

# green places

INCORPORATING LANDSCAPE DESIGN



## STRATEGIES FOR SPACES

ACCESS FOR ALL:  
Are you ready for the DDA?

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:  
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**BRIEFS**

■ Dan Archer, senior lecturer in sculpture at Loughborough University School of Art and Design, has won a **competition to design the tidal barrage and sluice lock gates** for the River Ouseburn which joins the River Tyne in the city of Newcastle. [www.archersculpture.co.uk](http://www.archersculpture.co.uk)

■ A **new compost** has been designed using two biodegradable, low-value products – waste cardboard, which would otherwise have gone to landfill, and processed sewage sludge. It is designed to encourage tree establishment and growth on derelict or poor-quality land and is being trialled for two years on a site at Woodville near Swadlincote in the National Forest. [www.nationalforest.org](http://www.nationalforest.org)

■ **Declining pitch quality** is costing the UK sports industry £600-£800m every year in poor playability or postponements, according to research by sports soils design consultancy TurfTrax. The company believes that cost cutting is affecting the success of reconstruction and pitch drainage projects and is holding a series of workshops this month to look at the latest turf remediation developments and demonstrate why some remedies fail. [www.turftrax.co.uk](http://www.turftrax.co.uk)

■ A **new manager has been appointed** for the northern area of the Lake District National Park Authority. Mark Williets joins LDNPA from private practice in the West Midlands, while Paul Haggin, a planner with the authority for 14 years, has been promoted to manager of the southern area. [www.lake-district.gov.uk](http://www.lake-district.gov.uk)

■ Seven towns have been shortlisted to receive funding through the Department for Transport's (DoT) **Sustainable Transport Town initiative**. Halifax, Darlington, Peterborough, Worcester, Hereford, Wolverhampton and Weston-Super-Mare must now provide plans to deliver a sustainable transport scheme. The DoT has set aside £7.5m to help develop the plans of the two winning towns. [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

URBAN PARK

# Major new park for Ealing

Work is about to begin on an extensive new neighbourhood park in Ealing, west London – the Northala Fields Ecological Park – following three years of community consultation. The 18.5ha park will be created on Northala Fields, a semi-derelict green space adjacent to the A40 (Western Avenue) which was acquired by Ealing Borough Council in 1997.

The scheme will involve the sculpting of 750,000m<sup>3</sup> of inert-

material from London-wide development projects to form four conical hills, the tallest of which will be 25m above ground level. These will provide views to the surrounding countryside and act as buffers to the visual and acoustic impact of the A40 from the rest of the park.

A diverse range of habitats including open water, meadows, grasslands and mixed woodlands, are also to be created in the park. Playgrounds for all

ages will be created along the central spine of the park, together with a series of open meadows and semi-formal planting and seating areas.

The park will form part of the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park – a network of over 100ha of connected green spaces. The design team is made up of Art2Architecture, EDAW, engineers Techniker and ecologist Peter Neal.

Visit: [www.art2architecture.co.uk](http://www.art2architecture.co.uk)



An image from the Northala Fields masterplan showing the four conical hills which will be created using material from London-wide development projects

PUBLIC ART

## Public art decommissioning study

A national research project into decommissioning public art has been launched by Canterbury City Council (CCC) through East Kent Public Art Consultancy (EKPAC). The study looks at the issues of ownership, commissioning, maintenance and relevance of public artworks.

“There’s an awful lot of public art and no response to works that move out of date,” says Debra McGee, spokesperson for CCC. “We need to look at these issues at the beginning of a project, not the end,” adds Sam Wilkinson, public art consultant for EKPAC.

It is intended that the study’s findings will help with the

creation of policy guidelines for commissioning contracts; feed into specific policy for East Kent; and be useful as a tool in the decommissioning debate.

Results from the project will be published in late August, although preliminary findings will be posted on the Public Art Forum website later this month. Members of the public are being invited to submit their views via the website.

The Arts Council England South East, CCC; Ashford Borough Council; Shepway District Council and development company Land Securities are funding the project.

Visit: [www.publicartforum.org.uk](http://www.publicartforum.org.uk)

See also *conference report*, page 37

ACCESSIBILITY

## Best practice guide launched

A best practice guide to assist the improvement of physical, intellectual, cultural and sensory access to historic landscapes across England, Wales and Scotland is to be published later this year.

Commissioned by English Heritage and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Trust, the guide will be researched, developed and created by the Sensory Trust. Its aim is to help owners and managers of historic landscapes to meet their obligations under the Disabilities Discrimination Act 1995 and to encourage visitors from previously excluded groups.

Visit: [www.sensorytrust.org.uk](http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk)

See also *‘Access for all?’*, page 22