

# Wembley towers are recycled

## Rubble from the old stadium used to build mounds in new park

RISING like a vast Iron Age hill fort, these mounds are the final resting place of the old Wembley Stadium's twin towers.

The mounds were constructed using tens of thousands of tonnes of rubble transported from some of the biggest building projects in London.

Sited next to the A40 in west London, their peaks — the tallest of the four is 85 feet high — offer a panoramic view across the capital, with the arch of the new Wembley Stadium visible to the north east, the BT Tower and Canary Wharf to the east and Heathrow's new control tower to the south.

The cones are the centrepiece of Northala Fields, a £5.5million park being built on what was previously 45 acres of scrub, wasteland and abandoned sports pitches in Northolt.

It has been funded by developers of other projects, who paid to dump their rubble at the site.

Builders are putting the finishing touches to paths linking the mounds and erecting stone walls that wind their way round the circumferences.

At the base of the mounds six

### PATRICK SAWER

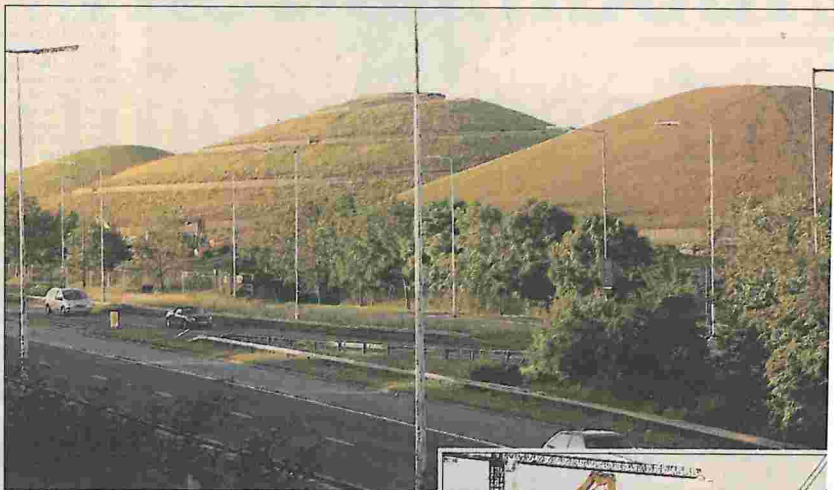
lakes have been excavated to provide facilities for model boating and fishing and a haven for wildlife. Woodland, meadows and wetlands are also being developed and a café and restaurant will be built into one of the mounds.

Work on Northala Fields began in 2004, but it wasn't until late last year that the mounds began to take shape, creating a barrier between the noisy A40 and nearby houses.

Local resident Natalie Harris, 25, who is expecting her first child, said: "The mounds look amazing. Hopefully they'll also mask the noise from the A40."

Others are less happy. Andrew White, 53, who has lived in the area for more than 20 years, said: "There used to be 11 football pitches on that site. The council let them go to ruin. Those mounds are just a huge waste of money."

The development has also been marred by a bitter dispute between the park's designers, artist Peter Fink and architect Igor Marko of Art2Architecture,



**Going up:** the hills at Northala Fields in Northolt were built using rubble from sites including the old Wembley, right

and Ealing council. Mr Fink and Mr Marko had envisaged an even more ambitious scheme, with a visitor centre and educational facilities.

However, the £6million second phase was scrapped by the Tories when they took over Ealing council last year. Despite

the curtailment of his original vision, Mr Fink said the park will still be spectacular.

"Even before it has opened, people are climbing to the top of the mounds to look at the view," he said. "At night they sit there and watch the planes land and take off at Heathrow."

