

AWARD-WINNING NEW HEADQUARTERS AT PARK ROYAL, LONDON



English Landscapes Ltd has won its twentieth National award with the completion of the landscaping at the new GB headquarters for Diageo plc. The new offices are located at FirstCentral Office Park, Park Royal, London; a new 1.25 million square foot mid-urban office park consisting of nine buildings – of which Diageo’s is the first – gathered around a central landscaped area.

The design concept, by Whitelaw Turkington Landscape Architects, was to differentiate between the private and public areas surrounding the building by the selective use of materials including Chinese Granite and French Limestone. A further design objective was to show a continuity between the shape and structure of the building itself and the wider landscape.

whitelaw.turkington

The majority of the landscaping consisted of paving and hardworks, which included the construction of

a French Limestone piazza, two sets of steps, a visitors car parking area and other localised paving.

DIAGEO

Also constructed was a concrete retaining wall faced with limestone rockface cladding. This wall marks the boundary between the central open space and the new Headquarters and balances the different geometries of the site and the building.

Soft landscaping comprised the planting of shrubs and trees and the laying of turfed areas adjacent to the building. To irrigate these areas, English Landscapes installed an automatic irrigation system. The pump and feeder tank are located in the underground car park.

Other soft works included the lifting of 30 fibreglass aluminium-finished planters by tower crane to the sixth floor of the building, where they were subsequently planted out.

David Hoy, Property Development Director at Diageo’s, said ‘We are delighted to have worked closely with English Landscapes Ltd who have brilliantly executed Whitelaw Turkington’s design concept for us. The first class landscaping around



Top: limestone steps and paving
Above: French limestone piazza



Above left: sixth floor planters
Left: retaining wall with limestone rockface cladding

our new building has really made the difference and contributed hugely to creating an excellent working environment for our staff. There is no doubt that good landscape design, well executed, is well worth the money spent on it in helping to create great working conditions.’



Message

from Wayne Bradley,
Chairman

As the projects featured in this Newsletter demonstrate, our portfolio of landscape construction projects continues to focus on combined external works contracts, which include both traditional soft landscaping and high quality hard landscaping. We believe that our clients benefit from this integrated approach when carried out by a quality landscape contractor.

We understand that the satisfaction of our clients is the key to our continued profitability and our Client Satisfaction Programme ensures we talk to each of our current clients on a regular basis throughout the life of every landscape project. This provides valuable feedback to our Operations Teams that helps us to understand the concerns of our clients and their views on how we are performing.

The extension of several major landscape maintenance contracts this Summer proves that we are delivering client satisfaction on the ground where it counts.

Because of the sustained growth of the landscape construction and landscape maintenance businesses, we have now formed English Landscapes Ltd. and English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd.

Both companies are of a size where each is a major player in its own market and this new autonomy allows the management and staff of each company to focus solely on their core business and clients, whilst still maintaining the shared knowledge and skills of being part of a wider Group.

I am confident that 2004 will be another exciting year for English Landscapes and our clients.

*Below: English Landscapes Maintenance team members
Above right: The team at work removing ragwort*



MAINTAINING THE PALACE

Working in partnership with the London Borough of Bromley, English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd has just begun a high profile four-year grounds maintenance contract at Crystal Palace Park.



The Park is famous for the Crystal Palace, transferred from Hyde Park after the Great Exhibition of 1851 – although only the original terraces and their retaining walls remain today – and also for its dinosaur park, the world's 'first theme park'.

The core works of the contract include grass cutting, shrub and herbaceous bed maintenance, maintenance of the water features and cleansing of sanitary facilities.

Symbolic of the partnership is English Landscapes' adoption of the London Borough of Bromley's brown uniform, a move away from the traditional green.

Colin Brand, Chief Landscape Officer, London Borough of Bromley said 'We are delighted to have English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd take on the upkeep of Crystal Palace Park, and have already noticed significant improvements, which have been reflected in positive comments from the public. We look forward to building on our relationship with English Landscapes over the coming years, and to witnessing the continued enhancement of the park.'

ENGLISH LANDSCAPES GOES WEST TO NORTH DEVON

Working in partnership with North Devon District Council, English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd has just commenced a prestigious five-year contract for the maintenance of parks, gardens and open spaces in the District of North Devon.



North Devon District Council is currently taking measures towards providing a greener service, so when searching for a landscape maintenance partner, they were specifically looking for a contractor committed to the environment and with a proven track record of successful environmental projects.

North Devon felt that English Landscapes satisfied this yardstick fully, as well as the other required criteria such as being able to work in partnership, providing good value for money, and a quality service. Subsequently, English

Landscapes Maintenance was chosen from seven other competitors.

John Rowe, Assistant Parks Manager at North Devon District Council said: 'We are delighted to have been able to award this contract to English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd. They have a proven track record both in grounds maintenance and in a commitment to the environment, which is extremely important to us. We are looking forward to a long and successful partnership that will bring huge benefits to those living in and visiting North Devon.'



CENTRE PARK: BIRMINGHAM'S FIRST NEW PARK IN A DECADE

Centre Park in Castle Vale is the first park ever at Castle Vale and the first new park in Birmingham for a decade. Undertaken for Birmingham City Council and Castle Vale Housing Action Trust, it forms the centrepiece to the Castle Vale £270 million, 12-year programme to improve the long-term quality of life on the estate.



Top and above: the regenerated site



English Landscapes Ltd completed a full external works package which regenerated the site from a rough grassland area to the high quality park which resides there today, and in the process won their second BALI Award of 2003.



Works carried out by English Landscapes included the construction of a junior and toddler playground and a multi-use games area; the construction of a central paved area, to be used for staging events, using Marshall's La Linea block trim and



The park before renovation

macadam; earth mounding works to form an amphitheatre; and the creation of a formal garden.

Soft landscaping incorporated the creation of an arboretum using seven separate species of trees and the formation of tree avenues around the perimeter of the park and adjacent to the footpaths.

To finish off, English Landscapes installed lighting, erected stainless steel feature pillars as entrance features and metal railings around the perimeter of the park.

Adrian Rourke, Head of Landscape Development at Birmingham City Council said 'I am really pleased with the finished scheme which is a credit to everyone involved. English Landscapes Ltd has worked very hard with the rest of the team to produce a fine new neighbourhood park on time and within budget.'



In brief...

English Landscapes has launched its new website. For further details, go to www.thelandscapigroup.co.uk

Following on from our BALI success with Centre Park, English Landscapes Ltd has seen the completion of three other park contracts within the last few months.

Whitby Park undertaken for Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council was a £900,000 landscape restoration and refurbishment contract. Landscape Architects: Gillespies.

Derby Arboretum, England's first public park, saw English Landscapes completing the new Play Area Contract for Derby City Council. Valued in excess of £300,000, works included the removal of existing play equipment together with the construction of new toddler, junior and senior play areas. Landscape Architects: Landscape Design Associates.

And finally, All Saints Park in Wolverhampton, where English Landscapes completed a £200,000 contract for Groundwork Black Country to transform an old green rundown space into a new public open space.

English Landscapes Ltd has moved its Midlands Office to Warwick. Opened on 1st July 2003, the new office is headed up by Neil Farmer, Midlands' Operations Manager.

From this larger base, English Landscapes will be well placed to move forward with both existing and new clients in an area where considerable growth has been experienced.

In Coventry, English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd and CV One Ltd, their client, are celebrating after sweeping the board at the Heart of England in Bloom 2003 Awards final. Coventry City Centre won gold in the Urban Communities Category, was named overall category winner and was nominated as a national representative for the National Britain in Bloom Awards 2004.



This contract, awarded to English Landscapes in 1999, is based on a true partnership with both parties jointly working to achieve ambitious Key Performance Indicators and using open book accounting to manage resources.

ENGLISH LANDSCAPES LENDS ITS SERVICES TO NORTHERN ROCK

English Landscapes Ltd was delighted to be involved with Phase 2 of Northern Rock's ambitious £90 million office expansion plans at their Headquarters in Gosforth. The plans, adopted to cope with Northern Rock's rapid growth, include seven new office blocks and a 700-car multi-storey park.



Image courtesy of Insite Environments

English Landscapes working in partnership with Laing O'Rourke and landscape architects Insite Environments has completed a high specification external works package valued at c£800,000.

Works included the construction of footpaths and an entrance area to the main building both in high quality Saxon and natural stone paving; full tarmac access roads including



earthworks, sub-base, road base, wearing and base courses; and three ten-space car parks.

Stainless steel bollards were installed, drainage works completed and all associated ducting works for the exterior lighting were carried out.

Soft landscaping included grass seeding, top soiling, ornamental planting and semi-mature tree planting.

RESTORATION OF CORONATION GARDENS TO FORMER GLORY

English Landscapes Ltd was delighted to be awarded the complete restoration of the hard landscape at Coronation Gardens for the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Waltham Forest were awarded Heritage Lottery funding to renovate and develop the gardens, culminating in the park's re-opening in May 2003 with a ceremony which also marked its centenary.



The works undertaken by English Landscapes included the reconstruction of an ornamental pool and rockery; the creation of a maze and two new large green oak pergolas; the repairing of the footpath system, the erection of wrought iron railings around the bandstand and maze, and the replacement of the seating and litter bins. Also carried out was the renovation and re-setting of a World War II Memorial tablet onto a specially commissioned and designed polished Chinese granite plinth.

This project has attracted much interest and since May 2003 has been entered for two awards: London In Bloom in the 'Improvement Category' and a locally



sponsored event within the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

Further praise was given by English Heritage, who on visiting the site, expressed their delight at the quality of work achieved and the overall results.

People

We are delighted that our Recognition as Investors in People has just been endorsed for another three years.

One of the advantages of undergoing re-assessment is the fact that not only do we receive unbiased and objective feedback against the Standard but we also have the opportunity to compare our achievements with those of other companies.

This is the first time we have been assessed against the new Standard, which is based on outcomes rather than procedures. This makes a positive outcome even more gratifying and reassuring, as the evidence gathered from employees is the direct result of an interview with the Assessor, rather than any paper record.

We welcome confirmation from the Assessor that morale is high across the company and our managers are perceived to 'inspire confidence, give leadership and set a good example to their teams' – however, his 'recommended areas for development' remind us that there is always more work to be done.



**ENGLISH
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