

NORTHALA FIELDS

Innovative new park half way towards completion

April 2006 - Newsletter #6



Western Avenue (A40) is considered by many to be, at best, a quick way to get in or out of London and, at worst, a traffic congested and unattractive thoroughfare through the sprawling west London suburbs. Yet this gateway both to the centre of London and the west of England is soon to change as one of the most exciting new public space developments in London is created.

Seizing a strategic opportunity in 1997, Ealing Council acquired Northala Fields and is in the process of transforming 18.5 hectares of largely unloved and under-used space, adjacent to the busy A40, into a new and ambitious park that will be complete in winter 2007. The new park will provide the final piece in the creation of the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park (NGCP). The park will weave together strands of recreation, social participation, biodiversity, recycling of waste material, art and cultivation, to create a network of over 100 hectares of interconnected green space for the local community to enjoy.

Through this development, we will also significantly expand the park's ability to meet the needs of the local community, providing visitors with an exciting range of opportunities to interact with each other, with nature and natural systems and their local heritage.



Above: Contractors planting on the corner of Dolphin and Kensington Roads.

Importation

Inert waste is being imported to create the park's most dramatic features – 4 conical mounds up to 26m high. The mounds are designed to shield the park and adjoining properties from noise and visual pollution from the adjacent A40. The mounds will be sculpted from over 500,000m³ of excavated material from local redevelopment sites. Currently there are in excess of 25 sites supplying waste to the new park. Some of these include Wembley Stadium, Imperial Wharf (Fulham), First Central Park (Park Royal) and the Kings Cross Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

At the start of April, 65% of material had been received at Northala Fields, which amounts to approximately 40,000 truck loads of waste.

Importation over the winter months has concentrated on the 2 eastern mounds, nearest to Kensington Road (Mounds 3 and 4). Levels in these areas have been raised to between 10-12m above existing ground levels and require another 8-9m to reach finished level. All remaining material imported onto site will be used to create Mounds 1 and 2 and reach finished levels on Mounds 3 and 4.



Above: View looking east towards Mound 3 from the western park boundary.



Above: View looking south west from the top of Mound 3 towards the 6 fishing lakes, meadow area and Northolt Golf Course.

Progress to date

Hard Landscape Works - Gabion wall construction has now been completed on Dolphin and Kensington Roads, including entrances and internal walls defining the carpark areas. Gabion construction work will continue on entrances at Church Road and Huxley Close over the summer months.

Soft Landscape Works - The second season's tree and shrub planting was completed during February and March this year. This included woodland edge planting around the southern boundaries of the site, Dolphin Road and along the eastern end of the northern (A40) boundary. Planting of the meadow areas (south of the fishing lakes) will take place in spring 2006, once ground conditions are favourable.

Public Open Meeting

An open public site meeting was held on Saturday 18th February, hosted by CJ Pryors and Parks, Countryside and Events Service staff. The meeting included a walk over the site and an update on progress of the works and proposals for the Visitor Centre and focal core area. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, made up of local residents, Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society members and future users of the fishery and model boating lake.



18th February Open Day : Local residents and future users taking in the amazing views from the top of Mound 3.

Willowtree Primary Planting

On 22nd March children from Willowtree Primary in Northolt were given the opportunity to contribute to their community in the hope that they will take pride in where they live, through planting trees. 85 children from year 5 at Willowtree Primary planted trees with help and guidance from local Park Rangers.



Willowtree Primary Students get tree planting guidance from Jo Wilson (Park Ranger) at the planting day.

Funding Required...

The use of infill material to create the structure of Northala Fields provides the main source of funds for the development, with up to £95 being generated from each load of waste deposited on site. However, there are elements of the park that will not be covered by this income, for which additional funding through grants or sponsorship is required, including the Visitor Centre, 'focal core' and pedestrian bridge to connect the park with the wider Countryside Park.

We estimate that well over half a million visits will be made to the park each year. Ealing Council is now seeking support for this exciting development that will create a focal point for the local community, provide educational and leisure activities for everyone to enjoy and help to create and protect the natural habitats that are such an important part of local heritage. Cascaid Consulting Ltd have been appointed to assist with the funding campaign.

Further information on the project and works

For more information or to raise any concerns please call **0208 836 3961**

This is the site office compound phone number and is accessible during working hours. After hours please phone and leave a message and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Easter shut down

The site will be closed during the Easter period from the 13th April until the 18th April 2006.



Developed by: Ealing Council www.ealing.gov.uk
Principal Contractor: CJ Pryor www.pryor.co.uk



art2architecture Ltd

LDADesign
www.lda-design.co.uk

