

When you can finally enjoy this giant sculpture at one of Gloucestershire's favourite attractions

It is nearly 18 months late but trustees say it will be worth the wait when it is finally installed



📷 An artist's impression of Cusp

An ambitious 30ft high public sculpture which was due to be constructed at the [Forest of Dean](#) Sculpture Trail over a year ago is finally about to be unveiled claim those behind the project.

Final preparations are underway to install a massive sculpture which was originally due to become the centrepiece of one of Gloucestershire's busiest visitor attractions as far back as spring 2018.

After various delays the landmark sculpture by internationally acclaimed [Elpida Hadzi Vasileva](#) is now more than 90 per cent complete and in various locations waiting to be assembled.

Trustees say once the final finish has been agreed it will be full speed ahead for the “challenging” project and the sculpture should be up this autumn.



📍 Sculptor Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva in fabrication for her new piece for Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail

A trail spokesman said there was growing excitement that such an ambitious artwork, which features sculptural wings made from intricate metal trusses and Dean oak, was finally about to be unveiled on the sculpture trail.

“Cusp is 90 per cent complete and the Trust is in talks with the artist to discuss the final finish of the sculpture, and in advanced talks with engineers and Forestry England about preparations for the installation,” explained a statement from the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust.

“With engineers we are planning the foundations that will support the frame and the sculpture, a process that involves various stages of checks and approvals.

“Once the foundations and frame are in place, Cusp can be installed relatively quickly, within a week, weather permitting. We hope to install this autumn and unveil before the winter.”

In 2017 the Sculpture Trail Trust spot unveiled Cusp as a replacement for Place, better known as The Giant's Chair, which was the most iconic artwork on the trail for 29 years until it was decommissioned in 2016.

Originally Cusp was due to be unveiled on the hilltop overlooking the Forest in spring 2018 but it was held up by engineering challenges and [then the artist started work on a commission for Nottingham University](#) which has now been completed.



📍 Stained Glass Window or Cathedral in Sculpture Trail in Forest of Dean

'Aim to last for generations'

Trustees say agreeing the right final finish with the artist is important because they want Cusp to last for generations but they are determined it will be unveiled at the Beechenhurst Sculpture Trail during the Forestry Commission's centenary year.

Nicholas Bury, chair of Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust, said: "Cusp is as much a feat of engineering as it is of visual artistry, and as we finalise the sculpture's completion, our team is hard at work with stakeholders to agree the installation."

A spokesman for Forestry England said: "Cusp is a large and ambitious sculpture, making the build and installation a complex process and we are hopeful that installation will take place during our centenary year.

"The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust are working hard to bring the project to fruition. The trustees, who are all volunteers, are very much looking forward to seeing this project realised."



 Sculpture Trail sign at Beechenhurst

Cusp is one of several co-funded artworks that the Trust is completing as part a three-year investment which runs out in 12 months and although trustees do not reveal financial details of how much each one costs, they say they remain on budget.

It includes works of art such as Threshold by Natasha Rosling which has already been unveiled.

But Cusp is the one expected to draw the crowds and many in the tourism industry will be hoping it is unveiled when the Forest is still clothed in its autumn cloak of many colours.

It is supported by a team of paid and unpaid architects, carpenters, designers, engineers, fabricators, project managers, and volunteers who have worked for more than two years to bring the concept to reality.

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development through the Forest and Tewkesbury LEADER scheme, Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant, Garfield Weston Foundation and Watts Group Lydney and a number of other local donors.