

ABOUT THE PROJECT

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

Haringey Council has commissioned architects and urban designers We Made That for the design and delivery of public realm improvements to Penstock Tunnel in Wood Green, alongside artist Emma Smith and lighting designers Studio Dekka.

The tunnel forms a key link connecting Wood Green town centre and the Cultural Quarter in the east with Alexandra Palace and Park and Hornsey in the west.

The project is part of the wider Connecting Wood Green programme supported by the Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund.

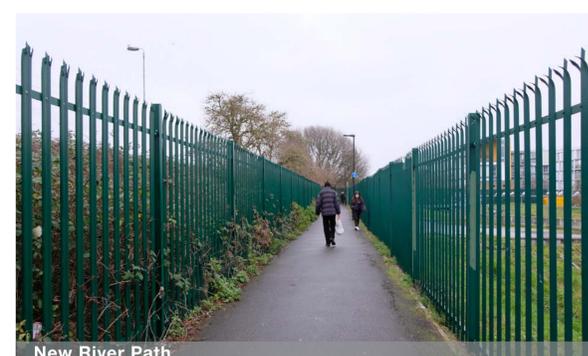
WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING?

We are currently looking to deliver the following:

- **Penstock Tunnel** - works including new drainage, new lighting, and improved western entrance.
- **Eastern Entrance** - works including new spaces to host activity, sit and play, new lighting and soft landscaping. It also includes artwork providing unique and distinct seating and play elements.
- **Newland Road** - light touch works including new planting and wayfinding to enhance the connections to Alexandra Park.

WHEN WILL THE WORKS TAKE PLACE?

The works will possibly involve the closure of Penstock Tunnel for a period of time in order to safely carry out the tunnel improvement works. It is still to be decided when this will be, however we will inform the public in advance of closing the tunnel.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROJECT



PRINCIPLE 1

Improve connectivity between the east and west of the borough through improved legibility and wayfinding on existing routes



PRINCIPLE 2

Extend and enhance Haringey's routes for walking and cycling to increase access to green space across Haringey



PRINCIPLE 3

Celebrate the character and heritage of Wood Green through the integration of public artwork within the design



PRINCIPLE 4

Deliver practical and cost-effective drainage improvements to Penstock Tunnel



PRINCIPLE 5

Provide healthy, safe and accessible open space improvements for existing and new communities



PRINCIPLE 6

Encourage community participation to harness skills and resources from within the local community, local businesses and schools to shape positive change

OVERARCHING STRATEGY

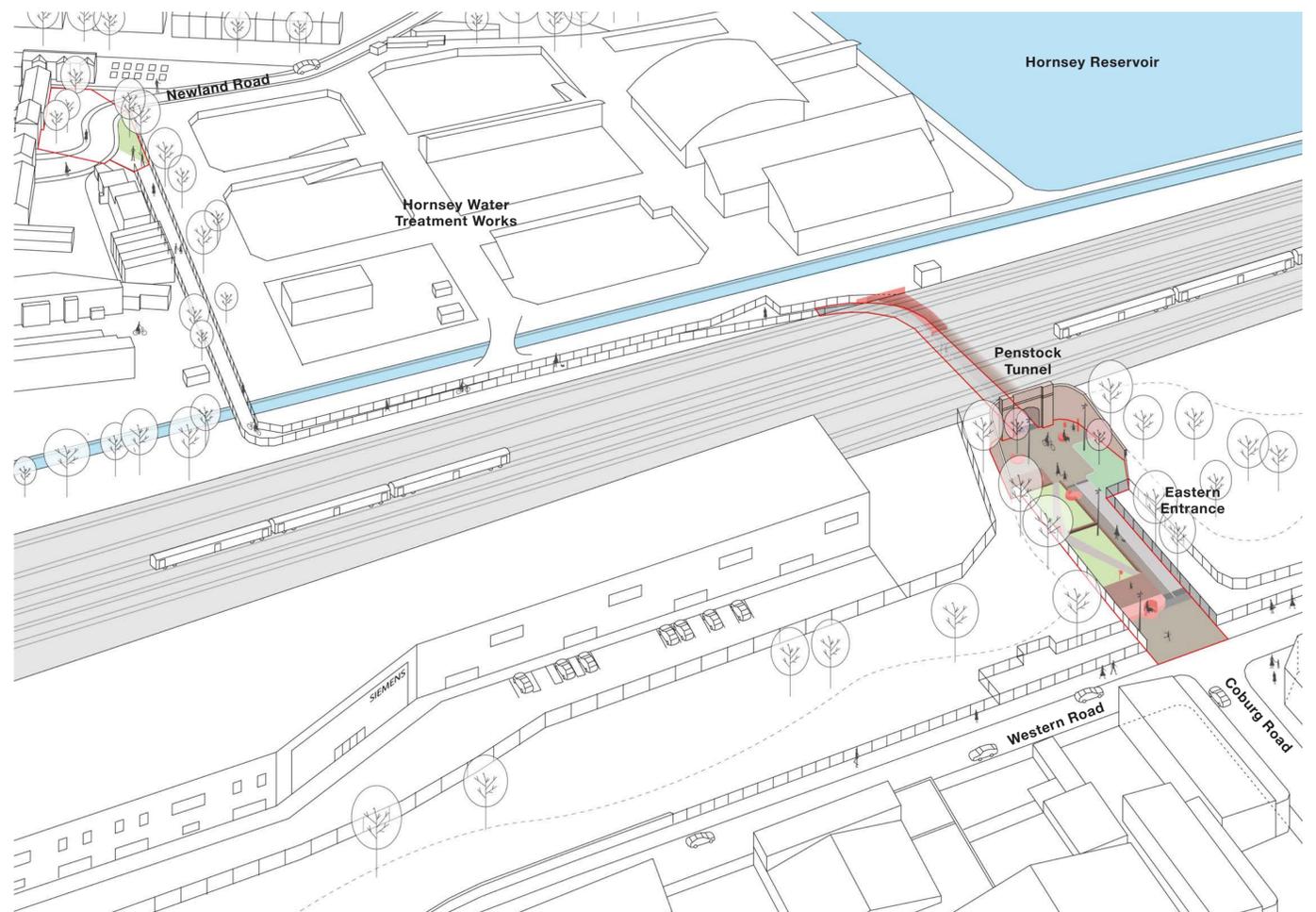
The proposal for the Eastern Entrance and Penstock Tunnel has three strands: artwork, lighting and public realm. We Made That, Studio Dekka and Emma Smith have been working closely on the proposal to ensure that the artwork, lighting and public realm interventions work together in creating a safer, greener and more sociable environment.

The proposal improves accessibility and movement for pedestrians and cyclists, makes the space feel greener and creates a series of welcoming spaces to host activity, sit and play.

The views and ideas expressed by the local community have informed the design proposals for Penstock Tunnel. We Made That gathered this information through two walking workshops around Penstock Tunnel and the surrounding area, a public engagement event on-site and artist-led workshops with students at Heartlands High School and The Community HUB.

Conversations with groups such as the Haringey Cycle Campaign have also informed decision making while opportunities for community gardening have been discussed with Grow N22.

We have also held a Secure by Design workshop with the Metropolitan Police to consider safety along the route.



EASTERN ENTRANCE AND TUNNEL



Integration of public realm, artwork and lighting

The diagram to the right illustrates the three strands of the Penstock Tunnel and Eastern Entrance design proposals.

Artwork

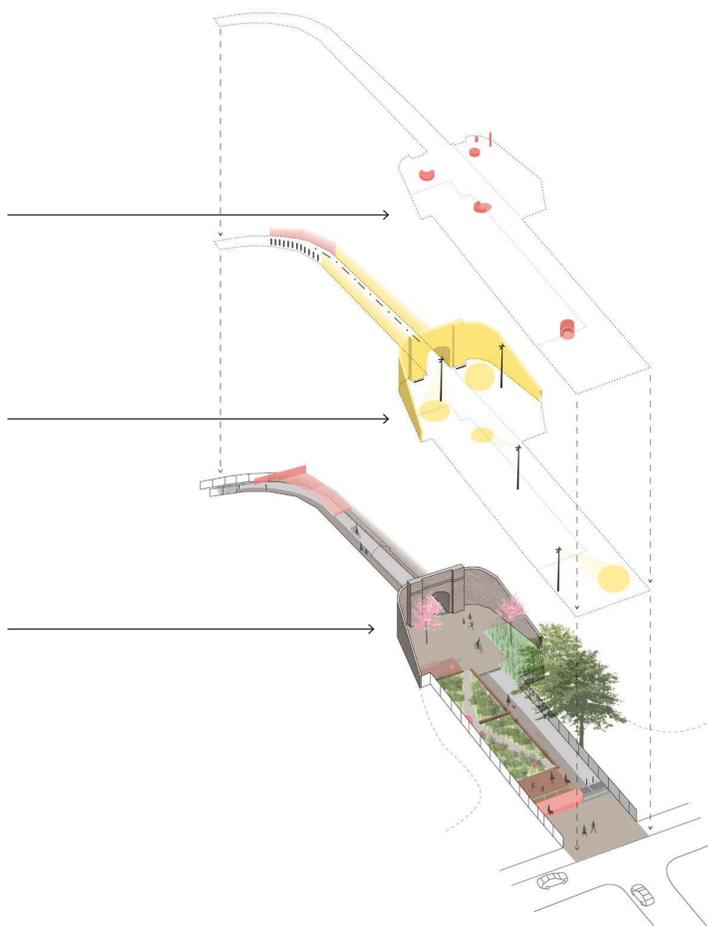
Proposals include individual and group seating spaces, designed as positive and negative 'water tanks', in response to in-depth research about the history of New River.

Lighting

Proposals include general lighting in the Eastern Entrance and within Penstock Tunnel, as well as feature lighting of the artwork, tunnel portals and Western Entrance.

Public realm

Proposals include resurfacing of the pathway and cycleway, soft landscaping and sustainable urban drainage systems, signage and wayfinding, social spaces and play furniture, as well as improved accessibility.



Wood Green Design Guide general material palette



Dressed chip surface
Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



Clay pavers



Rumble strip
Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



European granite
Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



Wild planting
Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown

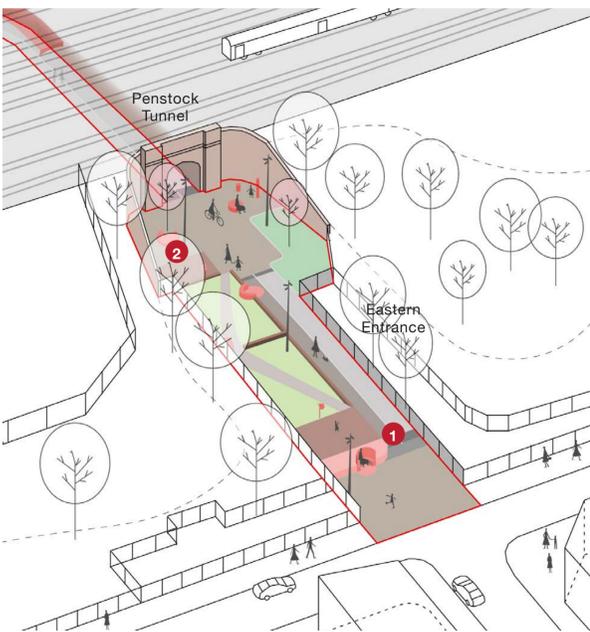


Steel implemented
Precedent image - Witherford Watson Mann Architects, Walthamstow Wetlands

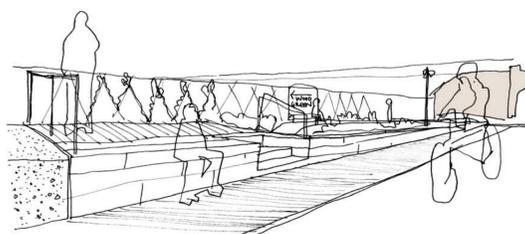
A PLAYABLE LANDSCAPE



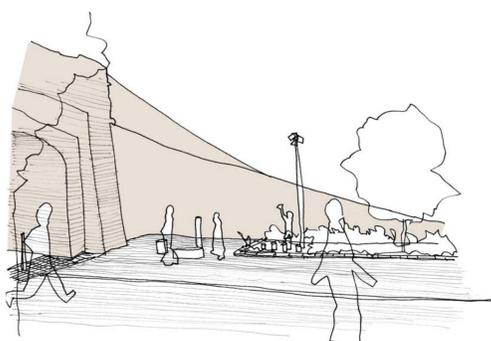
Illustration of design proposal



Views of proposal



1 View from Western Road



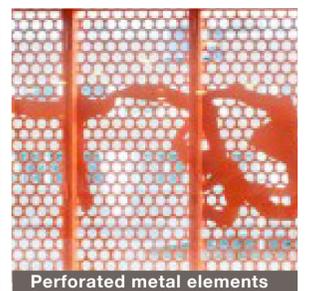
2 View across social space within wing walls

'Special' material palette



Inset cut signage

Precedent image - Objectif, Catford Broadway



Perforated metal elements

Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



Embedded steel lettering

Precedent image - Adams Sutherland, The Olympic Greenway



Powder coated elements



Green oak sleepers

ARTWORK PROPOSAL

ARTWORK PROPOSAL

Artist Emma Smith has been commissioned to create a new artwork in response to the location that will be integrated into the overall design. The artwork proposal comprises a series of sculptural interventions that will be positioned along the route from Western Road to the eastern entrance of the tunnel and reflected in a coloured light treatment at the western entrance of the tunnel.

The artwork is inspired by the New River which runs through the site. The New River was built in 1613 and brought fresh drinking water to London for the first time, drawing water from Amwell and Chadwell Springs in Hertfordshire.

Winding its way from Hertfordshire to central London the water travels along its route by gravity, with the waterway dropping by just 8cm per kilometre. This impressive feat of engineering not only saved the lives of Londoners otherwise facing risk of cholera from the murky water of the River Thames, it also provided resource for a number of remarkable water features along its length including an aquatic theater at its head.

Inspired by this extraordinary water way, the artwork references its history as a supply of local drinking water and a water filled stage. The sculptural interventions take the form of water tanks, with each volume representing the water body content of local residents and groups. The sculptures populate the landscape as a series of figures and props to be activated and used to sit, look and play.

Artwork locations

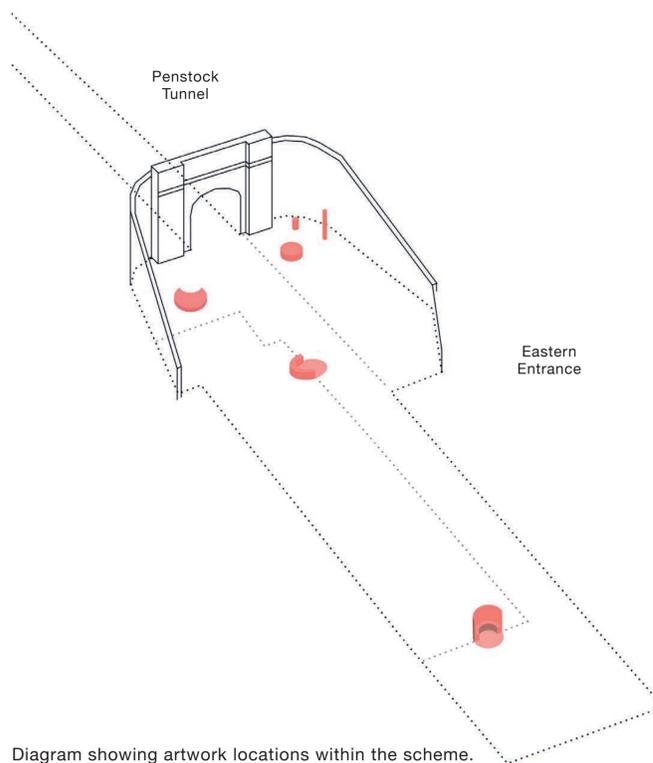
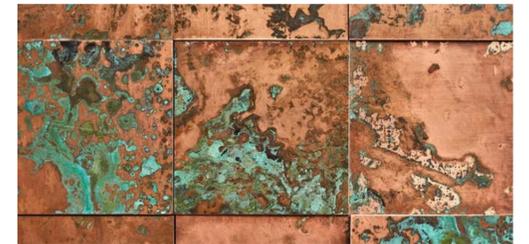


Diagram showing artwork locations within the scheme.

Artwork colour palette



Colours for the artwork stem from workshops with Heartlands High School, The Community HUB and the wider public, on-site at the tunnel. The colours selected were ones that made people feel safe, happy and relaxed and compliment the copper tones of the original water tanks of the aquatic theatre supplied by the New River.

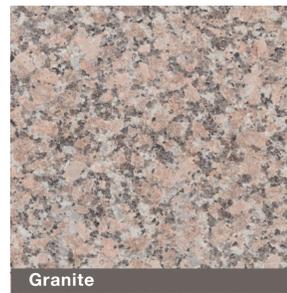


The colours compliment the Penstock Tunnel brickwork which is made up of a wide variety of colours, including red, blue, yellow and grey tones.

Artwork typography



Artwork material options



Granite



St Bees stone



Pigmented concrete



Polished concrete



Recessed lettering

Typefaces that are found in historic New River and Thames Water signage as well as playbills for the aquatic theatre are being explored for the text that forms part of the artwork and that would be inset into the sculptures.

Polished concrete with coloured aggregate is a preferred option for the artwork materials - the coloured aggregate offers opportunity to connect the artwork with other components of the overall scheme such as the playable furniture and wayfinding signage.

Top row images: with thanks to Sadler's Wells Theatre Archive | Islington Local History Centre
Bottom row images: with thanks to Islington Local History Centre

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

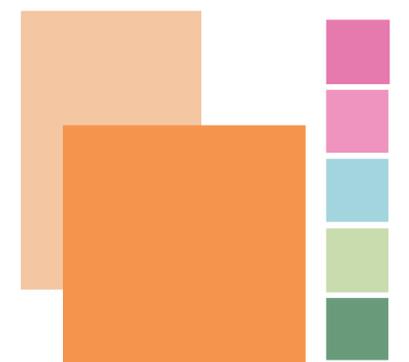
The artwork proposal has been developed in collaboration with students at Heartlands High School, The Community HUB, Wood Green and with local residents through an open workshop at Penstock Tunnel. Through exploring identity and place, these sessions generated ideas for making spaces you can relate to and relax in, where water emerged as a key inspiration. Exploring how colours make us feel provided the colour palette for the project.



Heartlands High School Artist Workshop



Heartlands High School Artist Workshop



Colours workshop attendees chose that make you feel safe, happy and relaxed

LIGHTING PROPOSAL

SAFE ROUTES AND SPACES

General lighting to the tunnel and approaches will strengthen the sense of it being a valuable, safe and secure route. Bright, high quality lighting along the route will help enhance the experience of using the tunnel by creating a well-lit and welcoming series of spaces, particularly after dark. Robust equipment that can withstand vandalism and continues to function effectively with low maintenance requirements will be specified.

LOCAL CHARACTER

Subtle feature lighting will supplement general lighting to enhance specific elements that give Penstock Tunnel its character. Incidental lighting across brick structures of the tunnel and arches and the shadow play of leaves and branches on the ground can be used to introduce a slow visual movement, soften the perception of spaces and help celebrate the specific character of the place.

INTEGRATION WITH ARTWORK PROPOSALS

Lighting proposals will also integrate with the artist's proposals so that particular pieces have a defined presence along the route after dark. Lighting will be sensitive to the artist's concept and add to their sense of "specialness" after dark.



Upgraded lighting scheme to the tunnel strengthens the feeling of safety and security.



New column-mounted spotlights to the approach from Western Road creates a welcoming place after dark.



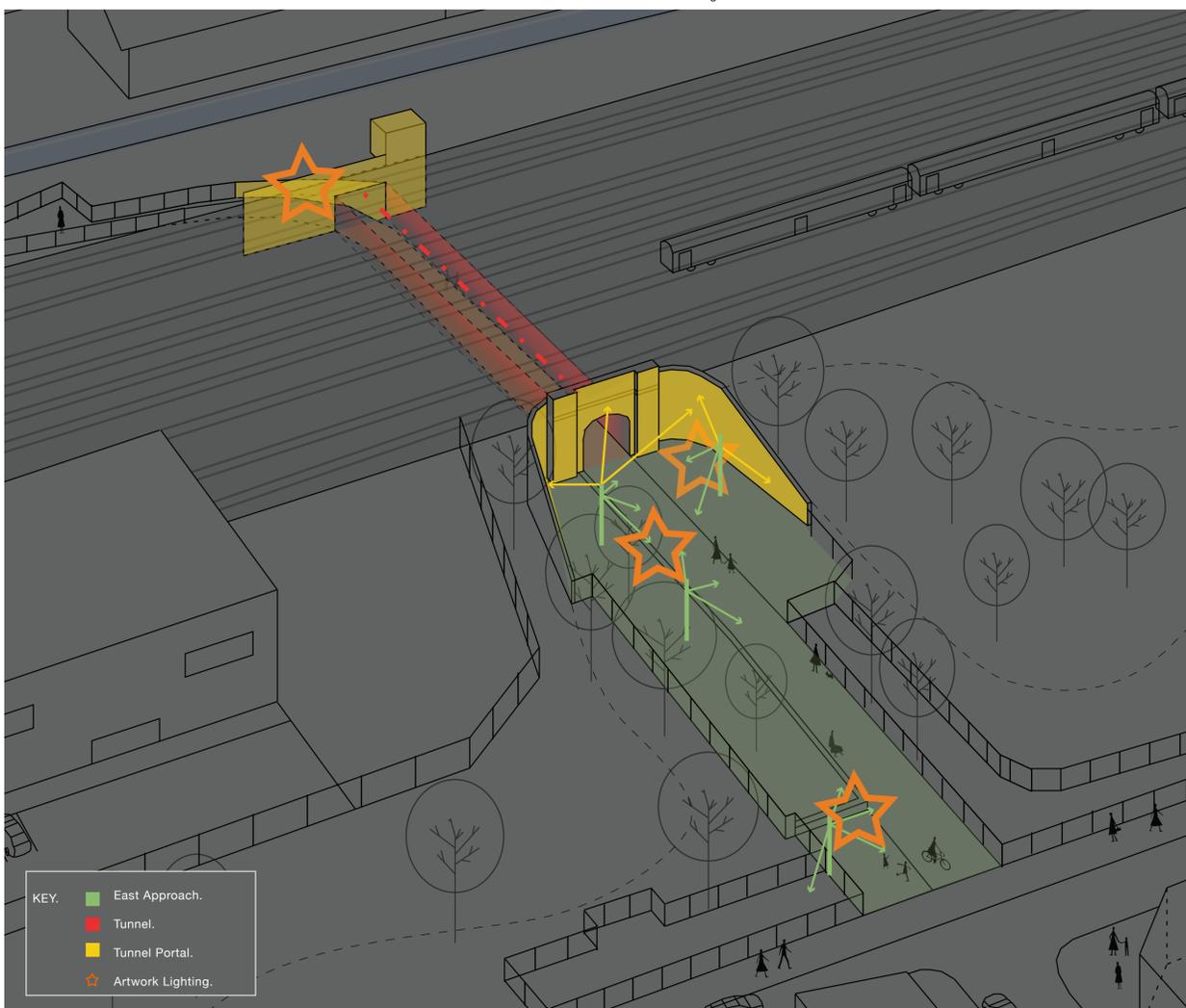
Feature lighting to key elements amplify the natural character and heritage of the tunnel.

Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



Subtle feature lighting to the edges of the routes enhances the feeling of safety and help make routes feel less isolated.

Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



Illuminance levels may be reduced temporarily when traffic levels through the tunnel are lower, then increased when more people arrive.

Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown



Sensitive lighting to artworks help create moments of delight and excitement after dark.

Precedent image sourced online - credit unknown