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Monument to Her Majesty

Northumberland landowner plans 60m-high sculpture to honour Queen Elizabeth II

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A NORTHUMBERLAND landowner wants to honour the Queen by erecting a towering sculpture three times the height of The Angel of the North.

Viscount Devonport hopes his proposed Elizabeth Landmark will boost tourism in some of the nearby rural communities.

Three artists were invited to submit proposals for the site on top of a hill called Cold Law on Viscount Devonport's Ray Demesne estate, which lies between the A68 and the A696 at Kirkwhelpington.

Curator Matthew Jarrett, who helped to select the artists, said the proposed sculpture would stand 60m high (Gateshead's Angel is 20m high) and, from its elevated position, be equal in

height to the prominent Great Wansley Crag feature on the estate.

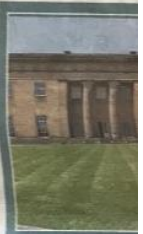
Terence Kearley, 3rd Viscount Devonport, is a retired architect and philanthropist who has spent many years regenerating his estate, restoring buildings and replanting trees.

He said he had given administration for the Queen, asking "if she doesn't deserve a monument, who does?"

The three chosen artists are Peter J Evans, based in Newcastle, Colin Rose, from near Alnwick, and Simon Hitchens, from Exeter.

Viscount Devonport's estate has a demand of tall structures. Recently a 16-turbine wind farm was established there to generate electricity for more than 30,000 homes and £250,000 annual income to benefit the local community.

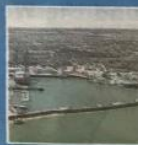
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DONALD'S CASH PLE SPORT



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An artist's impression of one of three sculpture proposals. This one is by artist Colin Rose

Bold plan for gigantic sculpture in honour of the Queen revealed



Viscount Devonport is the man behind the bold plans to build a 60m-high sculpture and will pick from three designs



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A LANDOWNER wants to honour the Queen by erecting a towering sculpture three times the height of The Angel of the North.

Viscount Devonport hopes his proposed Elizabeth Landmark will boost tourism in some of the nearby rural communities. Three artists were invited to submit proposals for the site on top of a hill called Cold Law on his Ray Demesne estate, which lies between the A68 and the A696 at Kirkwhelpington.

Curator Matthew Jarrett, who helped to select the artists, said the proposed sculpture would stand 60m high (Gateshead's Angel is 20m high) and, from its elevated position, be equal in height to the prominent Great Wansley Crag on the estate.

Terence Kearley, 3rd Viscount Devonport, is a retired architect and philanthropist who has spent many years regenerating his estate, restoring buildings and replanting trees.

He said he had great admiration for the Queen, asking "if she doesn't deserve a monument, who does?"

He added: "She is the longest serving monarch, reigning for 66 years to date. She has navigated the royal family and the Commonwealth through enormous change and times of great uncertainty.

"She personally moved the Commonwealth into a free, equal and voluntary group of member states united by language, history and culture, unifying them under shared values of democracy, free speech and human rights."

"What she has achieved on the global stage is a true inspiration." Lord Devonport has put his sculpture plan into action as the Commonwealth approaches its 70th anniversary in 2019.

If she (the Queen) doesn't deserve a monument, who does?

Viscount Devonport

The three chosen artists are Peter J Evans, based in Newcastle, Colin Rose, from near Alnwick, and Simon Hitchens who comes from Exeter.

All have expressed excitement, with Mr Evans saying: "The feeling of being shortlisted for such a project is both exhilarating and daunting."

Mr Hitchens said it was "undoubtedly a challenge and a privilege" while Mr Rose said there were "exciting possibilities for a work that will be a prominent feature in the landscape".

Viscount Devonport's estate

isn't devoid of tall structures. Recently a 16-turbine wind farm was set up to generate electricity for more than 30,000 homes and £250,000 annual income to benefit the community.

"A project on this scale will need a great deal of planning," said Viscount Devonport. "The foundations themselves will likely need to be some 60m deep to ensure the landmark can handle the high winds that are so useful for the wind farm on the estate."

"We estimate some 12 months of planning and development exercises before we will be able to confirm exactly what the Elizabeth Landmark will look like."

"This is just part one of a three-part journey - initial ideas and design in 2018, detailed planning and development in 2018/19 and, hopefully, the announcement of the final design in spring 2019."

The cost of the sculpture is estimated at £1m but Viscount Devonport promised it would not come from the public purse.

Matthew Jarrett, who has been involved in the project for more than a year, said the Elizabeth Landmark would be visible from the A68.

He said the site was about 100m from the nearest road, linking the A68 and A696, necessitating a walkway and a carpark.

"One thing we've found from our site visits is that when you're up there and the wind blows, you definitely need a shelter, so each

proposal includes an internal space," he said. "This is a celebration of shared values, of a connected global community, in an increasingly fractured world."

Matthew Jarrett said Northumberland County Council had been alerted to the scheme but it would be some time before planning permission was sought.

Local people and visitors will get a chance to comment on the rival proposals this month. See them at Kirkwhelpington Village Hall (May 9-14) and Otterburn War Memorial Hall (May 15-23). Matthew Jarrett will give a talk at Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn, on May 24 when the plans will go on show.

The plans can be viewed online at www.elizabethlandmark.co.uk

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Blade of glory

Stunning design picked for Northumberland monument to the Queen

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THE EVENING

Long to tower over us, if plan wins approval

SIMON MEECHAN
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THIS is the monument set to spring up in Northumberland in tribute to the Queen.

Artist Simon Hitchens's design for the 55m landmark has been chosen ahead of two others, following a consultation with the public.

The Elizabeth Landmark is set to be built in Ray Demesne estate, between the A68 and A696 at Kirkwhelpington. At 55m high, it will be taller than Gateshead's Angel of the North.

Viscount Devonport has long aspired to have a tribute to the Queen on his estate. The decision to pick Mr Hitchens's design is one of the final steps in Lord Devonport's 25-year-long dream. Lord Devonport, Terence Kearley said: "The quality of the



Viscount Devonport

petition from North East-based Colin Rose and Peter J Evans. But there is still plenty of work to go to make Lord Devonport's dream come true.

He said: "With a project of this size and scale, the pre-planning application process allows us to identify some of the specifics of the site and the construction. For example, through some detailed work we have carried out with Ordnance Survey, we have discovered that the optimum height for the landmark is 55m, rather than the 60m we originally anticipated.

three proposals was extremely high and it was very important to me to gather public feedback from the website and our exhibitions, which is why we extended our community consultations in July."

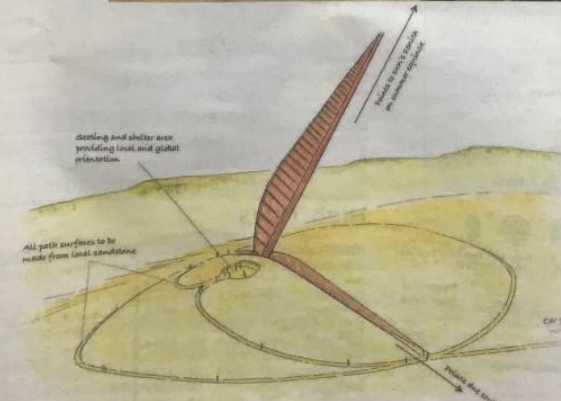
West Country-based Mr Hitchens's design – inspired by Queen Elizabeth II's reign – was the unanimous choice, beating com-

"With 55m being the preferred height difference between landmark sites at Cold Law the nearby Wanney Craggs, will sit symbiotically within landscape."

A fundraising campaign attempt to raise the £2m needed if planning permission is granted.



The proposed monument



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