THE NEW CUT

The scarlet tiger moth has been recorded along the northern bank of the New Cut

COMMERCIAL RD

CUMBERLAND RD

WAPPING RD

BATHURST PARADE

Bathurst Basin

One of only two known breeding colonies of sand martin occurs within the docks estate.

Key:
1. John Sebastian Lightship (LV55)
2. Lower Guinea Street Car Park
3. Cabot Cruising Club Marina entrance
4. Proposed Bathurst Café building
5. Proposed outdoor seating area & planted terrace
6. Proposed pedestrian lock bridge
7. Proposed Bathurst Lock Garden
8. The Louisiana Pub
9. God's Garden



Bird's-eye view looking south over the (a) New Cut, (b) Floating Harbour, (c) Bathurst Basin, (d) New Lock Garden, and (e) Café site.

Bathurst Lock Garden & Café

This project comprises two proposals for the Bathurst Basin site: first the regeneration of the historic lock with a new river garden, and second a new cafe on the adjacent dockside. The site represents a unique opportunity: its position - at the border of Redcliffe, Spike Island and minutes from Prince St bridge - makes it an ideal location for a sensitive, ambitious blue green infrastructure repair.

At one point, Bathurst Basin lock was the only connection between the tidal River Avon and Bristol's Floating Harbour in the city's centre. Now, the disused 50 metre stretch of water, and Commercial Street bridges which span above it, act as barriers between the tidal New Cut and Floating Harbour.

The first strand of this proposal revives the lock's potential through one simple change: moving the dam back by 50 metres to the basin side, creating a new tidal bychannel, within which a biodiverse water garden would be planted. As a form of river naturalisation and riparian restoration, this new garden would extend the Avon's outstanding wildlife corridor, improve flood resilience, and stabilise banks. Travelling under the bridges and culminating on the Bathurst side, a spectacular water-based garden creates a more substantial connection with Bathurst's own high-value site of biodiversity, and a tangible green asset for residents and visitors, dense with native species like greater sea-spurrey and seaside arrowgrass.

The second strand of this proposal is a new café. Formed from two 'wings', the building folds around the basin so that its north and west faces look across the basin and new garden respectively. The east wing of the building is more enclosed, constructed sustainably from low-carbon timber and wrapped in reclaimed timer sourced from the harbourside. A chimney on its outer edge acts as wayfinding - a nod to the adjacent lightship. The west wing is more light and open - a glazed conservatory with ample seating - opening with large double doors toward the Lock Garden and articulated on its corner by a giant rainwater collection butt.

Much needed ramped access from the site onto Commercial Road is tucked behind the building's west wing. The existing brick platform will be carefully demolished and the rubble used to fill gabions which construct the Lock Garden's edges, allowing plants and wildlife to bed-in and reinforce a sustainable ecosystem. A generous level-access footbridge, recalling William Jessop's 1809 designs and the earlier lock footbridge, crosses over the new Lock Garden and would complete the basin's integration within the official harbourside route, placing pedestrians at the centre of this new blue-green development.



Bathurst's lock operated until 1951. The historic footbridge, seen here, used to connect pedestrians on Bathurst Parade and Commercial Road.



Ex-industrial regeneration at Duisburg Nord, Germany by Latz + Partners introduced water-based landscape ecosystems within found structures.

The stone walls of Bathurst Basin support yellow-corydalis, mexican daisy...

... ivesiba & scaly blistlewort, hemlock water-dropwort, wild celery, greater sea-spurrey, sea arrow-grass and sea couch...

Meanwhile, the Avon's adjacent banks support a variety of species...

... shaded by broomrape, salad burnet, wild parsley and clary to sea arrowgrass

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