Reconnection of the Dunston Staiths

Craig Wilson & Martin Hulse

Engaging Conservation
York
12th July 2014
Gateshead Garden Festival 1990
Staiths Southbank – Wimpey and Hemmingway Design
Proposals for underused areas of land in Sunderland, Whitley Bay, Newcastle, Gateshead and South Shields.
Project: Tyne Tee
Designer: Mawson Kerr Architects
- Will Mawson, Daniel Kerr
Location: Dunston Staithes, Tyne and Wear

Dunston Staithes is a listed structure, a scheduled ancient monument, which is considered to be the largest timber structure in Europe. However, this iconic structure is a forgotten space, dimmed and slowly eroding into the River Tyne.

The Tyne Tee proposal combines two passions of the North East—heritage and sport—to create an inventive and dynamic use for the Staithes as an iconic eco-driving range. This proposal is a light-touch, low-cost and sustainable solution designed to bring the Staithes back into use and back into the public psyche.

With a newfound attention and revenue stream, the proposal would act as a catalyst for a long-term strategy for the Staithes' future use. The double-decker structure lends itself perfectly to the modern-day driving range and with the '48-hour' biodegradable golf balls with fish food at their core, you can ‘hit some balls and feed the fish’.
Closing weekend
Fri 28 – Sun 30 March

Test Dept at Dunston Staiths
To mark the closing weekend of the Festival, the seminal music group Test Dept returns with their debut event since the group disbanded in 1997.

This large-scale outdoor event takes place at the dramatic Dunston Staiths, reputed to be Europe’s largest wooden structure, which was built on the River Tyne in 1893 to ship coal from the local Durham coalfields to the world.

Test Dept will render Dunston Staiths as a living monument to the historic struggles of British miners since the industrial revolution.

For three nights audiences will sail up the River Tyne to Dunston Staiths, where Test Dept will bring the drama and noise of the site back to life in a sonic, cinematic and lighting intervention.

Tickets and booking information available on the Festival website from 1 February.

Test Dept formed in 1981 and became one of the most important and influential early industrial music groups in the UK. They were renowned for high-energy live performances using unconventional instruments such as scrap metal and machinery. These unique performance environments utilised multiple slide and film projections, reinvigorating disused industrial settings.

For this event Test Dept will explore their own participation in the 1984 miners’ strike, where they engaged with mining communities and local activists on the Fuel to Fight Tour. Test Dept recorded a collaborative benefit album Shoulder to Shoulder with the South Wales Striking Miners Choir for the miners’ hardship fund.


Above: Dunston Staiths, 2013. Photo © Rebecca Sherwell.
4th July – 19th September 2014

Launch Thursday, 3rd July 2014
6.00pm – 8.00pm

Dunston Staiths, Gateshead NE8 2BF

Cone is an architectural-scale artwork by Wolfgang Weileder situated on the Dunston Staiths, a landmark Scheduled Monument on the south bank of the River Tyne in Newcastle Gateshead.

As a catalyst for debate on the diverse understandings of ‘Sustainability’, Cone will offer a platform for new insights and discussion, informing disciplines from fine art to urban design, community development, environmental and planning policy. Cone stems from the Jetty Project on Art & Sustainability, an interdisciplinary research project funded by the AHRC and coordinated by Newcastle University and the University of Manchester.

www.jetty-project.info
Activity Plan delivered by Northern Architecture

3 stage STEM, Stories & Summer School