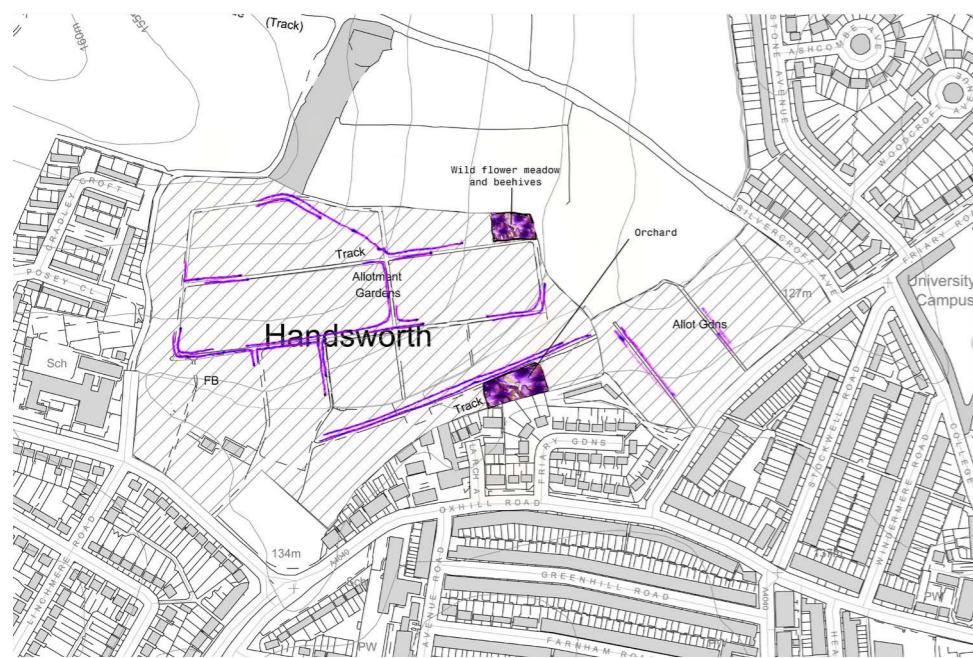


# Ecology



These are two plans at 1:1250 scale suggesting where we can plant a thicker more extensive hedgerow around the borders of the plots and also free areas of space that can be used to introduce more orchards or areas for bees and wild flower plantation.

There are small areas of climatic climax (woodland) around the allotment site.



Bird boxes are widely accessible and are immediate nesting spots for birds and log piles create the best 'bug hotels' for insects to hibernate over winter. Bat boxes are also becoming increasingly popular to provide safe habitats for bats, which are superb insect predators. Beehives can also be introduced on the site, however, "any proposal to site hives on an allotment plot must be agreed in advance with the Allotment Liaison Officer and the Allotment

Association. Beekeepers must have public liability insurance and be a member of the National Bee Keepers Association." Uplands have noted this themselves as their website states; "Common sense suggests a link between introducing wild flowers, fruit trees and bees! Stuart is leading on this and we are suggesting some of the trees and wild flowers could be planted bordering the bee keeping area." It is encouraging to see the promotion of beekeeping to ensure their future is safe.



Do Uplands Allotments benefit from a wet ecology? There is a small pool at the top corner of the West site, and a small stream that runs through the middle and East site. Depending on how much sunlight enters the pool, plant growth could be taking place inside the bodies of water, which attracts insects and amphibians, and is also beneficial to birds. Once more this will enhance the biodiversity of the allotments, creating a wider and more sustainable ecology.



As well as ecology on a large scale, we can investigate micro-ecologies. For example, the existence of fabricated structures on the allotment site, such as greenhouses or poly-tunnels can create pools of water or small areas of wetland due to rain water running off the structures. These pools of water will encourage wildlife such as frogs, which are a vital pest control as they eat insects and slugs. These micro-ecologies could occur 100 times, in an allotment which holds 400+ sites, and although they may seem small, together they can have a huge impact on the ecology of the allotments.

This introduction of biodiversity through a broad range of wildlife and plant species is hugely beneficial to the psychology of the allotment users and is important for their wellbeing. It is extremely vital to be able to bring the countryside into the city, and allow a sustainable and biodiverse landscape to thrive.