

# THE SAPIENS GARDEN ROADMAP 2026–2050+

(v1.0, December 2025)

**Status:** Working document for institutional dialogue (indicative; subject to refinement).

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## 1. Project Vision and Strategic Foundation

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is a long-horizon cultural initiative at the intersection of architecture, craft, sound, ecology, and memory. It proposes a presence-centred public environment intended for reflection, cultural dialogue, and interdisciplinary artistic practice.

**Institutional value proposition (UK-facing):** a craft-led landmark framework that can generate tangible public-benefit outputs in the near term (prototype exhibitions, commissioned sound works, curated garden-ecology formats, education-led craft programmes) while building a disciplined long-horizon stewardship model suitable for heritage and cultural partners.

**Signature:** a public protocol of memory and presence built through timber craft, curatorial ecology, and sound dramaturgy.

The roadmap frames the project in a UK implementation context and translates the concept into phased workstreams, deliverables, and an operating logic suitable for early institutional dialogue.

### Strategic Foundation

The project is intended to be structured through a UK charitable vehicle (Everhelg Foundation), with governance, accountability, and long-term stewardship designed to support multi-year delivery.

### Operating Roles (working model)

- **Governance (Trustees / board):** oversight, fiduciary responsibility, safeguarding of mission, approvals of major decisions.

- **Advisory and Cultural Council:** cultural and heritage guidance, peer review, programme and partnership counsel.
- **Delivery (project function):** planning coordination, technical development, partner management, documentation, and public programming delivery.

## Core Components (conceptual system)

- THE SAPIENS Lighthouse — a proposed 42-metre timber landmark concept.
- THE GARDEN — a curated arboretum structure (77 trees) with defined composition and curatorial logic.
- LUX MEMORI — an artefact-led contemplative series supporting programming and sustainable financing logic.
- A-ETHERIA — a literary and sonic companion work supporting public formats (readings, extracts, audio).
- THE SAPIENS DISPATCH — an artefact-based institutional outreach format supporting addressed dialogue.

## 2. 2026–2034 UK Development Roadmap

### Phasing logic

The sequence prioritises early governance formation, prototype-led public presence, and site feasibility before major capital commitments. This approach supports credibility, prototype-led learning, and disciplined decision-making.

### 2026 — Foundation, scoping, prototypes

#### Near-term outputs for institutional collaboration (2026):

- Prototype exhibition object(s) and accompanying interpretive text set (scalable for galleries, festivals, and partner venues).
- A commissioned / pilot sound work format (chamber reading + sound dramaturgy extract) suitable for programme testing.
- A micro-archive module (documentation standard + curated excerpts) designed for institutional review and future accession logic.
- A public-facing craft-led demonstration / masterclass format (small cohort) aligned with UK education and outreach practice.

**Indicative deliverables:** governance setup draft; stakeholder map; prototype scoping; early public proof-of-work.

- Preparation and registration pathway for a UK charitable structure (subject to regulatory approval).
- Establishment of an advisory framework to guide cultural direction and governance quality.
- Early stakeholder engagement across UK heritage, craft, and cultural networks to validate pathway and programme fit.

- Prototype-led development: a physical prototype is used as a public-facing proof-of-work to test narrative, materials, logistics, and audience response.
- Establishment of a temporary workshop capability for research, prototyping, and documentation.
- Development of early artefact and publication formats as exploratory cultural outputs.

## **2027–2028 — Site shortlisting, studies, outline brief**

**Indicative deliverables:** site shortlist; constraints map; outline design brief; initial surveys; partnership framework.

- Identification and assessment of potential UK sites, subject to landowner agreement and planning review.
- Environmental, ecological, and heritage feasibility studies following site shortlisting.
- Development of access, inclusion, and community-engagement principles.
- Advancement of fundraising strategy and philanthropic dialogue.
- Outline architectural and engineering documentation to support planning pathway scoping.
- Early partnership work with UK education and cultural actors to pilot formats (talks, micro-exhibitions, readings, craft demonstrations).

## **2029–2030 — Planning pathway, technical briefs, programme pilots**

**Indicative deliverables:** planning pathway scoping pack; technical briefs; pilot programme plan; evaluation framework.

- Site-specific planning pathway work, subject to statutory permissions.
- Detailed engineering and technical development.
- Delivery of education-led and public-facing pilot programmes.
- Establishment of monitoring and evaluation frameworks aligned with UK best practice.

## **2031–2034 — Phased delivery and activation readiness**

**Indicative deliverables:** phased construction plan; activation operations plan; readiness criteria for public opening.

- Phased construction and landscape works, subject to approvals and funding.
- Cultural activation planning and institutional partnerships.
- Public opening phases subject to operational readiness and safety compliance.

## **Resilience principle (paused / partial delivery)**

The project is designed to remain meaningful and publicly legible at intermediate stages.

Prototype outputs, public formats, and the archive infrastructure are planned to stand as durable cultural work even if later phases shift in timing.

## **Contribution to the UK Cultural Landscape**

THE SAPIENS GARDEN is intended to contribute to UK cultural discourse through:

- heritage-led architectural experimentation;
- interdisciplinary cultural programming;
- craft education and knowledge transfer formats;
- stewardship models designed for long horizons;
- public engagement with slow, place-based cultural practice.

## **Public experience (programme lens)**

The roadmap is anchored in the visitor experience of presence, silence, and tactile culture. Public formats are conceived as legible encounters: guided routes, chamber readings and sound works, craft-led demonstrations, seasonal rituals, and educational sessions.

## **Economic and Social Considerations**

Projected impacts are indicative and subject to independent assessment. They may include:

- support for craft-based micro-economies;
- year-round public cultural programming;
- regional cultural tourism potential;
- educational and community engagement opportunities.

## **3. Financial Model and Fundraising Structure (indicative)**

### **Funding principles**

The funding approach is designed for diversification, transparency, and adaptive scaling. Funding pathways are shaped to support governance-first credibility and prototype-first public proof-of-work.

### **Indicative revenue and support streams (non-binding)**

- Structured private patronage and mission-aligned contributions.
- Institutional grants and programme funding.
- Local and national cultural funding (UK).
- International cultural and philanthropic bodies.
- Self-generated revenue through cultural products and limited editions (LUX MEMORI).
- Mission-aligned private investment where appropriate.

### **Robustness and scenarios**

Scenario planning (base / optimistic / constrained) is used for internal risk awareness and pacing. Certain streams are treated as supportive and developmental rather than core, with staging designed to avoid single-point dependency.

### **Accountability and transparency**

Annual reporting is planned for donors, partners, and an independent advisory function. Controls are intended to include staged approvals, documented restricted-funds handling, and project-level budget tracking.

### **Ethical and ESG orientation**

The project is guided by intended ESG principles and prioritises partnerships rooted in culture, ecology, and education.

### **Cultural Risk Register (operational tool)**

A cultural risk register is proposed as a living instrument to support resilience, accountability, and stakeholder trust. Domains include reputational; ecological and site; operational and timeline; financial and funding; governance and ethical.

## **4. THE SAPIENS GARDEN 2050+ Heritage Plan (conceptual framework)**

This section defines an intergenerational stewardship horizon beyond 2050 as a design requirement for governance and maintenance planning.

Key intentions include:

- succession planning for future custodians;
- long-term ecological care principles;
- architectural maintenance planning;
- archival and documentation strategies.

### **Lighthouse stewardship (planning basis)**

The Lighthouse is designed for a minimum service life of 200 years and is intended to operate under a structured maintenance programme (structural monitoring, timber conservation cycles, foundation and drainage review, engineering systems inspection, and technical archiving through 2100+).

### **Cultural archive through 2100+**

A hybrid physical-digital archive is intended to preserve artefacts, sound recordings, drawings, engineering documentation, monitoring data, garden documentation, curatorial writing, and research materials, aligned with long-term conservation standards.

## **5. UNESCO World Heritage Outlook (long-horizon option)**

UNESCO is presented as a long-horizon option that strengthens stewardship discipline and management-plan thinking. Any future pathway would depend on UK statutory processes, stakeholder consensus, expert review, and evidence development over time.

The section outlines alignment considerations with established UNESCO management-plan principles, including:

- long-term programmes for garden and landscape care;
- systematic stewardship of the Lighthouse;
- climate resilience and ecological sustainability;
- documentation and archiving systems appropriate to heritage frameworks.

## **6. Site Justification Dossier (pre-feasibility)**

Potential sites are discussed for conceptual suitability and early scoping only. All site analysis is preliminary and subject to professional verification.

### **Assessment criteria (working set)**

- geotechnical stability and settlement behaviour (to be verified through surveys);
- planning constraints mapping and statutory designations;
- visual impact and landscape character assessment needs;
- access, transport, and visitor management;
- ecology, arboriculture, and long-term soil health;
- coastal resilience considerations and erosion risk (where applicable);
- utilities, servicing, and construction logistics;
- community engagement and local benefit alignment.

### **Candidate site note (working hypothesis)**

A candidate site for consideration has been identified at Beacon Hill, West Runton (Norfolk), subject to constraints mapping, stakeholder engagement, and statutory processes.

## **7. Strategic Framework, Authorship and Document Status**

This document presents the author's strategic and conceptual position at the time of writing. It is intended as a foundation for structured dialogue, peer review, feasibility work, and phased refinement.

## **Authorship**

Prepared by Alex Skarshelg (Alexander Tsvelev). The author's responsibilities include:

- establishing the philosophical and value-based foundation of the project;
- developing a multi-layer roadmap for long-term evolution;
- integrating cultural, ecological, architectural, and institutional dimensions;
- preparing the project for structured engagement with relevant UK and international stakeholders.