

BATTLE McCARTHY ©

Consulting Engineers & Landscape Architects



PROJECT:

National College for School Leadership, Nottingham

CLIENT:

University of Nottingham/DfES

ARCHITECTS:

Hopkins Architects Limited

BM SERVICES:

Landscape Architecture & Environmental Engineering

VALUE:

£19million

DESIGN BRIEF

To develop a masterplan with Hopkins Architects for the National College for School Leadership (NCSL), a joint development by the DfES and University of Nottingham to provide teaching and conference facilities for head teachers. The facility also includes accommodation and catering facilities as well as state of the art IT/Communications.

DESIGN INITIATIVES/ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

In January 2002, Battle McCarthy were appointed by the University of Nottingham as Environmental Engineers/Landscape Architects. The facility has, as far as practicable, been designed and constructed according to the principles of sustainable development and sound ecological design. Integration with the larger Jubilee Campus was a priority and this was achieved through the continuing themes of water and landform.

A 0.6 hectare split level lake has been created to complement and visually extend the Jubilee Campus lake with a succession of marginal habitats and sheltered aquatic environments. The existing woodland belt has also been extended, not only to provide screening between the NCSL and local residents, but also to increase valuable habitats for flora and fauna.

The main building entrance is dominated by two landscape elements:

- A linear pond with formal aquatic planting.
- A terraced earth landform that wraps around the south side of the building.

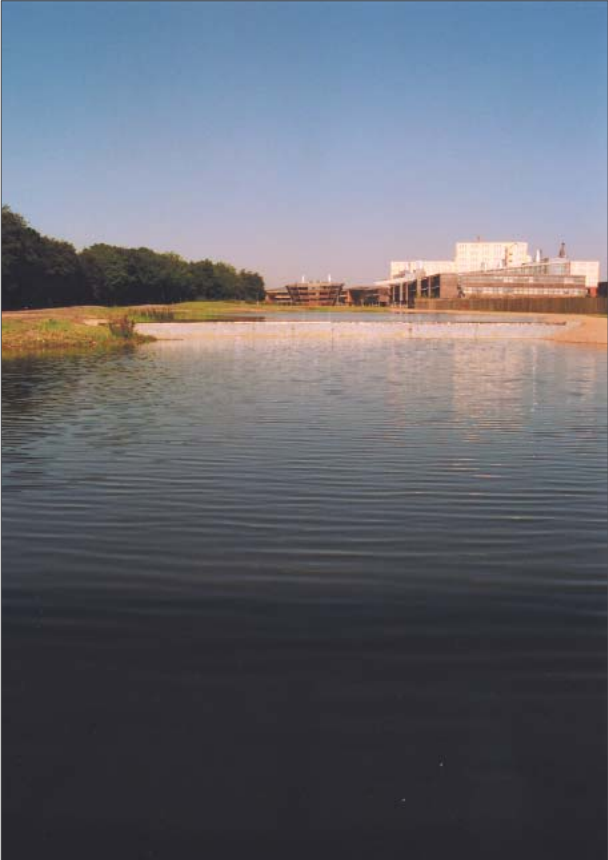
Formal tree lines were planted to accentuate the curve of the building and low level lighting set into the landform retaining wall to minimise light pollution and landscape clutter.

The campus was opened by the Prime Minister Tony Blair in June 2002.

AWARDS

RIBA East Midlands Award

2003



The main lake showing the weir and Jubilee Campus in the background

Several water systems operate on campus. The top-up for the lake and pond are supplied by two boreholes located south of the building. Borehole water is also used in the building cooling system with spent water discharged into the main lake with roof run-off also discharging into the lake via the pond. Water is recirculated between the upper and lower lakes via the weir to aid water quality. Pressure on the stormwater system is reduced through self draining reinforced turf parking bays as part of the sustainable urban drainage proposals for the site.



Entrance bridge, pond and landforms



Reinforced grass parking bays



Approach to the main entrance



Landscape Masterplan