
**Rochdale Town Hall
Restoration and Transformation**

**Mammal Excavation
Precautionary Working
Method Statement**

October 2022

Issue Status

Rev	Status	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Date
01	For Review	AN	SW	11/10/2022
02	Final	AN	SW	17/10/2022

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 This Precautionary Working Method Statement has been prepared by Anthony Nickson Ecology Ltd on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council to inform landscape works to restore Broadfield Park Slopes, St Albans Street, Rochdale, OL16 1UT (also known as “the slopes”).



Figure 1. Broadfield Park Slopes site

- 1.2 As part of the Rochdale Town Hall Restoration and Transformation project the slopes are being restored. The self-seeded trees and scrub obscure the key view to the parish church of St Chads, provide a screen for antisocial behaviour and damage the historic drainage system below.
- 1.3 An application was granted by Rochdale Council for the removal of 56 trees within Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area. The trees and scrub was cleared. The next stage is for the existing grassland to be maintained and enhanced and new ornamental planting to reflect the layouts on historic photographs. Refer to Appendix A for slope strategy.

2.0 Current Ecological Status

- 2.1 The slopes supports several large mammal (fox or badger) size excavations which during the ecological supervision of the tree felling were recorded as typical fox earths and supervised soft felling in the area of the excavations was supervised.

3.0 Proposed Works

3.1 The proposed works to be carried out w/c 17 October 2022 comprises:

- Strimming 100mm and removing arising's
- Tree stumps cutting down and removed from site
- Application of EGO plugs to tree stumps
- Chemical Treatment of area
- Cutting & treatment of tree stumps within proximity of path & lower retaining wall

3.2 The proposed works to the slopes could result in the excavations/tunnels collapsing and animals crushed or entombed within.

4.0 Relevant Legislation

4.1 The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 makes it an offence for any person to crush or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering he shall be guilty of an offence.

5.0 Aims

5.1 The purpose of this Precautionary Working Method Statement is to set out a safe working methodology for the restoration of the slopes which will ensure the protection of the mammals which have been identified within the site.

6.0 Method Statement

6.1 This method statement covers landscape restoration works and all future management of the slopes unless it is confirmed that mammals are no longer present within the excavation on the slopes.

6.2 Prior to commencement of works a toolbox talk will be delivered to applicable site operatives.

6.3 A site walkover will be undertaken to identify all of the mammal excavations which will then be demarcated making them easily identifiable during the works.

6.4 No machinery work will be undertaken within 20m of the entrance holes. Only hand tools to be used within 20m of the entrance holes. Care should be taken especially in close proximity to entrance holes not to collapse entrances or tunnels.

6.5 Only chemicals which are non-toxic to mammals to be used. Confirmation from product information or direct from manufacturers to be provided prior to commencement of works. No spraying within 5m of the entrance holes.

6.6 If geo-textile to be installed over slope then this must be cut around each entrance hole to allow access continuous access.

7.0 Acknowledgement of Method Statement

The below named persons acknowledge that they have read and understood this Method Statement Risk Assessment, and will comply with it at all times

Name (print)	Signature	Date

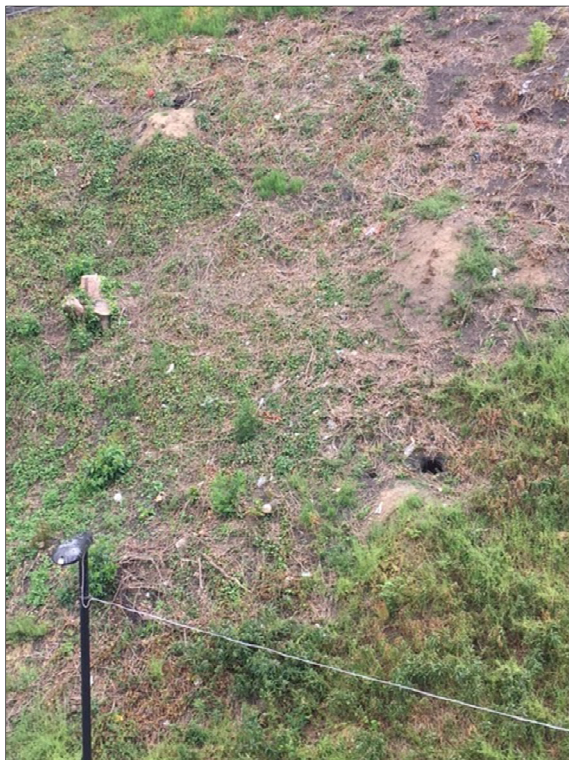
Appendix A - Photographs



Photograph 1.



Photograph 2.



Photograph 3.



Photograph 4.

Appendix B - Slope Strategy



GILLESPIES

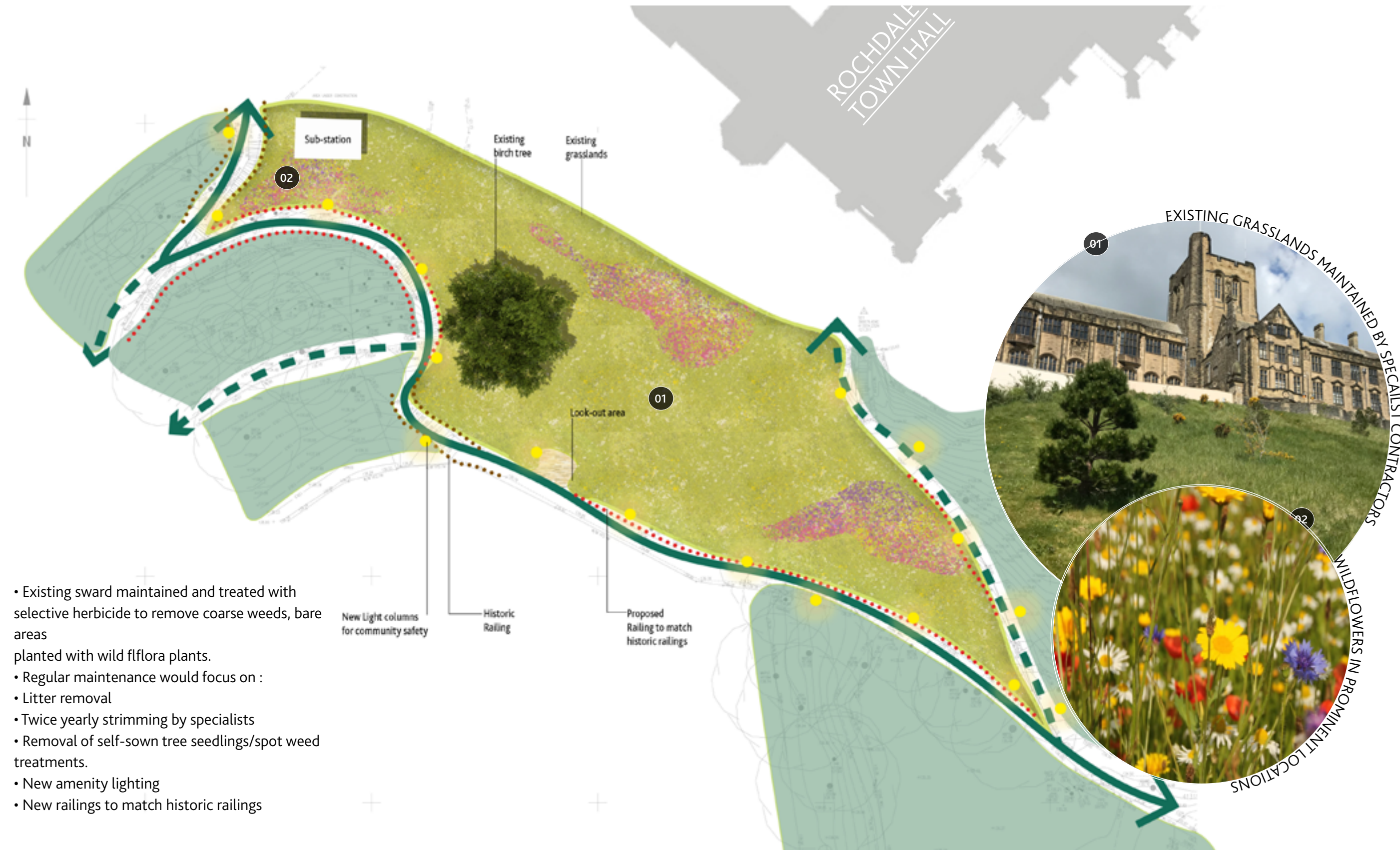
ROCHDALE TOWN HALL

WEST SLOPE PLANTING OPTIONS

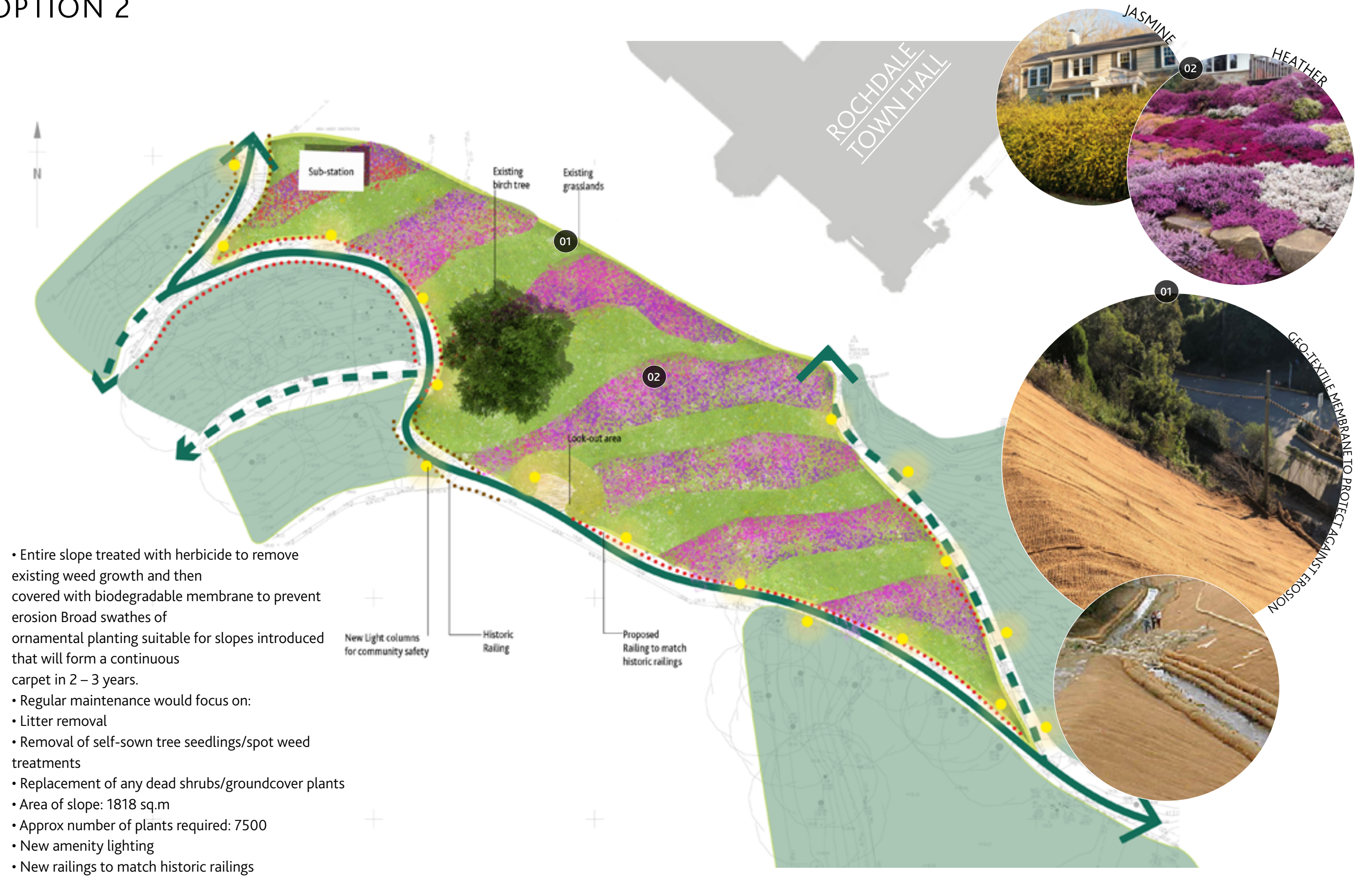
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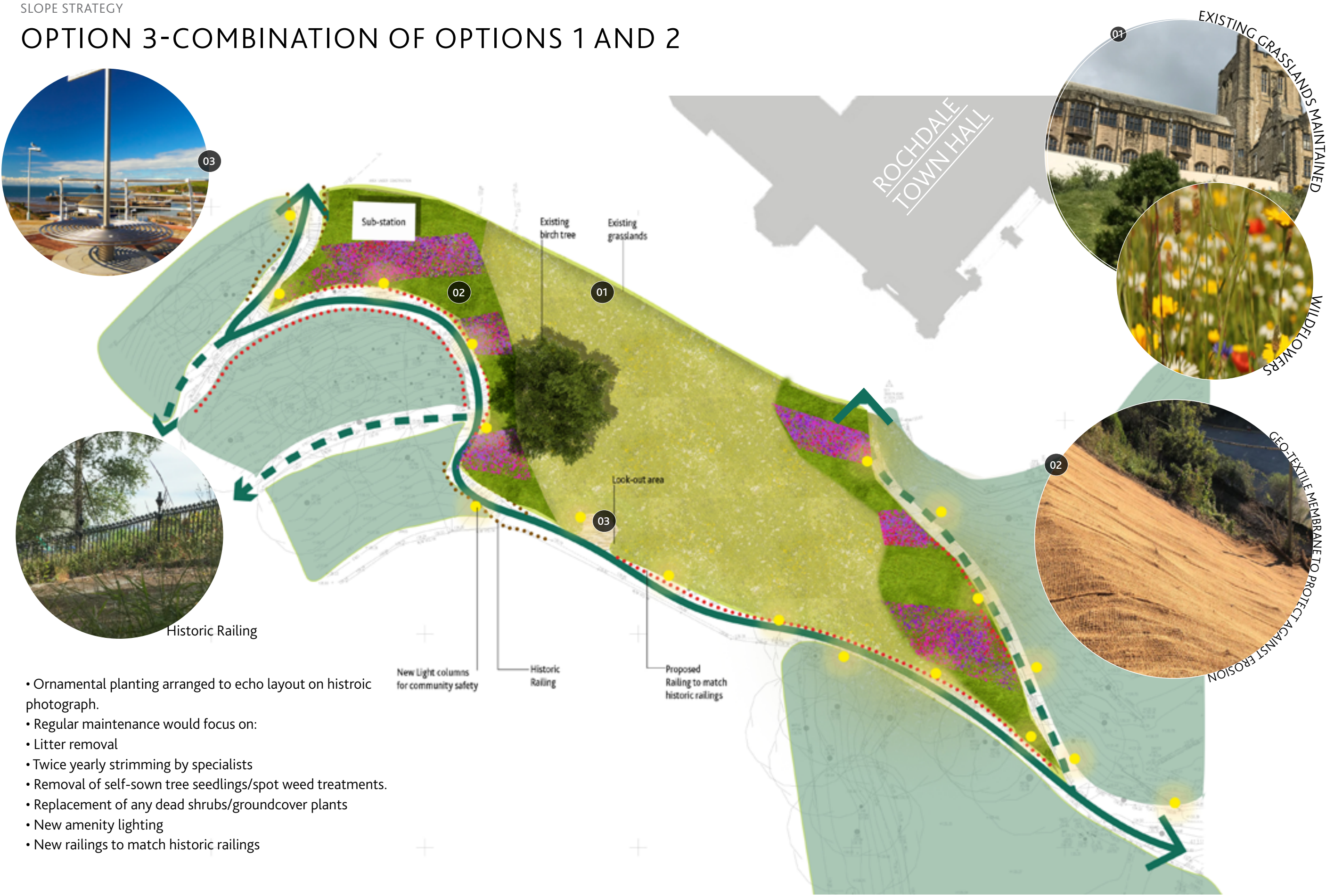
OPTION 1



OPTION 2



OPTION 3-COMBINATION OF OPTIONS 1 AND 2



- Ornamental planting arranged to echo layout on historic photograph.
- Regular maintenance would focus on:
 - Litter removal
 - Twice yearly strimming by specialists
 - Removal of self-sown tree seedlings/spot weed treatments.
 - Replacement of any dead shrubs/groundcover plants
- New amenity lighting
- New railings to match historic railings



HISTORIC IMAGE SHOWING VIEW OF PLANTING ON SLOPES