

14. Etruria Gardens

14.1 Introduction

- 14.1.1 The proposed defences at Etruria Gardens, City Road, extend between the Aida Bliss and Lower City Road development sites.
- 14.1.2 There is an existing flood defence wall along the top of the river bank.
- 14.1.3 Derwent Living is the freeholder of the Etruria Gardens site. Property ownership is varied: some are owned in full by private leaseholders; some are 50% owned by leaseholders and 50% by Derwent Living; and others are rented to private tenants.

14.2 Etruria Gardens

General Arrangement Drawing Number	21	Sections Drawing Number	68	Package	1
Type of planning application	Full				
Proposed use	Flood defence		Works carried out by:	Applicant	

Key constraints

- 14.2.1 Etruria Gardens is within the Little Chester Conservation Area and within the buffer zone of Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Scale

- 14.2.2 Demolition of the existing 125m long, 1.5m high flood wall.
- 14.2.3 Construction of a new 125m long flood wall, up to 2.4m high and 0.55m wide, with piled foundations and a groundwater seepage cut-off.

Layout

- 14.2.4 The new flood wall is proposed to be set back from the top of the riverbank by at least 5m. At the northern and southern extents of the site, the wall is off-set 10m west from 80 Etruria Gardens and 59 Etruria Gardens.



Figure 14.1: Location of proposed flood wall at Etruria Gardens (facing north)

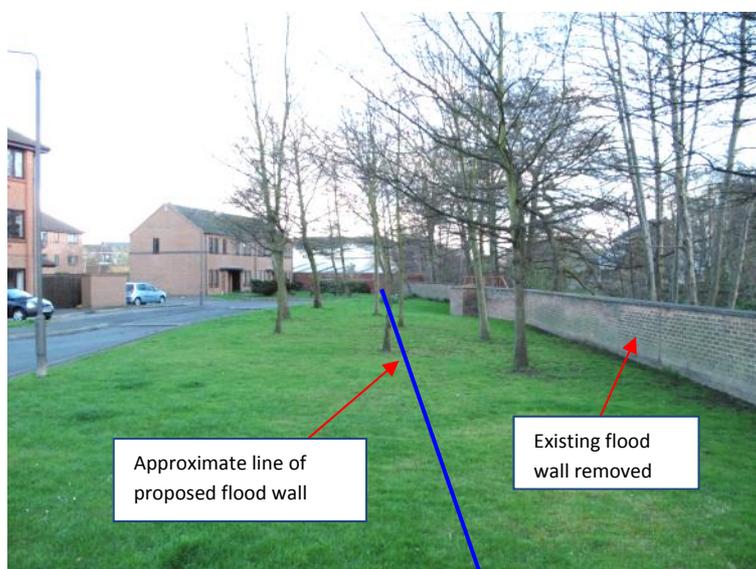


Figure 14.2: Location of proposed flood wall at Etruria Gardens (facing south)

Access

- 14.2.5 There will be no access over the flood wall.
- 14.2.6 The Applicant will need inspection and maintenance access to both sides of the flood wall. Access to the riverward side of the wall will be via locked gates from the proposed conveyance corridor at Aida Bliss.

Landscaping/external appearance

- 14.2.7 The proposed flood wall will be clad in brick with the top 0.6m of the defence formed from structural glass panels.
- 14.2.8 26 trees will require removal from within the Little Chester Conservation Area to undertake the works, however, significant riverside trees that form a visual screen will be retained. Reinstatement tree planting is proposed and will be undertaken on a 1:1 ratio, as close to their original positions as possible. Proposed landscaping works will

be developed during detailed design and will include replacement of existing picnic benches. A 1m wide block stone paved surfaced will be provide on the east side of the wall. All grassed areas will be reinstated.

14.2.9 On the riverward side of the wall a gravel path will be provided for inspection and maintenance access. Shade-tolerant wildflower seeding will also be provided to enhance the ecological value of the area.

14.2.10 A visualisation of the proposed flood wall is provided in Figure 14.3.



Figure 14.3: Visualisation of proposed flood wall at Etruria Gardens

Potential environmental enhancement

14.2.11 There is the potential to include sections of ‘green wall’ on the riverward side of the new flood wall to enhance the ecological value of the riverside.

Basis of design

14.2.12 A flood wall is proposed in this location as there is insufficient space for a flood embankment.

14.2.13 The flood defence is set back from the river’s edge to meet the scheme’s objectives to make more space for water.

14.2.14 Whilst the height of the proposed glass panels does not generally allow residents to look directly look over the wall, it does soften the visual impact of the proposed flood wall and maintains views of the riverbank trees which was considered an important feature by residents.

14.2.15 The proposal in the Masterplan to create a new riverside footpath along the east bank between St Mary’s Bridge and Handyside Bridge has not been taken forward following advice from Derbyshire Constabulary Safe-by-Design team.

Consultation

- 14.2.16 An initial meeting was held with Derwent Living in July 2013 to explain the proposals and the options of the flood wall design. It was confirmed the proposed design should be driven by the residents' views.
- 14.2.17 A drop-in session was held for residents of Etruria Gardens at the Mansfield Street Methodist Church on 11th July 2013. All residents were sent an invite letter, which provided an explanation of the proposals and summarised the aims of the consultation:
- To understand how the proposals will affect the residents;
 - To obtain views of how the appearance of the flood wall could be softened;
 - To understand how the green space could be reinstated to suit the needs of the residents;
 - To understand whether secure residents' access across the flood wall to the riverside was desirable; and
 - To understand whether residents saw any benefit of removing select riverside trees to open up views across the river.
- 14.2.18 17 people attended the event and 11 feedback forms were provided. The majority of people expressed a preference for the flood wall to be topped with 0.5m high glass panels to soften its appearance; for riverside trees not to be removed due to their value as a visual screen and wildlife habitat; and for stepped access not to be provided across the flood wall due to the associated safety and security risks.
- 14.2.19 Residents were also pleased that the Masterplan suggestion to include a public footpath on the riverward side of the new flood wall had been removed from the proposals due to safety and security concerns.
- 14.2.20 The proposals for Etruria Gardens within this hybrid planning application have therefore followed the strength of local opinion based upon the above mentioned residents' consultation drop-in session.