



## Meeting Summary:

### Biodiversity Working Group Meeting – 08 May 2024

(was Wetlands Committee)



**Attendees:** Hester Sharpe (HS), Ceri Williams (CW), Dave Keating (DW), Iain Webb (IW), Claire Rogerson (CR), Sabine Eckhert (SE), Chris Adamson (CA), Lee Outhwaite (LO), Rocio Ruiz de la Chica (RC)

#### 1. General Sustainability Strategy Update (HS)

- **Campus Management Changes:** HS highlighted that the new organisation, Wellcome Genome Campus Limited (WGCL), will be taking over the management of Campus services come September, which includes grounds maintenance, green travel, and catering. This transition may therefore lead to changes in how these meetings are structured, and we welcome your feedback on these meetings and suggestions for how you would like to see the biodiversity group in its new form to run when if/when it is integrated potentially into a broader group that we can pass on during any handover.
- **Wildlife Walks & Event:** The Wednesday wildlife walks have been really successful throughout the summer, along with the 3 glow worm walks; all with strong attendance attributed to improved promotion. The upcoming bat walk is already fully booked and so IW has agreed for an additional session to be organised for the 25<sup>th</sup> September - an invoice will be raised to HS.
- **Wildlife Sightings:** We have added a new feature on the Campus Fred Page which allows staff to share their wildlife sightings, although it is only currently accessible to those within the network. However, others are welcome to email the team their images for inclusion in the portal to: [environment@wellcomegenomecampus.org](mailto:environment@wellcomegenomecampus.org)



DK and others in the group have already shared a number of lovely photos (*a few are shared above*). HS highlighted that is quite an active Campus Wildlife Slack channel #photography and CR has contacted the group to highlight our FRED page that they can post some favourites to!

#### 2. Urban & Civic Update (RC)

- **Landscaping Projects:** RC provided an update on Urban & Civic projects including: (*see appendices for drawings mentioned below*)
  - Completion of flood plain reinstatement and planting in the southern area (including grass seeding the flood plain) and around car park. This includes a mown path to the wetlands as shown in drawing 600-CTF-02-XX-DR-L-10001
  - The material movement around Thornton Building will commence last week in September for couple of weeks and landscape works will follow.
  - The landscape works for the area around Thornton include the creation of bunds and footpaths, together with tree planting and street furniture.
  - The landscape works will start mid-October (date to be confirmed pending completion of earthworks) and anticipated completion will be March 2025.
  - The design for the pedestrian footbridge to the wetlands (as shown in drawing 600-CTF-02-XX-DR-L-10001) has now commenced with planned installation by June 2025.
  - Something I forgot mentioning yesterday and that it may be of interest for the group, is that we have been in touch with The Long and Winding Code group to introduce several art pieces in the landscape areas and the design has now commenced, with a detailed design expected by mid-November.
- **Planting Maintenance:** Concerns were raised about the health of some of the plants around Car Park E. RC noted that the contractor is responsible for the planting and they will revisit the site in November to replace any plants that aren't thrived.

#### 3. Grounds Team Update (LO)

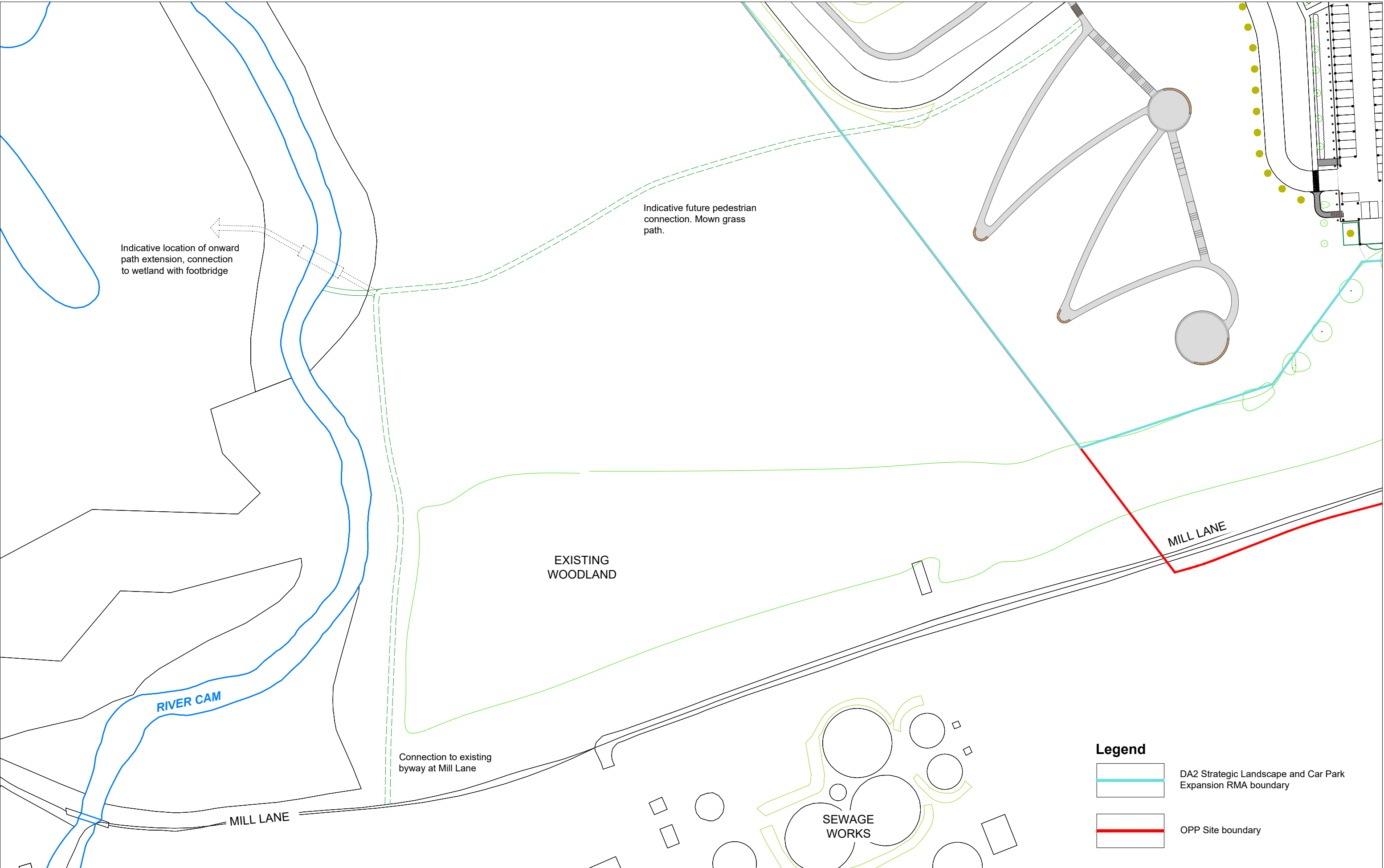
- **Tree and Vegetation Management:** Contractors will be brought in during September to manage the increasingly thick grass across the site. It was suggested to extend the cutting area to include wetlands and the field between the wooden bridge and the wetlands, particularly to benefit the growth of orchids.
- **Contractor Equipment:** The contractor mentioned that their equipment cannot collect the grass if it is cut shorter than usual, indicating the need for a different contractor if a lower cut is desired.
- **Wetlands Management:** The ponds in the wetlands have become overgrown, likely due to the previous year's dry summer affecting rhizome removal. There is hope that the recent wet season will allow for more effective management this year.
- **Reptile Translocation:** We have been approached recently by a school development approx. 6 miles from the Campus who have approx. 11 common lizard and a single grass snake to translocate to a suitable receptor site. Through their research our Campus was deemed suitable but due to the 6 mile proximity, LO consulted with the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust to check this would not pose a biohazard risk. They confirmed the risk is minimal and so we have agreed to bring the reptiles to Campus to boost our own populations.

### 3. Wildlife Trust Update (IW)

- **Reptile Observations:** IW and DK both noted that there has been a noticeable decline in reptiles on Campus, such as lizards and snakes, particularly a reduction in those observed under the refugia - which could be indicative of a broader regional decline in reptile populations, so the possibility of translocating some from elsewhere will be beneficial.
- **Glow-Worms:** IW reiterated the success of Glow-worm walks and the number of counts during the walks were high, with up to 37 glow-worms observed on one of them, which suggests a healthy population in and around the wetlands.
- **Invertebrate Decline:** The number of invertebrates, particularly butterflies, has been disappointing though, and the issue is acknowledged as being beyond on-site control.
- **Community Engagement:** There is growing interest from local residents in wildlife walks around the Campus itself, in addition to the wetlands. Plans will be considered to organise a few of these walks for residents to showcase the biodiversity efforts on campus. LO shared that this could possibly be included as part of the National Garden Scheme that he has been approached about locally.
- **Uncut Areas:** Iain noted that the area left uncut between the hall and the newer parts of the Campus is thriving, with species like meadow saxifrage flourishing (right)



### 4. Next Meeting: 13 November 2024



**Legend**

- DA2 Strategic Landscape and Car Park Expansion RMA boundary
- OPP Site boundary

Do not scale drawings. All dimensions to be checked on site.  
 Errors to be reported immediately to landscape architect.  
 To be read in conjunction with all relevant architects, Services and engineers drawings.



Revision Tracker	Status	Date
01 - Planning issue	S4	06.05.2022
02 - Planning issue	S4	13.05.2022

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Date: 13.05.2022  
 Scale: 1:1000/A3  
 Drawn: CA

Location: Hinxton, Cambridgeshire  
 Client: Urban & Civic

**DA2 Strategic Landscape and Car Park Expansion**  
**Indicative Pedestrian Connectivity**  
 600-CTF-02-XX-DR-L-10001

North arrow symbol

Status: **S4**

Revision: **P02**



**Planting plan (1:500)**

**Planting schedule**

Woodland planting					
Botanical name	Common name	Height (cm)	Root	% mix	Total plant number
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	60-80	Bare root	20	774
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	60-80	Bare root	10	387
<i>Crataegus monagyna</i>	Hawthorn	60-80	Bare root	10	387
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	60-80	Bare root	15	581
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	60-80	Bare root	10	387
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate oak	60-80	Bare root	15	581
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	60-80	Bare root	10	387
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	60-80	Bare root	10	387
<b>Total</b>				<b>100</b>	<b>3871</b>

Trees to be planted at 1 plant per m2 with species in a random pattern.

Specimen trees				
Botanical name	Common name	Size	Root	Total plant number
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Multi-stem field maple	5-6m height	Root ball	7
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	20-25cm girth	Root ball	1
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	20-25cm girth	Root ball	2
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas cedar	20-25cm girth	Root ball	1
<i>Magnolia kobus</i>	Kobus magnolia	20-25cm girth	Root ball	5
<i>Prunus x yedoensis</i>	Yoshino cherry	20-25cm girth	Root ball	4
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate oak	20-25cm girth	Root ball	2
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common whitebeam	20-25cm girth	Root ball	8
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain ash	20-25cm girth	Root ball	5
<b>Total</b>				<b>35</b>

Car park and access road avenue - trees				
Botanical name	Common name	Size	Root	Total plant number
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	14-16cm girth	Root ball	4
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	14-16cm girth	Root ball	1
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common whitebeam	14-16cm girth	Root ball	4
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish whitebeam	14-16cm girth	Root ball	22
<b>Total</b>				<b>31</b>

Car park - shrubs					
Botanical name	Common name	Size	Root	%mix	Total plant number
<i>Cornus alba</i>	White dogwood	2L	Container	25	21
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Buds Yellow'	Red osier dogwood 'Bud's Yellow'	2L	Container	25	21
<i>Hebe rakalensis</i>	Rakai hebe	2L	Container	25	21
<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>	Rosemary	2L	Container	25	21
<b>Total</b>				<b>100</b>	<b>84</b>

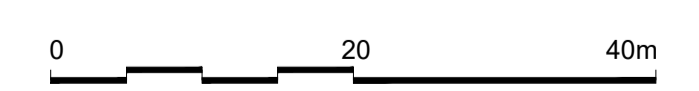
Shrubs to be planted as 5 plants per m2 with species in a random pattern.

Car park - climbers					
Botanical name	Common name	Size	Height (cm)	Root	Total plant number
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Chocolate vine	2L	60-80	Container	4
<i>Clematis armandii</i> 'Apple blossom'	Clematis apple blossom	2L	60-80	Container	6
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old man's beard	2L	60-80	Container	5
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	2L	60-80	Container	4
<i>Lonicera henryi</i> 'Copper beauty'	Japanese honeysuckle	2L	60-80	Container	6
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> 'Belgica'	Common honeysuckle	2L	60-80	Container	6
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Star jasmine		60-80	Container	3
<b>Total</b>					<b>34</b>

**Climbers**

- Akebia quinata
- Clematis armandii 'Apple blossom'
- Clematis vitalba
- Hedera helix
- Lonicera henryi 'Copper beauty'
- Lonicera periclymenum 'Belgica'
- Trachelospermum jasminoides

Do not scale drawings. All dimensions to be checked on site. Errors to be reported immediately to landscape architect. To be read in conjunction with all relevant architects, Services and engineers drawings.



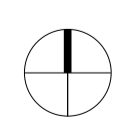
Revision Tracker	Status	Date
P01 - Draft planning issue	S4	05.05.2022
P02 - Revised planning issue	S4	06.05.2022
P03 - Revised planning issue	S4	13.05.2022
P04 - Revised planning issue	S4	12.09.2022

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Date 12.09.2022  
 Scale 1:500/A1  
 Drawn IE/AT  
 Location Hinxtion, Cambridgeshire  
 Client Urban & Civic

**DA2 Strategic Landscape and Car Park Expansion**  
**Planting plan and schedule**

600-CTF-02-XX-DR-L-50000



Status **S4**  
 Revision **P04**