

Erith Riverside Gardens



Errect Architecture - Who we are.



PRACTICE PROFILE

- Errect Architecture are award-winning, London-based architects and landscape architects.
- We make places with and for people. The foundation of Errect Architecture's work is the enjoyment and richness of collaboration and coproduction. Each project is based on listening and understanding clients' and stakeholders' needs.
- Our key strength is our dual experience as both landscape architects and architects. Our buildings and spaces have won many high-profile awards and our public realm designs have been featured as good practice case studies by CABI and in the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Shaping Neighbourhoods, to which we have also contributed as advisors.

Our projects

TUMBLING BAY & TIMBER LODGE



Won through an international competition, Errect Architecture led the team designing the focal point of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park North; a new destination playable landscape with café and community centre with park facilities. The brief for the destination play landscape was to attract families with children from 2-12 years old. We developed a masterplan for the site to strategically place different character areas, taking into account parent and carers' activities and proximity to café as well as wider strategic connections into the Olympic Park.

BAREFOOT WALK



Errect Architecture were commissioned to design a barefoot walk and informal play opportunity in Kew Gardens, a World Heritage Site. The 500 metres long walk provides varied sensory experiences and allows the users to ground themselves and connect with nature.

POLYGON



In 2018 Errect Architecture were appointed by Lamberth Council to design an extension to Polygon Square. Our design extends the existing hard surface with matching Yorkstone pavers and defines the southern edge with a 23m long curved bench backed with lush planting.

HOLLAND PARK PLAYGROUND



Holland Park is the largest park in Kensington and Chelsea. Contained within the park is Kyoto Garden donated by the Chamber of Commerce of Kyoto in 1991. Our design is inspired by two principles of Japanese garden theory: Dry Mountain Water and Borrowing-View. It borrows from the character of the surrounding mature woodlands and maximises the interest and play value of the existing topography.

Errect Architecture designed two signature play structures: The Hillcoaster which snakes and winds around existing trees and the Fishermen's Towers (including a dome constructed from site won earth) which provides a vantage point over the site.

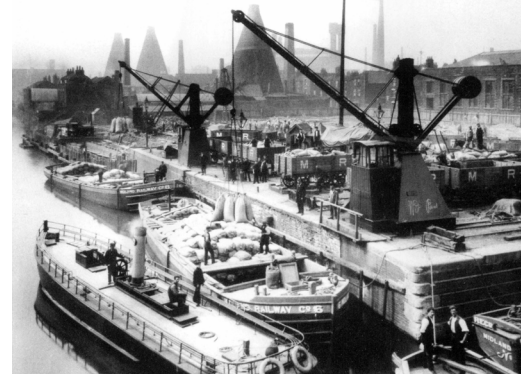
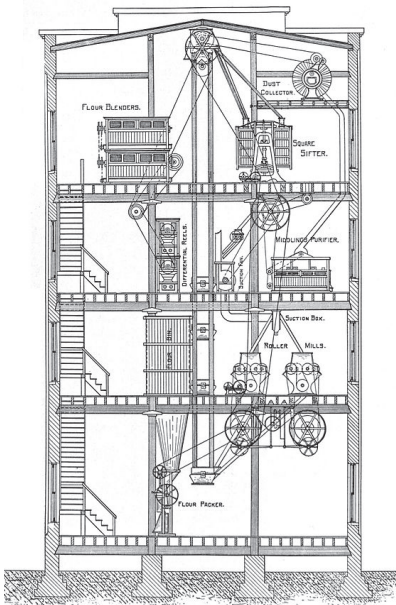
The textured bank and play valley offers sand & waterplay and motoric play for younger children with adjacent areas for parents to relax.

Erith Riverside Gardens



Creating a destination and establishing a clear identity

PLAY



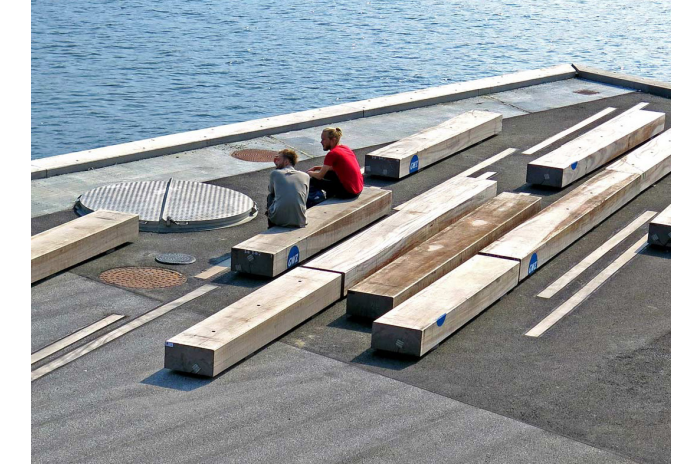
- An inclusive play space with sand and mud areas would allow for imaginative play and would be accessible for all children
- Climbing structures could take on the form of cranes and rigging and would be designed to give graduated challenges for children of different ages

RAIN GARDENS / SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE

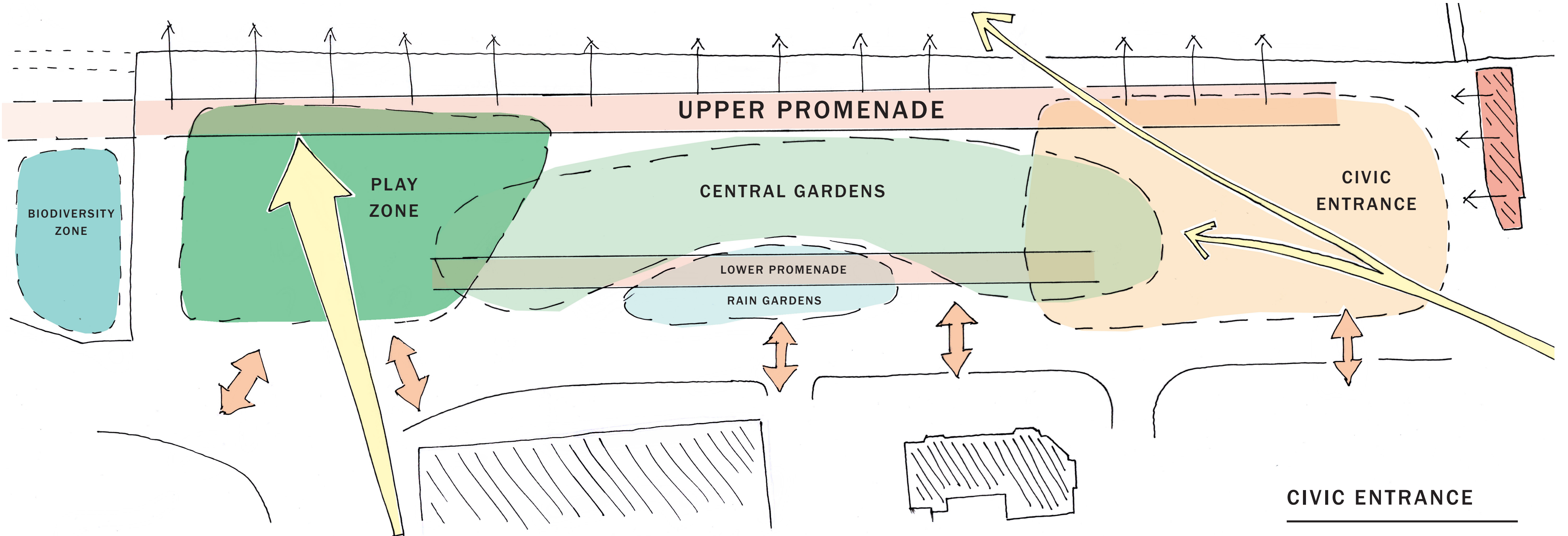


- Rain gardens would allow for play and exploration for both children and adults and are suggested at the centre of the gardens where there is currently a low point
- This area would provide a means of sustainable drainage to combat surface water flooding, as well as the opportunity for exciting planting and landscaping

FURNITURE



- Furniture would be designed and positioned to provide opportunities for all to rest and relax with views out to the river as well as back into the gardens
- A range of modules in different sizes and forms would allow for flexible usage



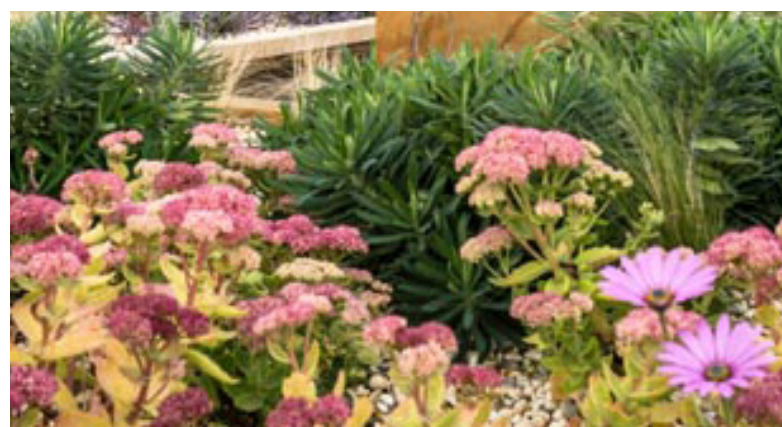
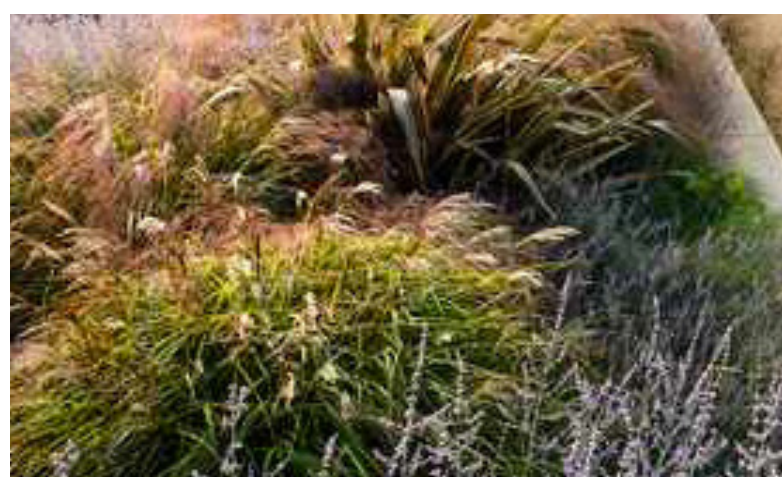
CIVIC ENTRANCE

BIODIVERSITY ZONE



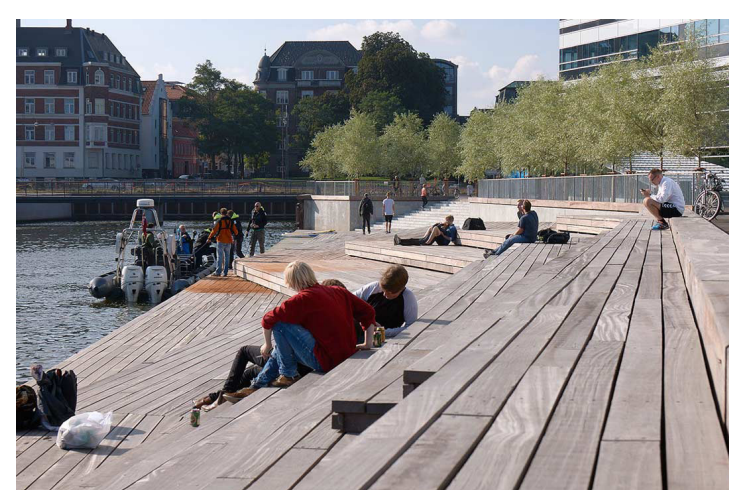
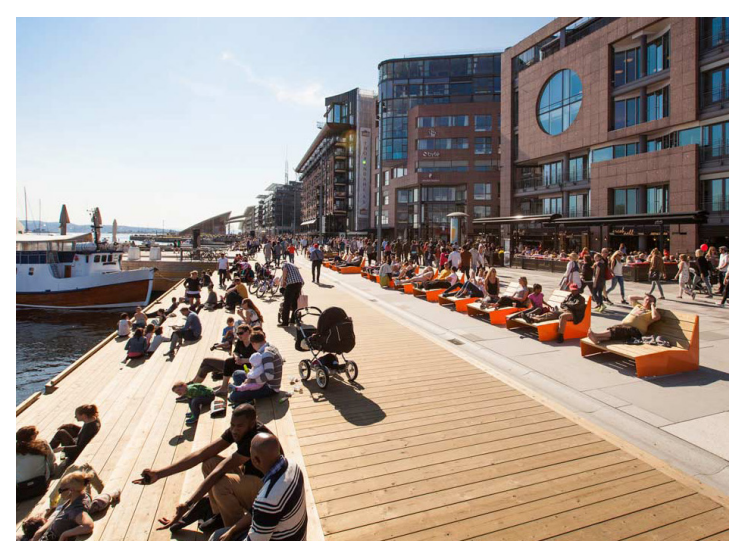
- The Tidal Thames's rich biodiversity should be celebrated with enhancements to Railway Wharf
- There is an opportunity to develop new habitat for Thames wildlife with additional planting and installation of floating reed beds

SOFT LANDSCAPING

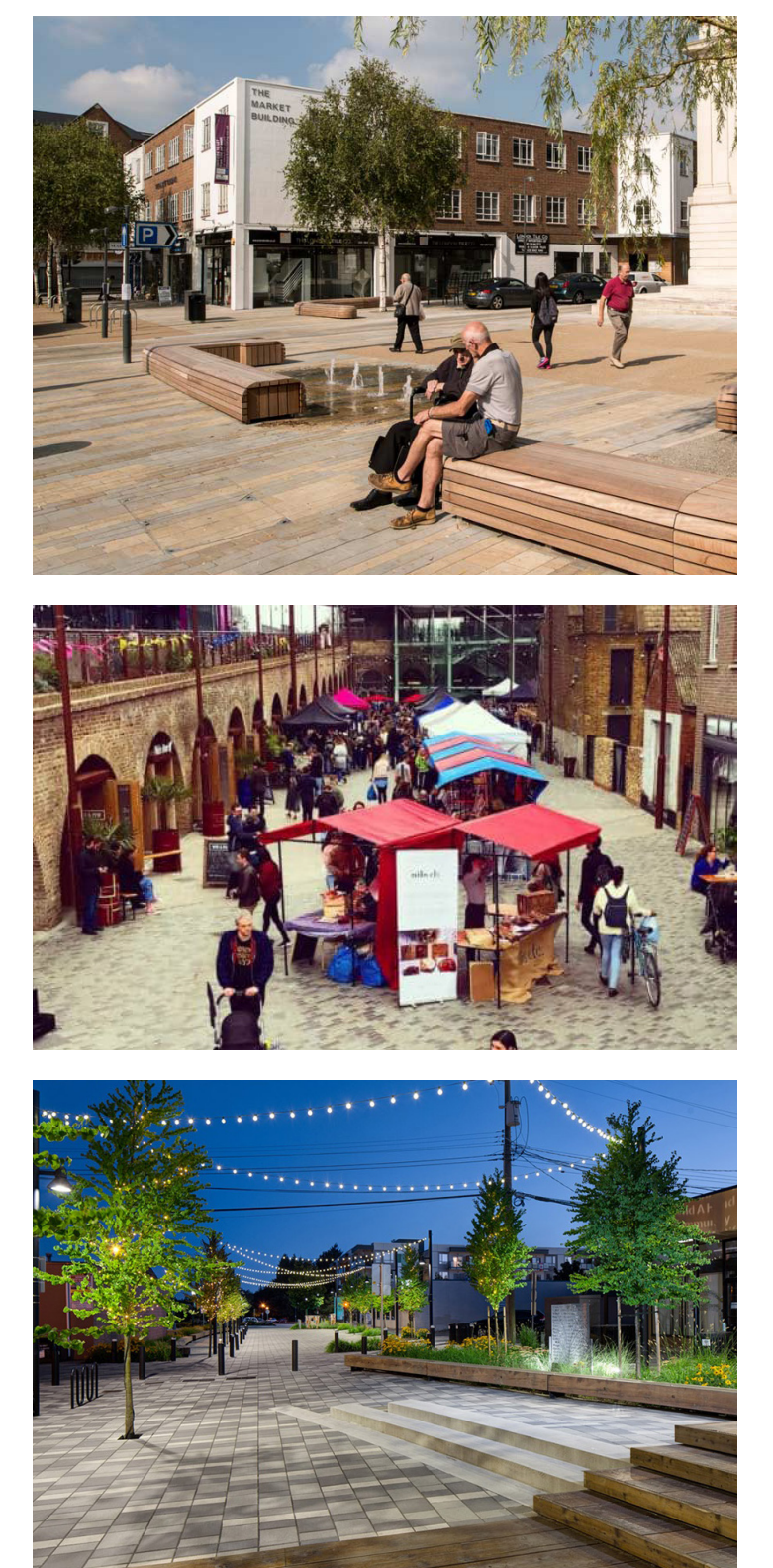


- New planting and landscaping is proposed to enhance the garden's riverside and maritime character
- A diverse planting strategy will mitigate against micro-climates, support existing biodiversity and will mark the gardens as a destination

PROMENADE



- A new riverside promenade within the gardens will create opportunities for stunning views across the water
- The promenade will also allow for accessible connections between the river edge and the gardens removing the current divide



- At the east of the gardens there is the opportunity to create a small square connecting to Erith High Street
- High quality surface materials, new seating and planting would give the square a civic character acting as a gateway to the gardens

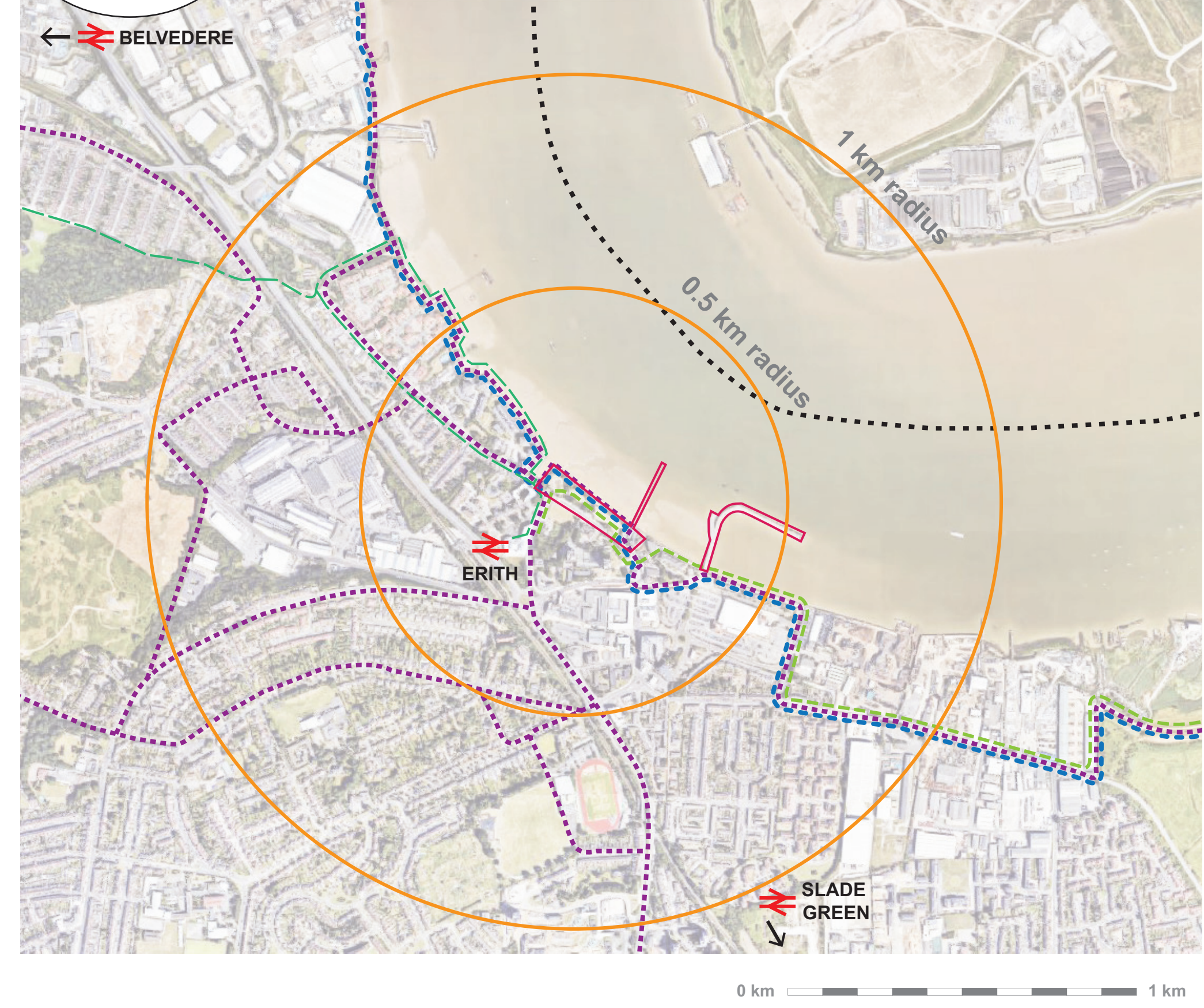
Erith Riverside Gardens



Connection to the riverside



Reconnecting to Riverside, cycling & walking, and leisure

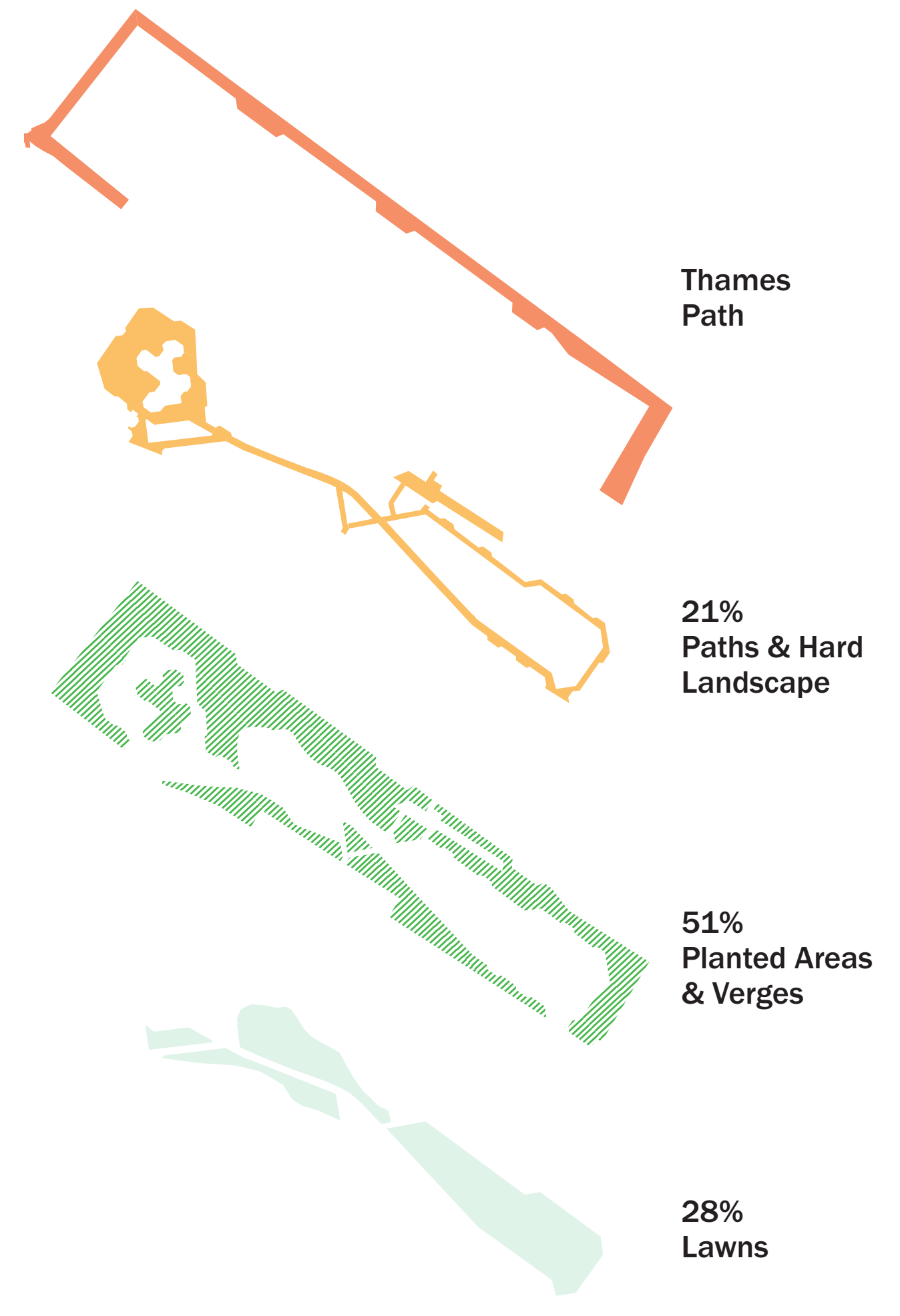


- National Cycle Route One
- Local Cycle Routes
- London LOOP
- Green Chain Walk
- Site Boundary
- Borough Boundary

OPPORTUNITIES

- Connect the Thames riverside to the gardens with accessible pathways, routes and play
- Open up unique views of the river from within the gardens with new landscaping to mitigate severance caused by Thames Flood Wall
- Provide opportunities to stop and rest with views out to the Thames
- Reconnect adjacent local, city-wide and national walking and cycle routes to the gardens and celebrate Erith as a destination with unique qualities
- Ensure that Erith's assets are accessible to all and integrate features for all user groups back onto the riverside and throughout the gardens

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



CHALLENGES

- Erith has a unique connection to the Thames riverside that is currently under-utilised. The Thames Flood Wall creates a barrier to looking out to the river and accessing the Thames Path
- Access to some viewing areas requires climbing steps, excluding some park users from this opportunity
- It is not possible to view into the gardens from the Thames Path reinforcing the feeling of disconnection between the two areas



Gardens West Side View



Gardens East Side View

- The current landscaping of the gardens in relation to the Thames Flood Barrier reduces the amount of available, usable lawn area
- The majority of the ground area within the gardens is made up of raised, difficult to access lawns and planted areas (51%)

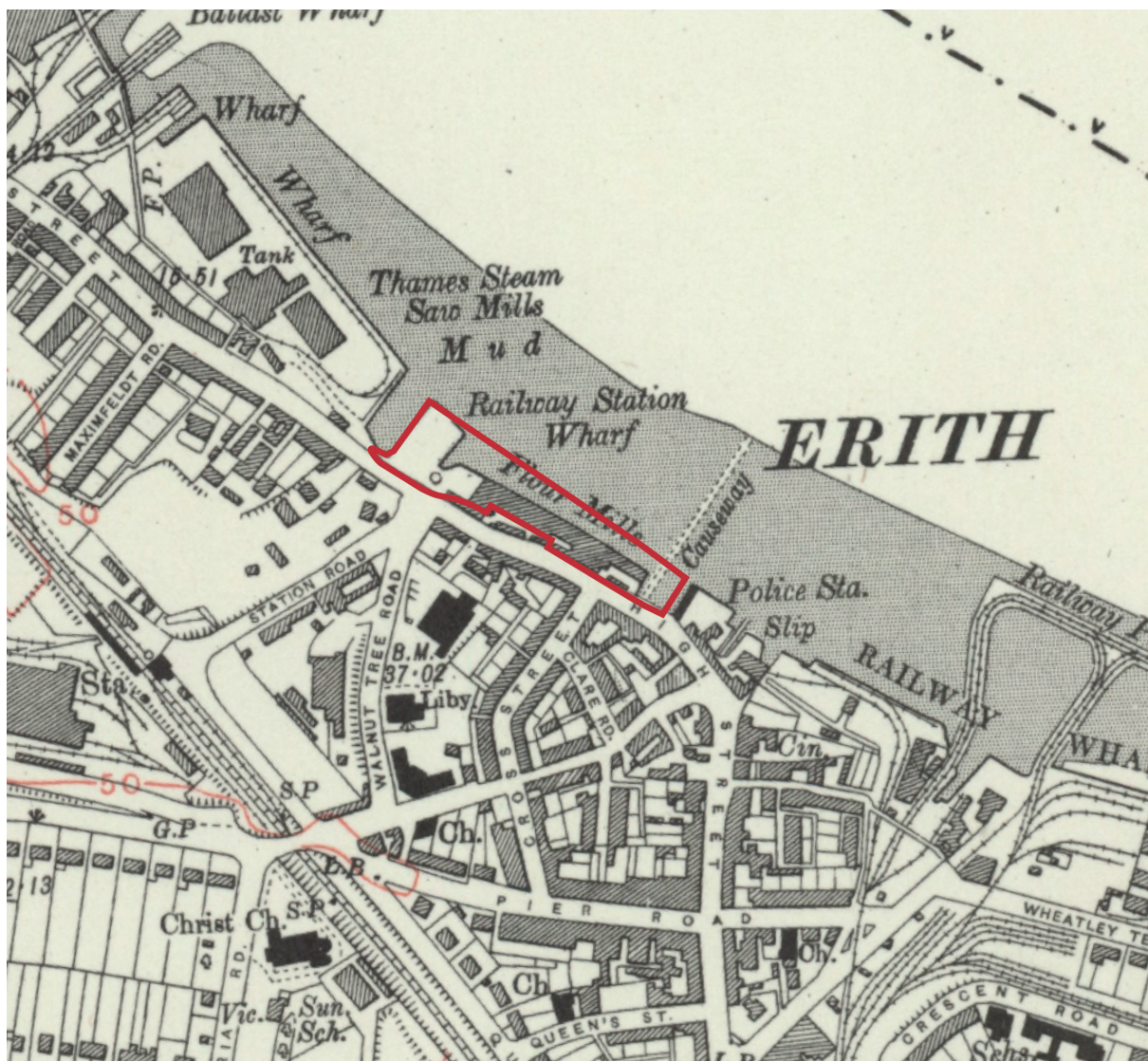
Erith Riverside Gardens



Celebrating Erith's rich heritage



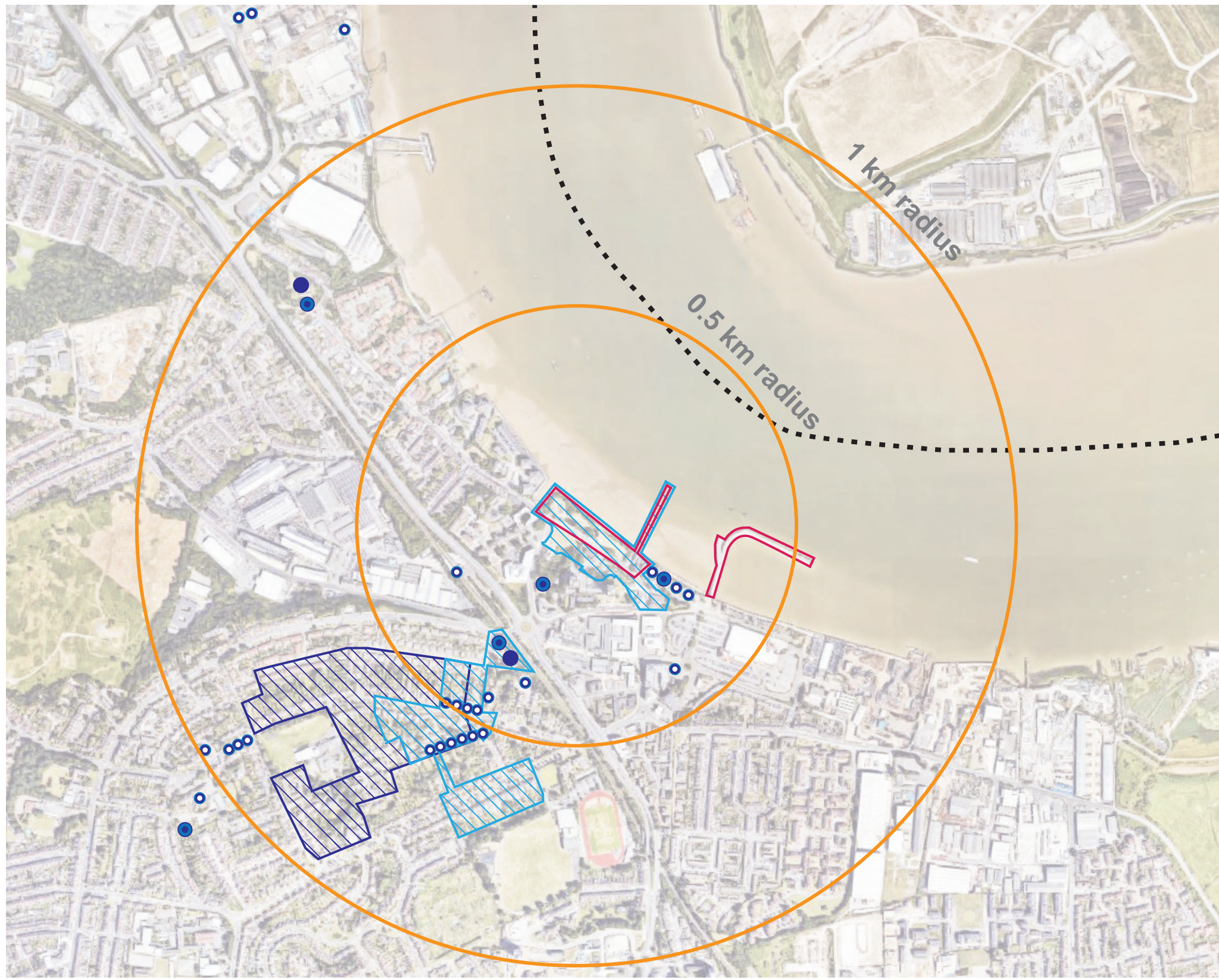
1895



1931



1965



- Conservation Area
- Special Character Area
- Listed Structure (Grade II*)
- Listed Structure (Grade II)
- Locally Listed Structure
- Borough Boundary

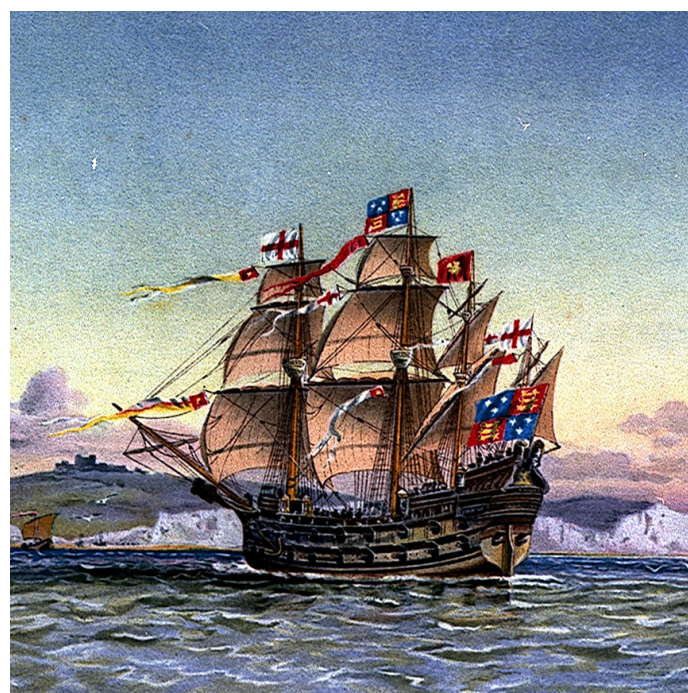
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RIVERSIDE HISTORY

Taking its name from the Saxon for 'muddy landing place', Erith's history has been bound to the riverside for centuries. As a naval dockyard Erith was the location of ship fitting, including King Henry VIII's 'Great Harry' in 1515.

After a brief spell as a leisure destination which saw the building of the original Erith Pier alongside a pleasure garden, Erith has since been an important site for industry.

This industrial heritage can be seen within the gardens, from the former railway wharf to the west which was loading point for coal or other produce, to the footprint of Erith Riverside Gardens themselves, which used to be home to the impressive Cannon and Gaze flour mills.



Henry Grace à Dieu Ship, which was fitted out in Erith at the beginning of the 16th century



Alexander Selkirk returned to Erith in 1711



View south east along Erith High Street, 1900

Erith has a unique industrial and riverside heritage



View of the Cannon and Gaze Flour Mill from the River Thames, located on the current site of Erith Riverside Gardens



Cannon and Gaze Flour Mill seen from above following further expansion of the complex in the early part of the twentieth century



Demolition of Cannon and Gaze Flour Mill following a fire at the factory in 1937



Following the demolition of the Gaze and Cannon Flour Mill, Erith Riverside Gardens were opened to the public in the early 1940's



A range of boats and ships could be seen from Erith Riverside Gardens in 1950's



Erith Riverside Gardens with River Thames at low tide in 1960's

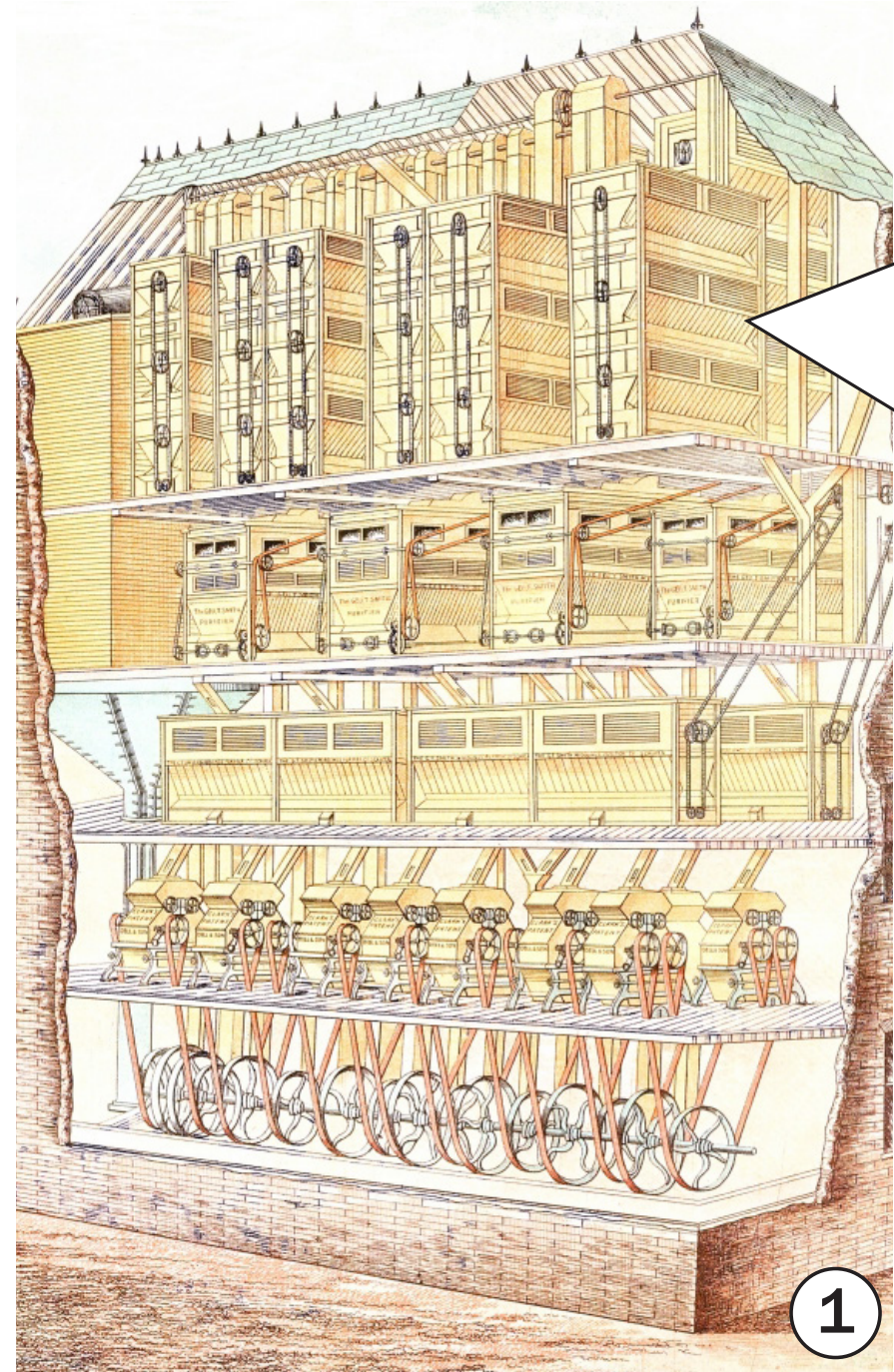
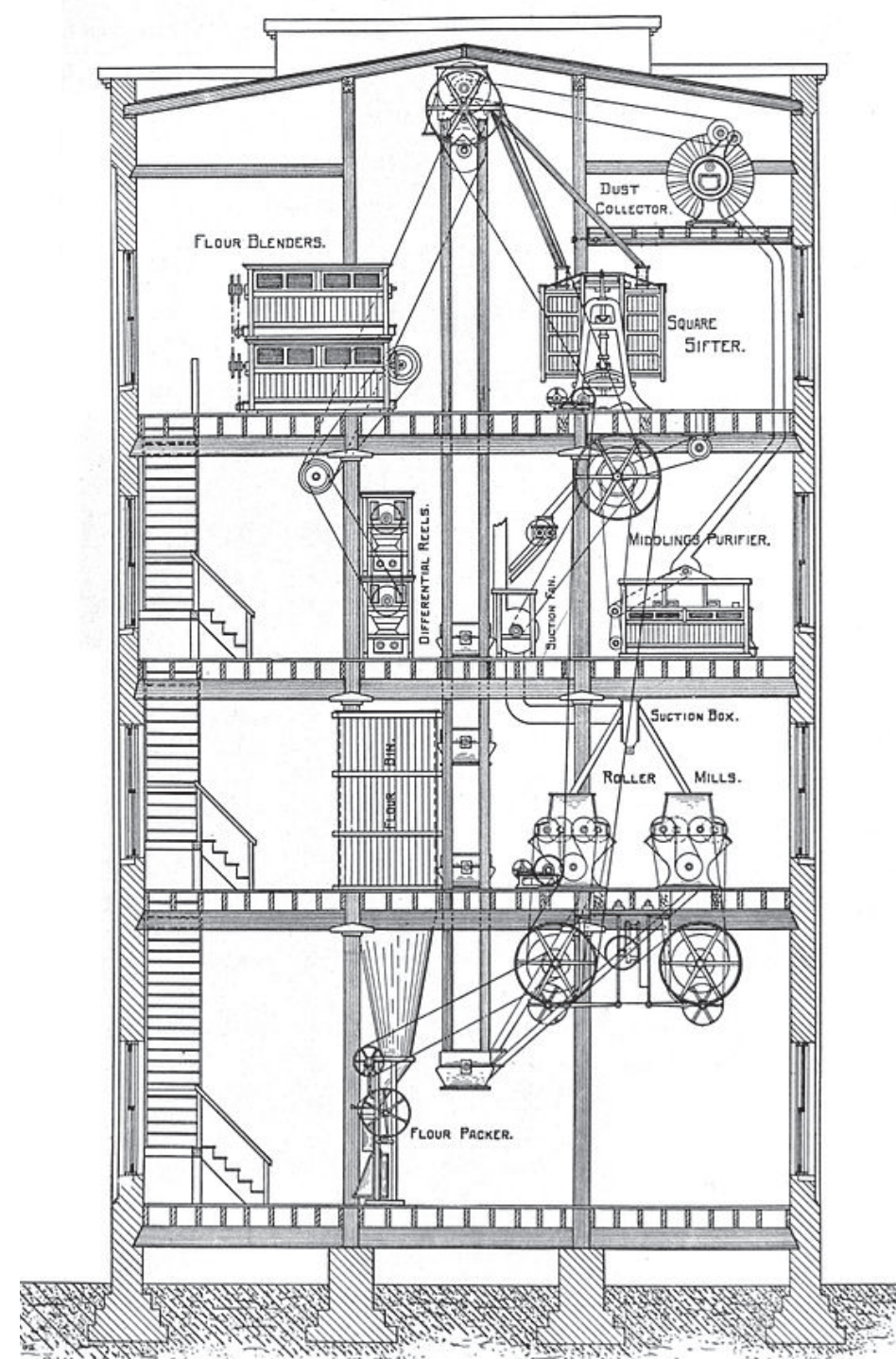


In the 1980's the gardens were landscaped alongside the addition of the Thames flood defence wall.

Erith Riverside Gardens



New opportunities for play



Play inspired by Erith Heritage and Biodiversity

- Inspiration for new opportunities for play can be found in the exciting industrial heritage of the area. Erith's history of manufacture and production on the riverside and the iconic architecture of the factories and machinery used in these processes will be a touchstone for play design within the gardens

- Access to Erith's unique biodiversity should be opened up to all through playful routes and landscape design. Reconnecting visitors to the riverside and other habitats with features such as floating reed beds and rain gardens could be employed on the site



CURRENT PLAY CONTEXT

1. Examples of early Twentieth Century Flour Mills
2. Playable water feature at Lewis Cubitt Square in London
3. An example of 'fitness for all' outdoor gym located by the riverside in Brisbane, Australia
4. Playful route through rain gardens on Australia Road, London
5. Mud Park from Tokyo, Japan
6. Example of turn of the century railway wharf



Ocean Park (0.3 Miles from ERG)



Ocean Park Play Area (0.5 Miles from ERG)



Erith Park Playground (0.7 Miles from ERG)



Erith Recreation Grounds (0.6 Miles from ERG)



The Dell (0.8 Miles from ERG)



Belvedere Beach Playground (1.7 Miles from ERG)



- Open Green Space
- Churchyard Green Space
- Urban and Semi-Urban Green Space
- Site Boundary
- Borough Boundary

0 km 1 km

- Erith Riverside Gardens is an important green open space within the area but is under-utilised at the moment as a place to play and exercise. Improving the provision and range of play opportunities available within the gardens is a central feature of the site's redevelopment

- Local play provision includes a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Ocean Park, climbing frame and swings at Ocean Park Play Area and, further from the site, Erith Recreation Ground, The Dell wildlife area and Erith Park playground offer opportunities for play and exploration. The Belvedere Beach Playground, which is just under two miles from the site was opened in 2017 and offers a range of high quality play features.