



2026 RHS SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW LONG BORDERS

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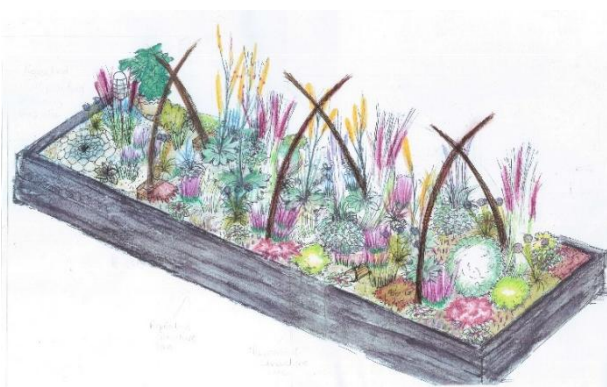
1) *From Plot to Habitat*

Designer: Deborah Blake

Media Contact: Deborah Blake

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Set in a new build garden in Norfolk, *From Plot to Habitat* is inspired by the challenges posed by high density new build housing. Modern houses often have minimal opportunity for planting, resulting in bare gardens, the use of artificial turf and plastic plants. Gardens play an important role in supporting biodiversity and mitigating the effects of climate change, therefore this raises concerns about the future of natural planting in domestic spaces.



The border aims to demonstrate how just one single garden can still support biodiversity and help reconnect modern homeowners with nature. The exhibit's planting scheme combines grasses, evergreens, perennials and edible species, with a strong emphasis on pollinator friendly and drought tolerant plants. Features encouraging wildlife are integrated throughout the space and living willow structures mirror the surrounding skyline of modern housing estates while also providing natural support for climbing plants.

2) *Gardens on the Edge*

Designer: Emily Joy MAPL

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Inspired by the British coastline, *Gardens on the Edge* explores the increasing environmental pressure caused by erosion and rising sea levels, and how these landscapes can be protected and adapted when faced with climate instability.

Visitors move through three distinct planting areas - a lush contemporary garden, wind-swept dune grasses and a sparse, climate-resilient landscape shaped by salt, droughts and exposure to the elements. It seeks to explore how planting can be used to stabilise landscapes which are under environmental pressure. At the same time, it will reflect the beauty and fragility of coastal environments.



3) *Tough as Old Boots Garden*

Designer: Zac Willitts and James Horne

Sponsor: Norwich City Council

Media Contact: Zac Willitts

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As climate unpredictability increases its more important than ever to ensure public gardens remain resilient against these changes. The *Tough as Old Boots Garden* has been designed to incorporate a range of habitats and micro ecotones, encouraging plants to find their own way and be helped by the gardener when needed.

The border is inspired by mediterranean climatic regions. Bright purples and yellows with contrasting leaf forms and varied heights are set against rubble walls built from reclaimed construction waste. A central ephemeral pond will hold water within the garden, reducing contributions to flooding in the local area. *Heptacodium miconioides* will be a feature tree within the garden.



4) *Time to heal*

Designer: Dr Sarah Fleming
Sponsor: Nene Transport

Media Contact: Sarah Fleming

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Inspired by the designer's career as a doctor, *Time to heal* is an informal interpretation of a 'physics garden' and built in tribute to Dr Sarah Fleming's late father and cousin, who at aged 41 and 59, respectively, both died of cancer.

Time to heal creates a sanctuary where visitors can reflect on and appreciate the impact of the natural world on modern medicine. Herbaceous plants and trees will welcome visitors, providing shade, scents and texture, and creating a sense of calm. The stumpery will symbolise how even after death, decaying trees continue to feed life into the next generation of plants. The invasive *Mentha* species are contained within a stone planter, mirroring efforts in medicine to prevent cancer from spreading.

The border incorporates a variety of plants, all of which have therapeutic properties, and some of which have helped create modern day medicine. These include *Betula utilis* subsp. *jacquemontii*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Lavandula angustifolia*, and *Salvia rosmarinus* 'Green Ginger'.



5) *The winding path: A wellbeing journey*

Designer: Megan Chopp and Phoebe Hunt

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The winding path: A wellbeing journey highlights how mental health battles are ongoing and ever evolving.

This journey is represented by a continuous path spanning the length of the border, its winding structure representing the non-linearity of mental health. At three points along the path there will be symbolic archways in place to encourage visitors to reflect. A gently flowing water feature creates a calm and restorative atmosphere. The garden provides visitors with a place they can reconnect with nature and experience the value of being present, away from the distractions of modern life.



The exhibit's planting will engage all five senses and the use of softer textures, like *Stachys* will evoke a calm atmosphere and connection with nature. Structural plants, such as *Delphinium* will provide stability and continuity, reflecting resilience, while upright forms of *Echinops* will convey strength.

6) The Goldcrest Garden: Restoring Habitat, Repairing Climate

Designer: Sam Outing

Contractor: Bure Valley Landscapes

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Set in East Anglia, *The Goldcrest Garden: Restoring Habitat, Repairing Climate* will replicate the warmer climate expected in 2050. Inspired by the habitat of migratory Goldcrests, the border incorporates drought-tolerant, resilient and durable plant species.



At the heart of the garden is a *Pinus pinea* surrounded by pines, perennials and grasses. A corten steel wave will replicate beaches with arid and sandy soil found in Norfolk. The planting pallet incorporates purple, oat-coloured grasses, yellow and red, all chosen to complement the slate and sage coloured pines.

7) Nurture Nature – Nature Nurtures

Designer: Sarah McLean-Barr

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Nurture Nature – Nature Nurtures aims to raise awareness of the mass production of plants within the industry. Which results in undervalued, disposable and single use commodities, leading to high wastage. However, this exhibit demonstrates the opposite, through sustainable planting, creation of wildlife habitats and the use of drought tolerant plants.

Visitors will encounter a full sensory experience through the use of vibrant colours, fragrant scents, texture rich plants, ornamental blooms and edible planting. Its low maintenance planting and hand-crafted features will create a year-round sanctuary for visitors and wildlife. Key features include edible and medicinal plants, organic mulch, steel spheres and apothecary bottles. Its planting palette will consist of mainly pink and purple, but will be balanced with softer, harmonious tones.



8) Evoke Garden Designs: The Trust Links Therapeutic Garden

Designer: Phil Clarke

Contractor: Aqua Design and Landscaping

Media Contact: Phil Clarke

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Evoke Garden Designs: The Trust Links Therapeutic Garden features both a dry and bog garden imitating the extremes emerging in our British climate, whilst also being an analogy for mental resilience in challenging times. The space offers visitors the opportunity to escape from the stresses of modern-day living, allowing them to fully immerse themselves amongst the wildlife it attracts. They will leave with an understanding of the importance of future-proofing their garden against extreme weather.



The garden features both ornamental and vegetable planting. Visitors will interact with nature by feeling textural leaves and flowers, pausing to hear the water and buzz of bees, and smelling the fragrance. The dry gardens' planting pallet is blue, purple and pink – a contrast against the yellow flowering bog plants.

9) *Growing with Many Hands*

Designer: Mattie O'Callaghan

Sponsor: Beth Chatto Plants and Gardens

Media Contact: Mattie O'Callaghan

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Growing with Many Hands is inspired by the valuable work gardeners do to care for our green spaces. In particular, when experiencing first-hand the challenges climate-change is presenting.

It will appear as if the gardeners have just left for their tea break. Tools will poke out through the flowers, cups of coffee will be laid on tea tables, and seed packets will be ready to sow. Key features include drought tolerant mounds

of *Cistus* × *argenteus* 'Peggy Sammons', pink pops of *Echinacea purpurea*, bronze shimmers of *Calamagrostis* × *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' and *Foeniculum vulgare*.

Ultimately, it seeks to help visitors understand the important work gardeners do in creating spaces for communities to enjoy, and the role we can collectively play in helping gardens adapt to climate change.



10) Naturally Resilient: Inspired by the Norfolk Coast

Designer: Susan Harvey and Konstantinos Gargaletos

Media Contact: Susan Harvey

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Naturally Resilient: Inspired by the Norfolk Coast explores the creation of a sustainable, ecologically sensitive planting scheme that helps to stabilise erosion, enhance biodiversity and thrive in challenging coastal conditions – a nod to the East Norfolk coast.

The design mimics the natural patterns and ecology found on the coastline by selecting hardy, resilient local plants that support biodiversity and soil stability. Drought-tolerant plants were chosen to ensure compatibility with the native ecosystem, increase long-term resilience, and reduce erosion due to their deep root systems. The borders planting palette will be blue, purple and pink intertwined with grey, silver and green grasses.



11) *Between Chaos & Order*

Designer: Dan Steel

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Inspired by the designers own personal journey of burnout to restoration through gardening. *Between Chaos & Order* is a space which offers visitors refuge from the overstimulation of modern life and the opportunity to restore balance, clarity and connection through nature and gardening. The garden explores repetition and symmetry, which is inspired by contemplative Eastern Garden philosophy and the practice of Fuukiran, to create a calming environment.

Naturalistic planting, a standing stone balancing a birch, reflective water and a stone seat welcomes visitors to the garden. It invites them to contemplate how they can reconnect with nature by tending to and growing their own garden.

The plants have been selected to support the wellbeing of all species. A key statement plant in the garden is a *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Kyushu' which brings a quiet elegance, lightness and movement to the space. Sat among these are upright perennials, such as Agapanthus and Perovski, adding structure to the space. In addition, *Vanda falcata* (syn. *Neofinetia falcata*) will be presented in a traditional Fuukiran style. The planting palette consists of cool blues, lavender tones, whites, silvers and soft greens, creating a soothing and immersive space.



12) *CODE + CURE*

Designer: Daniel Seton, Emma Barnard and Luke Potts

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Code + Cure is inspired by the idea that AI can be used to assist in the advancement of the use of medicinal plants. The border highlights Kew Garden's tree of life, which is a family tree that connects plants by their species. Studies using AI are taking place to determine what plants could contain medicinal compounds.

The garden will showcase plant species which have already been found to have medicinal properties, such as Chamomile and lavender. It features a human figure partially covered with plants and interacting with CRT monitors.



13) London Borough of Lewisham: Ladywell Physic Garden

Designer: Joao Teixeira Afonso and David Congram
Sponsor: London Borough of Lewisham

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Set in Ladywell, *London Borough of Lewisham: Ladywell Physic Garden* focuses on the UK Health Security Agency's investigations into how we can better forecast certain health disorders over the next decade of climate change. It showcases medicinal plants that will thrive and reliably provide aid despite changing weather patterns and rising temperatures.



The garden is inspired by the medieval horticultural traditions of a herbularis. It features watery-toned layered perennials and well buckets, which are found in the ground of Ladywell's ancient medicinal well - a place that has been frequented since the Middle Ages. By focusing on structure, texture and the lifecycle of plants, the garden takes a more contemporary, layered planting style than that of traditional botanical gardens.

At the heart of the garden a pharmacopoeia sculpture will allow visitors to navigate the complex medicinal information of each plant. The garden will feature a mixture of perennials, tall grasses and cascading ground covers, which offer year-round growth. Inspired by Ladwell's medicinal water, it's colour scheme will consist of tones of blue, white and purple.

14) Nene Nursery

Designer: Gareth Lorman and Sofija Tarasevic

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Nene Nursery is inspired by Nene Park Trust's, Nene Nursery. This is a micro-nursery where all the plants are grown by volunteers. It fosters participation and shared ownership.

The border celebrates the local community's commitment to wellbeing, sustainable growing and the importance of forming connections with nature. Through a mix of edible and ornamental planting, *Nene Nursery* demonstrates how planting can support wildlife and ecological health. It invites visitors to grow their own food, slow down, engage with their surroundings and consider how they can bring nature into their own spaces.



The border features an outdoor prep area, pizza oven and kokedams alongside sculptural trees. It's planting includes herbs and vegetables, such as *Allium sativum*, *Beta vulgaris*, *Raphanus sativus*, *Ocimum basilicum* and *Vicia faba*, demonstrating examples of food-growing solutions. To create seasonal colour, texture and sensory appeal, pollinator-friendly and ornamental flowers such as *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Toto', *Verbena bonariensis*, *Echinacea purpurea*, and *Achillea millefolium* will feature within the space.

15) Norfolk Coast: A Long Border for Climate Resilience

Designer: Max Murrell and Adrian Scott

As our climate changes, Norfolk's coastline faces new challenges. Despite rising sea levels, drought, and wildlife displacement threatening its landscape, coastal plant communities continue to thrive and adapt. These unique species create the foundation of *Norfolk Coast: A Long Border for Climate Resilience's* planting design.

The planting is inspired by habitats found along the coast, and this will be mirrored throughout the space. The use of Marram grass and Sea holly will reflect low level dunes, and moisture loving plants like Iris will reflect chalk stream verges. In addition, the design will feature a nod to Norfolk's flint and red brick walls.



16) The Norfolk Weave Border: Kind to Soil, Nature and Soul

Designer: Katy Noon and Kate Eves

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Inspired by North Norfolk's landscape, *The Norfolk Weave Border: Kind to Soil, Nature and Soul* reflects its wildflower meadows, winding hedgerows and the resilient beauty of its coastal dunes. The border celebrates the local area's traditional crafts and heritage, such as flint, reclaimed brick and historic fence weaving.

The naturalistic planting style of this border is chosen to boost soil health, biodiversity and support pollinators, allowing local visitors to leave feeling inspired and empowered to create their own beautiful spaces.



Norfolk is the driest county in the UK and often faces long periods with little rain, however, these are frequently followed by torrential downpours. With this in mind, the border's design incorporates mounded berms and shallow swales, which slows and retains rainwater helping gardens to survive during summer droughts and sudden heavy downpours. These features are built using reclaimed red bricks, a nod to the iconic decorative chimneys found on Norfolk's stately homes. At the centre of the design, a willow-woven planter holds a dwarf Scots pine shrub and a low hurdle weaves throughout the space.

17) The Habitat Garden

Designer: Jonathan Mitchell and Katy Haywood Smith

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The Habitat Garden provides a vital resource for local biodiversity. It embraces the environmental and biodiversity challenges the planet is facing and demonstrates how to create a space which is both beautiful and beneficial.

The Habitat Garden features a deadwood corridor and standing dead tree, creating the structural backbone of the border. The design's meadow style planting creates a dynamic plant community, provides pollination opportunities and food for native insects. The deadwood skeleton provides vertical interest and creates a habitat which often isn't found in the countryside. Its planting palette consists of pale yellow, purple and white. This is contrasted using blue and tied is together with the greens of the grasses.

