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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CAPABILITY BROWN FESTIVAL 2016 – DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

2016 is the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, the man often credited with changing the face of eighteenth-century English landscape and as part of these celebrations, a unique competition offered students and professional landscape architects the opportunity to walk in the great man’s creative footsteps.

- What kind of landscape would Brown have designed if he were living today?
- How would you create a contemporary landscape following his design principles and building on what he designed?
- How can you make Brown and his landscapes meaningful to audiences today?

These were some of the questions posed by the design brief for the competition, hosted by Natural England, and run by the Landscape Institute. It aimed to stimulate engagement with Capability Brown’s work and practice, while also inspiring current practitioners to incorporate some of the valuable lessons Brown has to offer into their own work.

This was not simply a theoretical exercise, but one in which the winners could influence the design and layout of a real site: Moccas, part of a Grade II\* registered park and garden near Hereford, a Brown influenced historic designed landscape, that also incorporates Moccas National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A 20<sup>th</sup> century conifer plantation across the site has recently been felled with the aim of restoring it to wood pasture and parkland habitat.

As Ceryl Evans, Director of the Capability Brown Festival 2016 explains: “The aim was not to create a pastiche landscape, but for participants to produce a contemporary, multi-functional landscape, inspired by Brown and in harmony with the rich natural and cultural heritage of the existing site and its surroundings.”

The winners of the Capability Brown Festival Design Ideas Competition are listed below and will receive their prizes at The Landscape Institute Awards Ceremony on 26 November at The Brewery, London.

Natural England’s Leslie Pearman, Senior Advisor Heritage Estates, said: “The winning design ideas give Natural England a clear picture of how to extend the ancient tree habitat of the medieval deer park, making the best of the fabulous views and historic and archaeological features in a way that will inspire people to enjoy the site for a further 300 years.”

## Professional category

### Joint winners

- Matthew Wigan Associates, described by the judges as: *'A very detailed analysis of the historic influences connecting with the concepts of the Beautiful and Picturesque, with practical scope for sensitive wood pasture and habitat creation.'*
- Colvin and Moggridge Landscape Architects, described by the judges as: *'Packed with detailed analysis, backed up by an array of design ideas to complement this site and inspire others.'*

## Student category

### Joint winners

- Jo Phillips and Owen Byrom - Manchester Metropolitan University – Moccas Skyscape. Described by the judges as: *'A striking concept that connects people with trees and the sky. A design with a strong spatial structure which optimises the emotional effect of openness and enclosure and takes advantage of the available views.'*
- Leopold Taylor and Naomi Rubbra - Edinburgh College of Art – Moccas Hill Wood: the contemporary Brown? Described by the judges as: *'Work of a very high quality, full of interest and invention and beautifully presented in a style redolent of the 18<sup>th</sup> century ....an enchanting masterplan which reflects the hand of the contemporary Brown.'*

### Honourable mentions:

- Harrie Carr, Emma Henderson, Emma Thompson, Kit Bowen - Edinburgh College of Art – Rewilding Capability Brown
- Anne-Charlotte Lee – ACL Paysages, France - Moccas Hill Wood – A Vernacular Hybrid
- Matt Machouki - Leeds Beckett University – Moccas Hill Park

Tree and shrub planting will be carried out at Moccas Park and Garden in 2016 to coincide with the year of the Capability Brown Festival and tercentenary of Brown's birth.

The Capability Brown Festival 2016 is managed by the Landscape Institute and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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## MEDIA CONTACTS

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About The Capability Brown Festival Design Ideas Competition

Chaired by Noel Farrer the judging panel consisted of the following:

- Noel Farrer – President, Landscape Institute
- Jill Butler – Conservation Adviser, Woodland Trust
- Dr Ian Thompson – Director of Postgraduate Research, School of Landscape Architecture, Newcastle University
- Saul Herbert – Senior Reserve Manager, Natural England
- Suzanne Perry – Wood pasture and parkland specialist, Natural England
- Leslie Pearman – Senior Adviser Heritage Estates, Natural England
- Chris Bolton – Head of Profession, Landscape, Natural England
- Jenifer White - National Landscape Adviser, Historic England

### About The Landscape Institute

The Landscape Institute manages the Capability Brown Festival on behalf of the Festival Partnership. The Landscape Institute is the Royal Chartered institute for landscape architects. As a professional body and educational charity, it works to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit.

### About the Capability Brown Festival 2016

- The Capability Brown Festival 2016 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in August 1716.
- It unites 20 partner organisations in the UK's largest festival of its kind to date, including the Historic Houses Association, the National Trust and English Heritage, which care for and manage many of Brown's existing landscapes.
- The Festival is managed by the Landscape Institute and is funded with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional match funding and funding in kind from the Festival's partners and supporters.
- Many Brown sites, including some not normally open to the public, will host special events, tours and activities throughout 2016.
- More information can be found at [www.capabilitybrown.org](http://www.capabilitybrown.org). The Festival can also be followed on Twitter @BrownCapability

### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery