







Lambeth

What are the ideas for
Lambeth Bee Roads?

What is Lambeth Bee Roads?

A linear series of high profile roadside habitats for wildlife and people.
Designed with local communities, to help combat climate change.

Aims

-  Join up habitat for pollinators with new sites
-  Help to combat flood risk with surge rainwater storage, in some cases diverting this from surrounding hard surfaces.
-  Reduce maintenance costs.
-  Meet the needs of local people, improve walking environment for adults and children.
-  Create new jobs, training, and positive learning across departments and community
-  Encourage understanding of climate change, with high profile demonstration projects in roadside environments

Where?

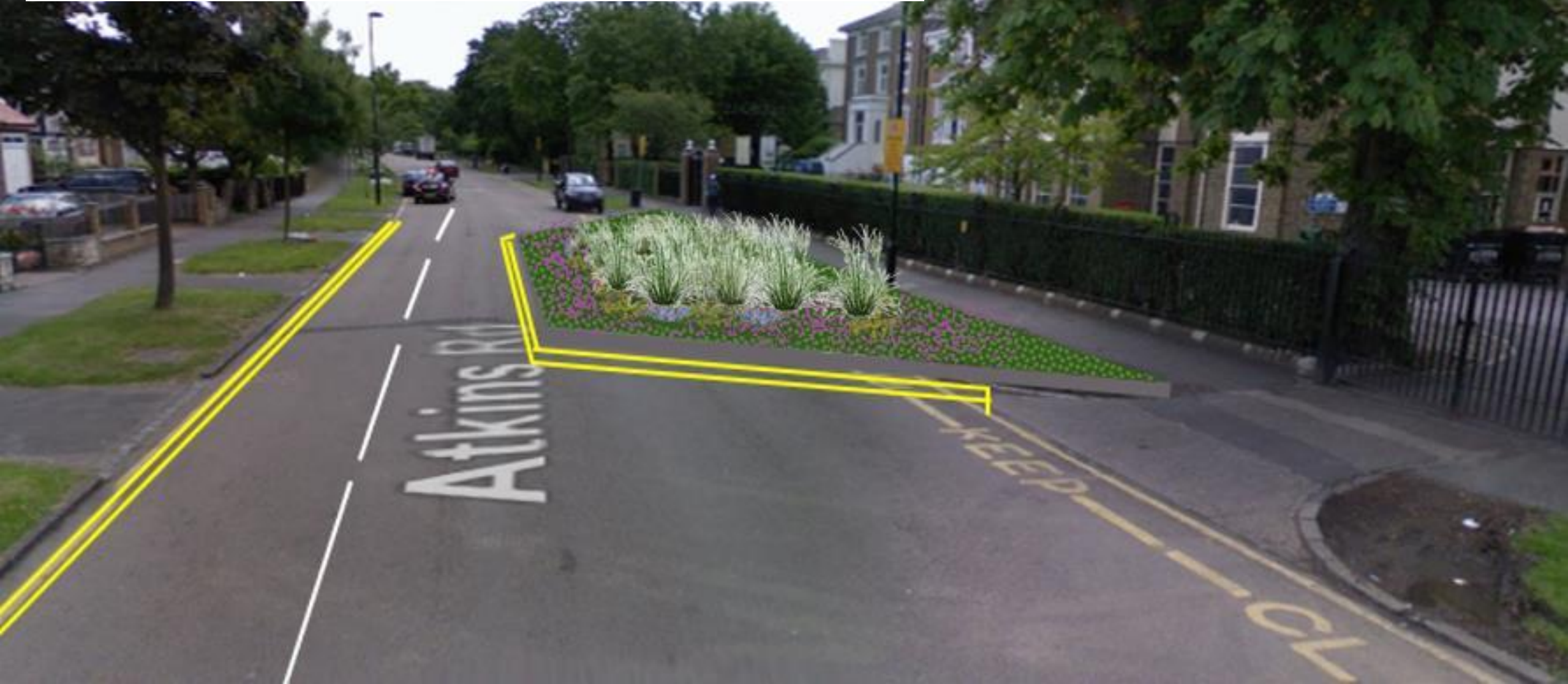
Linking up bee highways alongside roads:

1. La Retraite School, Wildflower build-out – *Atkins Road*
2. Tulse Hill Rain Garden – *A204 fronting Tulse Hill Estate*
3. St Matthews, Rush Common Rain Ponds– *A204 north of Crownstone Road.*

4. Clarence Avenue Wildflower Verges - *all between roundabout and south circular (705m²)*
5. Thornton Road *-in front of St. Bede's School; and the short sections at access to King's Avenue (281m²)*
6. Clarence Avenue/Thornton Roundabout
7. Covington Way Wildflower verges –*alongside Rookery (277m²)*
8. Durning Road *-circular grass area (153m²) crescent grass area (286m²)*
9. Park Hill - *on the East side of the road next to IQRA school (282m²)*
10. Mostyn Road and Max Roach Woodland Verge –*alongside Myatts Fields South*
11. A205/A204 junction at Tulse Hill one way system, backing onto Deronda Estate
12. Further wildflower verges to be nominated, and confirmed in year two

1. Atkins Road Build-out Bee Road - Proposal

This project will help with traffic calming outside schools. It will give pollinator planting, soften the landscape, and provide traffic calming to improve the walking and cycling environment.



2. Tulse Hill Rain Garden Bee Road

At present this is a sterile area on the A205, outside the Tulse Hill Estate and Jubilee School.

Small trees in outgrown raised planters are seen at the far end.

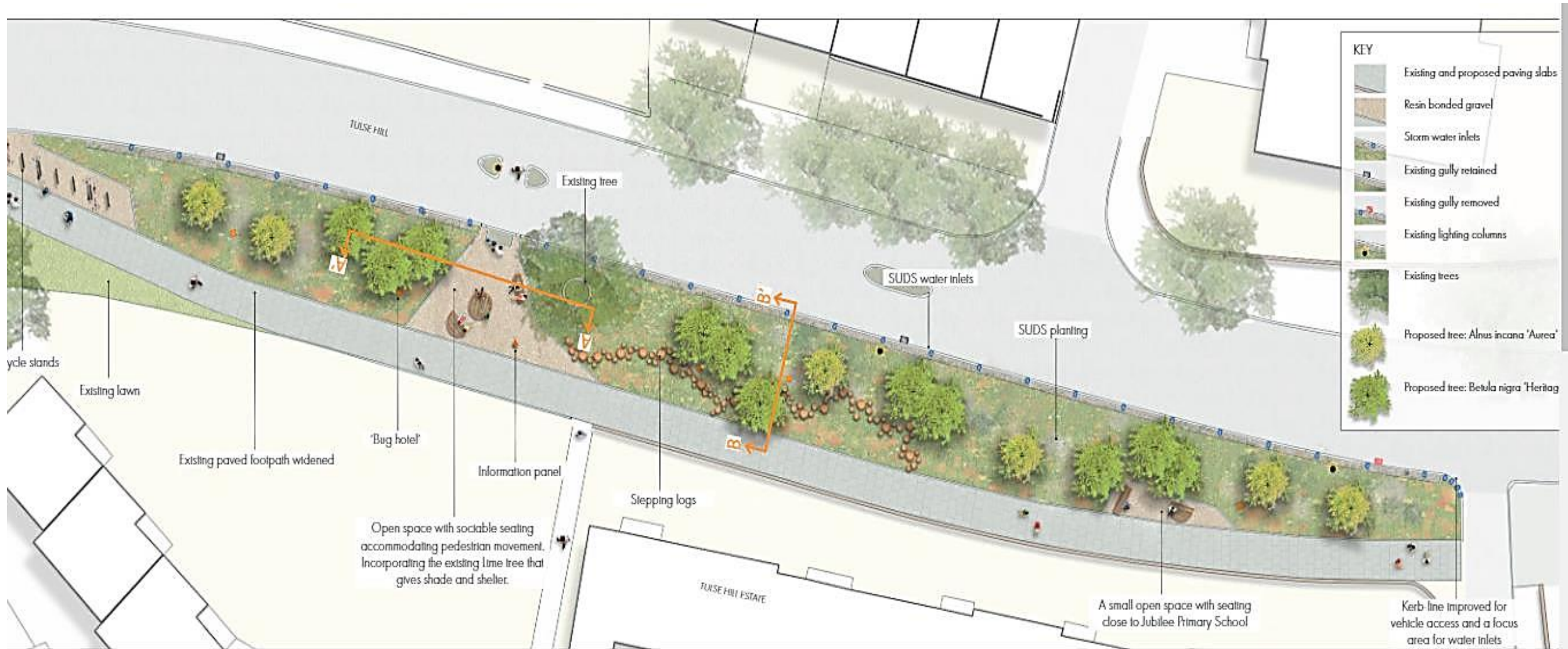
Rainwater that falls here flows directly into drains, potentially contributing to surge flooding in the Brixton area.

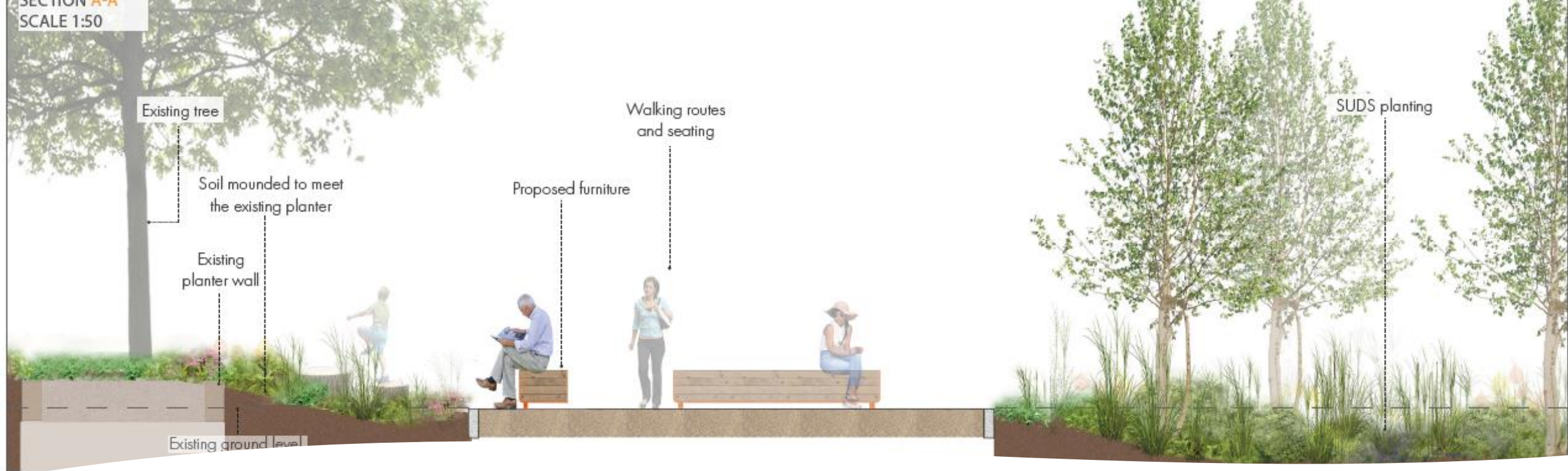


2. Tulse Hill Rain Garden Bee Road Proposals

The new design will capture rainwater on the A205 into an area of attractive, bee-friendly area, with pollen rich planting, new birch and alder trees, seating, and stepping stones.

The outline proposals are shown below. The storm water inlets are in blue along the roadside.





2. Tulsa Hill Rain Garden Bee Road - Section

- We will excavate and install a combination of trees, SUDs, and build up to the existing raised planters and trees. Walking routes, and planting will be integral components.

2. Tulsa Hill Rain Garden Bee Road for people

The installation is designed to permanently enhance the walking environment, protecting pedestrians from the busy road, and including casual play for children which will be relevant whether wet or dry.

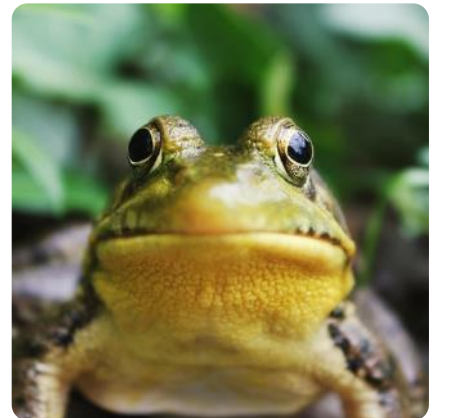


What is Rainwater Gardening?

Rainwater normally falls on the roof of buildings, and hard surfaces, passing down the gutters into the drains.

Engineers will instead divert the gutters through pipes or rills to a new excavated bowl in the grass to make a rainpond that is wet after rainfall, then dries out to show the planting.

Rainwater is stored and released gently, into the soil and the air. It makes a habitat for people and wildlife at the same time.





Would you like wildflowers here?

3. St Matthew's Rush Common Rain Ponds

Location:
The rain garden will be created across three under-used areas, alongside Effra Road A205.
Forming part of the historic Rush Common land, the areas are currently managed as housing lawns. This will be a significant transformation. Trees will be protected through the works.

3. St Matthew's Rush Common Rain Ponds.
Engineers will channel rainwater to temporary ponds, surrounded by wildflower planting. The shallow sloping rainwater ponds will include logs, rocks, or manufactured balance beams to encourage play and investigation from children.



3. St Matthew's Rush Common Bee Road Countryside Walk Proposal Sketch



A series of rainwater ponds, holding rainwater channelled from the two blocks and low garages between. The lowest pond area will be designed to hold rainwater for longer as habitat for wildlife. The other ponds will be temporary and will overflow into this one, with meadow wildflower planting at other times. Small evergreen trees along the roadside will help to make this an attractive walk-through into Brixton with benches alongside.



A swale or rainpond, is a landscaped scoop, or series of scoops in a grassy area, designed to collect rainwater from surrounding surfaces. The water is held as a temporary pond – sometimes wet, sometimes dry.

The images above are from Rectory Gardens Rainpark, by Robert Bray Associates. Wet and dry.

4. Clarence Avenue Bee Road

5. Thornton Road Bee Road

6. Roundabout Bee Station

We propose to convert these into sustainable wildflower meadow planting. This is an opportunity to provide linear habitat for bees and butterflies and to organize planting workshops with local groups and schools to support the seeding.

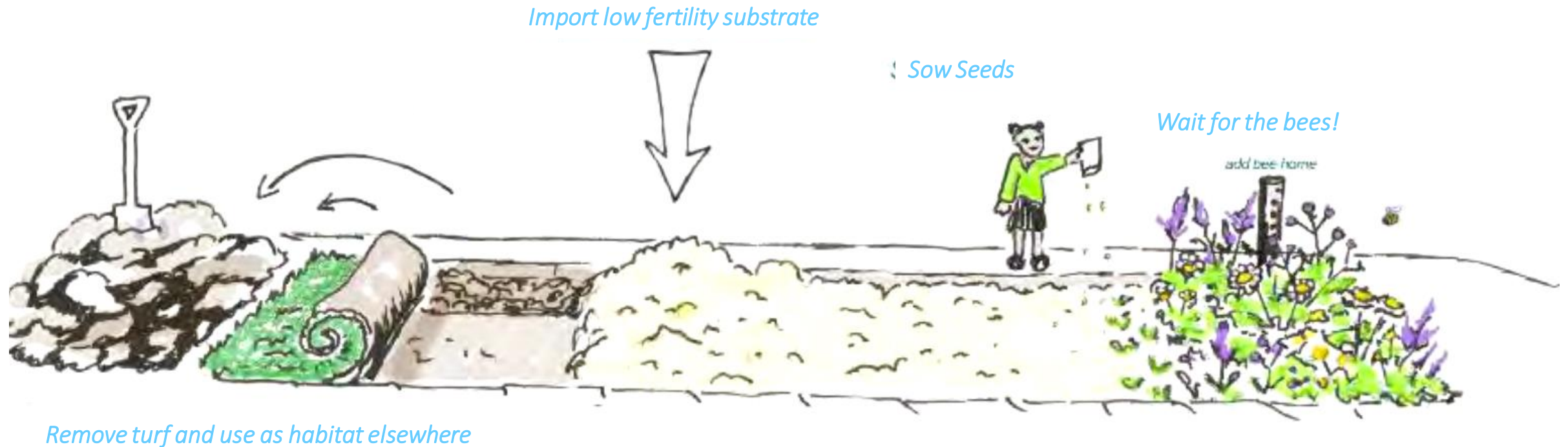


Wildflower verges for Lambeth Bee Roads

On sunny sites, we propose to remove turf and replace with a low fertility soil creating a seed bed. Once seeded, this will be covered with germination fleece pegged down. One side of the bed will be fenced with a low temporary fence to prevent walking on.

The current roadside verges have very little diversity. Soil is typical sandy loam mix to a depth of 150mm.

Where there is demand we will carry out planting or seeding workshops with local communities.



7. Covington Way Wildflower Bee Road

Covington Way offers an opportunity to extend the range of bees and butterflies from the Common and the Rockery, linking in across the borough boundary.

As this is a narrow verge, we will provide low 'flowering lawn' planting as shown.



8. Durning Road Wildflower Bee Stations

Two separate areas of highway, with no trees, we particularly welcome feedback from residents here over our suggested plans to provide tall or short wildflower planting over some or all of this area.

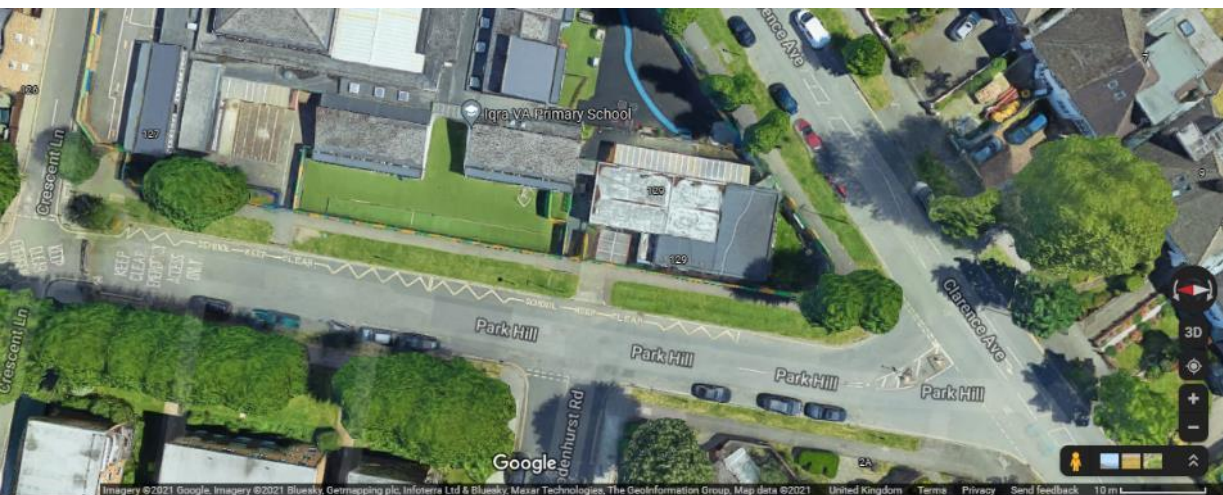
This would provide for pollinating insects and also a feeding station for birds.



9. Park Hill IQRA school Wildflower Bee Road

We propose to convert these areas of south facing mown grass into tall or short drought-hardy meadow habitat.

This is another opportunity to provide local planting workshops too.



Changing turf management with Lambeth Bee Roads

To create conditions for wildflowers, and related species to thrive, we will change soils, seedbank and mowing regime, with these options. This will help us to encourage biodiversity and ensure less frequent mowing in future.

Flowering Lawn

eg birdsfoot trefoil, daisy, black medic, self heal, – where visibility is required



Wildflower Meadow

on new low fertility dry soil eg ox-eye daisy, ladies bedstraw, kidney vetch, vipers bugloss.



Woodland Edge Planting

Primrose, cowslip, foxglove Queen Anne's lace, ferns, enhancing areas of turf with existing trees.



All new meadow Bee Roads would be cut, usually twice a year, with the cuttings taken away to help reduce soil fertility.

10. Mostyn Road Woodland Bee Road

We are keen to hear from residents around Myatts Fields South about this one.

There is an opportunity to plant bulbs, woodland turf and individual plants.

This could be a springtime delight with bluebells and cow parsley.

Would you like wildflowers here?

Would you like wildflowers here too?



10. Deronda Woodland Bee Road

A204/A205 at Tulse Hill

Wildflower planting proposed here would avoid the trees and their roots, as well as making sure to keep residents garden gates accessible.

We are keen to hear from more residents about this project.

There is a lot of light here, even among the trees, a glade of foxgloves, and cow parsley would look spectacular in early summer.

Would you
like
wildflowers
here?





Planting for pollinators

- Effra Road and Brixton Road are built on the marshy plain that the River Effra used to travel through to the Thames hundreds of years ago, draining the high hills around.
- Historically this land was very wet and named for all the rushes that grew here Rush Common.
- Both raingardens will be planted with wetland plants, including rushes, along with many flowering plants for pollinators like the purple loosestrife shown here.
- The plants will sometimes be covered with water, and sometimes dry.
- This supports Lambeth's Pollinator Action Plan.

Putting the rushes back into Rush Common

Lambeth Pollinator Action Plan 2021 - 2025

Pollinator Positives – some good news stories!

Over the last two years we have implemented several projects to support pollinators at sites on the London B-line. These include:

Brockwell Park – large new wildflower meadow



Kennington Park – new orchard in meadow grassland



Pollinators in Lambeth: This plan has been developed to raise awareness of the plight of pollinators and to ensure the Council and its residents, businesses and landowners are provided with information to help us all protect and increase our pollinator populations.

Importance of pollinators:

Our native pollinators include bumblebees and other bees (250 species), butterflies and moths, flies, beetles, and wasps. In all there are over 4,000 species of insect in the UK that carry out pollination of our native wild plants and food crops. Insect pollination is extremely important to the UK economy, with an estimated value of £691m annually. Without pollinators we would struggle to grow many of our vegetables, fruits, and other crops, including apples, pears, strawberries, beans, peas, and oilseed rape. 90% of crop species are insect pollinated and wild pollinators account for 80% of pollination. 62% of wildflower populations are already constrained by the lack of pollinators and we are missing £5m of Gala apples in the UK because there are no longer enough pollinators.

Our pollinators are in trouble:

- Half of our 27 bumblebee species are in decline.
- Three of these bumblebee species have already gone extinct.
- Two-thirds of our moths are in long term decline.
- Across Europe 38% of bee and hoverfly species are in decline.
- A study published in 2017 found a 75% decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas in Germany, which is thought to be representative throughout similar habitats and landscape across Europe.
- 71% of our butterflies are in decline.

What happens next for Lambeth Bee Roads?

These projects can only succeed with the support of local communities, and we would like to thank everyone who has volunteered help with specific projects so far.

Do please fill in our survey if you would like to get involved, alternately you can email parks@lambeth.gov.uk stating Lambeth Bee Roads in the title.

The projects are not currently fully funded. We are working on these initial plans towards grant funding to ensure their success. If this bid is successful we will:

- Work closely with local community champions on each project
- Employ dedicated staff in spring 2022 to design and carry out the planting schemes
- Commission a professional designer to develop projects 1, 2, and 3.
- Hold public meetings for major projects to discuss detail
- Deliver the projects over the two years March 2022 and March 2024
- Provide a programme of training workshops and volunteering for local people to get involved.

