

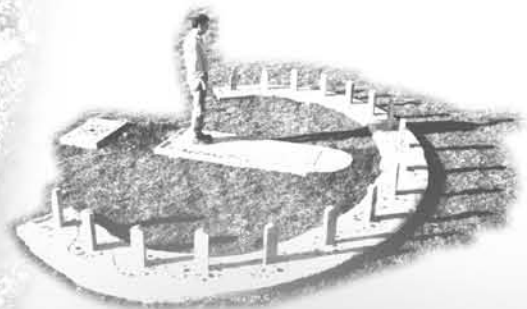
NEW BRANCO TOWN life site



grow zone
informal space for the community
to grow their own fruit and veg



natural play space
outdoor play with some healthy risk
for young children, and landscaped plinths
for art installations



sundial
cast your shadow to tell the time



heritage and art journey
journey around a dry canal, 'meet' local residents
and see Walter Kershaw's community mural
celebrating Ancoats' past

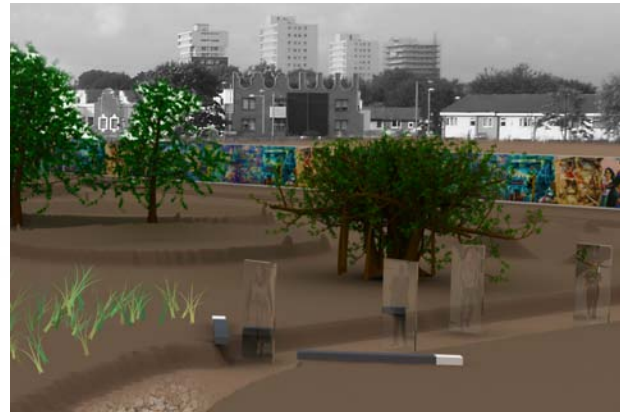


heritage, art and the journey

New Islington lies at the heart of an area steeped in history and rich with industrial heritage. Whilst new development springs up all around, our proposal for Site Life will forge a powerful link to the past.

A shallow path around the site will be excavated. At intervals visitors will pass between pairs of reclaimed railway sleepers installed at the perfect height for sitting and gazing back towards the city centre. But the sleepers will be painted and angled to create the illusion of canal lock gates, making the journey around Site Life a subtle reminder of the canals writ large on Alsop's neighbouring Chips building.

What's more, if people want to take some exercise around the site, there will be waymarkers as seen traditionally on Britain's canals to let them know their mileage on each lap past the 'life-size locals' - images of New Islington's inhabitants on mirrored boards.



As Site Life will be bordered by construction sites, we expect there to be hoardings on two edges. Eyesore? We don't think so.

We have agreed in principle a community arts project with mural artist Walter Kershaw to make these the most beautiful site hoardings New Islington has seen (and it's seen some pretty good ones). Walter, whose work was recently incorporated into the National Art Collection of Brazil, will lead local schoolchildren in producing a work celebrating the past lives of the Ancoats and Ardwick areas. Not quite as sunny as Brazil, but just as fascinating.



health and wellbeing

Across the water is the brand new health centre. We want health and wellbeing to make it beyond the centre and onto the site, so with Groundwork we have looked at how to make Site Life a green powerhouse for New Islington - and help Manchester achieve its aspirations of becoming *Britain's Greenest City*.

We appreciate that the site is only temporary and therefore are not proposing permanent gardens or allotments. Instead, vegetables and fruit will burst forth from ton bags, pots and troughs made out of everything imaginable to show that healthy eating can be affordable and accessible.

At the end of Site Life they can zoom off to other temporary sites or more permanent allotments, such as that at Openshaw. Living and breathing green space will help to trap dust from surrounding developments, arrest surface water run off and have a cooling effect.



Surrounding the growing zone but clearly separated will be landscaped shapes that flow across the site forming a natural play space for young children amongst the greenery. These play areas return them to simple pleasures, encouraging engagement with natural surroundings whilst taking acceptable levels of risk.

When trying to imagine what a natural play area would feel like just remember how much fun an empty hole or a log was when you were smaller and things were, well, simpler.

The areas in between the grow bags and natural play areas will be allowed to run riot with a "Guerilla Gardening" philosophy intended to increase the diversity and textural experience of the natural play area for those using it. Don't know what Guerilla Gardening is? Google it and you'll be a green-fingered Che before you can say *revolución*.

the sundial

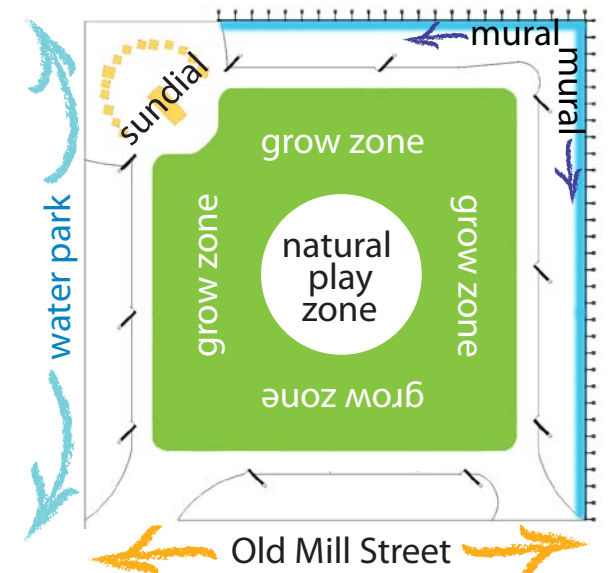
The corner of the site will house an unusual analematic sundial. Visitors step onto a plate marked with the months of the year, and the shadow that they cast tells the time.



The sundial sparks thoughts about how the movement of the sun, astronomy and mathematics all work in conjunction (and whether a rain dial would be more useful.)

We propose to reuse the stones currently lying around New Islington as the times of the clock, and their location right next to the water park will encourage visitors to sit and enjoy the views across this urban oasis to the CIS tower and Piccadilly Plaza. Younger visitors can clamber all over it. Older visitors can too, if they like.

Recycled material will also be used in installation art that stretches out from the sundial across the whole site on landscaped plinths. Manchester's artists will be challenged to engage the community in producing pieces which reflect the site's other themes of health, wellbeing and local heritage.





partnerships

Deliverability becomes more attainable through strong partnerships and therefore as part of this submission we have attracted a number of partners that, if we are successful, will help deliver the proposal. These include:

- **Groundwork Manchester**, a group of charities helping people and organisations make changes in order to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way.
- **Walter Kershaw**, a pioneer of large scale external mural paintings in England and Brazil perhaps best-known locally for the Trafford Park Murals.
- **Professor Chris Budd**, Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Bath. Chris is particularly interested in real-world maths and promoting the public understanding of mathematics.

funding

A submission for funding from Grants for the Arts has been filed. This foundation offers grants of up to £6,000 for non-commercial arts projects that show clear public engagement. A decision will be made on our bid by the end of September.

Many of the funding criteria are met through our proposal because of the non-commercial concept and the community interaction that Walter's contribution will bring.

Additionally, we intend to work with Groundwork Manchester to raise funding through their existing links and by forging new ones. Currently Groundwork UK work alongside other organisations – ranging from the smallest community groups to multinational businesses. In general Groundwork UK receives funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government as well as many local authorities across the country. They work with major companies such as Marks & Spencer and United Utilities who fund Groundwork's positive impact on the communities where their customers live. Other sources of income include the Big Lottery Fund, European funding and straightforward contracts to deliver work for a range of public and private organisations.

materiality

The re-use of materials is of high priority to the sustainable design that we strive for. To contribute to this principle, and further strengthen links between developers in the area and local communities, a contribution of materials programme will be set up. However specific links for certain zones have already been forged, and will be described over the following sections.



(zone 1) heritage, art and the journey

design:

The detailed design of the dry canal journey will be carried out by Buro Happold. The mural covering the site hoardings and the community involvement in its creation will be designed and coordinated by Walter Kershaw. The 'life-size locals' could be made using facilities at the nearby "Fab Lab", a public facility for fabrication.

materials and funding:

The site hoardings for the mural will be donated and installed by a contractor working on one of the adjacent sites. As development of New Islington progresses, these may remain in place or be re-deployed. Contact has been made with contractors and a partnership sought with Volker Stevin, responsible for delivering the water park. Art materials and Walter's delivery of the community project would be funded via Grants for the Arts, subject to a successful application. It is intended that a local supplier will donate reclaimed sleepers in return for clear advertising of their involvement. For materials that are not donated it is intended that new sources of funding such as corporate sponsorship will be sought in conjunction with Groundwork and their existing links.

construction:

Rough calculations show that two days would be needed to excavate the pathway for the lock journey. It is hoped a contractor based on one of the surrounding sites would donate some time to carry out this work. However, if this wasn't received and funding was attained we can envisage employing a contractor for the short construction period.

(zone 2) health and wellbeing

design:

Design of the natural play area and general landscaping will be carried out by Groundwork Manchester. Groundwork have considerable experience in creating natural play areas, and have won the BBC people's award at RHS Hampton Court show.

materials:

Again, it is hoped topsoil, ton bags and grow bags will be donated. Alternatively ton bags can be purchased at cost. The planting of the garden will be conducted in guerrilla fashion and therefore will rely on local community groups coming together to develop a piece of derelict, under-used land in their neighbourhood and create their own community resource for fruit and vegetable growing. However a cost for the initial outlay of seeding has been included.

construction:

Ideally construction would occur through the goodwill of contractors and their commitment to the social enterprise of New Islington. If funding became available, a contractor could be employed to carry out the works. It is hoped that by working with Groundwork we will be able to create links with volunteer groups who will assist in the construction.

(zone 3) the sun dial

design:

An analemmatic sundial is an unusual type of sundial that requires careful mathematical calculation and design. Therefore design will be carried out under the supervision of Professor Budd, at the University of Bath.

materials and funding:

Currently surrounding the site are abandoned rocks that serve no obvious purpose. We hope to use these rocks to create the Sundial. Clearly using materials already surrounding the site requires no funding and fits our strive for sustainable design.

construction:

Whilst the sundial requires accurate setting out, actual construction will be minimal, purely the movement of the rocks surrounding the site into position. Setting out could be carried out by the competition team. Placement of the rocks can be achieved by the local community or volunteer bodies, sourced through Groundwork or RAG at Manchester University.

cost plan

Item	qty.	measure	unit price	total price	notes
overall design co-ordination					to be conducted by Buro Happold
landscape design					to be conducted by Groundwork
dry canal pathway – excavate to reduce level, move soil within site (0.6m depth)	390	m ²	£3/m ²	£1,170	possible goodwill loan of excavator for a weekend
gravel paving for dry canal pathway	390	m ²	£11.75/m ²	£4,583	excavate, lay sub-base and roll gravel
drainage – cross-fall drain	150	m run	£22/ m run	£3,300	excavate trench, lay UPVC pipe, gravel backfill
sleepers (non-cresote treated) + delivery	80	no.	£19.70	£1,576	possibility of free donation and return at year end
hoardings	100	m run	free		Volker Stevin or similar New Islington contractor to provide on a goodwill basis in return for promotion
large stones for analemmatic sun dial	14	no.	free		sourced from existing stones on crates on Old Mill Street
small stones for analemmatic sun dial user area			free		reclaimed bricks sourced for free
art materials, board and community/artist partnership	1	no.	£6,000	£6,000	£6000 is the maximum amount awarded by Grants for the Arts
landscaping	10	days	£400/day	£4,000	10 days work
empty tonne bags	10	no.	£3.79	£37.90	donation from local supplier
tonne bags filled with topsoil	10	no.	£35.00	£350.00	potential donation from local nurseries
seeds/flowers	N/A			£1,000	potential donation from local nurseries
			total	£11,883	
			total	£22,017	

programme

Month	October				November				December				
	Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Activity													
Public Consultation													
Scheme Design													
Detailed Design													
Drawing production													
Art production													
Site set up													
Setting out													
Excavation/Paving/Drainage													
Landscaping													
Planting													
Mural/Art installation													

contact

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