

RIVER MEDWAY TOWPATH

Aylesford to Barming Bridge

Health and Fitness

Relaxation

BIODIVERSITY

Wildlife Haven

Quality of Life

ACTIVITY

running cycling walking

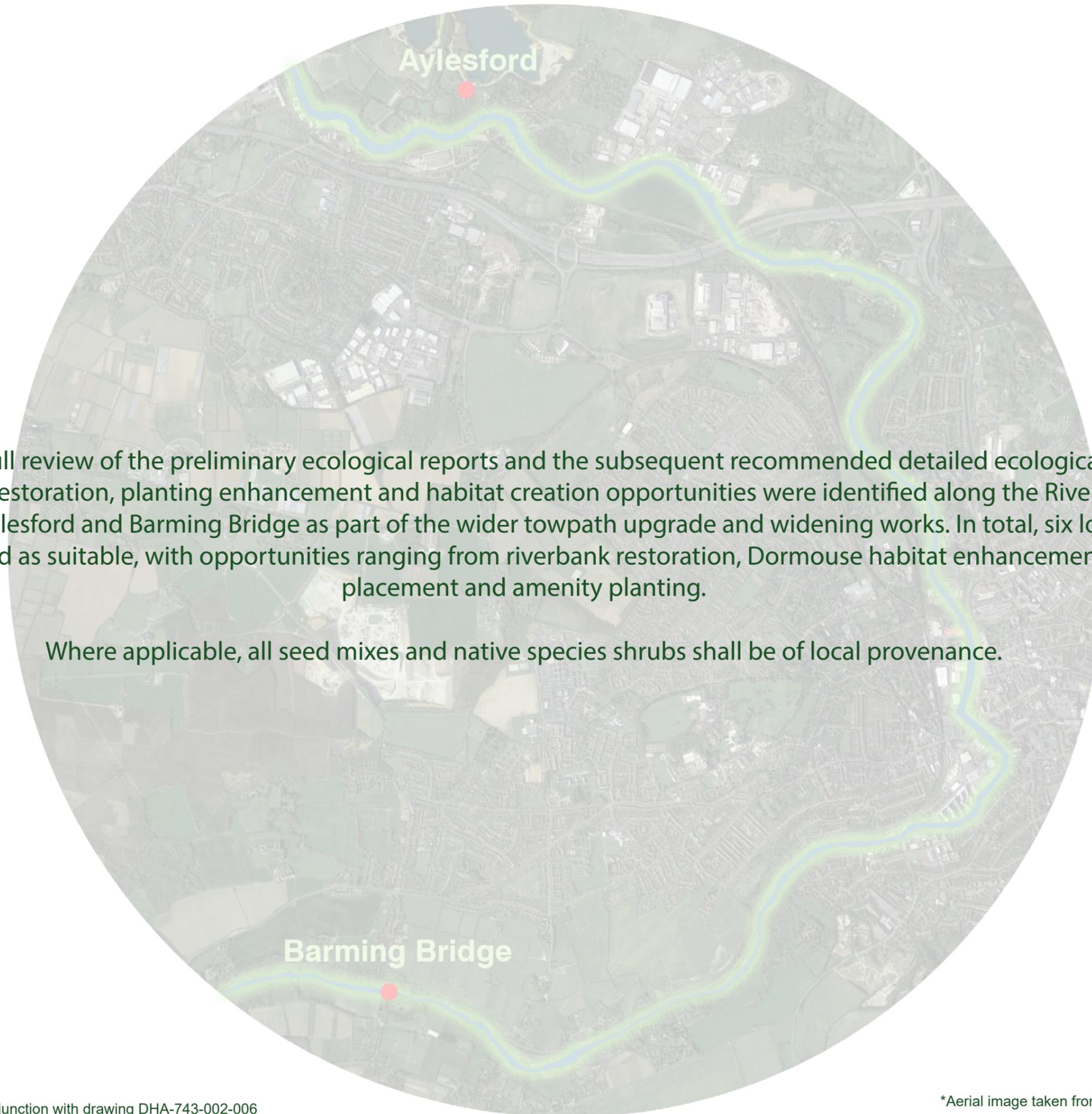
Nurturing

Exploration

HABITAT CREATION

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 Im 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 loggery 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 - Schwegler 2FN & 2F types to be used



A wet wildflower meadow mix will be seeded between the willow terraces to increase biodiversity

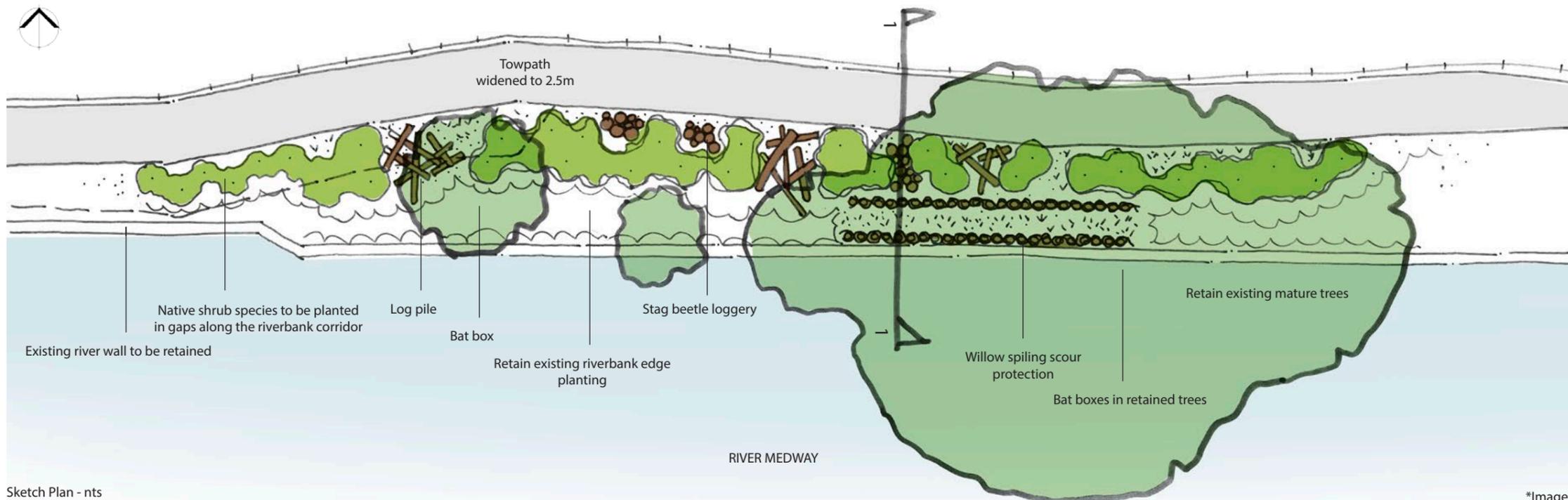
RIVERBANK PROTECTION AND PLANTING ENHANCEMENT



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



Sketch Plan - nts

*Images by Others

AREA 2



Location: North of Allington Lock at the M20 flyover

Stretch: 125 Im 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 hedgerow and the towpath to create instant connectivity for the Dormouse. The dead hedge will continue under the M20 connecting two areas of woodland together

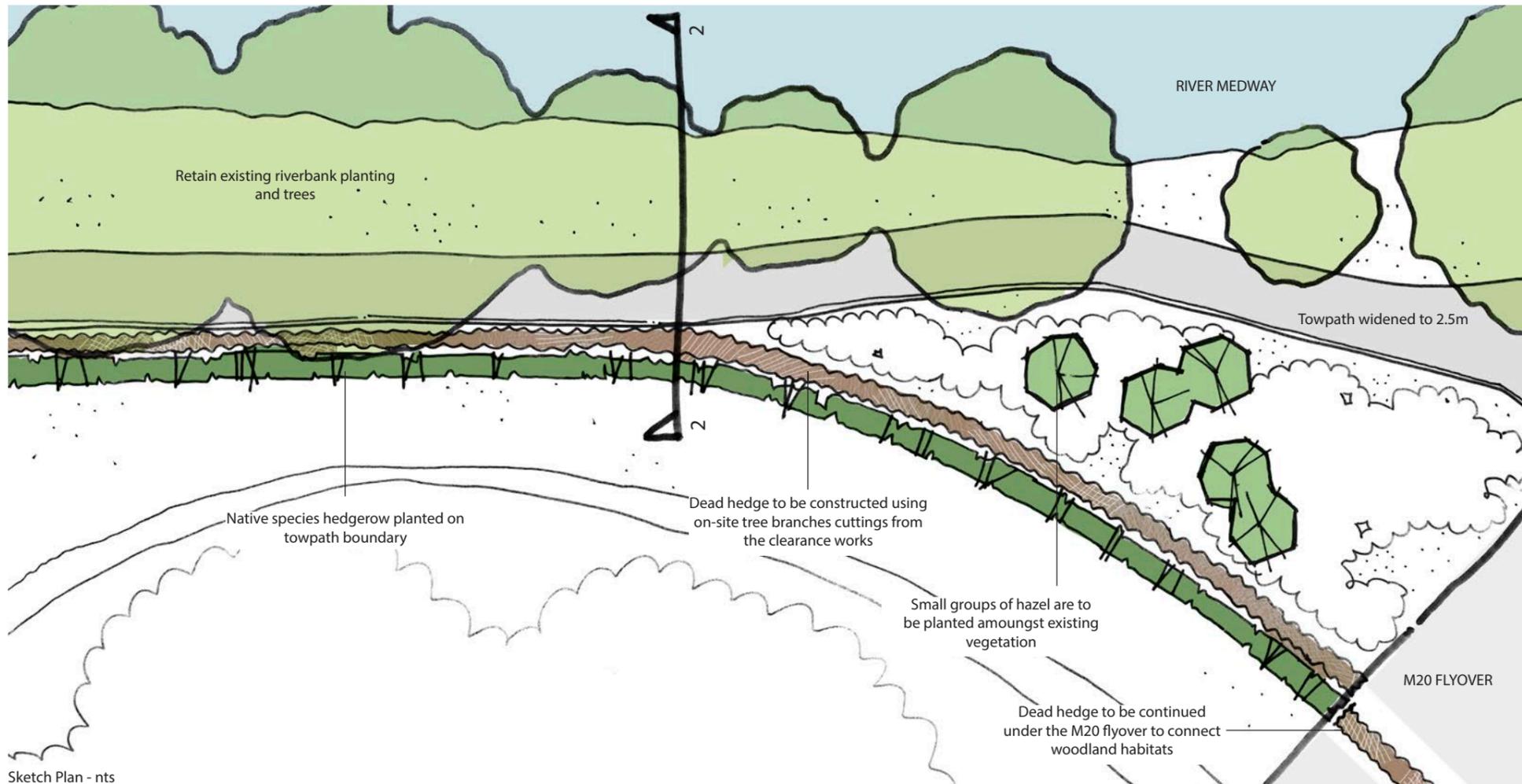
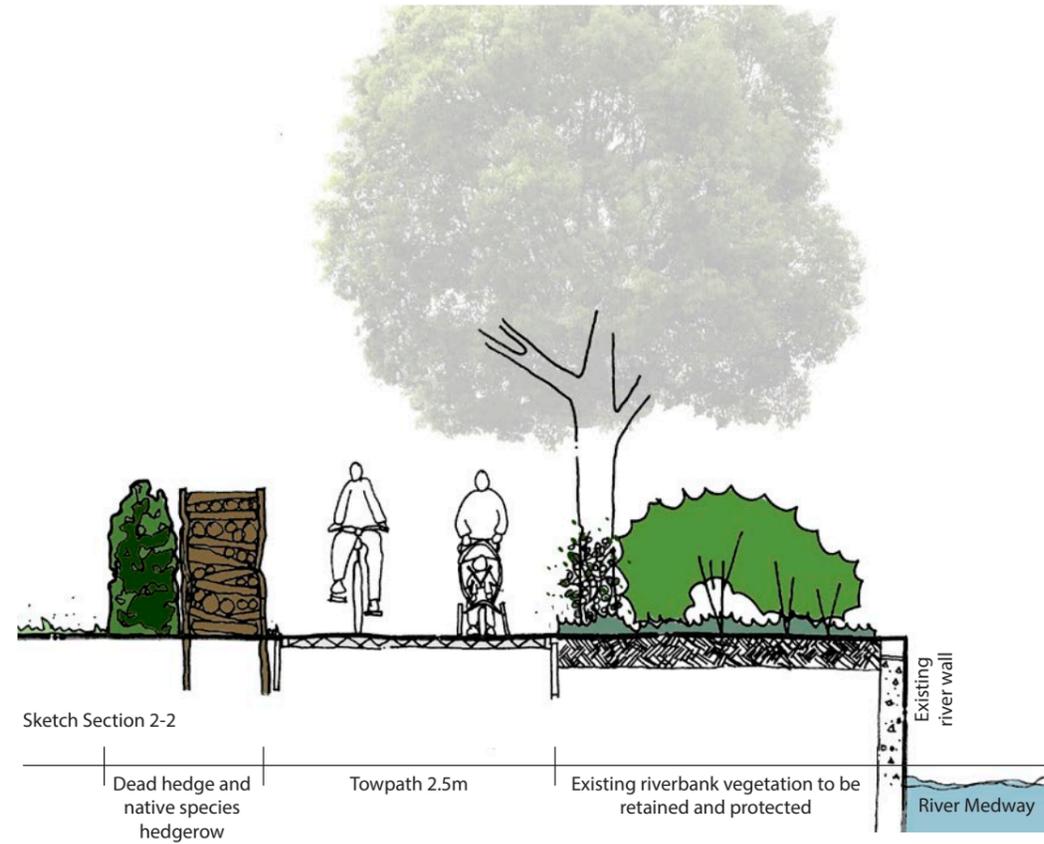


A native hedgerow will be planted along the towpath boundary consisting of hazel, hawthorn, honeysuckle and bramble, species considered suitable for Dormouse habitat



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



AREA 3



Location: South of Allington Lock

Stretch: 265 Im 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.



Sketch Section 3-3

Towpath 2.5m

Riverbank planting enhancement

Gabion baskets and coir roll

River Medway

RIVERBANK PROTECTION



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

PLANTING ENHANCEMENT



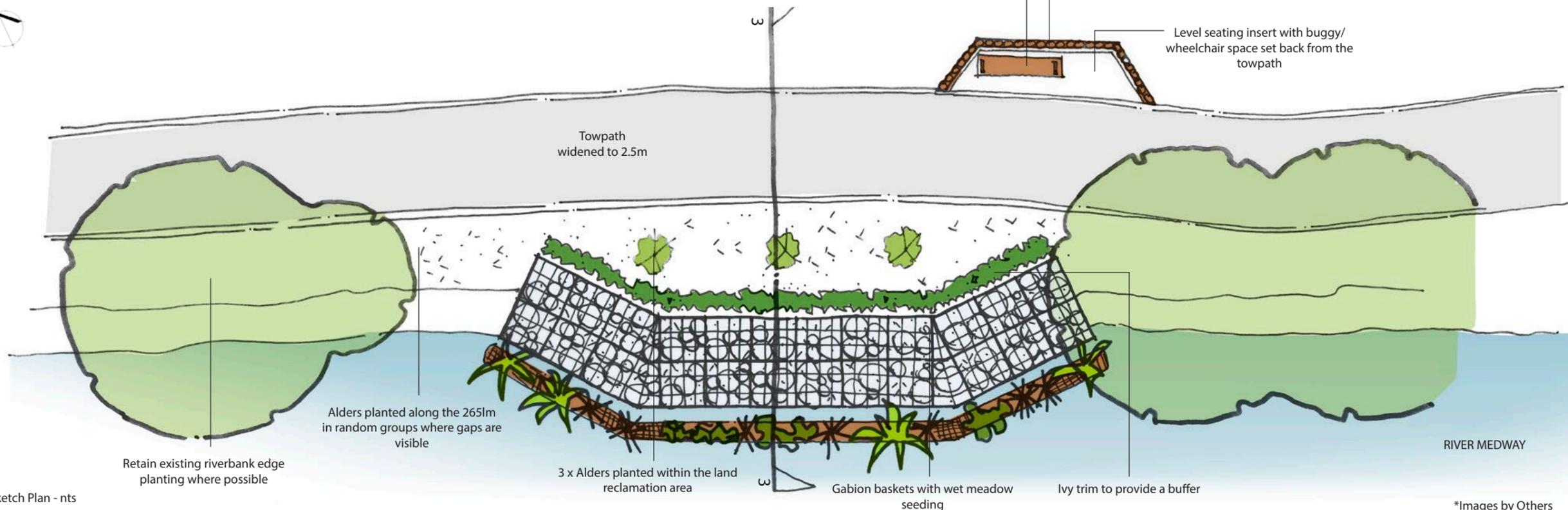
Along the riverbank Alders will be planted in random groups following clearance works.

A wet wildflower meadow mix will be seeded on the gabions

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



Sketch Plan - nts

*Images by Others



RIVER MEDWAY TOWPATH Aylesford to Barming Bridge

AREA 4



Location: Maidstone riverbank, adjacent to the A229 Fairmeadow Road

Stretch: 65 Im 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



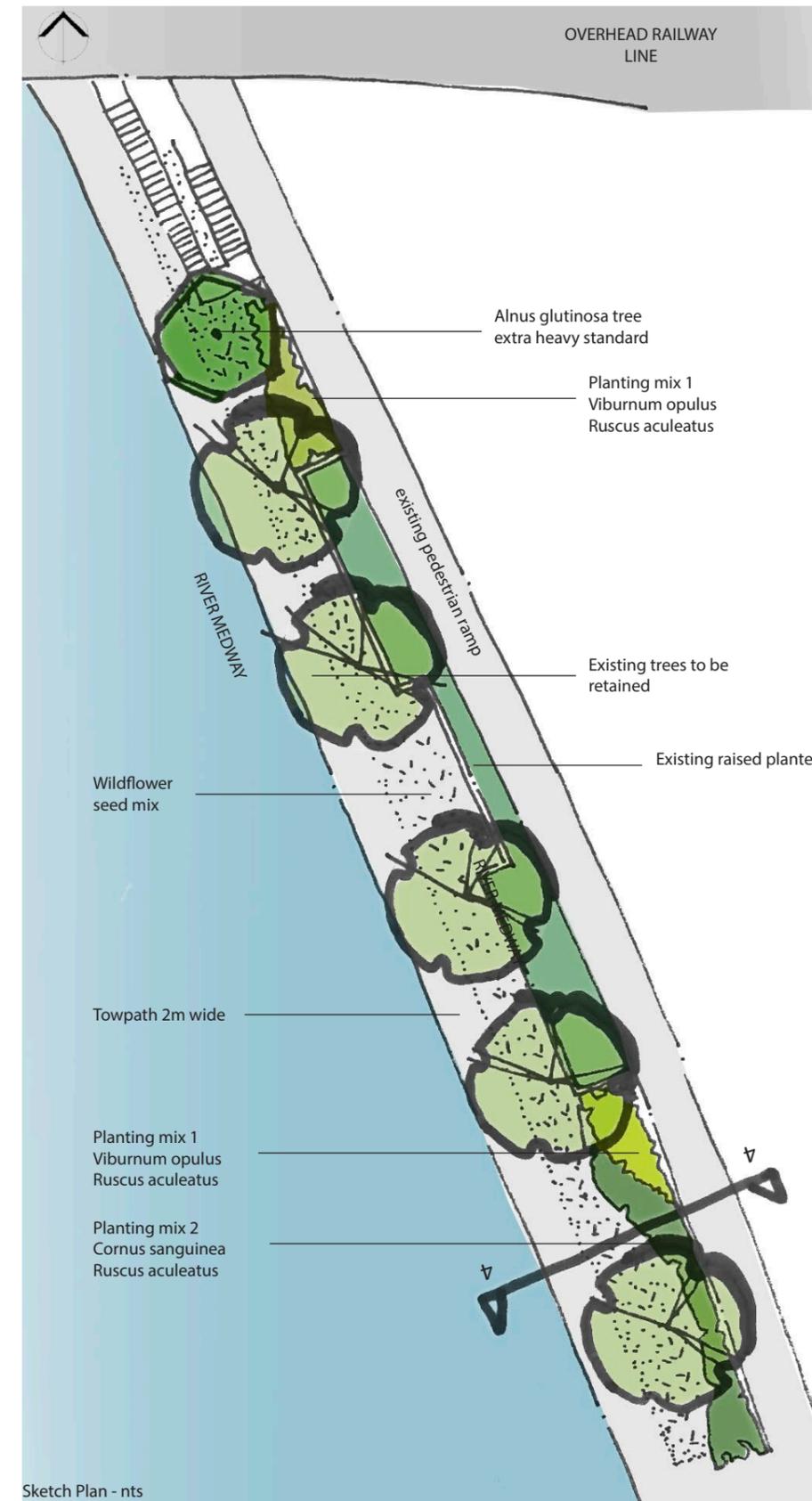
Native species shrubs suitable for shaded areas and with seasonal interest will be planted under the existing mature trees



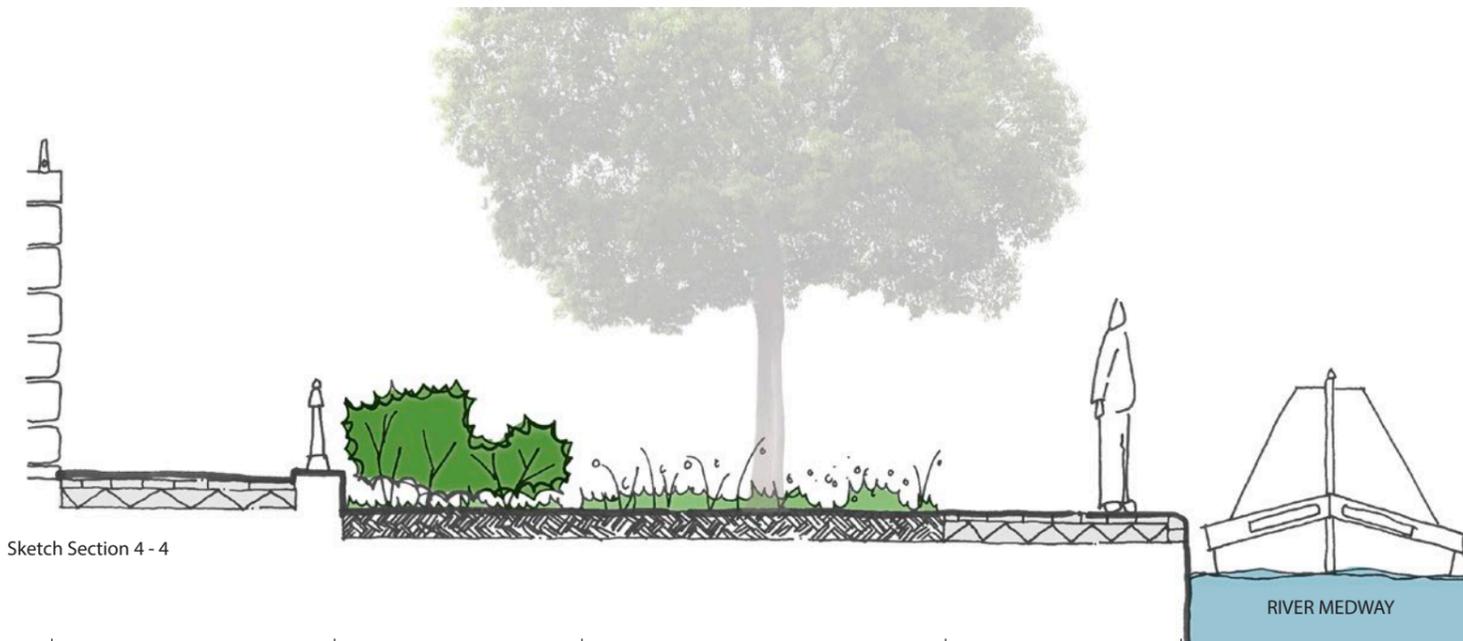
A swath of Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow wildflower mix will be planted under the mature trees



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



Sketch Plan - nts



Sketch Section 4 - 4

A229 | Existing pedestrian ramp | Native shrub planting at the back of the planting bed | Wildflower seed mix | Towpath 2m | Temporary mooring points

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

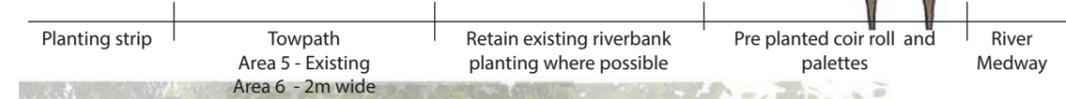


In Area 6, where the riverbank widens, a tussocky grassland mix will be seeded adjacent to the towpath to create a swath of colour, whilst retaining open views across to All Saints Church on the opposite side of the river

*Images by Others



Typical Sketch Section - Coir rolls and palettes on shallow banks



Typical Sketch Section - Coir roll on steep banks

