

MEI LOCI

LANDSCAPE & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

ST ANDREWS GARDENS_PHASE 2. GRAVESEND

REF: ML2564_ST-ANDREWS_GARDENS

Prepared by: Mei Loci Landscape Architects Ltd

For: For Verde

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Po2. MINOR AMENDMENTS

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) sets out the long term environmental, ecological and landscape management objectives for the public open space enhancements at St Andrews Gardens. The document has been prepared with reference to the recommendations contained within Lakeway Ecology's Preliminary Ecological Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain documentation, together with the approved landscape proposals prepared by Mei Loci Landscape Architects. The primary purpose of the LEMP is to provide a framework for the establishment, management and monitoring of habitats and landscape features to ensure that biodiversity enhancements are successfully delivered and maintained over the long term. The management proposals seek to maximise ecological value whilst creating an attractive, functional and sustainable landscape for the local community, in accordance with relevant planning policy and sustainability principles.
- 1.2 This Landscape and Environmental Management Plan has been prepared by Michael Hawes CMLI, Director of Mei Loci Landscape Architects. Michael Hawes is a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute, and Mei Loci is a Landscape Institute Registered Practice with extensive experience in the design, management and stewardship of landscapes that deliver environmental, ecological and community benefits.
- 1.3 Mei Loci Landscape Architects were commissioned by Verde Landscapes in June 2026 to prepare a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for the St Andrews Gardens enhancement project. The commission includes the preparation of management objectives, maintenance prescriptions and monitoring recommendations to support the successful establishment and long term management of the proposed landscape and ecological improvements.
- 1.4 This LEMP has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Planning Condition 4, which requires the submission and approval of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan prior to the commencement of development. The condition seeks to secure the long term management of landscaped areas and ecological enhancements, ensuring that biodiversity gains are achieved and maintained throughout the lifetime of the development.

The condition requires the LEMP to include:

- Long term design and management objectives.
- Details of maintenance regimes.
- Details of bat and fish friendly lighting measures.

- Details of any new habitats created on or off site.
- Details of the treatment and management of site boundaries and waterbody buffers.
- Identification of management responsibilities.
- Monitoring and review procedures.

The condition has been imposed to ensure the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and species, and to secure opportunities to increase the nature conservation value of the site in accordance with Policies CS12 and CS19 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy, national planning policy and the Gravesham Biodiversity Strategy 2025-2030.

- 1.5 In preparing this LEMP, particular regard has been given to the recommendations contained within the Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment reports prepared for the development. The management prescriptions and habitat objectives contained within this document are intended to support the successful delivery of the ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures identified within those assessments.
- 1.6 The project comprises the enhancement and redevelopment of existing public open space at St Andrews Gardens. The proposals seek to improve the quality, functionality and ecological value of the site through the introduction of new planting, habitat creation measures and landscape improvements designed to benefit both wildlife and the local community.

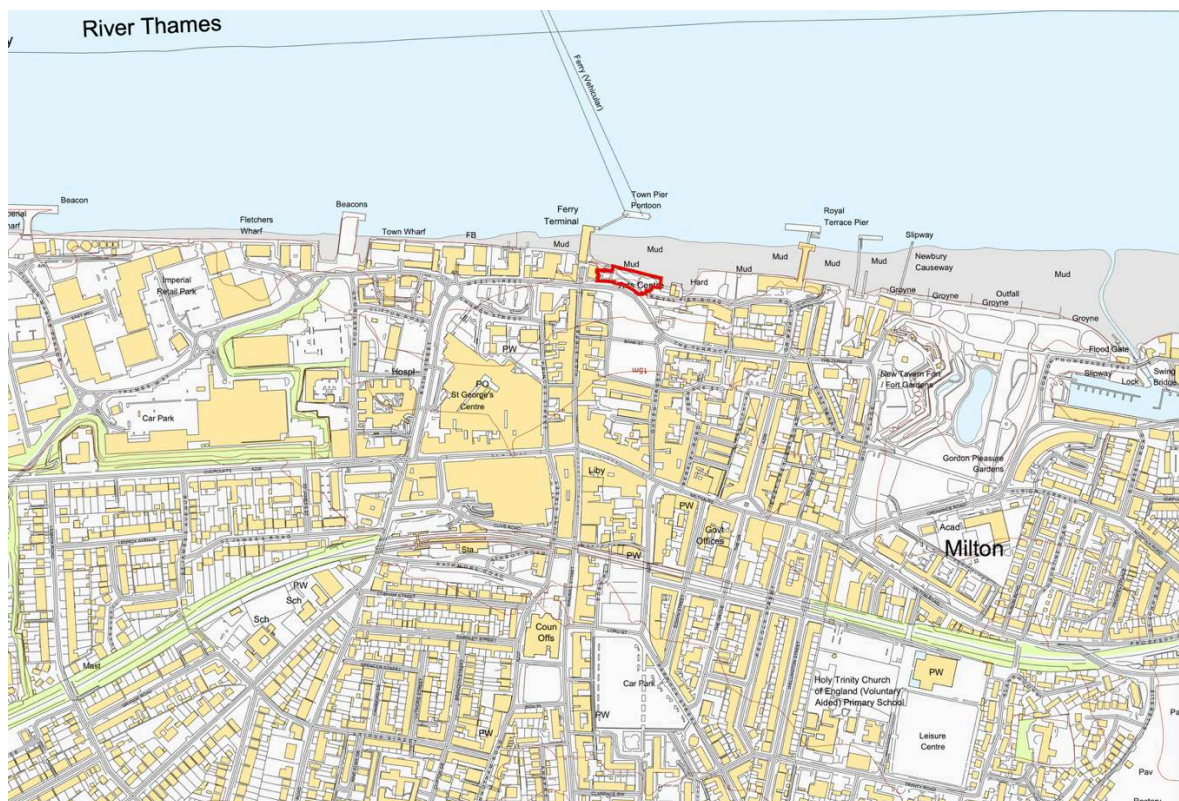


Figure 01. Site Location (Ref ML2564_MLOC_DR_L1003)

St Andrews Gardens. **LEMP**

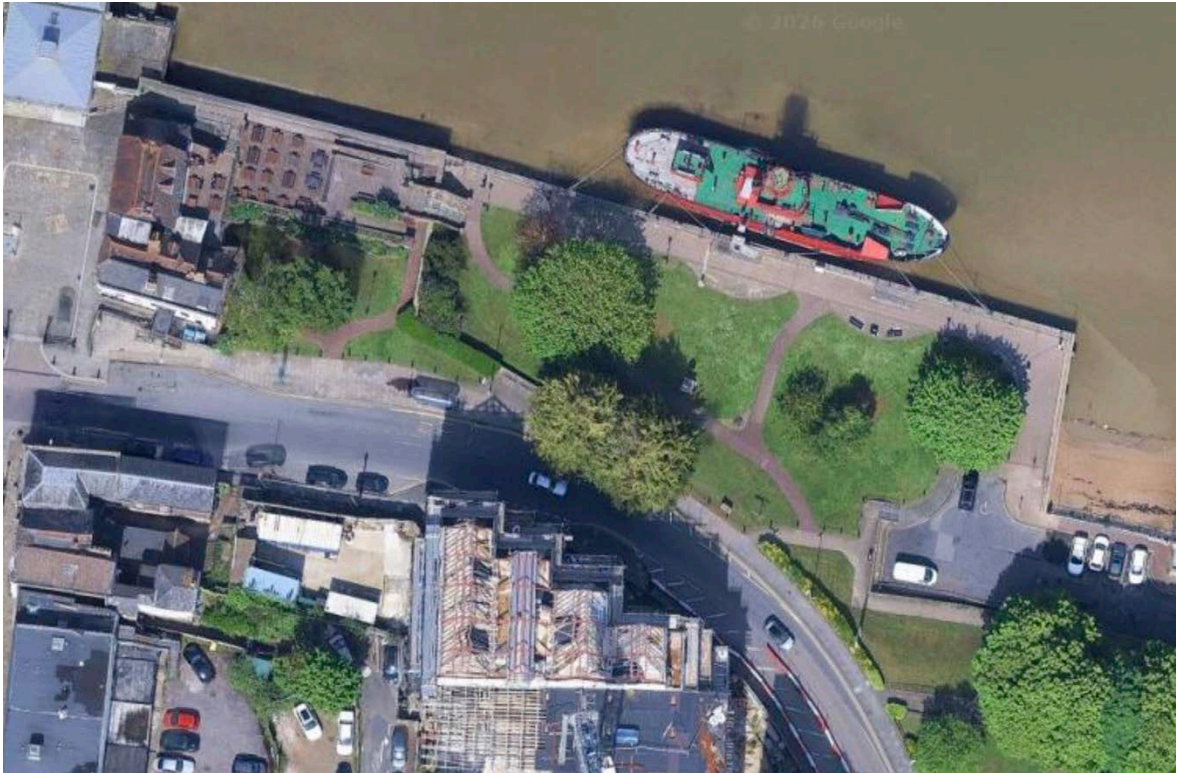


Figure 02. Aerial photograph of the Application Site, St Andrews Gardens.

1.7 The landscape proposals include a diverse range of planting and habitat features intended to increase biodiversity, improve habitat connectivity and create an attractive and resilient landscape. Planting schedules and species selections have been informed by the Royal Horticultural Society's "Plants for Pollinators" guidance, alongside ecological recommendations provided by Lakeway Ecology. The landscape and environmental management measures have been developed with the following overarching objectives:

- Ensuring the successful establishment and long term sustainability of newly created habitats.
- Supporting natural ecological processes whilst providing practical and achievable management requirements.
- Increasing structural diversity through the introduction of trees, shrubs, grasslands and flowering species.
- Enhancing the ecological resilience of the site through habitat creation and connectivity.
- Delivering measurable biodiversity gains across the development.
- Improving accessibility, visual amenity and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Creating an attractive and multifunctional green space that contributes positively to the character of the surrounding area.



Figure 03. St Andrews Gardens Phase 2. Landscape Proposals.



Figure 04. St Andrews Gardens Phase 2. Visualisation.

Landscape, Environmental and Ecological Objectives

1.8 The principal landscape, environmental and ecological objectives of the site are to:

- Develop a high quality landscape scheme that responds positively to the local context, character and landform.
- Establish interconnected green infrastructure that supports wildlife movement and habitat connectivity across the wider landscape.
- Create and maintain species-rich grassland habitats that provide ecological benefits whilst accommodating recreational use.
- Introduce native and wildlife friendly planting to increase habitat diversity and seasonal interest.
- Integrate ecological enhancement measures within the public realm to ensure that biodiversity and community benefits are delivered in tandem.
- Minimise disturbance to wildlife through sensitive management and maintenance practices.
- Provide a landscape that remains attractive, accessible and ecologically valuable throughout its lifetime.

Management Strategies

1.9 To achieve the objectives outlined above, the following management measures will be implemented:

- The establishment, maintenance and replacement of new trees, shrubs and herbaceous planting during the establishment period.
- The creation and management of species-rich neutral grassland and ecological lawn areas to maximise biodiversity value.
- The planting and long term management of native and ornamental tree species to strengthen landscape structure and improve habitat connectivity.
- The establishment of mixed shrub planting designed to provide shelter, nesting opportunities and food sources for wildlife.
- The incorporation and maintenance of habitat enhancement measures for bats, birds, invertebrates and hedgehogs.
- The protection and enhancement of ecological corridors and habitat linkages throughout the site.
- The preservation of visual amenity and recreational value through appropriate maintenance and management operations.

- The ongoing monitoring and review of ecological features and biodiversity enhancement measures.

Monitoring and Maintenance

- 1.10 All newly created habitats and landscape features will be subject to regular monitoring during the establishment period and beyond. Newly planted trees, shrubs and grassland areas will be monitored for a minimum period of five years following implementation to ensure successful establishment and to identify any remedial works that may be required.
- 1.11 Monitoring and maintenance operations will be undertaken by suitably qualified landscape contractors or other competent persons appointed by the managing body. Maintenance activities will be carried out in accordance with recognised industry best practice and the prescriptions contained within this LEMP.
- 1.12 The management approach will remain adaptive, allowing maintenance practices to respond to changing site conditions, monitoring results and evolving ecological requirements. Where monitoring identifies deficiencies in habitat establishment or performance, corrective measures will be implemented to ensure that the intended landscape and biodiversity objectives continue to be achieved.
- 1.13 A formal review of the management prescriptions and monitoring outcomes will be undertaken at intervals not exceeding five years. Ecological features and biodiversity enhancement measures will be retained and managed for a minimum period of 30 years, ensuring the long term delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain commitments and the continued enhancement of the site's ecological value.
- 1.14 This Landscape and Environmental Management Plan has been prepared to guide the creation and stewardship of a high quality, sustainable and biodiverse public open space. Through the implementation of the management objectives and prescriptions set out within this document, the site will provide lasting ecological, environmental and social benefits, enhancing local biodiversity whilst creating an attractive and accessible landscape for the enjoyment of the community.

2.0 Acknowledgements

2.1 This Landscape and Environmental Management Plan has been prepared following a review of the relevant landscape, ecological and biodiversity information produced for the St Andrews Gardens enhancement project. The recommendations, management prescriptions and objectives contained within this document have been informed by the following reports, drawings and technical information:

- Landscape proposals, planting plans, specifications and associated management documentation prepared by Mei Loci Landscape Architects.
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) prepared by Lakeway Ecology, including recommendations relating to habitat protection, enhancement opportunities and ecological management.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations and associated supporting information prepared by Lakeway Ecology, identifying baseline habitat conditions, proposed habitat enhancements and long term biodiversity objectives.

2.2 The information contained within these documents has been reviewed collectively to ensure that the landscape design, habitat creation measures and long term management proposals work cohesively to deliver a high quality public open space whilst achieving the ecological enhancement and Biodiversity Net Gain objectives of the development. The management prescriptions set out within this LEMP have been developed to reflect the recommendations contained within the supporting ecological assessments and to ensure the successful establishment, maintenance and long term stewardship of all landscape and ecological features across the site.

3.0 Methodology, Scope and Management responsibility

Methodology

- 3.1 The Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared by Mei Loci Ltd drawing upon the expertise of the project Landscape Architects, alongside specialist ecological input from Lakeway Ecologists, who have been actively involved throughout the planning, assessment and design process. The LEMP has been informed by a comprehensive review of the project's ecological surveys, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessments, habitat creation proposals and associated technical reports. Recommendations arising from these documents have been incorporated into the landscape design and management proposals set out within this plan.
- 3.2 Throughout the development of the scheme, Mei Loci's Landscape Architects worked closely with Lakeway Ecologists to ensure that ecological considerations were embedded within the design process from the outset. This collaborative approach has enabled the integration of habitat creation, species enhancement measures and landscape design objectives, ensuring that ecological opportunities are maximised while maintaining a functional and attractive public open space. The management prescriptions contained within this LEMP have been developed to support the successful establishment and long term stewardship of habitats, allowing the site to achieve and maintain its Biodiversity Net Gain objectives over the lifetime of the development.
- 3.3 The management recommendations contained within this document have been prepared in accordance with recognised best practice guidance for habitat establishment and management. The prescriptions seek to balance ecological enhancement with practical maintenance requirements, providing a clear framework for the ongoing management of the site. Regular monitoring and adaptive management will enable management practices to respond to changing site conditions, ensuring that habitat quality and biodiversity value continue to improve over time.

Management Responsibility

- 3.4 Ownership of the public open space and associated landscape areas will remain with Gravesham Borough Council, who will be responsible for coordinating and undertaking the long term management and maintenance of the site.
- 3.5 Gravesham Borough Council, either directly or through appointed contractors, will be responsible for implementing the management prescriptions contained within this LEMP. Maintenance operations will be undertaken in accordance with the objectives and schedules set out within this

document to ensure the successful establishment of landscape planting, the ongoing management of habitats and the delivery of the site's Biodiversity Net Gain commitments.

- 3.6 The management regime will seek to maintain the landscape, ecological and amenity value of the site in the long term. This will include regular inspections, monitoring of habitat condition and the implementation of any remedial works required to ensure that the landscape and ecological objectives of the development continue to be achieved.

4.0 Site Description, Proposals and Phasing

Site Description

- 4.1 The St Andrew's Gardens Phase 2 project forms the next stage in the ongoing revitalisation of St Andrew's Gardens, following the successful completion of Phase 1 landscape improvements to the east of the application site. The project seeks to improve accessibility, usability and safety whilst enhancing biodiversity, protecting the historic character of the site and creating opportunities for interpretation, community engagement and public activity. The proposals have been developed to create a safe, attractive and flexible public space that can accommodate events, markets, performances and everyday use whilst strengthening connections between the gardens and the wider townscape.
- 4.2 The application site is located on the northern edge of Gravesend adjacent to the River Thames, to the east of the Three Daws Public House and Town Pier. The site occupies a highly sensitive historic setting within the High Street and Queen Street Conservation Area and lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential. The site is also located within Flood Zone 3 and is adjacent to several designated heritage assets, including the Grade II Listed Three Daws Public House and the Listed St Andrew's Arts Centre. The gardens are situated alongside the River Thames and contain a number of important cultural and historic features, including public artworks and memorials that contribute to the identity and significance of the space.
- 4.3 Existing site features comprise areas of amenity grassland, limited shrub planting, pedestrian paths, seating and hard surfaced areas. A steep flight of steps currently connects the riverside gardens with the elevated area adjacent to the Three Daws Public House. These steps form part of the Thames Path National Trail; however, they are difficult to access and create a partially concealed area that has become associated with anti-social behaviour. The existing access arrangements throughout the site are generally steep and challenging for users with limited mobility, creating barriers to inclusive access and reducing the overall functionality of the space.

Development Proposals

- 4.4 The landscape proposals seek to create an engaging, flexible, safe and accessible public space that responds positively to the historic and riverside setting of St Andrew's Gardens. The overall character of the gardens will be retained whilst introducing a more contemporary and functional layout that supports a wider range of uses and activities. The development proposals include:

- Reconfiguration and enhancement of existing landscape spaces.
- Improved accessibility throughout the site.
- Creation of flexible spaces suitable for markets, performances and community events.
- New and expanded planting areas to improve biodiversity and visual amenity.
- Enhanced seating and gathering spaces.
- Improvements to pedestrian circulation and connections with surrounding routes.
- New interpretation and community engagement opportunities.
- Sensitive lighting to improve safety and usability.
- Habitat enhancement through new planting and sustainable landscape design.

4.5 The design aims to create stronger physical and visual connections between the gardens, the River Thames, the National Trail network, St Andrew's Arts Centre and the wider town centre. Existing access routes will be realigned and regraded to improve accessibility and create a more welcoming and inclusive environment. Planting terraces adjacent to the flood wall will introduce additional vegetation and biodiversity benefits whilst reinforcing the site's distinctive character and responding to the area's historic and industrial heritage.

Phasing

4.6 The proposals form Phase 2 of the wider St Andrew's Gardens revitalisation project. Phase 1 works have already been completed to the east of the application site. This Landscape and Environmental Management Plan relates solely to the Phase 2 landscape works and associated ecological enhancements contained within the current planning application.

4.7 Phase 2 focuses on the enhancement of the existing gardens, access routes and public realm spaces. The proposals have been designed to complement and integrate with the completed Phase 1 works, creating a cohesive landscape character and consistent material palette across the wider St Andrew's Gardens area. Materials such as reclaimed Yorkstone paving, resin-bound surfacing, corten steel edging and concrete seating have been selected to provide continuity with the earlier phase whilst responding to the historic context of the site.

4.8 The proposals have been developed to maintain the existing key access points whilst significantly improving inclusivity. The western steps forming part of the Thames Path and England Coast Path will be repositioned and redesigned to provide a safer and more accessible route whilst removing concealed areas that currently contribute to anti-social behaviour. Additional path connections and regraded routes will provide improved accessibility between Crooked Lane, the lower car park, the

riverside frontage and the central garden spaces. Gradients have been designed to provide accessible routes throughout the site wherever practicable.

- 4.9 The landscape proposals also include opportunities for interpretation, artwork and community engagement. Interpretative features may be incorporated within seating, corten steel elements and paving surfaces, with content developed through ongoing consultation with local residents, schools, faith groups, artists and other community stakeholders. These elements will help celebrate the cultural and historic significance of the site whilst strengthening local ownership and identity.
- 4.10 The design retains the existing flood defence infrastructure whilst introducing new planting terraces and landscape features that contribute to biodiversity enhancement, visual quality and sustainable drainage benefits. The overall outcome will be a more attractive, accessible and ecologically valuable public open space that supports community activity whilst respecting the heritage significance and riverside setting of St Andrew's Gardens.

5.0 Landscape Environmental Mitigation & Enhancement

5.1 An Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment were undertaken by Lakeway Ecology in January 2026 to inform the design proposals for St Andrew's Gardens. The assessments identified that the site comprises predominantly modified amenity grassland with scattered trees, ornamental planting, a non-native hedgerow and areas of hardstanding. Whilst the site is situated within a highly urban context, it provides valuable green infrastructure within Gravesend and contributes to the wider ecological network associated with the River Thames corridor.

5.2 The ecological assessments concluded that the proposed landscape improvements would not result in significant adverse ecological effects and that the scheme provides opportunities to deliver measurable biodiversity enhancements through habitat creation, improved planting and long-term management.

Tree Retention and Protection

5.3 Existing trees make an important contribution to the character, visual amenity and ecological value of St Andrew's Gardens. The ecological assessment identified a number of mature trees within the site, including silver birch, Norway maple and a veteran weeping willow.

5.4 All existing trees will be retained and protected throughout the construction process. Retention of the veteran willow is considered particularly important due to its landscape significance and contribution to biodiversity within the site. Construction activities will be carefully managed to avoid damage to retained trees and associated rooting environments.

5.5 New tree planting will be undertaken throughout the site to strengthen landscape structure, improve habitat connectivity and increase resilience to future environmental change. The proposed tree planting will contribute to the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain objectives and enhance the overall quality of the public realm.

Hedgerow Replacement and Habitat Enhancement

5.6 The proposals require the removal of a short section of existing non-native hedgerow. Whilst the ecological value of this hedgerow is limited, its loss will be compensated through the creation of a new native species hedgerow designed to provide greater ecological functionality and habitat value.

- 5.7 The replacement hedgerow will comprise a diverse mix of native species including hawthorn, wild privet, hazel and beech, supplemented where appropriate with species such as honeysuckle, dogwood and guelder rose. The hedgerow will provide nesting opportunities for birds, foraging resources for pollinators and habitat connectivity across the site.
- 5.8 Management of the hedgerow will focus on establishing a dense and structurally diverse feature that contributes positively to both biodiversity and visual amenity.

Grassland and Planting Enhancements

- 5.9 The existing amenity grassland within the site is of relatively low ecological value, characterised by a limited species assemblage and areas of bare ground. The proposed landscape improvements provide opportunities to increase biodiversity through enhanced planting design and more diverse habitat creation.
- 5.10 The landscape proposals include expanded planting beds, terraced planting areas and additional tree planting which will increase structural diversity and create a wider range of habitats. Planting will utilise species that provide seasonal interest and ecological benefits, including nectar, pollen, fruit and seed resources for wildlife.
- 5.11 The planting strategy has been developed to support pollinating insects, birds and other urban wildlife whilst maintaining a high quality public landscape suitable for community use and enjoyment.

Bat Sensitive Lighting

- 5.12 Although the site provides negligible opportunities for roosting bats, the River Thames corridor represents an important linear landscape feature that may be used by commuting and foraging bats.
- 5.13 To avoid creating barriers to movement, any new lighting installed as part of the development will be carefully designed to minimise impacts upon nocturnal wildlife. Lighting will be directed downwards, focused only on areas where illumination is required for safety and accessibility, and will avoid unnecessary illumination of retained trees, hedgerows and the river corridor.
- 5.14 This approach will maintain ecological connectivity whilst supporting the operational requirements of the public open space.

Breeding Bird Protection

- 5.15 Trees, hedgerows and ornamental planting within the site provide suitable nesting habitat for breeding birds.
- 5.16 To avoid impacts on nesting birds, vegetation clearance works will be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) wherever practicable. Where this cannot be achieved, vegetation will first be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist. If active nests are identified, appropriate protection measures will be implemented until nesting activity has concluded.
- 5.17 The proposed increase in native planting, tree cover and hedgerow habitat will provide enhanced nesting and foraging opportunities for birds in the long term.

Wildlife Protection During Construction

- 5.18 Although the site supports limited opportunities for protected species, construction activities will adopt best practice measures to safeguard wildlife.
- 5.19 Any excavations, trenches or exposed pipework will be covered overnight or provided with suitable escape routes to prevent accidental entrapment of wildlife, including hedgehogs and small mammals. Construction personnel will be made aware of ecological constraints and protected species responsibilities prior to commencement of works.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 5.20 The landscape proposals have been developed in conjunction with the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and form an important component of the site's biodiversity enhancement strategy.
- 5.21 The scheme delivers ecological improvements through the retention of existing trees, establishment of new native hedgerow planting, additional tree planting, enhancement of landscape planting areas and the long-term management of habitats.
- 5.22 Collectively these measures will increase habitat diversity, improve ecological connectivity and provide lasting biodiversity benefits within this important riverside public space.

Long-Term Environmental Benefits

- 5.23 The proposed landscape enhancements will create a more attractive, accessible and environmentally resilient public open space. Through the integration of ecological enhancements, habitat creation,

improved planting and sustainable management practices, the scheme will provide lasting benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience and community wellbeing.

5.24 The revitalised landscape will strengthen the relationship between St Andrew’s Gardens, the River Thames and the wider urban environment whilst contributing positively to Gravesham Borough Council’s biodiversity and sustainability objectives.



6.0 Ecological and Landscape Management Measures

Management Measures Overview

- 6.1 The following landscape and ecological management measures have been developed in accordance with the recommendations contained within the Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment prepared by Lakeway Ecology, together with the approved landscape proposals prepared by Mei Loci Landscape Architects.
- 6.2 The management measures should be read in conjunction with the approved Landscape Proposals Plans, Planting Plans and associated specifications. The overall aim is to ensure that the landscape enhancements successfully establish and mature into a high quality, accessible and biodiverse public open space that continues to deliver environmental, ecological and community benefits throughout the lifetime of the development.
- 6.3 The management approach has been developed to:
- Protect and enhance existing ecological assets.
 - Deliver the Biodiversity Net Gain objectives identified within the ecological assessments.
 - Enhance habitat opportunities for birds, bats, pollinating insects and other wildlife.
 - Establish a resilient landscape structure through new tree and hedgerow planting.
 - Maintain an attractive and accessible public open space.
 - Strengthen ecological connectivity within the wider River Thames corridor.
 - Ensure that management practices remain sustainable, practical and responsive to changing site conditions.

Landscape and Ecological Objectives

- 6.4 The principal landscape and ecological objectives for St Andrew's Gardens are to:
- Retain and protect existing mature trees, including the veteran willow.
 - Establish new tree planting that strengthens landscape character and ecological connectivity.
 - Create and maintain a diverse native hedgerow habitat.
 - Develop high quality ornamental and biodiversity planting areas that provide year-round ecological value.
 - Maintain healthy grassland areas that support both recreation and biodiversity.
 - Enhance habitat opportunities for birds, bats and invertebrates.

- Minimise disturbance to wildlife through sensitive management practices.
- Deliver long-term Biodiversity Net Gain in accordance with approved ecological assessments.
- Maintain a safe, accessible and attractive public open space for residents and visitors.

Management Strategies

6.5 The following management strategies will be implemented to achieve the objectives outlined above:

- Retention and protection of existing trees.
- Creation and management of new tree planting.
- Creation and management of native hedgerow planting.
- Creation and management of ornamental and biodiversity planting.
- Management of amenity grassland.
- Enhancement of opportunities for bats.
- Enhancement of opportunities for birds.
- Enhancement of opportunities for invertebrates and pollinators.
- Preservation of visual amenity and public realm quality.
- Biodiversity monitoring and adaptive management.

Existing Tree Retention and Protection

- 6.6 All existing trees identified for retention shall be protected throughout the construction and establishment period.
- 6.7 Particular attention shall be given to the veteran willow tree, which represents an important landscape and ecological feature within the site.
- 6.8 Regular inspections shall be undertaken to identify signs of stress, disease, structural defects or damage. Any necessary arboricultural works shall be undertaken by suitably qualified contractors in accordance with current arboricultural best practice.
- 6.9 Tree works shall be undertaken outside the bird nesting season unless a suitably qualified ecologist confirms that active nests are absent.

Creation and Management of New Tree Planting

6.10 New trees will be planted throughout the site in accordance with the approved planting plans.

6.11 Establishment Measures:

- Trees shall be planted in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape.
- Trees shall be watered regularly during the establishment period.
- Stakes, ties and guards shall be inspected twice annually.
- Mulched areas shall be maintained weed free.

6.12 Ongoing Management:

- Trees shall be inspected annually.
- Dead, diseased or damaged trees shall be replaced during the next available planting season.
- Formative pruning shall be undertaken where necessary.
- Tree pits shall be maintained free of excessive weed growth.

6.13 All replacement planting shall be undertaken with the same species unless otherwise agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Creation and Management of Native Hedgerow Planting

6.14 A new native hedgerow will be established to replace the section of existing non-native hedgerow removed as part of the development.

6.15 The hedgerow shall comprise a mix of hawthorn, wild privet, hazel and beech, with supplementary planting including honeysuckle, dogwood and guelder rose where appropriate.

6.16 Establishment Measures:

- Planting shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved specification.
- Plants shall be protected using guards and stakes as specified by the Ecological Impact Assessment.
- Weed competition shall be controlled throughout the establishment period.

6.17 Ongoing Management:

- The hedgerow shall be allowed to establish to approximately 1-1.5 metres in height.
- Trimming shall be undertaken annually to encourage dense growth.
- Hedge cutting shall take place between November and February only.
- Any failed plants shall be replaced during the following planting season.

6.18 The management objective is to create a dense, species-rich native hedgerow that provides nesting, shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife.

Creation and Management of Ornamental and Biodiversity Planting

6.19 New ornamental and biodiversity planting areas will provide visual amenity whilst supporting ecological enhancement objectives. Planting has been selected to maximise seasonal interest and provide nectar, pollen, seed and berry resources throughout the year.

6.20 Management Measures:

- Planting beds shall be maintained free of injurious weeds.
- Dead, diseased or damaged plants shall be replaced as necessary.
- Mulch levels shall be maintained to suppress weed growth and conserve soil moisture.
- Shrub and perennial planting shall be selectively managed to maintain healthy growth and species diversity.
- Herbicide use shall be minimised and restricted to targeted spot treatment where necessary.

Amenity Grassland Management

6.21 Amenity grassland areas will continue to provide valuable public open space whilst contributing to the ecological value of the site.

6.22 Management Measures:

- Grass shall be maintained at an appropriate height to accommodate public use.
- Areas adjacent to planting beds and hedgerows may be managed less intensively where appropriate to increase habitat value.

- Weed infestations shall be monitored and controlled where necessary.
- Bare patches shall be reseeded as required.

6.23 The management objective is to provide a well-maintained and attractive landscape whilst supporting biodiversity wherever practicable.

Enhancement of Opportunities for Bats

6.24 The River Thames corridor provides potential commuting and foraging habitat for bats.

6.25 To minimise disturbance:

- Lighting shall be directed away from retained trees, hedgerows and the river corridor.
- Lighting shall be designed to avoid unnecessary light spill.
- Maintenance activities shall avoid unnecessary disturbance to potential bat habitats.

Enhancement of Opportunities for Birds

6.26 The proposed increase in tree, shrub and hedgerow planting will provide enhanced nesting and foraging opportunities for birds.

6.27 Management Measures:

- Vegetation management shall avoid the bird nesting season wherever practicable.
- Any works required during the nesting season shall be preceded by ecological inspection.
- Fruiting and berry-producing species shall be retained and managed to maximise wildlife benefits.

Enhancement of Opportunities for Invertebrates and Pollinators

6.28 The landscape design incorporates a wide range of pollinator-friendly species selected in accordance with RHS Plants for Pollinators guidance.

6.29 Management Measures:

- Flowering plants shall be maintained to maximise seasonal nectar availability.
- Dead stems and seed heads shall be retained through winter where appropriate.
- Use of pesticides shall be minimised.
- Habitat diversity shall be maintained through varied planting structure and management.

Preservation of Visual and Amenity Benefits

- 6.30 The landscape proposals are intended to create a high quality public open space that remains attractive and functional throughout the year.
- 6.31 Regular maintenance will ensure that planting, paving, seating, interpretation features and public realm elements remain safe, accessible and visually appealing whilst continuing to support biodiversity objectives.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- 6.32 All landscape and ecological features shall be monitored during the establishment period and thereafter in accordance with Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
- 6.33 Monitoring shall include:
- Tree establishment and health.
 - Hedgerow establishment and condition.
 - Planting bed performance.
 - Habitat condition.
 - Presence of invasive species.
 - Success of biodiversity enhancement measures.
- 6.34 Monitoring results shall inform future management practices and allow adaptive management where necessary.

Long-Term Management

- 6.35 All newly created habitats and planting areas shall be maintained for a minimum period of 30 years in accordance with Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
- 6.36 A formal review of the management prescriptions shall be undertaken every five years. Management practices may be refined in response to monitoring results, changing environmental conditions and evolving best practice guidance.
- 6.37 The long-term objective is to ensure that St Andrew's Gardens continues to provide a thriving, accessible and biodiverse public open space that delivers lasting benefits for both people and wildlife.

7.0 Management Actions and Implementation Schedule

- 7.2 The table on the following page outlines specific management actions, an implementation schedule, and assigned responsibilities for this phase. The Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) will initially cover a five-year period, with regular reviews. Actions are adaptable and may be modified as needed. After this initial period, a review will assess outcomes, and the LEMP will be updated for a minimum 30-year extension.
- 7.3 The LEMP aims to achieve habitat types and conditions outlined in the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment. Treveth will oversee the hiring of experienced landscape contractors and management firms to carry out specified actions and will fund these until management transitions to a Management Company.
- 7.4 A qualified ecologist will conduct ongoing monitoring throughout the LEMP duration, ensuring any corrective actions needed to meet objectives are implemented.

Long term design objectives	Maintenance Task	Frequency/ Timing	Years
Trees – maintain trees in order to establish healthy trees with well-structured canopy	Check tree stakes, replace any broken stakes or ties and make sure trees are maintained after strong winds	Quarterly	1-2
	Keep tree pit weed free	Quarterly Once a year	1-3 4-10+
	Keep 100mm thick mulch layer to prevent weed growth	Check at each site visit and after weeding	1-3
	Watering, especially in the establishment phase	As needed (dry conditions)	1
	Pruning of trees shall be to maintain good form and vigour and to ensure that any over hanging branches are not deemed to be a health and safety risk. Dead, diseased or dying branches shall be removed. The size of pruning wounds affects the speed at which they seal over – the larger the diameter of a wound, the more slowly it will be covered by woundwood, increasing the risk of infection. This means that it is best to prune trees when they are young, so that any branches you remove are under 4 cm in diameter.	Dead, diseased, broken or damaged branches, along with stubs, water sprouts and suckers, may be removed at any time	1-5
	Remove stake and ties	In the beginning of third growing season once trees are showing positive establishment.	2
	Apply fertilizer	Once a year, spring	1-3
Shrubs - to maintain a good form and vigour which in turn will encourage bushiness	Watering, especially in the establishment phase; Plants are never to dry out	As needed (dry conditions)	1
	Remove weeds from planting area, including roots in order for groundcover/ shrub planting to establish	Monthly or as required to maintain weed free. Once a year	1-3 4-10+
	Keep 75mm thick mulch layer in order to prevent weed growth and soil drying out	Quarterly after weeding and check at each site visit	1-3
	Inspect stock regularly especially after strong winds or heavy frost. Firm up any suffering from wind-rock or frost heave	As needed	1-3
	Pruning shall be carried out to maintain an attractive shrub bed and each shrub must be pruned to retain its individual species and shape.		

	Apply fertiliser	Once a year, spring	
	As planting establishes, check for signs of distress caused by competition with specimens in close proximity and thin accordingly. Make good the ground following any removal or disturbance.	Once a year	6-10+
	Apply spring fertilizer (high in nitrogen)	Once a year in March/ April	1-10+
	Apply autumn fertilizer (low in nitrogen)	Once a year in September/ October	1-10+
Ornamental Grasses and Perennials - to maintain a good form and vigour which in turn will encourage bushiness	Watering, especially in the establishment phase; Plants are never to dry out	As needed (dry conditions)	1
	Remove weeds from planting area, including roots in order for groundcover/ shrub planting to establish	Monthly or as required to maintain weed free. Once a year	1-3 4-10
	Keep 75mm thick mulch layer in order to prevent weed growth and soil drying out	Quarterly after weeding and check at each site visit	1-3
	Inspect stock regularly especially after strong winds or heavy frost. Firm up any suffering from wind-rock or frost heave	As needed	1-3
	Pruning shall be carried out to maintain an attractive ornamental grass bed and each grass must be pruned to retain its individual species and shape. Deciduous grasses can be cut back hard. Evergreen grasses usually only need the dead material removing and do not always respond well to hard pruning	Early spring to mid-spring depending on the species.	
	Apply fertiliser	Once a year, spring	
	As planting establishes, check for signs of distress caused by competition with specimens in close proximity and thin accordingly. Make good the ground following any removal or disturbance.	Once a year	6-10

Eco Species Rich Lawn - Maintain all planted 'eco species rich' lawn areas to ensure the establishment and continued lawn. Areas shall be maintained in such a way as to achieve healthy vigorous growth and dense cover with the grass not being too long or too short.	1st cut after seeding, collect all the cuttings. When established mow the lawn in sections leaving a week or two between cuts, cut when the grass is dry as the blades will cut the grass better. Grass should be cut to a height of 50 - 100mm.	1 - mid September to the beginning of October Late May - October	
	Maintain area so residual perennial weeds are removed by hand. Lawn weedkillers or glyphosate systemic weedkiller should not be used, as these will kill the grass.		
Rain Gardens - to maintain good form and vigour which in turn ensures functional infiltration	Watering, especially in the establishment phase; Plants are never to dry out	As needed (dry conditions)	1
	Remove weeds from planting area, including roots in order for groundcover/ shrub planting to establish	Monthly or as required to maintain weed free. Once a year	1-3 4-10
	Keep 75mm thick mulch layer in order to prevent weed growth and soil drying out	Quarterly after weeding and check at each site visit	1-3
	Inspect stock regularly especially after heavy rain event or heavy frost. Firm up any suffering from movement or frost heave.	As needed	1-3
	Pruning shall be carried out to maintain an attractive planting bed and each plant must be pruned to retain its individual species and shape.	Early spring to mid-spring depending on the species.	
	As planting establishes, check for signs of distress caused by competition with specimens in close proximity and thin accordingly. Make good the ground following any removal or disturbance.	Once a year	6-10

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