

24. Planting Strategy

1. Canopy Layer - Predominantly native species will be chosen for their visual interest, appropriateness in local conditions and their ecological value, typically provided through flowers and fruit. Columnar varieties will be proposed in streets, fruiting and scrubby trees in boundary planting and wet tolerating species towards the pond.

2. Ground Cover - Ground cover planting is predominantly around the dwellings within the streets and open spaces. The mix of herbaceous plants, shrubs and grasses will include *Cornus sanguinea* 'midwinter fire', *Hebe* 'Beverly Hills', *Luzula sylvatica*, *Uncinia rubra*, *Digitalis grandiflora* and *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *Robbiae*, with final planting agreed later.

3. Hedgerows - Mixed native hedgerows through the streets will be beech dominated, to allow for a level of formality, but with other ecologically beneficial native species such as hawthorn, holly and buckthorn. The more wild form species will be concentrated adjacent to garden fences and beech will be at higher proportions close to houses, and used to screen Bedford Road.

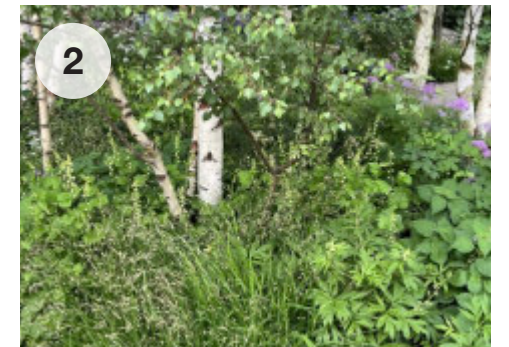
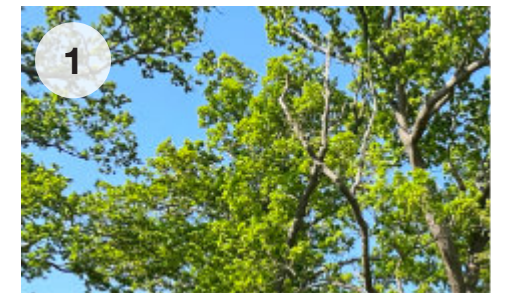
4. Vertical Greening - The walls, pergolas and car ports will present opportunities for self clinging and twining climbing plants. Species will be a mix of native and ornamental and will include *Jasminum officinale*, *Lonicera japonica* 'Halliana', *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Graham Thomas' and ivy varieties such as *Hedera colchica* 'Sulphur Heart'.

5. Meadows - Areas of meadow create a transition to taller scrub in naturalistic settings. Here a species rich mix, such as Emmorsgate's 'Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture' will offer a low maintenance, visually attractive and ecologically beneficial edge to streets and spaces. The final mix will reflect more detailed studies of existing and reused soils.

6. Reinforced boundaries - The existing edge condition comprises tree lined scrub hedgerows and tree planting. This will be reinforced with native scrub, shrub and tree planting. The mix will include whips, containerised stock, feathered trees and standard trees, and will comprise a mix of native plants with at least 50% of ground cover being hawthorn.

7. Wetland - The pond area is currently edged in grass. To enhance biodiversity a new pond edge condition will be established with reeds, grasses and other emergent plants whilst oxygenating aquatic species will be planted in the open water.

Planting mix species will be developed for the final application and detailed planting plans will be agreed post-consent through condition.



25. Planting Precedents

Canopy Layer



Hedgerows



Ground Cover



26. Planting Precedents

Climbers



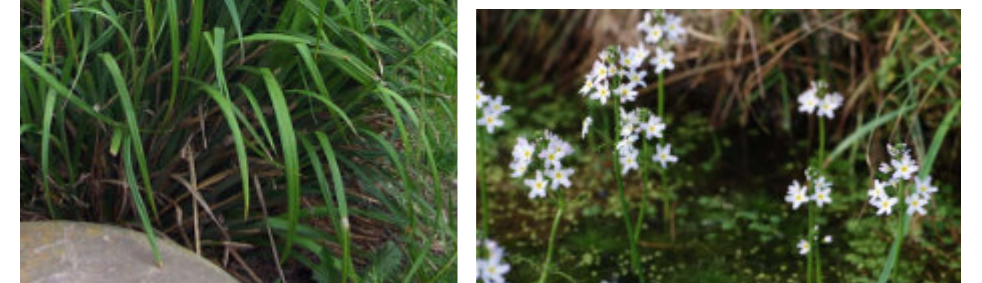
Meadows



Existing Boundaries



Wetland



27. Edible Landscapes

A component of connecting residents with the natural world, is developing a planting palette that allows for foraging and fruit picking. Here a structure of trees, understory shrubs and herbs are set out that will be integrated into all the earlier mentioned planting types and become the backbone of an edible landscape.

Trees:

- Apple tree (*Malus domestica*) - Apple trees produce delicious fruits that can be used in various culinary applications.
- Plum tree (*Prunus domestica*) - Plum trees bear juicy fruits that are perfect for eating fresh, making jams, or baking into pies.
- Cherry tree (*Prunus avium*) - Cherry trees offer sweet and tart fruits that are great for snacking, baking, or preserving.
- Pear tree (*Pyrus communis*) - Pear trees produce succulent fruits that can be enjoyed fresh, poached, or used in desserts.
- Walnut tree (*Juglans regia*) - Walnut trees yield nutritious nuts that can be eaten raw, roasted, or used in baking and cooking.

Shrubs:

- Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) - Raspberry bushes bear sweet and tangy berries that are perfect for eating fresh or adding to jams.
- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) - Blackberry bushes produce juicy and flavorful berries that can be used in pies, jams, or eaten.
- Gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*) - Gooseberry bushes offer tart and tangy fruits that are commonly used in pies, jams, and desserts.
- Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) - Elderberry bushes produce dark purple berries that are often used in jams, wines, and syrups.
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) - Blueberry bushes produce sweet and antioxidant-rich berries that are perfect for eating fresh, adding to smoothies, or using in baked goods.

Herbs:

- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) - Rosemary is a fragrant herb with needle-like leaves that add a savory flavor to roasted meats, vegetables, and marinades.
- Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) - Thyme is a versatile herb with small leaves that are commonly used in soups, stews, sauces, and roasted dishes.
- Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) - Sage has soft, gray-green leaves with a distinct flavor that pairs well with poultry, stuffing, and other savory dishes.
- Mint (*Mentha* spp.) - Mint is a refreshing herb with various varieties like spearmint and peppermint.
- Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) - Chives are slender, onion-like herbs with mild onion flavor.



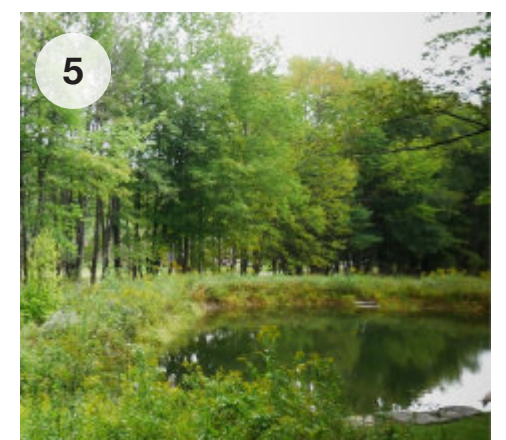
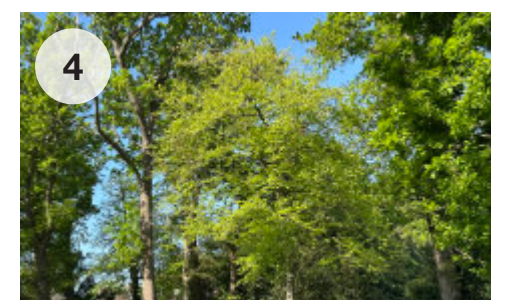
28. Ecology Strategy

The proposed ecological strategy establishes a coherent, site-wide framework for biodiversity enhancement that is integrated within the landscape structure and built form. It seeks to protect and reinforce existing ecological assets whilst delivering new habitats that support a range of species throughout their life cycles.

The approach responds to the findings of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and is intended to deliver long-term ecological resilience alongside high-quality public realm.

- 1. Existing habitats;** including mature trees, hedgerows and boundary vegetation, are retained and reinforced as part of the development. These features provide an established ecological baseline and are enhanced through complementary planting to provide a range of opportunities for nesting, roosting and refuge.
- 2. New habitats;** are delivered through the use of native and species-rich planting to create varied ecological conditions across the site. This approach supports a broad range of species whilst contributing to landscape character, seasonal interest and long-term ecological resilience.
- 3. Habitat features within the built form;** ecological value is embedded within buildings by incorporating habitat features into the fabric of the development. This ensures long-term habitat provision and distributes ecological benefits across the site.
- 4. Canopy connections;** the strategy supports species movement by maintaining permeability and canopy connections across the site, whilst avoiding unnecessary barriers. Habitat continuity enables wildlife to move safely between new and retained habitats.
- 5. Green infrastructure and SuDS;** are designed to deliver ecological benefits alongside water management, climate resilience and placemaking functions. Naturalised planting and habitat-led design enhances biodiversity whilst contributing to site performance.

The location, quantity and specification of all ecological enhancements shall be developed in consultation with the project ecologist and coordinated with the architect. All measures to be implemented in accordance with the recommendations of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.



29. Ecological Interventions

In keeping with the landscape goals and in response to the recommendations contained within the PEA, a series of ecological focused landscape interventions are suggested for the development. The ecological features will be included within the landscape, incorporated into the built structures, boundaries and tree planting. Final locations and numbers will be agreed through condition in collaboration with a qualified ecologist.

The recommendations from the PEA include:

1. **Bee bricks;** will be incorporated into the fabric of the new buildings, and installed 0.5m above ground level on a south-facing elevation with no obscuring vegetation.
2. **Bat boxes;** the installation of one bat box per four dwellings constructed at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats, positioned 3-5m above ground level facing south.
3. **Bird boxes;** the installation bird boxes on existing mature trees around the site boundaries or on buildings will provide additional nesting habitat for birds. These should be a combination of swift nest boxes, sparrow terraces and robin boxes. Bird boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight.
4. **Log piles;** the site could be enhanced for reptiles post-development with the inclusion of log piles (created from felled or reclaimed materials) and planting of areas of native shrubs, to provide sheltering opportunities.
5. **Hibernaculum;** the site could be enhanced for amphibians post-development through the creation of amphibian hibernacula using rubble and logs from site clearance.
6. **Hedgehog gateways;** installing gaps on boundary fencing to enable hedgehogs to move freely through the site.
7. **Badger habitat;** planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities for badgers.
8. **Planting species rich grassland;** close to the watercourse to increase foraging opportunities for water voles.
9. **Meadow planting;** the site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates.



30. Ecological Interventions Vignette

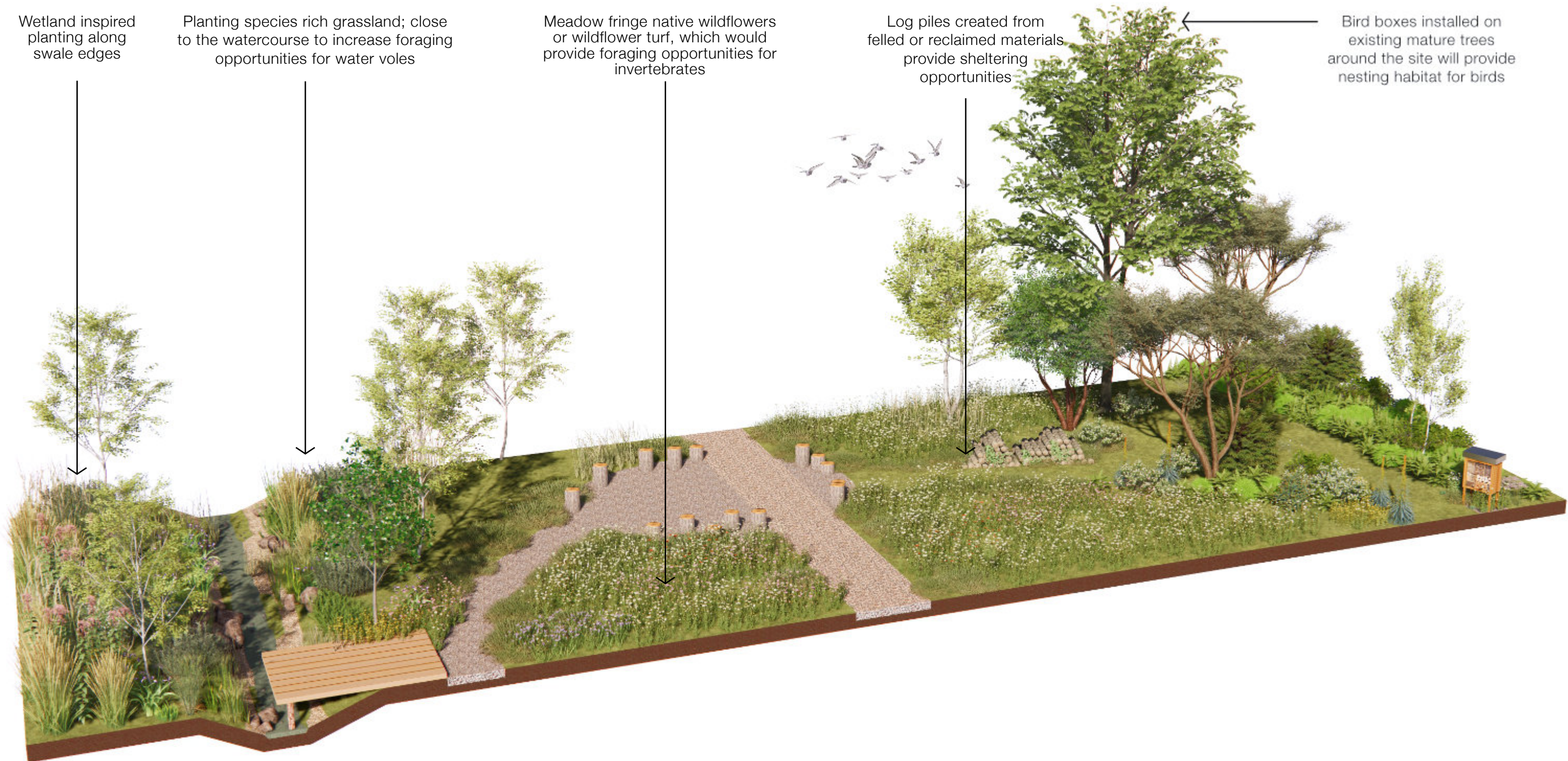
Wetland inspired
planting along
swale edges

Planting species rich grassland; close
to the watercourse to increase foraging
opportunities for water voles

Meadow fringe native wildflowers
or wildflower turf, which would
provide foraging opportunities for
invertebrates

Log piles created from
felled or reclaimed materials
provide sheltering
opportunities

Bird boxes installed on
existing mature trees
around the site will provide
nesting habitat for birds





Found Farm

A 800

Proposed School

Outdoor & The
Recreation Park

Scottham



bridge Way (Path)

Almont
Gardens

An aerial site plan in grayscale showing a landscape with various zones, paths, and building footprints. The plan includes a large open area on the left, a central path or waterway, and several clusters of rectangular building footprints of varying sizes, primarily on the right side. The overall style is minimalist and architectural.

m a t c h

landscape architects

