

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 10th April 2018

Attended by: Sara Worth (Chair), Tess Green (Vice Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Margaret Fay, Roy Gallop and Tim Wickstead (Committee Members) and John Smith (Member).

1. Welcome

Sara welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Ed Hall, Chris Hanmer and Angie Tonge (Committee Members) and Steve Fay (Treasurer).

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last FrANC Committee Meeting held on 13th February 2018 were approved by those present.

4. Matters Arising

The matters arising from the previous meeting may be found in the list of Actions contained in the minutes of that meeting, the current status of which is summarised in Table 1. Additional comments concerning some of the actions are given below:

Action 17-04-03: Derek reported that he had identified the seed mixes planted at Butterfly Junction from the Parsons Brinckerhoff (not CH2M as reported previously) MetroBus Landscape Proposal Drawing (ref. 287587A-HHE-3000-011 Rev. C1). The contents of the information panel contained within the drawing are reproduced in Attachment 1a and enlargements of the three proposed planting areas are shown in Attachment 1b. Although several planting mixes are referred to in the notes in Attachment 1a, only Planting Mix H (the pollinator-friendly “Butterfly” Mix) and Seed Mixes G1 and G2 are actually used in the Butterfly Junction area. The names of the plants that constitute “Mix H” are listed within the enlargement of the green crescent-shaped area shown in Attachment 1b. Derek will write to Dr. Nick Michael to confirm that (i) this planting mix has actually been adopted on site and (ii) that the statement in note 10 of Attachment 1a that all “.....planting, seeding and existing vegetation within the highway boundary shall be maintained for a period of 60 months.....following completion of the planting works” is correct (N.B. the planted areas referred to in the drawing are separate from the part of Butterfly Junction that is currently maintained by FrANC).

Action 17-04-07: Sara advised that she would contact Paul Becker of *Bristol Goodgym* to organise a litter-picking session on a Tuesday evening later in the year when the evenings become lighter.

Action 17-05-01: Roy reported that the task of restoring the lettering on John Purkiss’ Memorial Plaque had been successfully completed by FrANC member Laura Murgatroyd. The Committee expressed a vote of thanks to Laura for taking on this tricky job, especially as she had declined any payment. Derek added that the plaque was reinstalled behind the FrANC bench at the end of March.

Action 17-05-04: Sara reported that she and Derek had arranged to meet *ParkWork's* Joe McKenna this coming Friday (13th April) at 10:00am to discuss the work needed to install a perimeter fence around Butterfly Junction. Other Committee Members were also invited to attend if interested. It was suggested that if any landscaping is required then FrANC volunteers could be recruited to help in order to keep costs down. Sara added that she had also spoken to Chris Ecclestone from the Bristol Harbour Railway who had advised that unfortunately no "spare" railway track is available which could be used in the construction of the fence.

Action 18-01-01: Details of the two walks organised by FrANC for this year's *Bristol Walk Fest* were submitted to the organisers on time.

Action 18-01-02: Roy confirmed that *Bristol Community Ferry Boats Ltd. (BCFB)* will be running boat trips up the Avon Gorge and New Cut this year. Further, the cost of privately hiring a boat for 35 people would be £595 which, after deducting the cost of a "free" place for a guest speaker (geologist Peter Andresen), works out to be a charge of around £18 per person. It was noted that this is more expensive than the current *BCFB* "Concession" ticket price of £15 that many FrANC members would be entitled to. Also, the four dates that the company had offered Roy for the boat trip all fell on weekdays which, it was felt, would unfairly exclude those FrANC members who are still working.

In view of the above, it was decided that it would be cheaper for FrANC members to book their own tickets privately on one of the weekend boat trips that are advertised on the *BCFB* website (www.bristolferry.com). It was agreed that the "preferred" date for such a trip would be Saturday 4th August, and that any FrANC members interested in the boat trip should be encouraged to book places on that date (according to the website, there were currently 29 places available). Derek was actioned to circulate details of the boat trip offered by *BCFB* on 4th August, including booking instructions, to FrANC members.

Action 18-01-03: John confirmed that if an individual FrANC member replies to an email sent via *MailChimp* to all FrANC members then the members' e-mail addresses (stored in the new FrANC *MailChimp* account) are not CC'd in the reply. It was noted, however, that care should be taken when forwarding *MailChimp* emails as it is possible for the recipient to delete the sender from the FrANC *MailChimp* account if the "unsubscribe from this list" link is not removed before forwarding the email!

Action 18-01-04: Derek advised that all the email responses that he had received from FrANC members who wished to be included the new *MailChimp* Mailing List are now stored as individual PDF files, thus providing a permanent record of their consent to continue to receive email communications from FrANC. Requests received via the FrANC website from new subscribers to be added to the Mailing List are also converted to PDF files and stored in the same folder. This system should enable us to demonstrate compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation if requested to do so at a future date.

Action 18-01-05: Sara said that she had made a start on preparing a list of the names and contact details of the Bristol City Council Officers and significant others who FrANC are currently involved with.

Actions 18-01-06 and 18-01-07: the first FrANC Newsletter to be published using *MailChimp* (No. 29 – Spring 2018) was sent out on 26th March and included a contribution from Steven Sales, the artist who uses mud from the New Cut to make ceramics.

Action 18-01-08: Tess said that she had submitted the necessary membership forms for both *Action Greater Bedminster* and its Parks & Green Spaces sub-group.

Action 18-01-09: The signage at the Patchwork Community Gardening Group sites in Bedminster was provided by Bristol City Council. However, given the current austere financial climate and the fact that those who had been involved in this no longer worked for the Council, Tess thought it unlikely that any similar signage for the New Cut would be forthcoming from the same source.

Action 18-01-10: Sara and Derek have delivered additional “*Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut*” leaflets to the Bristol Tourist Information Centre in E Shed.

Action 18-01-11: Six orange high-visibility vests have been obtained for FrANC Group Leaders to wear during future Riverbank Clean-ups. However, as these items were purchased at short notice in order to be available in time for the Clean-up on 17th February, unlike our green high-visibility vests they do not have “FrANC” printed on the back of the vest.

5. Events Planning for 2018

5.1 Status of Riverbank Clean-ups

It was reported that the first three of this year’s Riverbank Clean-ups had been completed successfully, with the final Clean-up along the York Road riverbank between the Banana Bridge and Bath Bridge scheduled for this coming Saturday (14th April). Sara advised that she expected to have enough Committee Members available to act as Group Leaders for this event and that she had arranged for Harry’s Café at *Fowler’s* motorcycles to provide FrANC volunteers with post Clean-up refreshments, which would mostly consist of tea, toast and chips!

5.2 FrANC Walks for *Bristol Walk Fest 2018*

Chris said that to date she had received 4 bookings for Dr. Clive Lovatt’s “*Discovering Plants in Wild Places*” Walk on Saturday 12th May and 3 bookings for Ed’s “*The Cumberland Basin*” Walk on Tuesday 22nd May (a maximum of 25 places will be available on each walk). Further information about each of these walks had been published on both the FrANC and *Bristol Walk Fest* websites.

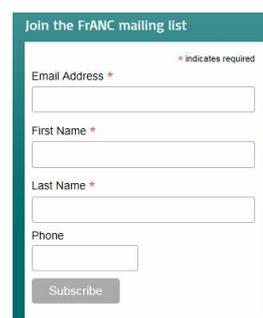
5.3 “*The River Malago and its Culverts in Old Bedminster*” Walk

Sara advised that she was in the process of agreeing a date for this event with the walk leader, Stephen Mason.

(Post-Meeting Note: the date for this walk will be Sunday 1st July, 10:30am start.)

6. Update on new FrANC Membership/Mailing List using *MailChimp*

Derek reported that, since the last Committee Meeting on 13th February, 10 new FrANC members had joined the new FrANC *MailChimp* Mailing List, 3 new members had been added manually to the list and 1 FrANC member had decided to “unsubscribe” from the list. The current FrANC membership therefore stands at 107, a nett increase of 12 members since the last Committee Meeting. The “Join the FrANC mailing list” panel on the FrANC Website (shown right) had also been modified by John so that the details of any new members/“subscribers” are now automatically added to the *MailChimp* Mailing List



Join the FrANC mailing list

* indicates required

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone

Subscribe

when they click the “Subscribe” button. The FrANC Website also automatically sends new FrANC members a “welcome” email after they join the mailing list, and a further email is also sent to Sara via the contact@franc.org.uk email account to advise her when a new member has joined.

Tess said that she had received an email from Action Greater Bedminster (AGB) concerning a Public Forum meeting to be held on the evening of Tuesday 17th April. As FrANC’s AGB representative, Tess had been asked to circulate details of this forum to the FrANC membership and Derek offered to do this on her behalf via the FrANC *MailChimp* account. It was agreed that in future, however, we should be selective about forwarding details of other organisations’ events to the FrANC membership in order to prevent members from becoming inundated with promotional correspondence that may not be relevant to FrANC’s activities.

7. Ideas on who/where we can store FrANC “equipment”

FrANC “equipment” constitutes all the items relevant to FrANC’s activities that are currently stored by Sara and Derek. An inventory of these items is listed in Attachment 2 and includes all the tools and protective clothing required for Riverbank Clean-ups, various educational posters that have been used in the past to support FrANC events, copies of the various FrANC leaflets and spare copies of some Interpretation Boards. From Sara and Derek’s point of view, it would be desirable if a permanent home could be found for all or some of these items so that there is no longer a need for either themselves or any other FrANC member to have to be available to provide access.

With regard to the tools and equipment required for Riverbank Clean-ups, it would also be preferable for these to be located about halfway along the length of the New Cut in order to minimise the distance they would need to be transported to reach work sites at extreme ends of riverbank. Two possible storage locations were suggested, both of which would be close to Gaol Ferry Bridge:

- somewhere within either M Shed or L Shed;
- within the new scout hut planned for the 255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts, which will take the form of a shipping container to be located behind the entrance to the old scout hut off Southville Road.

Further talks will be required to establish whether either of the above possible locations is feasible and it was proposed that these should initially be held with Andy King (M Shed/L Shed) and Elaine Beckett (Sea Scouts).

8. Fundraising for FrANC Projects

Any future projects undertaken by FrANC (such as designing and installing additional Interpretation Boards around the New Cut or erecting a perimeter fence around Butterfly Junction) will need to be funded from external sources, as FrANC has insufficient financial reserves to cover the likely costs. The following organisations were suggested who might be able to provide financial support:

- Avon Wildlife Trust
- Bristol Naturalists’ Society
- City & Country (responsible for the development of Bristol General Hospital)
- Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA)
- Umberlade (overall responsibility for Wapping Wharf development)

9. Any Other Business

- **Rough Sleepers on New Cut Riverbank** – a discussion was held concerning the ongoing challenges posed by rough sleepers camping on the New Cut riverbank. As was the case last year, God's Garden and the Goal Ferry Bridge slipways on the Cumberland Road side of the New Cut are popular camping sites, with new tents starting to appear accompanied by the inevitable drug litter and discarded clothing and rubbish which only serve to spoil what is supposed to be a Local Nature Reserve. Although Committee Members routinely report evidence of drug abuse and littering to the Council's enforcement officers, the raising of injunctions by them through the courts against the offenders is a lengthy process and the effectiveness of the injunctions, once served, is debatable. The lack of any signage that would prohibit camping along the riverbank of the Avon New Cut Local Nature Reserve does not help matters.
- **History/Wildlife Tours for 255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts** – Seamus McDonald, who is the Assistant Beaver Leader of this local scout group and is also a member of FrANC, had written to Derek asking if we would like to help organise a history/wildlife tour of the New Cut for the scouts as part of their programme of events for the forthcoming spring/summer. The scout group meets on Monday evenings at the following times:
 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm: Beavers (6 – 8 year olds);
 - 7:00pm to 8:15pm: Cubs (8 – 10 year olds).

The Committee unanimously agreed that we should support the scouts with this activity. Tess offered to help, and it was suggested that Ed should be contacted to find out if he would also be prepared to support this in view of his experience in leading walks for FrANC and M-Shed. One possibility was that the "tour" could be based on the contents of the *Avon New Cut Treasure Hunt* leaflet, whereby the scouts would follow a trail around The Cut during which they would be asked to identify images of historical buildings, landmarks or infrastructure.

- **Return of unsold FrANC books from Southville Centre** – Sara reported that the Southville Centre had undertaken a review of their stocks of literature belonging to local organisations, as a result of which they were no longer prepared to sell copies of the FrANC book entitled "*A Celebration of the Avon New Cut*". Consequently, all unsold copies of this book have been retrieved from the Southville Centre and have been added to those currently held by Sara and Derek (see Attachment 2).

10. Date of the next Committee Meeting

- The date of the next FrANC Committee Meeting is **Tuesday 17th July 2018**, to be held at 88 Cumberland Road starting at 7:15pm.
- Note that Table 1 includes any new actions raised at this 10th April meeting.

Derek Hughes
Secretary, Friends of the Avon New Cut

Action No.	Description	Actioned by	Status
17-04-03	Identify Butterfly Junction seed mixes from PB drawing and confirm with Dr. Nick Michael that these are acceptable	Derek, Sara	<i>In Progress</i>
17-04-07	Contact Paul Becker from <i>Bristol Goodgym</i> re. possible Tuesday evening riverbank clean-up task later this year	Sara	<i>In Progress</i>
17-05-01	Restore weathered lettering on John Purkiss' Memorial Plaque	Roy	<i>Completed</i>
17-05-04	Obtain quotation from <i>ParkWork</i> for provision and installation of perimeter fence around Butterfly Junction	Sara	<i>In Progress</i>
18-01-01	Provide details of FrANC's Walks for <i>Bristol Walk Fest 2018</i> and submit walk descriptions to organisers by 26 th February	Margaret, Ed, Chris	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-02	Find out if <i>Bristol Community Ferry Boats Ltd.</i> will be running boat trips up the New Cut during 2018	Roy	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-03	Check that e-mail addresses in new <i>MailChimp</i> account cannot be inadvertently CC'd when individual FrANC members reply	John	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-04	Set up system to record FrANC members' consent for their personal details to be used in new <i>MailChimp</i> Mailing List	Derek	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-05	Prepare list of names/contact details of Bristol City Council Officers and others who liaise with FrANC Chair	Sara	<i>In Progress</i>
18-01-06	Provide contributions to next FrANC Newsletter (as listed in Item 8) by 16 th March, and publish Newsletter via <i>MailChimp</i> by the end of March	Sara, Margaret, Tim, Derek, John	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-07	Contact Steven Sales to find out more about "Artist who uses mud from the New Cut"	Sara	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-08	Complete and submit membership forms for (a) <i>Action Greater Bedminster</i> and (b) its Parks & Green Spaces sub-group	Tess	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-09	Find out about types of signage installed by Patchwork Community Gardening Group at their sites in Bedminster	Tess / Roy	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-10	Deliver additional " <i>Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut</i> " leaflets to Bristol Tourist Information Centre in E Shed	Sara, Derek	<i>Completed</i>
18-01-11	Purchase orange high-visibility vests for FrANC Group Leaders to wear on future Riverbank Clean-ups	Sara	<i>Completed</i>
18-02-01	Circulate "preferred" date of Avon Gorge/New Cut Boat Trip (4 th August) and booking instructions to FrANC members	Derek	<i>New Action</i>
18-02-02	Circulate details of Action Greater Bedminster's Public Forum meeting on 17 th April to FrANC members	Derek	<i>New Action</i>
18-02-03	Talk to Andy King (M Shed/L Shed) and Elaine Beckett (Sea Scouts) about possible storage location for FrANC "equipment"	Sara	<i>New Action</i>
18-02-04	Assist leaders of 255 th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts in organising a History/Wildlife Tour of the New Cut	Sara, Tess, Derek, Ed	<i>New Action</i>

Table 1 **FrANC Committee Action List**

NOTES

1. Drawings

This drawing is to be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Specification for Highways Works Series 3000 Landscape and Ecology, Appendices 30/1 L to 30/12 L
- Dwgs. Nos. 287587A-HHE-3000-001 to -/011, Landscape Proposals Sheets 1 to 11

2. Topsoil

In all areas to be planted with the following planting mixes there shall be site won topsoil or imported General Purpose grade topsoil complying with BS 3882:2015 over naturally occurring subsoil or placed subsoil to ensure a minimum depth of 300mm after settlement over the entire planting plot:

- Planting Mix A (Amenity Shrub Planting);
- Planting Mix G (Shade Tolerant Shrubs and Groundcover);
- Planting Mix H (Butterfly Mix)

In all areas to be planted with the following planting mixes there shall be either 150mm topsoil (after settlement) over naturally occurring subsoil or 300 mm of selected subsoil (after settlement) over the entire planting plot. All plants will be planted into individual planting pits excavated and backfilled to the dimensions set out in Table 3006/12 Planting Pits and Backfill:

- Planting Mix B (Marginal Plants);
- Planting Mix C (Native Scrub with Scattered Trees); and
- Planting Mix D (Woodland)

The dimensions of planting pits for Extra Heavy Standard size trees in the following planting mix and the proportion of topsoil and compost in the backfill shall be as detailed in Appendix 30/6 L, Table 3006/12:

- Planting Mix E (Specimen Trees)

The dimensions of planting pits for climbing plants in the following planting mix and the proportion of topsoil and compost in the backfill shall be as detailed in Appendix 30/6 L, Table 3006/12:

- Planting Mix F (Climbers)

In all areas of verge grass (Seed Mix G1) there shall be 150mm topsoil (after settlement) over naturally occurring subsoil or 300 mm of placed selected subsoil (after settlement) as above. In all areas of wildflower/grass (Seed Mix G2), excluding the soil nailed slope at Ch. 2090 to 2125, there shall be 150mm of site won topsoil over naturally occurring subsoil or 300 mm of selected subsoil (after settlement).

Selected subsoil is not suitable for use within planting pits.

No additional topsoil or selected subsoil is required in areas of successional grassland (areas to be agreed with the Ecological Clerk of Works / Designer's Site Representative).

3. Soil Nailed Slope

No ground preparation works, seeding or grass cutting are to be undertaken by working on the soil-nailed slope, which is to be hydroseeded.

4. Setting out Planting / Seeding Areas

The extent of the planting and seeding areas shown on the drawings is approximate and will be adjusted, as directed by the Designer's Site Representative, to take account of changes that have occurred during construction of the works and to accommodate restrictions in relation to services and site features described in Notes 5 and 6 below. The setting out of all planting areas shall be approved on site by the Designer's Site Representative prior to excavating any plant pits or undertaking any planting.

5. Planting Restrictions in Relation to Services

The following restrictions apply adjacent to services and setting out shall comply with the specific guidance provided by each statutory undertaker for planting in relation to relevant services or plant. Refer to the Designer's Site Representative for the location of all as-built buried services prior to setting out planting:

- Gas pipelines: Do not plant trees within 6m and shrubs within 3m
- Water pipelines: Do not plant trees within 5m
- Electricity cables: Do not plant trees within 5m and shrubs within 3m
- Overhead transmission lines: Do not plant trees within 15m of the centre of the line
- Do not plant trees closer than 5m to outfalls and 3m to any drains, including filter drains
- Do not plant shrubs closer than 3m to outfalls
- Do not plant trees or shrubs closer than 2m to pump station
- Do not plant trees closer than 5m from lines of communication cables
- Do not plant shrubs closer than 1m from lines of communication cables

6. Planting Restrictions in Relation to Site Features

The setting out of all planting areas shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Do not plant shrubs closer than 2m to the carriageway or footpaths
- Do not plant feathered trees closer than 5m to the carriageway or footpaths
- Do not plant extra heavy standard trees, except ornamental trees, closer than 7.5m to the carriageway or footpaths
- Do not plant shrubs closer than 1.5m to the edge of a ditch or water body
- Do not plant trees or shrubs, except climbers, closer than 1.5m to permanent fences or environmental barriers
- Do not plant trees within the outer 2 rows of any planting plot
- Do not plant trees and shrubs where they will obstruct visibility or obscure signage

7. Planting Constraints - Root Barrier

A root barrier is to be provided for all specimen trees in Planting Mix E where confirmed by the Designer's Site Representative, subject to proximity of underground services and hard surfaces.

8. Grass Seeding

The extent of areas to be seeded with grass/wildflower mixes is approximate and the precise extent shall be agreed on site with the Designer's Site Representative. Unless otherwise identified, all areas within the route corridor shall be seeded with Seed Mix G1 - Embankments. Areas to be planted with Planting Mixes C and D are to be seeded with Seed Mix G2 - Species Rich Grass.

9. Plant Protection

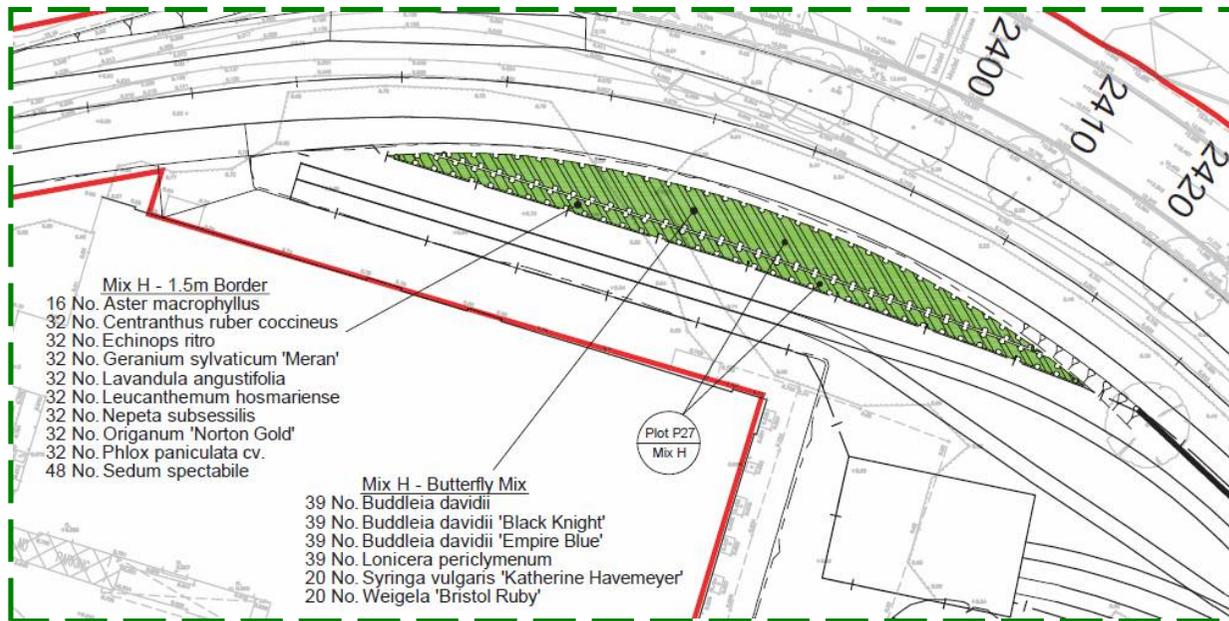
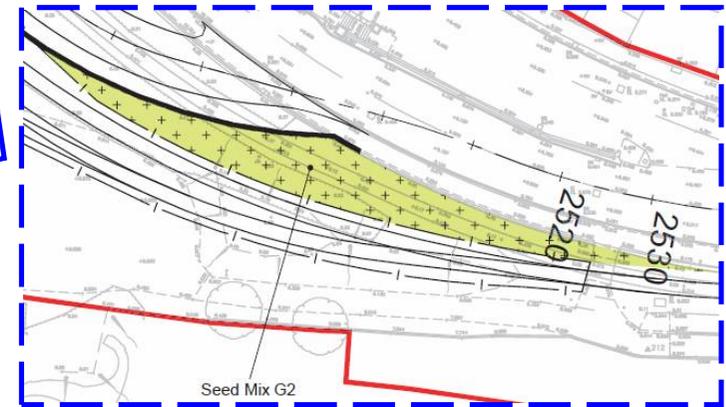
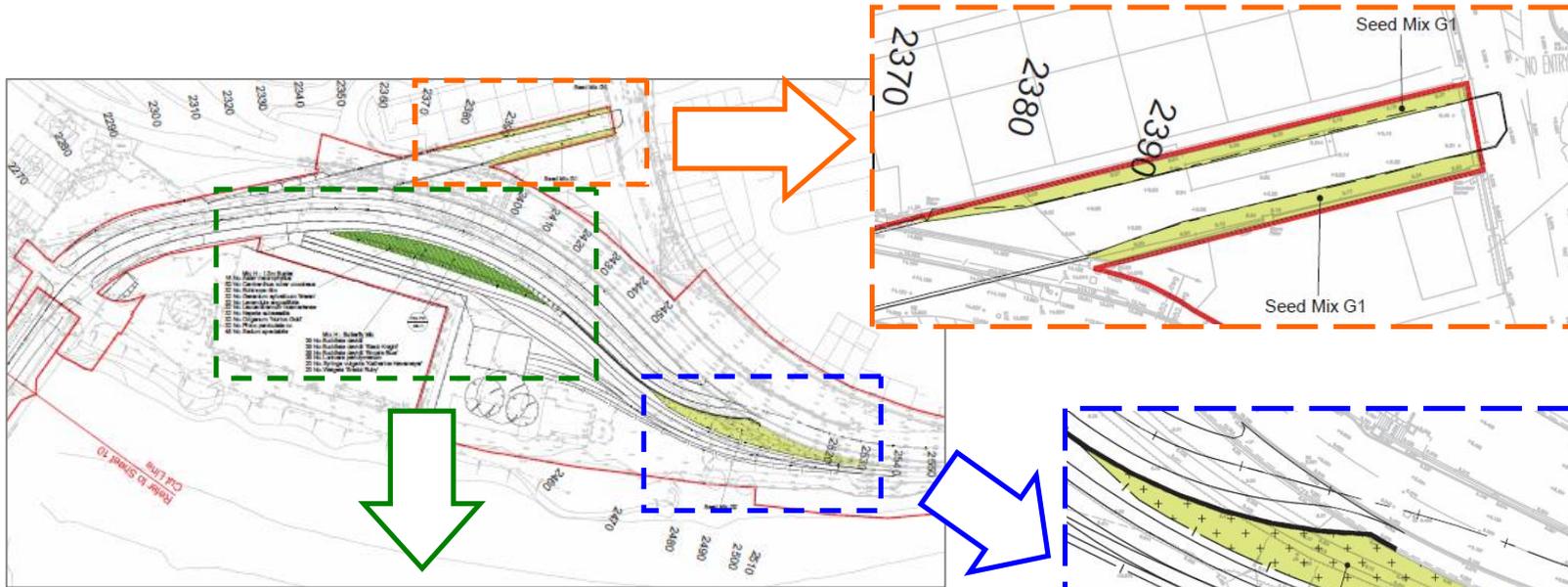
All extra heavy standard and feathered trees shall be fitted with spiral guards.

10. Establishment of Soft landscape Areas

All planting, seeding and existing vegetation within the highway boundary shall be maintained for a period of 60 months in accordance with Appendices 30/7 L and 30/8 L following completion of the planting works.

11. Bat Boxes

The location of bat boxes is to be agreed with the Designer's Site Representative (Refer to Sheet 7 of 11).



Attachment 1b Enlargements showing Butterfly Junction planting from MetroBus Landscape Proposal Drawing

Purpose	Description of Items	No. of each Item
Riverbank Clean-ups	Wheelie Bin for transporting equipment plus green protective cover Rope with attached Lifebelt (mounted on wheelie bin) 4ft Litterpicker: "Litterpicker Pro" 4ft Litterpicker: "The Litterpicker" 4ft Litterpicker: "Streetmaster" "Drive" 26" Handy Grabber Bloc 67mm Handy Grabber 6ft Litterpicker: "Litterpicker Pro" 6ft Litterpicker: "Streetmaster" 8ft Litterpicker: "The Litterpicker" Green high-visibility "FrANC" vests Orange high-visibility vests Yellow high-visibility vests Yellow "Community Litter Warden" jackets Orange Protective Gloves Brown "Rubberised" Protective Gloves General Rubbish Bags (Black) Recyclables Rubbish Bags (Transparent) "Handi - Hoops" (for keeping rubbish bags open) Container for "sharps" (needles etc.) First Aid kit Water & cloth / hand cleaning gel	1 1 11 8 6 1 3 2 2 1 30 6 6 2 18 pairs 13 pairs 200 (2 boxes) 50 (½ box) 16 4 1 1
Books and Leaflets	FrANC Book: "A Celebration of the Avon New Cut" "Friends of the Avon New Cut" leaflet "Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut" leaflet "Discovering Wildlife on the Avon New Cut" leaflet "Avon New Cut Treasure Hunt" leaflet	67 405 540 220 460
Guided Walks	Aker MR2800 Portable Voice Amplifier	2
Education and Awareness	FrANC "green" A1 (840mm x 594mm) information boards entitled <i>The Floating Harbour, The Avon New Cut, Developments on the Avon New Cut, Bridges on the Avon New Cut, Wildlife on the Avon New Cut, and Friends of the Avon New Cut.</i> Heritage Lottery Fund A1 (840mm x 594mm) information boards entitled <i>Improving and Sharing the Rich Heritage of the Avon New Cut with the Local Community</i> Miscellaneous hand-made posters (700mm x 500mm) on the history and wildlife of the Avon New Cut Laminated A2 (594mm x 420mm) posters entitled <i>Crossing Vauxhall Bridge</i> (June 2004) and <i>Celebrating Gaol Ferry Bridge</i> (Oct. 2004) Spare A1 (840mm x 594mm) Gaol Ferry Bridge, Vauxhall Bridge, Underfall Yard Sluices and Butterfly Junction Interpretation Boards FrANC green banner (old logo) measuring 2960mm x 594mm	6 (total) 2 (total) 11 2 (total) 4 (total) 1

Attachment 2 Inventory of FrANC items currently stored by Sara and Derek