	Timber Edging (non tanalised)	Timber Edging (tanalised)	Log edging	Metal (steel/aluminium) edging	Kerbing (concrete edging)
					
Durability Approximate life span of a project.	Lifespan of 5 - 10 years	Lifespan of up to 25 years	Lifespan of 5 - 10 years.	Lifespan of 20 - 25 years.	50 years +
Maintenance Needs to account for the cost of regular reapplication.	Environmental impacts affect the durability of timber edging. High, yearly maintenance to maintain a good condition. Should be checked periodically for debris and organic material. Maintenance may be volunteer led in this location, so is cost effective.	High, yearly maintenance to maintain a good condition. Should be checked periodically for debris and organic material. Treating it with wood preservatives or sealants can increase its longevity, but this should be done using environmentally friendly products. Maintenance may be volunteer led in this location, so is cost effective.	High, yearly maintenance to maintain a good condition. Should be checked periodically for build-up of debris and organic material. Maintenance may be volunteer led in this location, so is cost effective. Will be more expensive if material sourced from elsewhere.	Requires minimal maintenance and can withstand weather elements such as rain, sun, and frost without compromising its structural integrity. Most steel edging comes with corrosion-resistant coatings or finishes that significantly reduce the risk of rusting. Aluminium edging naturally corrosion resistant, however softer and easier to bend.	Requires minimal maintenance.
Capital cost	≈ £10 - £20/m	≈ £15 - £25/m (higher for more environmentally sensitive treatments)	≈ £15 - £20/m	≈ £20 - £30/m	= £60+
Sourcing Is the material sustainably sourced and can it be reused at end of life.	Can be sustainable if it is locally sourced and sustainable timber practices are used. Can be reused at end of life.	Can be sustainable if it is locally sourced and sustainable timber practices are used.	Can be sustainable if it is locally sourced and carries certifications (such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)). Can be reused at end of life.	The production of metal edging typically requires significant energy inputs, primarily in the form of electricity. At the end of its lifespan, the metal edging can be melted and recycled.	The production of concrete kerbing typically requires significant energy inputs, primarily in the form of electricity. At the end of its lifespan, kerbing can be recycled. Production of cement for kerb and concrete haunch produce large amounts of CO_2.
Biodiversity Impact Does the material contain lime as this may affect the acidity and alkalinity of on adjacent soil.	Choosing untreated can reduce the negative impacts of this on adjacent soil.	Treating timber edging with chemical preservatives or pesticides can result in chemicals leaching into surrounding soil negatively impacting biodiversity. Eco-friendly treated timber available.	Can provide micro habitats for plants and insects. Untreated log edging should be used to reduce negative impacts of chemicals on adjacent soil.	Finishing treatments may contain oil which may affect the surrounding soil and vegetation.	The cement in the concrete haunching contains lime/ alkaline properties which will alter PH levels in adjacent soil thus having an impact on the overall environment of the nature reserve.

Aesthetic Suitability of the material in the context of a local nature reserve.	Natural material that fits into the local environment.	Natural material that fits into the local environment.	Natural material that fits into the local environment.	Not as suitable as timber or log edging, but a patina can be applied that weathers to brown between 6 - 9 months.	Not suitable for the natural environment of Parkland Walk. Better suited to a harder urban setting.
Buildability What is required to get onto site when laying the material and what is required to construct it.	Installing timber edging involves minimal disruption to the surrounding landscape (a trench is dug, stakes are driven into the ground, timber edging is secured to these) and can be completed using basic tools and equipment. Can be precut and bent to shape.	Installing timber edging involves minimal disruption to the surrounding landscape (a trench is dug, stakes are driven into the ground, timber edging is secured to these) and can be completed using basic tools and equipment. Can be precut and bent to shape.	If sourced on site it can be re-laid by hand with support of the existing maintenance vehicles. If sourced elsewhere it can be difficult to transport to site due to their size. Difficult to adjust to shape.	Comes in pre-cut lengths or rolls, and installation requires digging a shallow trench, placing the edging into the trench, and securing it in place with stakes or fasteners. Can also be bent to shape.	Comes in pre-cast lengths. Installation involves digging a trench, having a base of type 1 material, laying the kerb on a bed and haunch of concrete. Cannot be adjusted to shape. It is a fixed size. Radius kerbs available for arcs with radius smaller than 15m.