

# Panopticons and Land

## East Lancashire

'Reshaping places through new cultural icons.'

Panopticons is an exciting initiative to create 21st century landmarks in the hills of East Lancashire as symbols of the area's regeneration and pride. The scheme forms part of the wider Regional Park initiative led by the Lancashire Partnership, which aims to create a wide range of benefits for local people and visitors, and to enhance the positive image of the area. The programme is being delivered by Mid Pennine Arts, one of our regularly funded organisations, in partnership with the district arts development officers.

Three of these iconic structures are already in place and the fourth and final Panopticon will be completed during 2007.

Panopticons is funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency, the Lancashire Economic Partnership, the Northern Way, Arts Council England, North West and Lancashire County Council.



*Atom*  
Photo: Karen Williams

High-point sites were identified and the landmarks take the form of shelters, viewing platforms or beacons. All the Panopticons are to be linked by footpaths and cycleways for walkers and cyclists to enjoy amid spectacular countryside. *Colourfields*, the first of East Lancashire's Panopticons, is in Corporation Park, Blackburn.

Pendle's Panopticon, *Atom* in Wycoller Country Park, was designed by Peter Meacock with Katarina Novomestska and Architectural Central Workshop.

Nick Hunt, Director of Mid Pennine Arts, commented, 'By contrast with our first Panopticon in Blackburn, an urban context, *Atom* highlights one of the most beautiful rural settings in Lancashire. We hope it will encourage a wider public to discover Wycoller and from there to go on and explore the delights of the surrounding countryside.'

Burnley's Panopticon, *Singing Ringing Tree* in its stunning windswept location on Crown Point, was designed by Mike Tonkin and Anna Liu.

Burnley MP Kitty Ussher said, 'The completion of *Singing Ringing Tree* is a fantastic accomplishment for Burnley.'

Work is now well under way on the construction of *Halo* – the fourth and final Panopticon in the series, to be sited at Top o' Slate in Rossendale.

Land (2003-2007) was a unique education and creative arts project at the heart of the East Lancashire Regional Park initiative led by the Lancashire Economic Partnership (LEP). Funded by LEP, Arts Council England, North West and Lancashire County Council.

Land was a partner project to Panopticons. While Panopticons involved professional designers and builders in creating large-scale structures, Land involved local people of all ages in making a positive difference to their own surroundings through creative activity led by professional artists.

Artists worked with adults and children to create woodland sculptures, way markers and contemporary artworks in a variety of



Finale of Land at Higherford Mill, Barrowford  
Photo: Jane Beardsworth

natural materials. Land also incorporated large-scale community events such as lantern processions, outdoor theatre, musical celebrations and exhibitions.

International pavement artist Julian Beever spent four days at Higherford Mill in Barrowford in March 2007 to mark the finale of Land. Julian, whose extraordinary 3-D chalk images have delighted viewers all over the UK and Europe, the USA and Australia, agreed to create a surprise finale piece for Land.

Arts Council England, North West awarded £120,000 from our arts lottery programme towards this major Panopticons and Land initiative.

Website: [www.panopticons.uk.net](http://www.panopticons.uk.net)

Arts Council England  
Phone: 0845 300 6200  
Email: [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)  
Website: [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)