River Medway Towpath
Aylesford to Barming Bridge

Health and Fitness
Relaxation
Wildlife Haven
Quality of Life
Nurturing
Exploration
Habitat Creation

Biodiversity
Activity
touring
cycling
walking

Aylesford
Barming Bridge
Following a full review of the preliminary ecological reports and the subsequent recommended detailed ecological surveys, a number of restoration, planting enhancement and habitat creation opportunities were identified along the River Medway between Aylesford and Barming Bridge as part of the wider towpath upgrade and widening works. In total, six locations were identified as suitable, with opportunities ranging from riverbank restoration, Dormouse habitat enhancement, bat box placement and amenity planting.

Where applicable, all seed mixes and native species shrubs shall be of local provenance.
**AREA 1**

Location: North of the M20 flyover, adjacent to the Deacon Industrial Estate

Stretch: 65 lm approximately

**AIMS**

Objectives and Opportunities

- Riverbank scour protection and planting enhancement with native species.
- Enhance reptile and invertebrate habitats with log piles and stag beetle loggeries.
- Install bat boxes on selective existing trees. Boxes to also be installed further west. Final numbers and locations to be agreed.
- Towpath width increased to 2.5m wide for shared cycle and pedestrian use.

**HABITAT CREATION & ENHANCEMENT**

- Stag Beetle loggeries using off cuts from on-site clearance works
- Log piles for invertebrate and slow worms using off cuts from on-site clearance works
- Bat boxes on selected trees - Schweger 2FN & 2F types to be used

**RIVERBANK PROTECTION AND PLANTING ENHANCEMENT**

- A wet wildflower meadow mix will be seeded between the willow terraces to increase biodiversity
- Willow spiling will be used to protect the riverbank from erosion
- Along the riverbank edge, native species including dogwood, field maple and hawthorn will be planted in random groups following clearance works. and protect the settings of the log piles and loggeries

Native shrub species to be planted in gaps along the riverbank corridor

Stag beetle loggery

Log pile

Bat box

Retain existing riverbank edge planting

Willow spiling scour protection

Retain existing mature trees

Bat boxes in retained trees

Existing river wall to be retained

Retain existing riverbank edge planting

Sketch Section 1 - 1

Towpath 2.5m

Riverbank planting enhancement with habitat creation interventions

Willow spiling with wet meadow seed

Existing river wall

Sketch Plan - rts

*Images by Others*
AREA 2

Location: North of Allington Lock at the M20 flyover

Stretch: 125 m approximately

AIMS

Objectives and Opportunities

- Mitigate the loss of Dormouse habitat by planting a new native mixed species hedgerow and adjacent dead hedge to balance the removal of vegetation due to site clearance.
- Implementation of a dead hedge corridor under the M20 flyover, set back from the towpath to link up dormice habitats either side.
- Enhance the towpath corridor with additional planting of native species such as hazel coppice.
- Towpath width increased to 2.5m wide for shared cycle and pedestrian use.

HABITAT RESTORATION AND CREATION

Dead hedging will be planted between the newly planted hedgeow and the towpath to create instant connectivity for the Dormouse. The dead hedge will continue under the M20 connecting two areas of woodland together.

A native hedgerow will be planted along the towpath boundary consisting of hazel, hawthorn, honeysuckle and bramble, species considered suitable for Dormouse habitat.

Small groups of hazel coppice will be planted in an open area between the towpath and boundary fence enhancing the riverbank landscape.

*Images by Others

**Sketch Plan - nts**
AREA 3

Location: South of Allington Lock
Stretch: 265 lm approximately

AIMS

Objectives and Opportunities

- Open up views towards Allington castle on the opposite side of the towpath.
- Riverbank land reclamation and planting enhancement with native species.
- Inset seating area with buggy/ wheelchair space.
- Towpath width increased to 2.5m wide for shared cycle and pedestrian use.

RIVERBANK PROTECTION

Pre planted coir rolls in combination with a gabion basket terrace will protect the riverbank from erosion in this location whilst the pre planted rolls and seeded gabions will soften the engineered appearance and provide a viewing platform towards Allington Castle.

PLANTING ENHANCEMENT

Alders planted along the 265lm in random groups where gaps are visible.

Alders planted within the land reclamation area.

3 x Alders planted within the land reclamation area.

RIVERBANK PLANTING ENHANCEMENT

Gabion baskets with wet meadow seeding.

Timber bench to match existing River Medway bench style.

Loose compacted gravel surface with rolled timber logs to retain changes in level around the back and sides.

Level seating insert with buggy/ wheelchair space set back from the towpath.

*Ivy trim to provide a buffer
**AREA 4**

**Location:** Maidstone riverbank, adjacent to the A229 Fairmeadow Road

**Stretch:** 65 lm approximately

**AIMS**

**Objectives and Opportunities**

- Improve the appearance of the towpath in this urban location.
- Remove the dead tree and replace it with a healthy specimen to match the existing surrounding mature trees.
- Use a colourful and bold planting palette to provide interest through the seasons and structure.

**LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT**

- Native species shrubs suitable for shaded areas and with seasonal interest will be planted under the existing mature trees.
- A swath of Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow wildflower mix will be planted under the mature trees.
- An *Alnus glutinosa* tree will be planted in place of the dead tree and will contribute over time to the strong line of existing trees.

**Native shrub planting at the back of the planting bed**

**A229**

**Existing pedestrian ramp**

**Native shrub planting at the back of the planting bed**

**Wildflower seed mix**

**Towpath 2m wide**

**Temporary mooring points**

**RIVER MEDWAY TOWPATH**

**Ayeford to Barming Bridge**

*Images by Others*
AREA 5 & 6

**Location:**
Area 5 - Towpath opposite Whatman Park
Area 6 - Towpath between the Odeon Cinema and David Lloyd Leisure Centre

**Stretch:** Short identified lengths - See drawings DHA-743-005 & 006

**AIMS**

Objectives and Opportunities

- Riverbank planting enhancement to increase biodiversity opportunities where gaps in the existing vegetation have appeared due to erosion.
- The use of pre planted coir rolls and palettes on the riverbank edge will provide visual interest and habitat opportunities within a year of planting.
- Towpath width increased to 2m wide for shared cycle and pedestrian use in Area 6. The towpath in Area 5 has recently been upgraded.

**HABITAT & RIVERBANK PLANTING ENHANCEMENT**

Pre planted coir rolls will go some way to protecting the riverbank where the soft banks are relatively steep and increase the planting biodiversity.

Pre planted coir palettes will help establish marginal planting areas where the riverbanks are shallow and can promote water vole habitat.

Pre planted cir rolls and palettes will include marginal planting species such as yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, gypsywort, soft rush and marsh marigold.

In Area 6, where the riverbank widens, a tussocky grassland mix will be seeded adjacent to the towpath to create a swathe of colour, whilst retaining open views across to All Saints Church on the opposite side of the river.

*Images by Others*