

NORTHALA FIELDS

Works continue on exciting new park that won't cost the earth

December 2005

Construction works continue on the £5.5 million regeneration project at Northala Fields, the former Kensington and Chelsea Playing Fields. Works started on site in August 2004 and are expected to finish in winter 2007.

Importation of material

Since the July newsletter a further 25% of imported material has been deposited at Northala Fields - now bringing the total to 56%. This is approximately 32,000 truck loads of a total projected quantity of 56,800 loads. Currently there are in excess of 25 different sources depositing fill at Northala Fields. The largest sources include Edgware Road 20,000m³, Kings Cross 15,000m³, Wembley Stadium 10,000m³ and Old Burlington Street 5,000m³. The rate of importation has been variable on a week by week basis and at present the current weekly average rate of importation is slightly below the target rate of 575 loads.

All remaining material importation will be used to create the 4 large earth mounds. The mound nearest to Kensington Road is the highest mound created to date. 9 metres is still to be added to this mound to achieve its finished level.

Below: View looking south west from the top of Mound 4 towards the fishing lakes.

Bottom: View looking south east from the top of Mound 4 towards Kensington Road and the proposed carpark gabion walls.

Right: View of one of the excavated fishing lakes.



Progress to date

Hard Landscape Works - Gabion construction of the next stage of boundary walls and entrances has recently been completed along Kensington Road. The specification for gabion work has been improved with heavier gauge 5mm wire baskets used, instead of 3mm wire along Dolphin Road. This will help to ensure both a better quality of finish and a more robust final product. Some replacement of existing gabion walls has also been undertaken where those walls did not meet the desired standards.

Construction of the main landscape infrastructure (e.g. paths and car park areas) will be undertaken throughout 2006 in areas where the final ground levels have been achieved.

Soft Landscape Works - The second season's planting will be undertaken in early 2006. This will include completion of woodland edge planting around the southern boundaries of the site, including 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 dry to allow final leveling and ground preparation.

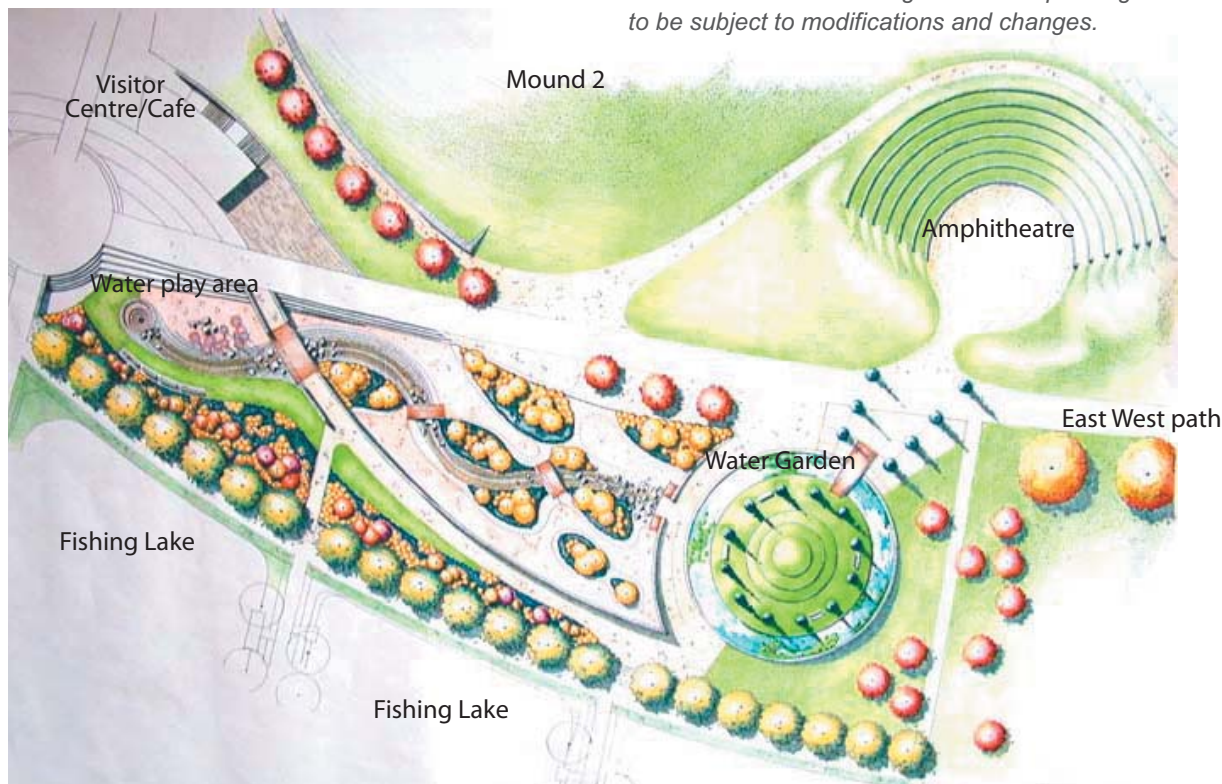
In the new year a community planting day is planned with local primary schools and our ranger service. A date has yet to be finalised.

'Focal core' area design

A design concept for the focal core area has been developed by Art2Architecture and the design team. The focal core area is located south of the proposed visitor centre/amphitheatre and north of the 6 fishing lakes. Currently Ealing Council does not have funding to develop its full aspirations for this area. However in October we appointed Cascaid Consulting Ltd to offer their expertise in securing additional funding for a range of facilities, features and landscape enhancements, including the focal core area.

The focal core design is divided into 3 broad terraces to define the space. The eastern end of the space, occupying the highest terrace, is a circular water garden. This will be a quiet, contemplative space offering elevated views out over the park, lakes and meadows. The central terrace is a more active area, with an informal watercourse flowing from east to west through planting, paving and seating. The lower and western terrace is a more structured water play area, which will include a delta area in which people can interact with water flowing through small channels and dams, and will hopefully include interactive water jets and spouts.

Please note that this design is a concept design and is likely to be subject to modifications and changes.



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.

Public meeting scheduled for February 2006

An on site public meeting will be held on Saturday 18th February 2006, at the Northala Fields Visitor Cabin between 10:30-12:00noon. Representatives from CJ Pryors, Ealing Council and the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society will be present at the meeting. This is an opportunity to answer questions about the new park development and show proposed plans for the focal core and visitor centre.

Christmas shut down

The site will be closed during the Christmas period from the 23rd December until the 9th January 2006.

Finally we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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



LDADesign
www.lda-design.co.uk

