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**boal quay proposal — *feathership***



***feathership* is a sculptural multisensory artwork based on the norfolk legend of the brotherhood of the grey goose feather.**

legend has it that any norfolk resident carrying a split grey goose feather and speaking a secret word could request help. we will work with the local community to restore this legend by creating a new secret word that is only revealed under certain conditions in an artwork inspired equally by legend and the present day environment of boal quay.





**quayside inspiration: masts and poles.**

the artwork's structure draws inspiration from these shapes. from a distance the artwork is naturally part of the landscape of the quayside but takes its own shape as you approach.

[see this inspiration in the artwork in the overall form of multiple columns](#)



**quayside inspiration: typography**

lettering is an integral part of the artwork proposal with direct inspiration from kings lynn quayside.

[see this inspiration in the artwork in the integration of lettering \(the brotherhood of the grey goose feather\)](#)



**quayside inspiration: colour and texture**

the bold colour and natural patina of hard surfaces in the marine environment could provide a contrast with the proposed weather-resistant main material of stainless steel, thus rooting the artwork in the location. if sealed to be safe to touch, it could provide an additional sensory element to the artwork.

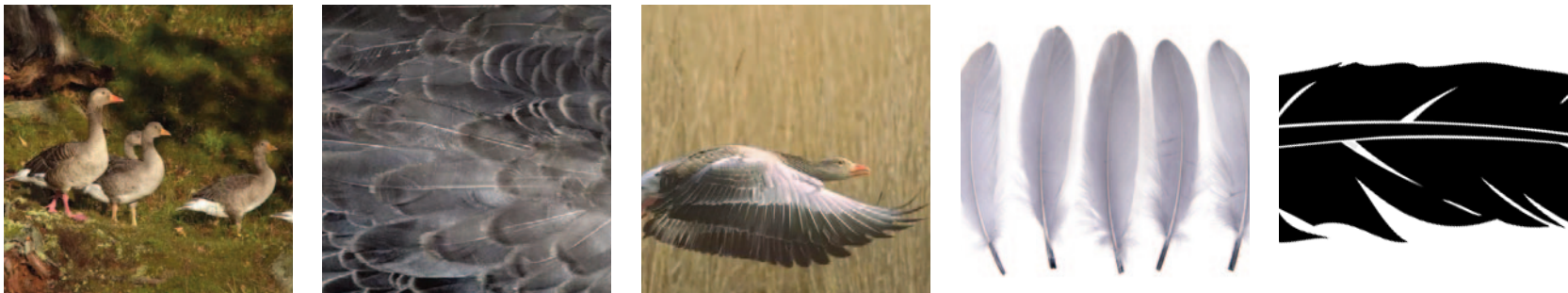
[see this inspiration in the artwork in the coloured bands on each column including the hidden word.](#)



**historical inspiration: the brotherhood of the grey goose feather**

the norfolk legend of *the brotherhood of the grey goose feather* – the custom that fellow Fens-dwellers who carried a split goose feather were entitled to help and protection in times of trouble. even royalty were assisted in this way. this tradition was last recorded as active in the 18th Century and it appears the secret password that accompanied producing the feather has been lost in time. working in partnership with local residents, we intend to restore that...

[see this inspiration in the artwork in the feather-inspired contours, the colour of the steel material, and the 'secret' word that is revealed only in direct sunlight](#)





structure

internal stainless steel spine -  
thick walled pipe - for strength.  
outer skin of 2mm 316  
stainless steel allows for  
cutting of apertures and inset  
elements without  
compromising the integrity of  
the structure.

stainless steel chosen for  
resilience in a marine  
environment and for natural  
beauty and reflective qualities  
of the material.

sound

based on the aeolian harp/flute - wind activated instruments.

each column creates sound - a subtle addition to the natural  
soundscape of the site: the movement of water, wind blowing willow  
rushes, the clank and howl of boat masts in stormy weather.

slits cut into outer later create sound as wind blows across the  
aperture. each opens into a sealed chamber to create the sound.  
angled dividers prevent build up of rain inside the structure.

each column has multiple sound chambers in different positions to  
allow activation from different wind directions. the pitch of each column  
will be different creating different tones in different conditions.

we would also explore relating the pitch of each column to the ‘secret  
letter’ it contains by matching letters to notes on the musical scale.

hidden letters / colour / texture

inset panels of recycled materials add bands of  
colour and texture - designed to be touched - to  
each column. within one such band on each  
column is a hidden letter that forms the secret  
word (fellowship of the grey goose feather). the  
letters can be read when sun reflects on the  
surface of the artwork.

these elements will be placed at a height  
accessible for children and wheelchair users.

installation

concreted into borehole. the  
multiple columns create an  
artwork that covers a large  
area but with a minimal weight  
load/footprint for the location  
and with simple/affordable  
installation.

contrasting finish

the shape of a feather is formed by the varied  
heights of the columns and a silhouette  
shotblasted onto the surface of the stainless steel  
columns providing a matt upper part of each  
column and shiny/reflective lower part revealing  
the feather shape.

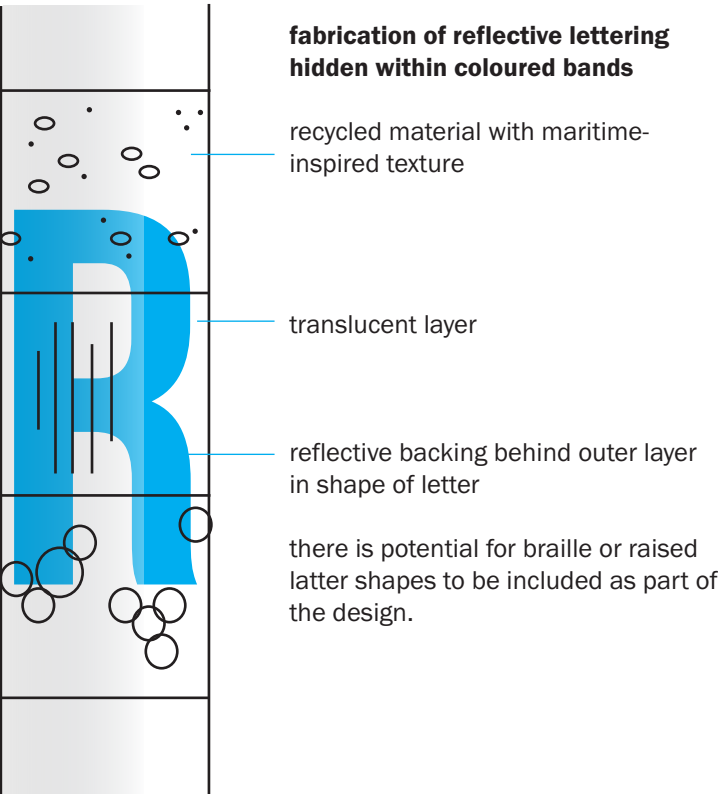
revealing the hidden word



**alignment with the sun october—march**

diagram showing the movement of the sun in the winter months in relation to the site for the artwork - the artwork is positioned so as to interact with low winter sun.

when the sun hits the inlaid colour panels the reflective element reveals the hidden word of the feathership. the word will be chosen through community engagement in kings lynn but kept secret and only revealed in the artwork.



**fabrication of reflective lettering hidden within coloured bands**

recycled material with maritime-inspired texture

translucent layer

reflective backing behind outer layer in shape of letter

there is potential for braille or raised latter shapes to be included as part of the design.



**reveal of hidden word concept**

the hidden word is revealed from a specific angle. the columns would be arranged in a straight line to allow fragments of letters to align.

a second concept for the word reveal would be to have one letter per column requiring the viewer to read each letter as illuminated by sunlight and piece together the word. this approach is shown in the metallic models.

this approach has advantages for accessibility and would allow a curved placement of the columns following the contours of the site.



placement on site



**option 1 : straight line placement looking towards the quay**

this allows for the fractured letter alignment to work viewed from the path.



**option 2 : curved placement following land contours**

this potential makes for a bigger impact approaching from both directions and has an aesthetic appeal at one with the landscape.

both options have the initial columns in close proximity to the path to allow sensory interaction for anyone unable or unwilling to venture onto the grassed area.





**model in site location**

showing winter light reflecting in coloured bands revealing the secret word developed with local residents. an artwork that is interactive - puzzling, playful and with an element of surprise. note: positioning would extend to the side of the path for full accessibility (see *placement on site* illustrations)