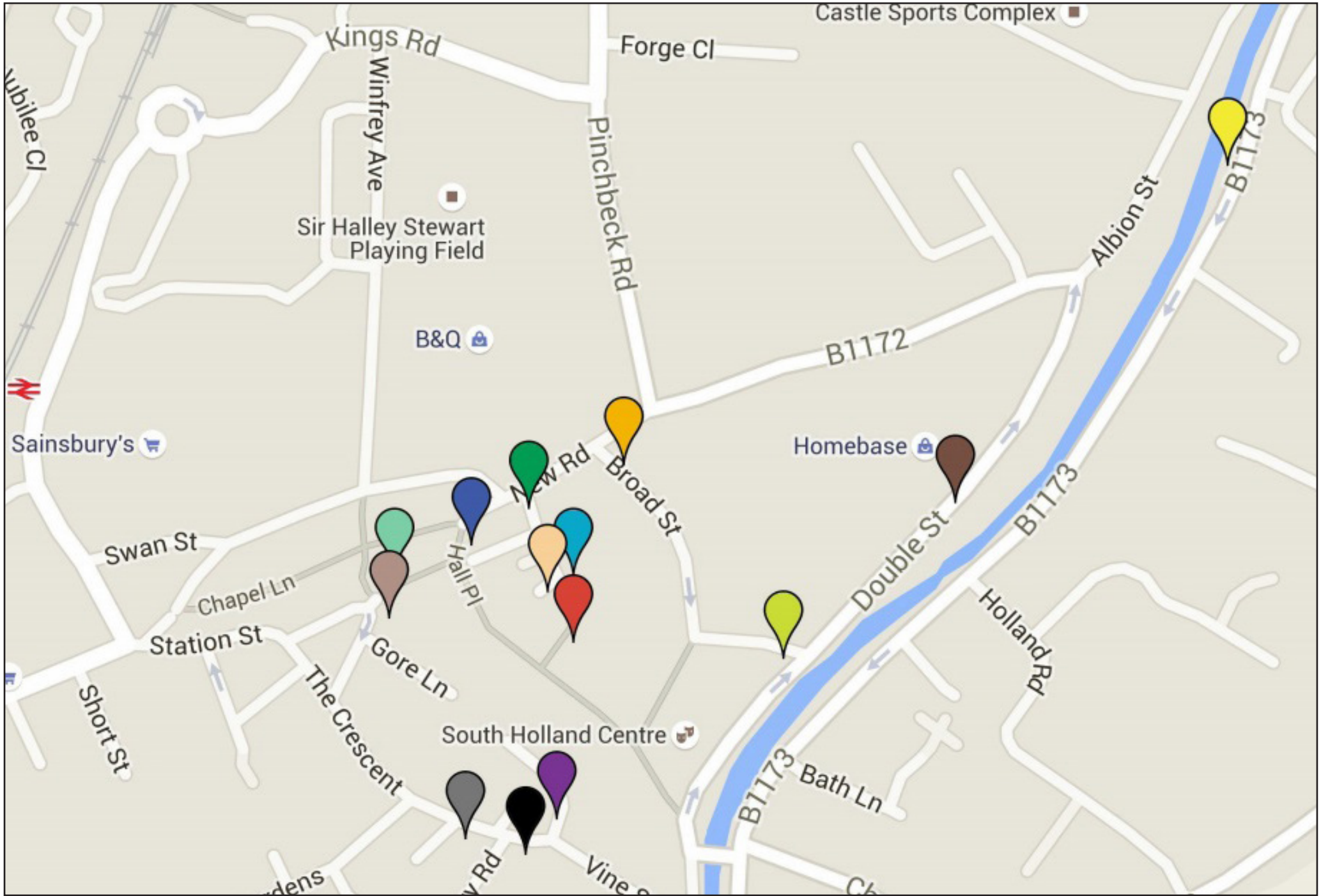
12. The Man's Shop, 8 Francis Street, Spalding
PE11 1BH



13. Bookmark, 18-20 The Crescent, Spalding
PE11 1AF



14. George Adams & Sons, 25-26 The Crescent,
Spalding PE11 1AG



About the pieces

by Joseph Hillier

1. Chain Bridge Forge, High Street, Spalding PE11 1TX



Will Pegram

Will Pegram works in the Chain Bridge Forge as the resident Blacksmith. When Will came to Ayscoughfee Hall to be scanned for this portrait, we found a photograph of another local blacksmith with an identical design of hammer, leather apron and roll up, I was naturally keen for Will to assume this pose, just as he has assumed this historic role.

2. Riverbank Studios, 57A Double Street, Spalding PE11 2AB



John Gray & Helen Webber

These two artists run a painting studio in Spalding. They sat for me in Ayscoughfee Museum where we had a few rudimentary props and blankets. Together we collaborated to create this mountain, which they posed with, a metaphor for the gifts they bring as artists to this flat watery landscape. The sculpture will adorn the exterior wall of their studio.

3. The Lincolnshire Poacher, 11 Double Street, Spalding PE11 2AA



John Honnor

In his retirement now, John Honnor has still kept the tools of his profession, as a drainage engineer. His role and others like him is of critical importance to these lowlands. The water that travels from land to the west needs to get to the sea, preferably without getting the fens all wet again. A portrait of Spalding would be incomplete without remembering this salient fact, this land is reclaimed from the sea.

4. Gentlemen's Society, 9 Broad Street, Spalding PE11 1TB



Maia Dempsey

Quietly assured. Maia has a certainty about her which is striking. I asked her to imagine she was in town and to do something she would do there. The familiarity of someone texting is a recent thing that will pass as technology and communication continues to change. I imagine one day this will become a curious and unfamiliar image.

5. 26 Red Lion Street, Spalding PE11 1BS



Pauline Pindara

Working on the farm of Chris Ely, Pauline was labeling shrink wrapped broccoli in a large warehouse with various production lines. The broccoli is turned on this rotating table to be labeled then packed by another worker. The appearance of the round table with Pauline reminded me of the photographs I had seen of women riddling potatoes from a couple of generations previous.

6. Boston College, Red Lion Quarter, Crackpool Lane, Spalding PE11 1WD



Peter & Vivian Higham

Postmaster and Mistress of Cowbit for many years this remarkable couple came to Ayscoughfee Hall to be captured. I spoke with them for some time until we unearthed the fact that their wedding photographs had been mixed up with another couple's after their wedding day and they never had received their own photographs. I proposed we recreate a wedding portrait of sorts. They held hands with fingers interlocked in a way that made you realise this wasn't something they had to think about.

7. Penningtons, 2-3 Red Lion St, Spalding PE11 1SX



Kristina Taylor & Sam Morgan

Clearly in love, Kristina was expecting her first child here, which has now arrived before my sculpture. These two sat for me, care free legs swinging awaiting a life together. This double portrait is a poignant counterpoint to that of Mr and Mrs Higham of Cowbit (number 6).

8. The Red Lion Hotel, Market Place, Spalding PE11 1SU



Steven Andrews

Market trader and master of entertaining banter in the auction. I have also seen Steve out in his fruit and veg stall which was situated next to this site, The Red Lion. I enjoyed adding the packing boxes behind his left leg, as a nod to the ancient sculptures which have casually placed tree stumps to offer a surreptitious support to an ankle.

9. Crown Affair, 24 Hall Place, Spalding PE11 1SG



Mick Lawson

Mick was surprised to be accosted by an artist at 8.30 am when he was delivering his pumpkins to the Spalding Auctions. Most growers delivered a pallet or two of produce to the market, usually by tractor. I also met his brother Dick, who is a more forthright character.

10. Ringrose Law Solicitors, 18 Hall Place, Spalding PE11 1SQ



Ian Tyers

Auction Clerk Ian Tyers was interested in what I was up to and I resisted his desire to be portrayed for some time. However I am glad I did, as his portrait seems timeless, like some sort of scribe at his weird specially designed be-wheeled table. I felt it was fitting to add his portrait to the façade of the town's law firm, as this piece depicts the clerical role a town of this size provides to the surrounding country.

11. The Prior's Oven, 2 Sheep Market, Spalding PE11 1BH



Fiona & Carol Grundy

Mother and daughter, farmers from the Fens. Fiona keeps prize sheep. Rex Sly introduced me to them and I had the pleasure of visiting their farm where I took this portrait of them leaning against their round straw bales.

12. The Man's Shop, 8 Francis Street, Spalding PE11 1BH



Bartosz Maslowski

Working on the farm of Chris Ely, Bartosz was packing onions in a busy farm shed with many other young people. The noise of the conveyors and machinery made conversation hard but I managed to convince a number of the workers to halt the production line for a couple of minutes while I captured their likeness. The physical work that goes on all around Spalding is apparent wherever you look as the fertile flat lands seem to produce so much.

13. Bookmark, 18-20 The Crescent, Spalding PE11 1AF



Rex Sly

I met Rex Sly on his farm a few miles out of Spalding. His great knowledge of the Fens and the local area was immediately apparent. Rex was generous in introducing me to the Spalding Auctions and many of the local growers who bought their produce to it. I returned to capture this portrait of Rex as he lent against the great wheel of his combine harvester whilst reading one of his published books, *Soil in their Souls*. This bookshop was one of the first to hold Rex's books in stock.

14. George Adams & Sons, 25-26 The Crescent, Spalding PE11 1AG



Mary & Elizabeth Adams

Two sisters and granddaughters to the originator of this butcher's shop on the Crescent. I am pleased to present this image of two young women running an old family business. It may be time to update the sign to reflect the new proprietors.

About the artist

Born in Cornwall in 1974, Hillier studied at Falmouth College of Art, then at Newcastle University. After graduation Hillier held a research post at Newcastle University for a number of years, whilst making a series of exhibitions in the UK.

In 2000 Hillier received the 'Year of the Artist Award', from the Arts Council of England whilst also completing his earliest publicly sited projects. The following year Hillier won a scholarship and teaching role at Tulane University in New Orleans where he completed an MFA and taught on the BA for a year. It was there he made the group of works Being Human; the group of five large works were sold to a single corporate collection, whilst being shipped back to the UK. This funded Joseph's first studio in London, where he completed the installation Generation, and also held his first solo show in London at APT Gallery in 2005.

In 2006 the Scotsman identified the work, Dumb, shown with Workplace Gallery as a high point of the Glasgow international. Invited for a solo exhibition with the Contemporary Art Society at the Economist Plaza, London in 2007 Hillier has managed to balance his permanent publicly sited works with a strong exhibiting career including the latest Solo exhibition, it's not true, but it might be beautiful, in early 2012, at the Myles Meehan Gallery, Darlington.

Elected associate member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors in 2004, Hillier has been widely exhibited in galleries and sculpture parks. He has seventeen large-scale permanent installations nationally and internationally. The largest of these, In Our Image (2009), stands at 16.7m tall, and has received considerable international press interest.

In 2013 Hillier's work was selected as a finalist in the national sculpture prize, at Broomhill, and for the summer exhibition at the Royal Academy.

Hillier lives in a rural village near Newcastle in the UK, where he has purpose built a studio to enable the creation of large-scale works for exhibition and to commission.

<http://josephhillier.com/>



Image: Joseph Hillier at the scanning workshops, by Electric Egg