



# Canbury Gardens, Kingston upon Thames

Design Report  
February 2020

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LDĀDESIGN



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# Project Overview

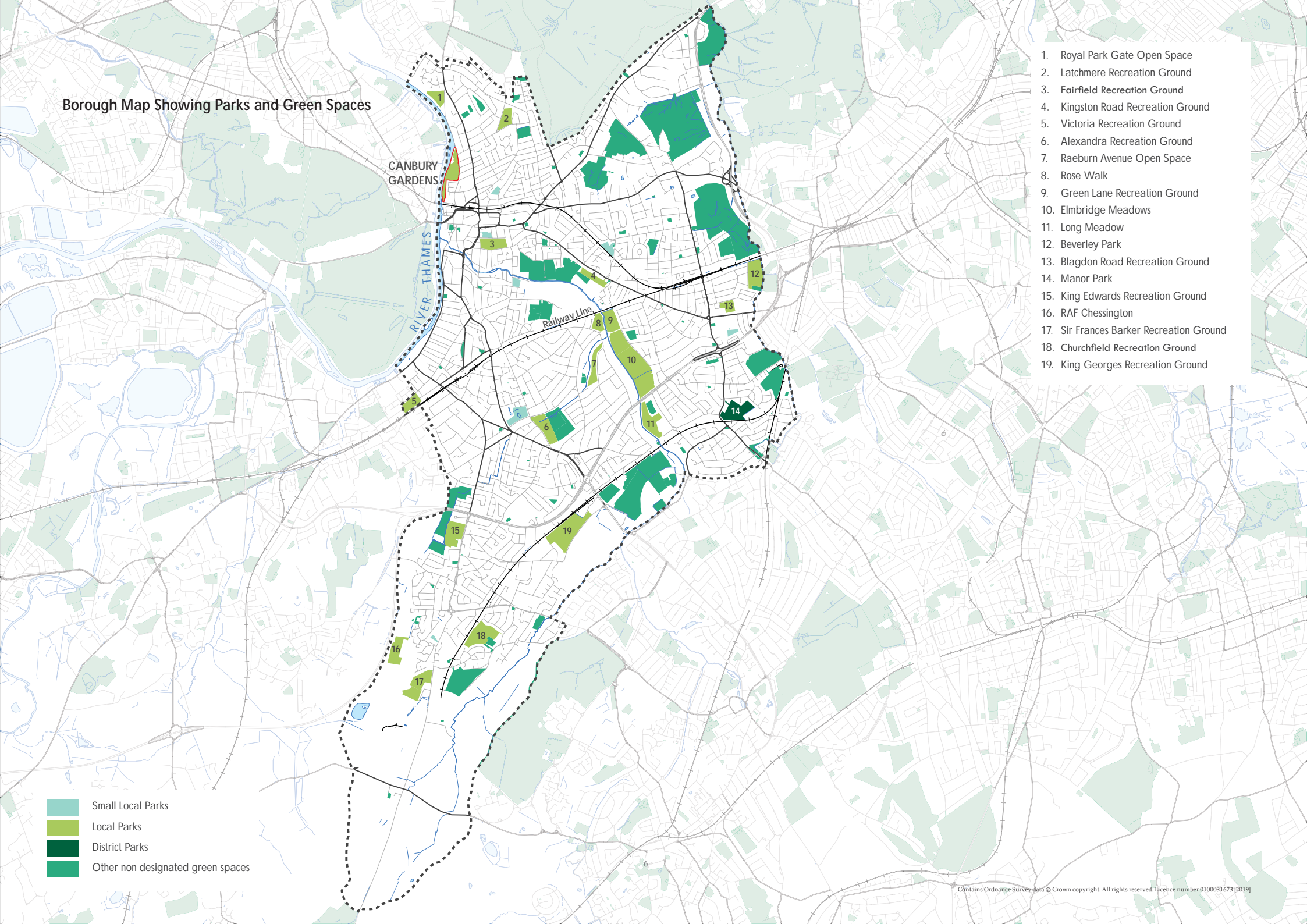
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This document has been prepared by LDA Design on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames (RBK) to support the development of a masterplan for Canbury Gardens. It is a live document which will be updated throughout the masterplanning process (stages 1 to 4) as required to reflect ongoing design development and consultation.

The information presented here represents the first stage of the masterplanning process and comprises a detailed analysis of the existing gardens. It sets out the historical context of the site, identifies what is significant about the space and what is and isn't currently working. It will build upon earlier design and investigation work undertaken by the Council to improve the riverbank, including Thames Landscape Strategy and Kingston Riverside Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD was adopted in 2018 and sets out the overall vision for how Kingston's Riverside should change over the next 10-15 years. This is the starting point for the masterplan, as some principles have been established through that process. The final masterplan for Canbury Gardens will support other wider public realm initiatives being brought forward by the council and will seek to bring about holistic landscape and public realm improvements to both protect and enhance the park for existing and future users.

# Borough Map Showing Parks and Green Spaces



- Small Local Parks
- Local Parks
- District Parks
- Other non designated green spaces

1. Royal Park Gate Open Space
2. Latchmere Recreation Ground
3. Fairfield Recreation Ground
4. Kingston Road Recreation Ground
5. Victoria Recreation Ground
6. Alexandra Recreation Ground
7. Raeburn Avenue Open Space
8. Rose Walk
9. Green Lane Recreation Ground
10. Elmbridge Meadows
11. Long Meadow
12. Beverley Park
13. Blagdon Road Recreation Ground
14. Manor Park
15. King Edwards Recreation Ground
16. RAF Chessington
17. Sir Frances Barker Recreation Ground
18. Churchfield Recreation Ground
19. King Georges Recreation Ground

# 1.0

## Introduction & Need for the Project

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Canbury Gardens is situated on the banks of the River Thames at the heart of the Grove and Canbury Wards and Riverside North Conservation Area. It is located just north of Kingston Upon Thames a short walk from the town centre. The river forms the western boundary to the gardens which is otherwise surrounded by residential properties to the north, east and south.

The park is accessible via pedestrian and cycle links following the river's edge with connections to Teddington Lock (downstream) and Hampton Court Palace (upstream). The gardens are key component of the Thames Landscape Strategy, providing an important green space and popular long distance route. This includes the Thames Path and National Cycle Route 4, which both run through the Gardens .

Increased population, arising from future new development within the surrounding area will place a greater intensity of activity on Canbury Gardens. Without an increase in demand on public open space provision in the area, the gardens will be required to work much harder to address the needs of existing and new users. The plan opposite shows the location of Canbury Gardens within the context of other green spaces within the borough and demonstrates the strategic importance of the gardens to the surrounding urban area.

## Kingston Riverside SPD (2018)

The Riverside Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted by the Royal Borough of Kingston in 2018. It sets out the overall vision for how Kingston's Riverside should change over the next 10-15 years and supports the London Plan, Kingston's Core Strategy and the Area Action Plan (AAP)

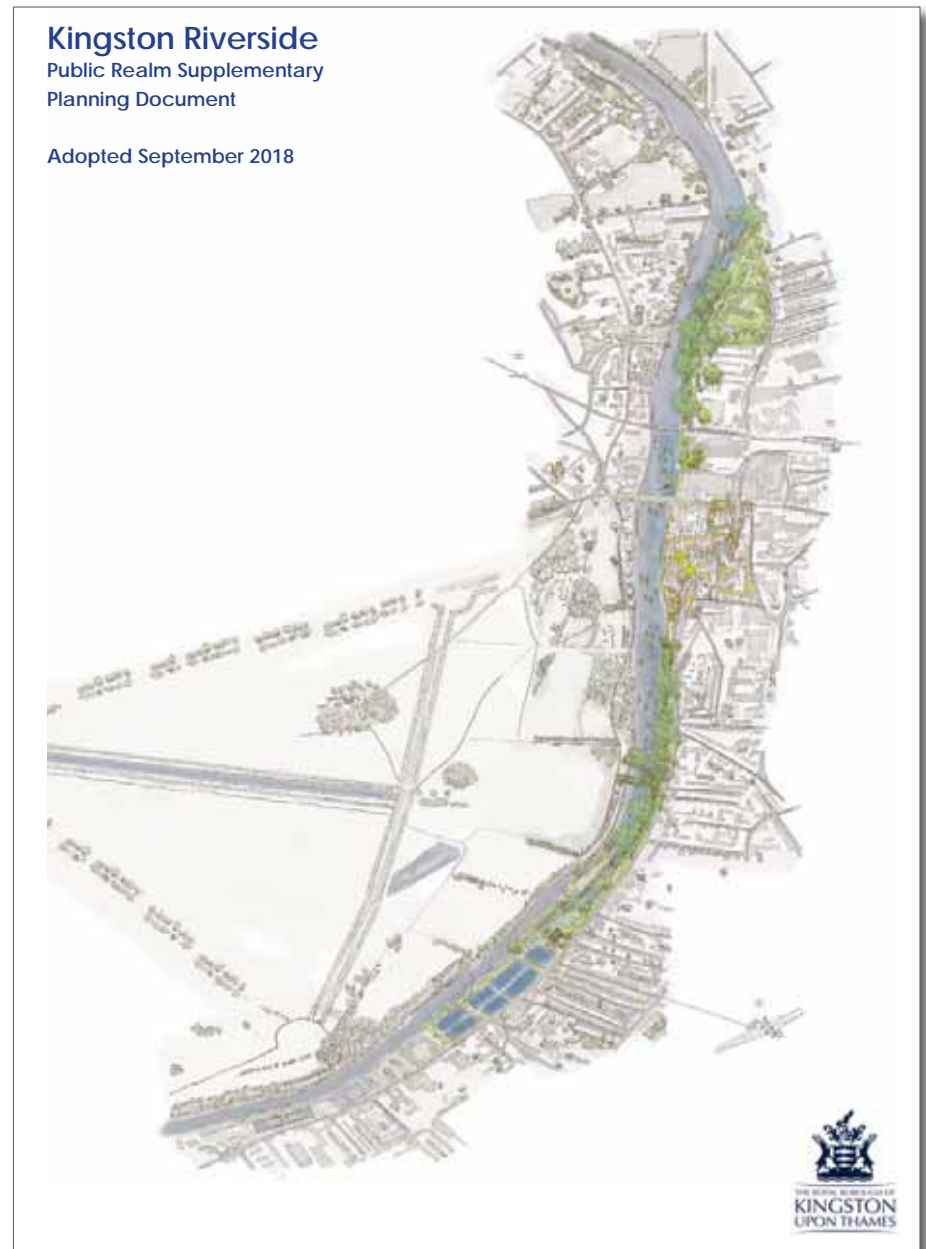
The SPD vision covers 3 character areas, including Canbury Gardens and was subject to formal public consultation to discuss issues, opportunities and potential themes of the SPD, in 2016/17.

The key themes arising from the consultation are summarised below and the opportunities/proposals plan presented opposite:

- \* Impact of proposals on access to river and river uses
- \* Conflict of users and character: passive and active
- \* Impact of moorings on use and visual impact

## Environment Agency

- \* Flood risk and ecological enhancements.

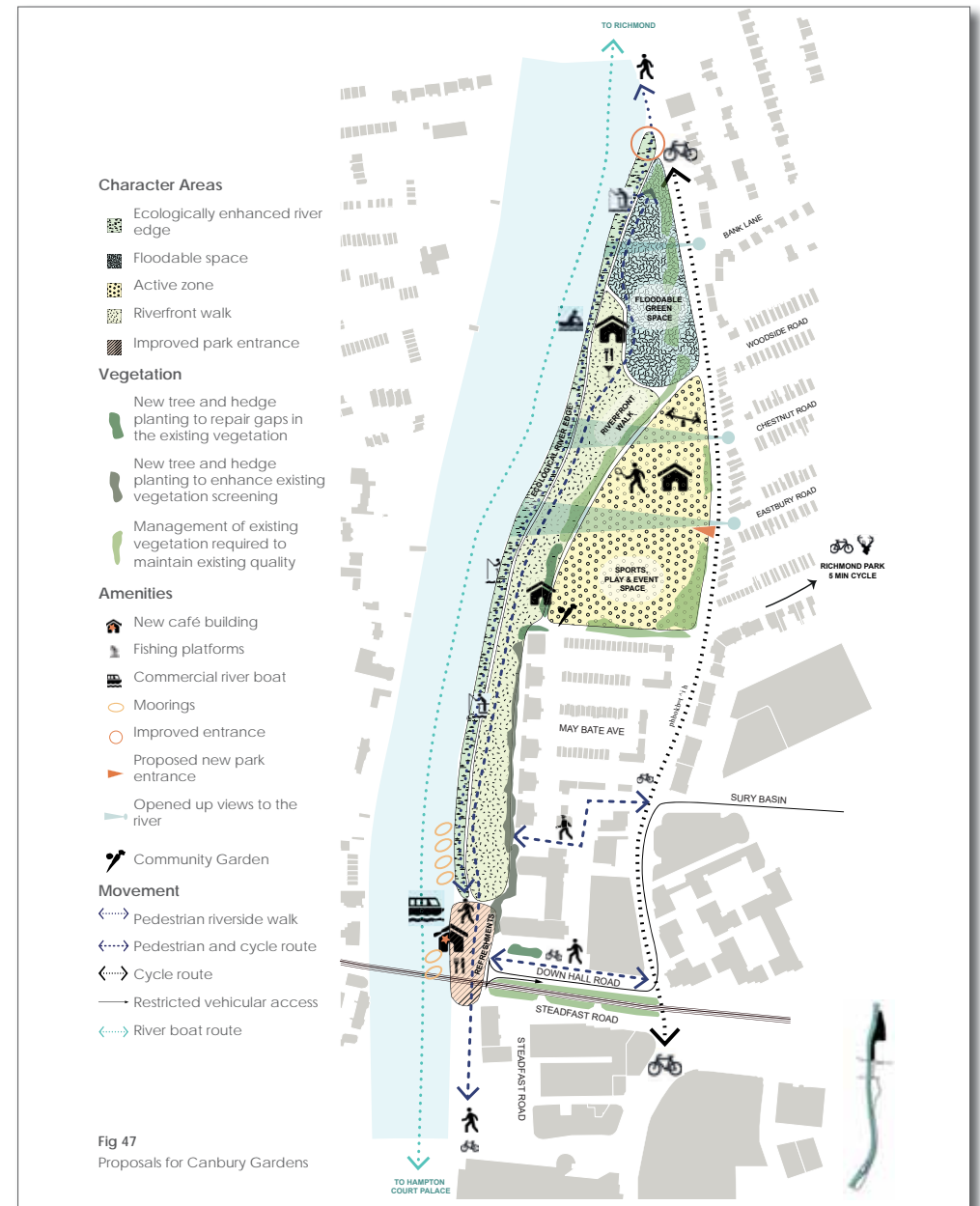




## The SPD vision for Canbury Gardens

The Riverside SPD identifies the following vision for Canbury Gardens:

*The Victorian pleasure gardens at Canbury are to be reinvigorated, reinforcing the park's role for relaxation and recreation with a naturalised riverbank. The green character of the gardens will be extended south towards Water Lane / Thames side where the character transitions into the character area 5.10 Kingston's Historic Wharves and Market Town.*



## Reimagining Kingston Town Centre's Streets and Spaces Strategy (2019)

This strategy focuses on developing new ideas for how Kingston's streets and public spaces can contribute towards a successful, vibrant and inclusive town centre. It builds upon the principles established in the Riverside SPD, and includes recommendations for introducing new activities in the town centre. It recognises the Thames Riverfront is an important stretch of the riverside connecting the Town Centre to Canbury Gardens. It highlights opportunities to activate this part of the riverside to enhance its vibrancy and offer. This new activity will be supported by creative wayfinding, celebrating the riverside and joining the dots between assets such as John Lewis to Canbury Gardens.

The overall aim is to develop a cohesive strategy and vision, which support the key strategic objectives for Kingston Town Centre endorsed at Neighbourhood Committee 2019 (Nov).



Reimagining Kingston Town Centre - Vision Overview Plan

## Thameside

Public realm enhancements have recently been delivered along a section of Thameside, between the western end of Down Hall Road and the Kingston Railway bridge. These improvements include the creation of a shared paved space incorporating a series of rain water gardens.

The improvements assist with creating a more pedestrian focused link between the town centre and Canbury Gardens and build on the recommendations of the Riverside SPD and RKTCCS.



Thameside completed public realm



Thameside completed public realm and rain water gardens



# 2.0

## History of the Park

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The gardens were opened in 1890 as a result of the forethought of Samuel Gray, founder and leader of Canbury Ratepayers Association, who gained support from Kingston Council in 1888 for a new gardens in place of the rubbish dump and tar pits that were previously occupying this site.

Research undertaken at the Kingston History Centre, including analysis of historical mapping and review of archived material, reveals how the gardens have evolved over the subsequent 120 years. This included the expansion of the park in the early twentieth century to include new sports and recreational facilities.

A brief chronology of the gardens is set out on the following pages, followed by an analysis of the map series available from the Archives.

## 1804 Tithe Map

- \* Ownership shows separate parcels of land within the future gardens site. Small building shown at Barge Walk Cottage.
- \* Terraced houses at the edge of the town centre.

## 1865 OS Map

- \* Barge Walk Cottage enlarged, in location of current pub.
- \* 2 land types shown, marshland and higher land.
- \* Marshland section shows the Barge Walk (towing path) at the water's edge, where Samuel Gray (founder and leader of Canbury Ratepayers Association) later reports osier beds teeming with snipe and kingfishers.
- \* Upper ground level, to the east, separated from the Marshland by the path (still in existence today).
- \* Kingston Bridge now in existence. Gasworks now in existence to the east of the park site.
- \* Villas on the west side of the river, with back gardens running down to river.
- \* Development of Victorian semi-detached and detached villas on Lower Ham Rd

## 1860s

- \* Land formally known as Corporation Eyot, site of tar factory, alongside Downhall sewage works and rubbish dump.

## 1881-4

- \* Surrey Comet accused Kingston Corp in 1881 of being 'constitutionally inclined to somnolency' for its caution reluctance to make improvements.
- \* Samuel Gray, founder and leader of Canbury Ratepayers Association gained support from locals for a new gardens in place of the rubbish dump and tar pits, and in 1888 gained approval from Kingston Council.
- \* 1884 meeting to propose that the site be laid out as a public garden.
- \* In '1887 proposed that the tar paving manufactory, road materials and other unsavoury objects be removed

## 1890s Council Minutes

- \* First section open in 1890 including:
  - 349 yards of gravel paths.
  - 7000 sq yards turf laid.
  - 2,600 trees and shrubs planted.
  - 35 seats and trellis screening sewage from view.
- \* Charles Nuthall from Nuthall & Sons, leading RBK catering Co. said 'Prettiest promenade on the river and greatest attractions of our town'. 1891 – He paid for bandstand – for bands but also, hoped it would be 'a summer house or shelter' (115 – KBC Minute Book, 1891-7. (KBI/10) pp 46-7, Oct 1891, Letter of Charles Nuthall to mayor.)
- \* Offer of land in Lower Eyot for a boat house. Resolved to postpone til the promenade further developed.
- \* 1000 Portuguese laurels planted by Messers Veitch & sons (plant collectors and nurserymen of note at this time).
- \* Council asked police to set up a watch at Canbury to prevent destruction of shrubs.
- \* April 1890 Minutes: Trellis on top of fence around Native Guano Company (Sewage Works) to screen from sight.
- \* May 1890: 20 yards of Hampton Gravel for paths.
- \* Purchase of lawnmower after debates about cost

## 1891 Council Minutes

- \* 'Burr Wall' tendered. (presumably the rip rap/clinker wall still in place)

## 1892 Council Minutes

- \* Landing stage considered. Bylaws introduced.

## 1894 Council Minutes

- \* 10 chestnuts and 18 other forest trees supplied by Veitch.
- \* Other minor entries, if time re-check with RBK archives, but nothing of major importance. Mentions of lawnmower eventually being bought for the gardener and slowness of council to carry out any infrastructure improvements generally.

### By 1898 OS Map

- \* Canbury Gardens now shown (opened in 1890), on the lower, former marshland level.
- \* Bandstand shown at upper level, in southern half of park. Sewage works now in existence on southern part of the adjacent site, nearest bandstand, opposite the gas works on Lower Ham Rd. New connecting road 'Kings Passage' connects Lower Ham Road to the depot / nursery, forms a new, formal entrance to the park and Upper Bandstand level promenade. This is on the alignment of current Cherry Tree Avenue entrance path and depot access road.
- \* Barge Walk Cottage shown with enlarged, curved boundary, within the newly created Canbury Gardens. Access road to it has been curved from its previously straight alignment, and north south footpaths created, allowing public access around it, within the park.
- \* New paths.

### By 1913 OS Map

- \* New sports and recreation (tennis and bowling greens) established in the upper levels. Gardens appear to be at the lower level.
- \* Lines of trees still exist from 1865 OS plan (coloured yellow) and follow old line of level change/land ownership parcel.
- \* Hardstanding around bandstand enlarged.
- \* New circular feature directly west of the tennis courts..
- \* Further alterations to the Barge Walk Cottage.
- \* New tree planting southeast of Barge Walk Cottage.
- \* New pavilions, (bowls?) and other to the east of Barge Walk Cottage.

### By 1932 OS Map:

- \* New Shelters built on upper level, west of tennis courts.
- \* Lavatories built.
- \* New Pavilion (existing today) by a new (square) Bowls Green, making 2 bowls greens.
- \* All tennis courts now fenced.

### By 1956 – 74 OS Map:

- \* Many small shelters and structures installed and lost during this time.
- \* Additional rectangular Bandstand (shown on 1958 map) is lost by 1974. Glasshouses erected by 1956
- \* Original southern Bandstand demolished by 1956.
- \* Drinking fountain now in existence.

### By 1974 OS Map: (north)

- \* Rowing Club built (c.1970) and external hardstanding boat storage, adjacent to Barge Walk Cottage. Rowing Club oldest in England. Building received Civic Trust Commendation in 1970 but unlisted, despite distinctive saw tooth concrete shell roof.
- \* Rectangular bandstand now gone.
- \* Shelter to west of tennis now gone.
- \* 2nd pavilion, facing tennis courts erected by this time.

### 1980

- \* Kingston Power Station ceased production.

### 1994

- \* Kingston Power Station Chimneys demolished, changing the skyline and backdrop of the park. Planning permission subsequently given for housing on the site, flanked by tall poplars on the river side.

### 1998



- \* On 25 March 1998 poplars separating the park from the Fairclough Homes site were felled, a cause which had resulted in protests up the trees, an eco-warrior camp, and a 17,000-person petition. The Surrey Comet reported on 27 March 1998 that: "The first of the Canbury Gardens poplars came crashing down on Wednesday evening after a massive eviction operation costing up to £500,000 and involving 300 police, bailiffs, privacy security men, helicopters and boats."

### 2009

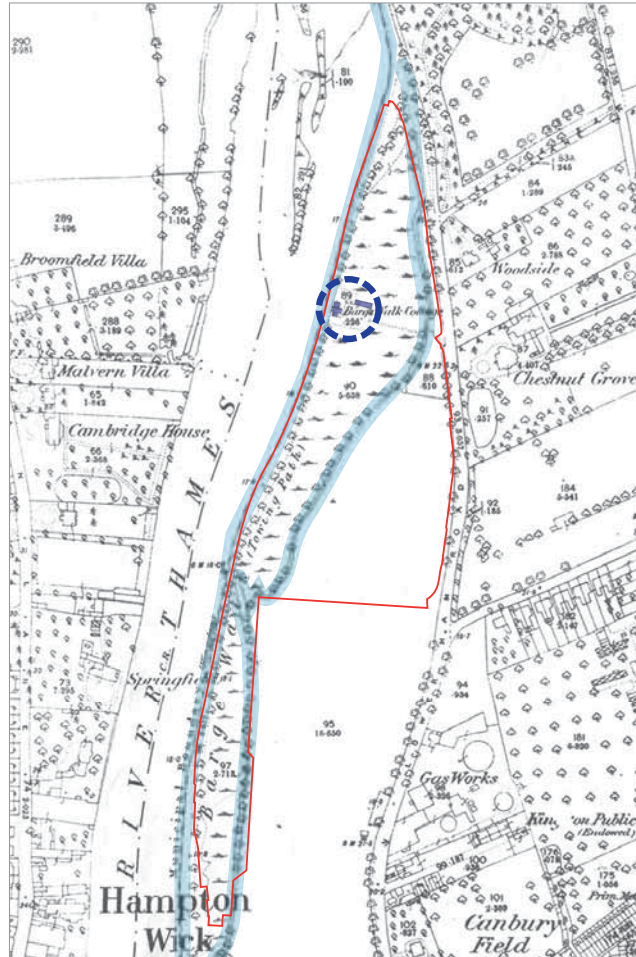
- \* Closure of Kingston Green Fair, a popular annual event running for the previous 21 years in Canbury Gardens.




1804 Tithe Map



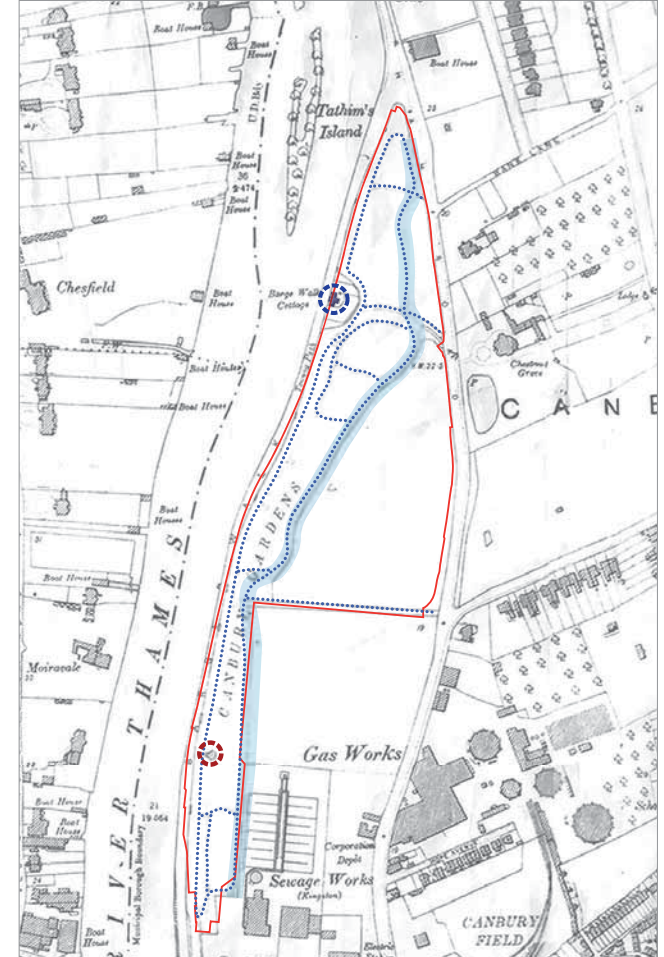
-  Current park boundary overlaid
-  Barge Walk Cottage enlarged






1865 OS Map



-  Current park boundary overlaid
-  Barge Walk Cottage enlarged
-  Drainage ditch / outlet between upper and lower marsh levels

1898 OS Map



-  Current park boundary overlaid
-  Barge Walk Cottage enlarged
-  Line of ditch / water inlet incorporated into north of the park
-  Bandstand erected
-  Path network



1913 OS Map



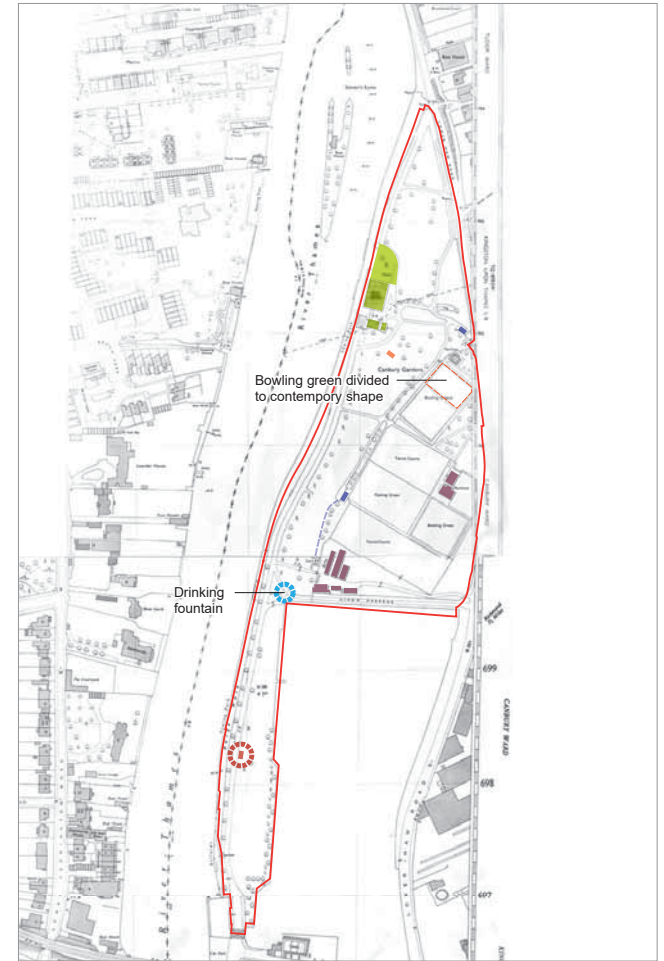
- Current park boundary overlaid
- Barge Walk Cottage enlarged
- Trees from lit OS (1865) shown
- Additions since 1898
- Bandstand setting formalised and hardstanding
- Formal planting beds adjacent to paths set in grass
- Tennis grounds
- Bowling green
- New buildings, bowls pavilion and others
- New woodland plantation

1932 OS Map



- Current park boundary overlaid
- Additions since 1913 Plan
- Pavilion and ball court fencing
- 2nd bowling green and access road
- Shelter
- Lavatories

1956 / 1974 OS Map



- Current park boundary overlaid
- Additions since 1932
- Boatclub (1970's) and yard. Additions and losses to pub / tea rooms
- Losses since 1932
- Bandstand
- Path to lavatories and shelter
- Rectangular bandstand (1958 OS)
- Drinking fountain
- Glass houses and mess buildings



### Archive images

Historic photographs reproduced by permission from Kingston Archives, show formal and informal events at Canbury Gardens from its creation.

1. The opening of Canbury Gardens (8 November 1890)
2. The Promenade (c. 1900)
3. Lower end of Canbury Gardens, Thames in flood (1902)
4. Canbury gardens, looking towards the bridge (c. 1900)
5. The band playing (c. 1900-1910)





1. Canbury Gardens (1908)  
2. Canbury boathouse (1971)  
3. Sailing on the Thames, Canbury Gardens  
4. Fishing on the Thames, Canbury Gardens  
5. Canbury Gardens (1971)





# 3.0

## Site Analysis

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Undertaking detailed site analysis of Canbury Gardens is essential to developing an understanding of the park and informing a masterplan response. LDA Design have visited Canbury Gardens on numerous occasions, undertaken archive research, reviewed relevant key documents and surveys, and undertaken stakeholder engagement with local community groups and individuals. A detailed understanding of the park and the principle issues that need to be addressed through the masterplanning process has been developed.

This chapter provides a summary of the site analysis and is split into the following categories: historical significance; access and movement; activities and landuse, character and views.

## Historic Significance

While not highly significant in terms of the criteria for inclusion on the Historic England's (HE) Register of Parks and Gardens (or being 'listed'), the Gardens hold considerable significance as Kingston's only deliberately designed Victorian park and the choice of its riverside location, so close to the town centre. Its significance is increased by its creation at a time when Kingston was a poor, industrial and mercantile borough, with little to spend on public services and amenities, as highlighted in the Surrey Comet newspaper at that time. It is an early example within the parks movement of reclaiming a public green space from an area used primarily for industry.

The following Significance Plan sums up the historically significant aspects of the park, and how they contribute to its overall historic significance, as defined by HE. (<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/>)

The plan also shows those aspects of the gardens which detract from its significance, as well as areas that could be better used. Currently these reduce the parks success in catering for the many current and potential new visitors, living and working in Kingston.

### Historic Development & Significance

The overall layout of Canbury Gardens has changed little in terms of the structure of its landform and path layout since its creation in the 1890s as Kingston's riverside town park. Its creation was enabled by the raising of the former marshland, which lay adjacent to the river, as can be seen on the early (pre-park) ordnance survey maps. The main north-south path follows the line of this level change, which is still evident in the landform to the north of the park. Since the park's creation the path layout and location of the pub (former Barge Walk Cottage) has remained constant, as can be seen by comparing the 1890 plan with today's survey. The design for Canbury Gardens, done by a local (un-named) surveyor, followed land ownership boundaries in the laying out of paths, rather than any specific design style, and as such is fairly typical of a late Victorian with Edwardian style 'recreation ground' additions later on. The development can be seen through the chronology and map progression on pages 14-17.

The overwhelmingly positive aspect of the park, and key to its significance, are the open views across the river, mostly from the lower park section, as well as the views downstream, north from the boat club and pub buildings.

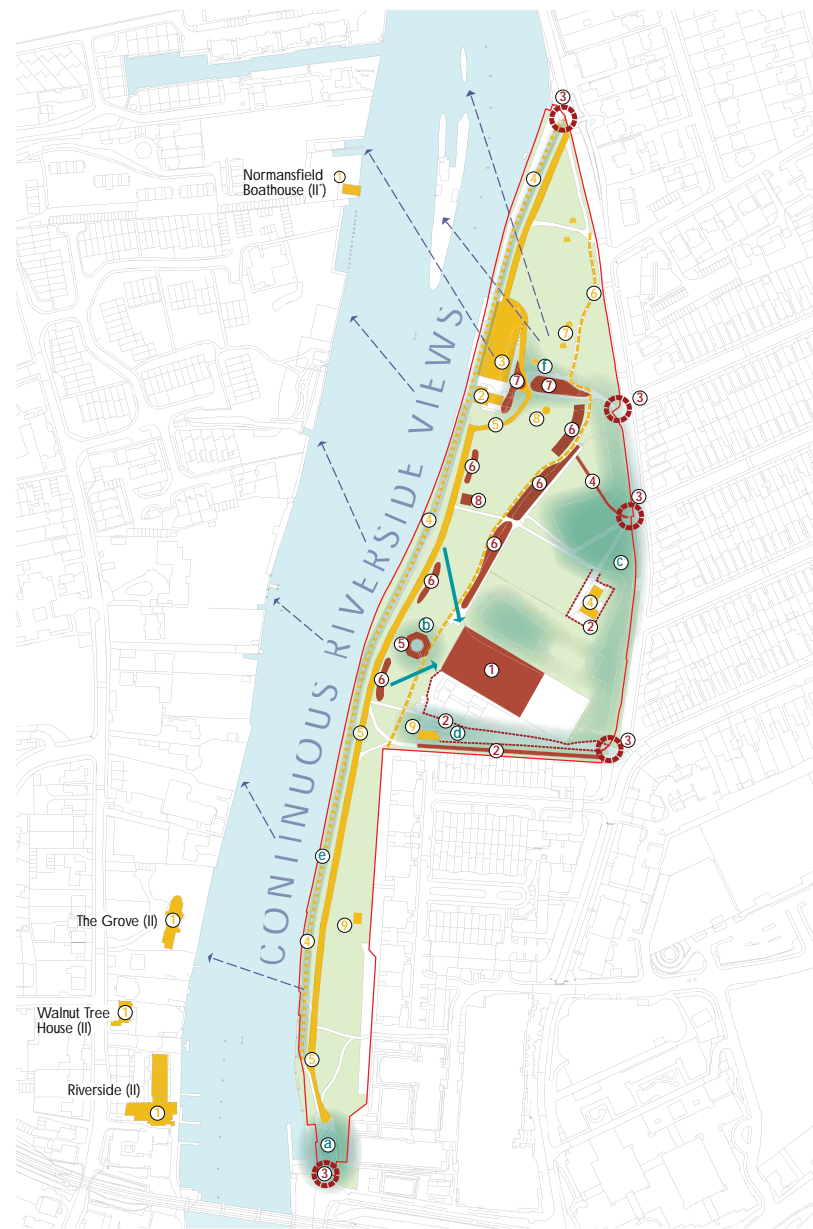
Similarly the creation of a public park on a riverside location so close to the town centre adds to its significance, as well as the contribution it makes to the wider Thames Landscape, as referenced in the Thames Landscape Strategy. (<http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/who-we-are/vision/the-review-of-the-thames-landscape-strategy/>)

The design of park itself is not of particular significance, being fairly typical of a late Victorian - Edwardian recreation gardens.

### Elements Detracting from Significance

Detracting from the gardens significance is the erosion over time of its landscape quality, original features and interruption of views towards the river by overgrown vegetation and elements that detract from those views as well as hinder access to it.

## Significance Plan



- Park boundary
- Elements Detrimental to Historic Significance**
- ① Covered tennis court structures
  - ② Industrial steel fencing inappropriate to park setting
  - ③ Entrance areas including paths, layout, railings and approach from town centre, general clutter
  - ④ Desire line paths, poorly accessible
  - ⑤ Setting around bandstand
  - ⑥ Overgrown shrubberies now blocking views and compartmentalising the space
  - ⑦ Back of house - pub bins, storage and overgrown shrubbery
  - ⑧ 1990's walls and ad-hoc structures interrupting quality of space
  - ⑨ Metal E.A. Structure
- Landscape / Built Structures of Significance**
- ① Listed structures visible from riverside and park
  - ② Public House (former Barge Walk Cottage)
  - ③ Rowing Club and boat storage (UK's oldest)
- Landscape Features and Significance**
- ④ Barge Walk towing path
  - ⑤ Promenade circumnavigating pub (former Barge Walk Cottage) since inception of park
  - ⑥ Level change - depicting former marshland
  - ⑦ Trees from early and pre park history to riverside
  - ⑧ Original benches and mound from former shelter location
  - ⑨ Former mess buildings (pre 1956 OS) post 30's
- Continuous riverside views, relatively uncluttered
- Underused Areas with Capacity to Change**
- a Southern entrance
  - b Central area, setting of bandstand, clutter and overgrown shrubberies dividing space in middle section
  - c Eastern entrance and play area (spacial quality and extent)
  - d Kings Passage and community growing area / unmanaged area
  - e Riverside walk and wall, surfacing poor and narrow
  - f Back of house area and approaches to pub
- Views back to covered tennis court structures

### Elements Detracting from Significance - continued

The analysis of the map progression (pg 16-17) shows that most of the park structures that support the public's use of the park, such as shelters and toilets, have mostly now all gone. Similarly the horticultural aspects have disappeared over time, leaving some lines of overgrown poor specimen shrubs to the detriment of the park as a whole. Some of the significant views from the upper level are now compromised by overgrown planting or self sown trees and unsightly fencing.

The clinker wall, built early in the park's creation is still in existence and could be said to have some significance as an early constructed feature. However, its condition is poor and inconsistent due to the proximity of mature Plane trees and the quality and choice of materials used for repairs.

The erosion of overall landscape cohesion and quality is consistent with many local authority parks which have both suffered budget constraints, as well as incremental, piecemeal and ad-hoc additions. This combination has resulted in the fabric of the park being eroded over time. Examples include numerous high fences, low walls, muddy footpath 'desire lines', various bench and bin types and incremental additions to play areas with new railings and barriers and inconsistent design quality at entrances. Many of these, while responding to immediate need or requests over time, lead to a cluttered, fragmented and overly defensive looking park landscape. This in turn, harms the historic significance of the park, and it becomes a less attractive place to visit.

### Trees

The tree structure is generally good, with many mature planes and other interesting specimens planted from the early layout. However, the quality and placing of semi-mature and young trees is lacking and needs addressing so as to maintain a healthy, well planned tree cover into the future. Many newer trees have established but the majority of these are outgrown, former specimen shrubs in the lines of former shrub beds, and at odds with the positioning of the mature specimens. Some of the newer trees (former shrubs or self-sown sycamores/elder) are actually now competing with the large specimen trees. A plan showing trees proposed to be removed is contained within Chapter 5 of this report.

### Character & Significance

The Gardens' proximity to Kingston town centre, and its position on the bend of the river to the north and within the wider Thames landscape means it exhibits two main underlying characters; one urban and one more naturalistic. This is a real strength and adds to its significance for the borough of Kingston and as a green backdrop to the Thames.

The character of the park has become homogenised over the years, with the accretions of various furniture and fencing types, as well as the disappearance of any planned horticulture or designed tree strategy. However its underlying and distinct formal and naturalistic characters provide a simple cue to reinforcing these characters, to reinstate and revitalise the park's distinct landscape types, and thus its beauty, and appeal to more diverse groups of people.



1. Canbury Gardens towpath, looking north from the E.A. Monitoring Station
2. The bandstand at Canbury Gardens
3. The rowing club and boat storage

## Access and Movement

The existing path layout was established at the outset of the park in the 1890s and has remained broadly unchanged. The access and movement of people through the park is strongly influenced by the River Thames and people's desire to move along the river's edge.

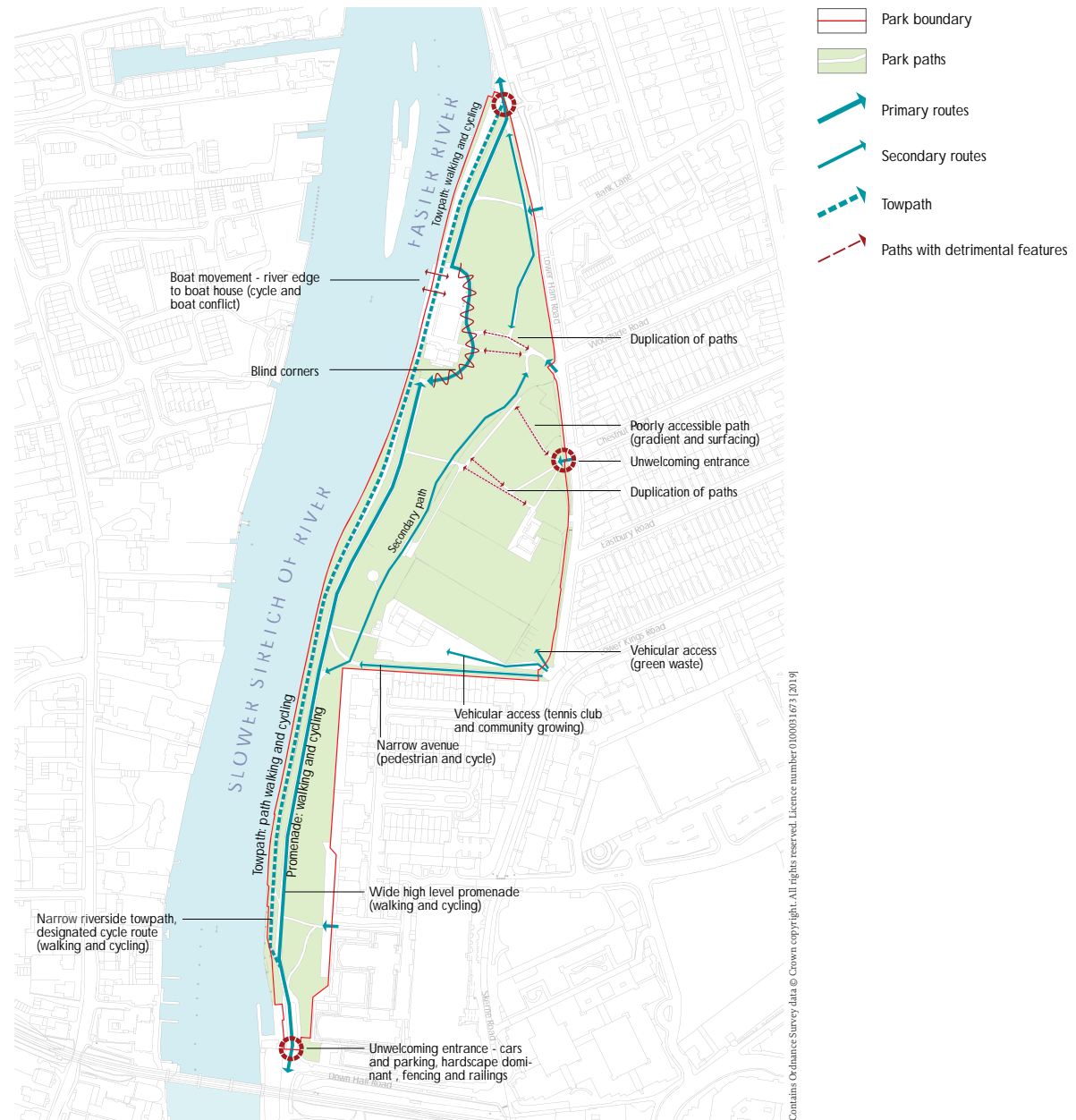
Primary pedestrian and cycle routes are located next to the river and include the National Cycle Network (Route 4) which runs along the towpath immediately adjacent to the river, and a promenade which runs parallel to the towpath but at a higher level. Both routes follow the course of the river in a north-south alignment. The movement of pedestrians and cyclists along these routes is poorly defined and often a source of conflict within the park. Cycle use of the towpath is a particular problem and can cause conflict with both cyclists and pedestrians trying to access the water's edge along this narrow and eroded path.

The main entrance to Canbury Gardens is located to the south, linking to Kingston town centre via a series of footpaths. The entrance provides a poor sense of arrival and is characterised by detrimental features including fencing, railings and a security gate. Due to its appearance and security breaches it is used for illegal car parking. The northern entrance is less well used but provides an equally poor sense of arrival for similar reasons.

There are 5 secondary entrances and routes which are located away from the river's edge to the east of the gardens and provide connections to the adjoining residential streets and community facilities within the gardens. These routes typically follow an east-west alignment. The legibility and sense of arrival at these entrances is poor, especially the access opposite Chestnut Road which is causing ground compaction issues beneath the mature trees. Some of the secondary routes are remnant of past land uses and have become unnecessary and convoluted as the park has evolved. This includes the duplication of paths and poorly defined routes.

Access to the private tennis courts is provided off Lower Ham Road, to the south eastern corner of the gardens adjacent to the green waste store.

The condition of the paths varies across the gardens and the ad hoc addition of poorly designed routes hinders movement. Some of these are rubble surfaced, and installed with gradients which are not accessible, such as from the central, eastern entrance. Others are simply muddy desire lines. Some of the original path routes have poor quality surfacing, especially the riverside tow path which is eroding in places due to tree root growth and the natural process of riverbank erosion.



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1. Unwelcoming entrance from Lower Ham Road
2. Separation of pedestrian and cycle movement at the southern end of the towpath
3. Informal edge and towpath adjoining the northern entrance to the Gardens
4. Poorly defined paths and duplication of routes in the vicinity of the community tennis courts
5. Northern entrance to the Gardens

## Activities and Land Use

Canbury Gardens provides a range of activities and land uses to the local community as well as to those who travel to use facilities such as the Boaters Inn, rowing club and tennis clubs. The majority of the park comprises a green space for amenity and recreational use and can be categorised into following broad areas:

The **southern section** of the park is more accessible to Kingston town centre and is the busiest area of the park on a day-to-day basis. During weekdays it is used by office workers for walking, picnicking and lounging at lunchtimes. A better connection to the town centre would encourage further use of this space.

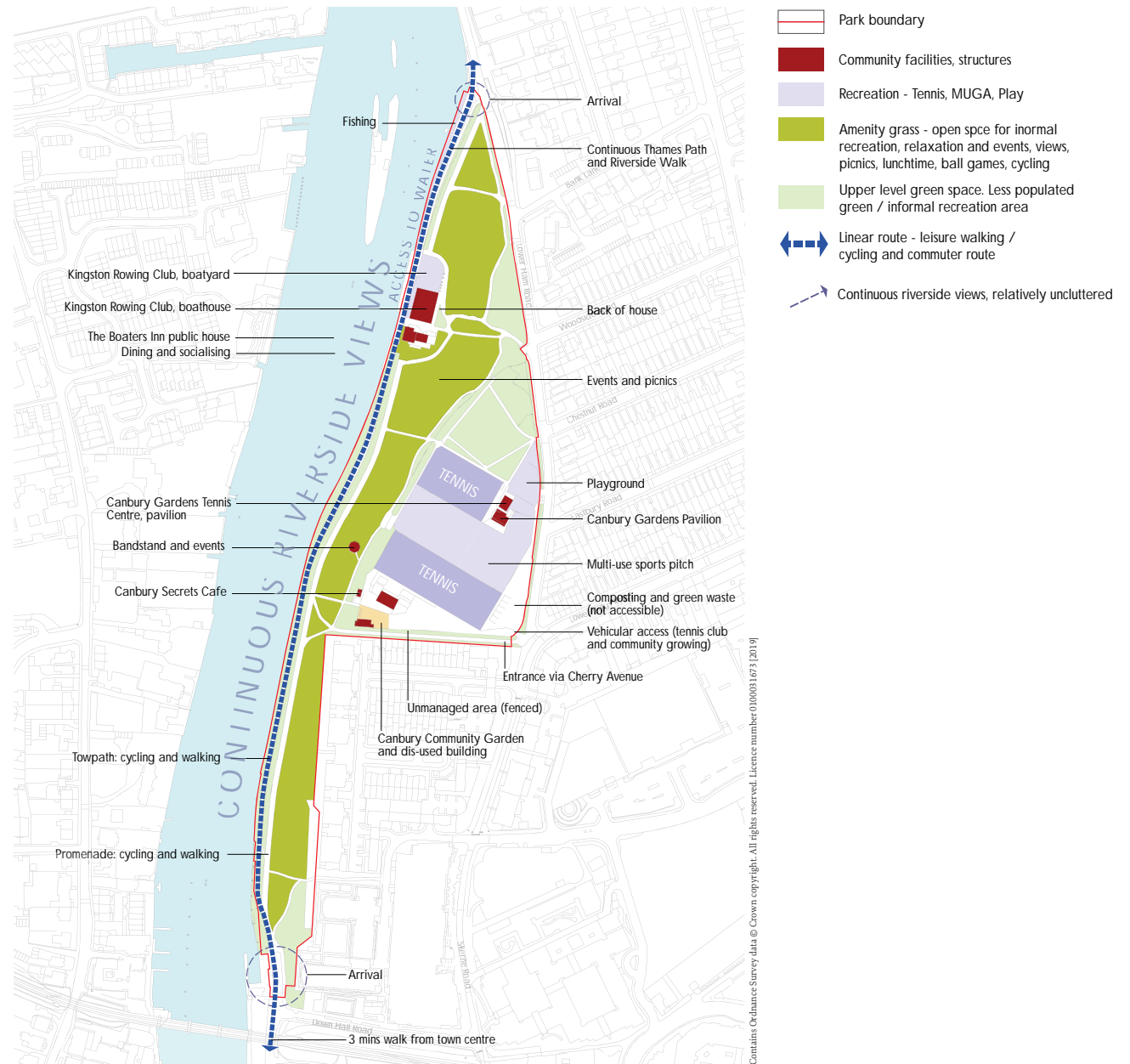
The **central section** of the park comprises a wider green space surrounded by a range of community facilities such as the bandstand, public house and cafe. This area is more readily used as an events space and has previously held outdoor fairs, concerts and cinema events.

The **northern section** of the park is quieter and more open, with good access to the River Thames. Activities include rowing and fishing at the water's edge and informal recreation within the adjoining green space. A better connection with the Thames landscapes to the north, such as Ham Lands and Richmond would encourage further use of this space.

The **eastern section** of the park is dominated by a range of play and sporting facilities including public and private tennis courts, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and a children's play area. The playground primarily caters for younger children and includes a range of play equipment. The remnants of two former bowling greens are also located in this area which were removed and turned over to amenity green space.

There are a number of public and private buildings located within the park. The Boaters Inn is a public house located on the waters edge which includes toilet facilities for public use. The Kingston Rowing Club is located next to the pub and includes a boathouse and yard with decked access to the water. The Canbury Gardens Pavilion is located to the east of the park and acts as a community resource for parties, classes or gatherings. The Canbury Gardens Tennis Centre is located in an adjacent pavilion with four courts attached. Another private tennis club (Kingston Riverside Club) is located to the south with a further six courts. The Canbury Secret Cafe is located at the centre of the park close to the bandstand.

A community garden is also located nearby and includes a small allotment area and a former mess building (disused).





1

1. People walking along the Riverside Walk
2. Canbury Gardens pavilion
3. People relaxing and lounging in the Gardens
4. Canbury community garden
5. Canbury Gardens tennis courts
6. Kingston Rowing Club boatyard



2



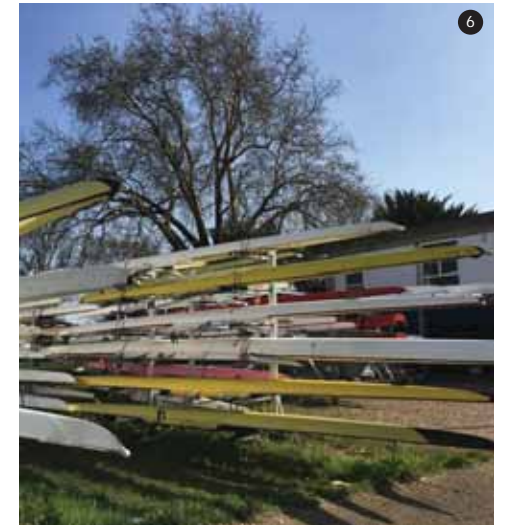
3



4



5



6

## Character and Views

Canbury Gardens can be split into the following character areas:

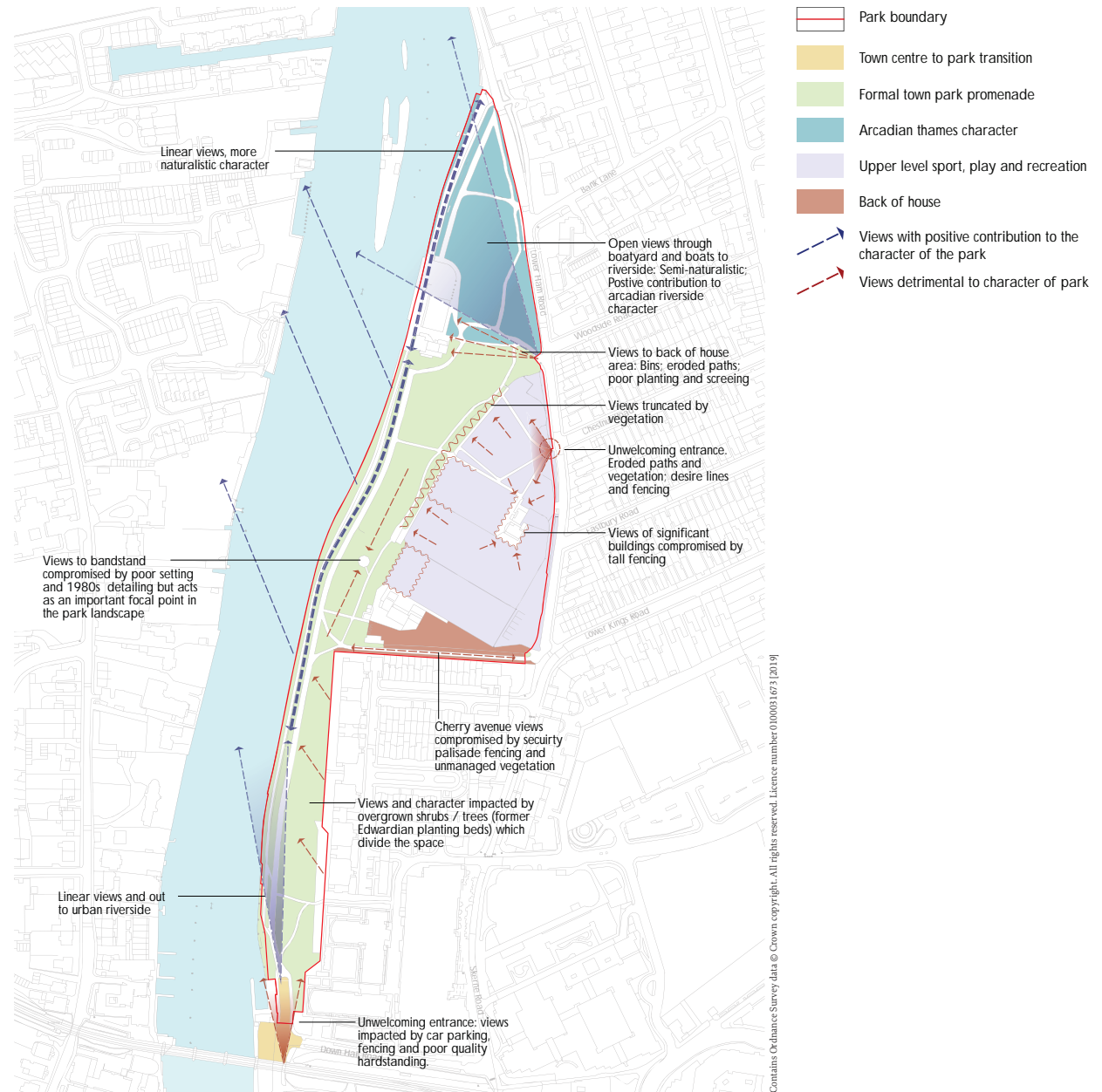
**Entrance:** a transitional space from town centre to town park. The character and views of this area are impacted by car parking, fencing and poor quality hard standing. This creates an unwelcoming entrance.

**Formal town park promenade & informal park amenity space:** a linear space located to the south of the park most closely connected to Kingston town centre. This area has a formal, late Victorian / Edwardian town park character and a strong association to the river. Linear views through the park and across the river provide a positive contribution to the character of the park.

**Arcadian Thames:** an open area of green space to the north of the park. This area is semi-naturalistic with open views through the boatyard towards the riverside. This area is restricted by the back of house areas to the Kingston Rowing Club and Boaters Inn which block views of the river and have a detrimental effect of character.

**Upper level sport, play and recreation area:** a raised area of the park dominated by sport, play and recreational provision. This area has become compartmentalised by separate activities and uses. Tall fencing and remnant boundary features are detrimental to the character of the park and truncate views across the park and towards the river.

**Back of house:** a back of house area is located off Lower Ham Road and provides vehicle access to the Kingston Riverside Club, community growing and green waste area.





1. Tall fencing in the vicinity of the tennis courts truncate views across the park
2. Tall fencing surrounding the Canbury Gardens pavilion separates it from the rest of the park
3. Linear view through the park, looking north from the main entrance
4. Detrimental features create an unwelcoming main entrance
5. Arcadian Thames character and open parkland to the north of the Gardens
6. Informal park edge and views across the river near to the northern entrance



## Ecology

A Phase 1 habitat plan and ecology constraints and opportunities assessment for Canbury Gardens has been undertaken to inform our site analysis. A summary of the findings is provided below and the full report can be found at Appendix 1.

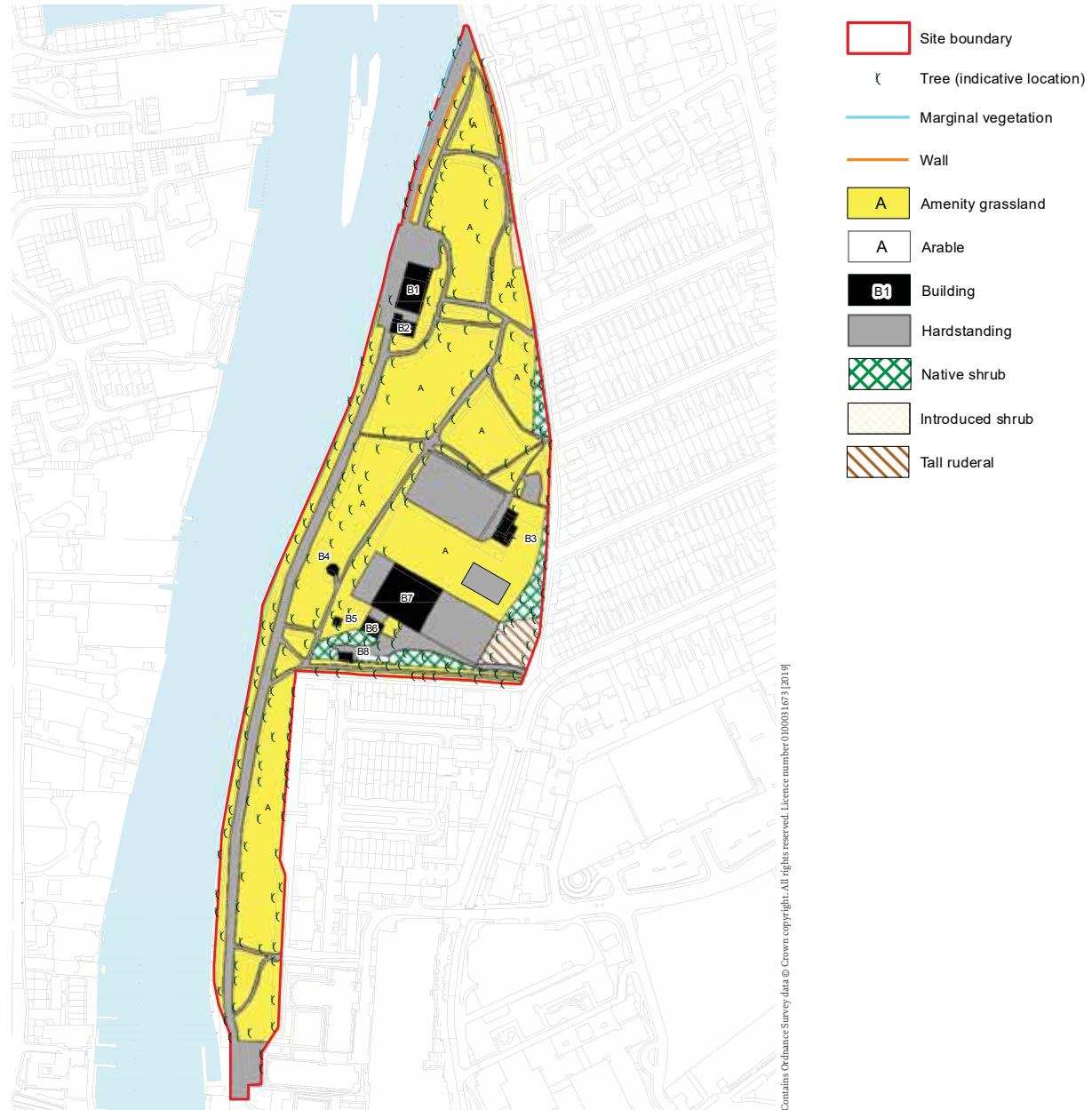
The Park is dominated by amenity grassland lawns and large mature trees. The River Thames is directly adjacent to the west of the Park. The river banks there are hard, but the adjacent soil strip and cracks in the bank are vegetated at the northern end by native riparian species. There are areas of native (and non-native) shrubs, buildings and hard tennis courts.

The Park provides suitable foraging habitat for bats, and some of the trees and buildings may provide bat roosting sites. The trees and shrubs provide suitable nesting habitat for birds. The Park is unlikely to support other protected species.

The Park itself is not subject to any non-statutory or statutory wildlife site designations (BSG Ecology, 2017). The River Thames, adjacent to the west side is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

**Key Ecological Constraints:** The mature trees at the Park provide non-recreatable habitat of importance at the local level, and are the most important ecological feature at the Park. The riparian vegetation that is present along the River Thames provides additional ecological interest. Any removal of trees or shrubs at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on nesting birds. Any tree removal, or removal or renovation of buildings with potential to support roosting bats at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on roosting bats. Any increases in lighting at the Park could have potential to affect the use of the Park by bats.

**Key Ecological Opportunities:** Retention and care and maintenance of the mature tree resource at the Park should form a key part of the masterplan. The extension and enhancement of native bankside vegetation along the edge of the Thames should be considered. Measures to avoid impacts on roosting bats should form part of on-going tree management at the Park and additional light pollution at the Park should be avoided. The possibility of reducing current light spill at the Park should be explored. There is abundant scope for installing wildlife infrastructure at the Park such as bat and bird boxes.

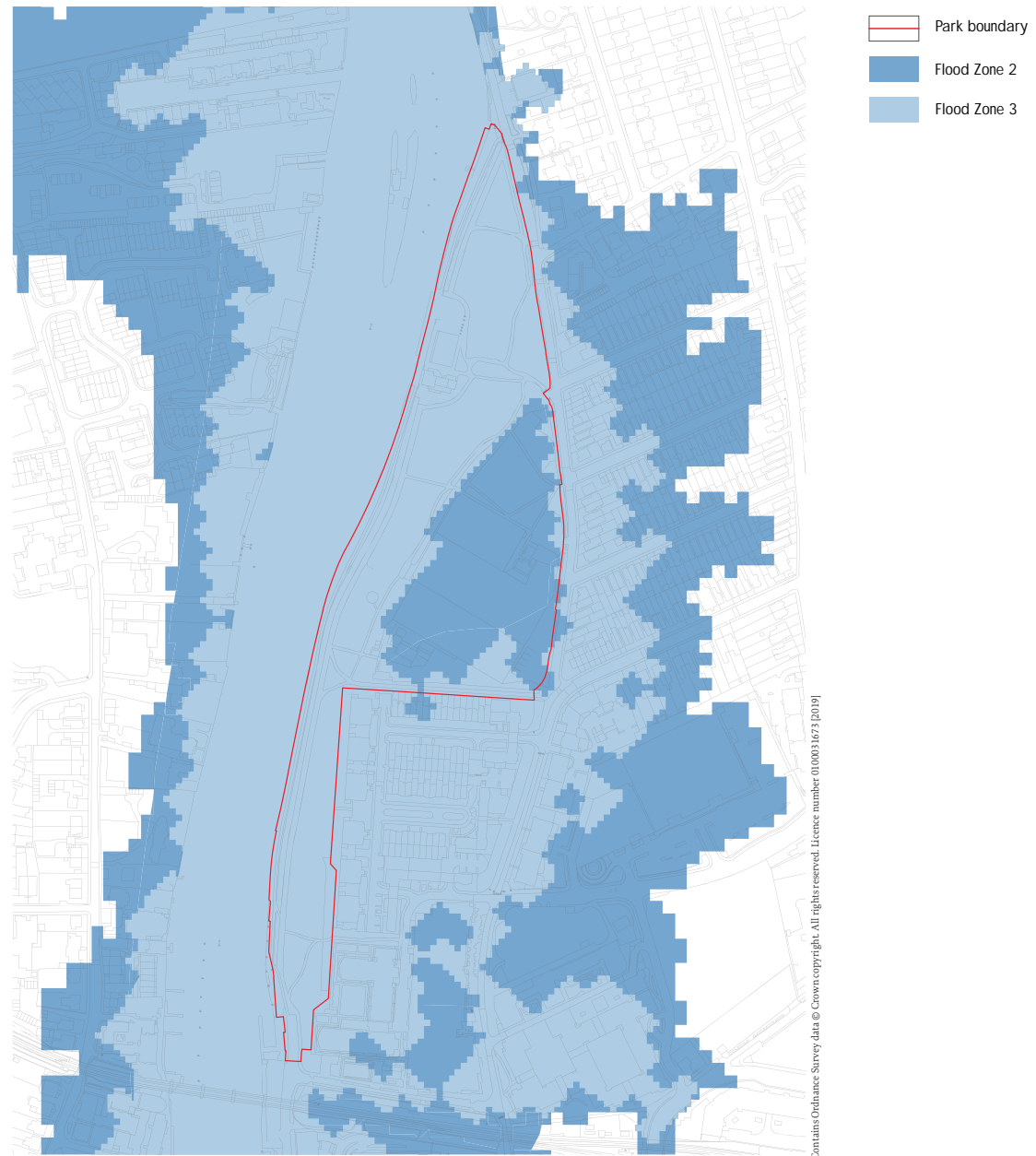


### Flood Mitigation Options

The northern portion of Canbury Gardens and Thames Side are classified as flood zone 3, (more than 1:100 annual probability of fluvial flooding).

The remaining area is located within flood zone 2 (between 1:100 and 1:1000 annual probability of fluvial flooding).

The map opposite shows the flood zone areas and their relationship to the gardens.







# 4.0

## Public Consultation

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A series of design workshops were held on Thursday 9 May 2019 to discuss the gardens and their current use. The event was well publicised via fliers, local news websites and social media with over 30 people attending the day in total.

A combination of workshop and drop-in sessions were spread throughout the day to capture a broad spectrum of local opinion and encourage wide ranging discussion. The workshop sessions included a short introductory presentation by the project team and a brief overview of the park's history, followed by group discussions and feedback.

The group discussions were specifically targeted at the following feedback: What are the key issues facing the park today? What should the 'Big Moves' be to improve the park for the future? A summary of the feedback received is provided on the following pages.

## The Big Moves

As part of the design workshops LDA presented a range of potential improvements or 'Big Moves' that could be considered as part of the masterplanning process. These are shown by the adjoining figures and were intended to prompt discussion and debate about the future of Canbury Gardens.

### Reinforcing Character

With some simple interventions the distinct character areas identified on page 28 can be strengthened and enhanced while retaining the current use and function of the park.

Through relatively small interventions the diversity of landscape types can be strengthened, improving landscape quality, biodiversity and providing delight for its visitors. This will increase the park's appeal to a greater diversity of users while having minimal maintenance and ongoing cost burden. This includes opening up some of the under used areas of the park (identified on page 22) to be better used and connected with the surrounding communities it should be serving.



Better integration of the pavilion with the park



Clarity of use and hierarchy



Enhanced bandstand setting



Enhanced biodiversity and river edges



Enhanced gateway / sense of arrival



Linking educational and activity opportunities

## Potential Big Moves



## Record of consultation feedback

### Workshop 1

#### Issues discussion:

- \* Keeping garden more natural
- \* Lack of seating areas.
- \* Unzoning of park.
- \* Consider long term maintenance (funding).
- \* Move cycle path next to river.
- \* Improve interaction/play with river.
- \* Improve play area/move accessible.
- \* Need containment/safety for kids play.
- \* Not providing for older ages.
- \* Connectivity poor.
- \* Light very poor.
- \* Rubbish Provision poor.
- \* Conflict with fishing.
- \* Too few toilets.
- \* Restore bulb planting drifts.
- \* Lack of biodiversity.
- \* Areas of park suffer safety problems security concerns/poor legibility.
- \* Riverbank - movement conflict.
- \* Riverbank degradation.
- \* Community Gardens poorly integrated.
- \* Entrances unwelcoming.
- \* Managements issues – litter.
- \* Revisit ethos of park.

#### Big Moves discussion:

- \* Focus on a series of smaller interventions.
- \* Better provision for 5 plus.
- \* Move cycle route upper level.
- \* Lower level for pedestrians.
- \* Wildflower to north of park.
- \* Improve band stand setting/seating.
- \* Opening pavilion, a real concern over safety.
- \* Respond to town character in terms of zoning park.
- \* Improve connectivity. Internal and externally.
- \* More biodiversity in planting for play area.
- \* Restore Victorian feel with modern nod.
- \* Multifunctional seating.
- \* Unify park through consistent palette of materials/furniture.
- \* Improve wall – multifunctional use.
- \* Improve bandstand setting.
- \* Give trees more space.
- \* Succession planning for trees.
- \* Inclusion of a sensory garden.

### Workshop 2

#### Issues discussions

- \* Flooding does occur within the park. Needs to be signed.
- \* Signage to deal with no litter/dog fouling/ BBQs/ alcohol/ no swimming.
- \* Lack of events taking place in the park.
- \* Lack of public toilets.
- \* Do not reduce informal open space. Theses are very well used in summer, becomes very crowded.
- \* Open space near to the astro turf is poorly integrated/connected.
- \* No control of BBQs within the park.
- \* Conflict with cyclists. No one knows which path to be on.
- \* Poor lighting
- \* Unwelcoming entrance features to the park. Remove yellow gates.

#### The Big Moves discussion:

- \* Is there greater scope for community involvement to improve the park?
- \* Educating people to bring them on board with the park improvements.
- \* Provide a beach area to the river allow for paddling.
- \* Provide for fishing.
- \* Rationalise cycle/pedestrian movement along the tow path.
- \* Retain tree planting and ensure an appropriate management strategy. Emphasis on mature trees/succession planting. Ensure enough light.
- \* Improve biodiversity. Encourage swans
- \* Bike parking - more to be provided.

## Feedback Form Responses

**Name** Chris Butler

**Representing** Resident

- 1) Improve cycle/pedestrian movement along tow path. Move cycle to upper level and have lower level for pedestrians.
- 2) Preserve mature trees within northern area of the park.
- 3) Liked the idea of zone park into more defused character areas.

**Name** Mark Baynion-Glen

**Representing** Resident

- 1) Need better separation of pedestrians and cyclist.
- 2) Tree and hedge boundary to Kingstone Riverside flats:
  - Not too tall or dense because existing boundary hedges & trees attract anti-social behaviour or various kinds in and behind the hedges

## Post Consultation Comments

Saturday 11 May 2019

**Name** Kay Greenwood

**Representing** Local resident

- 1) I think the re-introduction of a traditional bowling club would be very good for the area.
- 2) The Pavilion could house and cater for both the tennis club and a bowls club - helping to bring the community together.





## 5.0

# Stage 2 - Masterplan Development

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The emerging design presented in this chapter has been informed by best practice, consultation and through a sound understanding of the gardens, including site constraints, opportunities and historic evolution.

It has included a period of design development and collaborative working with the design and client team in order to reflect on the consultation responses from the initial design workshops and to consider the baseline analysis conclusions outlined at Stage 1.

It is clear from this earlier work that the gardens have suffered degradation by continued piecemeal development over the years and the natural processes of erosion, which have combined to erode the rich historic character of the gardens.

The gardens are a well-loved green space that have an important amenity and recreational use, and provide a range of activities including a programme of events that help to connect the local community to the gardens. Retaining this important recreational character, whilst maintaining the infrastructure for events and activities has been an integral component of the masterplan development.

The masterplan draws on the earlier design principles established under the Riverside SDP and sets out a holistic vision for future landscape and public realm improvements to both protect and enhance the gardens for existing and future users. It also allows the framing of design discussions and further consultation with stakeholders and the community.

## Design Rationale

The key design principles underpinning the masterplan are illustrated on the design rationale drawing opposite. The principles aim to make the most of Canbury Gardens assets, whilst reinforcing the gardens unique heritage and qualities.

The principles are summarised below:

- \* To maximise both physical and visual connections to the river;
- \* To reinforce and enhance the existing active character area encompassing the pavilion, tennis courts and existing play area;
- \* To create welcoming and attractive entrances into the gardens;
- \* To improve the pedestrian connections with Kingston Town Centre and the wider area;
- \* To improve access to the riverfront and to reinforce the riverine character through the naturalisation of the river edge;
- \* To retain and protect the mature landscape character including the gardens fabric and existing trees;
- \* To improve the biodiversity of the gardens and to create opportunity for educational activities.
- \* To improve circulation and access for pedestrians and cyclists and to open up parts of the gardens that are not being used.



Open Riverine Landscape Character



Active / Community Hub



Existing Southern Entrance



Productive / Community Garden

## Canbury Gardens Design Rationale





## Illustrative Masterplan

The Gardens original identity has been eroded over the years due to the absence of an overall masterplan or vision to guide future development.

The Masterplan proposals seek to re-establish a clear identity for the Gardens through the reinforcement of the Gardens character through the inclusion of new interventions and the removal of elements that no longer have a purpose.

The stage 1 analysis and consultation responses highlighted a number of key issues to be addressed within the masterplan, these include:

- \* The removal of hard engineered edges along river frontage and inclusion of naturalised edges;
- \* To address conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists, particularly along the river edge;
- \* To create more welcoming entrances and to address issues of uncontrolled vehicle parking/access;
- \* To open up parts of the gardens that are not being well used and are leading to anti-social activity;
- \* To improve the setting and integration of the pavilions with the Gardens;
- \* To improve the setting of the existing café space;
- \* To explore options to better connect the community garden with the wider Garden;area;
- \* To improve pedestrian circulation through the park and to surrounding areas;
- \* To protect and enhance the historic park fabric.
- \* To improve the setting and age range of the existing play area.

Through the design development process existing Garden initiatives have been considered and integrated into the vision, these initiatives / proposals include:

- \* New garden signage and information boards for park entrances;
- \* Proposals from Kingston Rowing Club to extend storage behind the clubhouse;
- \* Proposals for outside gym equipment to be located near the existing MUGA.

The masterplan proposals are summarised on the following pages.



Illustrative Masterplan - July 2019



- ① Redesigned, welcoming entrance
- ② Remove cycletrack from towpath
- ③ Improved access between upper promenade and lower towpath
- ④ Naturalised river bank edge
- ⑤ Seating integrated within existing wall
- ⑥ New boundary planting
- ⑦ River meadow
- ⑧ Improved access between lower towpath
- ⑨ Enhanced Cafe seating area and setting
- ⑩ Refurbished community building
- ⑪ Growing area & community orchard
- ⑫ New public entrance improving access to the east side of the park
- ⑬ New pedestrian path
- ⑭ Bandstand setting
- ⑮ Outdoor gym and table tennis
- ⑯ New accessible footpath link
- ⑰ Enhanced setting to pavilion buildings
- ⑱ Relocated and improved entrance
- ⑲ New path network and seating (Existing entrance relocated 18.)
- ⑳ Relocated, enlarged feature play space
- ㉑ New shared footpath/cycle route
- ㉒ Path realigned and new seating terrace
- ㉓ Footpath enhancements to rear of Boaters PH
- ㉔ Naturalised river bank edge
- ㉕ Open grassy lawn space
- ㉖ Re-designed welcoming Northern Garden entrance

River Thames

River Thames



24

22

21

23

19

24

25

27

26

16

18

19

20

17

Lower Ham Rd

Lower Ham Rd

Lower Ham Rd

Woodside

Bank Ln



## Masterplan Proposals

The masterplan proposals as illustrated on the masterplan overleaf are summarised below.

1. Redesigned southern park entrance to create strong welcoming entrance into the park with entrance markers, stone paving, space for mobile kiosks, seating and simple planting.
2. Existing cycle path from towpath removed to create pedestrian only towpath with upper promenade route converted into a shared use pedestrian / cycle path.
3. Improved access between upper promenade and lower towpath through the installation of stepped ramps where gaps in the Plane trees allow.
4. Naturalised river bank edge: Removal of sections of hard, engineered edge and replace with rubble edge and planting to improve biodiversity and habitat along river.
5. Long timber / stone seating set into sections of wall along towpath level.
6. Replace tall growing Cherry Laurel shrubs along garden boundary with lower, low maintenance shrubs and ground cover, that will also improve biodiversity.
7. Creation of attractive river meadow area incorporating seating and lawn areas.
8. Improved connection between upper promenade and lower towpath through the installation of stepped ramps opposite Cherry Ave entrance.
9. Improved appearance and external space to cafe with new boundary treatment and paved terrace, replacing worn grass areas.
10. Refurbished existing building to support community use of the gardens, incorporating toilet and kitchenette.
11. Growing area and community orchard: Growing area can be expanded into the unmanaged area, with a community orchard.
12. New public entrance improving access to the east side of the park: Either relocate or reduce existing green-waste area to enable a new, welcoming, main public entrance - opening access to the 'recreation' area of the park.
13. New access path: To be open, woodland character, with ground flora understory to maintain a bright and welcoming open feel into the recreation and outdoor gym area
14. Enhanced bandstand setting to raise the profile of the bandstand including seating, paths and planting.
15. Outdoor gym and table tennis co-located with the new pitch, to increase activity in this under-used area of the park. To be set in a designed landscape to encourage use by all.
16. New accessible gradient path to link upper and lower park levels. Shrubbery thinned to improve intervisibility, and views to the river.
17. Pavilions: Enlarged outdoor space, garden and toddler play provision, including new boundary treatment to improve the setting of the pavilions, and enable more use and improved appearance of the outside areas.
18. Relocate and improve entrance to relieve compaction around the two mature American oak trees, created by proximity of existing play area and entrance location. Relocated entrance to be welcoming, open and accessible with rationalised paths, and signage.
19. New path network and seating to better connect upper and lower areas of the Gardens and improve access and use of the east side of the park. Picnic and outdoor table tennis tables set within perennial wildflower meadow/long grass and low planting.
20. Relocated and enlarged play area and entrance: Relocate and enlarge the play area to the larger, open sunny lawn area. Redesigned with landform, planting, seating and new timber equipment to supplement relocated existing equipment. 900mm high railings, with self closing gates. Perimeter low planting to soften appearance and maximise biodiversity.
21. New shared footpath/cycle route to improve links through the Gardens.
22. Potential for new riverside seating terrace in front of pub.
23. Rear of Boaters Inn: Paths rationalised and realigned to remove duplicate paths, blind corners and respond to desire routes around the pub and from the existing park entrance to the river. Overgrown shrubs/small trees removed and rear of pub screened, and re-planted to improve setting of the 'back of house' area, making the area brighter and removing competition to the mature Plane Tree. Potential minor increase to area behind the rowing club, for boat storage.
24. Naturalised river bank edge including the removal of sections of hard engineered edge and replacement with rubble edge, including fishing pegs and planting to improve biodiversity and habitat along the river.
25. Open grassy lawn: Open, natural setting with wide open views retained. Minor landform modification and reduction in ground levels to create additional water retention, and a seasonally wet meadow that will be dry and usable in dry weather. Boundary treatment made consistent, repaired, & width of rosebed reduced with gaps replanted.
26. Northern entrance: redesign with simple, natural, beach character, new vehicle gates and timber bollards, seating and welcoming signage. Vehicular access to boat/rowing club retained.
27. Boundary treatment made consistent, repaired, & width of rosebed reduced with gaps replanted.

## Footpath Connections and Circulation

There is an extensive network of footpaths across the Gardens, however, many of these are now redundant and are remnants of previous circulation connected to historic uses and garden features. Other parts of the site are underused due to the absence of any formal footpaths, particularly the area around the new MUGA court which is leading to anti-social activity, primarily as a result of being disconnected from the rest of the Gardens.

The plan opposite shows the existing footpath circulation and new connections / improvements proposed through the masterplan, which will assist with improving access and circulation and the opening up of underused parts of the Gardens.

Significant changes include a new circulation network around the new play area resulting in the relocation of the existing pedestrian access point off Lower Ham Road and the creation of a new pedestrian entrance and footpath connections to the south eastern corner of the Gardens, replacing the green waste store area. Adjustments are also shown to a section of the shared cycle route, which removes the blind corner around the rowing club and directs cyclists on a more direct route towards Lower Ham Road and the northern entrance.

## Tree Removals

The overall tree structure through the gardens is good, and there are a number of significant mature trees including the plane tree avenue along the upper towpath that date back to the early garden layout.

A tree management strategy should be implemented across the gardens to ensure that a good and healthy tree cover is maintained.

A number of trees have developed from, former specimen shrubs and are now impacting the health of mature specimens.

The plan opposite illustrates the trees that should be removed for either on health or design reasons linked to the masterplan proposals.



Existing and New footpaths



Tree removals plan

- Existing path retained
- - - Existing path removed
- New path

- Existing trees to be removed

## People and Place

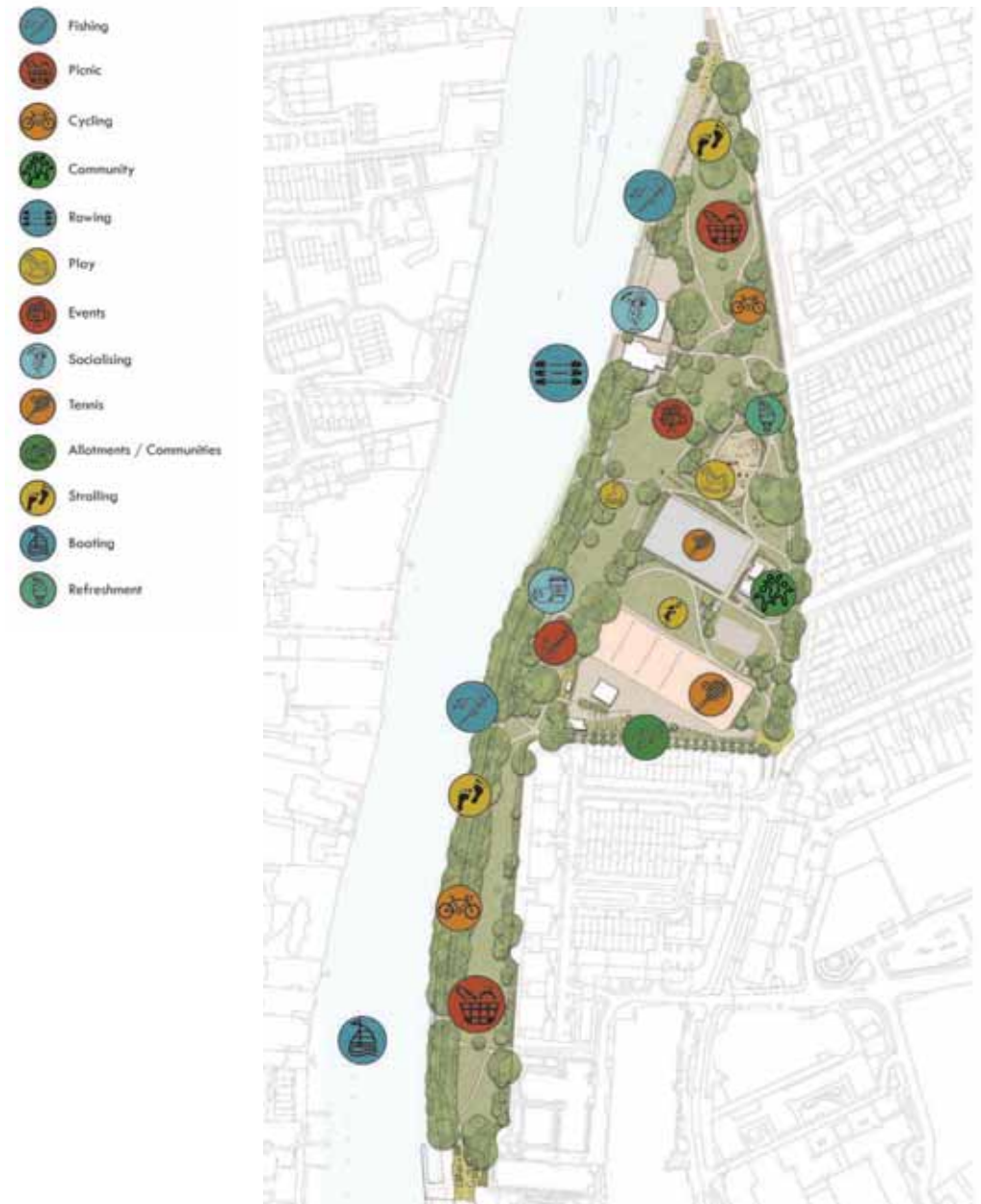
Canbury Gardens is a well-used and popular, multi-functional green space with a distinct history and the understanding of the extensive range of different Garden users and the demographic, and how the gardens are currently being used has been central to the development of the masterplan.

The Gardens hosts a wide range of events throughout the year that contribute to the social life and vitality of the park and its services. Some of the events hosted within the gardens include:

- \* Outdoor cinemas
- \* Canbury Bandstand Concerts
- \* Dragon Boat Race

The proposals have been developed to balance these existing uses within the new vision, reinforcing and maintaining the connection between the Gardens and the people that use it.

The range of different users and activities with the Gardens is summarised on the following diagram.





1. Fishing off riverbank
2. Dragon boat event
3. Canbury Secret Cafe
4. Social gatherings
5. Outdoor cinema
6. Garden music concerts
7. Lounging/recreation
8. Tennis
9. Community Garden

## Canbury Gardens River Meadow Space Design Options

As part of the design development process options for designing the river meadow space at the southern end of the Gardens were considered.

3 different options were explored as illustrated on the following pages. These options started to explore how this space could be broken up into different rooms or designed to create a wilder more aesthetic part of the Gardens.

Following discussion with the team and the design review panel it was concluded given the shortage of green lawn space during peak times that this area should be left as it currently is and options for integrating seating and enhancements to the boundary edge treatment should be the focus.



Option 1 -Series of Rooms



### Canbury Gardens River Meadow Space Design Options



Option 2- River Meadow



Option 3 - Retained Lawn Area with seating



## Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation at Stage 2 has included both stakeholder, statutory consultees and public/community consultation, building on the earlier consultation carried out in May 2019. The outreach aspect was undertaken by Richmond Environment Trust (RET) who advertised the consultation event and discussed the masterplan further with various groups. Consultation undertaken at this stage is summarised below:

### Officer Meeting

The masterplan was presented to Officers in order to explain the principles and to allow an understanding on the key design decisions underpinning the design.

### Design Review

The illustrative masterplan and supporting information were presented to the Design Review Panel on the 24th July 2019. Overall, the design was well received with the primary comments being focused around two main issues which are summarised below.

1. The panel questioned whether the location of the new play area is in the right location or should it be re-positioned within the main lawn area closer to the existing garden café.
2. The panel also explored the consultation process and encouraged a wider consultation process that captured a greater demographic.

The responses to these two points is outlined below:

Locating the play area within the green lawn space would impact on the overall green character and use of this part of the Gardens, and in order to avoid the existing trees and bandstand it would need to become a linear play area and would impact on the open views towards the river, placing a more active element into a passive zone which would counteract the character area principles established.

It was also noted that the play area would sit uncomfortably in the space and impact on the setting of the bandstand.

The idea of including a set down point for a pop up coffee point, which could potentially bring in some additional revenue to the Gardens was discussed, and options for identifying the preferred location for this to occur are to be considered and integrated within the emerging design.

In response to comments on the consultation, it was explained that the first workshop event was thoroughly advertised, and that the next event would take the design to the people, through a range of different media and approaches, which is explained further in the report.

## CARA

Feedback from CARA supports the proposals for naturalising the river frontage and consider improvements to the appearance of the entrances and control of vehicles and parking at these locations including the rerouting of the cyclist path as a major priority.

### Environment Agency

Initial consultation comments from the EA is summarised below.

- \* The redevelopment of this site should contribute to enhancing the River Thames as a wildlife corridor and should not include features that will further fragment wildlife habitat;
- \* Recommends that any planting should be native, and ideally local species and any invasive, non-native species found should be removed;
- \* Advocate a larger ecological buffer/riparian corridor wherever possible, and this buffer should be managed for biodiversity so that it can act as a wildlife corridor.
- \* The location of any artificial lighting should be positioned with the river in mind – there should be no light spill onto the river as this will disrupt the natural nocturnal behaviours of a range of wildlife using and inhabiting the river and its corridor.
- \* Any surfaces, such as the shared use pedestrian and cycle path, should also be built using permeable materials.
- \* It will be necessary to demonstrate that any works proposed will not result in an increase in flood risk on the site or elsewhere

Further consultation and dialogue will be required as the design moves forward.

### Designing Out Crime Officer - Metropolitan Police Service CPIC

Comments have also been received from the Crime Officer, these are summarised below.

- \* Consider the use of lighting across the Gardens.
- \* The removal of the entrance barriers may allow caravan incursion or the chance of fly tipping.
- \* The design of the seating should cater for those with mobility issues.
- \* The shared footpath route needs to have clear demarcation between the pedestrian and cycle route to reduce possible conflict.
- \* Generally supportive of the new play space with gates and railings.

## Canbury Gardens Working Group

- \* The Masterplan should focus on practicalities and avoid grand expensive schemes.
- \* However, the idea of embellishing the bandstand with some planting around it was a good one.
- \* There was a need for the whole plan to be environmentally tested.
- \* There was scope for some wildflower planting amidst sections of unmowed long grass.
- \* There was a need for some clearance of self-planted shrubs and undergrowth under trees.
- \* There was a need for much more engagement with local community groups and more consultation.
- \* The most crucial issue was the repair and maintenance of the riverbank.
- \* At the Boaters' end, the cycle path should be moved to go around the back of the pub.
- \* These needed to be improved and there should be better linkage into the town at the south end.

## Community Garden - Comments from the Garden Coordinator

- \* Open access to the Community Garden of the sort the masterplan seemed to be looking for is not feasible, for reasons of security.

**CANBURY GARDENS**

**MASTERPLAN WORKSHOP**

Following the workshops undertaken in May we are now holding a further event to share with you the emerging proposals. Please come along and tell us your views and ideas to help shape the gardens future.

**Location:**  
KINGSTON ROWING CLUB  
CANBURY GARDENS

**Drop-in session between**  
12 - 8pm

**Date:**  
11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019

**Lower Ham Rd,  
Kingston upon Thames,  
KT2 5AU**

LODESIGN

Consultation flyer artwork

## Public Consultation Workshop – Number 2

Following on from the initial design workshops in May 2019, a second workshop was arranged on the 1st of August 2019 to present the emerging design vision for the gardens and to identify potential priority projects to take forward.

The format of the consultation event took the form of drop-in sessions between 12noon and 8PM, located at Kingston Rowing Club and at the Bandstand within the Gardens.

The use of two different venues allowed us to capture a broad spectrum of local opinion and encourage wide ranging discussion around the future of the Gardens. The event was well publicised via fliers, local news, websites and social media.

The advertisement process for the consultation is summarised below:

- \* Personal emails to key neighbourhood organisations: CARA and North Kingston Forum
- \* Maichimp mailing re 1 Aug to whole contact list
- \* Direct posts to Facebook forums: Mumsnet, Kingston Mums, Kingston Green Radio, Kingston Neighbourhood, Kingston Biodiversity Network.
- \* Completed online form: Radio Jackie
- \* Posted 1 Aug to twitter general list as below
- \* Posted 1 Aug Facebook event
- \* Environment Trust website 1 Aug event entered
- \* Twitter direct messages sent to list as below re 1 Aug
- \* Printed out laminated notices and posted in and around Canbury Gardens, discussed with passers-by, café staff, community garden visitors.
- \* Promoted on-line survey through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and email to stakeholders
- \* Acknowledged and forwarded to LDA comments from public following mailings and meetings

The workshop was well attended with over 150 people attending across the day. A full list of responses is included at Appendix 1 - (Consultation Responses).

Kingston Borough Council also posted on their website a link to the consultation documents and posted a number of questions. There were over 70 visitors to the site with only 12 responses being posted. The report from the consultation platform is included at Appendix 1.

**CANBURY GARDENS INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the second design workshop for Canbury Gardens. Following initial design workshops in May 2019, the workshop is intended to present the emerging design vision for the gardens and to identify potential priority projects to take forward. This workshop will discuss the design vision for the gardens and to identify potential priority projects to take forward.

**Project Background**

Canbury Gardens is a well-loved and popular green space with a hidden history. The Gardens are currently facing a range of challenges as the local population seeks to re-imagine the area. The consultation will help to identify and prioritise the projects to take forward.

**Priority Projects**

- IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY
- NEW BIODESIGN
- IMPROVED LANDSCAPE
- PLAYSPACE
- NEW PLAYERS AND ACTIVITIES
- CHANGING LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- LANDSCAPE GARDENS
- NEW CAFE
- LANDSCAPE
- NEW BIODESIGN
- IMPROVED LANDSCAPE
- CHANGING LANDSCAPE
- LANDSCAPE PLAY AREAS
- LANDSCAPE GARDENS

**Summary of Previous Consultation Feedback**

**Canbury Gardens**

- Improve accessibility
- New biodesign
- Improved landscape
- Play space
- New players and activities
- Changing landscape design
- Landscape gardens
- New cafe
- Landscape
- New biodesign
- Improved landscape
- Changing landscape
- Landscape play areas
- Landscape gardens

**The Big Green Revolution**

- Improve accessibility
- New biodesign
- Improved landscape
- Play space
- New players and activities
- Changing landscape design
- Landscape gardens
- New cafe
- Landscape
- New biodesign
- Improved landscape
- Changing landscape
- Landscape play areas
- Landscape gardens

**Site Character**

**CANBURY GARDENS GARDEN EVOLUTION**

The gardens were opened in 1891 as a result of the death of James Esdaile, founder and donor of Canbury Park Hospital. The garden layout was designed by the architect James Esdaile and the garden was built in 1891 on the garden plot of the hospital site and the garden was built in 1891 on the garden plot of the hospital site and the garden was built in 1891 on the garden plot of the hospital site.

**1896 OS Map**

**1885 OS Map**

**1890 OS Map**

**1913 OS Map**

**1920 OS Map**

**1954 / 1974 OS Map**

**CANBURY GARDENS ILLUSTRATIVE MASTERPLAN**

**Masterplan**

- New path network and seating
- New cafe
- New play area
- New landscape
- New biodesign
- New landscape
- New play area
- New cafe
- New path network and seating
- New landscape
- New biodesign
- New landscape
- New play area
- New cafe

**CANBURY GARDENS PRIORITY PROJECTS**

**Priority Projects**

- New path network and seating
- New cafe
- New play area
- New landscape
- New biodesign
- New landscape
- New play area
- New cafe
- New path network and seating
- New landscape
- New biodesign
- New landscape
- New play area
- New cafe



Consultation Event at Kingston Rowing Club - 1st August 2019



Consultation Event at Kingston Rowing Club - 1st August 2019



Consultation Comments (1st August Event)

## Priority Projects

The masterplan sets out a holistic vision for future landscape and public realm improvements to be delivered within Canbury Gardens. These improvements will be delivered through a range of different projects connected to potential future funding availability.

9 separate projects across the Gardens have been identified. The projects vary in scale, complexity and cost and together form a holistic vision for the Gardens. The location and extent of these projects is illustrated opposite and a summary describing the projects is included on the following pages:

In order to assist with informing the selection of which projects should be prioritised and taken forward by the council, the range of potential projects was presented at the recent consultation event and members of the public and stakeholders were asked for their views by placing a coloured sticker in order of priority under the projects that they would most like to see taken forward.

For the purposes of this exercise red represents the first priority project, blue the second choice and green the 3rd choice priority.

The results of this consultation are included below:

### Priority Projects Consultation Summary

Project Number	Red	Blue	Green
1 - Southern Entrance	10	8	9
2 - Northern Entrance	5	9	11
3 - Bandstand and Secret Café	4	3	8
4 - Naturalisation of River Bank	28	14	9
5 - New Eastern Entrance	2	7	2
6 - New Play Area Space	9	4	13
7 - Community Garden	8	10	5
8 - Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route	23	14	6
9 - Enhancing Pavilion Setting	5	4	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>68</b>

Based on the order of priority approach taken, the voting results indicated a clear preference for enhancing and naturalising the river frontage, followed in second place by implementation of the shared pedestrian cycle route and river frontage improvements. Creation of the new play space was identified as the third priority.

### LEGEND

- Southern Entrance
- Northern Entrance
- Bandstand and Secret Café
- Naturalisation of River Bank
- New Eastern Entrance
- New Play Area Space
- Community Garden
- Shared Pedestrian and Cycle
- Enhancing Pavilion Setting



Priority Projects Key Plan - NTS

### Project 1: Southern Entrance



The proposals include the creation of a new welcoming entrance comprising:

- \* A new paved space with seating planters and with a strong sense of arrival;
- \* The removal of vehicles and barriers and provision of cycle parking;
- \* Seating, signage and planting; and
- \* Improved connection to Kingston Town Centre.



Precedent Images

### Project 2: Northern Entrance



The proposals include the creation of a new welcoming entrance to the North of the Gardens, which comprises:

- \* A new naturalised space with a strong sense of place and arrival;
- \* Greater control of vehicles and parking with controlled access to the Gardens;
- \* Seating, signage and planting; and
- \* Changes to pedestrian and cyclist circulation to remove conflicts.



Precedent Images

### Project 3: Bandstand and Secret Cafe



The proposals include an enhanced setting to the Bandstand to better connect it within the Gardens and comprises:

- \* A new planted surround;
- \* New footpaths links and surfacing; and
- \* Seating and lighting.



Precedent Images

### Project 4: Naturalisation of River Bank



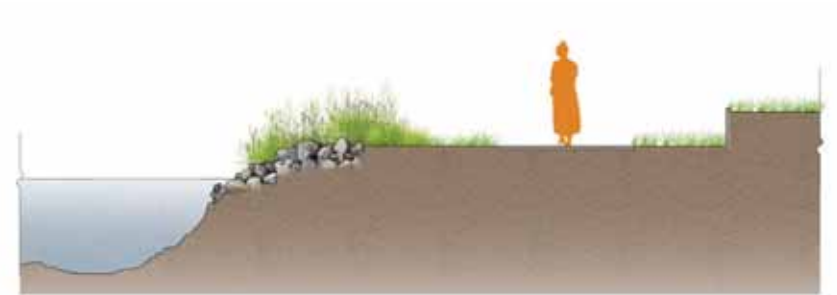
The proposals include the removal of engineered river bank edges and establishment of naturalised sections to improve the Gardens biodiversity and ecology. Improvements comprise:

- \* Pedestrian only access;
- \* Naturalised river bank edge focused on biodiversity;
- \* New river edge access/beaches;
- \* New surfacing and enhanced access with upper path; and
- \* New seating integrated along existing wall.



Precedent Images

### River Edge treatment - Design Options.



Edge treatment - Loose Rock edge



Edge treatment - Gabion Box



Edge treatment - Natural Fascines





### Project 5: New Eastern Entrance



The proposals include the creation of new pedestrian access to open up areas of the gardens that are underused and to improve circulation. Improvements comprise:

- \* Improved access into Gardens, removing the dead end space;
- \* Re-location of garden green store;
- \* New surfacing, lighting, planting and seating; and
- \* New footpath connections.

### Project 6: New Play Area Space



The proposals include the creation of new feature play space, replacing the existing constrained play area. Improvements comprise:

- \* Relocation of existing play area;
- \* Provision of new feature play space;
- \* Improved accessibility;
- \* New footpath network, removing existing entrance; and
- \* Creation of picnic area.

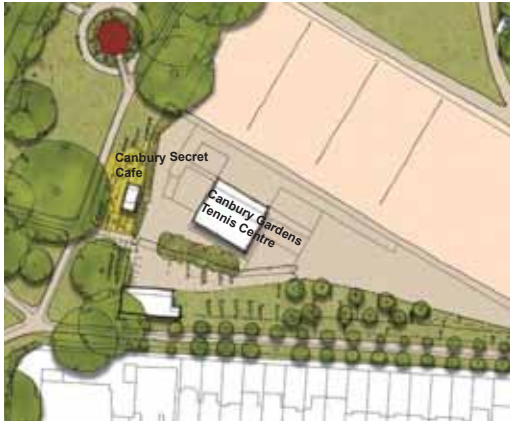


Precedent Images



Precedent Images

### Project 7: Community Garden



The proposals include the creation of an enhanced community space that is better integrated with the Gardens. Improvements comprise:

- \* Refurbished mess building;
- \* New orchard extending to eastwards;
- \* Improved relationship with gardens; and
- \* Expanded growing area.



Precedent Images

### Project 8: Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route



The proposals include the removal of cyclists from the rivers edge and the creation of a shared pedestrian/cyclist route through the Gardens. Improvements comprise:

- \* Realignment of route around P.H. to remove blind corner;
- \* New surfacing / demarcation and wayfinding; and
- \* Removal of cyclists from riverside promenade.



Precedent Images

## Project 9: Enhancing Pavilion Setting



The proposals include enhancing the setting of the existing Pavilions and creation of a larger outdoor space whilst improving the connection with the Gardens. Improvements comprise:

- \* Enlarged outdoor space and toddler area;
- \* Existing high fences replaced with lower/softer boundary;
- \* Outdoor gym area associated with MUGA;
- \* Existing gate removed and new footpath circulation added; and
- \* New footpaths links to pavilion and MUGA.



Precedent Images

## Priority Projects Order of Cost

An initial cost review of the different projects has been undertaken to assist with understanding the level of capital works required and to help inform decisions around which projects should be taken forward.

A summary of the order of costs for each project is outlined below:

Project 1: Southern Entrance	£185,036.00
Project 2: Northern Entrance	£192,587.00
Project 3: Bandstand and Secret Café	£78,975.00
Project 4: Naturalisation of River Bank	£722,586.00
Project 5: New Eastern Entrance	£134,550.00
Project 6: New Play Area Space	£514,800.00
Project 7: Community Garden	£140,354.00
Project 8: Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Route	£280,800.00
Project 9: Enhancing Pavilion Setting	£140,400.00

The above figures are based on the level of design resolution reached and include the main contractors overhead, profit and preliminaries but exclude consultant fees and VAT.

### Recommendations for Priority Projects

The consultation provided many comments that cut across the separate priority projects, that were 'voted' on individually. Therefore it is not simply a matter of carrying out one or two of the priority projects as listed above. To create the best value in the park, given the available budget and address its issues as far as possible, the following approach was recommend:

- \* Carry out sections of riverbank naturalisation, to act as trials, and addresses the problems of subsidence along the river walk. These will also enable the monitoring of the newly planted vegetation which are vulnerable to wildfowl, to determine the best approach.
- \* Re-designate the cycle path to the upper towpath to create a shared route.
- \* Progress designs for the eastern entrance. This will encourage use of the park by creating accessible, new entrances to connect the underused areas of the park on the eastern side for the new and existing developments to the east.
- \* Progress designs for the southern entrance, to better connect the park with Kingston town centre
- \* Investigate some additional 'natural play' to the area identified for the new, relocated play area. This can extend the play value into this area of the park.



## 6.0

# Stage 3 - Design Development

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The Stage 2 report and priority project recommendations were presented to a group comprising Officers and Councillors on the 4th October 2019. There was consensus agreement that these recommendations should be developed further to allow a greater understanding of the design, complexities and options.

This stage of the project explains the design development work that has been undertaken on the following selected projects:

- \* Riverbank naturalisation.
- \* Proposals for the Eastern and Southern entrances.
- \* Inclusion of additional 'natural play' to the area identified for the new play area.

In addition to the design development of the priority projects, this stage has also included development and updates to other areas, including the sensory garden and outdoor gym, in order to respond to comments / feedback from consultation and technical meetings, but also to allow an understanding of how these initiatives could integrate within the overall masterplan / vision.

There are a number of other important projects that contribute to the overall masterplan, some of which overlap with the projects identified above, however, given the scope of this project, the design for these would be progressed as separate future projects.

Stage 3 Final Illustrative Masterplan - (November 2019)



- ① Redesigned, welcoming southern entrance space
- ② Widened and improved towpath with pedestrian priority
- ③ Improved access between upper promenade and lower towpath through provision of new steps
- ④ Naturalised river bank edge
- ⑤ Seating integrated within and along existing wall
- ⑥ New / enhanced boundary planting
- ⑦ River meadow space including minor ground modification to allow potential future flooding storage potential
- ⑧ Improved access between lower towpath
- ⑨ Enhanced Cafe seating area and setting
- ⑩ Refurbished building
- ⑪ Growing area and community orchard
- ⑫ New public entrance and space improved access to the east side of the garden
- ⑬ New garden space at eastern entrance with seating, natural play, education area and connecting pedestrian footpath
- ⑭ Bandstand setting enhanced with planting, seating and surfacing
- ⑮ Outdoor gym and table tennis
- ⑯ New accessible footpath link
- ⑰ Sensory garden space and enhanced setting to pavilion buildings
- ⑱ Relocated entrance
- ⑲ New path network and seating (Existing entrance relocated 18.)
- ⑳ Relocated, enlarged feature play space
- ㉑ New shared footpath/cycle route connected to existing
- ㉒ New structure planting and pedestrian footpath
- ㉓ New footpath connecting eastern entrances to northern entrance and river
- ㉔ Footpath enhancements to rear of Boaters PH and Rowing club
- ㉕ Open grassy lawn event space retained
- ㉖ Redesigned northern garden entrance space
- ㉗ New riverside social deck/terrace
- ㉘ Riverside edge access decks / pontoons



River Thames

Boaters PH  
Kingston Rowing Club

Tennis Courts

LOWER HAM ROAD



28

28

15

27

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78

# Masterplan Design



Location of principal design changes between stages 2 and 3

The Canbury Garden masterplan has evolved from the initial stage 2 masterplan.

The design changes reflect the conclusions of consultation, officer and member comments and a period of design development.

The location of the masterplan changes / development between Stages 2 and 3 are illustrated on the plan opposite and are summarised below:

- \* Design development to the Southern Entrance space and creation of a new green gateway space to the gardens with seating and planting;
- \* Improvements to the River Thames towpath, including footpath widening, naturalised edges and seating provision;
- \* Provision of access, social and fishing decks along river edge, linked to the location of hard engineered edges;
- \* Enhancements to outdoor café setting and seating space;
- \* Design adjustments to new eastern gateway space and connecting footpaths and provision of a new green space at entrance, linked to adjacent wildlife area;
- \* Inclusion of outdoor gym equipment associated with MUGA space;
- \* Addition of Sensory Garden to rear of Pavilion building and enhanced setting to existing Pavilion;
- \* Provision of structure planting to tennis court surround;
- \* Redesigned vehicular access to Rowing club and link to northern Garden entrance;
- \* New seating near play area incorporated and provision of access location for mobile coffee van.

A number of projects within the masterplan have been selected as projects to develop, including The Southern Entrance space, Eastern Entrance and the Riverbank Naturalisation and these areas have been developed in greater detail, which has been reflected within the updated masterplan.



## Sensory Garden Design

Proposals to develop a sensory garden to the rear of the Pavilion have been put forward by the local community and the masterplan has been developed to integrate this concept.

A sensory garden is a garden area, usually self-contained, that allows a wide range of visitors to engage with a range of sensory experiences through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing. They are designed to provide opportunities to stimulate the senses and have a wide range of educational and recreational applications alongside health and wellbeing benefits.

A high level design layout for the sensory garden has been developed that breaks down into a series of different sensory rooms, connected by a footpath and integrating seating to allow an immersive sensory experience. The intention is that the garden would be integrated with the wider gardens, with low hedges and railings helping to provide a sense of enclosure and self-closing gates allowing access for all throughout the year.

Sketch proposals are illustrated opposite and precedent images included below.

Precedent Images



Sensory Trial



Colour



Texture



Sound

- ① Sensory garden spaces
- ② Connecting footpath
- ③ Seating



Sensory Garden Concept Diagram

## Natural Play (Interim Proposal)

Increased population growth in the surrounding area is and will continue to place increased pressure on the existing play area, particularly given its limited age range offer and its constrained location.

Central to the masterplan is the future proposed play area space, which presents the opportunity to create a feature play space that functions both at a local level and as a wider draw, and which addresses age range limitations associated with the existing play space and the ground compaction issues impacting the health of the existing mature trees along Lower Ham Road.

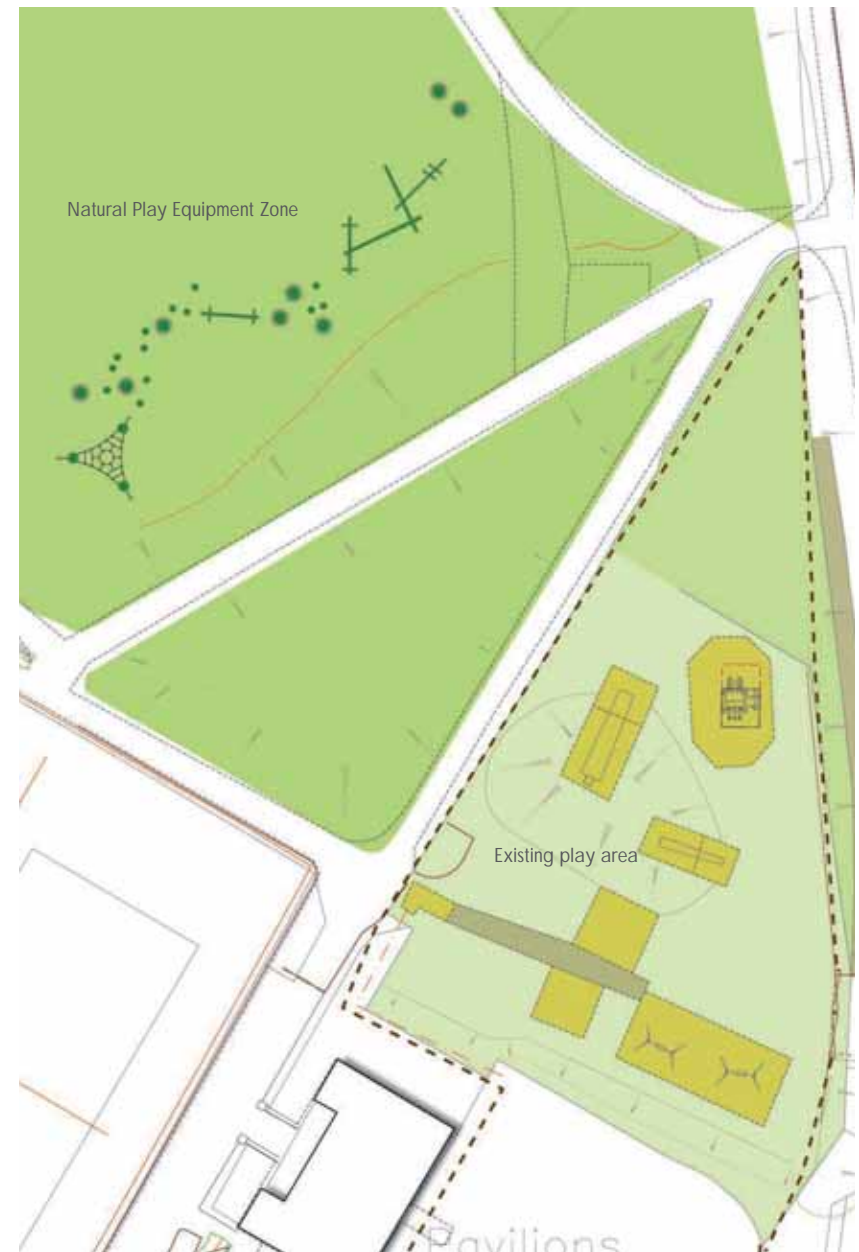
Consultation responses emphasised the desire to introduce natural play elements into the Gardens to improve the play offer and age range. Given that the new play area is a longer term project it was agreed that opportunities for inclusion of natural play as a stepping stone to the new play space should be explored.

Designed natural play encourages children to interact with natural elements of the environment in an imaginative way. It has a range of health and well-being benefits and will also integrate better with the garden's environment and green context.

The plan opposite and supporting images illustrate natural play provision and typical play equipment in the proposed future play space site.



Natural Play Equipment



Existing Play Area and Proposed Location of Natural Play Equipment

## Natural Play Precedents



1. Play feature re-using reclaimed tree trunks from site
2. Balance beams
3. Stepping stone from reclaimed timber
4. Stepping stone trail
5. Picnic table/seating

## Outdoor Gym

Funding and planning has been secured to deliver outdoor gym equipment. The proposal illustrated opposite has been developed to show how this equipment can be better integrated into the recreational space near the existing MUGA along side additional provision of outdoor tennis tables and structure planting, to create more of a recreational focused space connected by new footpath links.

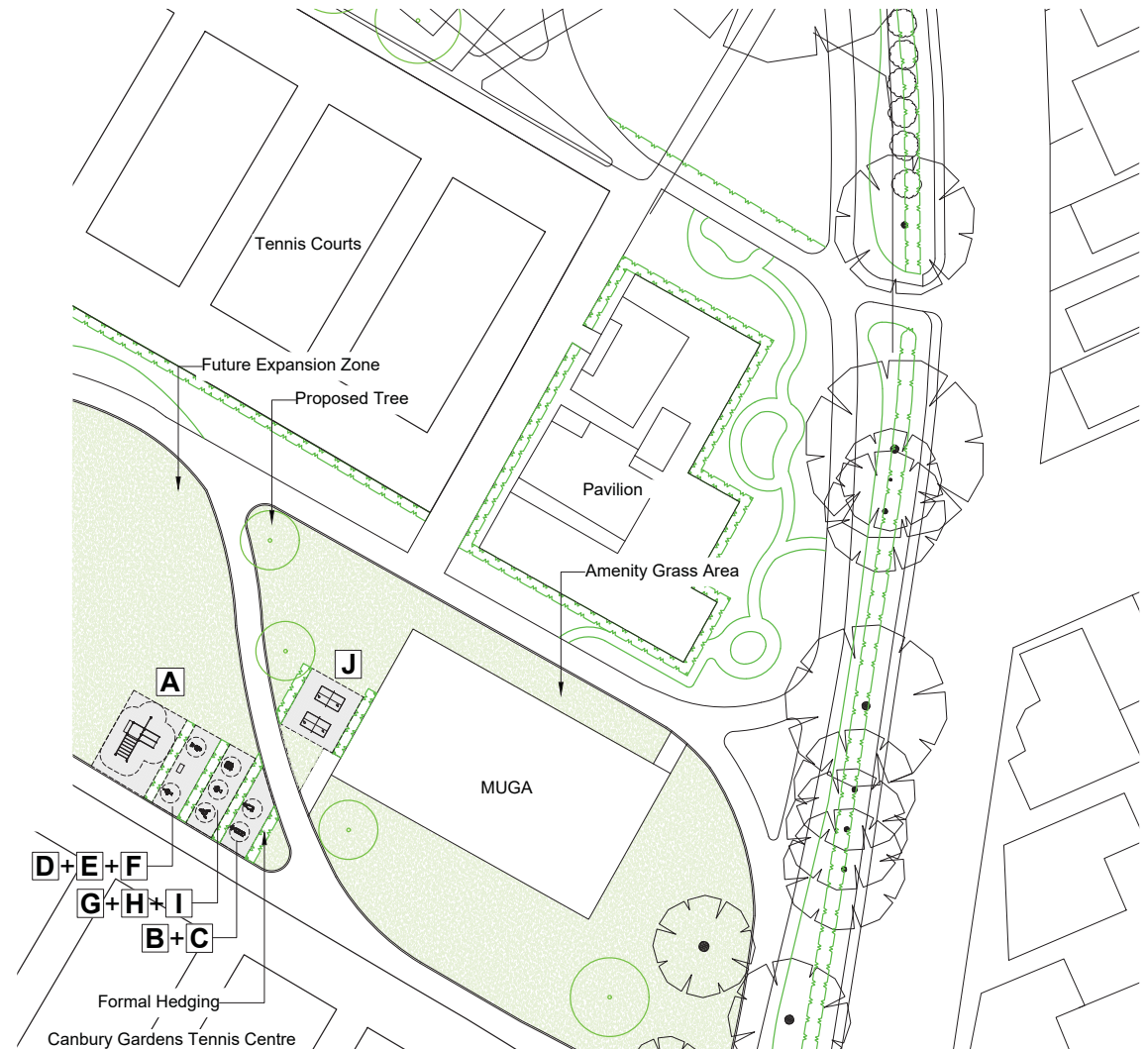
The proposals create a more integrated design that places the gym equipment within a series of smaller connected spaces which are accessed off the main path and are bounded by low hedges to create enclosure and structure. These smaller spaces allow the gym equipment to be more sensitively integrated within the garden's green character.

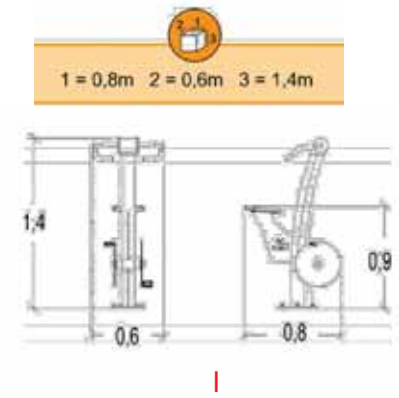
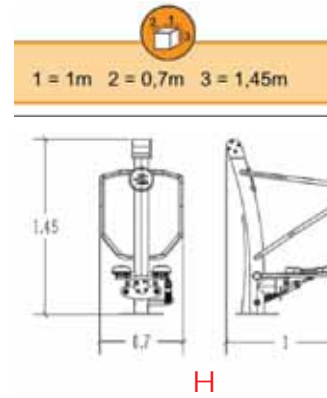
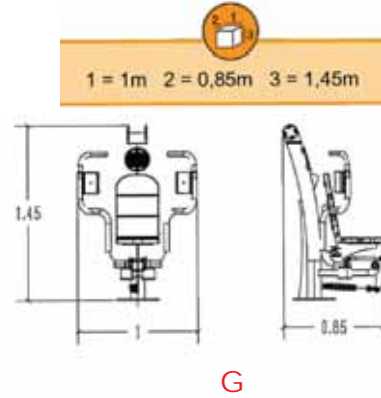
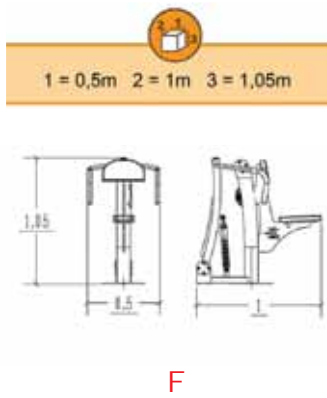
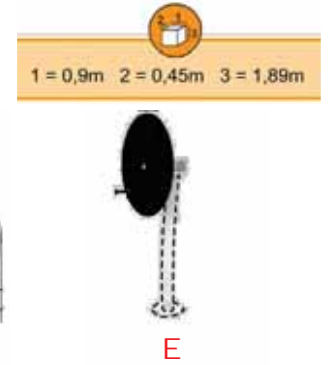
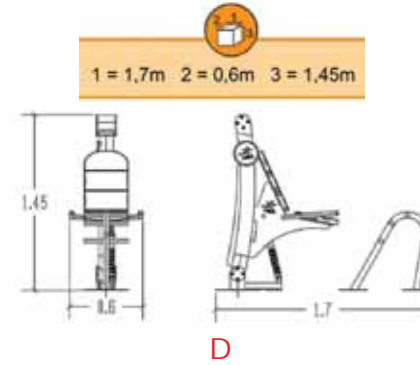
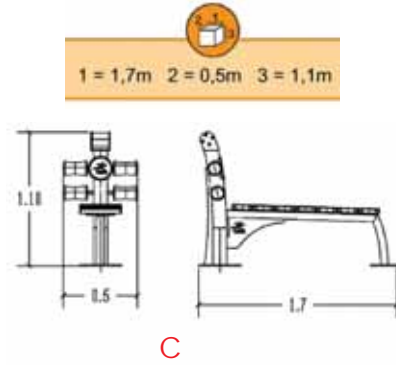
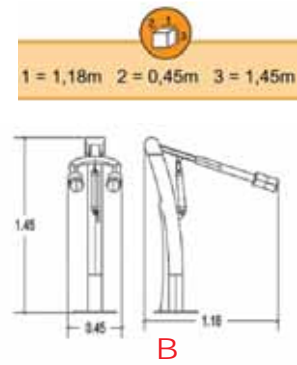


Precedent image of integrated gym equipment

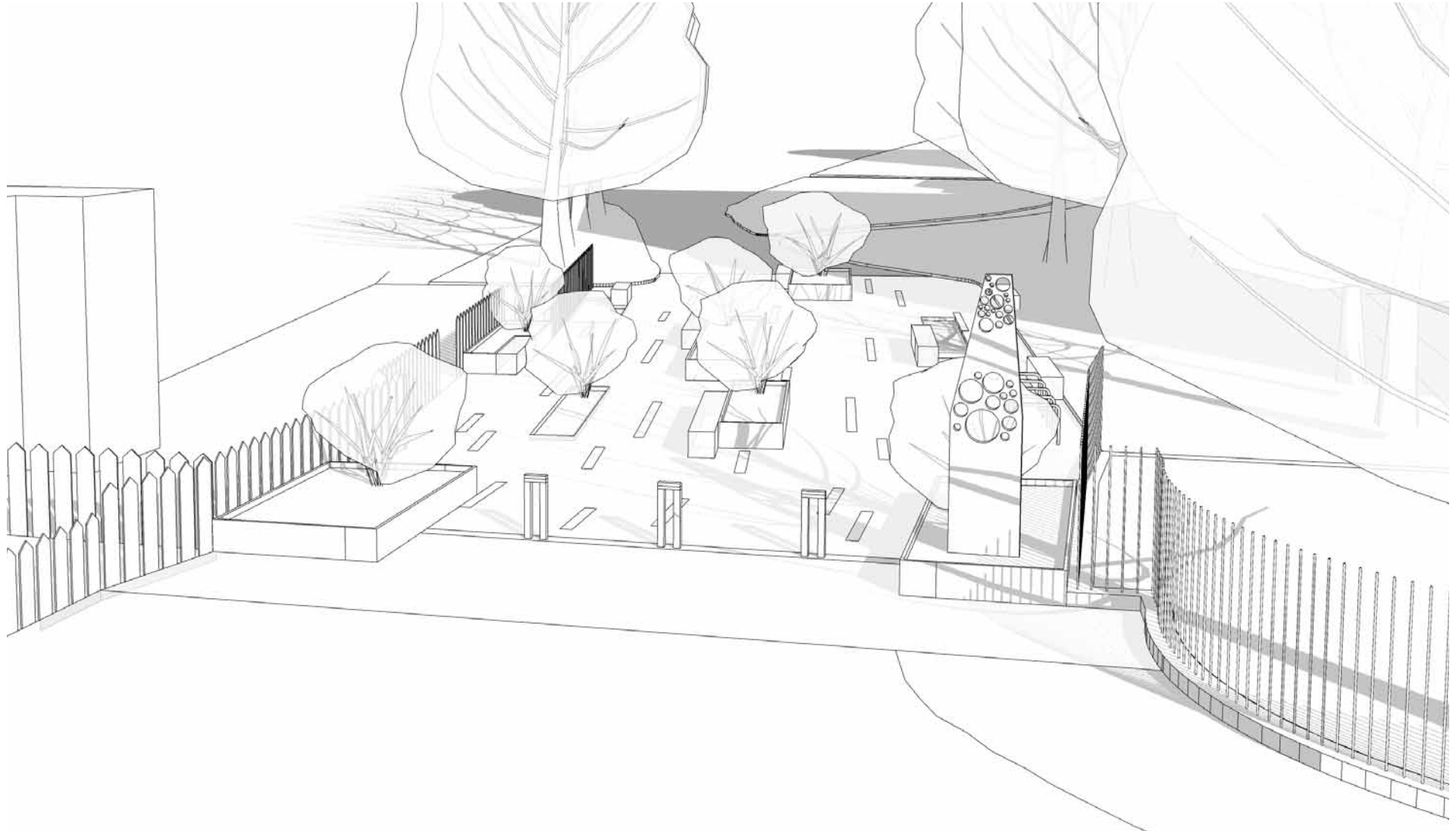
### LEGEND

- A** Street Fitness  
Ref: J5200A, Urbanix Outdoor Gym
- B** Hydraulic Squat  
Ref: R37-UBX-217B
- C** Abs Bench  
Ref: R37-UBX-223B
- D** Hydraulic Leg Press  
Ref: R37-UBX-215B
- E** Shoulder Wheel  
Ref: R37-UBX-286B
- F** Hydraulic Rowing Trainer  
Ref: R37-UBX-290B
- G** Hydraulic Butterfly  
Ref: R37-UBX-208B
- H** Hydraulic Stepper  
Ref: R37-UBX-292B
- I** Spinning Bicycle  
Ref: R37-UBX-289B
- J** Table Tennis





# Southern Entrance Design



## Southern Entrance

Improvements to the southern gateway space were outlined in the Riverside Public Realm SPD and have been developed through the design process and consultation outlined within this report. The objectives included improving the quality of the space and the connection between Kingston town centre and the gardens.

This space has a crucial role and forms the main threshold / entrance to the south, however, at present the space lacks any real sense of place, character or uses, and is often dominated by parking which contributes to the space feeling like an extension to the carriageway, as opposed to an inviting pedestrian space appropriate to the green garden setting.



Connection to Kingston town centre and unauthorised parking



Completed public realm work to south of entrance space



Existing space character and appearance



Existing space character and appearance

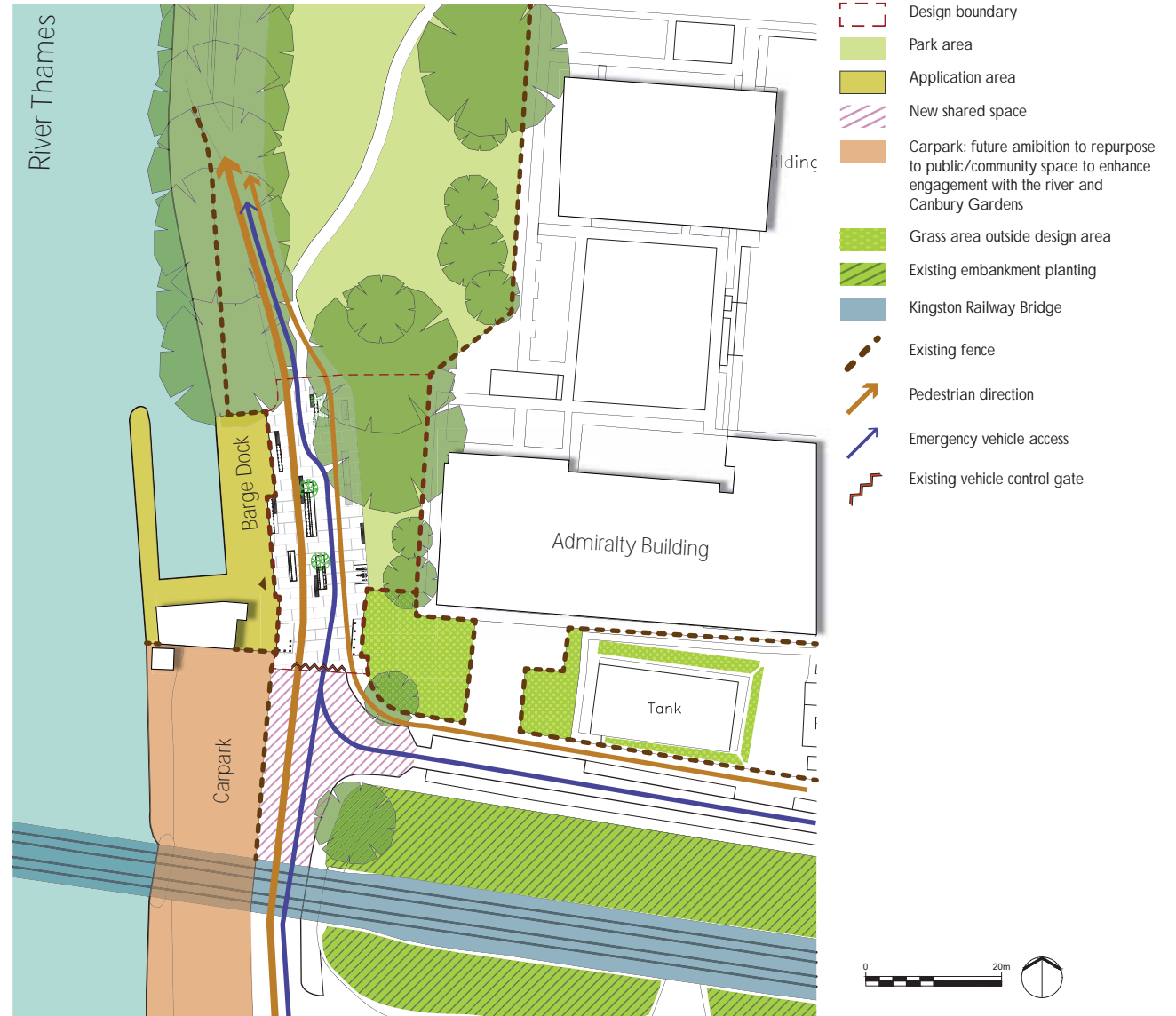


### Southern Entrance

The new design for this space will be required to respond to a number of design requirements / considerations, as summarised below:

- \* The interface with potential future development at the adjacent Barge Dock;
- \* Access provision for emergency / maintenance vehicles;
- \* Creation of a sense of arrival at the gardens;
- \* Creation of a space that forms a gateway space between Kingston Town and the gardens;
- \* Should assist with extending the garden character into the space to soften the space and enhance the link;
- \* Should be mindful of the adjacent residential development and facilitate access to the Barge Dock for boat users and the River Thames Boat Project;
- \* Tie into the completed shared space along Thameside;
- \* Should tie into the recently implemented public realm improvements to the south;
- \* Provision of cycle parking and Garden notice board; and
- \* Should address drainage positively through a sustainable drainage system;

This entrance also provides the most appropriate route into the Gardens for any future construction work that may be undertaken, and therefore the design will need to be flexible to allow for this.



Design Analysis



## Southern Entrance Design

The design seeks to create a strong sense of arrival at Canbury Gardens through the creation of a distinct shared entrance space that links the gardens green character with the urban context of the town centre.

This is reflected through a mosaic of linear planters, both raised and inground with integrated seating which combine to both reinforce pedestrian movement, and create opportunities for socialising, lounging or sitting through the provision of long timber seats integrated within or alongside the planters.

The inground planters are designed to act as rain gardens/SUDs to address the drainage across the space.

The raised planters have been designed as moveable elements, in order to allow flexibility for current and future vehicular access, and to allow the furniture to be reorganised to adapt the space for different activities, uses and events.

The surface materials will link visually with the recently completed public realm works to the south along Thameside, and will be integrated with a richer palette and careful detailing to create a sense of transition and arrival.

The planting would include a rich naturalistic style that draws inspiration from the riverine landscape and planting typologies, helping to give the space a real sense of context.

Collapsible bollards are proposed at the entrance to prevent unauthorised vehicular access into the space. The arrangement of planters and rain water gardens have been located to facilitate emergency and maintenance vehicle access. Cycle parking has been provided to the edge of the space.

Elegant modular post luminaries and lighting integrated within the planters help with orientation and with creating an attractive and inviting gateway space during the evening hours. The post luminaries acts as wayfinding markers and are highly versatile, allowing for the integration of WI-FI and CCTV and minimising street clutter.

The proposals align with the initial design rationale, creating a welcoming entrance space, whilst also improving circulation and pedestrian connections with Kingston town centre.



## Access and Movement

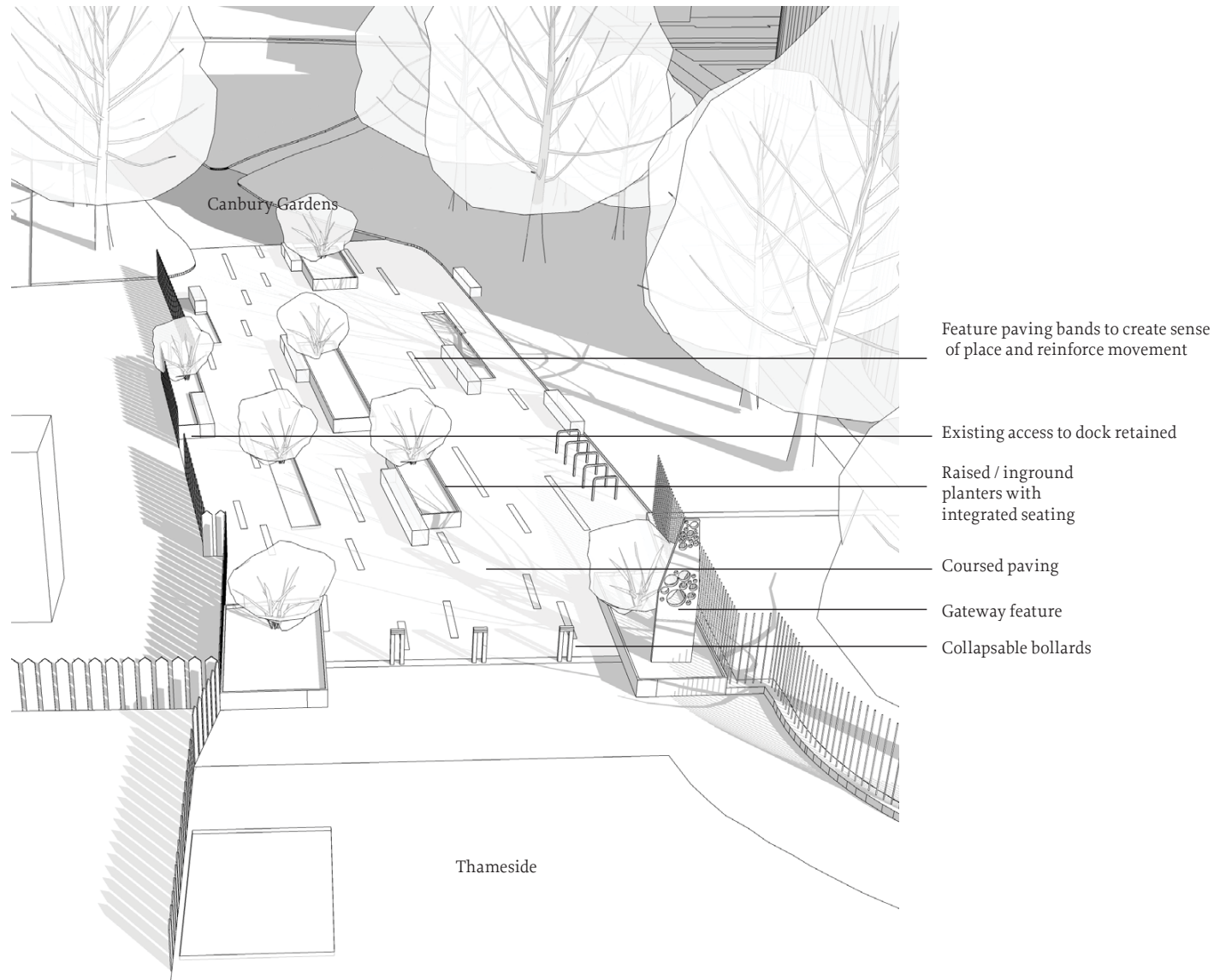
The Southern entrance space and wider cycle path through the gardens has been designed as a shared space, with the aspiration that cyclists and pedestrians act in a considerate manner to one another. This is an approach that the Royal Parks are currently embracing, to address concerns with segregated cycle paths within their parks and conflicts between pedestrians, and children and dogs in particular, as they are often not aware of the segregation.

The arrangement of the space has carefully considered the different users including cyclists, walkers, runners etc along with future vehicular access provision. The design allows good pedestrian flow through the space and between the planters.

The moveable and flexible nature of the planters is crucial in ensuring that the space can adapt to pedestrian flow changes and can be configured to cater for different uses.

A flush pedestrian priority space is envisaged to aid access and circulation and contrasting textured paving bands will further assist with guiding movement through the space.

Clear signage and transition paving is important to convey that the space has pedestrian priority.



Southern Entrance Design Development Perspective

## Southern Entrance Design Precedents



1. Linear seating and planting
2. Naturalised planting and integrated seating
3. Moveable planters
4. Seating decks
5. Coursed paving and inground planters



## South Entrance Gateway Structure

As part of the southern space design, options for inclusion of gateway piers or artwork structures have been considered in order to reinforce the entrance into the Gardens and act as a wayfinder / visual draws when moving from Kingston Town Centre towards the Gardens.

The materiality of these elements should draw upon the green garden and urban context and have reference to the historic evolution of the gardens. Examples of the type of artwork/structure envisaged are shown on the illustrative visualisation and within precedent images included opposite.

1. Burgess Park gateway feature
2. Corten steel gateway piers - Westgate Hull
3. Gunpowder Park Gateway feature
4. Gunpowder Park Gateway feature
5. Queens Promenade retaining element
6. Decorative planter, Westgate Oxford





Southern Entrance Sketch Visualisation - Including gateway piers



Southern Entrance Sketch Visualisation - Including entrance signage

# Naturalised River Edge Design



## River Bank Naturalisation

The landscape proposals for naturalising the riverbank build upon the principles established by the Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS), and the objectives set out within the SPD to deliver an ecological enhanced river edge.

The landscape design principles that underpin the design include:

- \* Riverbank naturalisation through the introduction of native planting;
- \* Habitat diversification;
- \* Creation of shallow beaches to improve access and habitat;
- \* Introduction of rock edges to minimise erosion and create refuge and spawning grounds for marine life; and
- \* To create an attractive and accessible route along the river edge.

The proposals also seek to reinforce the concept of transitioning from a harder / urban character to the south of the Gardens to a more naturalised landscape to the north.

The proposal include the removal of hard engineered riverbank edges where possible and establishment of naturalised sections to improve the Gardens biodiversity and ecology. Where sections of hard engineered edge cannot be removed due to outfall infrastructure, sections of decking or surface changes are proposed to assist with delivering a consistent and cohesive river edge and to facilitate opportunities to engage with the water's edge.

Improvements to the footpath surface are proposed to address the unevenness and eroded character and seating either set back from the waters edge or integrated with the existing low wall is proposed in addition to existing seating provision.

Sections of the low wall will need to be repaired, whilst other sections will have to be removed due to the impact of tree routes. Details of these options are included below.

To the north, the width of the bank widens allowing richer more extensive areas of naturalisation to be delivered.

The proposals align with the design rationale and aim to improve access to the river, whilst improving biodiversity and reinforcing the riverine character. The approach to the edges at the different locations are illustrated on the following pages.



Riverbank Naturalisation precedent images



## River Bank Naturalisation

### Rewilding Arcadia

The Canbury Gardens is one of the 6 strategic locations to enable natural flood management outlined in the Thames Landscape Strategy, Rewilding Arcadia (<http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Rewilding-Arcadia-pdf>).

The strategy supports the long-term sustainable management of the river to encourage access, resilience, understanding and enjoyment of the Thames floodplain. Central to its aims is to re-connect people and wildlife with water, through the enhancement, conservation and rewilding of the natural floodplain.

The strategy has been developed by Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS) who have been working to promote and enhance the wildlife, heritage features and recreational opportunities along the river.

Consultation with TLS has helped to shape the Canbury Gardens proposals for the riverbank naturalisation to ensure they are aligned with the aims and objectives of the Rewilding Arcadia Strategy.

The 6 strategic locations are shown on the Rewilding Arcadia plan opposite.

#### Rewilding Arcadia: Project Areas

1. Desborough Island and Shepperton
2. Hurst Park and Molesey Riverside
3. Home Park Water Meadows
4. Canbury Gardens Riverside
5. Ham and Petersham



Map showing the 6 natural flood management strategic locations extracted from the Rewilding Arcadia Strategy

## River Bank Naturalisation

### Existing Riverbank Condition

The consultation process undertaken at stage 1 and 2 showed significant support for the naturalisation of the riverbank and the creation of a pedestrian friendly /priority tow path along the waters edge.

More detailed analysis of the riverbank opposite has confirmed that the existing condition and type of the edge treatment varies along the length of the bank, reflexing available width, activities and surface water outfalls / drainage infrastructure.

Extensive erosion has occurred along sections of the existing soft bank edges due to the lack of maintenance and edge protection which has in parts begun to undermine the bank and tow path.

The character and existing edge treatment along Canbury Gardens riverbank are illustrated on the plan opposite and the proposed river edge zoning / character and the relationship to pedestrian movement and connections on the following plans.



## River Bank Naturalisation

### River Edge Zoning / Character



- North Entrance
- Park River Frontage
- Waterfront Social Space
- Naturalistic River Edge
- River Nodal Space
- South Entrance

### Access and Movement



- Existing Retaining Wall
- Promenade Path (Pedestrian Priority)
- Main Junction
- Cycle Route
- Water Accessible Platform

## River Bank Naturalisation

### 1. Naturalistic Fascine Edge

The fascine edging will repair sections of the riverbank, whilst offering protection against further erosion. It will allow planting to establish to deliver a cohesive and natural riverbank and create habitat for birds, invertebrate and refuge and spawning grounds for marine life.



### 2. Naturalistic Fascine Edge With Decking

The inclusion of decking areas at locations where the hard engineered edge cannot be removed are proposed to be set within the naturalised landscape along the riverbank, offering the opportunity to engage with the water and naturalistic landscape.



## River Bank Naturalisation

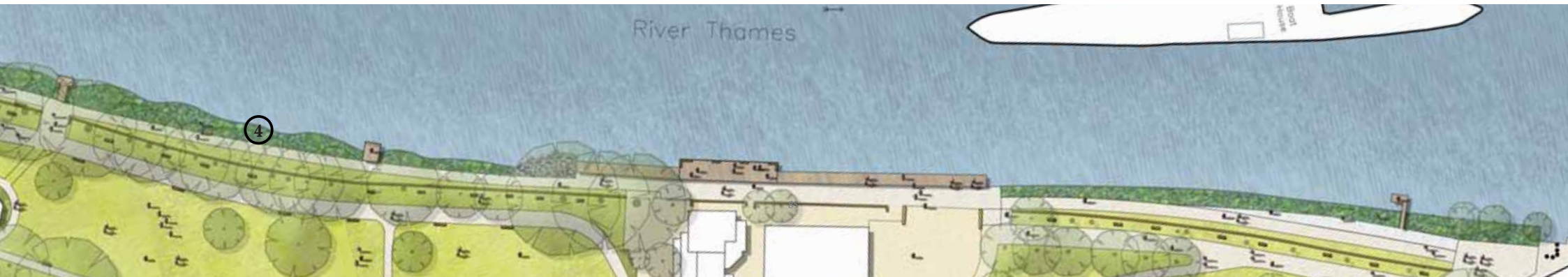
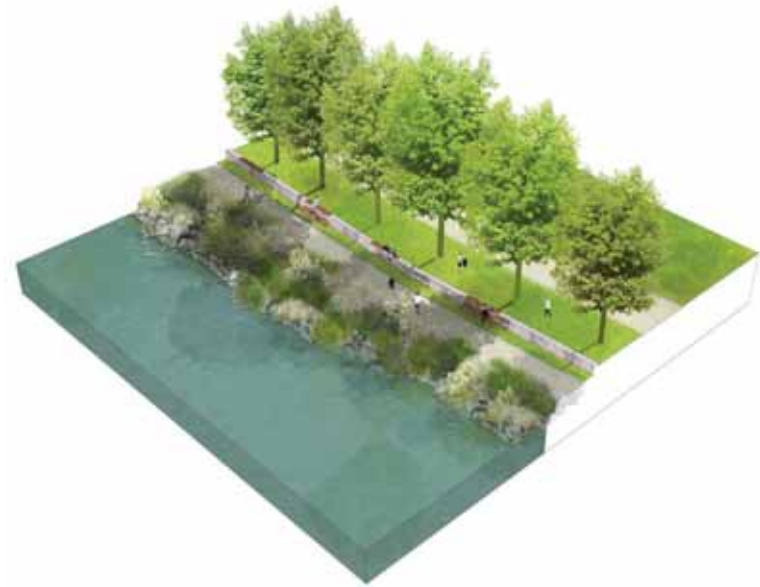
### 3. Loose Stone Bank With Decking Platform

A combination of social decks and loose stone/rock will assist with repairing and protecting the river bank from erosion and deliver a naturalised character that creates habitat for invertebrate and refuge and spawning grounds for marine life.



### 4. Naturalistic Stone Bank

A naturalised stone bank integrated with naturalised planting will compliment the fascine edging and further support the biodiversity objectives by creating habitat for a wide range of species.



## River Bank Naturalisation

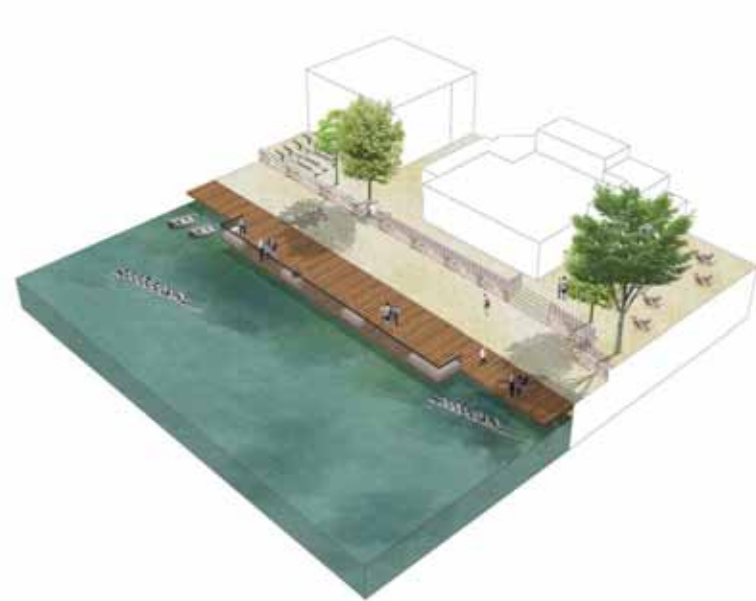
### 5. Naturalistic Stone Bank with Decking

Areas of naturalised stone bank integrated with naturalised planting and social decks will protect the riverbank against erosion and allow planting to establish to deliver a cohesive and natural riverbank with deck areas in between allowing access to the water's edge.



### 6. Decking Platform With Boating Bay

The inclusion of a social deck connected to the existing decking adjacent to the rowing club will provide the opportunity for a wide range of different uses from boating to socialising, whilst also offering the opportunity to engage with the water's edge.



## River Bank Naturalisation

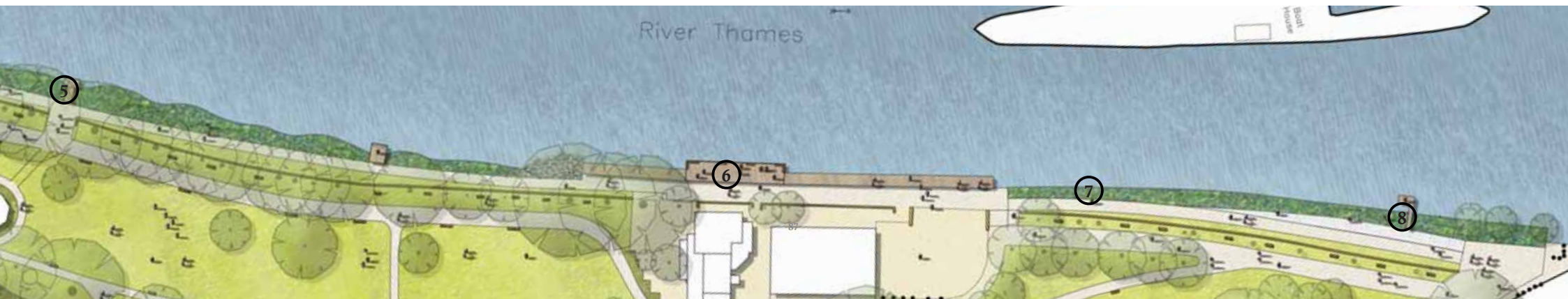
### 7. Naturalistic River Bank with beach areas

The northern section of the riverbank allows the opportunity for more extensive areas of naturalisation to occur. The proposals integrate new areas of naturalised planting within the existing bank to strengthen the bank, mitigate further erosion and create habitat for bird and marine life.



### 8. Naturalistic River Bank With existing access points

More extensive areas of naturalisation to the north offer the opportunity for incorporation of small trees to strengthen the range of habitats created. Existing deck areas would be retained and integrated within the naturalised riverbank.



## River Bank Naturalisation

### River Edge Treatment Overview



Brushwood Faggot/ Fascine bank / edge



- Brushwood Faggot/Fascines bank/edge
- Retained Concrete bank
- Loose Rock bank edge



Retained concrete edges



Loose rock bank edge



Loose rock bank edge with naturalised planting



Treatment Types



## River Bank Seating Precedents

Seating integrated within the existing wall is proposed along the towpath to compliment existing benches and provide opportunities to dwell and enjoy the setting.

Various options that have been considered as illustrated in the precedent photographs opposite with the intention of delivering an integrated solution that are fixed, robust and fit aesthetically with the waterfront and naturalistic character.



1. Integrated timber slatted seating
2. Seating built into wall
3. Timber seating set back within wall structure
4. Seating steps

## River Bank Existing Wall Treatment Precedents

The existing clinker wall along the edge of the towpath has an important function in retaining the level difference between the upper garden and the lower towpath. Whilst not a listed structure it has some historic significance and should be retained as it is part of the evolution of the gardens.

The condition of the wall varies in quality and state of repair. There are a number of sections that have been damaged by the adjacent trees and there are sections that have been re-built with a variety of different materials which gives a fragmented, unattractive appearance.

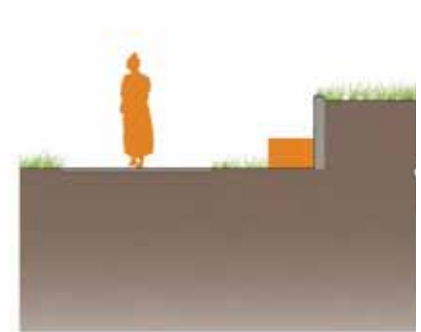
The objective is to maintain the level change, repair sections and to deliver a more cohesive treatment to compliment the towpath improvements.

The sections opposite show a range of treatments to enhance the appearance, deliver a consistent and cohesive approach and to address issues of trees root penetration and damage.



The proposed treatments are illustrated on the sections opposite and include:

- \* Treatment 1 includes repairs to the wall and inclusion of linear seating fixed to or in front of the wall or set back within the wall.
- \* Treatment 2 integrates seating steps over sections of the wall to improve people's relationship with the water's edge and to address the more unattractive sections of wall.
- \* Treatment 3 replaces sections of the wall subject to root penetration with a grass slope.



Treatment 1.  
Seating integrated within wall and wall repairs



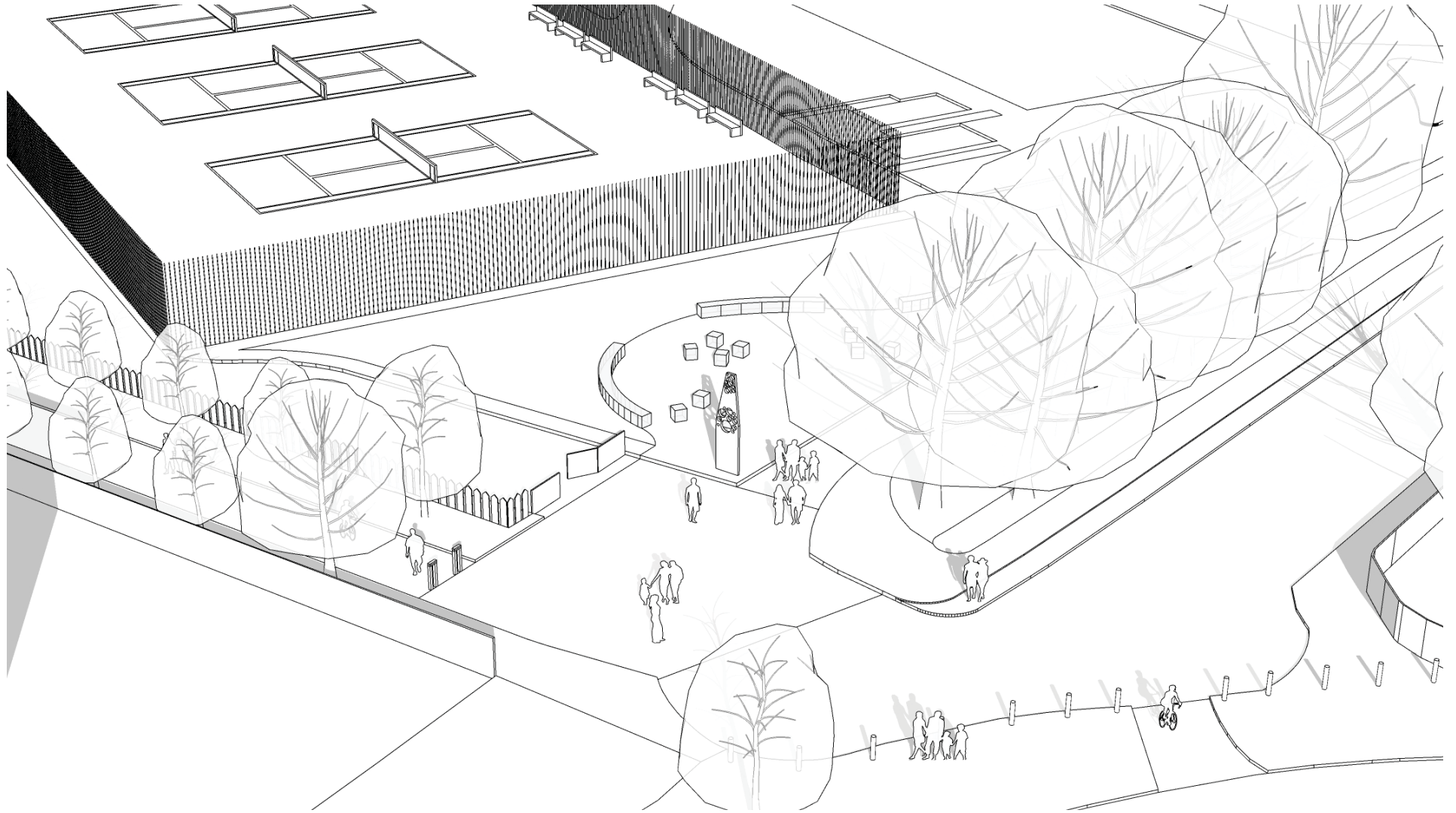
Treatment 2.  
Stepped seating integrated with wall



Treatment 3.  
Removal of wall and introduction of grass slope

1. Rubble wall
2. Leaning and damaged wall sections
3. Brick sections of wall in good condition
4. Tree root damage

# Eastern Entrance Design



### Eastern Entrance

The principle objectives for the Eastern Entrance are to improve access to the east of the park and to open up access to the recreation area and other underused parts of the gardens.

The entrance space is currently occupied by a green waste area, which extends between the tennis courts and Lower Ham Road. This waste area is not consistently in use and considered not to be essential to the upkeep of the gardens, and as such will either be relocated off site or removed.



Existing garden and tennis centre entrance



Green waste store



Existing garden arrival space

-  Existing grass strip
-  Private vehicle entrance
-  Planting area in front of residential block
-  Green waste area
-  Existing park edge planting
-  Existing hard pavement
-  Existing parking plots
-  Existing fence
-  Pedestrian direction
-  Vehicle direction
-  Cyclist direction
-  Existing kerb
-  Existing bollards
-  Existing trees






















Space Analysis

### Eastern Entrance

The new design for this space will be required to respond to a number of design requirements / considerations, as summarised below:

- \* To deliver an inviting and attractive entrance space and route into the gardens;
- \* Balance openness with the privacy of adjacent residents;
- \* Maintain unaffected vehicular access into the tennis club;
- \* Maintain pedestrian circulation towards the Gardens along Kings Walk
- \* Improve circulation between the gardens and the town centre;
- \* Minimise impact on existing trees;
- \* Integrate the wildlife area to the south of the entrance;
- \* Provide a safe and legible entrance, including lighting.

-  Existing planted area
-  Private vehicle entrance
-  Proposed activity area
-  Proposed shrub planting
-  Proposed low edge planting
-  Proposed rain water garden
-  Hard pavement
-  New entrance pavement
-  Existing parking plots
-  Existing fence
-  Kerb
-  Existing Bollards
-  Existing trees
-  Proposed trees
-  Existing trees to be removed
-  Pedestrian direction
-  Vehicle direction
-  Cyclist direction
-  Existing grass area to be removed



Design Analysis

## Eastern Entrance Design

The design for the Eastern Entrance seeks to create a new entrance space that has a strong sense of arrival into the gardens from the east, appropriate to its residential context.

The entrance will be defined by a new shared paved arrival space that links in with the tennis club access point and combines to create a single point of access into the gardens. The surface materials will link visually with the materials proposed at the southern entrance to assist with delivering a cohesive garden.

SUDs located to the edge of the space and channel drains will address drainage across the space.

Collapsible bollards to match the proposal at the southern entrance will be used to prevent vehicle access into the garden.

Low level post top luminaries will mark the entrance and run along the first section of footpath to assist with orientation and with creating an attractive and inviting gateway space during the evening.

New footpath connections will be provided connecting the recreational area and entrance space.

The planting would include a rich naturalistic style to the rear of the new green space and linking in with the wildlife planting to the south with taller structure planting against the tennis court to assist with screening and integration.

Woodland planting beneath the existing trees and along the new footpath links will enhance the footpath route helping to integrate it with the existing mature landscape.

A new green space will be created at the entrance including informal seating with the potential to act as an outdoor classroom connected to the wildlife area for schools and groups to use.

The proposals align with the design rationale principles to improve access and circulation into the gardens and to create welcoming entrances.

- ① New shared paved space
- ② Existing gate to tennis club retained
- ③ New green garden space with seating
- ④ Gateway/pier features and/or signage
- ⑤ New footpath circulation
- ⑥ Collapsible bollards at entrance
- ⑦ Rain water garden
- ⑧ Linear seating edge
- ⑨ Boundary structure planting and naturalistic/wildlife planting





Eastern Entrance Sketch Visualisation

## Eastern Entrance Design Precedents



1. Naturalistic planting
2. Threshold / entrance pavement
3. Bench with naturalistic planting
4. Rain water garden



# Sustainability

The proposals outlined in this design report will deliver immediate and long-term environmental benefits across the gardens. Sustainable design is central to the proposals and has been embedded in the masterplan design and detailed areas from the outset of the project.

The principal sustainable design elements include:

- \* Improving biodiversity and habitat diversification across the gardens as a whole, through the introduction of new areas of wildlife focused planting at the entrances and through parts of the garden.
- \* Riverbank naturalisation, through the introduction of new natural edges and native planting to minimising riverbank erosion.
- \* The inclusion of new trees, particularly at the site entrances.
- \* The removals of large areas of hard surfacing at the southern and eastern entrances and replacement with rain water gardens or wildlife focused planting.
- \* Limited use of lighting and where used the use of energy efficient fittings that are multi-functionality with capabilities of adapting to changing trends and technology.
- \* Improved access and circulation to the gardens, promoting sustainable means of transport and ensuring that the park continues to thrive.
- \* Careful detailing and selection of materials to ensure the design is robust and stands the test of time, keeping future maintenance to a minimum.



# 7.0

## Stage 4 - Detailed Drawings

This chapter includes the detailed Stage 4 drawings covering the selected priority projects. The drawings include detailed general arrangement drawings and other supporting details.

The drawings included within this chapter are listed below:

### Detailed Drawings Schedule

#### Plans:

6804_110	South Entrance General Arrangement Plan
6804_111	Southern Entrance Tracking Diagram
6804_120	Eastern Entrance General Arrangement Plan
6804_130	Riverfront General Arrangement Plan 1 of 4
6804_131	Riverfront General Arrangement Plan 2 of 4
6804_132	Riverfront General Arrangement Plan 3 of 4
6804_133	Riverfront General Arrangement Plan 4 of 4

#### Details:

6804_200	Natural Stone Paving and Kerb Details - S & E
6804_201	Natural Stone Border Details - S & E
6804_202	Cycle Stand Details - S
6804_203	Removable Metal Bollard Details - S
6804_204	Heavyset Bench Details - S
6804_205	Movable Planter Details - S
6804_206	Rain Garden Detail - S
6804_207	Entrance Planter Details - S
6804_208	Curved Bench Details - E

6804_209	Cube Seating Details - E
6804_210	Resin Bound Gravel Path Detail - E
6804_211	Natural Stone Flush Kerb Details - E
6804_212	Natural Stone Drainage Details - E
6804_213	Light Details - S & E
6804_214	Self Biding Gravel Path Details - R
6804_215	Seating Wall and Bench Details - R
6804_216	Waterfront Detail 1 - R
6804_217	Waterfront Detail 2 - R
6804_218	Waterfront Detail 3 - R
6804_219	Waterfront Detail 4 - R



Appendices  
**Appendix A: Ecology**

Project Name: Canbury Gardens  
 Report Title: Canbury Gardens: Ecology Constraints and Opportunities  
 Date: 08 April 2019  
 BSG file reference: P19-013  
 Author: Dr Tom Flynn

## 1.0 Introduction

BSG Ecology was commissioned on 26 March 2019 by LDA Design Ltd to produce a Phase 1 habitat plan and an ecology constraints and opportunities assessment for Canbury Gardens.

### 1.1 Site Description

Canbury Gardens (hereafter 'the Park') is a 6 ha public park on the south bank of the River Thames just north of Kingston upon Thames in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Greater London. The central Ordnance Survey grid reference is TQ 179 700. The Park is bordered on the west by the River Thames, to the south by housing and to the east by Lower Ham Road, beyond which is a residential area.

A narrow extension in the south-west corner of the Park, known as 'Narrowed Canbury Gardens', is also included in this report.

### 1.2 Proposed Works

The Royal Borough of Kingston Council has commissioned LDA Design Ltd to produce a design-led masterplan for the Park, to improve the operation of the Park, one of the most well-used and popular open spaces in this part of the borough. This follows the recent adoption of a Riverside Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document, which sets out a vision for the future of the Thames in the borough.

This report sets out the current broad ecological conditions at the Park (i.e. the ecological baseline), including a Phase 1 habitat plan which shows the habitats present and identifies the key ecological constraints and opportunities in the re-development of the Park.

### 1.3 Aims of Study

The specific aims of this report are:

- To describe the broad ecological baseline at the Park, based on the Phase 1 habitat plan, information within the *Kingston Riverside Ecology Report* (BSG Ecology, 2017) and on a site visit carried out on 22 March 2019.
- Outline the key ecological constraints and opportunities in the re-development of the park, with reference to the policy context described

in BSG Ecology (2017) and relevant national policy and legislation (see Appendix 1 for a summary).

## 2.0 Methodology

### 2.1 Extended Phase 1 habitat survey

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Park was carried out by Dr Tom Flynn MCIEEM, Senior Ecologist at BSG Ecology, on 22 March 2019. Tom Flynn began working in ecological consultancy in 2002 and has carried out a wide range of habitat, vegetation and protected species surveys during his career, including a large number of extended Phase 1 habitat surveys. This survey updated an ecology site visit undertaken by Hannah Bilston MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist at BSG Ecology, on 29 August 2016 (and reported in BSG Ecology, 2017).

The Phase 1 habitat survey was based on industry standard guidance and involved identifying and mapping habitats described in JNCC (2010). The survey was 'extended' to include an assessment of the potential of the Park to support protected species.

### 2.2 Survey Constraints

The extended Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out in late March, which is in line with the guidance provided in JNCC (2010), however it may have been too early in the year to have allowed all invasive plant species to have been detected.

The ecology work carried out to date includes an assessment of the potential of the Park to support protected species. However, it does not include surveys for protected species, or detailed botanical surveys. The extent to which such surveys may be required is discussed under *Key Ecological Constraints*.

### 2.3 Constraints and Opportunity Assessment

Ecological constraints and opportunities of relevance to the re-development of the Park were identified by:

- Reviewing the presence of statutory or non-statutory designated wildlife sites within or near to the Park, as detailed in BSG Ecology (2017).
- Reviewing the habitats of ecological value within or adjacent to the Park, as indicated in BSG Ecology (2017) and by the 2019 update survey.
- Reviewing the potential for protected species, Species of Principal Importance in England (listed by Natural England under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) or local Biodiversity Action Plan species at the Park.
- Taking into account the policy context of the Park.

## 3.0 Ecological Baseline

### 3.1 Habitats Present

As indicated in the Phase 1 habitat plan (Figure 1), the Park is dominated by amenity grassland lawns and large mature trees. The lawns are generally species-poor, being dominated by perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and other lawn grasses. The trees are generally large and mature, the dominant species being lime *Tilia x europaea* in the north and London plane *Platanus x hispanica* plane in the south. There are several mature oaks *Quercus robur*.

There is no open water within the Park, but the River Thames is directly adjacent on the west side. The river banks there are hard, but the adjacent soil strip and cracks in the bank are vegetated at the northern end by native riparian species, including alder *Alnus glutinosa*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. There is a low mortared stone wall parallel with river in the north-east of the Park.

There are some areas of shrubs, such as a rose bed adjacent to Lower Ham Road in the north-east, and evergreen and deciduous shrubs (including some native species such as hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and hazel *Corylus avellana*) on the eastern boundary and close to the southern boundary. There is a network of paths through the park, mostly of asphalt, but a compacted stony track follows the river.

There is a children's play area in the east of the Park (mainly laid to artificial surfaces) and a community garden (Canbury Community Garden) with small vegetable beds in the south of the Park. There is an area of compost heaps and tall ruderal vegetation in the south-east.

There are extensive areas of hard standing in the south of the Park, in the form of two areas of tennis courts. A concrete boathouse (building B1 on Figure 1) and a wood-clad public house (B2) are present on the west side. There are several tennis club buildings, including a small wood-clad building complex in the east (B3). There are several buildings in the south of the Park: an open-sided bandstand (B4), a small brick café (B5), a brick tennis club building (B6) a large plastic polytunnel enclosing two of the tennis courts (B7), and a small brick building at Canbury Community Garden (B8).

There are no Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) in England (as notified under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) at the Park.

### 3.2 Protected Species Potential

The Park provides suitable foraging habitat for bats, and the trees and buildings that are present may provide suitable roosting sites. All bats in the UK are European Protected Species and they and their roosts are also protected under the Wildlife Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Of the trees, a line of London Plane trees alongside the River Thames between the Boater's Inn and the southern tip of the Park have some (moderate) suitability

for roosting bats, with holes being present in a number of these trees. Of the buildings, the two wood-clad buildings (the public house by the River Thames and the small tennis club building complex at the east of the Park) have some (moderate) suitability to support roosting bats, and the brick building at the community garden has some (low) potential to support roosting bats. The other buildings at the Park have negligible potential to support roosting bats.

The trees and shrubs at the Park provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of garden and woodland-edge bird species. All birds and active nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The habitat present is suitable for the two Species of Principal Importance: house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and dunnock *Prunella modularis*.

The Park is unlikely to support other protected species. No signs of badger were found at the Park, and lack of suitable habitat makes it unlikely that reptiles, great crested newt, water vole or nesting Schedule 1 bird species are present.

### 4.0 Key Ecological Constraints

The Park itself is not subject to any non-statutory or statutory wildlife site designations (BSG Ecology, 2017). The River Thames, adjacent to the west side is designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

No HPAs in England are present at the Park. The mature trees provide non-recreatable habitat of importance at the local level, and are the most important ecological feature at the Park. The riparian vegetation that is present along the River Thames provides semi-natural vegetation likely to support the ecological value of the adjacent River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

The other vegetation at the Park (e.g. lawns, shrubs and semi-mature trees) provides habitat of value for the local breeding bird assemblage.

Any removal of trees or shrubs at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on nesting birds that may be present. Such works should be carried out outside the bird breeding season (the breeding season is typically considered to be the period March to August inclusive). It may be possible to undertake limited works within the breeding season, subject to a check for nesting birds by a suitably experienced person (e.g. ecologist or arborist).

Any removal of trees at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on roosting bats. Any trees requiring removal should be subject to a ground-level assessment of their potential to support roosting bats by a suitably experienced ecologist. If any such potential is found, these trees should be subject to further investigation, such as by climbing inspection by a suitably experienced and licenced bat surveyor. If any bats or bat roosts are found, such trees would require a Natural England European Protected Species

Mitigation Licence before felling. Arboricultural works may also require such a licence.

Any removal or renovation of buildings with the potential to support roosting bats at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on roosting bats. If works are proposed to the public house, the wood-clad buildings at the east of the Park, or the brick building in the community garden, the relevant building(s) should be subject to detailed internal and external inspections by a suitably experienced and licenced bat worker. Depending upon the results of this survey, further surveys (such as evening emergence surveys) may be necessary, and/or works to the building(s) may require a Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licence.

Any increases in lighting at the Park could have potential to affect its use by bats. If new lighting (or tree removal) will form part of the re-development of the park, bat activity surveys to determine the level of use of the Park by bats is recommended.

## 5.0 Key Ecological Opportunities

Retention and care and maintenance of the mature tree resource at the Park should form a key part of the masterplan.

The BSG Ecology (2017) report suggested increased use of pollinator-friendly plants in the park, such as in flower borders or through the planting of patches of wildflower meadow. Given the intensive use of the park for recreation, the latter option may not be possible (or restricted to small areas). An alternative approach to habitat creation for invertebrates (and other species) could be the extension and enhancement of native bankside vegetation along the edge of the Thames. This could be via planting of the existing areas of exposed soil, or by the use of floating or submerged planting units (e.g. formal solid planters or more natural coir fibre planters).

Measures to avoid impacts on roosting bats should form part of on-going tree management at the Park.

Additional light pollution at the Park should be avoided in the re-development in order to avoid impacts on bat activity. The possibility of reducing or removing the current floodlighting at the park (e.g. the floodlighting associated with the tennis courts), or reducing the light spill from this onto adjacent vegetation should be explored.

There is abundant scope for installing wildlife infrastructure at the Park such as bat and bird boxes and bug hotels. These could be incorporated into the fabric of new buildings or fitted externally to existing buildings. Suitable bird boxes could target house sparrow (a Species of Principal Importance in England) and general small hole-nesting birds.

## 6.0 Summary

BSG Ecology was commissioned by LDA Design Ltd to produce a Phase 1 habitat plan and an ecology constraints and opportunities assessment for Canbury Gardens, a 6 ha public park on the south bank of the River Thames just north of Kingston upon Thames.

The aim of the report is to outline the key ecological constraints and opportunities in the re-development of the park, based on a 2017 report produced by BSG Ecology and on a Phase 1 habitat plan produced following an update ecology survey in March 2019.

The Park is dominated by amenity grassland lawns and large mature trees. The River Thames is directly adjacent to the west of the Park. The river banks there are hard, but the adjacent soil strip and cracks in the bank are vegetated at the northern end by native riparian species. There are areas of native (and non-native) shrubs, buildings and hard tennis courts.

The Park provides suitable foraging habitat for bats, and some of the trees and buildings may provide bat roosting sites. The trees and shrubs provide suitable nesting habitat for birds. The Park is unlikely to support other protected species.

The Park itself is not subject to any non-statutory or statutory wildlife site designations (BSG Ecology, 2017). The River Thames, adjacent to the west side is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Key Ecological Constraints: The mature trees at the Park provide non-recreatable habitat of importance at the local level, and are the most important ecological feature at the Park. The riparian vegetation that is present along the River Thames provides additional ecological interest. Any removal of trees or shrubs at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on nesting birds. Any tree removal, or removal or renovation of buildings with potential to support roosting bats at the Park will require consideration of potential impacts on roosting bats. Any increases in lighting at the Park could have potential to affect the use of the Park by bats.

Key Ecological Opportunities: Retention and care and maintenance of the mature tree resource at the Park should form a key part of the masterplan. The extension and enhancement of native bankside vegetation along the edge of the Thames should be considered. Measures to avoid impacts on roosting bats should form part of on-going tree management at the Park and additional light pollution at the Park should be avoided. The possibility of reducing current light spill at the Park should be explored. There is abundant scope for installing wildlife infrastructure at the Park such as bat and bird boxes.

## 7.0 Figures

### 7.1 Figure 1: Phase 1 habitat survey plan

## 8.0 Appendix 1: Summaries of Relevant National Policy, Legislation and Other Instruments

This section briefly summarises the legislation, policy and related issues that are relevant to the main text of the report. The following text does not constitute legal or planning advice.

### 8.1 National Planning Policy Framework (England)

The Government updated the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 19 February 2019. Text excerpts from the NPPF are shown where they may be relevant to planning applications and biodiversity including protected sites, habitats and species.

The Government sets out the three objectives for sustainable development (economy, social and environmental) at paragraphs 8-10 to be delivered through the plan preparation and implementation level and 'are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged.' At paragraph 8c) the planning system's environmental objective refers to 'protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' and to 'helping to improve biodiversity'

In conserving and enhancing the natural environment, the NPPF (Paragraph 170) states that 'planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment' by:

- Protecting and enhancing...sites of biodiversity value... '(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)'.<sup>1</sup>
- Recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services including trees and woodland.
- Minimising impacts on and providing net gains in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.

In respect of protected sites, at paragraph 171, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to distinguish, at the plan level, '...between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value...take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'

Paragraph 174 refers to how plans should aim to protect and enhance biodiversity. Plans should: 'identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of

international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity [a footnote refers to ODPM Circular 06/2005 for further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity in the planning system], wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation;' and to 'promote the conservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.'

Paragraph 175 advises that, when determining planning applications, '...local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a. if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- b. development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- c. development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- d. development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.'

In paragraph 176, the following should be given the same protection as habitats sites<sup>1</sup>:

- i. potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation
- ii. listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- iii. sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.'

<sup>1</sup> Habitats sites are defined in the glossary as 'Any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites.'



In paragraph 177 the NPPF refers back to sustainable development in relation to appropriate assessment and states: 'the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.'

In paragraph 178, the NPPF refers to planning policies and decisions taking account of ground conditions and risks arising from land instability and contamination at sites. In relation to risks associated with land remediation account is to be taken of 'potential impacts on the natural environment' that arise from land remediation.

In paragraph 180 the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that development is appropriate to the location and take into account likely effects (including cumulative) on the natural environment and , in doing so, they 'should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.'

## 8.2 Government Circular ODPM 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (England only)

Paragraph 98 of Government Circular 06/2005 advises that "the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Local authorities should consult Natural England before granting planning permission. They should consider attaching appropriate planning conditions or entering into planning obligations under which the developer would take steps to secure the long-term protection of the species. They should also advise developers that they must comply with any statutory species' protection provisions affecting the site concerned..."

Paragraph 99 of Government Circular 06/2005<sup>2</sup> advises that "it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision. The need to ensure ecological surveys are carried out should therefore only be left to coverage under planning conditions in exceptional circumstances, with the result that the surveys are carried out after planning permission has been granted".

## 8.3 Standing Advice (GOV.UK)

The GOV.UK website provides information regarding protected species and sites in relation to development proposals: 'Local planning authorities should take advice from Natural England or the Environment Agency about planning applications for developments that may affect protected species.' GOV.UK advises that 'some species have standing advice which you can use to help

with planning decisions. For others you should contact Natural England or the Environment Agency for an individual response.'

The standing advice (originally from Natural England and now held and updated on GOV.UK<sup>3</sup>) provides advice to planners on deciding if there is a 'reasonable likelihood' of protected species being present. It also provides advice on survey and mitigation requirements.

When determining an application for development that is covered by standing advice, in accordance with guidance in Government Circular 06/2005, Local planning authorities are required to take the standing advice into account. In paragraph 82 of the aforementioned Circular, it is stated that: 'The standing advice will be a material consideration in the determination of the planning application in the same way as any advice received from a statutory consultee...it is up to the planning authority to decide the weight to be attached to the standing advice, in the same way as it would decide the weight to be attached to a response from a statutory consultee.'

## 8.4 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Habitats and species of principal importance (England)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1st October 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act require the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England as required by the Act. In accordance with the Act the Secretary of State keeps this list under review and will publish a revised list if necessary, in consultation with Natural England.

The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local authorities and utilities companies, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions, including development control and planning. This is commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity Duty.'

Guidance for public authorities on implementing the Biodiversity Duty<sup>4</sup> has been published by Defra. One of the key messages in this document is that 'conserving biodiversity includes restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them.' In England the administration of the planning system and licensing schemes are highlighted as having a 'profound influence on biodiversity conservation.' Local authorities are required to take measures to "promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species. The guidance states that 'the duty aims to raise the profile and visibility of biodiversity, clarify existing commitments with regard to

<sup>2</sup> ODPM Circular 06/2005. *Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impacts within the Planning System* (2005), HMSO Norwich.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals#standing-advice-for-protected-species>

<sup>4</sup> Defra, 2007. *Guidance for Public Authorities on Implementing The Biodiversity Duty*. (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb12585-pa-quick-english-070516.pdf>)

biodiversity, and to make it a natural and integral part of policy and decision making.'

In 2007, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Partnership published an updated list of priority UK species and habitats covering terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity to focus conservation action for rarer species and habitats in the UK. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework<sup>5</sup>, which covers the period from 2011 to 2020, now succeeds the UK BAP. The UK priority list contained 1150 species and 65 habitats requiring special protection and has been used as a reference to draw up the lists of species and habitats of principal importance in England.

In England, there are 56 habitats of principal importance and 943 species of principal importance on the S41 list. These are all the habitats and species found in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK BAP and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

### 8.5 European protected species (Animals)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) consolidates various amendments that have been made to the original (1994) Regulations which transposed the EC Habitats Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into national law.

"European protected species" (EPS) of animal are those which are shown on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are subject to the provisions of Regulation 43 of those Regulations. All EPS are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Taken together, these pieces of legislation make it an offence to:

- a. Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal included amongst these species
- b. Possess or control any live or dead specimens or any part of, or anything derived from a these species
- c. deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species
- d. deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or
- e. intentionally, deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal, or obstruct access to such a place

For the purposes of paragraph (c), disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely—

- a. to impair their ability—

- i. to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or
  - ii. in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
- b. to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Although the law provides strict protection to these species, it also allows this protection to be set aside (derogated) through the issuing of licences. The licences in England are currently determined by Natural England (NE) for development works and by Natural Resources Wales in Wales. In accordance with the requirements of the Regulations (2017, as amended), a licence can only be issued where the following requirements are satisfied:

- a. The proposal is necessary 'to preserve public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment'
- b. 'There is no satisfactory alternative'
- c. The proposals 'will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

#### 8.5.1 Definition of breeding sites and resting places

Guidance for all European Protected Species of animal, including bats and great crested newt, regarding the definition of breeding and of breeding and resting places is provided by The European Council (EC) which has prepared specific guidance in respect of the interpretation of various Articles of the EC Habitats Directive.<sup>6</sup> Section II.3.4.b) provides definitions and examples of both breeding and resting places at paragraphs 57 and 59 respectively. This guidance states that 'The provision in Article 12(1)(d) [of the EC Habitats Directive] should therefore be understood as aiming to safeguard the ecological functionality of breeding sites and resting places.' Further the guidance states: 'It thus follows from Article 12(1)(d) that such breeding sites and resting places also need to be protected when they are not being used, but where there is a reasonably high probability that the species concerned will return to these sites and places. If for example a certain cave is used every year by a number of bats for hibernation (because the species has the habit of returning to the same winter roost every year), the functionality of this cave as a hibernating site should be protected in summer as well so that the bats can re-use it in winter. On the other hand, if a certain cave is used only occasionally for breeding or resting purposes, it is very likely that the site does not qualify as a breeding site or resting place.'

<sup>5</sup> JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group). 2012. *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework*. July 2012. (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>)

<sup>6</sup> Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (February 2007), EC.

## 8.6 Competent authorities

Under Regulation 7 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) a “competent authority” includes “any Minister of the Crown..., government department, statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding a public office.

In accordance with Regulation 9, “a competent authority must exercise their functions which are relevant to nature conservation, including marine conservation, so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the [Habitats and Birds] Directives. This means for instance that when considering development proposals a competent authority should consider whether EPS or European Protected Sites are to be affected by those works and, if so, must show that they have given consideration as to whether derogation requirements can be met.

## 8.7 Birds

All nesting birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition to this, for some rarer species (listed on Schedule 1 of the Act), it is an offence to disturb them whilst they are nest building or at or near a nest with eggs or young, or to disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) places duties on competent authorities (including Local Authorities and National Park Authorities) in relation to wild bird habitat. These provisions relate back to Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147/EC, ‘Birds Directive’<sup>7</sup>) (Regulation 10 (3)) requires that the objective is the ‘preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of a sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the United Kingdom, including by means of the upkeep, management and creation of such habitat, as appropriate, having regard to the requirements of Article 2 of the new Wild Birds Directive...’ Regulation 10 (7) states: ‘In considering which measures may be appropriate for the purpose of security or contributing to the objective in [Regulation 10 (3)] Paragraph 3, appropriate account must be taken of economic and recreational requirements’.

In relation to the duties placed on competent authorities under the 2017 Regulations, Regulation 10 (8) states: ‘So far as lies within their powers, a competent authority in exercising any function [including in relation to town and country planning] in or in relation to the United Kingdom must use all reasonable endeavours to avoid any pollution or deterioration of habitats of wild birds (except habitats beyond the outer limits of the area to which the new Wild Birds Directive applies).’

<sup>7</sup> 2009/147/EC Birds Directive (30 November 2009. European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

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Figure 1: Phase 1 h

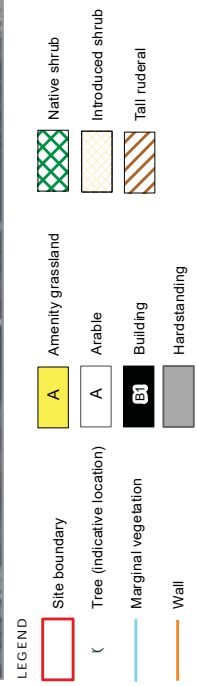
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No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.  
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