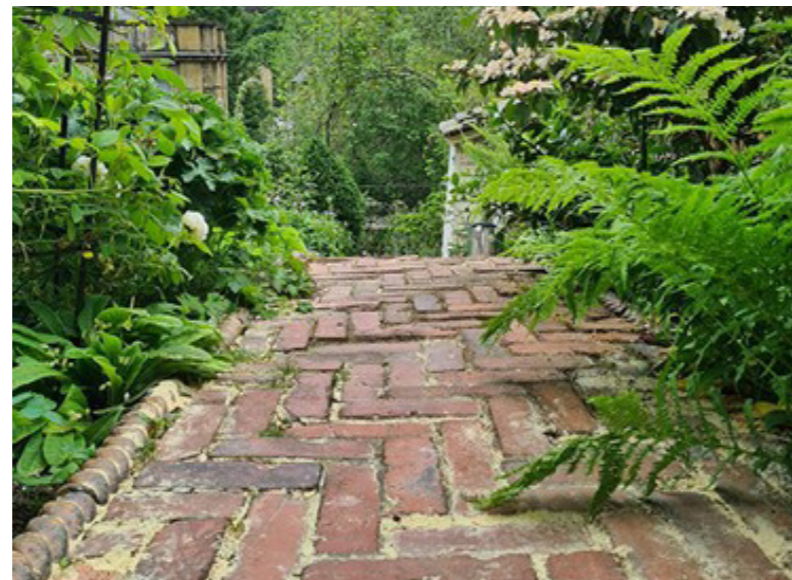
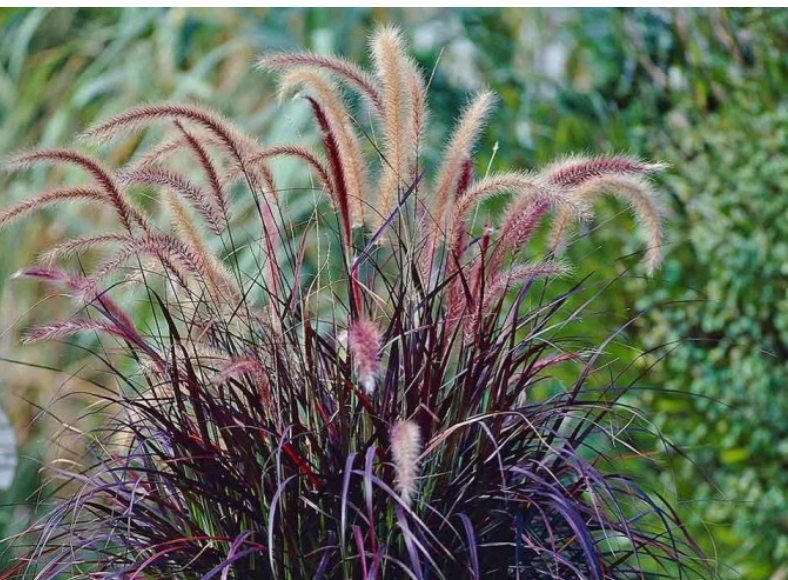


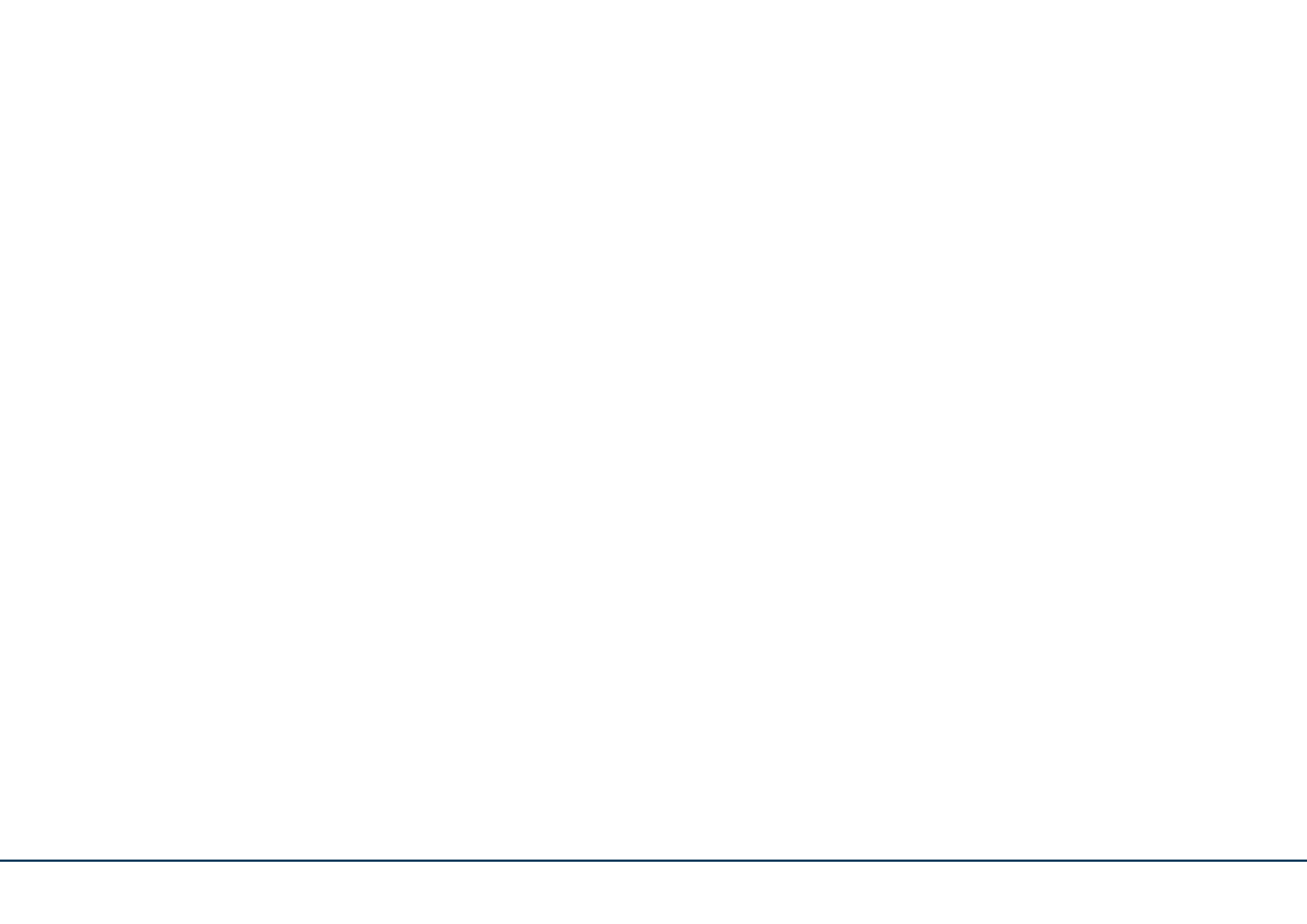
# GOLDIE LEIGH HOSPITAL, WELLING, LONDON

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN STRATEGY REPORT

Prepared on behalf of  
OXLEAS NHS TRUST

November 2023





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GOLDIE LEIGH HOSPITAL  
DESIGN STATEMENT

OXLEAS NHS TRUST

REFERENCE: 3168-APA-ZZ-XX-RE-L-4001  
STATUS: PLANNING

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY/CHK
P01	PLANNING ISSUE	01/11/23	UA/NK
P02	Landscape Arrangements drawing updated	01/12/23	UA/NK

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report has been prepared by Allen Pyke Associates on behalf of the Oxleas NHS Trust. The proposal is for the demolition of two existing buildings (Thistle and Shamrock) and replacement with a sensory garden for the patients, visitors and staff of the hospital. The purpose of this report is to explore the design rationale for the proposed sensory garden.

1.2. The site is located within a designated Conservation Area and will address the architectural significance of Thistle and Shamrock cottages within their wider setting. This document should be read in conjunction with the Heritage Statement.

1.3. The Site users include long term residential patients, some with physical disabilities, day patients with physical and/or mental health issues, visitors of patients and staff.

1.4. Those using the garden may come from diverse backgrounds and require special consideration to meet their needs. The sensory garden could assist with their treatment and recovery.

1.5. Some patients would benefit from a calm environment and some from a stimulating one. Indeed, many users would benefit from both. The proposed gardens will provide a valuable asset for the users of the Goldie Leigh Hospital Site.

## 2.0 SITE LOCATION

2.1. Goldie Leigh Hospital is in Welling in south east London. It comprises a number of buildings used by different facets of the NHS Trust connected to mental health / disability services. Thistle and Shamrock are two of these buildings, they have become derelict after not being in use for some years.

2.2. The Hospital Site has green spaces on three sides with Clam Field Recreation ground to the north, Bostall Heath and Woods to the west and Plumstead Cemetery to the south.

2.3. The application boundary includes Thistle and Shamrock buildings, associated hardstanding, soft landscape and the access road between the two buildings. Bostall Woods are close to the Site and dominate views to the west.

2.4. Beyond the Hospital site, housing to the east is two storey semi-detached post war and the housing density is low.



FIGURE 1: GOLDIE LEIGH HOSPITAL'S LOCATION IN LONDON

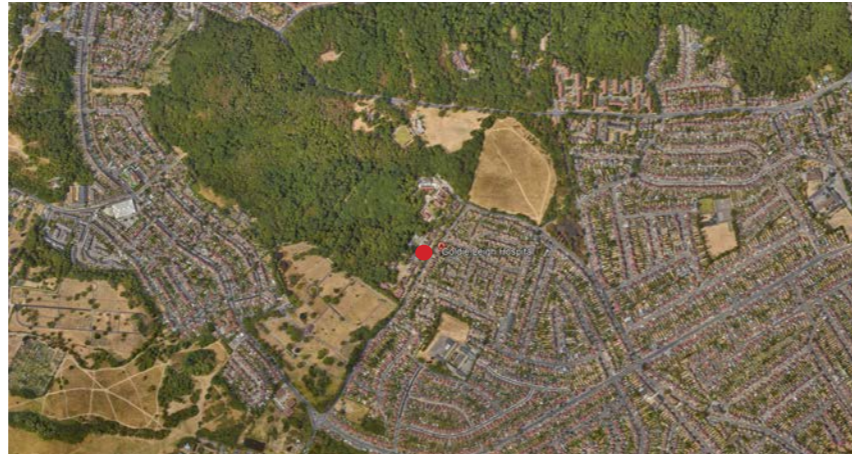


FIGURE 2: GOLDIE LEIGH HOSPITAL IN ITS LOCAL ENVIRONMENT



FIGURE 3: GOLDIE LEIGH HOSPITAL'S LOCAL SETTING

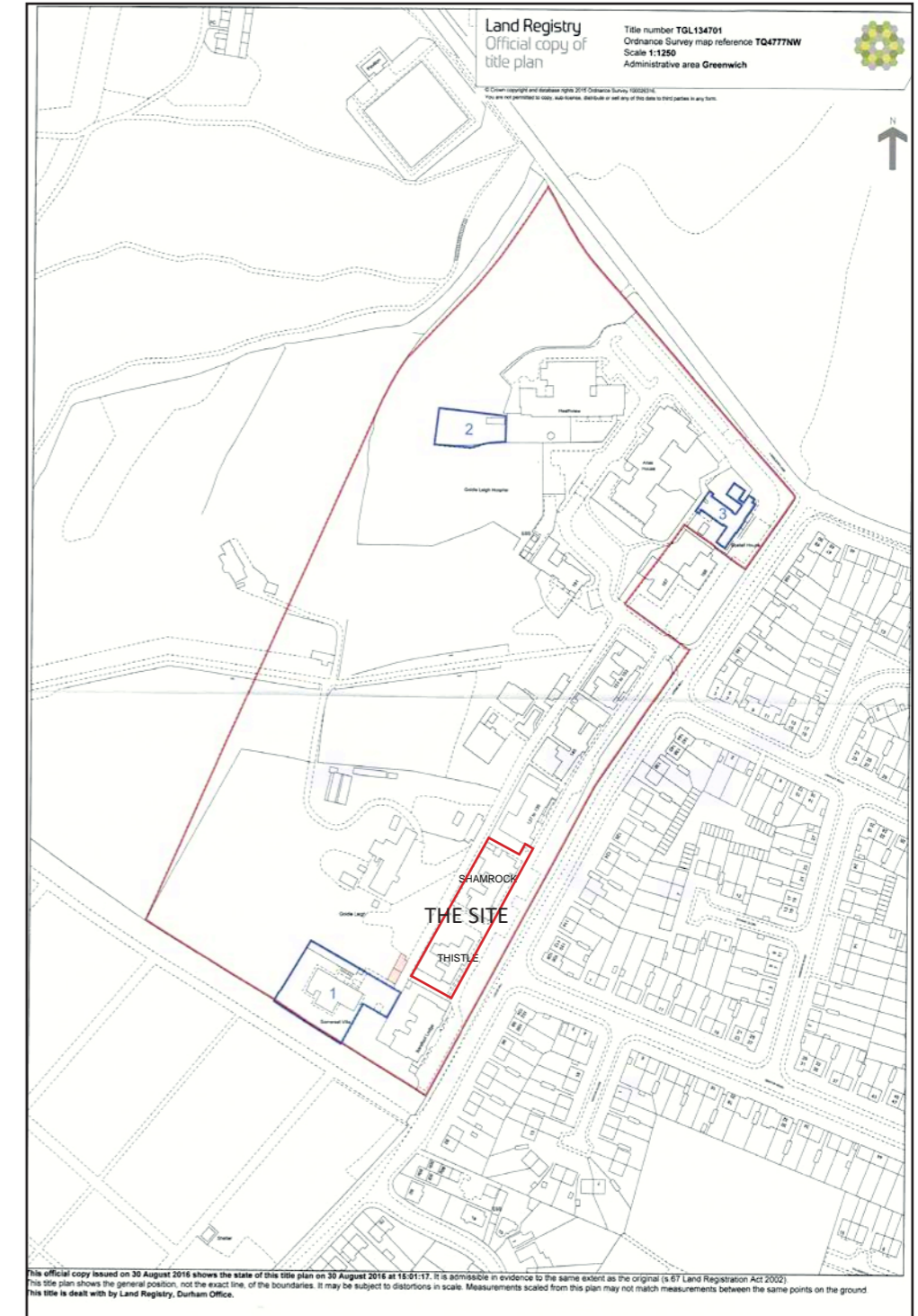


FIGURE 4: GOLDIE LEIGH HOSPITAL CONSERVATION AREA AND THE SITE WITHIN IT

# 3.0 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

3.1. The Site is currently occupied by two derelict buildings, namely Thistle and Shamrock, associated hardstanding and some soft landscape. This hardstanding has a number of manholes within it. The buildings have fallen into disrepair after not being used for some time. Both buildings are made of red brick and have sections of pebbledash which is painted cream.

3.2. There are several trees within the site boundary which look healthy, one horse chestnut and two silver birch, the remainder of the soft landscape is covered in rough grass.

3.3. Around the buildings there is some debris - bits of fencing, pipework, old benches, and palettes are scattered across the site.

3.4. There is an asphalt access road running between Thistle and Shamrock buildings.



FIGURE 5: PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS OF THE SITE



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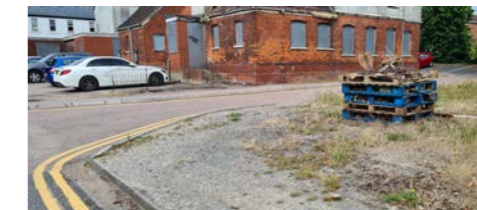
4.



10.



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11.



6.



12.

## 4.0 PRINCIPLES FOR SENSORY GARDENS

4.1. Gardens are well known to be good places to relax. People can enjoy being outdoors in nature at a sensory level, even when they know nothing about plants or wildlife.

4.2. It is known that gardens have positive effects on wellbeing, by making people feel calmer, happier or more connected.

4.3. A sensory garden is designed to appeal to the senses by purposefully including features and sensory qualities. They can be a valuable resource for people who have special needs and for those who just need to space to relax. The layout, the plants and materials used can engage our sense of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste.

4.4. Sensory gardens can be designed to achieve different things. They can be restful, or be a learning area full of exciting things to touch and smell, or of course both! Calming elements include pastel colours - lilacs, soft blues and dusky pinks, curves and planting looking slightly wild. Stimulating features include hot, vibrant colours - bright pinks, reds and oranges, and very neat and tidy and sharp lines.

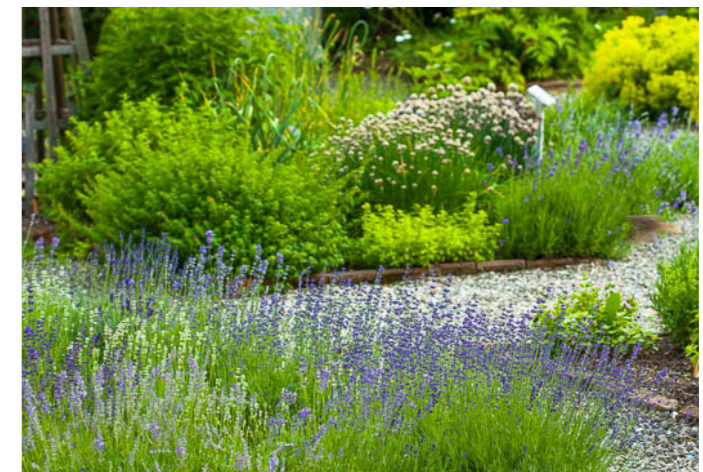
4.5. Some people will enjoy and benefit from garden that offers a broad sensory experience. Others will prefer to a focus on a limited number of senses. Children, for example, can often benefit from a rich and broad use of sensory elements. Engaging all five external senses can help them smile, laugh and get excited. By communicating their feelings, they can help improve their mood.

4.6. The 'external' senses – sight, smell, sound, touch and taste are commonly known, however, people also have 'internal' senses which gardens can be of interest to too: Thermoception, i.e. how people feel temperature, and Balance.

4.7. Plant selection is a huge part of the appeal of a sensory garden.

4.8. Certain plants offer beautiful scents at certain times of the year, such as lavender and rosemary.

4.9. Most plants have a period of the year when they are at their best and offer the most value for the visitor. This might be stunning flowers, autumn leaves or spring blossom. Sensory garden design should ensure there are sensory aspects to enjoy throughout the year.



# 5.0 LANDSCAPE CONCEPT

5.1. Goldie Leigh has a combination of long term and temporary residents and day visitors. These site users have visitors and parents who visit the site. There are also a lot of staff associated with the various departments located at the Hospital Site.

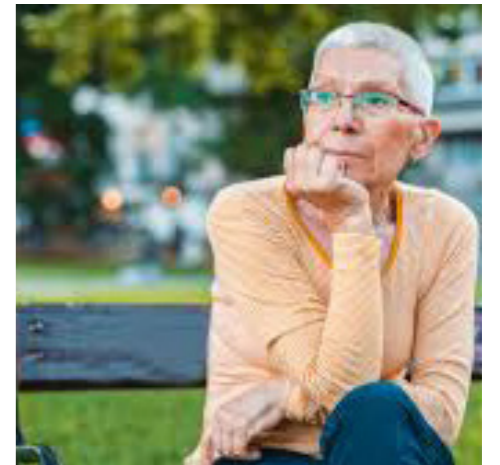
5.2. People who use the services at Goldie Leigh Hospital have a range of difficult and complex needs, for example, Somerset Villa temporarily houses victims of domestic violence, Barefoot Lodge has children with mental disabilities, Bostall House is used by people with physical disabilities.

5.3. It is evident from looking around the site that various activities have been undertaken by the departments there to enhance their wellbeing. There is a community garden which runs outdoor environmental activities.

5.4. A sensory garden will be proposed to respond to the complex and varied needs of the users of Goldie Leigh Hospital. The layout will provide areas for quiet contemplation but also for stimulation and social activity.

5.5. The sensory gardens will integrate into the existing setting of the Conservation Area, providing a coherent transition between old and new.

5.6. The design will integrate colours and textures from the heritage of the area.



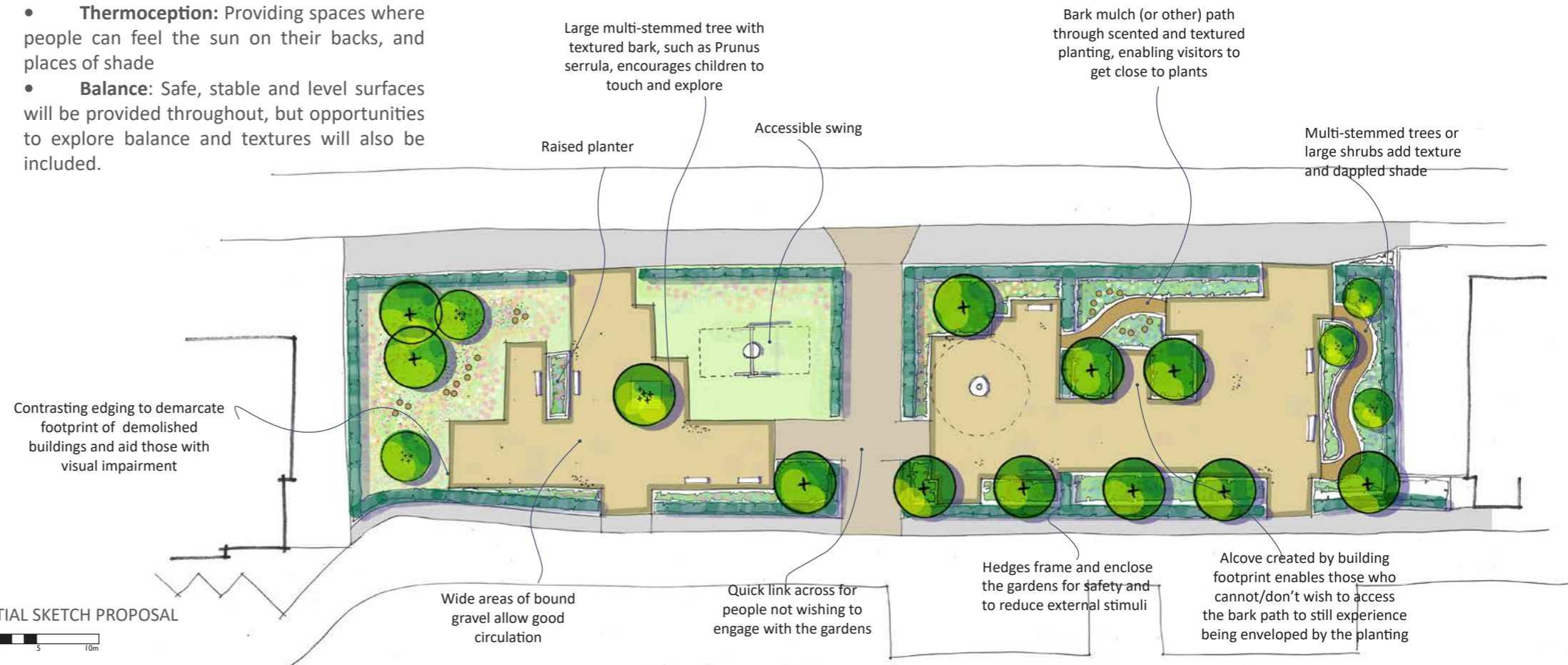
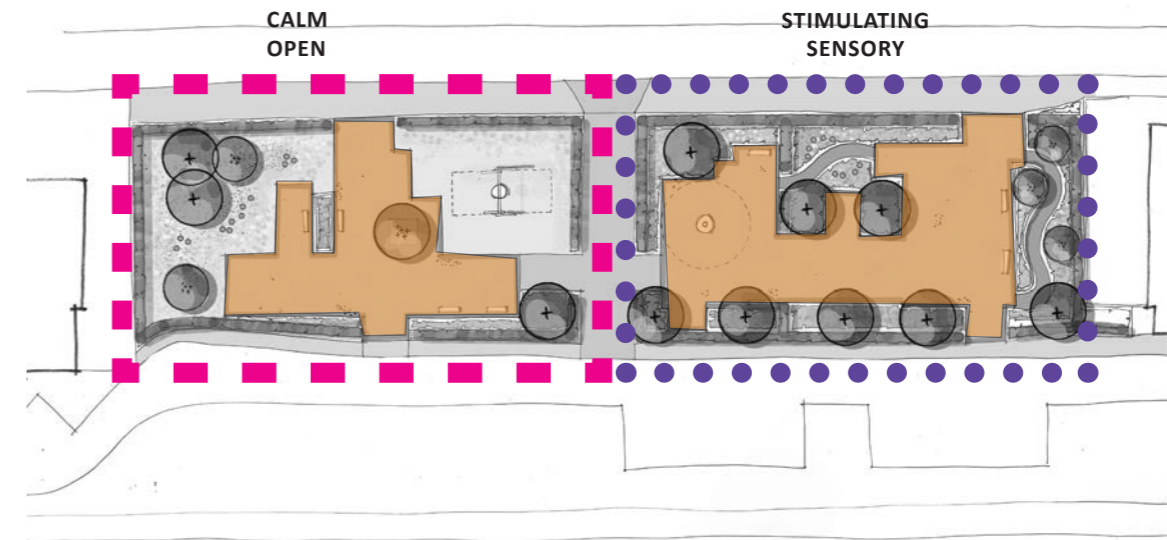
# 6.0 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

6.1. The design aims to achieve the following:

- To create of zones with different characters to maximise user experience and respond to different needs.
- To ensure access into and through the garden makes sense and relates to how it is used, ie, clear gateways.
- To use hard landscape materials which are sensitive to and align with the existing setting of the Conservation area but which are not limited by it.
- To provide planting which will delight all the senses, thus maximising its value as a sensory garden.
- To provide recognisable pieces of play equipment that are accessible to all will be provided, as well as some elements of informal play - the grass labyrinth and the sensory path.

6.2. Specifically, the design will consider external and internal senses:

- **Sight:** a feast of colours, shapes, size and textures year round, from leaf and plant shapes as well as flowers.
- **Smell:** a variety of scents to add interest at different times of the year, from both flowers and leaves. Geraniums, for example, have very fragrant leaves. Lavender is well known to have a relaxing effect on those who smell it.
- **Sound:** plants move with a breeze and rustle. Wildlife will be attracted to the garden and birdsong will be audible.
- **Touch/feel:** The hard materials and planting will offer different sensations and experiences and the sensory walk will offer a very touch-specific experience.
- **Taste:** Several plants will be edible, such as the wild strawberry and fennel.
- **Thermoception:** Providing spaces where people can feel the sun on their backs, and places of shade
- **Balance:** Safe, stable and level surfaces will be provided throughout, but opportunities to explore balance and textures will also be included.





# 7.0 FINAL PROPOSALS

7.1. The garden layout will offer several areas designed for different purposes. At one end there will be an enclosed space for children's play. It will have some formal play equipment there, but also informal play opportunities with the grasses labyrinth and the sensory path. Planting here will be stimulating and include plants with bright colours, plants with a variety of sizes, and with a diverse range of leaf shapes and textures.

7.2. The sensory path involves different materials being used to surface different sections of the path, such as plastic tubing or rounded pebbles, giving the user a variety of tactile experiences as they travel along the path. This path would circumnavigate a tree, further allowing the user to tune into their senses as they move along.

7.3. The grass labyrinth is simply an area of architectural grasses, growing to around 1m in height, allowing children to hide whilst not being too high that they cannot be supervised. Narrow paths run through this area so children can immerse themselves in the experience.

7.4. The other side of the garden there will be an area primarily for adults to enjoy - there, they can socialise calmly or sit and contemplate. The layout will offer people a good choice of places to sit, feel calm and safe, and to socialise if they want to. The area of trees at the eastern boundary will be covered by tree canopy once more mature and so offer an enclosed safe feeling. Seating would be installed to provide for a range of scenarios.

7.5. The middle area where will offer an area for relaxation and will include a combination of sensory elements. It will include a raised bed with herbs with particular sensory attributes such as mint, lemon verbena, and fennel, where people can get close to them to taste, touch and smell them.

7.6. A large number of benches will be provided to enable people to rest, pause and gather. They will be provided in a way which allows people to socialise or have time alone.



GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS PLAN:

Refer to 3168-APA-ZZ-XX-LA-L-1001\_P02

# 8.0 PLANTING STRATEGY

8.1. Planting design will offer a base of evergreen, low maintenance plants to ensure the garden has structure year round. Plants chosen will be diverse and although not all native, will be good for climate resilience.

8.2. Grass mixes proposed will offer a diverse range of species. Amenity grass will be a species rich mix, and wildflower meadow will be chosen according to its location in order that species thrive.

8.3. These images show plants proposed for the garden for their sensory properties. Some plants are valuable for all the senses, some for a particular one.

8.4. The grass labyrinth allows children to run around and play hide and seek whilst still under supervision from an adult. The grasses would be cut down early in February every year and this change in itself is of sensory value.

8.5. Gardening activities can be enjoyed in the garden and so offer physical and social benefits too.

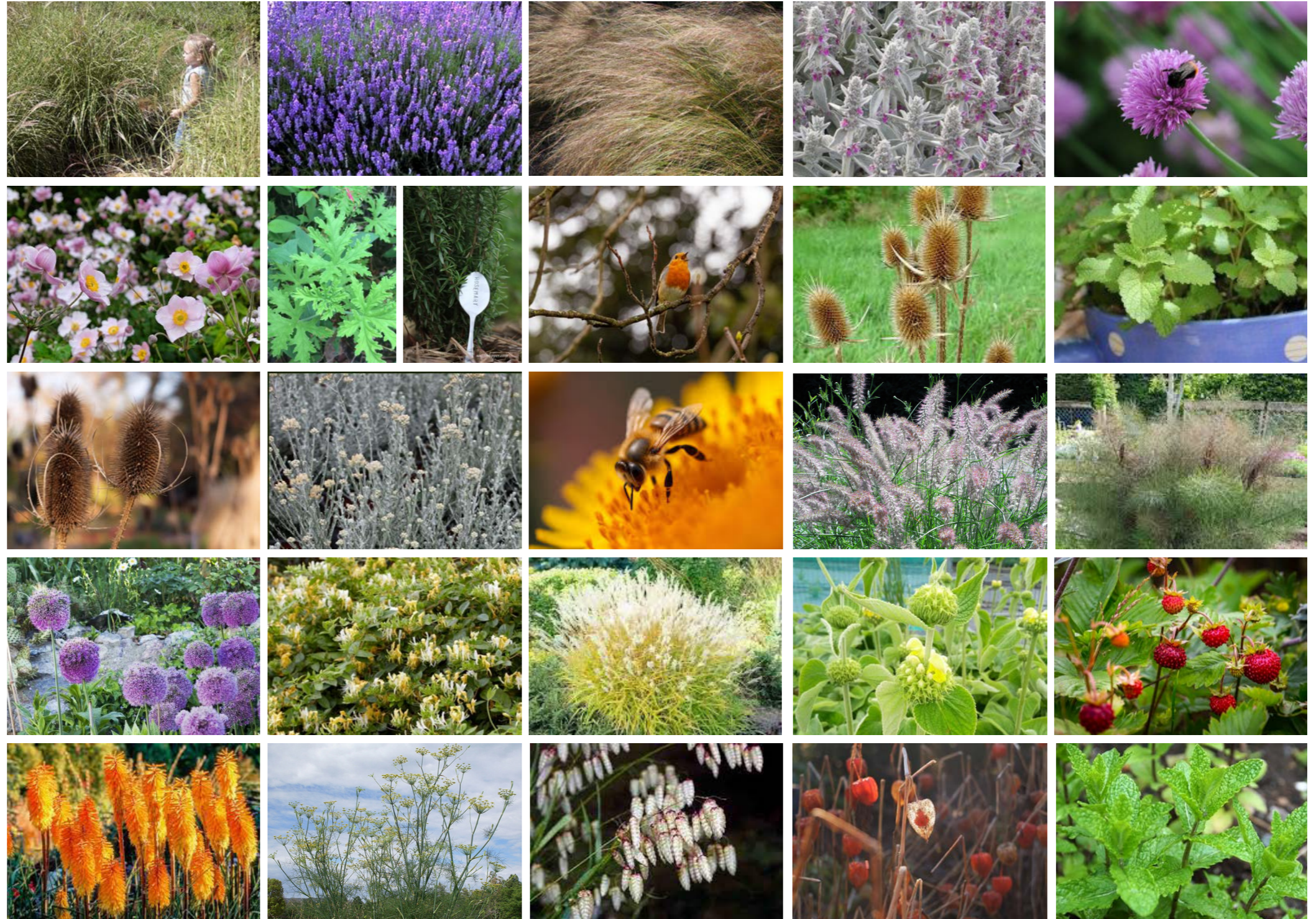
SIGHT

SMELL

SOUND

TOUCH

TASTE



# 9.0 MATERIALS, FURNITURE & ACTIVITY

9.1. Materials for the hard landscape will be chosen in response to the setting of the garden within the conservation area. Red brick, reclaimed from Shamrock and Thistle if possible, will be used to demark the footprints of the buildings. Other materials will be proposed for their sensory attributes.



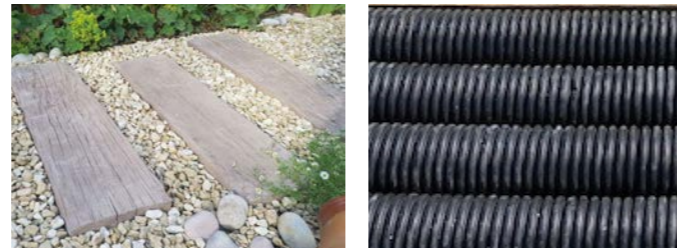
9.2. The sensory path will include sections of plastic pipe, coloured glass pebbles, mulch/twigs etc to give users a lot of sensory experiences.



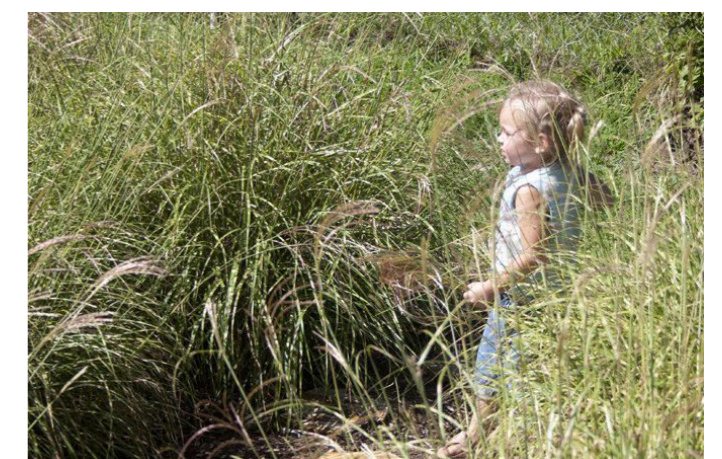
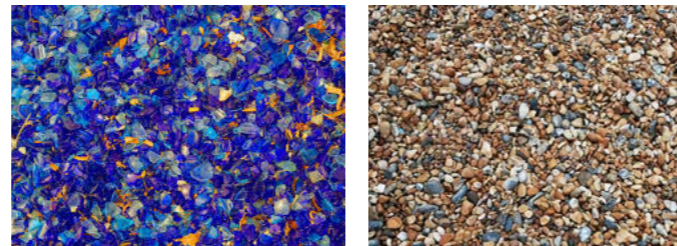
9.3. A range of furniture will be provided, giving garden users a wide range of seating options, that is, alone or sitting with others, in the sun, in a quiet area and so forth. In style the seating will be simply timber and/or concrete so it does not distract from the planting. Bollards and bins will match this same simple style.



9.4. The raised beds offer opportunity for more planting within the Thistle and Shamrock building footprints. They will offer an extra experience to those less mobile to be close to the planting and benefit from their sensory properties.



9.5. Play and activity offered in this sensory garden is multi-faceted, offering something for everyone to enjoy year-round. Both formal and more natural play is offered, an inclusive basket swing, grass labyrinth, sensory path, balance beam, stepping stumps and boulders to clamber on and around.



9.6. Possible activities in the garden go beyond the sensory element around which the garden design is focussed. Group activities, for example gardening or drawing, can take place in the flexible open spaces.

