

NORTHUMBERLANDIA. THE LADY OF THE NORTH

The creation of "Northumberlandia" formed part of the planning submission to extract coal from the Shotton area of Blagdon Estate and provides local community benefits in a unique way by providing a public open space on land donated by the Estate, before completion of the mining works, this is termed "Restoration First". The project was designed by world renowned artist Charles Jencks who worked with Matt Ridley on the Newcastle International Centre for Life, when Matt was the first chairman.

From design sketches and models, the project was developed and constructed by the Banks Group who were operating the surface mine at Shotton. The centrepiece of the 46 acre park is a stylised reclining female figure clothed in grass with over 4 miles of paths allowing visitors to walk to all parts of the sculpture. Viewing points have been constructed with seating and windbreaks, water features give dramatic reflections. 1.5 million tonnes of carefully selected material from the adjacent workings was imported, compacted and carved with earth moving machinery to create the landform. The use of soil erosion mats and soil nailing techniques was necessary to create this unique piece of landscape work, the largest human form in the world. The project has been entirely funded by the Banks Group and Blagdon Estate and provides stunning panoramic 360 degree views of the area from the highest points.

Work commenced on site in May 2010, and the main earth moving and sculpting to the landform was completed by December 2011.

Opened in September 2012, entry is free of charge. The Park is managed by the Land Trust, a charity, who will maintain and develop Northumberlandia in perpetuity for the benefit of the local community and to act as an iconic gateway to Northumberland attracting visitors from all around the world.

The intention is that Northumberlandia will not be a manicured park, but may be grazed and allowed to mature in a naturalistic way. There are currently no on-site facilities. . Should there be future commercial investment, additional development may take place.

KEY FACTS:

- 1400 feet long
- 830 feet wide
- 100 foot high
- 4 miles of footpaths
- 1.5million tonnes of material

Managing Agents.

The Land Trust

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