

Composers Park restoration



Project Summary

The restoration of an area of public open space which had been heavily fly-tipped in the past.

Background

Composers Park is an area of remnant Hertfordshire countryside surrounded by busy roads, an industrial estate and a housing development. It has ancient hedgerows, a pond and extensive, species-rich, hay meadow. Much of it is designated as a County Wildlife Site in recognition of the broad diversity of its plant species.

Over a period of 3 years the Park had been developed to provide an accessible resource for local residents. Projects included community tree and shrub planting events, creation of a wetland area and installation of a permanent

orienteeing course. However, one corner of the park remained damaged and inaccessible due to a long legacy of illegal tipping.

The Project

The Countryside Management Service acting on behalf of Watling Chase took the lead in identifying options for restoration of the site. The resulting project included the safe removal and disposal of tipped materials, and the restoration of traditional wildflower meadow using seed from native sources. This work was further enhanced by native tree and shrub planting and the construction of an all-weather path.

What has been achieved?

Over 700 tonnes of tipped materials were removed from site. Approximately an acre of traditional hay meadow has been re-created, and 400 trees and shrubs planted. 75 metres of all weather path was constructed from recycled materials and 2 benches installed.

KEY FACTS	
DATES	Winter 2002-03
Partners	Hertsmere Borough Council, Countryside Agency, Countryside Management Service, local residents
Costs	£22,300
Funders	Hertsmere Borough Council, Countryside Agency, Watling Chase Community Forest Project Development Group
Size/scale	700 tonnes of waste removed, 1 acre of hay meadow re-created, 75 metres of path laid