Wild West End is a unique partnership between several of central London’s largest landholders, which aims to create a series of ecologically-valuable stepping stones between four of London’s historic Royal Parks, encouraging wildlife back into the city and giving people greater access to nature, benefitting personal health and wellbeing. The partnership also aims to improve the physical and environmental quality of the city by establishing connected, multi-functional green spaces within new developments, retrofitted on existing buildings or within the public realm.

These green stepping stones between existing areas of surrounding parkland are being created by a combination of green walls, street trees, green lamp posts, planters and pop-up spaces. Wild West End also aims to attract pollinators, bats, and birds into London’s urban centre; species such as the black redstart and house sparrow. This is being achieved through a combination of diverse living landscapes providing sources of food and water, and installation of permanent bat, bird, and invertebrate houses.

Tom Gray is a Senior Ecological Consultant at Arup who has led the ecological elements of the Wild West End since its inception alongside the project’s Landscape and Sustainability leads. His talk will focus on the history and aims of Wild West End, highlighting the partnership’s successes, and the challenges to delivering green spaces in urban and historic areas.