

# ENDANGERED ECOLOGIES

A COLLECTIVE  
VISION FOR THE FUTURE  
OF THE MARSHES



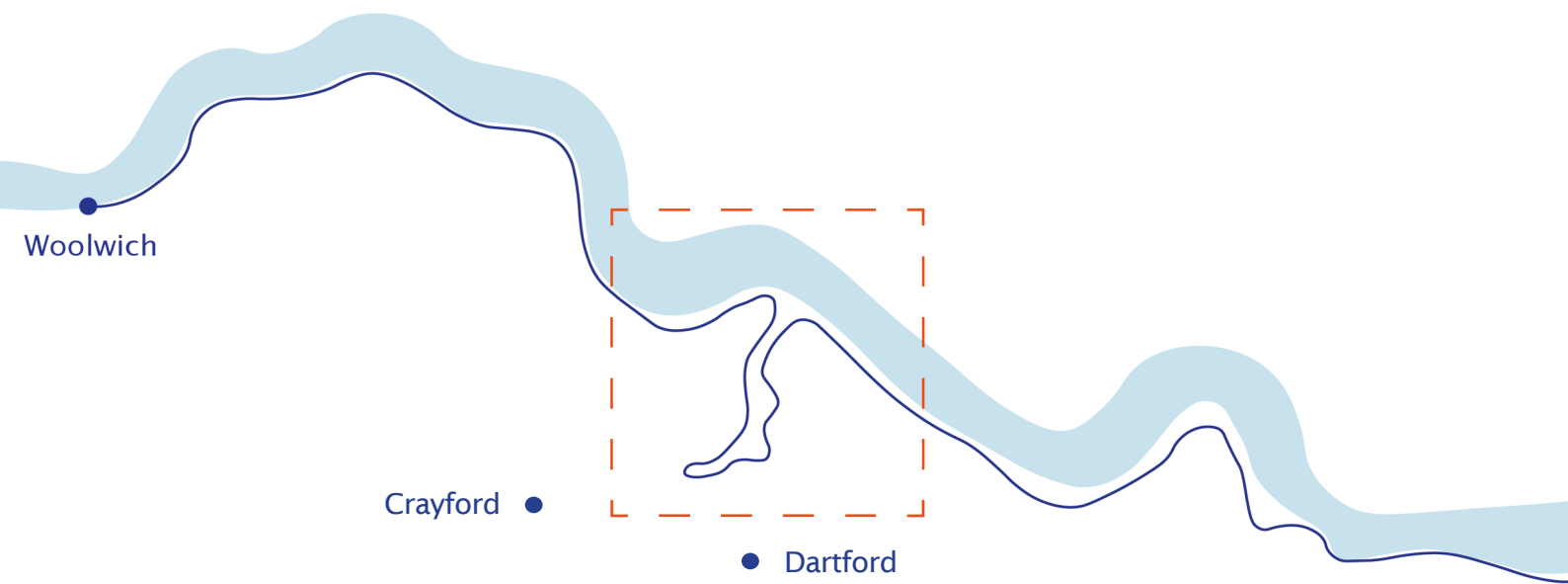


# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A group of charities, local wildlife groups and specialists have come together to produce a vision for the marshes over the past few months. We have gained media attention and are beginning to collaborate with local councillors and MPs. This documents looks to assist the future development of the collaborative vision for the marshes. It also provides a feasibility study for a policy pilot project that focuses on the concept of 'custodians of landscape'.

My practice focuses on edgeland landscapes as a key to triggering a social and economic shift in how we view endangered natural spaces in our city. Through the act of walking through this landscape we have managed to meet people who are interested in this landscape, we have also made alliances with landowners and charities. The practice looks to facilitate multidisciplinary collaborations with the aim to bring attention to overlooked ecologies and landscapes that are really valuable for our environment.

The old flour mill acts as an anchor for this pilot project. Its strategic location connects the outer and inner marshes and provides a great working base for the charity that is already active on the marshes. The river Cray that runs through the marshes is a rare type of chalk stream, it is being restored and protected by this charity. Their stable, cool, nutrient-rich waters allow chalk streams to support an exceptionally high number of species – so much so that these habitats are sometimes described as “England’s rainforests”. The design for the mill reactivates this historically valuable space and provides a space for community, while creating better access onto the marshes.







# SITE CONTEXT

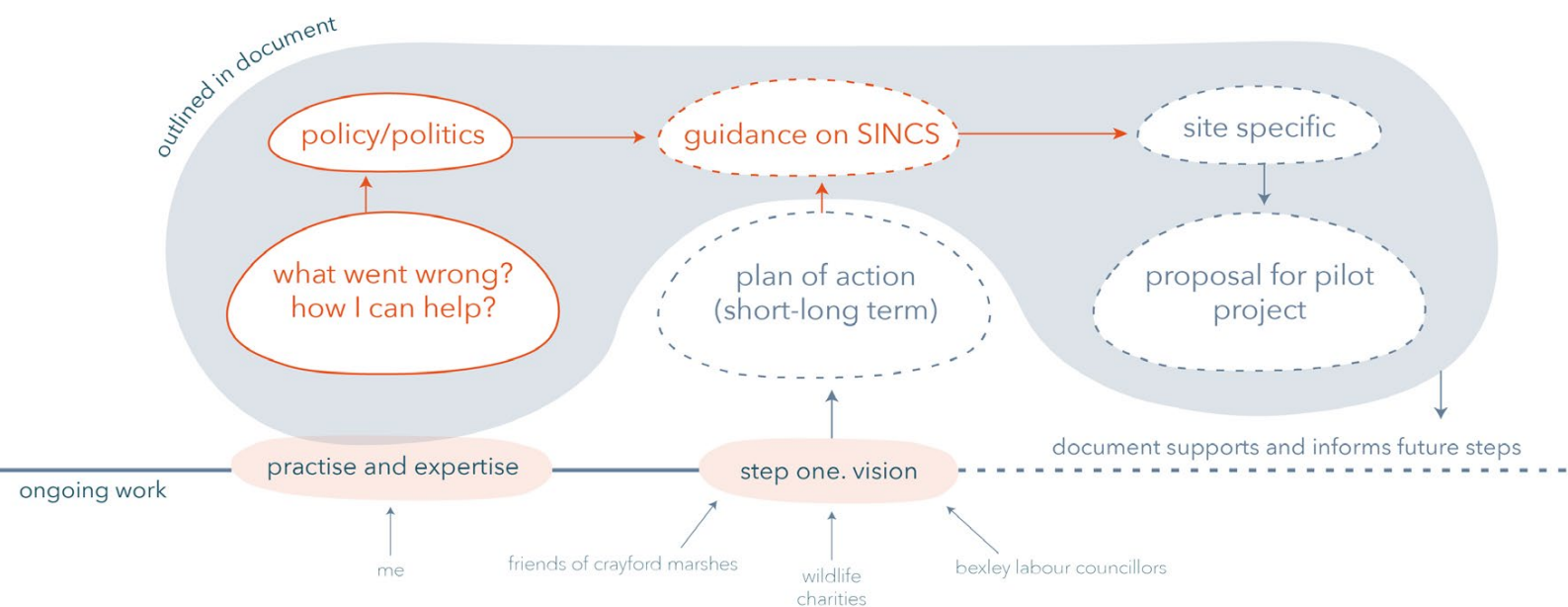
Crayford and Dartford Marshes are a picturesque and ecologically significant area located in Southeast England, approximately 15 miles east of central London. These marshes form a vital part of the Greater Thames Estuary and play a crucial role in the local ecosystem, they are environmentally and historically significant. Crayford and Dartford Marshes are situated along the banks of the River Thames, primarily in the London Borough of Bexley. The marshes extend between the towns of Crayford to the west and Dartford to the east, covering an area of approx. 3,500 acres.

The marshes serve as a vital habitat for a variety of bird species. During the winter months, these marshes become a crucial stop-over site for countless avian travelers. These marshes act as a natural buffer against flooding. When the River Thames experiences high tides and storm surges, the marshes help absorb excess water, reducing the risk of flooding in nearby areas. Their strategic location and capacity to hold floodwaters is instrumental in protecting communities downstream. During the medieval period, the marshes were used for agricultural purposes. In the 19th Century the marshes served as a transportation route for goods, and industries like paper mills and chemical plants were established in the area. This industrial heritage left its mark on the landscape and the local economy. During World War II, Crayford and Dartford Marshes played a strategic role in the defense of London. In recent decades, there has been a growing recognition of the environmental and historical value of Crayford and Dartford Marshes.

Conservation efforts have been initiated to protect and restore the natural habitats and historical features of the Crayford and Dartford marshes, however this has mostly failed over the past 20 years.

# A collaboration with Friends of Crayford Marshes

I have been working directly with Friends of Crayford Marshes to produce a vision for the marshes. They have previously worked on a vision for Swanscombe Peninsula and they managed to achieve a designation upgrade to Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We hope to bring attention to the marshes and use the vision as a tool to get support and funding in place to protect these marshes. I have worked on producing this document over the past months and we plan to release it to the media in October with a meeting planned for November with the local MP, to try and secure their support for this vision. We have multiple charities already on board to back the vision. This document looks to assist the future development of the collaborative vision for the marshes. It also provides a feasibility study for a policy pilot project that focuses on the concept of 'custodians of landscape'.





Wildlife and Heritage  
A future for Crayford Marshes

Claydon Marshes is a much loved wildlife & heritage, Green Belt site located on the Thames Gateway at the outer edge of South East London. It forms part of an ecological network connecting Ashford Marshes and Dartford Marshes creating sanctuary for wildlife and people. This fabulous green space with big open skies offers tranquility within an ever growing and congested area.

[illegible]

World War Two anti aircraft gun sites and pillboxes which can be seen by the public. Nazebury are a reminder of Cranford Manchet's history. Onwards towards the River Thames and the England Coastal Pathway reveals salt marsh, which is one of our most effective weapons in the fight against climate change. They act to gird carbon sinks which lock away carbon while also protecting us from flooding. Wetlands such as Avonet, Nazebury and Oystermouth are attractive to the salt marsh to feed and at low tide you may also observe a Cuckoo or Grey Seal.

We want to see a future for Crayford Marshes that secures and protects all of its precious wildlife, habitat, history and green space for the local community and to help safeguard its future.

The Friends of Crayford Marshes community group has been gathering local opinions to find out what people want to use at Crayford Marshes.



**94%**  
of people said Crayford Marshes was either  
'very important' or 'somewhat important',  
for their physical or mental well-being.

**Photography Is Becoming Food**

Crayford Marthes is clearly popular, with over 90% of people saying they had visited before 39% visit to observe wildlife 39% enjoy walking while 3% go there to take photographs. 7% walk their dogs 3% cycle and 3% enjoy sailing. This clearly shows the marthes valuable role as somewhere to enjoy open space, connect with nature and to exercise outdoors. To understand over 9% of people that Crayford Marthes was either very important or somewhat important for their physical or mental well-being? Research shows that time in nature-rich landscapes helps people to be happier and healthier.

What are people saying?



**96%**  
of people would like to see dedicated areas  
focusing on the conservation of breeding  
ground for rare and red-listed species.

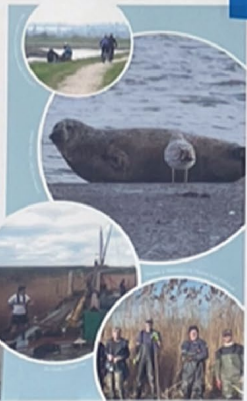
People care about Crayford Marshes, 75% of respondents were aware of past and current threats to the Green Belt and they want to see the whole site protected from development, 95% of people would like to see dedicated areas focusing on the conservation of rare and declining species such as Corn Bunting and Skylark which breed on the Grade II site of importance for Nature Conservation which is at most risk from development. Respondents wanted to see improvements to the site that would benefit wildlife and suggested green bridges to re-connect the outer and inner Crayford Marshes plus the Dartford Marshes for both people and wildlife. People also wanted to find a solution to fly-tipping along Walkhouse Road as well as to discourage motor bikes and find another location suitable for this recreation.

### Protection & Improvements

## Supporting Nature &amp; People

Victims to Crayford Marshes stated that they belong to over an dozen different groups, from local history and wildlife conservation organisations to Working For Health and other recreational and well-being groups. Although 90% of respondents said they live within Beccles Borough, the other 10% travelled to Crayford Marshes from all over London as well as Havant, Crawley & Hastings. It is clear that Crayford Marshes is already a place of destination and so should remain a publicly accessible green space managed with and for wildlife, with visitor and local community enjoyment and well-being at its heart.

Over 90% of respondents thought no facilities were needed to Crayford Marsh, as over 90% would like to use a hole for birdwatching, with would welcome toilet facilities. Over 90% would like to see an information and educational centre with cafe, requesting a cafe. Interestingly over 90% of respondents thought it was either very important or important to have local youth organisations in developing ideas for the future of Crayford Marshes, however only just over 50% of respondents who completed this survey were 16-30 years old. An educational visitor space would be an excellent way to engage with and encourage young people and local schools to visit and learn about Crayford Marshes history and take action on their discovery.



### Improved Access

Considering how many people visit Crayford Marshes to walk and enjoy it's open space, it is unsurprising that respondents were also keen to see information and signage across the site to help them navigate and understand the marshes. There is a clear desire for educational literature from a wildlife and historical point of view with over 50% of respondents saying they would like to see educational display boards, 54% would like to see directional signs at intermittent points and 10% requesting a mobile location app, 35% would like to see all the above.

Although 88% of respondents indicated that they had no problem with accessing and moving around Crayford Marshes, over 50% commented that some of the uneven footpaths made it difficult to walk on and this also made it unsuitable for wheelchair users. It would be beneficial to all to make the footpaths accessible where course laying is careful not to disturb or damage the hedgerows and wildlife habitat.



How can I help?

Our vision is just that – a vision. To keep the Crayford Marshes safe for people and nature we need to work with local partners and decision makers. The local people can show their support for the campaign by contacting their councillors and MP and ask them to discuss how we can save our fabulous Green Belt.

Share this vision with others in your community and together let's work to save Crayford Marshes for people and nature for future generations.



**Friends of Crayford Marshes**



©MarshesCrayford





## UNIT 4 CONTEXT



In Unit 4 I looked at how Crayford and Dartford Marshes are susceptible to a range of threats such as development, further extraction and flooding. The lack of access to the marshes is also a threat in itself as it conceals the value of that this landscape.

# A Landscape Infrastructure of Resistance for Crayford and Dartford Marshes:

Located on the edge of Southeast London, the Crayford and Dartford Marshes are an overlooked landscape spanning an area of over 5km<sup>2</sup>. The fate of these edgelands is unknown, there is a growing interest from developers who are investing in large areas of the green belt, flooding is becoming a serious issue for the industrial estates, yet the wildlife is flourishing. These landscapes are deemed by many as unattractive; however, the qualities of these spaces display key elements of our history, industrial heritage, ecology and society all in one overlooked space.



## P01

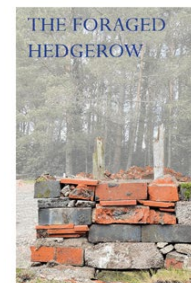
### Material Prototype

The Foraged Hedgerow is a material prototype created out of waste materials that can be found in and around Crayford and Dartford Marshes. It is a material that is inspired by the landscape and is used to create a structure that is both functional and artistic.

### STEP ONE: collect a wide range of waste materials



### STEP FOUR: build by layer introducing varied materials



### STEP TWO: sort the materials collected by size and type



### STEP FIVE: fill gaps between materials with small pieces



### PREPARATION: pack tools and make a rough build plan

Building a foraged hedgerow takes preparation when regarding materials to be used. The collection and sorting stage is important in preparing for the build, making it easier to use the found materials according to category.



### STEP THREE: build base for larger pieces forming corners



### STEP SIX: repeat stacking process and fill with dirt by layer



The proposal introduces an infrastructure of accessibility, a strategy for conservation of industrial heritage and protection of wildlife which resists the future commodification of marshes with more dominant capitalist approaches to land. The infrastructure also allows us to engage in speculation about the ways in which the landscape can change due to climate crisis and how it can be protected. These landscapes are deemed by many as unattractive; however, the qualities of these spaces display key elements of our history, industrial heritage, ecology and society all in one overlooked space. The proposal introduces an infrastructure of accessibility, a strategy for conservation of industrial heritage and protection of wildlife which resists the future commodification of marshes with more dominant capitalist approaches to land. The infrastructure also allows us to engage in speculation about the ways in which the landscape can change due to climate crisis and how it can be protected.

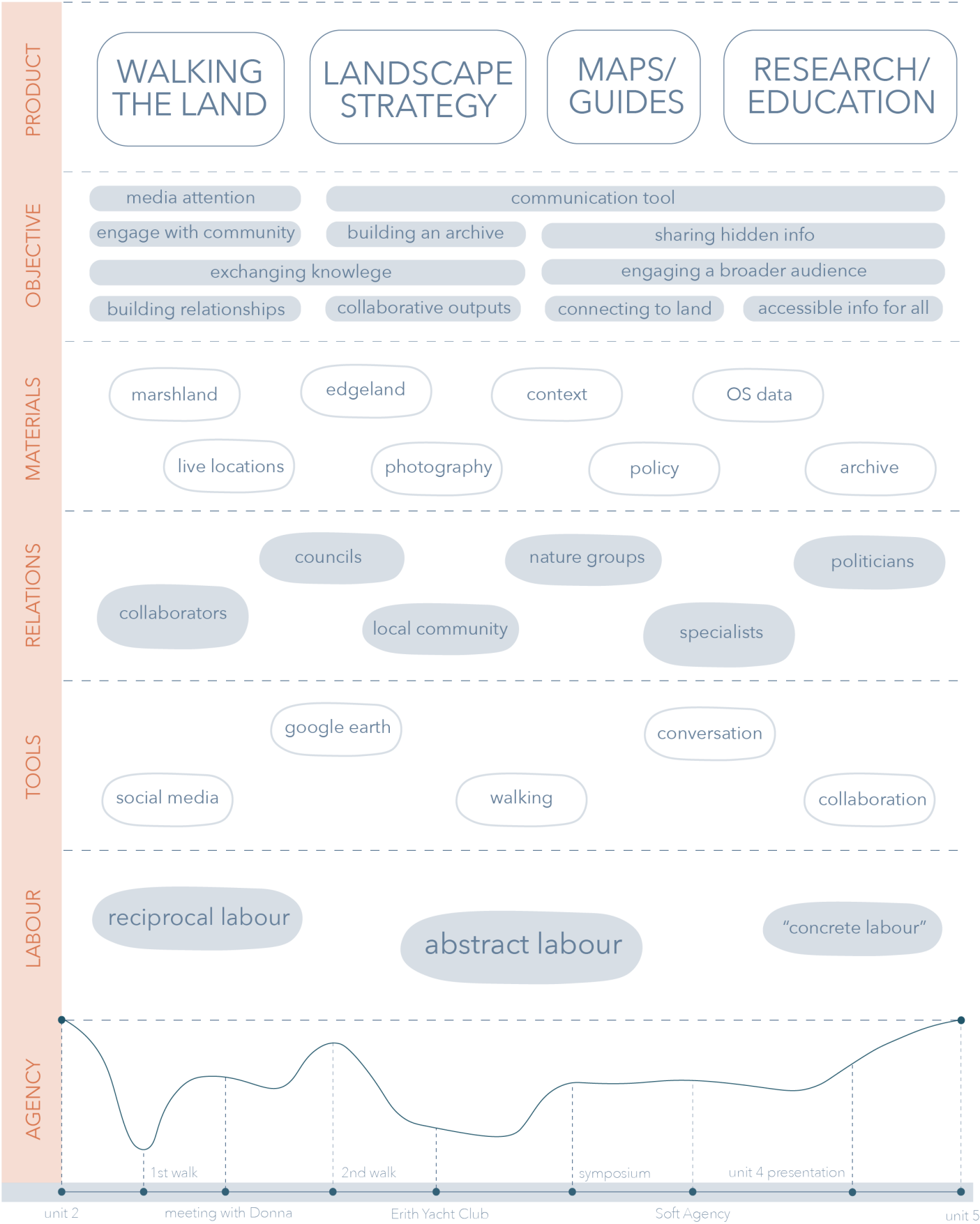


  
Private Property  
no trespassing

EST. 2014  
  
CARAVA  
COFFEE ROASTERS

# Practise/Practice

My practice offers a platform for knowledge exchange and strategy, with the aim to address complex landscapes that are in transition and pivotal in how we look to structure our future ecosystems on the edge of our city. My main outputs and methods are outlined below, illustrating the nature of my practise.



# ENDANGERED ECOLOGIES

The practice begins with walking; moving through landscape and exploring edges, borders and unique ecologies. This opens a direct dialogue with our surroundings.

The core aim of the practice is to protect endangered landscapes through the diffusion of knowledge about how our land is utilised, perceived and distributed.

We work closely with progressive institutions and individuals, and we help them implement the change they have imagined.

We offer workshops that engage with landscapes directly, helping to unite communities and others and to reconnect with their natural surroundings.

## A MANIFESTO

We work with the unseen and overlooked in order to highlight their potential and importance in creating social, environmental and economic value.

We provide a platform for knowledge exchange and an open archive to create better accessibility to information about our nation's landscapes.

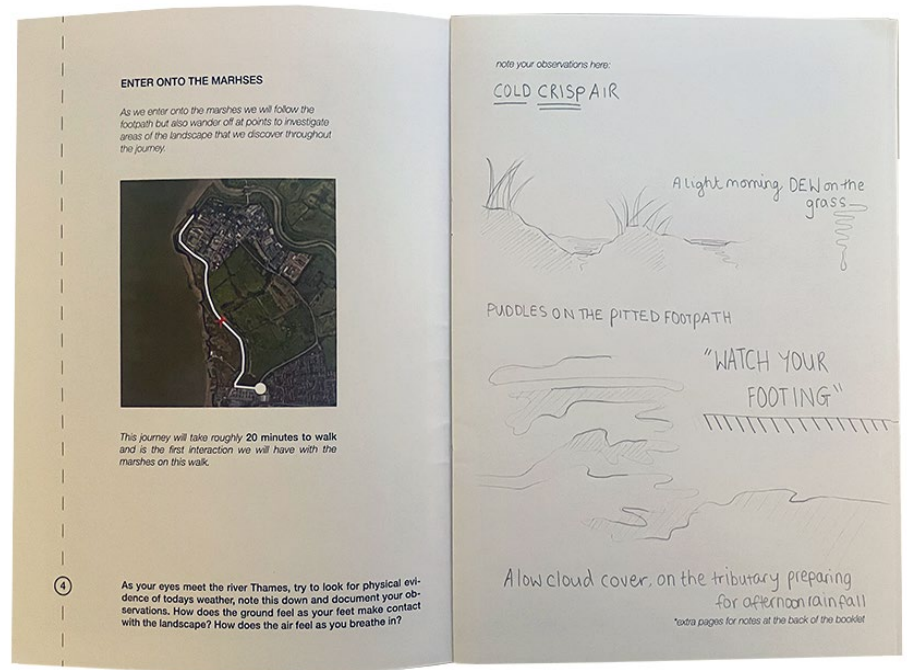
We challenge societies' perspectives of landscape and land use, creating engagement. distributing accessible information allowing people to connect with each other in order to

We use our research as a tool to support various organisations who work with endangered landscapes with the aim to provide a tool to apply for funding opportunities.

## FOR PRACTICE

# Walking

Walking is a key method for research I have used throughout my work, it has provided an alternative perspective for understanding and reading space. When one begins to move through a space the environment around them is altered, shifted and transformed. Space in many ways defines the form and function of the built environment and there are ways in which walking complicates this notion of space.



Walking also serves as an opportunity to form relationships, and to grow bonds. Walking side by side encourages face-to-face interaction without the pressure of direct eye contact. This can make conversations feel less confrontational and more collaborative, allowing individuals to express their ideas and concerns more freely. It has been a key collaborative tool that I have used over the past two years.

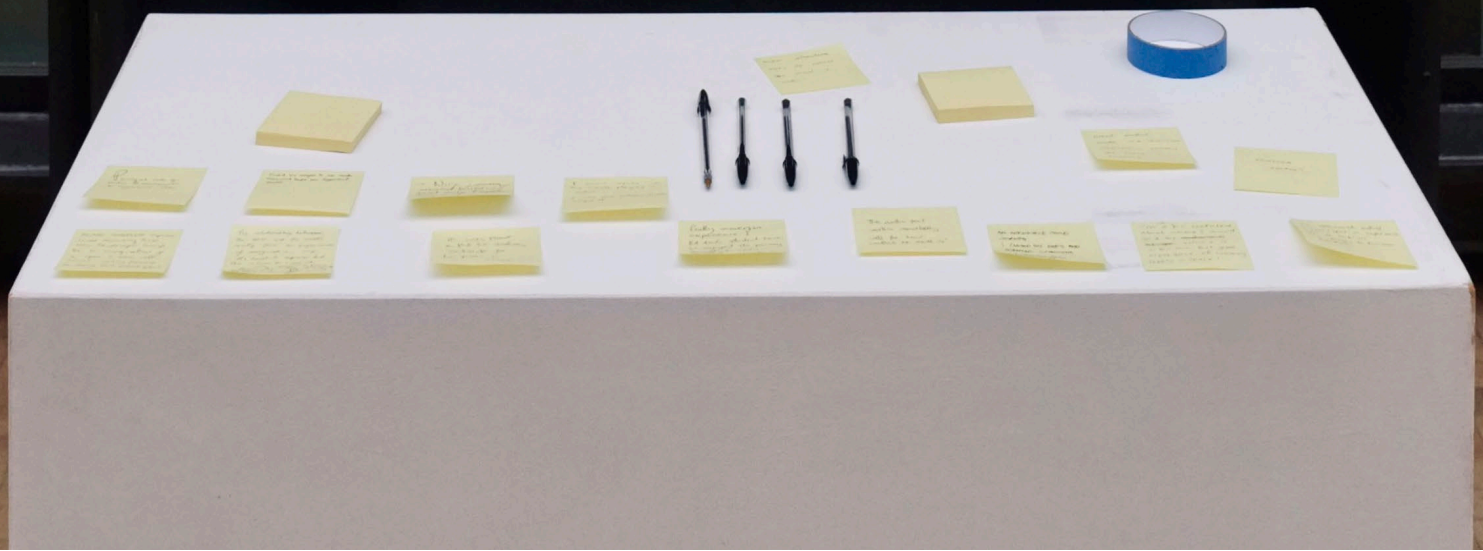


## Bexley campaigners ask for public's help to save Crayford Marshes

CPRE London was recently contacted by a local group in Bexley concerned that the Outer Crayford Marshes site has been bought by developers Berkeley Homes.

Added to this, the Bexley section of Inner Crayford Marshes, designated one of the best wildlife sites in London, is **up for sale** as a 'prospective development site'.

The **Friends of Crayford Marshes** is campaigning to save this much loved site located in Green Belt on the Thames at the outer edge of South East London. The site is protected Green Belt and a nature reserve with rare birds and seals, and has considerable historic interest, but is now under threat from being built over.



# Funding Opportunities

London Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the Mayor of London, is supporting projects which will enhance and restore London’s Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These sites make up London’s wildlife network and a core focus when taking action to rewild and recover nature in the city.

Successful applicants of the Rewild London Fund have been granted funding to improve, restore or create wildlife-rich habitats that will address the effects of climate and ecological emergency. The £850,000 fund, delivered by the London Wildlife Trust with commitment from Amazon’s Right Now Climate Fund, will support 22 projects with around 116 hectares of priority habitat to be restored or created.

### Appendix A: Application Form

This sample application form is for information only. Please DO NOT complete this form, but fill in the [online form](#)

**Disclaimer**

Please note that decisions to grant funding are subject to a formal decision-making process. You must not place any reliance whatsoever on the support of the GLA until formally notified in writing that your application has been successful and your authorised signatory(ies) has executed and returned a funding agreement, which will be sent to you by Groundwork London.

Accordingly, any expenditure that you incur or commit to in the course of preparing your proposal prior to formal notification and execution and return of the funding agreement is incurred and/or committed to entirely at your own risk.

**Gateway Questions**

To check if your project is eligible for the Rewild London Fund and to access the online application form, please answer the following questions.

i. **Are you applying on behalf of a constituted organisation which has its own bank account, with two separate signatories, into which a grant can be paid?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

ii. **Is your organisation eligible to apply for this fund?**

Applications are open to:

- local authorities
- civil society organisations which manage land. These could include:
  - registered charities including charitable incorporated organisations
  - formally constituted community groups
  - social and not-for-profit businesses including community interest companies and social enterprises
  - community benefit societies

☐ Yes ☐ No

iii. **Will all the proposed activity take place within Greater London?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

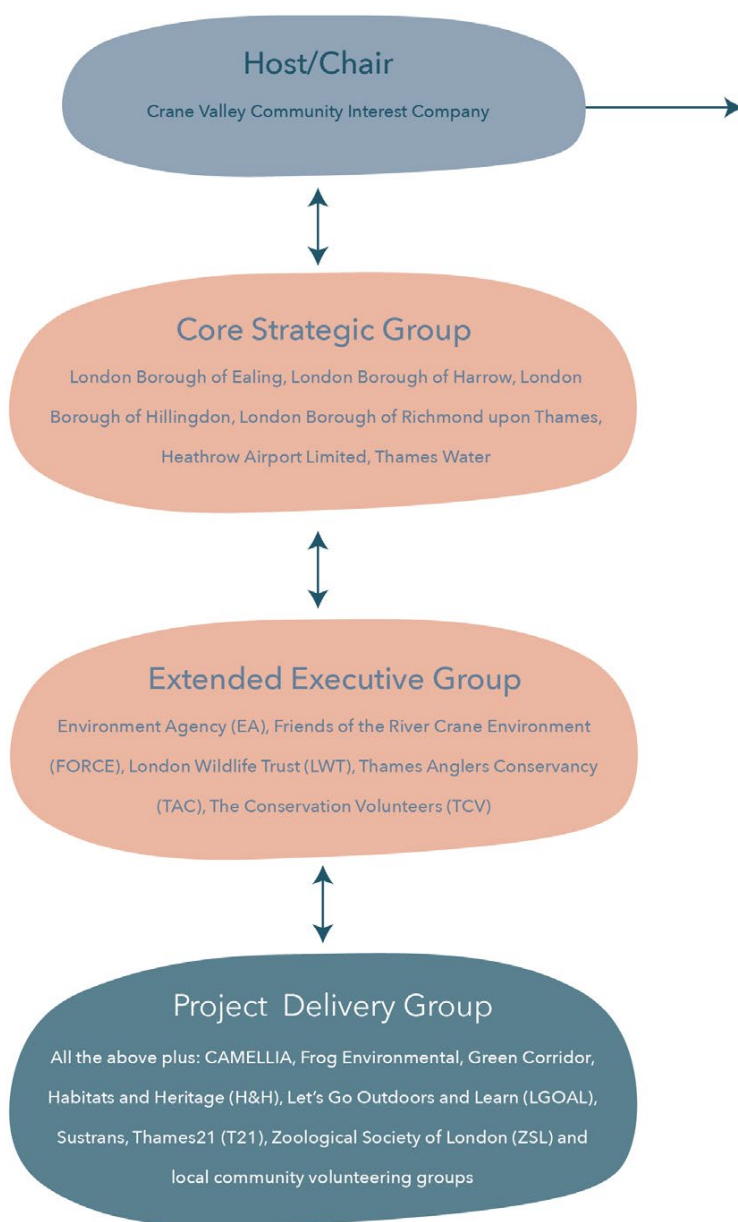
## Organisation structures and funding

London Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the Mayor of London, is supporting projects which will enhance and restore London’s Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These sites make up London’s wildlife network and a core focus when taking action to rewild and recover nature in the city.

Successful applicants of the Rewild London Fund have been granted funding to improve, restore or create wildlife-rich habitats that will address the effects of climate and ecological emergency. The £850,000 fund, delivered by the London Wildlife Trust with commitment from Amazon’s Right Now Climate Fund, will support 22 projects with around 116 hectares of priority habitat to be restored or created. Fund, will support 22 projects with around 116 hectares of priority hab-



# Rewild London Case Study



## Multiple boroughs - Harrow & Hillingdon

### Yeading Brook Unbound (London Borough of Harrow lead)

As part of the Crane Valley Partnership and in collaboration with local groups and volunteers, the ambitious, large-scale Yeading Brook Unbound (YBU) project will make lasting changes - both major and minor - to the Brook, its margins and adjoining areas within SINC, parks and neighbouring allotments along its course - targeting locations and issues where greatest benefit can be achieved and engaging a wider community in its management, monitoring and ongoing improvement. Alongside making much needed, positive intervention on the ground, YBU will have a significant people focus, seeking in particular to involve community group members in survey, management and reporting activities where these presently don't occur and to help establish new groups where opportune, growing an involved, enthusiastic, and well-supported volunteer taskforce to care for individual sites and the wider environment of the Yeading. This will be critical to the project's legacy and to encouraging and enabling more nature and climate positive engagement.

# Timeline of Politics and Policy

KEY

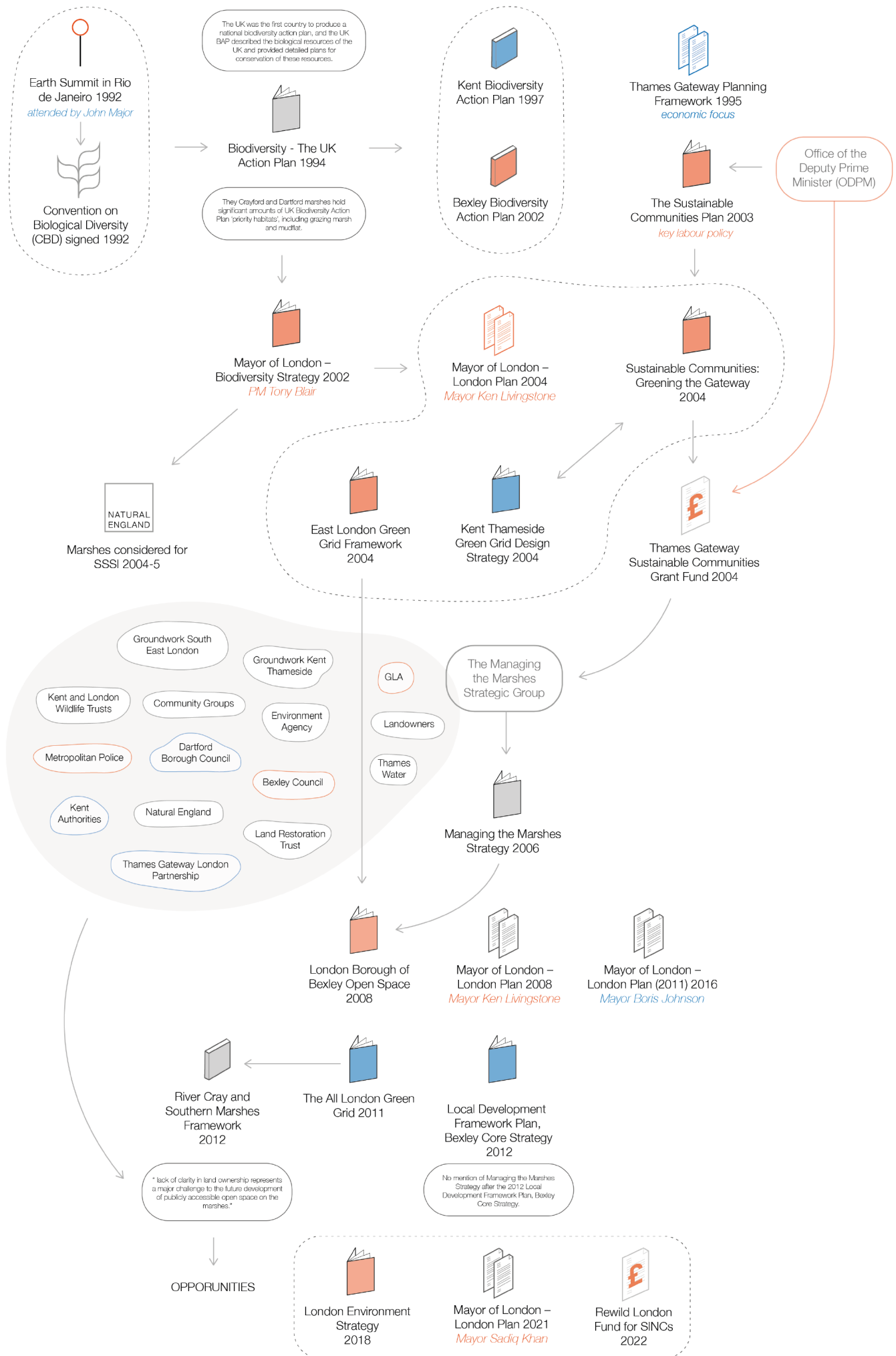
Neutral

Conservative

Labour

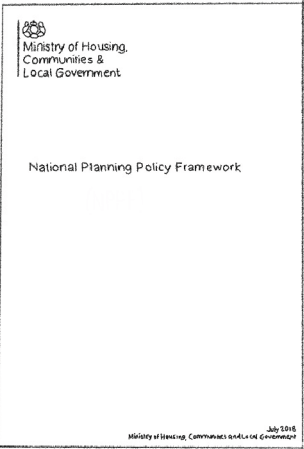
Policy and politics often go hand in hand, and in the case of Crayford and Dartford Marshes that is definately the case. There was a lot of work put into supporting and protecing this landscape at one point, until mention of it just disappeared. It's like the local council has erased it.

1990	John Major Elected as PM
1991	Environmental Protection Act
1992	Rio Conference
1993	Clean Air Act
1994	The Conservation Regulations
1995	Environment Act
1996	Wild Mammals Protection Act
1997	Tony Blair Elected as PM
1998	Aarhus Convention
1999	
2000	Ken Livingstone Elected as Mayor of London
2001	RCEP releases Energy: The Changing Climate Countryside and Rights of Way Act
2002	Creation of DEFRA
2003	
2004	The Hunting Act
2005	
2006	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
2007	Gordon Brown Elected as PM
2008	Department of Energy and Climate Change
2009	Climate Change Act
2009	Boris Johnson Elected as Mayor of London
2010	Heathrow Expansion
2010	David Cameron Elected as PM
2011	Energy Acts
2011	Royal Commission closed
2012	NPPF is published
2013	
2014	
2015	Paris Agreement
2015	Plastic Bag Charge
2016	Brexit Referendum - Theresa May Elected as PM
2016	Sadiq Khan Elected as Mayor of London
2017	
2018	25-year Environment Plan published
2019	Boris Johnson Elected as PM
2020	Amendments to the Climate Change Act
2020	COVID-19 pandemic
2021	COP26, Glasgow
2021	Environment Act 2021
2022	Lizz Truss Elected as PM
2022	Rishi Sunak Elected as PM
2023	Environmental Improvement Plan



# Existing Relevant Policy

## GOV - National Planning Policy Framework



Contents	
1. Introduction	4
2. Achieving sustainable development	5
3. Plan-making	6
4. Decision-making	13
5. Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	17
6. Building a strong, competitive economy	23
7. Ensuring the vitality of town centres	26
8. Promoting healthy and safe communities	27
9. Promoting sustainable transport	30
10. Supporting high quality communications	33
11. Meeting effective use of land	36
12. Achieving well-designed places	38
13. Protecting Green Belt land	41
14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	45
15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	50
16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	55
17. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	59
Annex 1: Implementation	63
Annex 2: Glossary	65
Annex 3: Flood risk vulnerability classification	75

## Relevant sections in NPPF

- 11. Making effective use of land
- 13. Protecting Green Belt land
- 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Protection of landscapes and species is a broad and complicated topic. There are various areas of policy that can impact our natural landscapes, and it often becomes difficult to coordinate between these areas in order to achieve a desirable outcome for all. Now more than ever we need to make use of our natural resources to protect the future of our cities and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We need policy in place to push for protection of valuable landscapes, particularly the ones that are endangered and deteriorating due to lack of management and adequate statutory protection.

## Relevant sections in London Plan

- GG2: Making the best use of land
- G1: Green infrastructure
- G2: London's Green Belt
- G3: Metropolitan Open Land
- G4: Open space
- G6: Biodiversity and access to nature
- SI 5: Water infrastructure
- SI 12: Flood risk management
- SI 17: Protecting and enhancing London's waterways

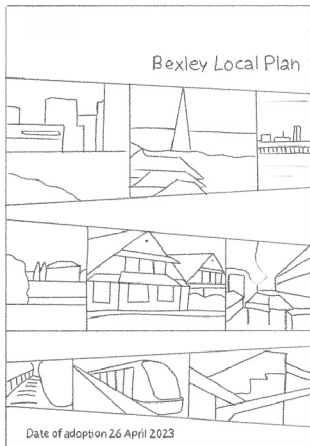
The London Plan recognises existing green assets and suggests that the Mayor will work with boroughs and other strategic partners to enhance access to the Green Belt and to improve the quality of deteriorating areas. This is not reflected in the Bexley Local Plan.

## MAYOR OF LONDON - London Plan



Main contents	
Introducing the Plan	1
Chapter 1 Planning London's Future - Good Growth	10
GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities	14
GG2 Making the best use of land	16
GG3 Creating a healthy city	19
GG4 Delivering the homes Londoners need	22
GG5 Growing a good economy	24
GG6 Increasing efficiency and resilience	26
Chapter 8 Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment	312
Policy G1 Green infrastructure	313
Policy G2 London's Green Belt	318
Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land	319
Policy G4 Open space	320
Policy G5 Green greening	322
Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature	328
Policy G7 Trees and woodlands	329
Chapter 9 Sustainable Infrastructure	334
Policy SI 1 Improving air quality	335
Policy SI 2 Minimising greenhouse gas emissions	342
Policy SI 3 Energy infrastructure	348
Policy SI 4 Managing heat risk	354
Policy SI 5 Digital connectivity infrastructure	361
Policy SI 6 Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy	365
Policy SI 7 Waste capacity and net waste self-sufficiency	369
Policy SI 8 Safeguarded waste sites	376
Policy SI 9 Agriculture	379
Policy SI 10 Hydroelectric (fracturing) planning	382
Policy SI 11 Sustainable drainage	388
Policy SI 12 Waterways - strategic role	387
Policy SI 13 Water transport	392
Policy SI 14 Waterways - use and enjoyment	396
Policy SI 15 Floodplain and designated floodplain management	398

## BEXLEY COUNCIL - Local Plan



Bexley Local Plan - Contents	
5. Bexley's wellbeing: providing community facilities and enhancing our environment	63
5.1 SP1 Social and community services and facilities	64
5.2 SP2 Local and community infrastructure	64
5.3 SP3 Health and protecting social and community infrastructure	66
5.4 SP4 Health and wellbeing	69
5.5 SP5 Publicly accessible open space	72
5.6 SP6 Waterfront development and regeneration including on-site flood defence	77
5.7 SP7 The River Thames and the Thames Policy Area	79
5.8 SP8 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity	85
5.9 SP9 Mitigating and adapting to climate change	86
5.10 SP10 Flood risk and resilience	86
5.11 SP11 Sustainable drainage	90
5.12 SP12 Sustainable transport	94
5.13 SP13 Sustainable water management	100
5.14 SP14 Sustainable energy	100
5.15 SP15 Sustainable waste management	100
5.16 SP16 Sustainable housing	100
5.17 SP17 Sustainable employment	100
5.18 SP18 Sustainable leisure and recreation	100
5.19 SP19 Sustainable culture and heritage	100
5.20 SP20 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.21 SP21 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.22 SP22 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.23 SP23 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.24 SP24 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.25 SP25 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.26 SP26 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.27 SP27 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.28 SP28 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.29 SP29 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.30 SP30 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.31 SP31 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.32 SP32 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.33 SP33 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.34 SP34 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.35 SP35 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.36 SP36 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.37 SP37 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.38 SP38 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.39 SP39 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.40 SP40 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.41 SP41 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.42 SP42 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.43 SP43 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.44 SP44 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.45 SP45 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.46 SP46 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.47 SP47 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.48 SP48 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.49 SP49 Sustainable infrastructure	100
5.50 SP50 Sustainable infrastructure	100

## Relevant sections in Local Plan

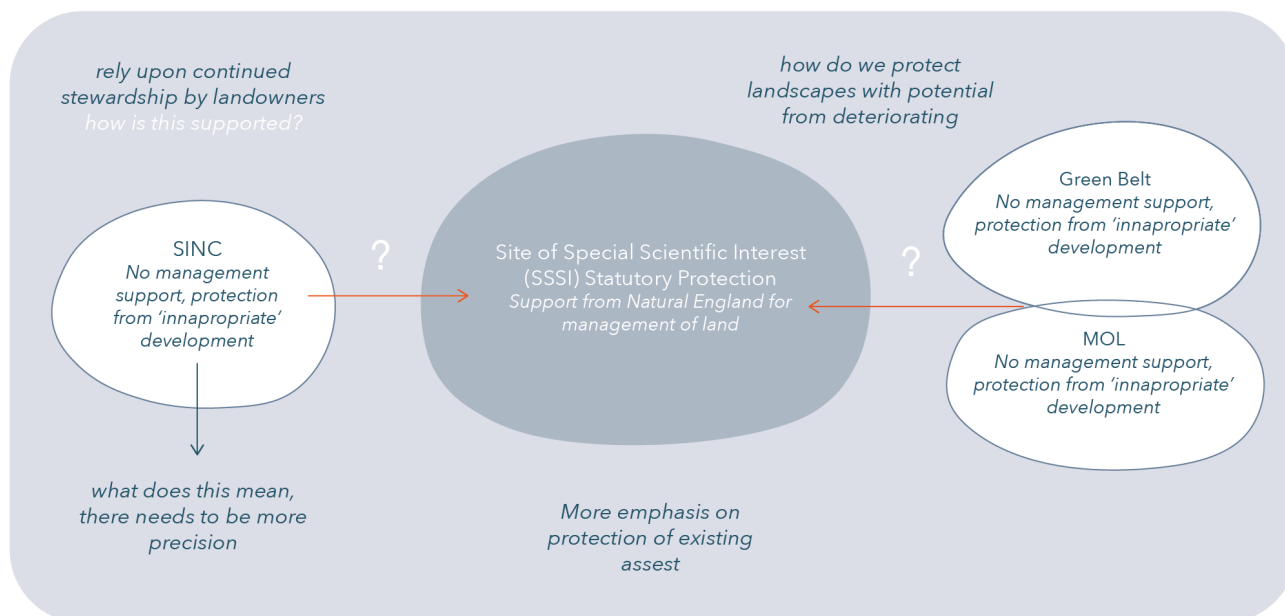
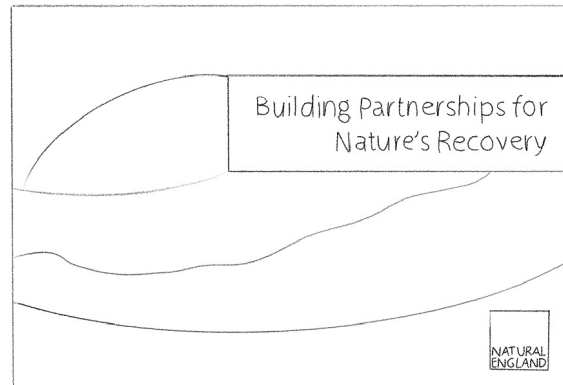
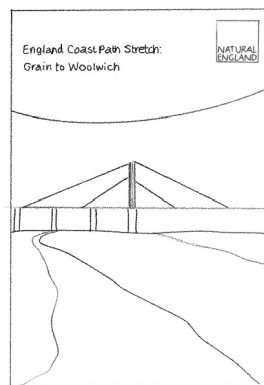
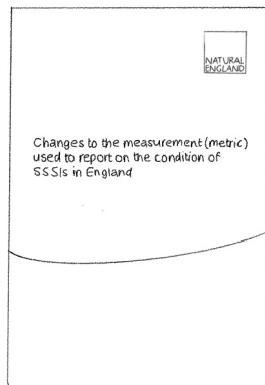
- DP17: Publicly accessible open space
- SP8: Green infrastructure including designated Green Belt
- DP18: Waterfront development, etc.
- SP9: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity etc.
- DP20: Biodiversity and geodiversity in developments
- SP14: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- DP30: Mitigating climate change
- DP32: Flood risk management

The local plan gives clearer guidance on future developments however does not really consider guidance on how to protect existing assets. There is a gap between policy and implementation, and there needs to be more information on how protected land should be managed and protected. The fate of these green spaces seems to rely on future development.

# Existing Relevant Statutory Guidance

## Natural England - Statutory Guidance

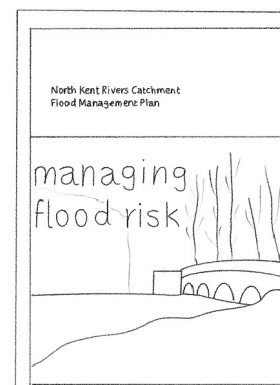
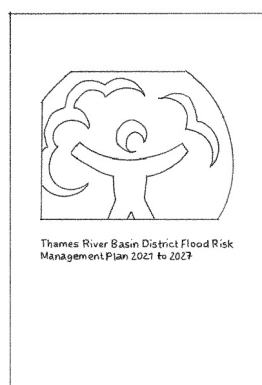
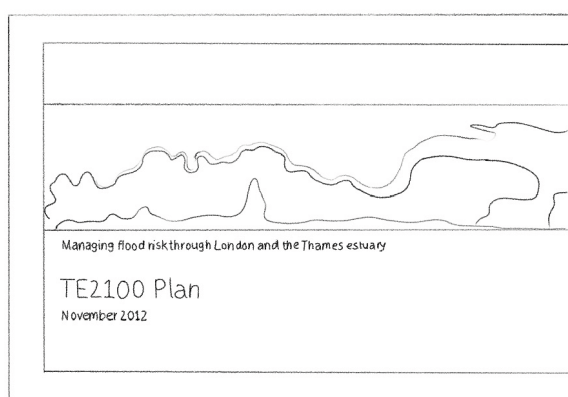
Responsibility for assessing and monitoring the condition of a SSSI lies with the appropriate statutory conservation agency Natural England, however many endangered sites in London are either SINC, Metropolitan Open Land or the Green Belt. Despite some of these landscapes displaying features that would classify them for consideration as SSSIs it seems there is a challenge in managing these landscapes so that they don't deteriorate.



Identifying the gaps in designations and policy

## Environmental Agency - Statutory Guidance

The Environment Agency's work managing flood and coastal risk, advising government and regulating industry protects people, helps wildlife thrive and promotes economic prosperity. A key document from the EA is The Thames Estuary 2100 Plan, it outlines how to manage risk and sets out a vision for the estuary's future.



# National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF focuses on statutory advice, therefore SINC related policy is not very clear in the document. It gives a broad overview on how to protect natural environment

## Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

174. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their **statutory status or identified quality** in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while **improving public access** to it where appropriate;
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, **wherever possible**, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

General approach no real guidance. Marshes have no statutory status and not mentioned in development plan since 2012.

The 2005 marshes vision outlined a clear overview of an accessibility strategy. This was not applied to the marshes which means public access is bad.

175. Plans should: **distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites**; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework<sup>58</sup>; 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.

## Protecting Green Belt Land

137. The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to **prevent urban sprawl** by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

138. **Green Belt serves five purposes:**

- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

The NPPF highlights the importance of species. The marshes have such unique habitats and species and should be considered for an SSSI providing statutory protection.

## Habitats and Biodiversity

179. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a) 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<sup>61</sup>; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation<sup>62</sup>; and
- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement 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.

There needs to be further guidance from government on how to apply these policies in practice. There also needs to be support in facilitating these actions.

Is promote a strong enough word to use?

Most of Crayford Marshes has been purchased by Berkley Homes, they plan to build on the high point known to be a SINC and houses rare bird species on verge of extinction. How is the local plan allowed not to address this?

The designations on the marshes vary and it is confusing for most people to understand, this means that developers can take advantage of that lack of knowlege. The vision we are creating aims to make this information more available to the community.

Green Belt land is key for prevention of urban sprawl and safeguarding from inappropriate development, however it does not really focus on protection of species and habitats.

# The London Plan

The London Plan is great at identifying the actions that need to be carried out to protect SINCS, however the implementation of this in Bexley is not successful.

## GG2 Making the best use of land

- F protect and enhance London's open spaces, including the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, designated nature conservation sites and local spaces, and promote the creation of new green infrastructure and urban greening, including aiming to secure net biodiversity gains where possible

## Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature

- A Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected.
- B Boroughs, in developing Development Plans, should:
- 1) use up-to-date information about the natural environment and the relevant procedures to identify SINCs and ecological corridors to identify coherent ecological networks
  - 2) identify areas of deficiency in access to nature (i.e. areas that are more than 1km walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC) and seek opportunities to address them
  - 3) support the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside the SINC network, and promote opportunities for enhancing them using Biodiversity Action Plans
  - 4) seek opportunities to create other habitats, or features such as artificial nest sites, that are of particular relevance and benefit in an urban context
  - 5) ensure designated sites of European or national nature conservation importance are clearly identified and impacts assessed in accordance with legislative requirements.
- C Where harm to a SINC is unavoidable, and where the benefits of the development proposal clearly outweigh the impacts on biodiversity, the following mitigation hierarchy should be applied to minimise development impacts:
- 1) avoid damaging the significant ecological features of the site
  - 2) minimise the overall spatial impact and mitigate it by improving the quality or management of the rest of the site
  - 3) deliver off-site compensation of better biodiversity value.
- D Development proposals should manage impacts on biodiversity and aim to secure net biodiversity gain. This should be informed by the best available ecological information and addressed from the start of the development process.

- 8.6.5 Development proposals that are adjacent to or near **SINCs or green corridors** should consider the potential impact of indirect effects to the site, such as noise, shading or lighting. There may also be opportunities for new development to contribute to enhancing the nature conservation value of an adjacent SINC or green corridor by, for example, sympathetic landscaping that provides complementary habitat. The London Environment Strategy includes guidance on identifying SINCs (Appendix 5) as well as habitat creation targets and a comprehensive list of priority species and habitats that require particular consideration when planning decisions are made. The London Wildlife Sites Board offers help and guidance to boroughs on the selection of SINCs.<sup>138</sup>

.....> It is positive to see the consideration of natural site protection in this section. In the past this has been overlooked with more of a focus on economic value of land alongside growth and production.

.....> Is 'should' a strong enough word? These sites NEED to be protected, and there needs to be more of a framework in place to support this locally.

.....> There is lack of up to date information, often governments and local councils are using 10-20 year old data. There are nature groups who actively collect this data, they need to be supported by the government to provide collaboration.

.....> How does the local council support this? There needs to be more of a framework in place and support for the communities that are doing this work voluntarily.

.....> How do you judge whether harm is unavoidable? Where is the line? There needs to be more guidance on how to evaluate such sites appropriately.

.....> How do you classify significant ecological features, does this relate to BAP species? Is this information up to date?

.....> There needs to be more support in managing sites both for landowners and communities, otherwise the sites will decline. The SSSI designations provides this support.

.....> This is good guidance on the factors that should be considered when making these evaluations.

# Bexley Local Plan

Bexley has made an effort to cover up the efforts that were made with protecting the marshes in the mid 2000s. There is no mention of the extensive work in the local plan.

## **POLICY SP9     Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological assets**

1. In its planning decisions, planning policies and action plans, the Council will protect and enhance the borough's biodiversity and geodiversity assets, in line with national and regional policy, by:
  - a. ensuring development in Bexley does not adversely affect the integrity of any designated European site of nature conservation importance;
  - b. recognising the value of landforms, landscapes, geological processes and soils as contributors to the geodiversity of the borough by protecting designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Regionally Important Geological sites (RIGs) and Locally Important Geological sites (LIGs) and supporting their sustainable conservation and management;
  - c. establishing clear goals for the management of identified geological sites, in order to promote public access, appreciation and interpretation of geodiversity;
  - d. protecting, conserving, restoring, and enhancing ecological networks, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserves, Strategic Green Wildlife Corridors and local wildlife corridors, thus securing measurable net gains for biodiversity, recognising and promoting those sites where ecological value has increased to a higher grade of nature conservation importance;
  - e. resisting development that will have a significant adverse impact on the population or conservation status of protected or priority species as identified by legislation or in biodiversity action plans prepared at national, regional or local level;
  - f. protecting and enhancing the natural environment, seeking biodiversity enhancements, net gains for biodiversity and improved access to nature, particularly in areas of deficiency as illustrated by Figure 8, through new development and projects that help deliver opportunities for green infrastructure with preference given to enhancements that help to deliver the targets for habitats and species set out in the London Plan and local biodiversity action plans and strategies;
  - g. enabling environmental education opportunities at the borough's schools, and investigating opportunities to involve the wider community in biodiversity or geodiversity restoration and enhancement through projects;
  - h. ensuring landscaping schemes in development proposals use native plant species of local provenance; and,
  - i. seeking opportunities to provide for greening of the built environment.

### *Implementation guidance*

- 5.103 Bexley is home to a number of important wildlife species and habitats. Some species of plants and animals are afforded legal protection, for example under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). A number of habitats and species are identified in national, regional and local biodiversity action plans. The important contribution of sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC) and geodiversity value in the borough is recognised.

### *Implementation guidance*

- 5.83 The watercourses in Bexley are a unique aspect of the borough, many of which are designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Consideration must be given as to how they can be positively incorporated, maintained, and enhanced as part of any future development. This includes incorporating ecological buffer zones adjacent to the watercourse, with a suitable bankside buffer of natural vegetation for wildlife.

- .....> There are no clear goals for the largest area of open space in this borough in this local plan, why?
- .....> What is the framework for this? There are a select few sites that are discussed but no focus on the ecologically most valuable landscapes.
- .....> Priority species identified on Crayford marshes, yet it has been partially sold off to a housing developer, in secret.
- .....> The value is recognised, but what next? There needs to be more guidance and support provided in the local plan for the marshes and other SINC sites.
- .....> The river Cray is a key chalk stream running through Bexley and needs a better strategy in place to support the work that Thames 21 and local wildlife groups have started to carry out.

It is difficult to understand in terms of policy why Bexley council is ignoring the marshes. It is such a strategically important piece of landscape ecologically.

# Outline of legislation, designations and planning guidance relevant to biodiversity in London.

## Planning

### NPPF

*The revised National Planning Policy Framework sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The Campaign to Protect Rural England has raised concerns about the streamlining of the revised NPPF, indicating that it treats land as a commodity, rather than as a finite resource.*

### London Plan

*The strategic plan for London, setting out an economic, environmental, transport and social framework for development. It aims to protect and enhance London's open spaces, including the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, designated nature conservation sites and local spaces promoting new green infrastructure.*

## Designations: European & international

*These sites represent the very best of Europe's nature and are internationally important for threatened habitats and species. These sites are ambitious in their aim, requiring more than just the avoidance of species extinctions and habitats loss. Instead the objective is for all species and habitats covered to contribute towards their favourable conservation status (FCS).*

Designation	Legislation	Responsibility	Priorities	Protection
Natura 2000	Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of nature conservation sites established under the Habitats Directive (1992).	Designated by each member state.	European network of protected nature areas where certain species of animal and their natural habitats are protected in order to preserve biodiversity.	Natura 2000 sites are protected by a series of very strong tests. The onus is on protection, not compromise. All Natura 2000 sites are also SSSIs.
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Designated under the Habitats Directive (1994) in Europe, and Habitats Regulations (Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations) in the UK.		Sites of European importance for habitats and species other than wild birds.	See 'Natura 2000'
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Birds Directive (1979) in Europe, amended under the Habitats and Species Directive (1992), and the Habitats & Species Regulations (1994) in the UK.		Sites of European importance for wild birds.	See 'Natura 2000'
Ramsar sites	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)		Sites of international importance to birds containing 1% of a species' biogeographic population.	Ramsar sites among the most highly protected sites in UK. All Ramsars are also SSSIs. In practice, protection for Ramsar sites is as for Natura 2000 sites.
Metropolitan Green Belt / Metropolitan Open Land	Government policy on protection for the Green Belt is set out in chapter 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).	The Government expects local planning authorities (LPAs) to establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans.	Designation is intended to protect areas of landscape, recreation, nature conservation and scientific interest which are strategically important.	Protected both by normal planning controls and an additional presumption against 'inappropriate development' within boundaries.

## Designation: UK & London (Statutory)

Statutory sites have protection under UK, European and International law, while non-statutory sites are recognised in local planning as being of importance in the local area. Often, the most important sites will have more than one designation.

Designation	Legislation	Responsibility	Priorities	Protection
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Designated by Natural England under NPACA - the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949), amended under Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and CRoW Act (2000).	Land owner or manager in consultation with Natural England.	SSSIs represent the UK's most important sites of biological or geological (or mixed) interest.	It is an offence to recklessly or intentionally damage an SSSI or disturb animals and birds on it. Owners and managers must give notice to Natural England before carrying out an 'operation likely to damage the special interest feature(s) of the SSSIs.
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Designated by local authorities under NPACA - the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).	The local authority must have a 'legal interest' in the land.	LNRs are normally greater than 2 hectares in size and of local interest. Managed with conservation, opportunities for access and research in mind.	LNRs are a material consideration in planning. Local authorities have a considerable amount of control over what does and doesn't happen there.
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	Designated under NPACA - the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).	NNRs are managed, by Natural England, on behalf of the nation.	NNRs are established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research.	
Metropolitan Green Belt / Metropolitan Open Land	Government policy on protection for the Green Belt is set out in chapter 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).	The Government expects local planning authorities (LPAs) to establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans.	Designation is intended to protect areas of landscape, recreation, nature conservation and scientific interest which are strategically important.	Protected both by normal planning controls and an additional presumption against 'inappropriate development' within its boundaries.

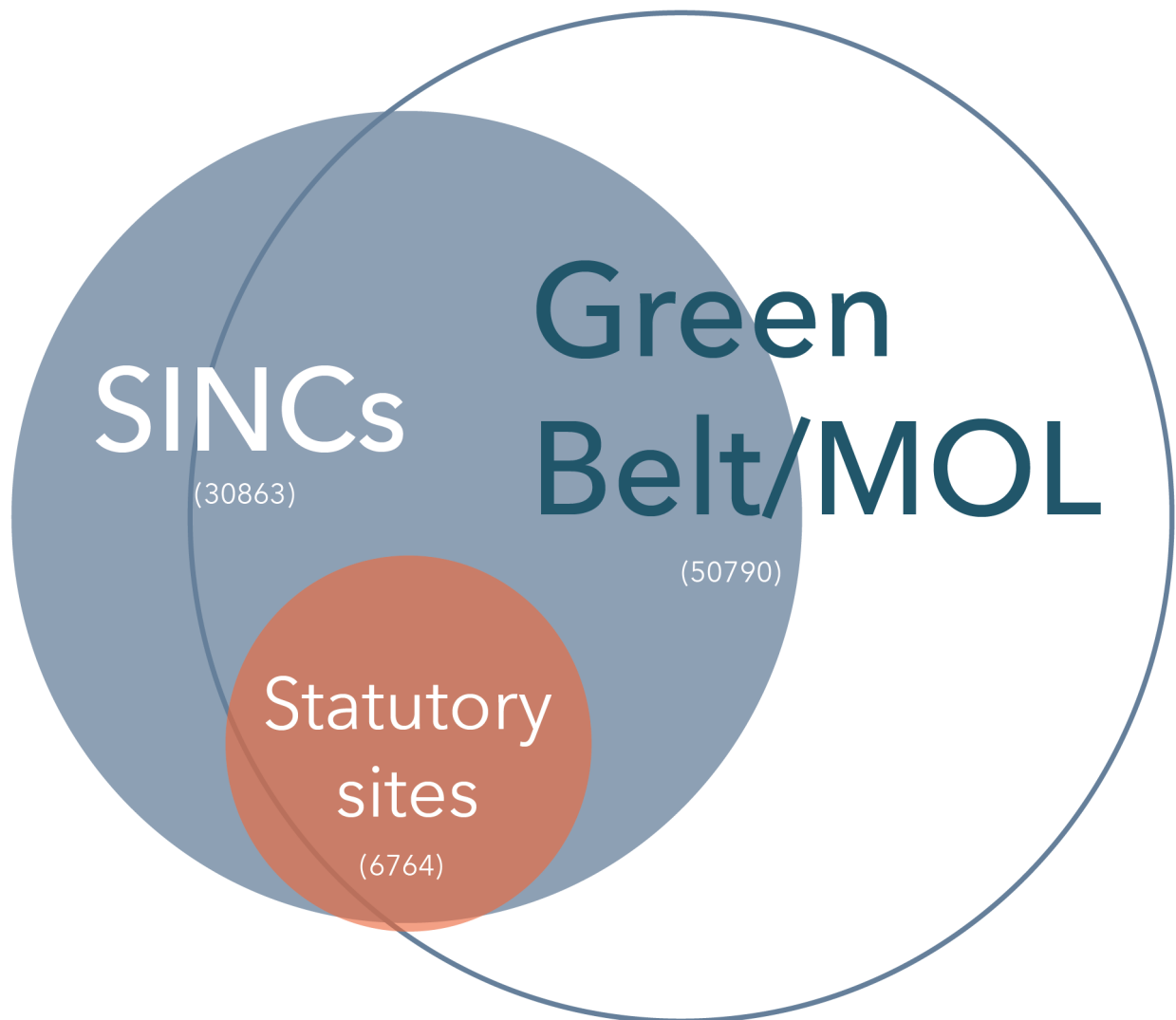
## Designation: UK & London (Non-Statutory)

These are local sites that are designated by Local Planning Authorities. In London, SINC's are designated as one of a hierarchy of types. Sites of Metropolitan Importance are selected on a London-wide basis. Sites of Borough Importance (grade 1 and 2) are selected from candidates within each borough. Sites of Local Importance are the lowest tier, selected to redress any remaining local deficiencies.

Designation	Legislation	Responsibility	Priorities	Protection
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC or SNCI)	Non-statutory designation. Identified and designated by Greater London Authority (GLA)		Chosen to represent the best wildlife habitats also of good access value for people.	Although not a statutory designation, SINC's are given some protection under the London Plan, in development plans and local development frameworks.

## Area of Greater London covered by nature conservation designations and Metropolitan Open Land/Green Belt

*\*Areas in hectares*



This shows that, overall, Green Belt or MOL within London covers 95% of land designated as a statutory site of importance for nature conservation under national or European legislation. It also shows that 59% of land designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and which is not within a statutory site is within either Green Belt or MOL. This is particularly significant as such

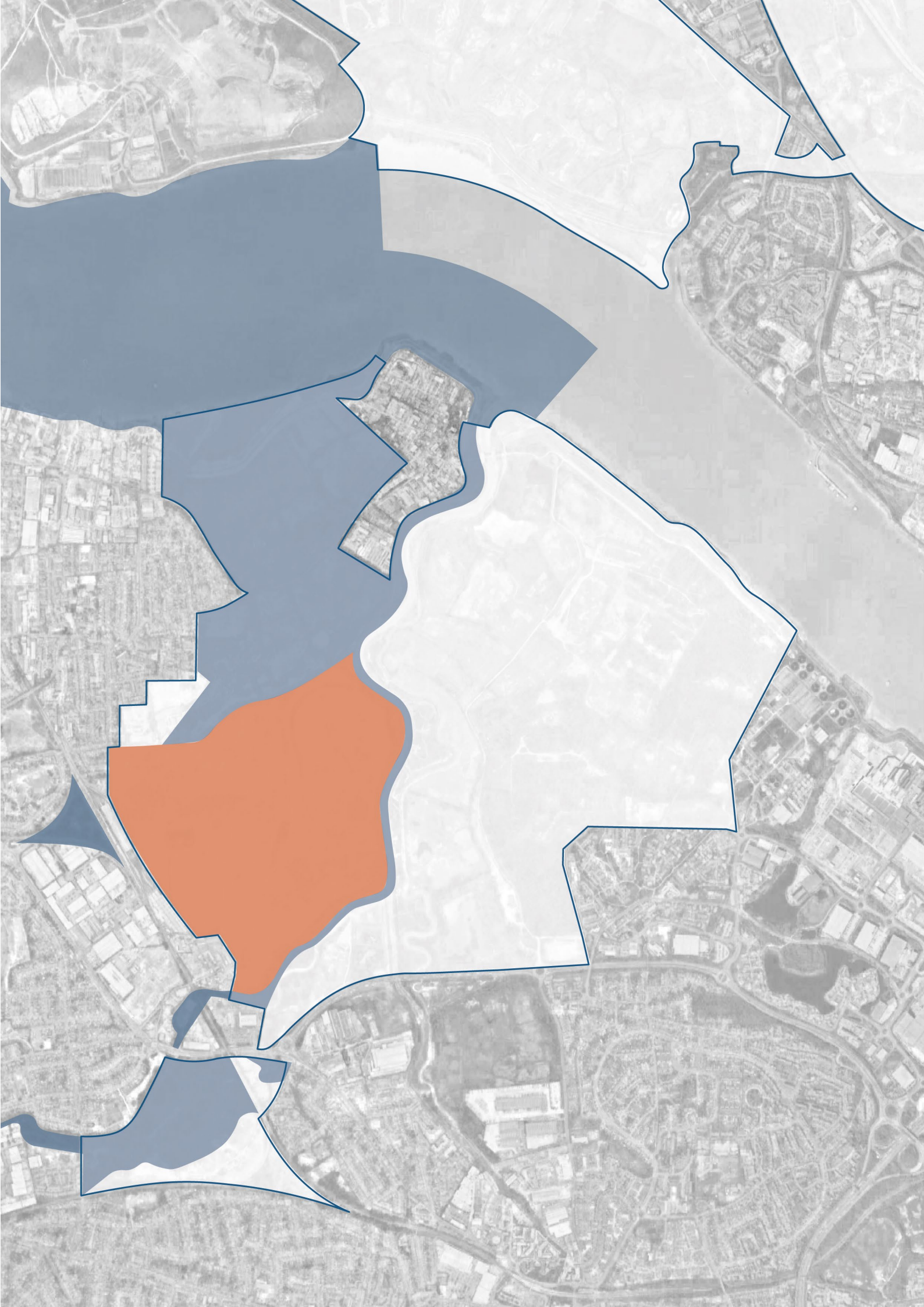
SINCs are otherwise only subject to non-statutory protection which many consider to be insufficiently robust. Moreover, with the growing emphasis on the importance of connectivity between wildlife sites (Lawton, 2010), it is vital that the conservation value of the wider Green Belt and MOL beyond these designated nature conservation sites is properly recognised in policy and decision-making.

# Statutory vs non statutory

**Statutory** bodies or organisations are defined by law or a statute, shaped by an Act of Parliament and set up by the Government to act in certain fields. A statutory designation is where a particular area or object is given special status or purpose by the acting body or organisation and defined in law.

A **non-statutory** designation is a status awarded by a non-statutory body under common law, formed by executive resolution or through the action of Government rather than in law or statute. Non-statutory designations however may be managed by statutory bodies and protected via other mechanisms as opposed to a specific law.

Designations, non-statutory and statutory in nature can be used to protect areas considered of value, scientifically, environmentally, historically and culturally. There are a number of known and accepted non-statutory designations which are material considerations within UK planning law and thus assessed during any planning application.





### metropolitan green belt

*The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. It is for local authorities to define and maintain Green Belt land in their local areas. The Government expects local planning authorities (LPAs) with Green Belts to establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans.*

## Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC)



### site of metropolitan importance

*Sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, including particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London. They are of the highest priority for protection.*



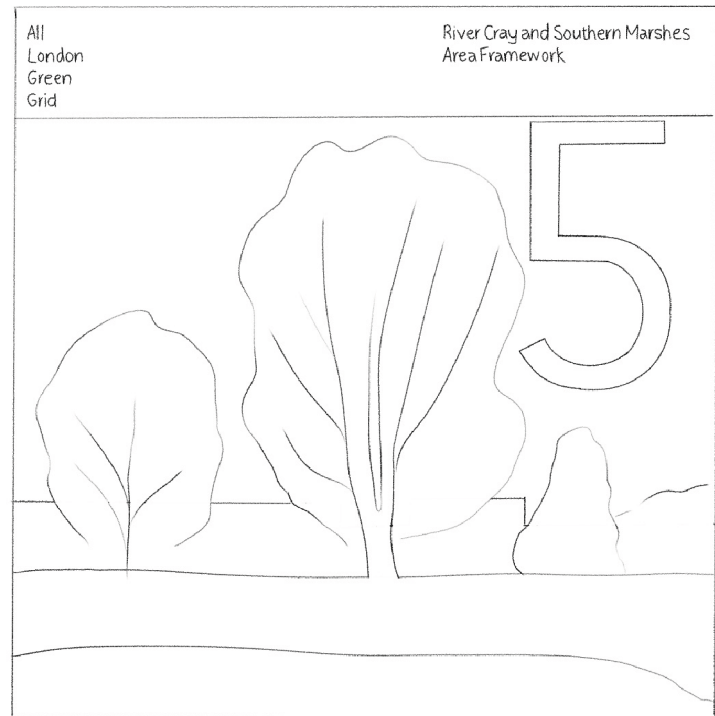
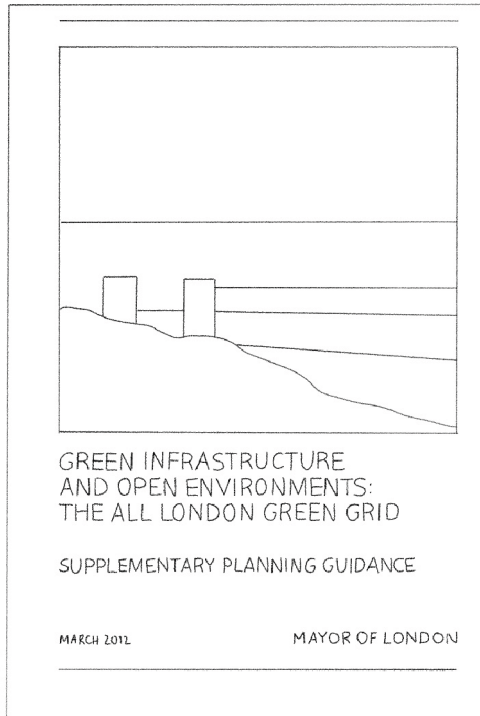
### site of borough importance ( grade one )

*Sites which are important on a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss at a Borough level.*

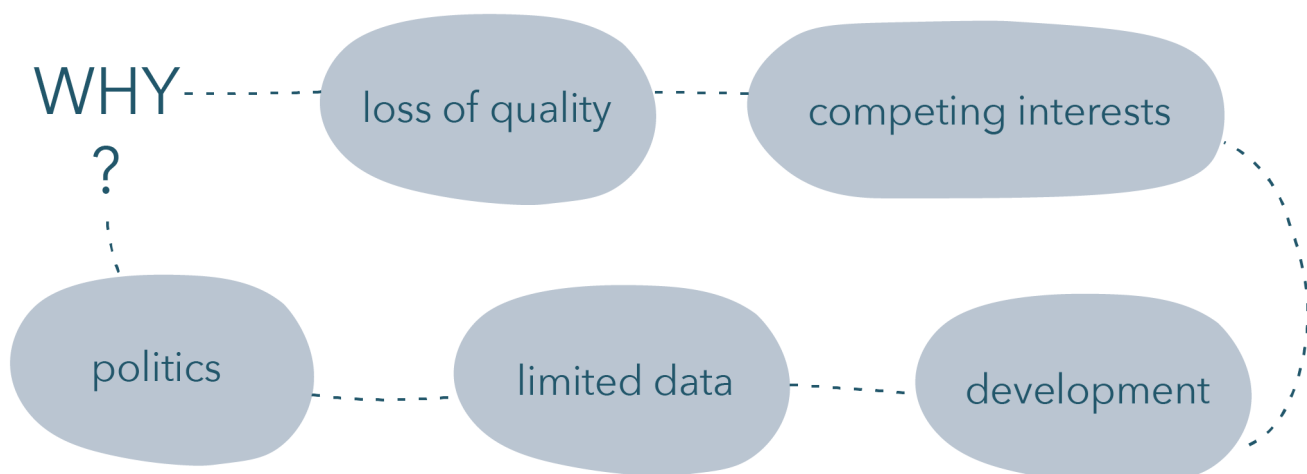
# Existing Relevant Non-Statutory Guidance

## All Green Grid - Supplementary Planning Guidance

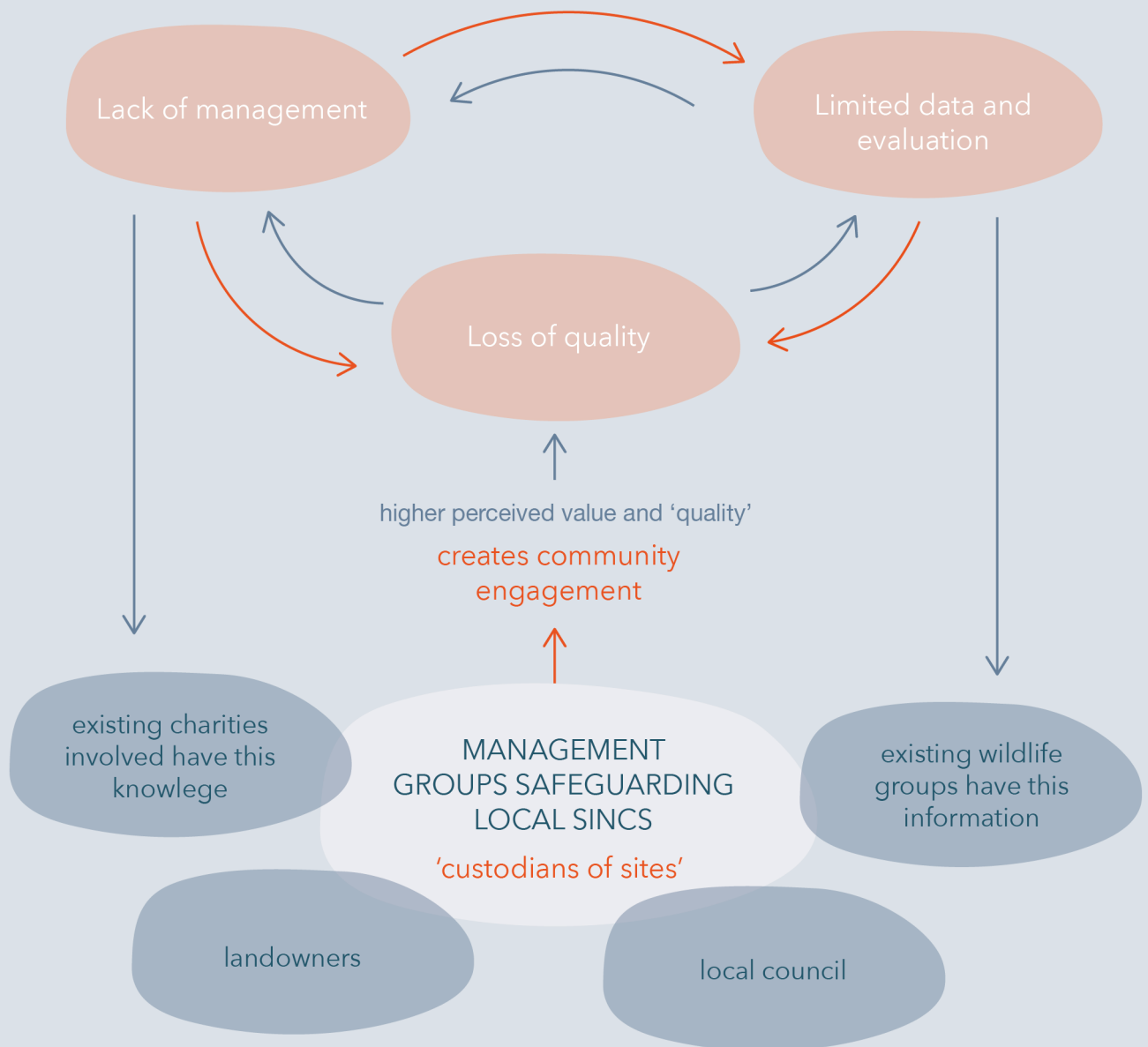
The All London Green Grid has been developed to provide a strategic interlinked network of high quality green infrastructure and open spaces that connect with town centre's, public transport nodes, the countryside in the urban fringe, the Thames and major employment and residential areas. This approach has been extremely successful in accelerating delivery of green infrastructure in East London through the East London Green Grid (ELGG).



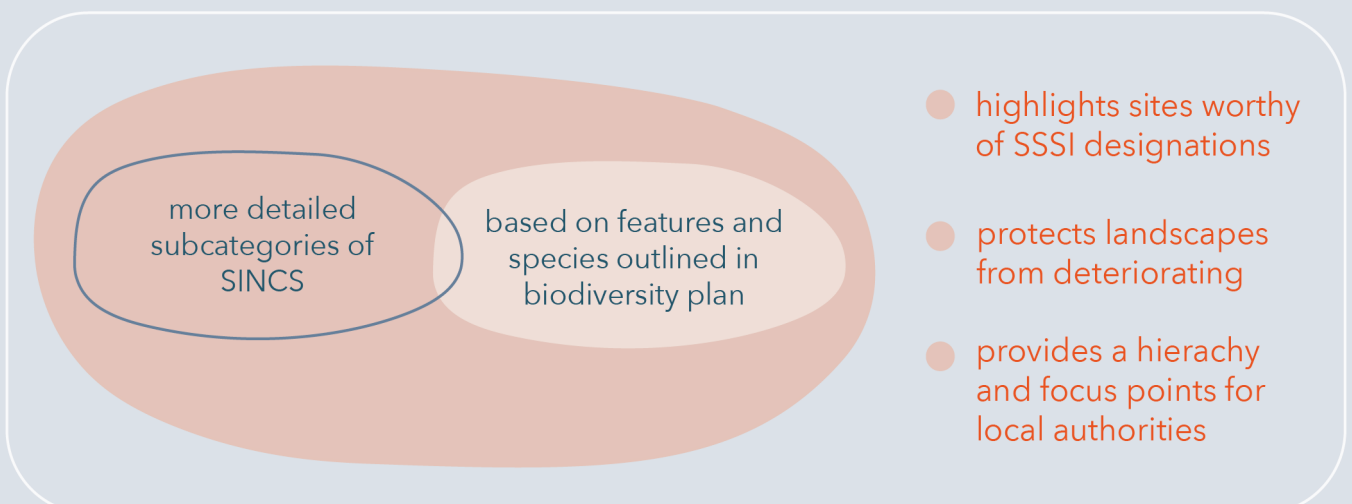
*The Framework provides an extensive list of project identifications, outlined next steps, funding opportunities, cost outlines. Ten years on there is no visible progress and the marshes are deteriorating. No mention in the Local Plan and no strategy.*



## Main issues in safeguarding SINCS and proposed actions for local areas:



## Proposed SINC designation alterations:



# London Wildlife Trust SINC Case study



*view of Erith Quarry from across the valley*

## LOSING SPACES

### ERITH QUARRY

Erith Quarry was an active **minerals extraction site** from the 1890s to the early 1980s. After quarrying ceased, the site was vacated and in the 1990s the site was given a dual designation; as a Borough SINC (in recognition of the Quarry's relative habitat value), and for redevelopment.

Planning permission was granted for residential dwellings and a new primary school with associated landscaping in March 2015. Ecology was an important consideration for this application; **extensive ecological surveys were carried out before** any designs were finalised. It was argued, as part of the permission, that the ecological value of part of the site was declining (mainly due to **lack of management**).

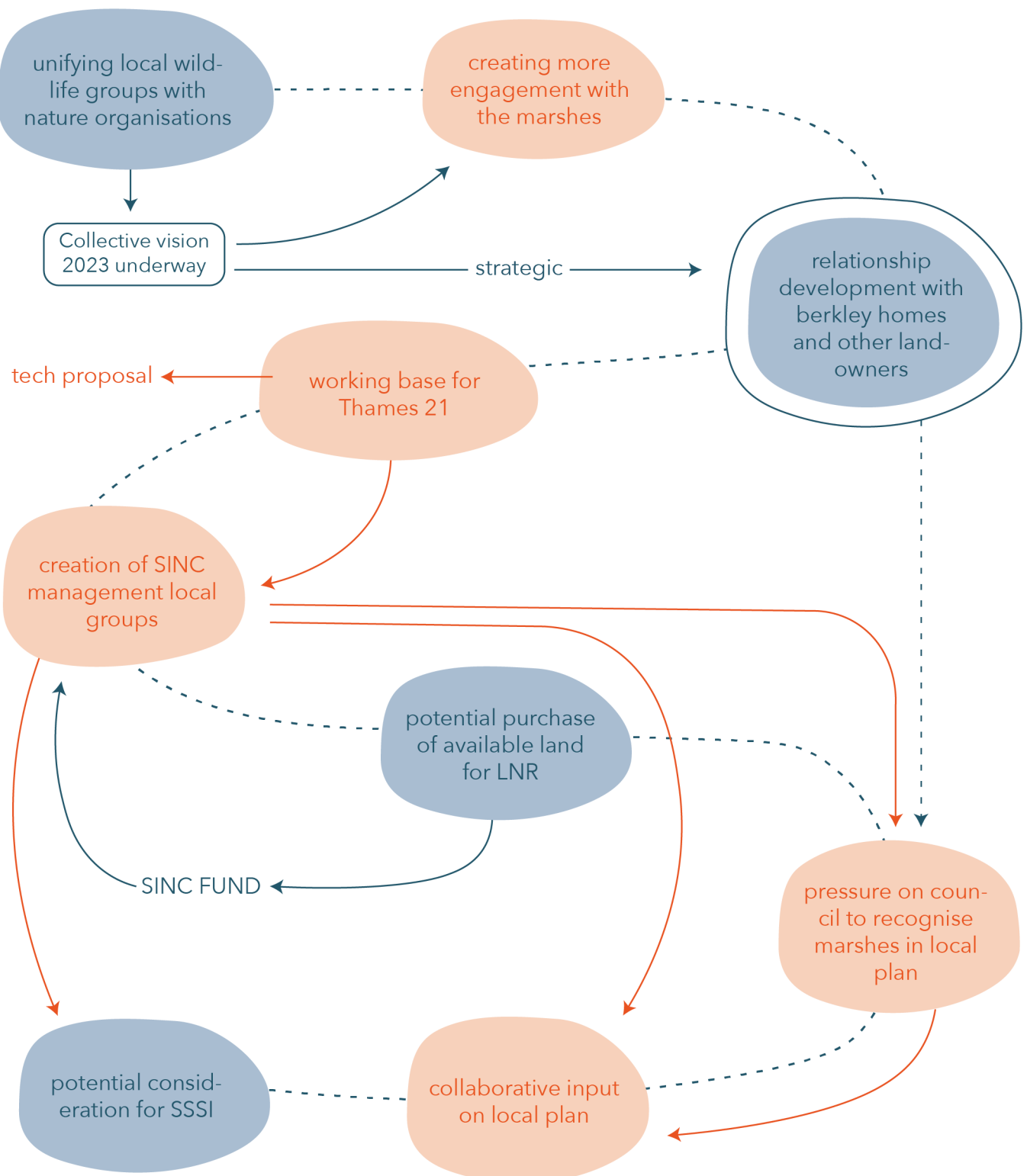
Although the approved development will reduce the area designated as a SINC (22.78ha) a principle behind the development was to protect and enhance the best habitats. 3.25 hectares of the best grassland was retained. Ponds will be created within this area, and the ring of woodland that surrounds the site will be enhanced through a plan delivered by a specially created management company.

The funding of nature conservation activities directed through 'planning gains' is very low. Department for Communities and Local Government figures for 2007/8 show **housing development valued at £95bn nationally; of this £5bn in S106 contributions was made, with only £5m allocated to 'nature conservation'.**

This is a case study from the 'Spaces Wild' Publication in 2015. It highlights the importance of managing SINCS particularly when there is an element of development introduced. The budget and consideration for nature conservation is very low, there need to be measures in place to protect these spaces and to work with developers, local groups and boroughs.

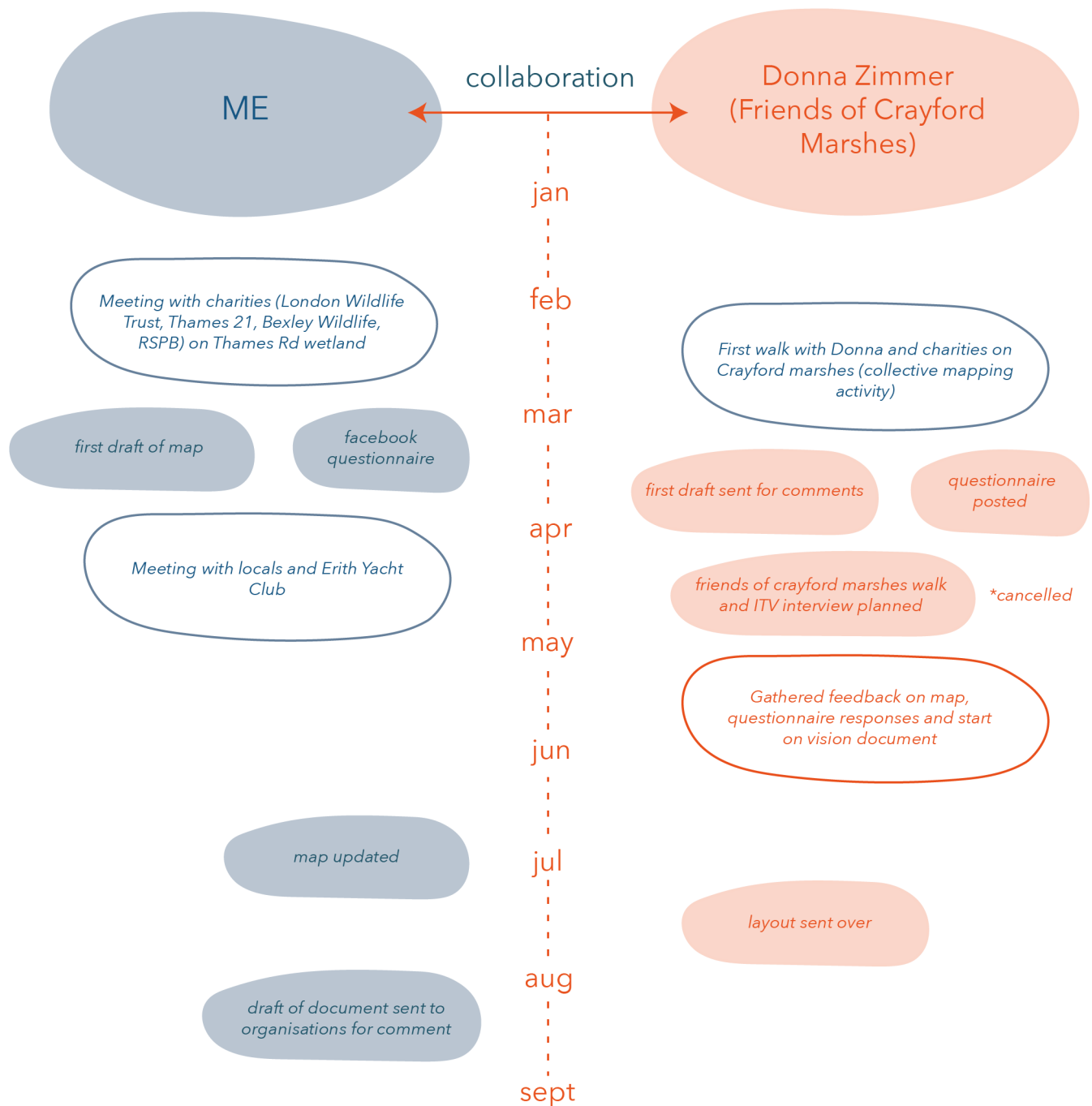
## Potential impact of proposed policy on my site

This is a case study from the 'Spaces Wild' Publication in 2015. It highlight the importance of managing SINCS particularly when there is an element of development introduced. The budget and consideration for nature conservation is very low, there need to be measures in place to protect these spaces and to work with developers, local groups and boroughs. This is a case study from the 'Spaces Wild' Publication in 2015. It highlight the importance of managing SINCS particularly when there is an element of development introduced. The budget and consideration for nature conservation is very low, there need to be measures in place to protect these spaces and to work with developers, local groups and boroughs.

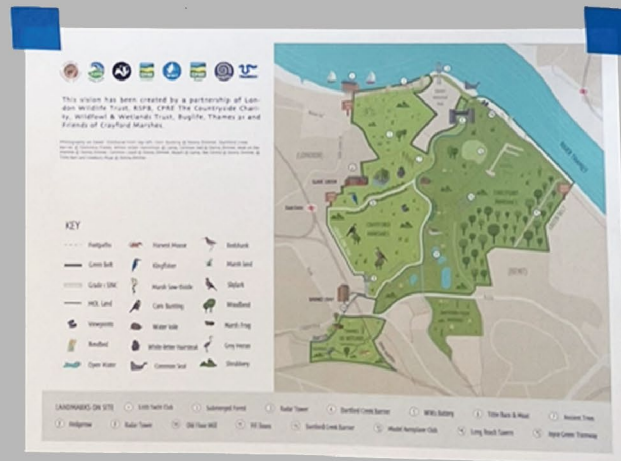
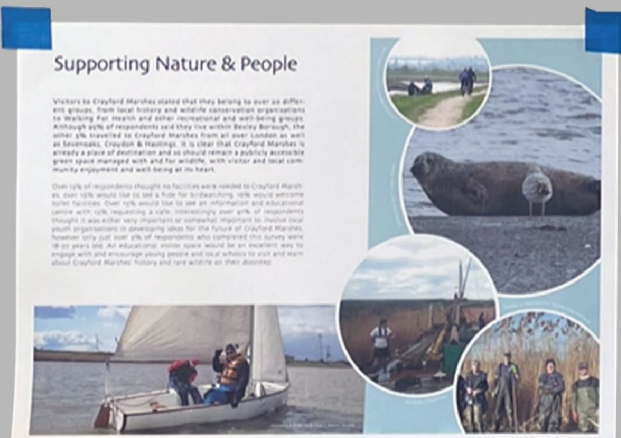


# Collective Vision as First Step

I have been working with on a collective vision this year, with the support of Friends of Crayford Marshes and various wildlife charities and organisation. I view this as a first step in mobilising towards a change in designation and policy. This vision will help for a support group that can make up the SINC management group as proposed, with support from Bexley.



Planned release of vision at Erith Yacht Club: September 2023.  
Release to press in October 2023, with interview for ITV news.

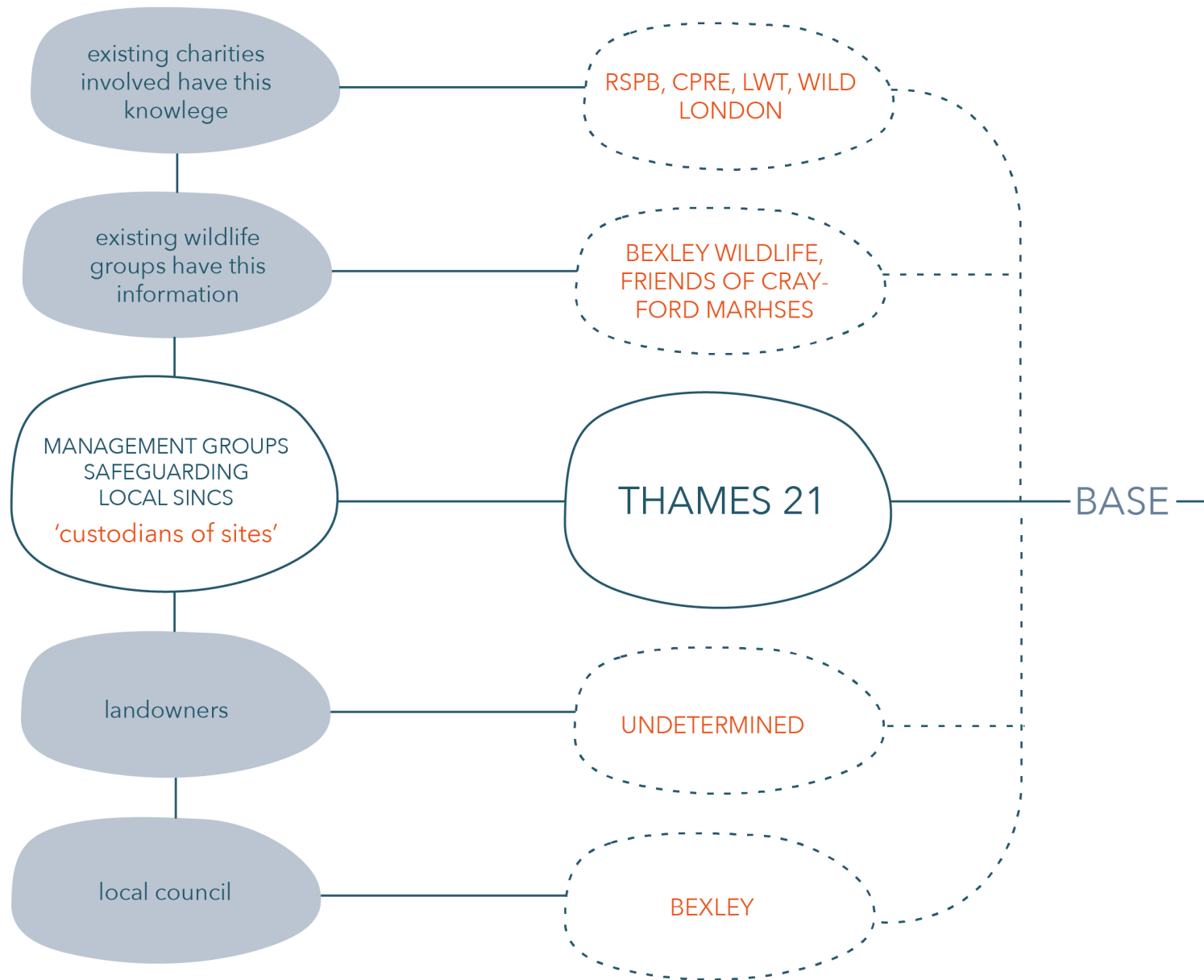


Crayford Old Flour Mill as an Anchor for Thames 21; A pilot for proposed guidance on safeguarding and management of SINCS

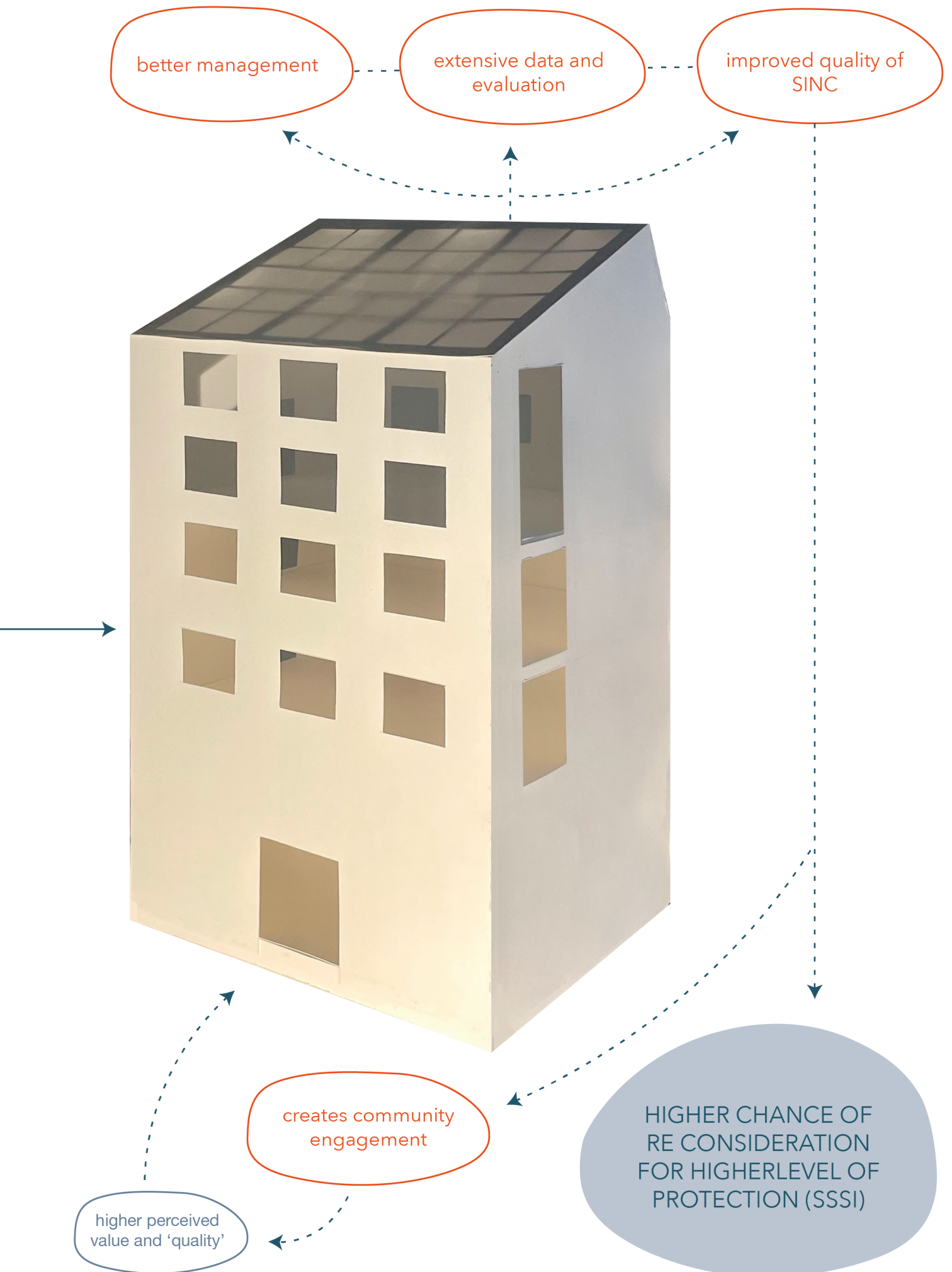


# The Mill as a Pilot Project for Policy

The old flour mill acts as an anchor for this pilot project. Its strategic location connects the outer and inner marshes and provides a great working base for the charity Thames 21 that is already active on the marshes alongside local wildlife groups and volunteers.



The river Cray that runs through the marshes is a rare type of chalk stream, it is being restored and protected by this charity. Their stable, cool, nutrient-rich waters allow chalk streams to support an exceptionally high number of species – so much so that these habitats are sometimes described as “England’s rainforests”. The design for the mill reactivates this historically valuable space and provides a space for community, while creating better access onto the marshes.



## Thames 21 (*Custodians of the Landscape*)


"Thames21 is the voice for London's waterways, working with communities to improve rivers and canals for people and wildlife." Every year, they engage thousands of volunteers in the effort to clean and enhance the 400-mile network of waterways in the capital. Thames21 strives to revitalize overlooked waterways, making them accessible and enjoyable for all through inventive and tailored community strategies.




Thames21 evolved from a partnership programme backed by Keep Britain Tidy, the Port of London Authority, the Environment Agency, Thames Water, British Waterways, The Corporation of London, and 19 local authorities. It has since become an independent charity, sustained by funding from a diverse range of charitable trusts, companies, and public sources. It has a growing and diverse programme of water improvement projects across London.

# The Craywatch Project (*Darent and Cray Catchment Partnership*)

**Craywatch:**  
River Cray Restoration Plan  
Foots Cray Meadows



Date: 21/02/2020  
Prepared by: Lily Mackie, River Restoration Project Manager  
Reviewed by: Clare Smith, Project Officer River Cray and Thamesmead  
The Craywatch Project is funded by Envoert Community Trust and the London Borough of Bexley



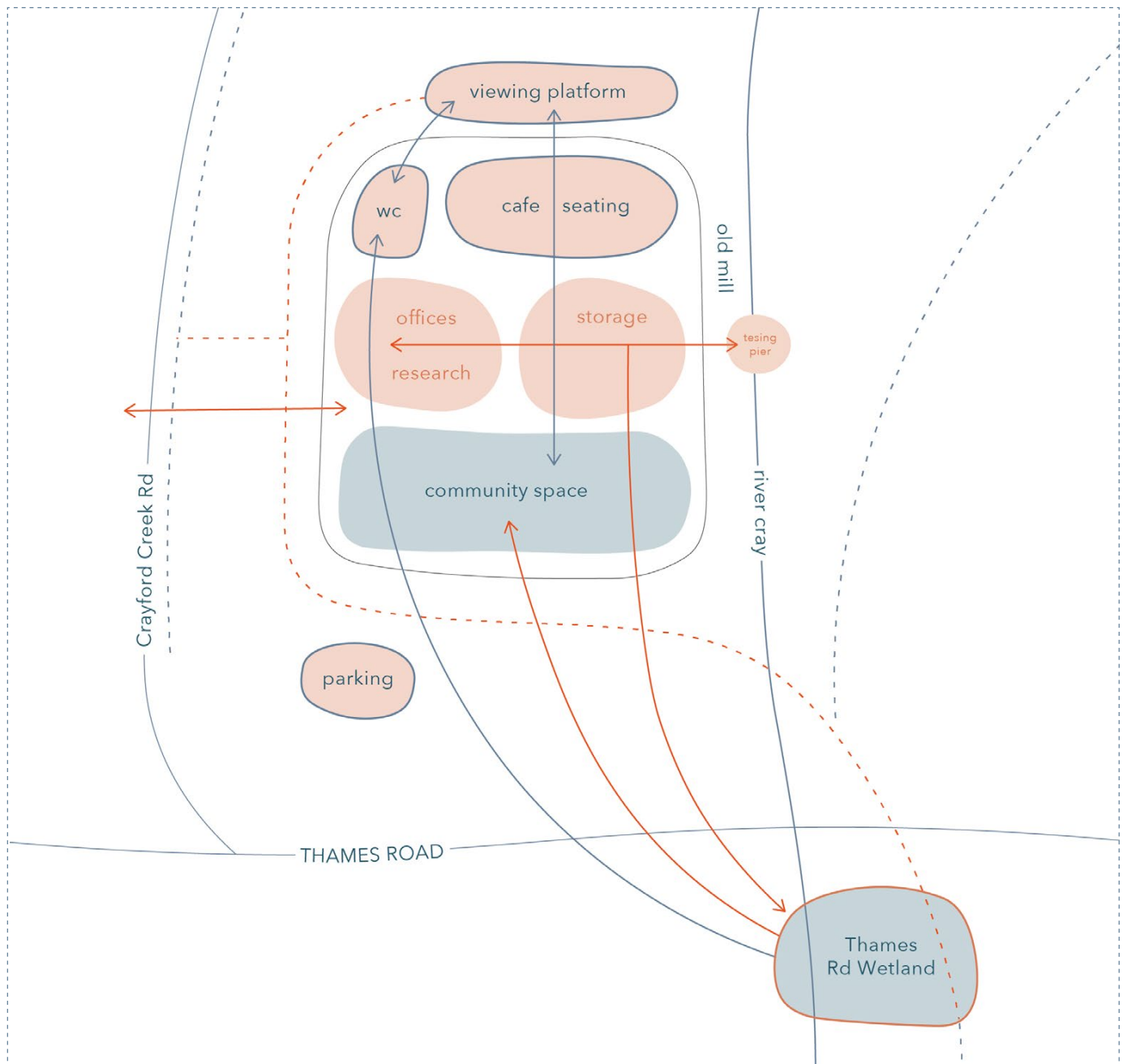
The River Cray is a chalk stream, rising from springs in Orpington, near Bromley, before flowing north to join the river Darent near Dartford and then the Thames. Chalk streams are one of our most special types of river – there are only around 200 chalk streams worldwide and 85% of them are in southern England. In their natural state, these rivers are rich in wildlife and picturesque, with gently-flowing, clear chalk-filtered water. The Cray is under multiple pressures; from plastic pollution and other litter; toxic chemicals from roads, abstraction (when water is removed for human use) and invasive non-native species. *The Craywatch Project supports the Darent and Cray Catchment Partnership vision: ‘For the Darent and Cray to be a clean healthy river system with a sustainable flow which supports a diversity of wildlife by 2027’.*

*The river restoration work proposed in the Craywatch Project plan is funded by Envoert Community Trust and the London Borough of Bexley. A lot of the work on the Craywatch project is at Thames Rd Wetland across from the Old Mill. The image below shows a volunteer group working with Thames 21 on TRW.*



# Use of Space (Client Requirements)

Having met and spoken with the Managing Officer from Thames 21 for this site, this has given a clear guidance on their needs and requirements for this site. A key requirement is to supply accessible toilet facilities, particularly for their volunteers working on the Thames Road wetland site.



A meeting space would serve both the charity and community, with separate offices for a research base. There is also a need for storage of tools as well as a testing pier on the river in order to monitor the river. The mill has an additional function as a landmark of the landscape and will connect the footpaths leading from the inner marshes to the outer marshes, they are currently fractured. The mill serves as a resting spot with a viewing platform and facilities for the users of the marshes.

① Old Flour Mill	③ The River Cray	⑤ Crayford Creek	⑦ Thames Road
② Crane Hire Company	④ Barnes Cray Area	⑥ Thames Rd Wetland	⑧ Crayford Marshes



9

5

1

2

7

6

3

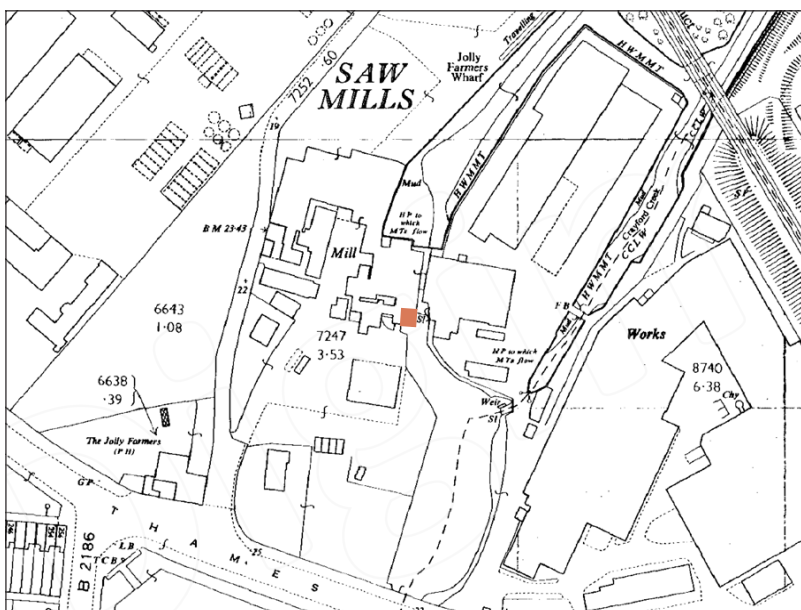
4

8

# History of the Old Flour Mill



Position of mill today  
OS map from 1880s



Position of mill today  
OS map from 1980s

Originally the site of an iron mill in the 16th century. By 1817, and probably much earlier it was a flour mill, which is thought to have been constructed in that year. The waterpowered machinery was removed just before WW1. Crayford Flour Mills was a water powered corn mill, it was first built in the 19th century and used the water power of the River Cray to produce flour. It was a significant landmark in the area and played a big role in the production of flour for the wider region. The mill operated for many years but fell into disrepair and was no longer operational. In the early 20th century, the mill was purchased by Vitbe, they specialised in producing a flour that was high in protein and fiber. The mill was refurbished and modernised with new equipment, it continued to operate, it was then closed and partially demolished in two phases in 2004 and 2009. Today, little remains of the original structure however, the legacy and history of the mill continues to be remembered by locals. It is a key landmark in the landscape linking the marshes.

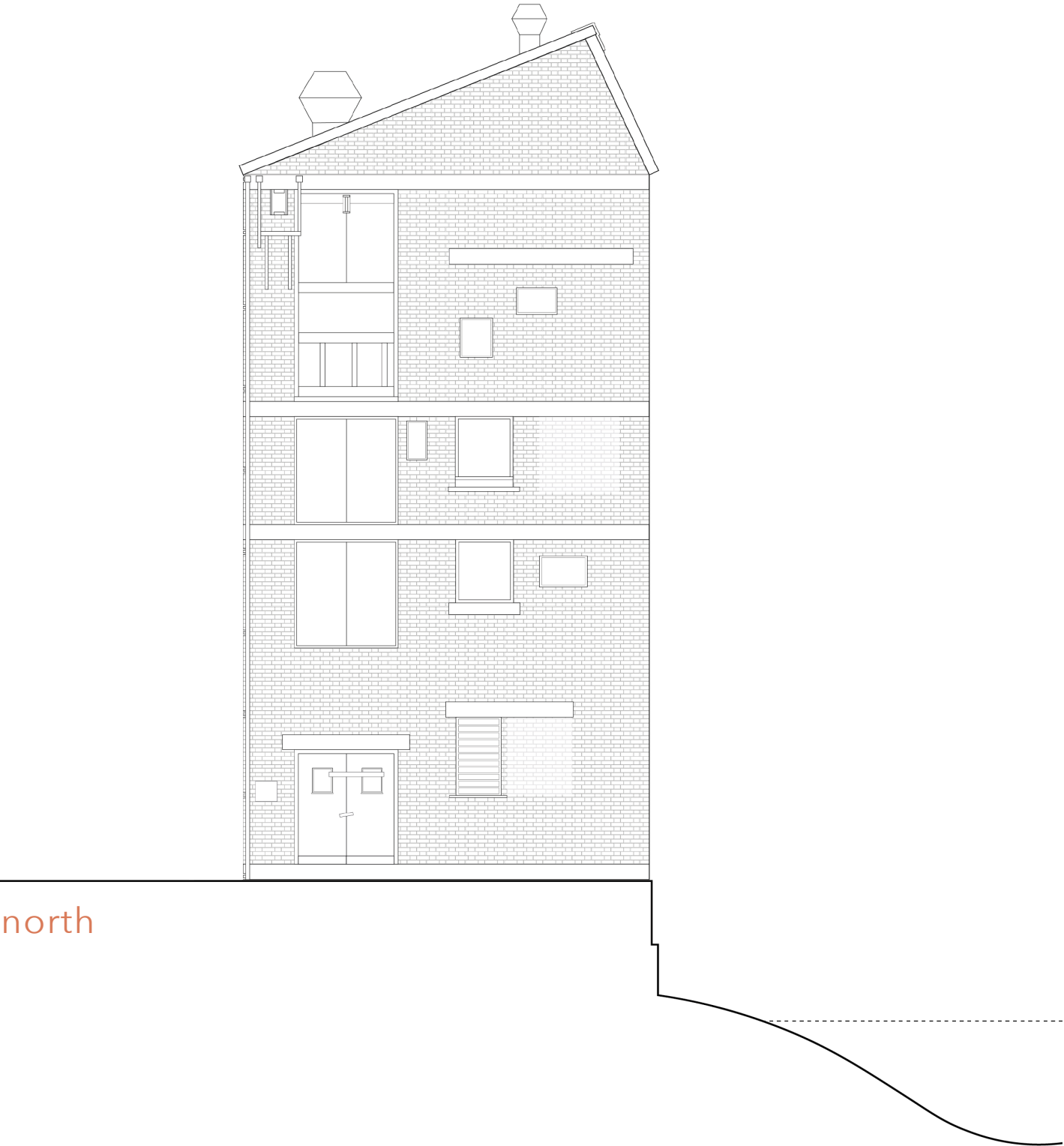
@BexleyArchives



Images of demolition work



# Existing Elevations

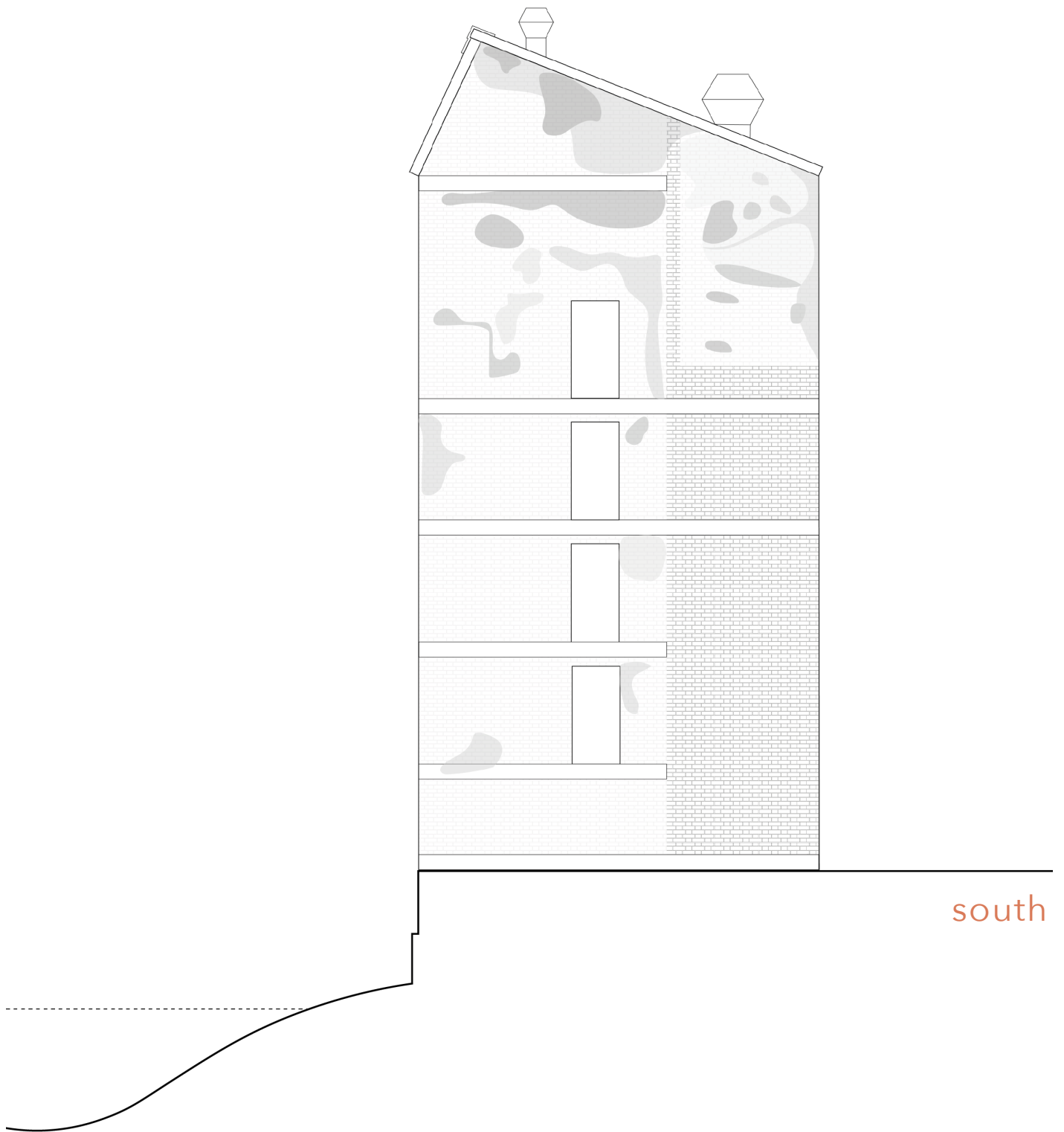


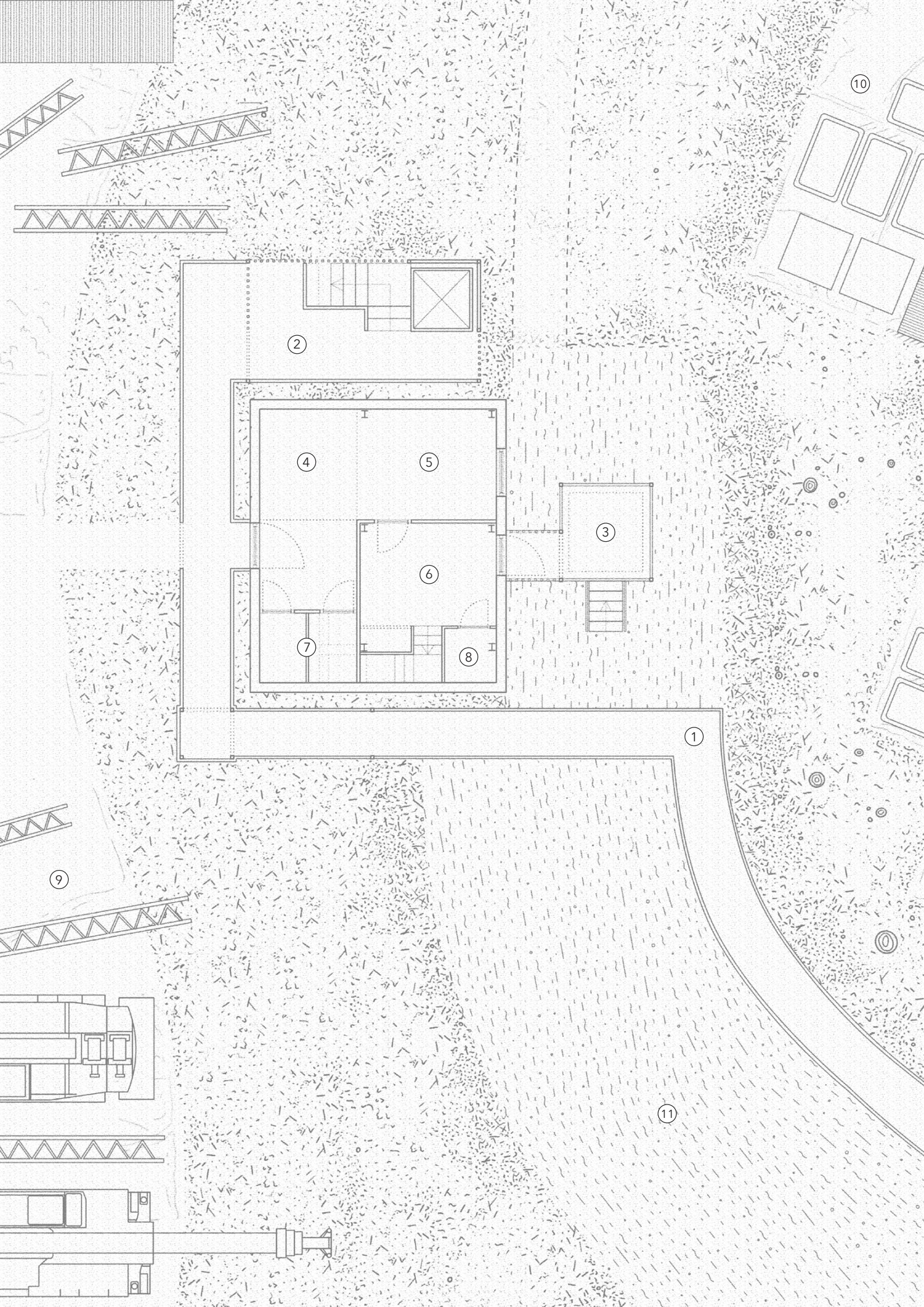


east

# Existing Elevations





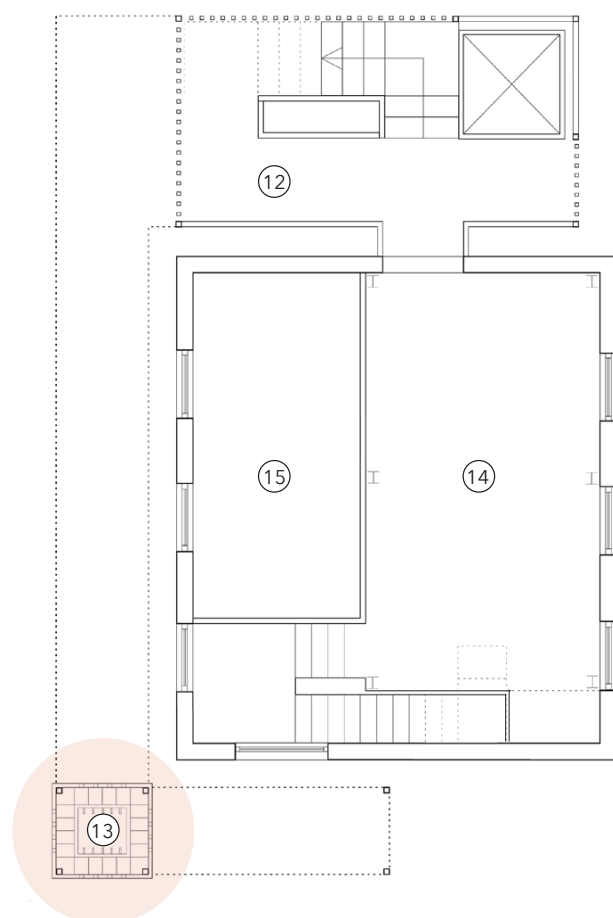


# Proposed Mill Plan

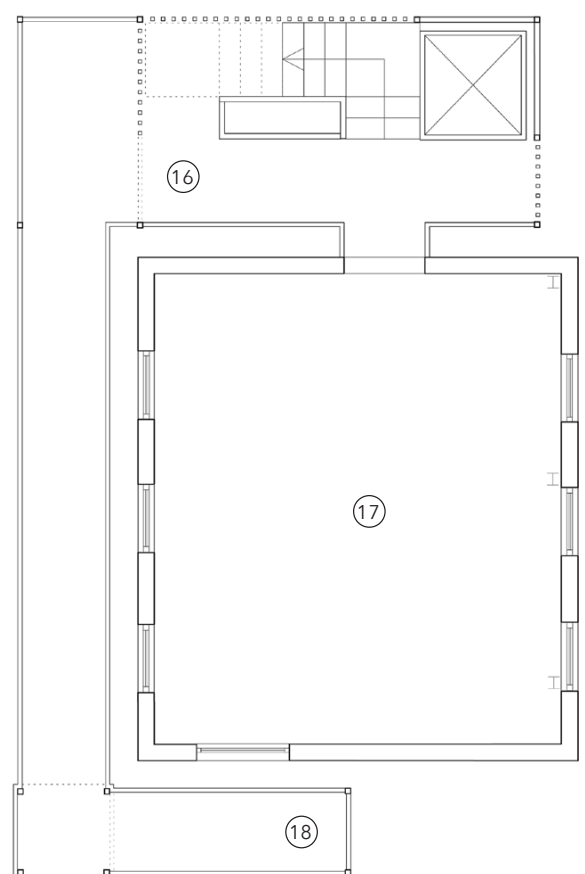
The proposal looks to create better pedestrian access, to provide a community space, to house a charity active on the river Cray and to restore a key industrial heritage building in Crayford.

Habitat feature to house Barn swallows and bats, species that are part of the existing marsh habitat. It was important to accomodate for species as well as humamn users.

First Floor Mezzanine Layout



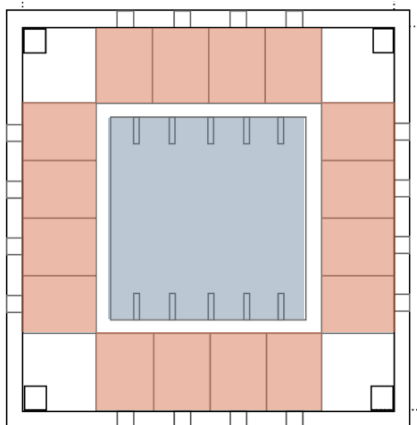
Second/Third Floor Layout



- |                                    |                                |                                     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ① Pedestrian access from TRW       | ⑧ Private toilet for Thames 21 | ⑮ Seating area downstairs           |
| ② External staircase               | ⑨ Crane industrial site        | ⑯ External staircase level 2/3      |
| ③ River testing pier for Thames 21 | ⑩ Recycling industrial site    | ⑰ Office level 2, Community space 3 |
| ④ Seating area for visitors        | ⑪ River Cray                   | ⑱ Viewing platform for visitors     |
| ⑤ Cafe area                        | ⑫ External staircase level 1   |                                     |
| ⑥ Private entrance for Thames 21   | ⑬ Habitat feature              |                                     |
| ⑦ Accessible toilets               | ⑭ Thames 21 meeting space      |                                     |

# Habitat Feature

*Habitat feature visible on proposed plan (First Floor Mezzanine level)*



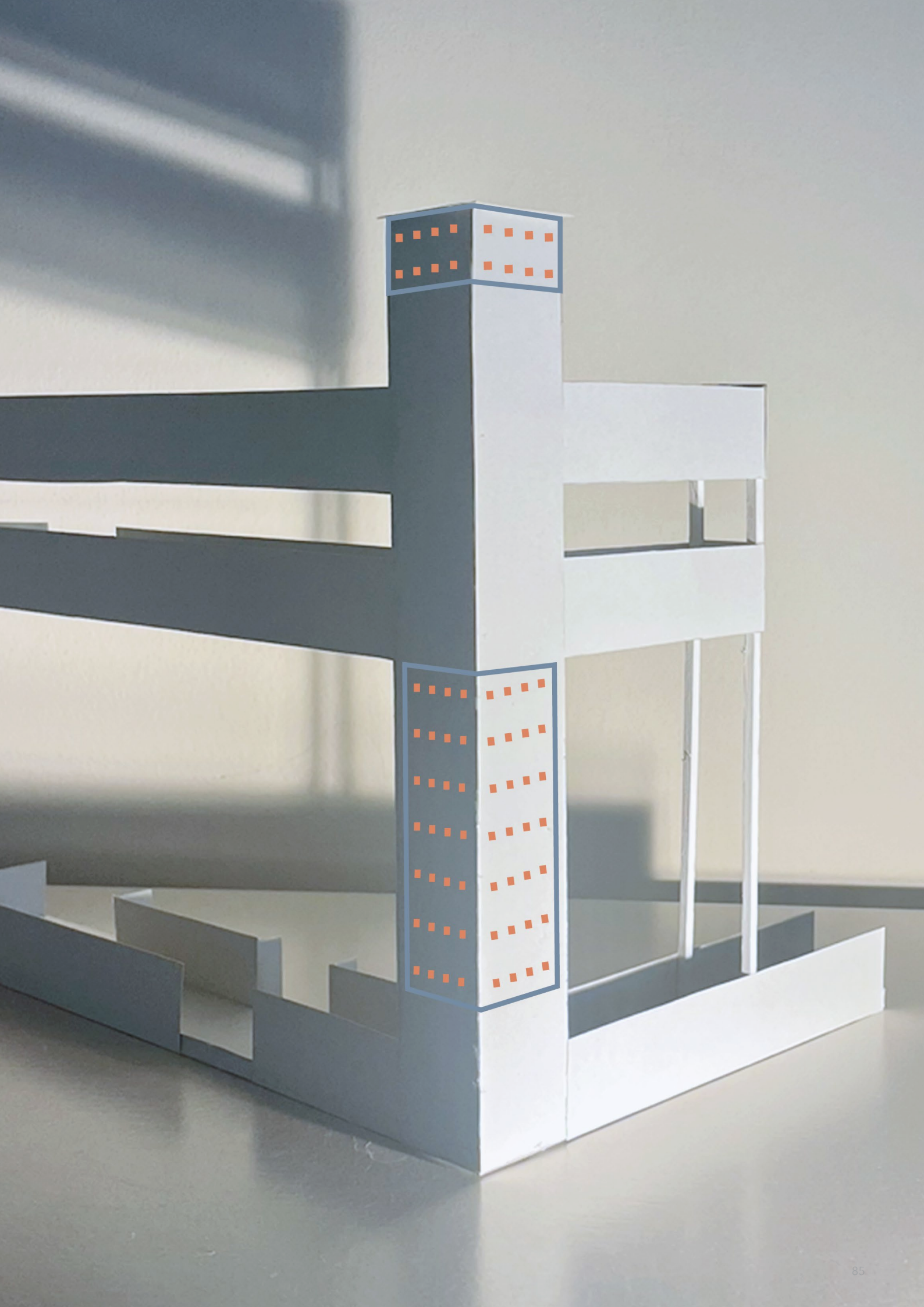
The unique habitat tower is designed to attract nesting barn swallows and roosting bats.



Wetlands and rivers provide an important foraging site for Barn Swallows. Swallows prefer out-buildings which provide dark ledges and nooks and crannies for nesting. These are cosy in cold weather and cool when it is hot. Swallows can enter a building through a very small hole and need very little light. They are also important in their role as insect predators in this particular habitat.



Bats are a vital part of our native wildlife, accounting for almost a third of all mammal species in the UK and occupy a wide range of habitats, such as wetlands, woodlands, farmland, as well as urban areas. These creatures offer valuable insights into the environmental condition, acting as predators of common night time insects and demonstrating sensitivity to changes in land use methods.



Proposal for Mill

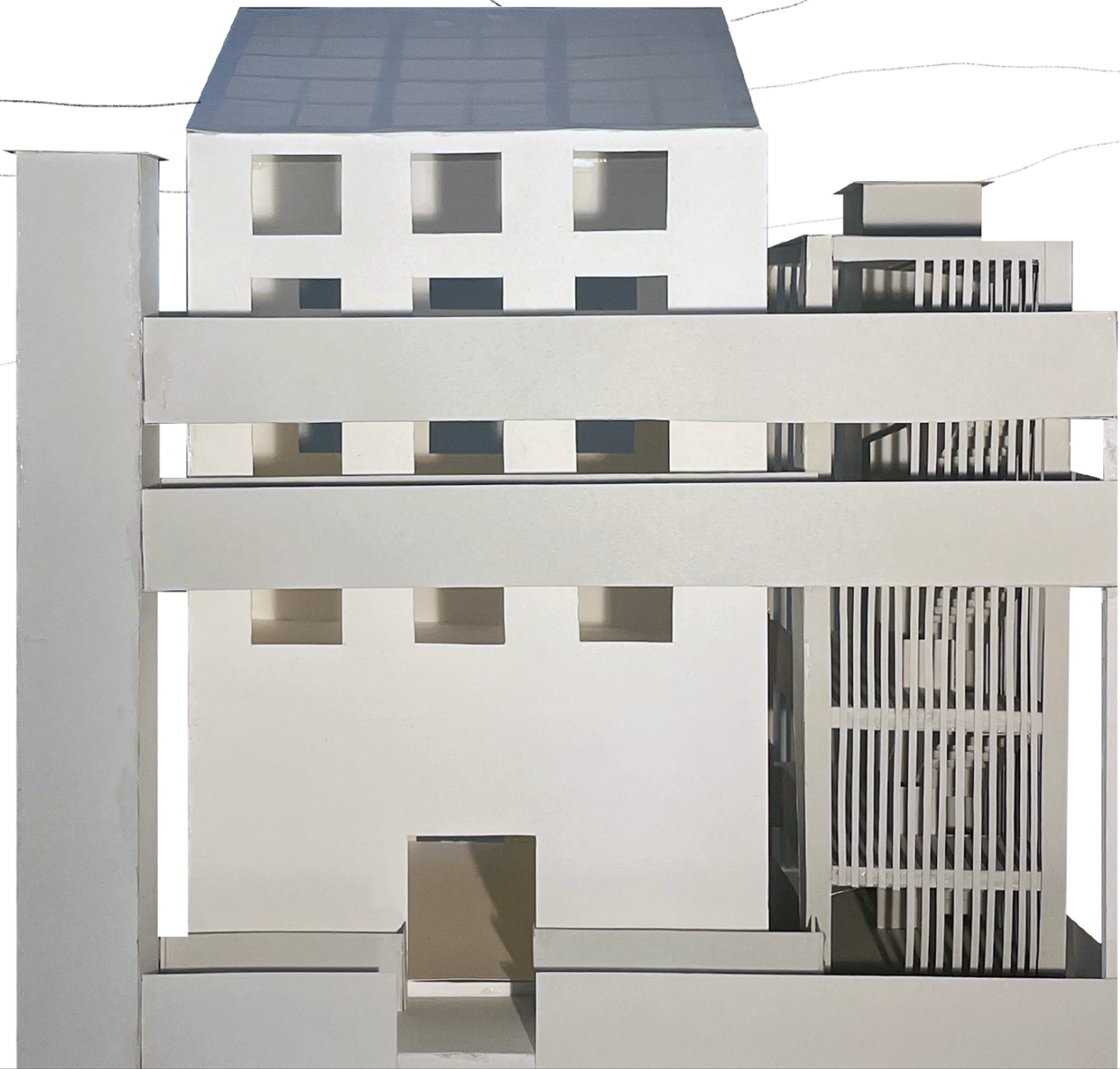


west

OLD  
FLOUR  
MILL

south

# Proposal for Mill



east



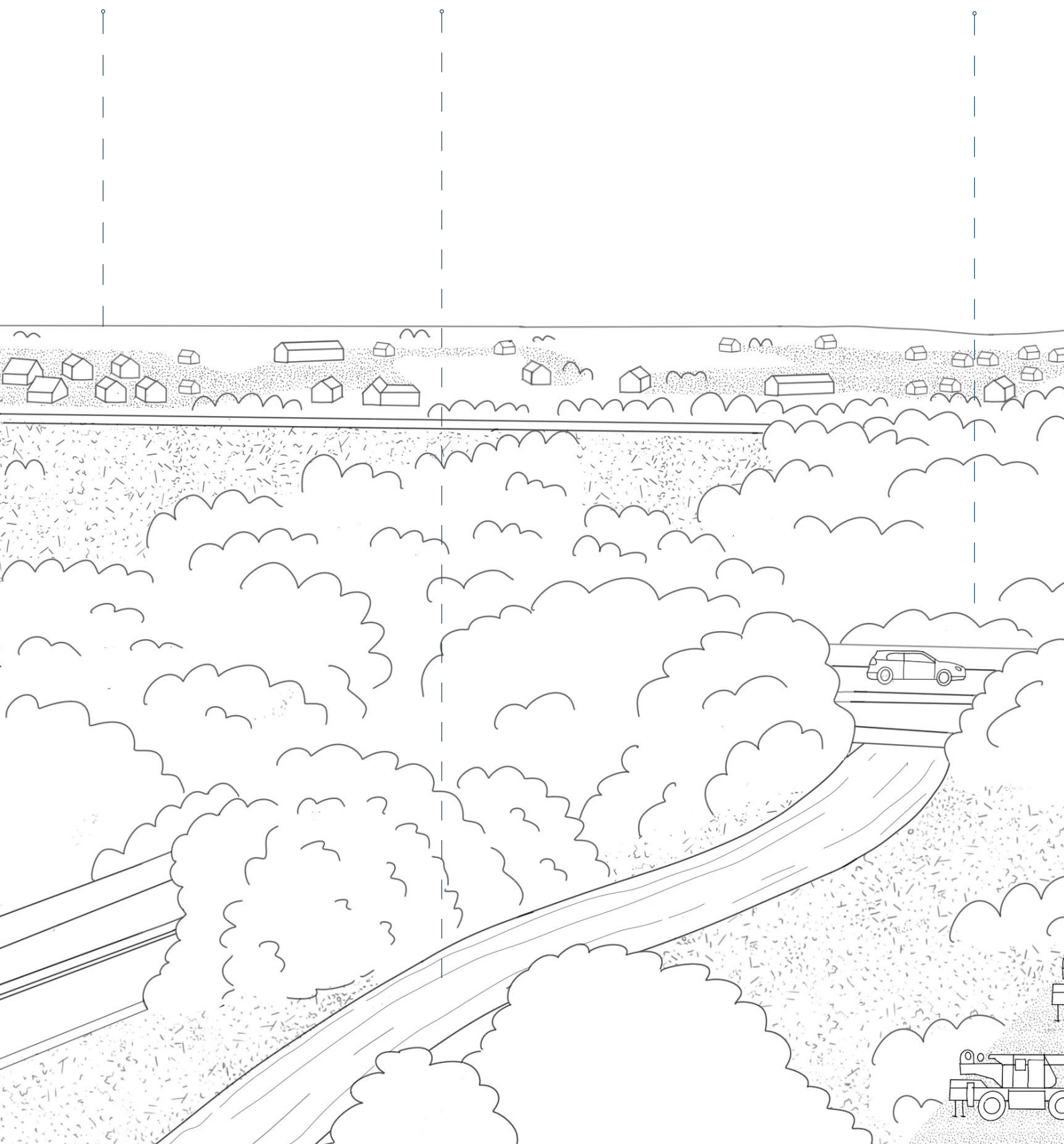
north

# View from Mill looking South

crayford

river cray

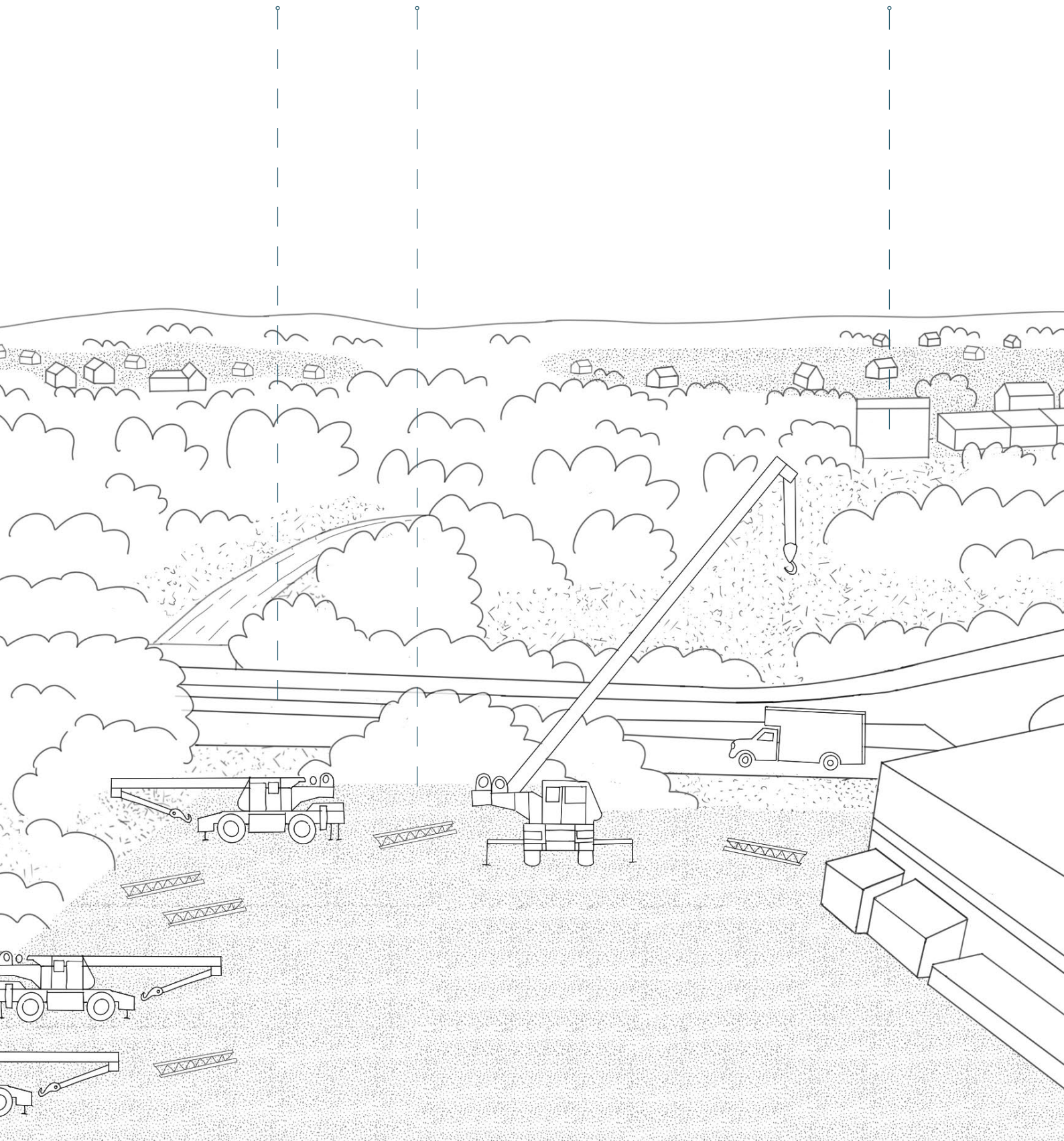
thames rd wetland



thames rd A206

industrial park

barnes cray







# Fire Strategy

The fire strategy considers a prescriptive approach due to the design of the existing mill being fairly uncomplicated. There would need to be an evaluation of the existing structure by engineers.

Minimum number of escape routes and exits from a room, tier or storey

Maximum number of persons	Minimum number of escape routes/exits
60	1
600	2
More than 600	3

The small scale of the building means that the capacity of the building is low and therefore the existing feature of the building will allow for one escape route that links to the external staircase serving the whole building.

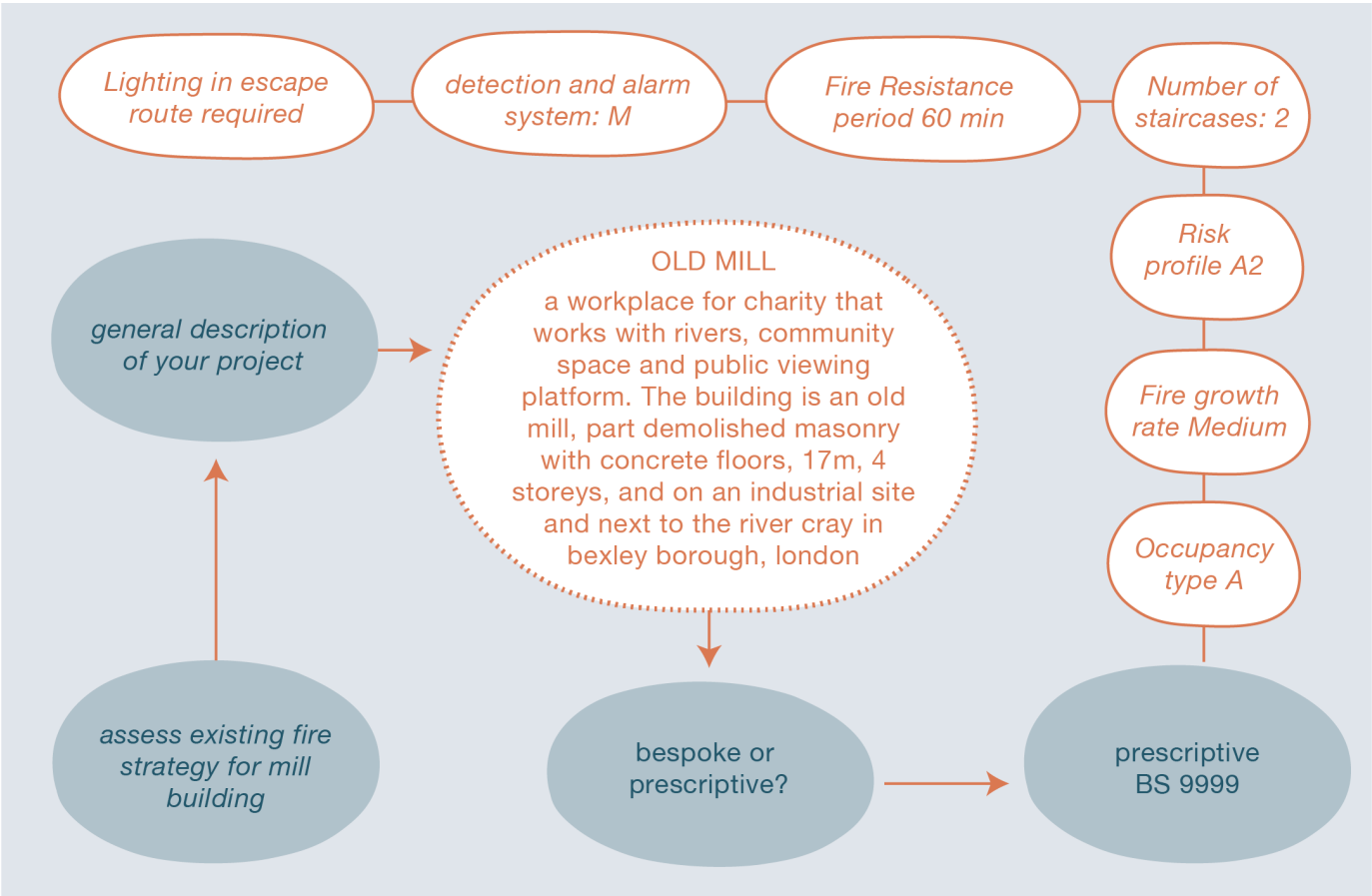
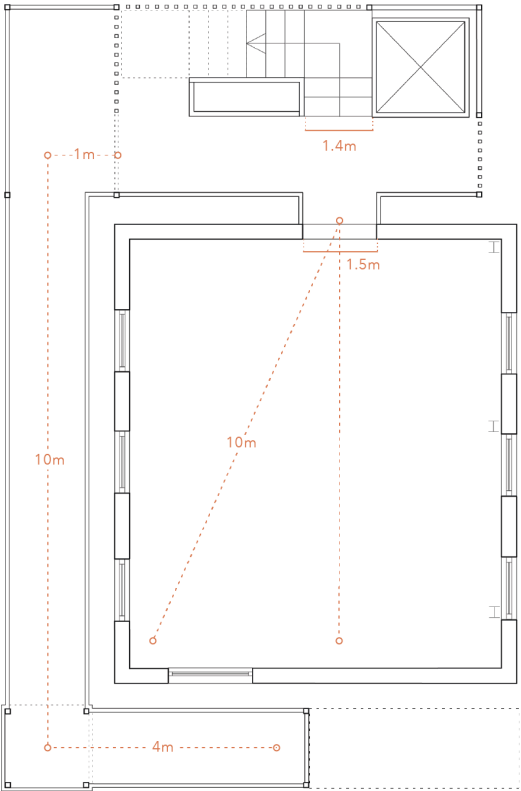
Table 13 Minimum width of escape stairs for simultaneous evacuation

Risk profile	Dimensions in millimetres									
	Minimum width of stair per person served over total number of floors served <sup>a)</sup>									
	1 floor	2 floors	3 floors	4 floors	5 floors	6 floors	7 floors	8 floors	9 floors	10+ floors
A1	3.90	3.40	2.95	2.45	2.15	2.00	1.80	1.70	1.50	1.40
A2	4.50	3.80	3.25	2.75	2.45	2.20	2.00	1.90	1.70	1.60
A3	5.40	4.60	4.00	3.50	3.10	2.80	2.60	2.30	2.10	2.00

The 1.4m width of evacuation stair suffices for its low occupancy number and is appropriate in providing a safe escape. The escape route is required to have sufficient lighting installed for fire strategy.

Table 11 Maximum travel distance when minimum fire protection measures are provided<sup>a)</sup>

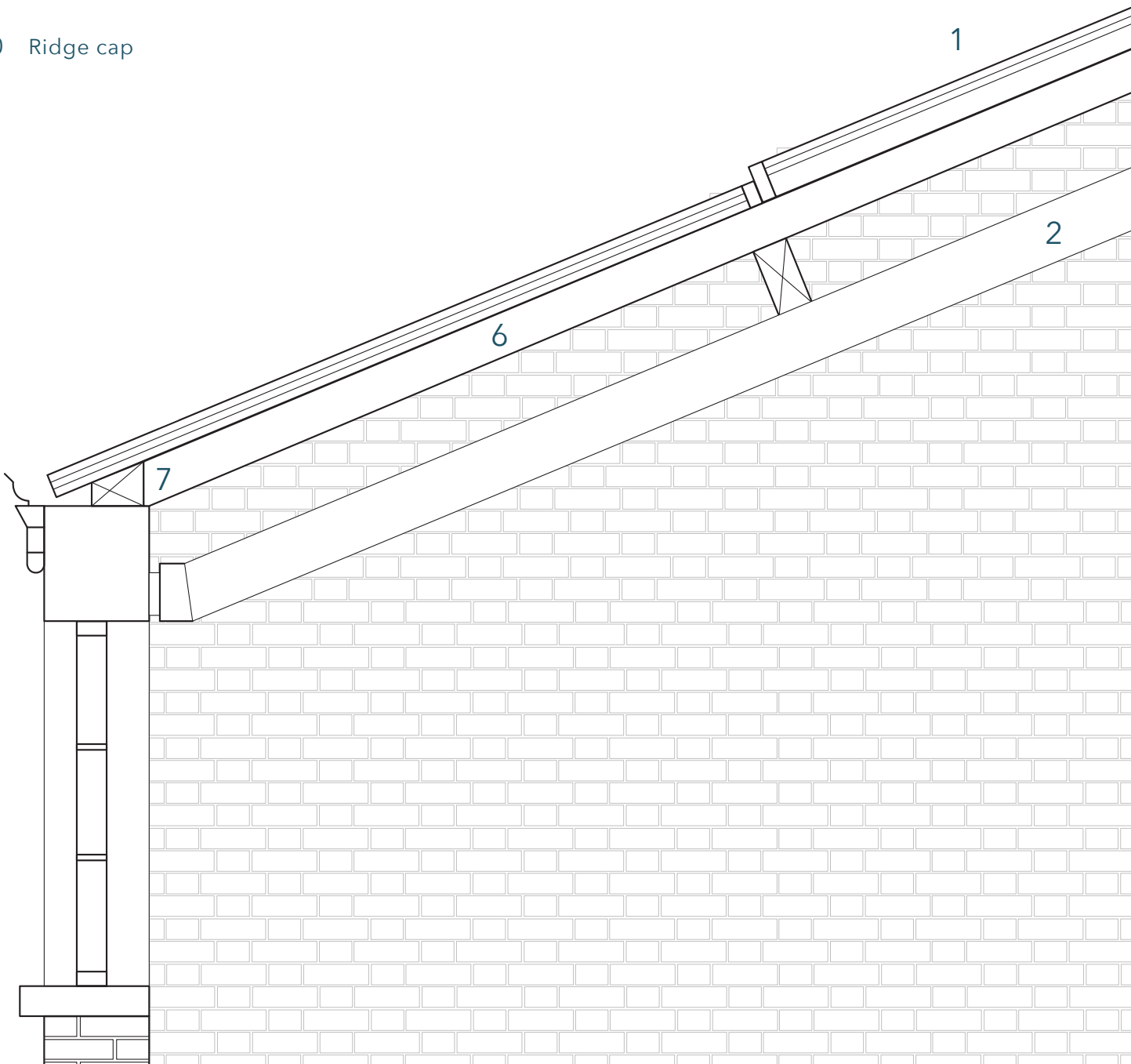
Risk profile	Travel distance, in metres (m)			
	Two-way travel <sup>b)</sup>		One-way travel	
	Direct	Actual	Direct	Actual
A1	44	65	17	26
A2	37	55	15	22
A3	30	45	12	18



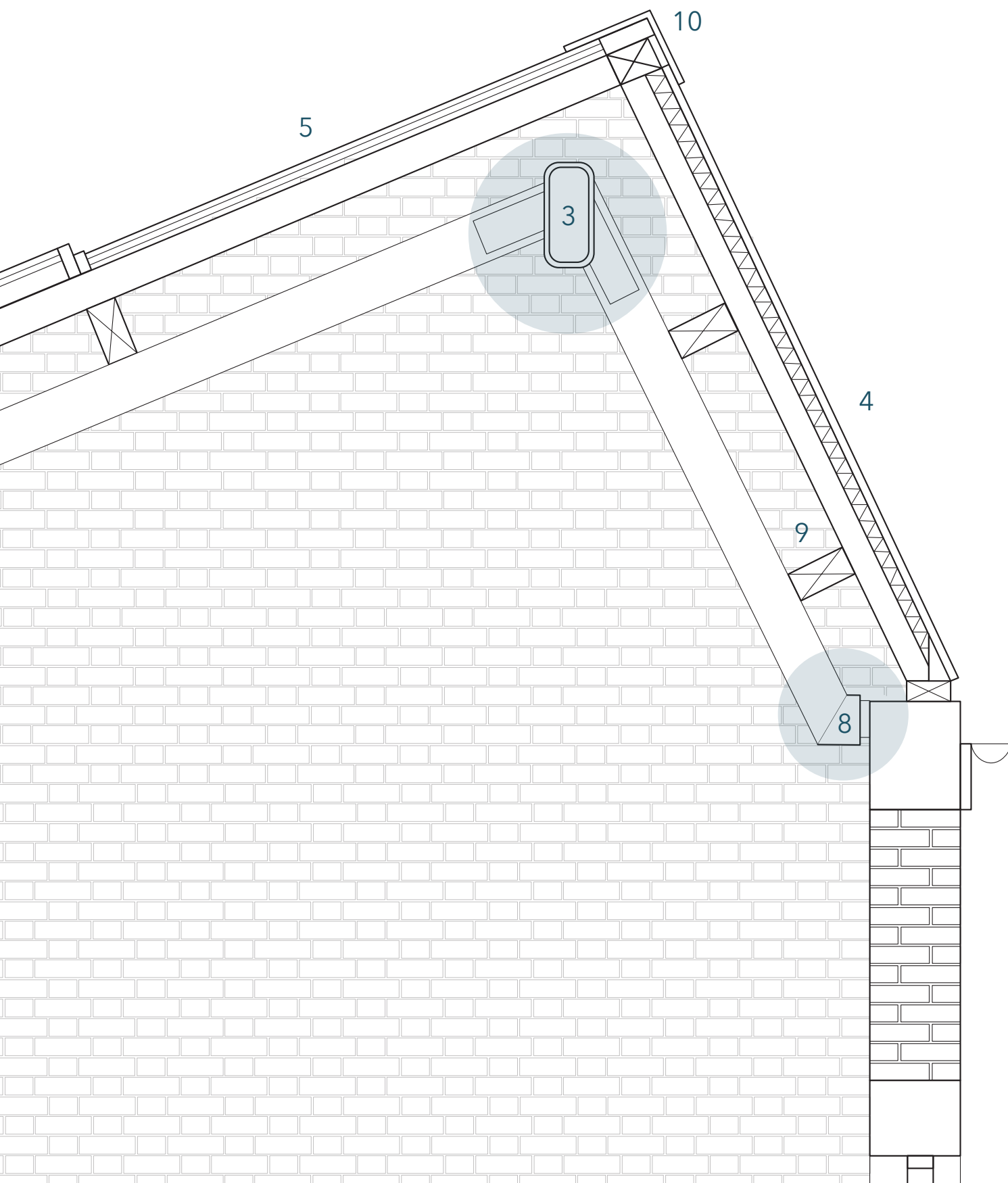


# Roof Construction Considerations

- 1 Manual opening vents in glazed roof
- 2 Universal Beam (254x146)
- 3 RHS hot finished beam (400x200)
- 4 Replacement slate roof on timber rafters
- 5 Double glazed units to patent glazing channels
- 6 New timber rafters
- 7 Filler piece
- 8 Fabricated steel section
- 9 New timber purlins
- 10 Ridge cap

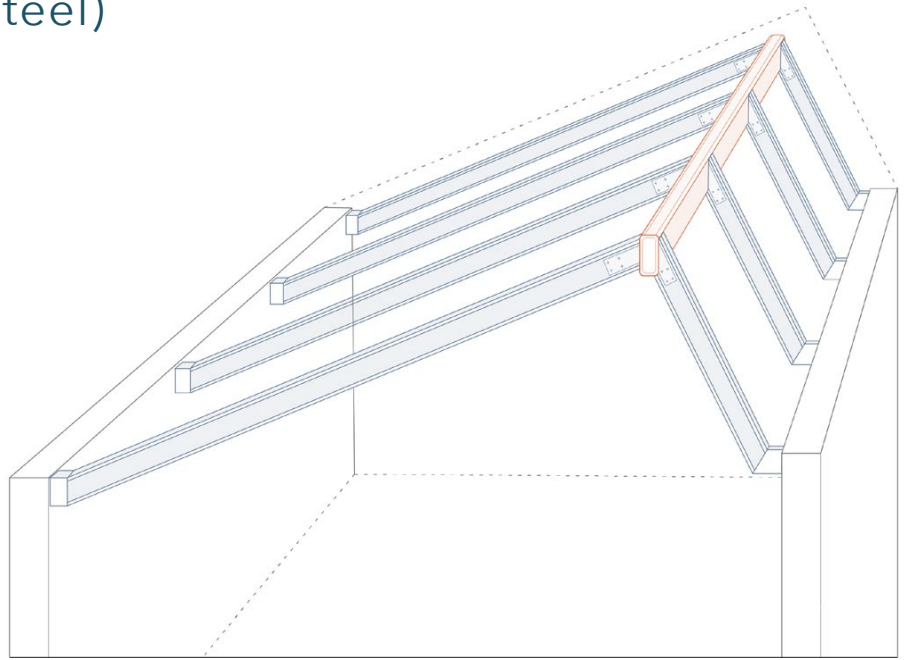
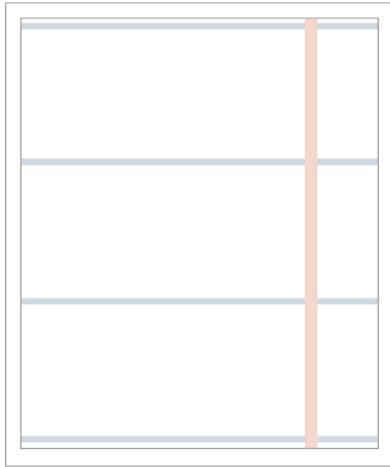


Due to the unusual shape of the roof the steel used needs to be considered carefully. The ridge beam would benefit as an RHS hot finished beam due to it's great resistance to stress. RHS beams also have economic advantages as well as a clean aesthetic. Coming off the ridge beam are standard universal beams with a fabricated section at the wall on the steep slope in order to achieve the desired roof slope.



# Roof Construction (Steel)

Plan and Axonometric outlining the considerations for Roof Steelwork



Due to the unusual shape of the roof the steel used needs to be considered carefully. The ridge beam would benefit as an RHS hot finished beam due to it's great resistance to stress. RHS beams also have economic advantages as well as a clean aesthetic. Coming off the ridge beam are standard universal beams with a fabricated section at the wall on the steep slope in order to achieve the desired roof slope.

## Universal Beam Selection

Section designation	Mass per metre kg/m	Depth of section $h$ mm	Width of section $b$ mm	Thickness		Root radius $r$ mm	Depth between fillets $d$ mm	Ratios for local buckling	
				Web $t_w$ mm	Flange $t_f$ mm			Web $c_w / t_w$	Flange $c_f / t_f$
<b>305 x 102 x 33</b>	32.8	312.7	102.4	6.6	10.8	7.6	275.9	41.8	3.73
x 28	28.2	308.7	101.8	6.0	8.8	7.6	275.9	46.0	4.58
x 25	24.8	305.1	101.6	5.8	7.0	7.6	275.9	47.6	5.76
<b>254 x 146 x 43</b>	43.0	259.6	147.3	7.2	12.7	7.6	219.0	30.4	4.92
x 37	37.0	256.0	146.4	6.3	10.9	7.6	219.0	34.8	5.73
x 31	31.1	251.4	146.1	6.0	8.6	7.6	219.0	36.5	7.26
<b>254 x 102 x 28</b>	28.3	260.4	102.2	6.3	10.0	7.6	225.2	35.7	4.04
x 25	25.2	257.2	101.9	6.0	8.4	7.6	225.2	37.5	4.80
x 22	22.0	254.0	101.6	5.7	6.8	7.6	225.2	39.5	5.93

(Tata Steel Interactive Blue Book)

## RHS Hot Finished Beam Selection

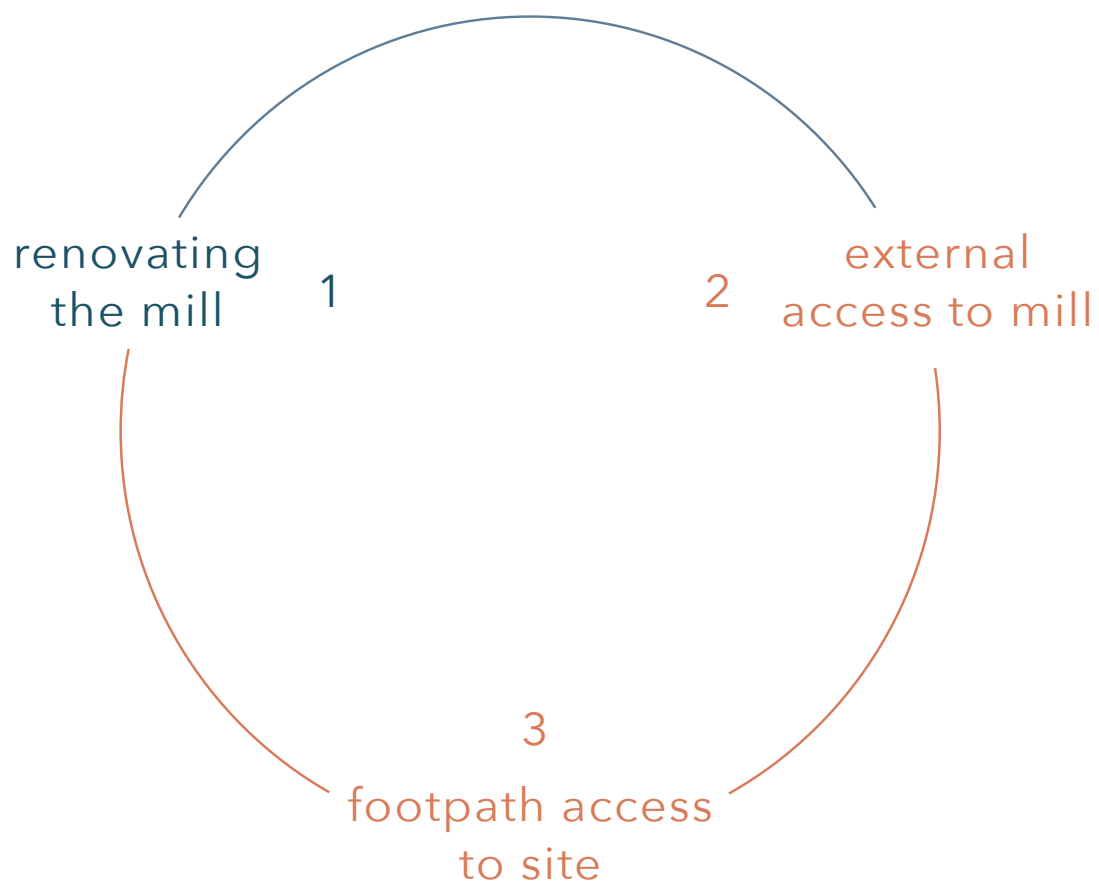
Section designation			Mass per metre kg/m	Section classification		Moment capacity		Limiting length $L_c$ m	Second moment of area		Shear capacity $P_v$ kN
Size $D \times B$ mm	Thickness $t$ mm	Readily available <sup>1</sup>		Bending about x-x axis	Bending about y-y axis	$M_{cx}$ kNm	$M_{cy}$ kNm		x-x axis $cm^4$	y-y axis $cm^4$	
10.0	✓		74.5	Plastic	Semi-compact	348	186	16.5	14300	3740	1420
12.5	✓		91.9	Plastic	Compact	421	244	16.3	17300	4450	1740
16.0	✓		115	Plastic	Plastic	513	298	15.8	21100	5320	2190
<b>350 x 250</b>	6.3		57.8	Slender	Slender	262	174	46.7	13200	7880	914
	8.0		72.8	Semi-compact	Slender	396	253	46.3	16400	9800	1150
	10.0	✓	90.2	Plastic	Semi-compact	488	358	45.8	20100	11900	1430
	12.5	✓	112	Plastic	Compact	594	474	45.4	24400	14400	1760
	16.0	✓	141	Plastic	Plastic	731	588	44.6	30000	17700	2220
<b>400 x 200</b>	6.3		57.8	Semi-compact	Slender	310	132	22.5	15700	5380	1040
	8.0	✓	72.8	Plastic	Slender	417	193	22.3	19600	6660	1320
	10.0	✓	90.2	Plastic	Slender	509	277	22.1	23900	8080	1630
	12.5	✓	112	Plastic	Semi-compact	619	387	21.8	29100	9740	2020

(Tata Steel Interactive Blue Book)



# Construcing the Proposal

The mill will be constructed in three phases, first being the renovation of the existing mill building, then the external construction will begin with the staircase linking the levels of the mill and then footpath access that will eventually link Thames Road Wetland to Crayford marshes.



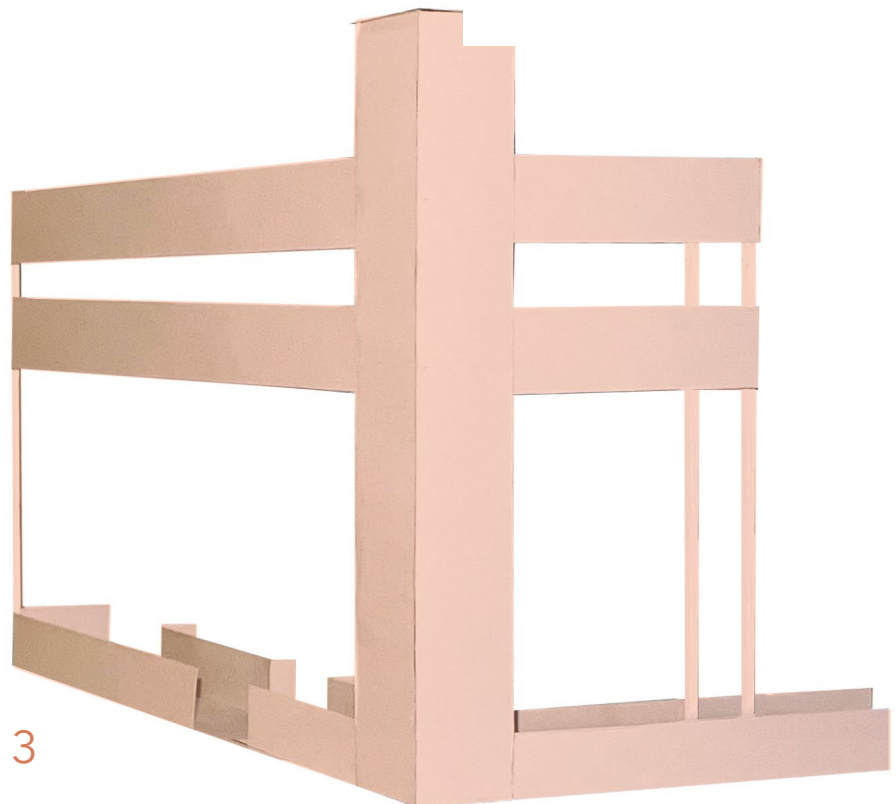
The mill is located on an industrial site and this makes access easy for material deliveries and installations as well as water and sewage connections. The industrial nature of the building allows for an alternative walking experience for the user while also providing a functional base for Thames



1



2



3

## ENDANGERED\_ECOLOGIES



CRAYFORD MARSHES AND MILL