

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1.1 THE VISION

2.1.1.1 The Huddersfield Blueprint is a ten-year vision to create a thriving, modern-day town centre, and the Cultural Heart is one of the flagship projects earmarked for delivering that vision. The ambition is to create an inclusive space where families, residents and visitors can enjoy a vibrant mix of music, arts, food and more in one central area, all within a stunning new urban park. This park will be a major regional destination in its own right – attracting people of all ages and backgrounds and offering a place for families to spend time within the town centre.

2.1.2 THE BRIEF

2.1.2.1 The Cultural Heart masterplan presents the opportunity to deliver a distinct, contemporary, and inclusive urban park which will act as a new destination space for the town and region.

2.1.2.2 The vision for the park is to create a major destination space which acts as the connector, the enabler, and the facilitator of a new vibrant outdoor cultural life for the town.

2.1.2.3 The park will be a high quality, exemplar space. It will function as a green lung for the town, welcoming and inclusive, and have the capability of hosting a range of events. Imaginative, innovative, and deliverable solutions are proposed which address a number of challenging constraints - both above and below ground.

2.1.2.4 The overall brief for the park and public realm can be distilled into five key themes:

- 1. 24/365 - An inviting, welcoming place, all day, all year round
- 2. Culture - where Art, Heritage, Performance and Literature can all be experienced
- 3. Nature - increasing biodiversity, built in climate resilience, and benefits to health and wellbeing
- 4. A destination in itself - A reason to visit and a reason to stay
- 5. A Place for all - Everyone welcome

2.1.3 KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1.3.1 Huddersfield is nestled within in the foothill landscape of the South Pennines. The town developed and expanded primarily during the industrial revolution of the C18th and C19th and gave rise to a legible grid pattern which is now peppered with a number of heritage assets. The existing piazza development is a late C20th intervention within this historic context. However, it has few civic spaces, green spaces, or natural assets such as green infrastructure.

2.1.3.2 The Piazza development formally provided a major retail destination within the town but has for some time been in decline, it also creates a strong barrier to movement and connectivity – particularly to the east where, combined with the ring road at Queensgate, it serves to disconnect the University campus from the town centre.

2.1.3.3 There are a number of constraints associated with the site such as a significant level change, the existence of subterranean network of service tunnels and a number of

drainage easements. These constraints been integrated into the design. Microclimatic conditions such as wind and solar shading have also been addressed through careful design consideration.

2.1.4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.1.4.1 Engaging local people in the design process has played an important role in not only shaping the place, but safeguarding its long-term success in creating somewhere which belongs to its users and has meaning. Co-design – particularly in respect of the design of the play facilities, is just one of the mechanisms used to deliver this level of engagement. Feedback from the extensive public consultation process has also been fed into the design.

2.1.5 DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

2.1.5.1 The design for the park and public realm will be informed by six clear design principles which are used to inform and underpin the proposals for a new town centre park and public realm, namely:

- Principle 1. Four Rooms
- Principle 2. Connected & accessible
- Principle 3. The park as a cultural destination
- Principle 4. A place for all
- Principle 5. Green & biodiverse
- Principle 6. A sense of belonging

2.1.6 FOUR ROOMS

2.1.6.1 Under the first principle the park is organised into four distinct character areas or outdoor rooms: These are:

2.1.6.2 The Green- a predominately green space located to the northern part of the site. Facilitating connecting routes as well as activities that draw people in and animate the space. The Green is dominated by a dynamic undulating play space. Designed for all ages the playscape offers spaces to play, explore & discover, and to socially interact.

2.1.6.3 The Gardens – comprises a series of more intimate spaces occupying the central space between the proposed museum (former library) and the proposed gallery. These gardens will be full of planting and laid out in order to connect with, and be complimentary to the surrounding building uses. These incidental spaces also provide opportunities to display items within the Kirklees Gallery & Museum collections, as well as playing host to travelling exhibitions.

2.1.6.4 The Square - a bespoke hard paved space capable of hosting events for over 3000 people standing and located between the proposed food hall and museum. During times when events are not being hosted the space will be animated through water and light, and trees will frame the space, helping to soften the otherwise hard expanse and provide places for shade and nature.

2 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1.6.5 The Terraces - a landscape that addresses the level changes between the park plateaux and Queen Street & Queensgate to the east. Where elegant stepped and meandering routes, complimented by a public lift, allow good connectivity with destinations such as the University and the Lawrence Batley Theatre. Seating opportunities adjacent to steps and paths will offer a welcoming place for rest, as well as locations to sit and people watch or to watch the world go by.

2.1.7 MOVEMENT, CONNECTIVITY, AND ACCESS

2.1.7.1 The park provides clear & legible network of connections across the site. Direct pedestrian links are provided between the town centre and the University, as well as to destinations within the Cultural Heart itself. These new connections will be open, inviting, and accessible routes, with clear sight lines. The Cultural Heart will be entirely pedestrianised, with vehicles permitted for loading and emergency access during events only. It is envisaged that cyclists will be encouraged to use the existing street network around the site, and cycle parking for the Cultural Heart will be provided to the edges of the park.

2.1.8 PERFORMANCE & CULTURE

2.1.8.1 The park will be a cultural asset in itself, a place which changes in cultural offer seasonally, attracting visitors back again and again. It will provide a canvas for a variety of cultural activities, complimenting the building uses and creating vibrant, engaging outdoor spaces. The park will contain opportunities to display existing items and artefacts within Kirklees collections and will be able to cater for large scale outdoor events. The Square will provide a bespoke events space with inbuilt power and water and lighting system and will be able to host a range of different event types, including ticketed events for up to 3,000 people standing.

2.1.9 A PLACE FOR ALL

2.1.9.1 The park is designed to cater for all age groups, fostering a multigenerational and widely inclusive approach. Consideration has been given to how different age groups behave and are likely to interact with the Cultural Heart and its surroundings. Opportunities for play and recreation will permeate the park, creating activity and life throughout the site. It will take different forms, from more formal equipped play, to interactive, multi-functional and incidental opportunities such as that created by the water features within the square.

2.1.10 GREEN & BIODIVERSE

2.1.10.1 The park will be a green and verdant place, containing a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses. A significant circa 134 new trees will be planted, contributing to the sustainability performance and visual amenity of the site and the wider town centre context. There will be a significant net gain in the site's biodiversity (BNG) of approximately 55% due to the quantum of planting and the range of different habitat types proposed. A nature-based solution to sustainable drainage is also incorporated proposed in the form of rain gardens which slow the rate of surface water run-off. The textile heritage of Huddersfield will also be referenced through the incorporation of plants traditionally used in the natural dyeing process.

2.1.11 A SENSE OF BELONGING

2.1.11.1 Both the setting and the rich social, industrial & cultural heritage of Huddersfield permeate the look, feel and function of the park. The layout, fabric and planting has been carefully considered in order to take advantage of townscape and views, and which makes subtle reference to the local vernacular architecture and industry upon which the town was founded, whilst at the same time providing a new, forward-looking sense of place, which is both contemporary and timeless in character.

2.1.12 ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

2.1.12.1 The landscape and public realm proposals provide a safe, accessible, and inclusive environment which goes beyond industry guidance, standards and regulations. That being said, statutory regulations and best practice guidance such as the Equality Act 2010, Building Regulations 2010 & 2013 and BS8300: 2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, are adhered to and used to inform the public realm design proposals.

2.1.12.2 Kirklees is home to a diverse, multi ethnic, multi generational and multi cultural population. As a culture led masterplan, representation of the diverse population and creating a place which has meaning to all walks of life is critical to ensuring the success of the project. The public realm designs provide numerous opportunities to reflect, represent and celebrate the diversity of the population through curation of spaces as well as artistic references within landscape elements.

2.1.13 LANDSCAPE FABRIC

2.1.13.1 The surface materials proposed for the Cultural Heart will comprise of a limited palette of hard landscape materials which Create coherence and consistency across the site, create a distinctive sense of place, compliment the new materiality used elsewhere in the town by Kirklees (such as New Street – this ensuring continuity), are high quality, robust, long lasting, easily maintained and represent good value for money.

2.1.13.2 Similarly, A coherent palette of street furniture items will be incorporated, however, wherever possible, these will be integrated into the park fabric as opposed to being standalone – utilising planter edges, walling, and terraces for example. Again, the design focus will be on robustness and low maintenance, but without compromising functionality – keeping elements inviting, comfortable, and fit for purpose. Deterrents such as anti-skate devices will also be designed in where desirable to do so.

2.1.14 PLANTING

2.1.14.1 Significant existing trees which add value and contribute to the local amenity will be retained wherever possible. However, due to site constraints there are a number of trees within the piazza which will need to be removed. It is also proposed to open up views of the ceramic panels facing onto Queensgate that currently obscured by the removal of number of mature silver birch species. The submitted scheme advocates the removal of circa 28No existing trees, however, there will be suitable compensatory replacement provided on site through the planting of circa 134No new trees.

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2.1.14.2 Proposed planting will create a bold and unique character for the Cultural Heart through creation of a diverse and multi-layered approach to planting communities comprising a range of new trees, low level ornamental planting (allowing good sightlines & intervisibility), long sward grasslands/wildflower meadows, which are good for biodiversity and areas of formal mown lawns for play and recreation. Detailed planting designs will be developed in conjunction with Kirklees council in order to ensure that the soft landscape areas can be maintained easily and effectively.

2.1.15 PLAY

2.1.15.1 Play will be encouraged throughout the site, not just within designated spaces. A wide range of opportunities for the integration of different types of play are included such as social play - creating opportunities for all generations to play together, inclusive play - enabling opportunities to cater to needs of specific marginalised user groups, interpretive play - creating opportunities that can be used differently between various user groups, and active play - where physical activity and energetic play are promoted, particularly amongst teenagers and young adults.

2.1.15.2 There will be areas of equipped play (subject to detailed design in consultation with Kirklees council) and natural play elements such as logs and boulders. The proposals also offer the possibility to include a skateboarding area, which again, will be subject to further detailed consultation with the Council and stakeholders.

2.1.16 SUSTAINABILITY

2.1.16.1 Close collaboration has taken place on the sustainability aspects of the landscape design, and key performance indicators covering ecology and biodiversity, urban greening, the potential re-use of materials and the specification of new hard landscape materials and products have all been considered. There are three key categories within the approach to sustainability which all bring tangible benefits- these are health & wellbeing, carbon mitigation, and climate resilience. In respect of biodiversity net gain (BNG) the proposals are currently achieving a minimum 50% improvement.

2.1.17 PUBLIC ART

2.1.17.1 Art and culture are fundamental components of the Cultural Heart project, and as such is at the forefront of the urban park and public realm proposals. There are four key areas where public art has either been addressed, or used to inform our design proposals for the project, these are; existing public art - the existing ceramic panels at the Queensgate faced have been retained and views of them improved, the design process - artists have been actively involved in the co-design process focused on the play content of the Cultural Heart park (in particular, artists based at Maker World on the Piazza), opportunities to display art and artefacts within the new public realm/park, and, using art as a means of informing identity, heritage, local character and distinctiveness.

2.1.18 EXTERNAL LIGHTING

2.1.18.1 The approach to the external lighting design focuses on the quality of the overall experience when moving through the external spaces. A comprehensive strategic approach to lighting the park and the public realm which will create identity, contribute to placemaking, support legibility across the Cultural Heart after dark, improve perceptions of safety, and offer sustainable solutions to issues such as longevity, energy consumption and maintenance.

2.1.19 SAFETY & SECURITY

2.1.19.1 The proposals have been developed with the safety and security of all users of the Cultural Heart - at the forefront of design considerations. The aim is to create a safe environment which discourages antisocial behaviour without feeling overbearing. This has involved a balance of strategies, utilising both active and passive means, to achieve an integrated and sensitive approach which does not dehumanise the spaces or alienate ordinary users. These considerations include, amongst other things, good intervisibility and sightlines, robust detailing, well-lit spaces, CCTV, and protection from hostile vehicles.

2.1.20 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

2.1.20.1 Good management & maintenance of the public realm are critical to the success of the Cultural Heart project. It is understood that day to day maintenance of the park & public realm will be the responsibility of the Parks & Open Spaces (P&OS) Department within the council. Through continuing engagement with P&OS, together with other relevant stakeholders within Kirklees Council such as Culture & Tourism, a comprehensive management and maintenance plan will be developed. This will also take into consideration existing available resources and skill sets within the council plus likely available revenue funding.

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3

INTRODUCTION

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3.1 | INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1.1 This report is submitted in support of the proposed Kirklees Cultural Heart development, which comprises:
- 3.1.1.2 Application for 'Demolition of the existing Piazza shopping centre, part removal of elements of Queensgate Market, and demolition/retention of service tunnels; with redevelopment of the site to form new public realm space (including public park and gardens, play areas, public square/outdoor event space); refurbishment and change of use of existing Queensgate Market Hall into new food hall (Use Class E (b) Sale of food and drink for consumption, mostly, on the premises); refurbishment and extension of existing library and art gallery building to form a new museum (Use Class F.1); change of use of part existing market hall building and extension to form a new public library (Use Class F.1); construction of new indoor event venue incorporating multi-storey car park below (Sui-Generis); erection of new public gallery building (Class F.2); and associated infrastructure on land and buildings at Queensgate Market, Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery, and Piazza (and The Shambles) Shopping Centre, Huddersfield.'
- 3.1.1.3 This report has been prepared to comply with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). It summarises the design development process undertaken by the design team in creating the proposed scheme.
- 3.1.1.4 The Council's brief for the scheme includes the creation of the following core facilities:
- Museum
 - Art Gallery
 - Library
 - Food Hall
 - Venue for 2,200 max people
 - Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP)
 - Flexible urban park that is family friendly, inclusive, safe, green in character and able to host up to 3,000 people for events

- 3.1.1.5 This report has been prepared to communicate the design proposals for the external spaces proposed at the Cultural Heart. It is to be read in conjunction with all other relevant information from the design team, including the following separate reports;
- Design and Access Statement (FCBS Architects)
 - Lighting strategy (Arup)
 - Ecology report (Arup)
 - Arboricultural Survey and Arboricultural Implications Assessment (Brooks Ecology)
 - Engineering report (Arup)
 - Transport Assessment (Arup)
- 3.1.1.6 This report covers an assessment of existing green space provision within the town, a distillation of the client's brief, key design considerations, details of the layout and disposition of landscape elements, materiality and strategies such as planting and sustainability.

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4

PROJECT BRIEF AND VISION

3 | PROJECT BRIEF AND VISION

3.1 | VISION

- 4.1.1.1 The Huddersfield Blueprint is a ten-year vision to create a thriving, modern-day town centre, and the cultural Heart is one of the flagship projects earmarked for delivering that vision.
- 4.1.1.2 The ambition is to create an inclusive space where families, residents and visitors can enjoy a vibrant mix of music, arts, food and more in one central area, all within a stunning new urban park.
- 4.1.1.3 The park will be a major regional destination in its own right – attracting people of all ages and backgrounds, and in particular, offering a place for families to spend time within the town centre.
- 4.1.1.4 There will be space specifically enabled to host events all year round, a range of both formal and informal play for young and old alike, and an opportunity for visitors to reconnect with nature, through access to a biodiverse range of seasonal planting. It will be a great place to socialise - to meet friend, grab a coffee or have lunch, or just to spend time people watching or contemplating the world. Above all it will be a place that is welcoming, accessible, enjoyable, comfortable and above all safe – 24/7.
- 4.1.1.5 This will be a modern, contemporary park, but one that is strongly rooted in Huddersfield. There will be both subtle and overt references to the historic and landscape context - with culture permeating throughout. It is designed to be symbiotic with the major cultural destinations that frame it – the gallery, venue, library and museum, so that these uses can spill out and inhabit spaces within the park – thus placing culture at the forefront of the overall experience of place

Key themes:



Fig. 3.1.1 24 hours a day / 7 days a week



Fig. 3.1.2 Culture and performance



Fig. 3.1.3 Reconnect with nature



Fig. 3.1.4 A regional destination



Fig. 3.1.5 Spaces for all walks of life to come together

3 | PROJECT BRIEF AND VISION

3.2 | TOWN PARK BRIEF

4.2.2	THE BRIEF: DISTILLED				for up to 3000 people and further cultural enrichment will be reflected within the landscape through art, installation & performance.
4.2.2.1	The following section is a distillation & summary of the brief for the Town Park, Events Space and Public Realm elements of the masterplan. The process of clarifying these briefs has included examination of existing documents, such as the Huddersfield Blueprint, Kirklees Town Park brief and written briefing documents, including minutes of previous meeting. It also includes feedback gleaned through further consultation meetings with key service providers and the general public.	4.2.7.3	An accessible and permeable layout will stimulate and encourage movement through the site – forging strong, positive connections and interfaces with adjacent civic buildings and institutions including the Lawrence Batley Theatre & the University.		
4.2.3	GUIDING VISION	4.2.7.4	The park will also present positive interfaces with the wider urban context, providing an attractive setting for shops and caf��s (such as at King Street, Victoria Lane, and Queen Street)		
4.2.3.1	The overall vision for the park can be summarised as follows:				
4.2.3.2	<i>“A major destination space which acts as the connector, the enabler, and the facilitator of a new vibrant outdoor cultural life for the town.”</i>	4.2.7.5	There will be spaces within the park for quieter, more contemplative uses.		
4.2.3.3	The park will be a high quality, exemplar space. It will function as a green lung for the town, be welcoming and inclusive and have the capability of hosting a range of events.	4.2.7.6	Spaces for building spill out will be created. These areas are show exact demise of these areas is subject to further engagement with building operators.		
4.2.4	WHO’S IT FOR:	4.2.8	CLIMATE RESILIENCE & NET ZERO		
4.2.4.1	The park is to be inclusive, accessible and cater for all. It will appeal to multigenerational & multi-cultural users and be particularly attractive to families. It will promote positive social interaction and foster a sense of community ownership and pride.	4.2.8.1	Kirklees Council have adopted a Net Zero carbon emissions by 2038 target. The park design, functionality, materiality, and ecology therefore need to be cognisant of this target. The park design should also contribute to improvements in air quality through vegetation filtration, reduce urban heat island effect through canopy shade, help manage surface water run off through the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage systems, increase biodiversity within the town centre, and increase the rate of carbon sequestration, through the planting of additional trees. The sourcing of ethical and sustainably products and materials will also be embedded within the project.		
4.2.5	THE BENEFITS IT NEEDS TO BRING:				
4.2.5.1	The park will bring a number of social, economic, and environmental benefits.				
4.2.5.2	It will improve perceptions of the town, increase footfall and dwell time. It will aim to improve health, wellbeing, and liveability. It will bring enrichment to users and visitors and present a range of developmental and educational opportunities. It will have a clear sense of place where people will be able to connect with the heritage of the town and access a range of cultural experiences.	4.2.9	HOW IS IT TO BE MANAGED		
		4.2.9.1	The responsibility for the day-to-day management of the park and public realm spaces within the cultural heart will be identified in due course and the design will be developed so that management issues are embedded in the layout and fabric of the spaces. Issues of functionality, servicing, safety, and security will be considered. CCTV, lighting, power, water, and data (Wi-Fi) are also to be carefully integrated.		
4.2.6	CHARACTER	4.2.9.2	In respect of programming – the scale, types, and regularity of the types of events and festivals will also be taken into consideration.		
4.2.6.1	The park will be verdant and green; contemporary and distinctive, with a clear identity that reflects the heritage & culture of Huddersfield and its surrounding landscape. It will be exciting, animated, and colourful & full of life 365 days a year, 24hours a day – providing variety and delight throughout.				
4.2.6.2	Seasonality will be a key feature – both in respect of connecting people with nature and in terms of annual festivals and celebrations.	4.2.10	HOW IS IT MAINTAINED		
		4.2.10.1	The day-to-day maintenance of the park and public realm spaces will be the responsibility of Kirklees Council Park & Open Spaces. Close liaison has taken place with representatives of the department during the design development process in order that any future maintenance requirement, obligations are understood and agreed.		
4.2.7	WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN IT:				
4.2.7.1	There will be opportunities for play throughout that is appealing for all ages, but in particular, families with younger children. The layout and disposition of play elements will be cognisant of avoiding colonisation by undesirable groups.				
4.2.7.2	There will be a bespoke events space capable of hosting major external, ticketed events				

3 | PROJECT BRIEF AND VISION

3.2 | TOWN PARK BRIEF

4.2.11 HIGHWAYS & VEHICULAR ACCESS

4.2.11.1 The presence of the existing subterranean tunnels is a key constraint on levels and what can be placed above ground. The extent of retention of these and the access and egress points will need to be considered in conjunction with the park layout.

4.2.11.2 Vehicular access for maintenance of the park, spaces, and buildings (day to day and periodic), for emergencies, and for events will also need to be fully considered.

4.2.12 TECHNICAL DESIGN ISSUES - PARK:

4.2.12.1 The presence of the tunnels creates the key abnormal technical design challenges and constraint. Structural loading, waterproofing and drainage present the main issues – this will have a clear impact on planting, foundations, and the routing of services.

4.2.12.2 The manipulation of site levels – to maximise the accessibility of space, is also constrained by the need to retain some of the existing tunnel network.

4.2.13 TECHNICAL DESIGN ISSUES – EVENTS SPACE:

4.2.13.1 The park is to include a bespoke dedicated events space capable of hosting major ticketed events for up to 3000 people standing. The space is to be of paved surface and provide clear lines of sight across it. A location for a stage (either permanent or temporary) of approximately 12m x 6m is to be identified and the alignment and positioning of barrier systems (either hired in or bespoke) will be considered. The events space is to have integrate power and external water supply and bespoke lighting systems should also be explored.

4.2.13.2 Locations and typical configuration for barriers, stage, mixing design and sound system are to be illustrated as part of the design process, and storage areas within existing adjacent buildings or basements for any bespoke equipment such as barriers, needs to be identified.

4.2.14 KEY DOCUMENTATION:

KC Huddersfield Blueprint 2019

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/huddersfield-blueprint/index.aspx>

Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s24898/9.%20Appendix%20A%20DRAFT%20HTC%20DESIGN%20FRAMEWORK%20V8.4.1%20MAIN%20TEXT%20002.pdf>

Kirklees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2020

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/pdf/health-strategy.pdf>

Local Plan

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/pdf/local-plan-strategy-and-policies.pdf>

Kirklees Highway Design Guide SPD

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/pdf/Highway-Design-Guide-SPD-final.pdf>

WYCA Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/strategic-economic-framework/policies-and-strategies/green-and-blue-infrastructure/>

Public Art Plan for Huddersfield

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/arts-help-and-advice/pdf/huddersfield-public-art-plan.pdf>

Living Play 2020: Playable Spaces Strategy

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/pdf/play-strategy.pdf>

Kirklees Council, Dementia Friendly Design Tool, 2021.

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/pdf/kirklees-dementia-design-guide.pdf>

4.2.15 KEY CONSULTTEES:

Parks and Gardens Operational Services - Kirklees Council

Development & Masterplanning - Kirklees Council

Kirklees Council Landscape Architects

Cultural Development Growth & Housing - Kirklees Council

Kirklees Council Planning Department

Kirklees Access & Disability Groups

Civic Trust

Lawrence Batley Theatre

West Yorkshire Police – Architectural Liaison Officer & Counter Terrorism Unit

West Yorkshire Fire Authority

Local arts organisations

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

5

UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.1 | WIDER LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

5.1.1 WIDER LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

- 5.2.15.1 Huddersfield is an historic market town, located within the borough of Kirklees.
- 5.2.15.2 The borough comprises of many large towns and urban areas such as Dewsbury, Batley, Mirfield, as well as Huddersfield.
- 5.2.15.3 Moorland of the south Pennines surrounds the town. Dramatic topogaphy and openness are characteristics of this landscape, and as such views from the town centre to the surrounding landscape are possible from a number of many vantage points.
- 5.2.15.4 It is in essence a Victorian town, with much of it's historical development centred around the textile industry, thanks to the close proximity of water courses.
- 5.2.15.5 The River Colne and the Huddersfield Narrow Canal flow through the town centre. The Narrow Canal has an accessible towpath and provides good green infrastructure links with the surrounding areas.
- 5.2.15.6 The town has a large suburban hinterland which houses most of it's residents, with little in the way of residential accommodation in the town centre itself.
- 5.2.15.7 To the south of the town is Castle Hill, a prominent victorian landmark built in 1899 to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, and is visible from the town centre.



Fig 5.1.1 Wider landscape context plan

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.2 | TOWN CENTRE CONTEXT

5.2.16 EXISTING GREEN SPACES

- 5.2.16.1 The centre of Huddersfield currently has a limited amount of public green space; the existing Piazza and St Peter's Gardens being the only spaces of note. Both these spaces are not without issues and are limited in respect of offer, usability, and attractiveness.
- 5.2.16.2 Other greenspace is limited to leftover verges and 'edge lands' associated with the ring road around the town centre.
- 5.2.16.3 Greenhead Park (not shown on the map) is on the edge of the town and is a 15minute walk from the town centre. This is a large, Victorian park which is well loved and well used by the community. It contains play areas, water, a band stand and picnic areas.
- 5.2.16.4 There is an obvious need and opportunity to create a new green space of real significance and quality in the heart of the town centre which will function as a major destination space in its own right.
- 5.2.16.5 Kirklees Council has ambitions for improving the amount and quality of green space and green infrastructure within the town centre – this is set out within the Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework under 'green streets/links/green spaces & green infrastructure.'



Fig 5.2.1 St Peter's Gardens

Key:

- Green spaces
- Verges and edge lands



Fig 5.2.2 Existing green spaces plan

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.2 | TOWN CENTRE CONTEXT

5.2.17 EXISTING SPACES: URBAN SPACES

5.2.17.1 St George's Square, Market Place and the Piazza are key civic spaces within the town centre. These are identified as Premier Spaces within the Town Centre Design Framework.

5.2.17.2 St George's Sq. is the existing go to space for major events within the town, but is heavily constrained due to its layout and its proximity to the rail station, taxi ranks and bus network etc. Market Place again is constrained by its size and proximity of trafficked highways.

5.2.17.3 Within the Cultural Heart there is an opportunity to create a major outdoor events space that is specifically designed and laid out for contemporary uses, but which will also have a civic feel - thus complimenting the existing layout and network of streets and spaces within the town centre.



Fig 5.2.3 St George's Square

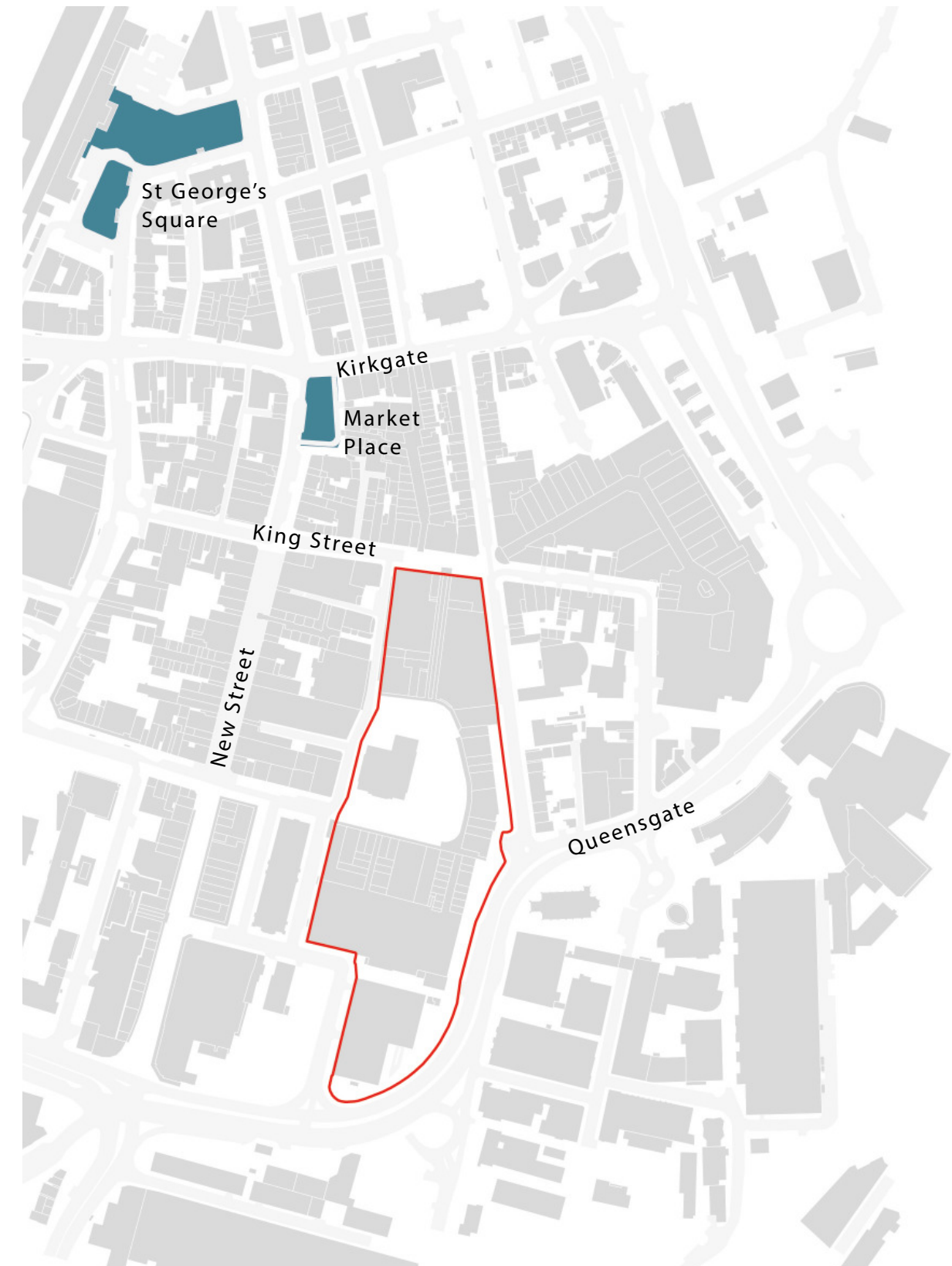


Fig 5.2.4 Existing urban spaces plan

Key:

Urban public spaces

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.2 | TOWN CENTRE CONTEXT

5.2.18 TOWNSCAPE: LAYOUT, LANDMARKS & LEGIBILITY

- 5.2.18.1 The townscape of Huddersfield has good legibility and is easily understood by visitors - principally due to its inherent Georgian grid layout. However, the existing Piazza development is a major disruptor and lacks permeability. It creates barriers that are confusing and unpopular.
- 5.2.18.2 Connectivity and views east and west across the site are poor; due to a lack of inter-visibility and by virtue of the site's topography. The university campus feels cut off from the rest of the town. This severance is further emphasised by the existence of the Ring Road at Queensgate.
- 5.2.18.3 There is an opportunity to open up key views and to create stronger more obvious connections - both physically, and visually. Key axes - such as Queensgate/Cross Church Street - could be restored, opening up views of key buildings such as the library, the market hall, and the former St Paul's Church (now St Paul's Hall). There are also opportunities to create new connections, viewpoints and landmarks within the development itself.



Fig 5.2.5 View to St Paul's Church along Queen Street

Key:

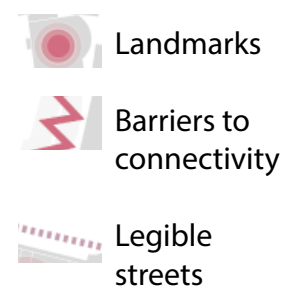


Fig 5.2.6 Landmarks and legibility plan

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.2 | TOWN CENTRE CONTEXT

5.2.19 STREET TREES

- 5.2.19.1 Trees within and adjacent to the site are relatively few in number and are in a range of conditions. Indeed, the town centre is limited in terms of the number and density of tree cover – restricted to small groupings or individual specimens. Often, they have outgrown their location – such as the above ground planters located on New Street.
- 5.2.19.2 Existing trees on and immediately adjacent to the site include trees located within the sunken edge to the library Building, on the Piazza green space and along the edge of the site which fronts onto Queen Street and Queensgate. Here, trees help to soften the urban form, however they also obscure the existing Ceramic Panels from public view.
- 5.2.19.3 Opportunities should be sought to connect groups of trees in accordance with the Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework 'Green streets/links/green spaces & green infrastructure' strategy and other Green Streets and Healthy Streets guidance.
- 5.2.19.4 None of the trees are protected by a tree preservation order, however, a number of trees are located within, or immediately adjacent to the Huddersfield town centre conservation area which offers a similar level of protection.



Fig 5.2.7 Existing Cherry trees in the Piazza



Fig 5.2.8 Existing trees plan

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.3 | HERITAGE AND CULTURE

5.3.1 HISTORIC GRAIN AND STREET PATTERN

- 5.3.1.1 Prior to the C20th re-development of the site and construction of the Piazza, Market Hall, and multi-story car park, the grain and pattern of the site was consistent with the surrounding grid pattern layout of the wider town.
- 5.3.1.2 Due to redevelopment some key east – west streets became lost – such as Ramsden Street, Victoria Street, Princess Street and Page Street along with several incidental yards and alleys. These routes provide precedent and opportunity for re-introducing permeability across the site, as well as reconnecting users and visitors to the historic associations inherent within the site.

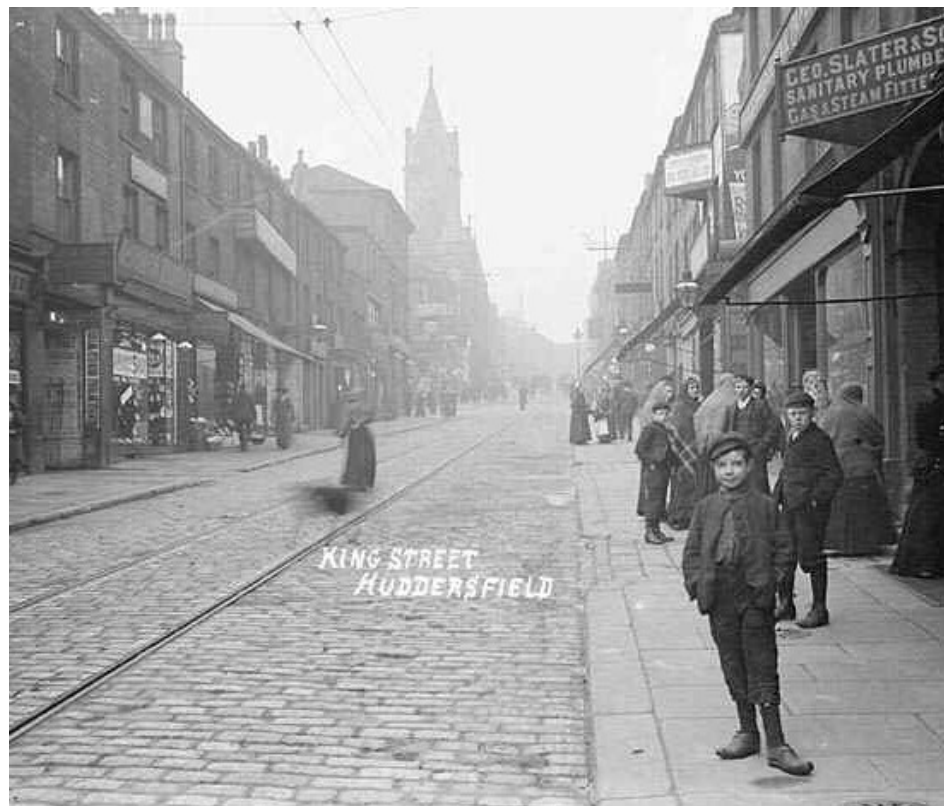


Fig 5.3.1 Historic image of King Street

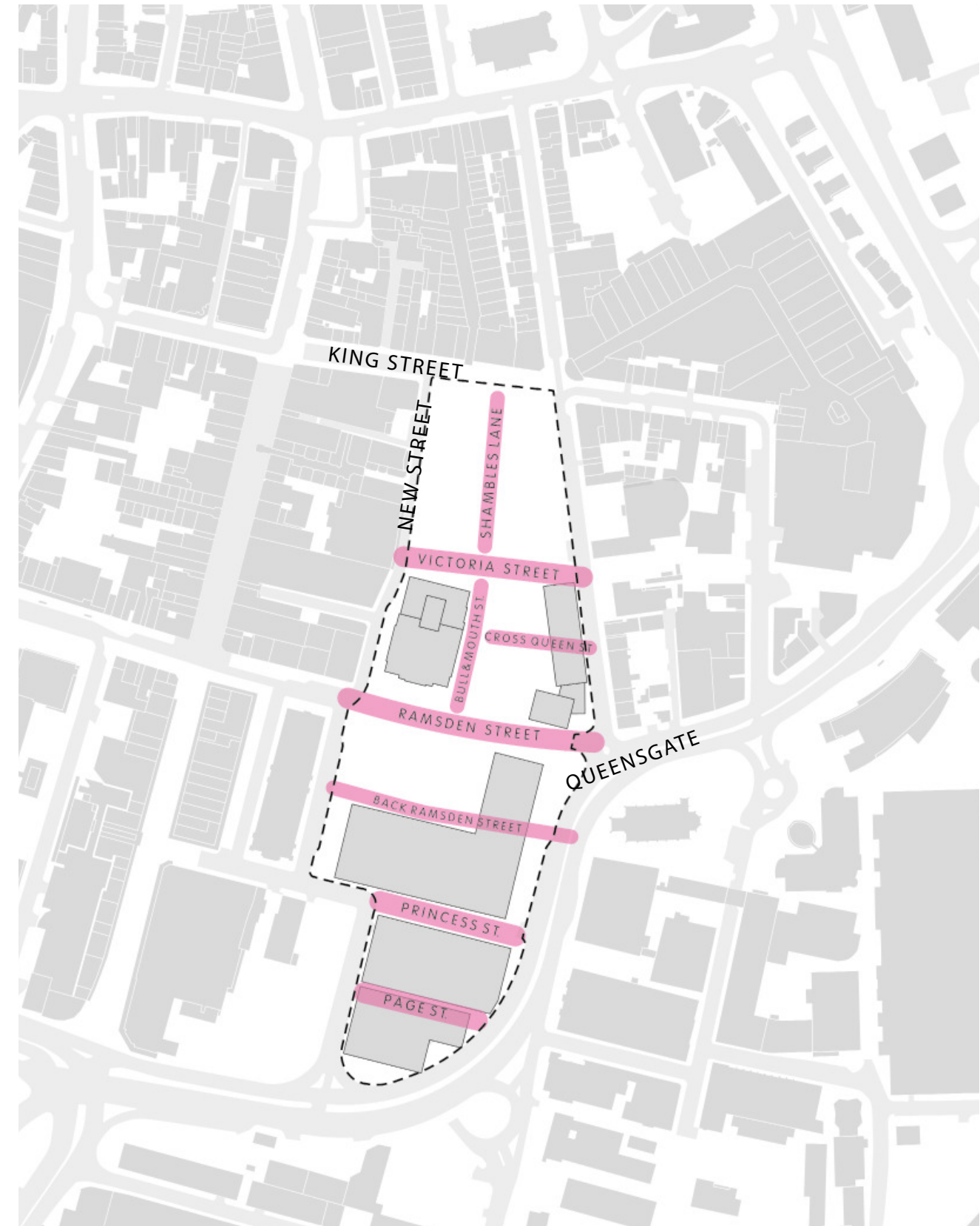


Fig 5.3.2 Historic street pattern plan

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.3 | HERITAGE AND CULTURE

5.3.2 HERITAGE ASSETS AND PUBLIC ARTWORKS

5.3.2.1 There are a number of listed buildings on or immediately adjacent to the site for which the setting and relationship with public spaces needs to be carefully considered. include:

- Town Hall
- St Peter's Church
- Library
- St Paul's Church
- Lawrence Batley Theatre
- Queensgate Market

5.3.2.2 Other notable features include a number of square ceramic panels by Fritz Steller, entitled Articulation in Movement, set over natural stone cladding. These panels are thought to be one of, if not the largest ceramic sculpture of its kind across the world. Many of these panels are currently obscured by overly mature trees. An opportunity exists to reconsider the setting of this important artwork.

5.3.2.3 The Cultural Heart site is bounded by the Huddersfield town centre conservation area (shown hatched) on its eastern and western flanks, and partially to the north along King Street.



Fig 5.3.3 Fritz Steller ceramic panels

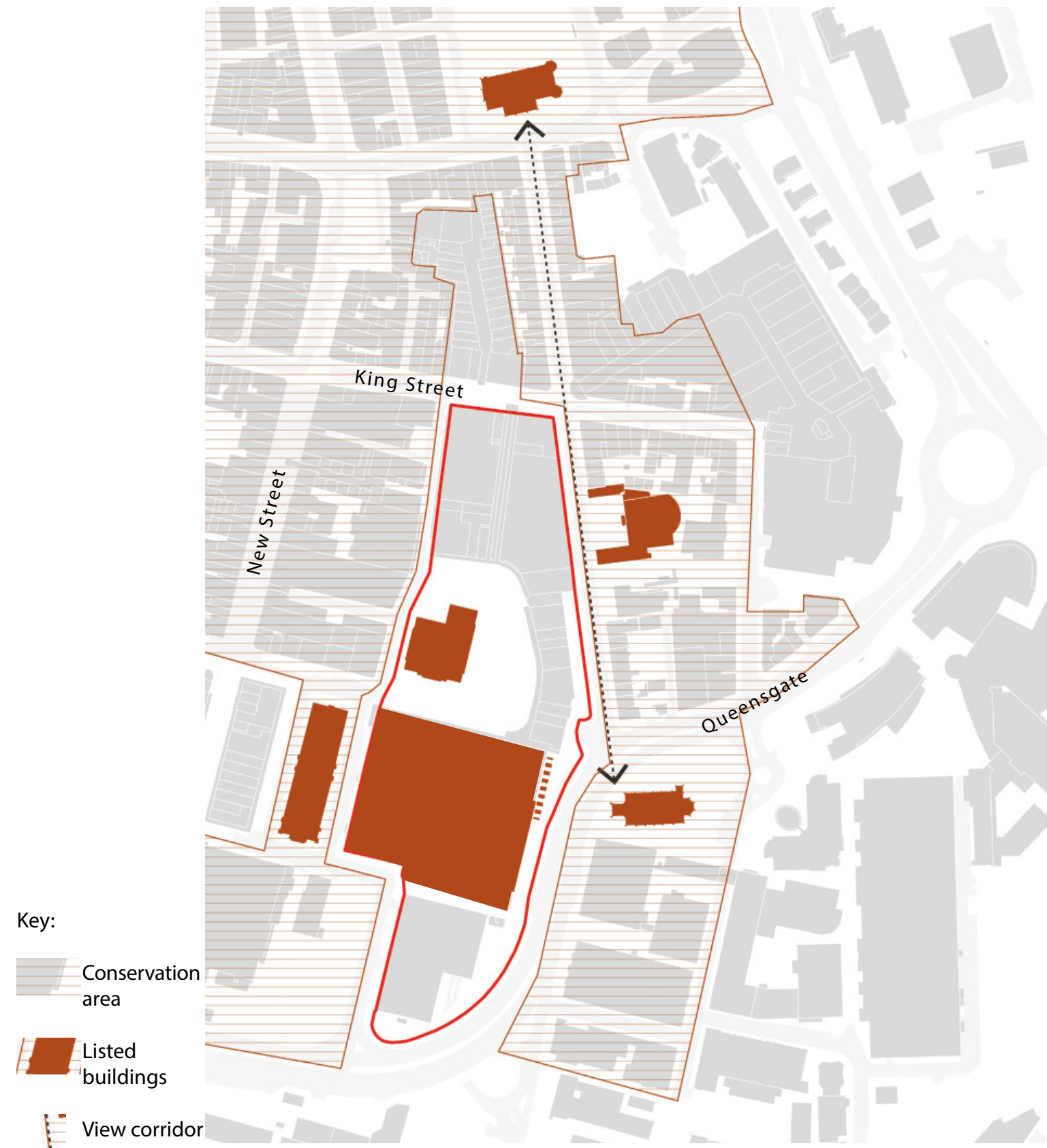


Fig 5.3.4 Heritage assets plan

5 | UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

5.3 | HERITAGE AND CULTURE

5.3.3 EXISTING LIBRARY

- 5.3.3.1 The existing library and art gallery is a Grade II listed building, built in 1940 by architect E.H. Ashburner. This is the only existing building on the site which includes external heritage features worthy of consideration within the landscape and public realm proposals. The other heritage buildings on the site have little to no external spaces associated with them, and have in the round been compromised by the more recent Piazza development.
- 5.3.3.2 The library's primary entrance is located off the southern elevation and is considered an integral part of the heritage value of the building itself. It includes an original stepped access, comprising of yorkstone stairs and walling with original bronze handrails on the flank walls. Modern alterations have compromised this arrangement with painted hazard warning strips on step nosings, however these can be restored through cleaning.
- 5.3.3.3 The stone sculptures by artist James Woodford, which sit atop either side of the flank walls are part of the original building design and signify the architect's approach of including of public artworks in built form common to the era.
- 5.3.3.4 The existing sunken area to the east elevation of the library currently detracts from the surrounding environment due to the back of house function which currently occupies these areas as well as poor access.
- 5.3.3.5 There are existing trees along the west elevation at lower ground floor level which provide a small contribution to greening within the town centre.

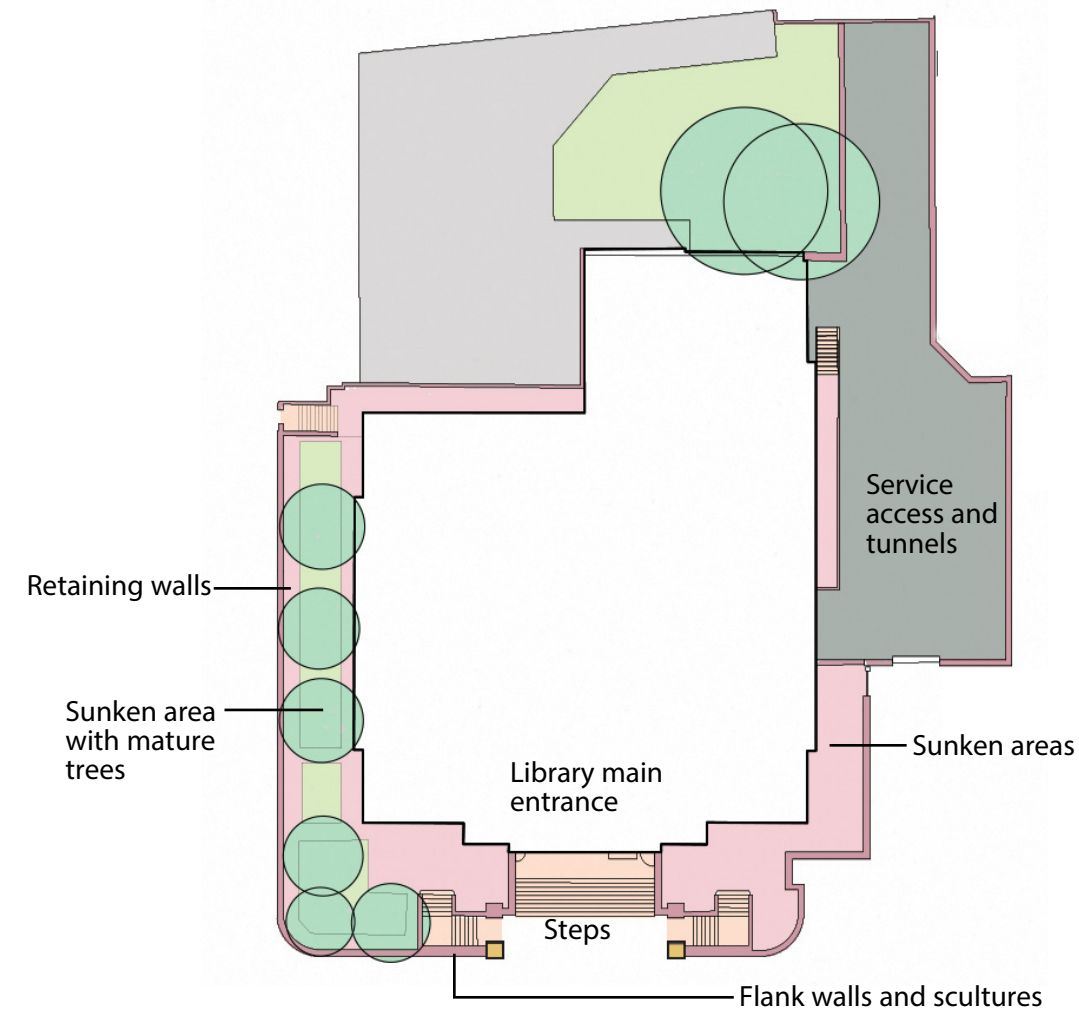


Fig 5.3.5 Library curtilage plan



Fig 5.3.6 James Woodford sculptures on the library



Fig 5.3.7 Existing library main entrance

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

6

KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 | TOPOGRAPHY

6.1.1 OVERVIEW

6.1.1.1 There is a circa. 4.5m level change from Queen Street up to the existing Library building, and a further circa 1.5 m level change from the Library up to the junction of Ramsden Street and Peel Street. This is a significant constraint in terms of creating an accessible, inclusive environment which can be enjoyed by everyone.

6.1.1.2 Proposals need to address level changes in an accessible and elegant way – without reliance on over engineered solutions, so that connectivity is facilitated in a seamless way. In order that the Cultural Heart maximises its offer in respect of usable outdoor space, then strategies that maximise a level (in accessible terms) plateaux, should be encouraged.

6.1.2 COMPLIANCE

6.1.2.1 The design for the external environment will be developed in line with the following regulations and guidance:

- Design compliance documentation:
- Part M, K and B of the Building Regulations
- BS8300-1: 2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment Part 1 External Environment – Code of Practice
- Guidance on the use of Tactile Paving – DfT
- Kirklees Legislative Assessment Report, December 2021

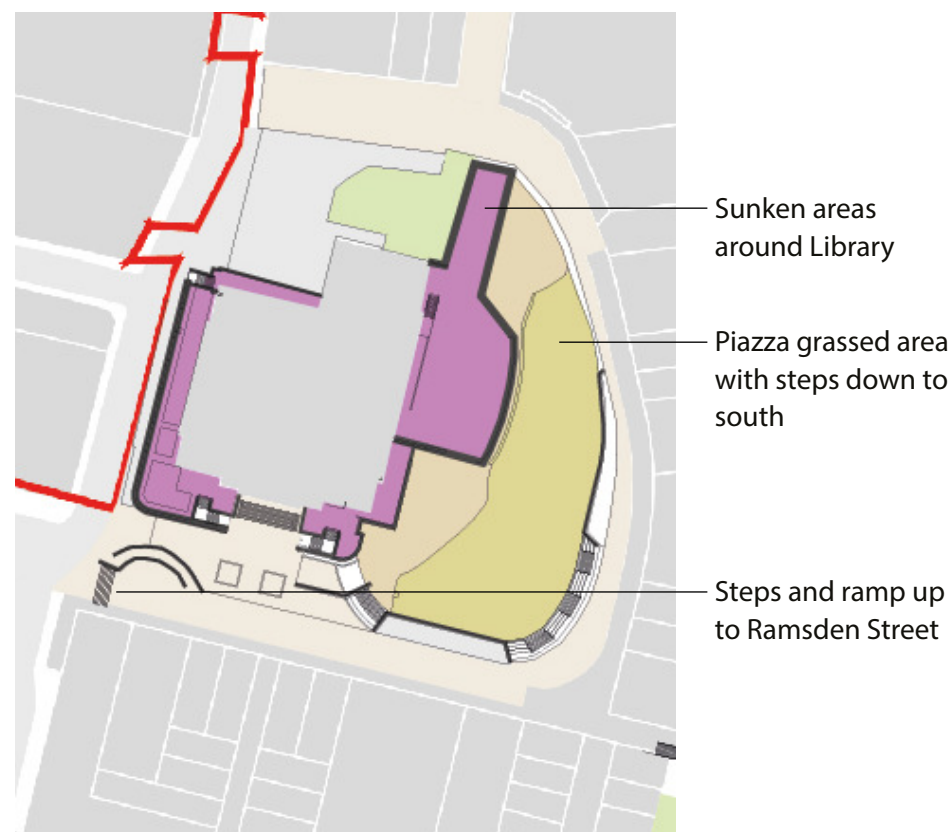


Fig.6.1.1 Level changes around the existing library plan

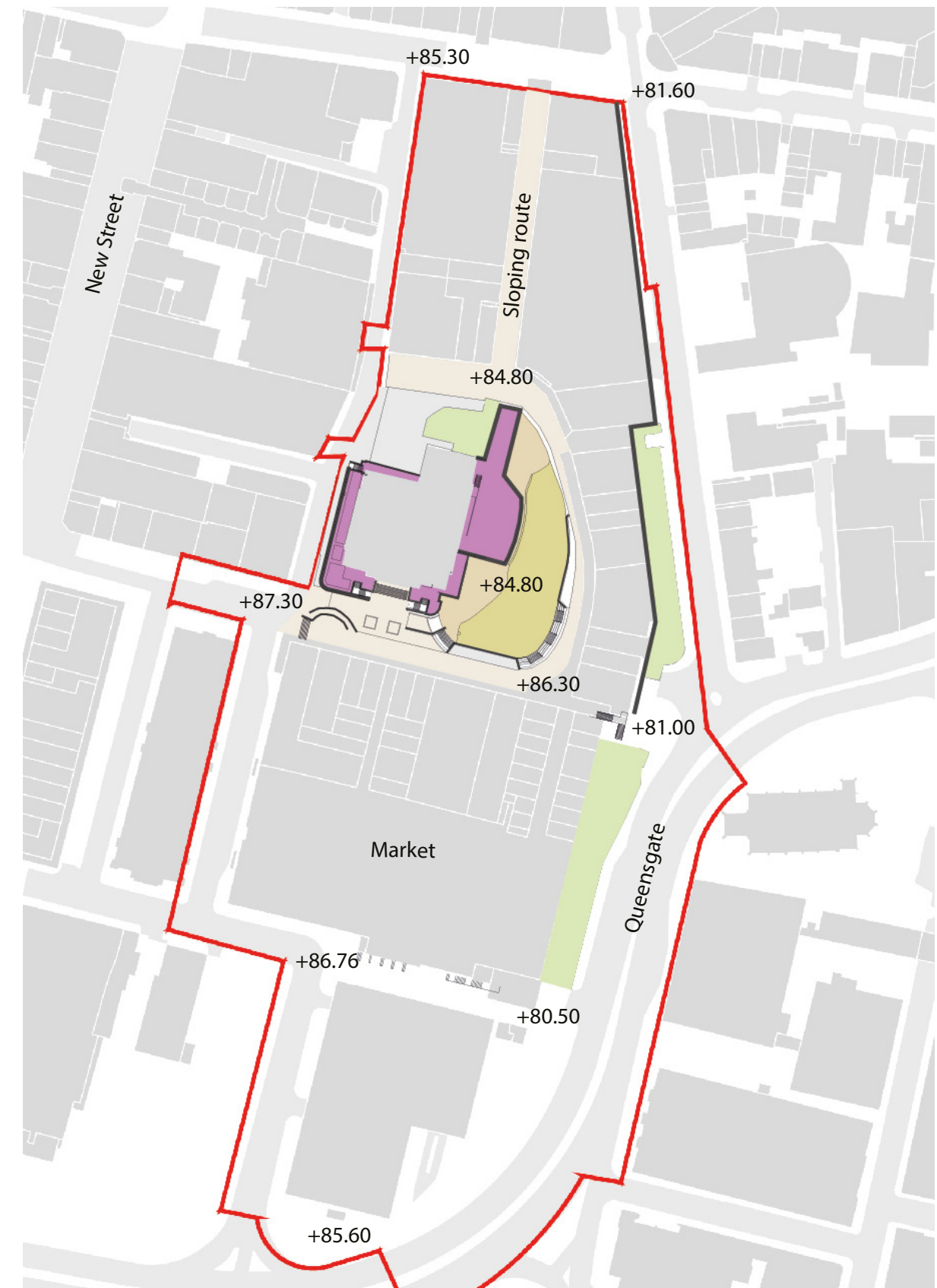


Fig.6.1.2 Topography plan

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.2 | TREES

6.2.20 EXISTING TREES

6.2.20.1 Existing trees are present in two primary locations – Along Queensgate fronting onto the ring road, and adjacent to the former Library building.

6.2.20.2 A separate tree survey has been carried out which accompanies this application (AR-5878-01 March 2022 by Brooks Ecology). The tree survey revealed a total of thirty-eight individual trees.

6.2.20.3 This breaks down as the following:

- three trees were identified as retention category 'B'
- thirty-four trees were identified as retention category 'C'
- one tree was identified as retention category 'U'.
- no retention category 'A' trees identified

6.2.20.4 Tree loss has been considered as part of the comprehensive tree planting strategy for the Cultural Heart, which aims to provide a significant increase in tree numbers and canopy area within the town centre. Refer to chapter 13 for further details.

-  Category B Trees: Trees of moderate quality with an estimated ERC of at least 20 years.
-  Category C Trees: Trees of low quality with an ERC of at least 10 years, OR young trees
-  Category U Trees: Trees in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Trees unsuitable for retention.
-  Trees located outwith site boundary



Fig.6.2.1 Existing tree condition plan

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.3 | ENGINEERING CONSTRAINTS

6.3.4 OVERVIEW

6.3.4.1 From the analysis of the site and its context there are a number of key constraints which will have a bearing on any emerging landscape and public realm strategy for the site. These are (and in no particular order).

6.3.5 SERVICE TUNNELS (SHOWN IN BLUE)

6.3.5.1 The existing Market Hall, Piazza development, and some of the retail units fronting onto New Street and off Victoria Lane, are serviced via a number of existing tunnels which extend beneath much of the site. These tunnels are accessed from 3 locations on Queensgate & Queen Street.

6.3.5.2 Public space is to be located above and will impact on the design of topography and the positioning of planting, as well as any structures requiring foundations. At the time of writing, the strategy for the tunnels is to partially reconstruct them, enabling a the tunnel roofs to be lowered and reinforced so as to take the weight and depth of landscape construction above. Refer to separate engineer's report for further details.

6.3.6 UTILITY EASEMENTS (SHOWN IN ORANGE)

6.3.6.1 There is a drainage easement running beneath the East-West link which constrains the siting and location of tree planting and any structures requiring foundations. Tree planting has been positioned outside of this zone.

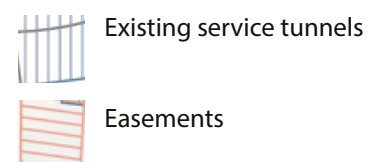


Fig.6.3.1 Tunnels plan

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.4 | HIGHWAYS

6.4.1 OVERVIEW

6.4.1.1 The site is bounded by adopted highways along Queensgate, Queen Street, King Street, Victoria Lane, Peel Street and Alfred Street.

6.4.1.2 At the southern end of the site, the former multistorey car park underpass has been closed as part of the MSCP demolition works. The underpass is owned by Kirklees Highways but currently there are no plans to reinstate this.

6.4.1.3 The following 2 no highway schemes are in development and in proximity of the site;

- Queensgate Corridor works to resurface the highway and provide upgrades to existing crossings. The scheme is currently programmed for start on site in summer 2022 with an estimated 48 week construction
- Cross Church St Queen St works to resurface and partially pedestrianise highways. Proposals are at an early stage and on hold with a view of integrating works with the Cultural Heart masterplan and active travel, cycle and pedestrian routes.

6.4.2 CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

6.4.2.1 There is an opportunity for the Cultural Heart scheme to promote active travel and connect to existing/proposed routes such as the segregated cycleway on Queensgate.

6.4.2.2 The highway authority is keen to promote sustainable design such as reuse of materials(and the adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems SuDS).

6.4.2.3 Opportunity to integrate proposals with adjacent highway schemes.



Fig.6.4.1 Adopted highway plan

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.5 | MICROCLIMATE

6.5.1 SUN PATH

6.5.1.1 The diagrams opposite considers the effects of the masterplan proposals on which parts of the site will be in sun and shade during summer and autumn.

6.5.1.2 The external spaces are generous in scale, meaning that overshadowing from buildings does not impact whole spaces. The area between the existing library and King Street will receive a good amount of sunlight through spring and summer, with the space immediately adjacent to the building's northern elevation the only area in shade. During the winter months the south and west parts of this area will be in shade in the afternoon.

6.5.1.3 The area between the existing library and plot which is to be developed as an art gallery is contained by buildings to the east and west, and thus receives less sunlight than other areas. During the spring and summer, parts of this space will be in shade in the afternoon from the existing library. This is also the case during the winter months.

6.5.1.4 The site which is currently occupied by the Piazza shops, in front of Queensgate Market Hall, once demolished will make way for a public square. This area will always be in partial shade in the areas immediately adjacent to the buildings which frame the space, with sunlight reaching the inner portions throughout the year.

6.5.2 WIND

6.5.2.1 Climate comfort and buffering the effects of wind on the outdoor spaces has been considered throughout the development of the designs.

6.5.2.2 The layout and orientation of new buildings will assist with buffering the south-easterly prevailing wind, particularly the proposed square and space between the existing library and proposed art gallery which are well contained.

6.5.2.3 The area to the north of the site between the existing library and King Street will be most vulnerable to strong winds. This will be mitigated through significant new tree planting, including evergreen species, which will buffer wind speeds.

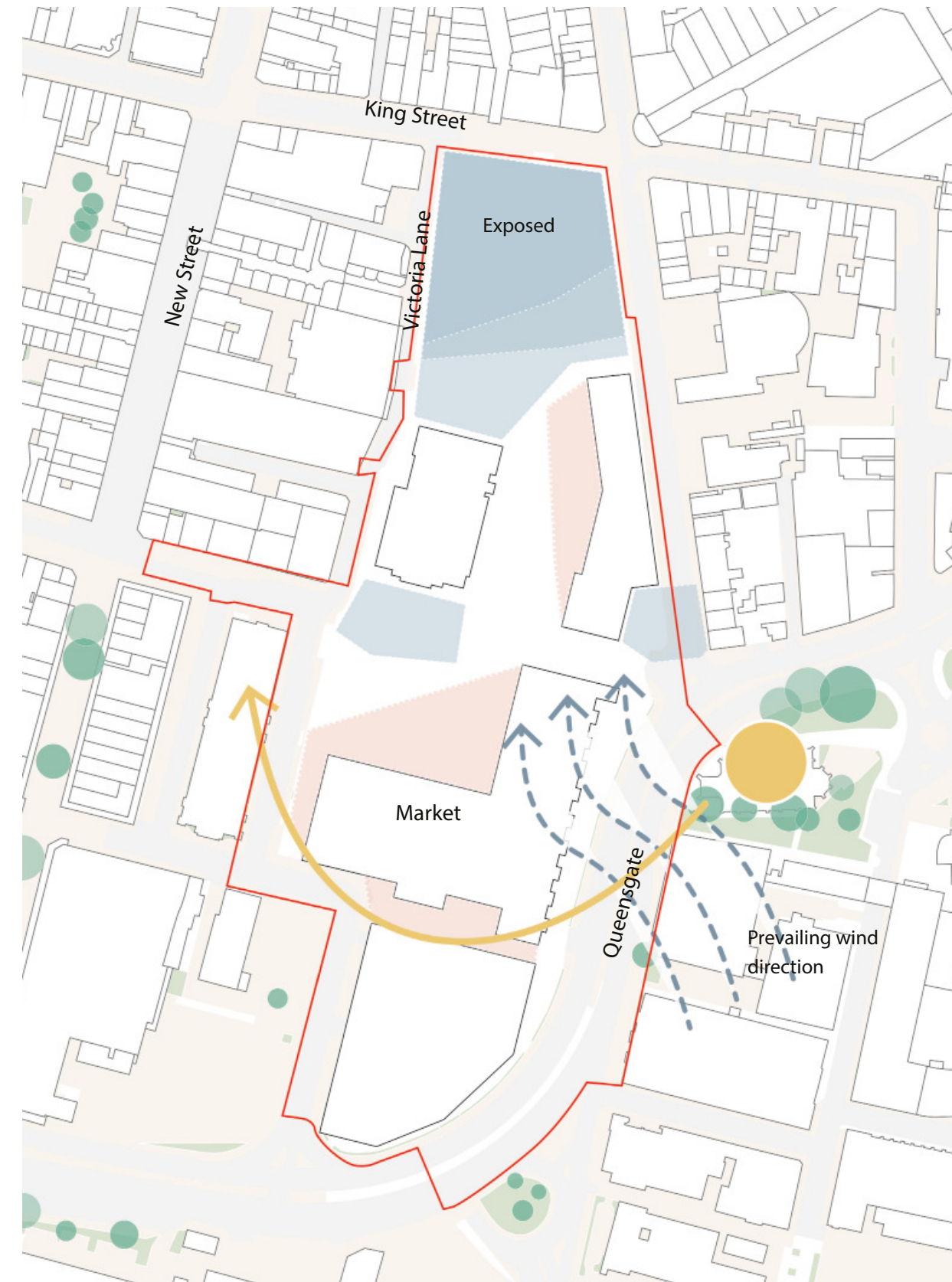


Fig.6.5.1 Prevailing wind and sun path

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.6 | CONNECTIONS

6.6.3 TOWN CENTRE ROUTES

- 6.6.3.1 The Cultural Heart site is located on the edge of the town centre, well located to improve town centre pedestrian connectivity with existing and proposed primary destinations.
- 6.6.3.2 The primary pedestrian route which links the bus station with the University traverses the site. There is an opportunity to improve the accessibility of this route given the considerable level change encountered here, as well as improve the experience of walking across the town.
- 6.6.3.3 The train station is located a short (5minute) walk from the site. The route from the train station to the site, the Town Hall, Lawrence Batley Theatre and University utilises the streets surrounding the site but there is an opportunity to better link these destinations by promoting new, accessible and attractive walking routes through the site.
- 6.6.3.4 There is an opportunity to open up a new pedestrian route between the proposed food hall and venue and MSCP site which would link Alfred Street with the University campus on the opposite side of Queensgate.
- 6.6.3.5 Queensgate severs the site and town centre from the University and improved pedestrian crossing facilities will be required

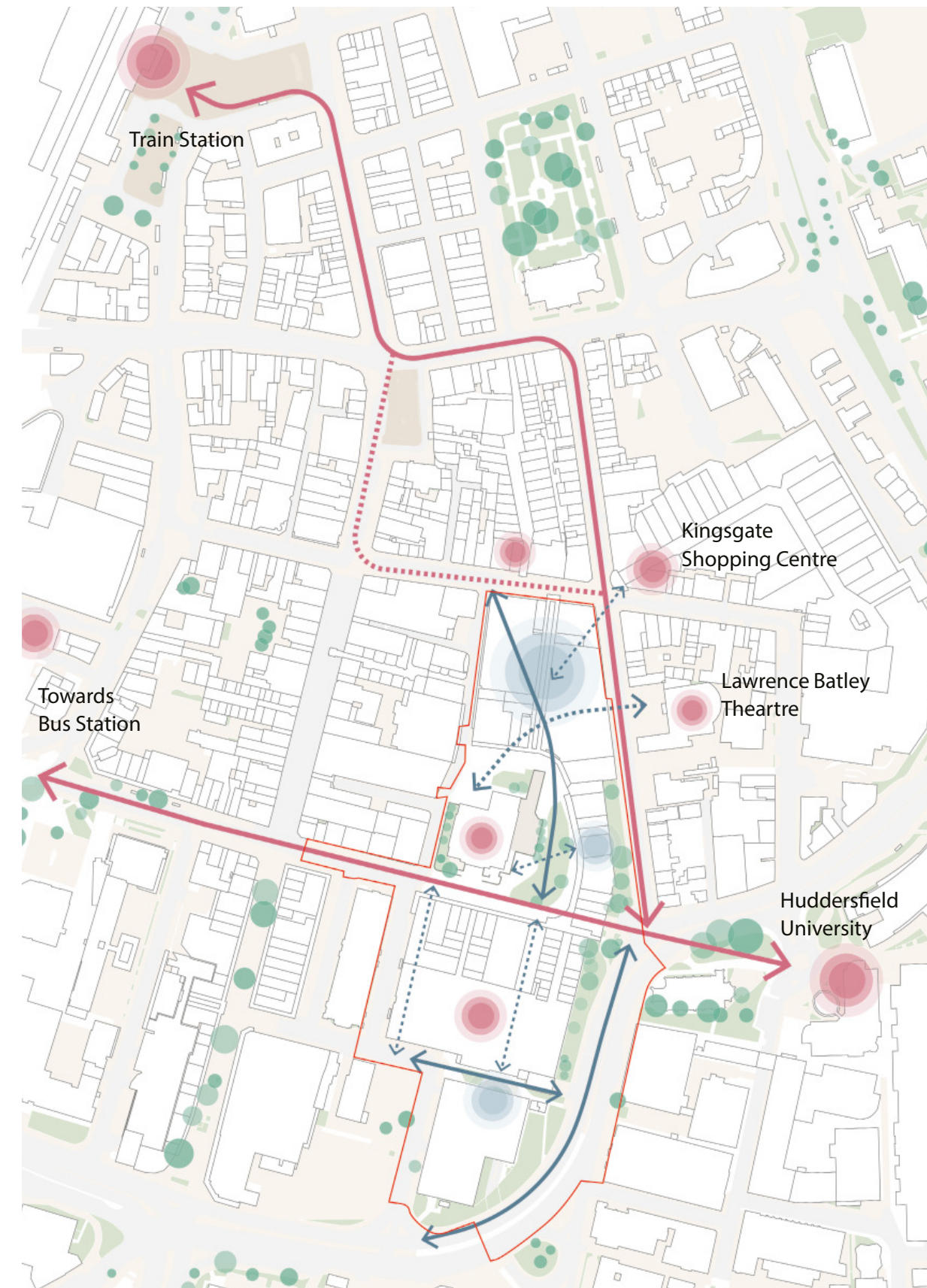
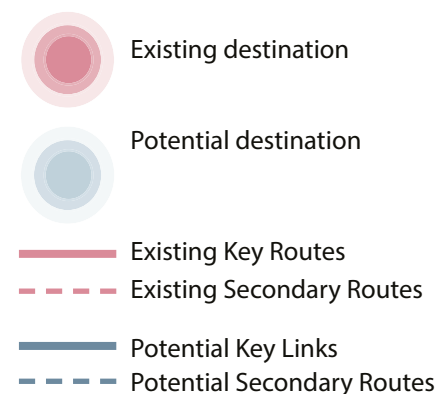


Fig.6.6.1

6 | KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

6.5 | EXISTING CONDITION



Fig.6.5.6 Existing Cherry trees in the Piazza. Predominantly low quality specimens



Fig.6.5.7 Existing Cherry trees in the Piazza of low quality and block views to the library



Fig.6.5.8 Existing Cherry trees in library sunken provide some seasonal interest and greening at



Fig.6.5.9 Existing Birch and Plane trees along Queensgate approaching life expectancy and block views of ceramic friezes on the market hall



Fig.6.5.10 Pedestrian steps and tunnel entrance from Queensgate is unwelcoming and lack of accessible route



Fig.6.5.11 Basement tunnel access from Queen Street dominates the streetscape

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

7

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 | APPROACH

7.1.1 COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY FOCUSSED DESIGN

7.1.1.1 re-form Landscape Architects, Counter Context P.R. and Communications, and the wider design team have worked together with Kirklees Council and the diverse community in Huddersfield to consider how the outdoor spaces of the Cultural Heart can bring about positive change to the town centre.

7.1.1.2 Engaging local people in the design process has played an important role in not only shaping the place, but safeguarding its long term success in creating somewhere which belongs to its users and has meaning. Co-design was one of the mechanisms used to deliver this level of engagement.

7.1.1.3 Huddersfield and the wider Kirklees area has a diverse, multi-cultural, multi- generational and multi-faith demographic. Engaging with the diverse range of potential users has taken many different forms to ensure that the co-design process is accessible and representative. These are outlined below and described in more detail on the following pages.

- First round of public exhibition in the Piazza shopping centre May 2022
- Co-design workshop with access groups, youth groups and council service representatives July 2022
- Second round of public exhibition in the Piazza shopping centre August-September 2022
- 'Design a Park' activity sheet circulated round local schools via HeadsUp e-bulletin.
- 'Build a miniature playground' drop in art sessions for children and families, in collaboration with The Childrens Art School at Maker World, The Piazza
- Town Park focussed consultation exhibition stand in the outdoor area at the Piazza September 2022.
- Consultation meeting with local charity Outlookers; a blind and partially sighted group
- Consultation meeting with a group of individuals representing a local group of carers with complex health needs

7.1.1.4 The feedback from the two rounds of public exhibition is outlined in the separate Statement of Community Involvement which accompanies the application.

7.1.1.5 The following pages describe the objectives and outcomes of the co-design workshops and targeted consultations.

the children's
ART SCHOOL



Fig.7.1.1 Local children at a park consultation event

7 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.2 | CO-DESIGN

7.2.21 ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

7.2.21.1 A co-design workshop was held on 8th July 2022 which was attended by 9 different organisations representing a diverse range of people with varying needs and disabilities across the Kirklees area. These included:

Conscious Youth
Create Space
Everybody Active
Community Plus
Huddersfield Town Foundation
Kirklees Dementia Hub
Carers Count
Young Peoples Activity Team
Kirklees Council

7.2.21.2 The session was led by Hannah Thompson, Associate at re-form Landscape Architecture. The purpose of the session was to explore what works and doesn't work for different users in public space design, what draws people to certain types of spaces over others, and the establish a general consensus amongst the group for a brief for the public spaces to be delivered at the Cultural Heart. Specific activities included the following:

7.2.21.3 Using images of local parks and public spaces, in groups discuss likes and dislikes of each.

7.2.21.4 Using images of different types of uses of public spaces, in groups discuss what types of function you would like to see in the park at the Cultural Heart and what would make you / your membership want to visit.

7.2.21.5 Working in groups of mixed needs and with help from the design team, build a model or plan of the park.

7.2.21.6 The images to the right were taken during the model making part of the session.



Fig.7.2.1 Co-design workshop



Fig.7.2.2 Co-design workshop

7 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.2 | CO-DESIGN

- 7.2.21.7 In addition to the co-design workshop, representatives from the design team met with Outlookers, a local charity for blind and partially sighted people on 26th August 2022. There were 12 members in attendance, plus staff and the format of the session was informal, starting with a verbal description of the proposals. Also available were a number of tactile maps which helped members to understand the masterplan.
- 7.2.21.8 The format of session then broke into smaller groups with a member of the design team discussing the proposals with each group. The group were engaged in the project and keen to express their views on matters including surface treatments and edgings, dealing with level changes and provision of places to sit. More specific feedback is listed below.
- 7.2.21.9 The design team have also met with two representatives of a local carer's group on 26th August 2022. This session took the format of a walkaround the site to discuss how the proposals will impact accessibility in the town. Main issues raised focussed on provision of accessible parking and how this is to be incorporated. Other main topics discussed were design of surfacing and minimising clutter (more detailed feedback is included below).
- 7.2.21.10 A great deal of data and opinion was gleaned from these sessions as would be expected from such a diverse range of users. Key recurring themes are summarised below:
- *Colour contrast in pavement design is key. The recent cycleway improvements by the train station which use granite block paving are considered a bad example as the contrast isn't sufficient to detect edges.*
 - *The Piece Hall in Halifax was referred to on numerous occasions as a poor example of inclusive design. Lack of coherence in where tactile paving is located, and lack of handrails on slopes.*
 - *Minimise clutter and obstacles where possible, bollards are considered a challenge.*
 - *Avoid flexibly laid block paving which is prone to settlement/lifting which can cause a trip hazard.*
 - *Accessible parking should go beyond current standards.*
 - *Steps on the existing site are too steep and not enough landings.*
 - *Skateboarding to be encouraged in a designated areas, dissuaded from elsewhere.*
 - *Walking tours for access groups prior to construction starting to understand changes in how they navigate the area, as well as before general opening are considered essential.*
 - *Point of contact at Kirklees Council requested to keep informed and consulted as the project progresses.*
 - *New public spaces should have an emphasis on accessibility and safety, especially safety for women at night.*
 - *Minimise cambers on surfacing which can be difficult for people with hip problems.*

- *The space needed to have a draw, such as events or updated curation throughout the year to keep people coming back to enjoy the space. Concern was raised over the space becoming a one-use site.*
- *Morals and values should be printed on the walls and floors of the space to make it more welcoming and friendly, especially for a younger audience.*
- *Consideration for all age groups should be considered as public spaces often get used by grandparents and children during the week, incorporate intergenerational play equipment for everyone from the youngest to the oldest generations.*
- *Some attendees mentioned skateboarding and how the park design should encourage alternative usage of the space instead of viewing skating as a negative for the space.*
- *Planting should encourage wildlife specifically bees into the public spaces; different flowers will add to the sensory experience of the space. It was suggested that planting and greenery should surround all the seating areas.*
- *Several respondents suggested additions to the public spaces to cater to different age groups and communities, these included:*
 - Water fountains/ water space;*
 - Quiet benches/ happy benches;*
 - Sensory garden;*
 - Tyres/ multi-use paving;*
 - Skate Park*
- *Water features should be accessible and not include stagnant water.*
- *Cycle parking spaces and the potential for a cycle hire/ disabled cycle hire scheme. However, it was questioned how many people are confident enough to cycle into town on dangerous roads but would be receptive to a cycle hire scheme whilst in the town.*
- *Coloured painted crossings and road features are particularly dangerous for partially sighted residents and those with access issues.*
- *CCTV should surround seating areas and covered spaces to attempt to quell anti-social behaviour in the space.*

7 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.2 | CO-DESIGN

7.2.22 FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- 7.2.22.1 Children, young people and their guardians will be primary users of the new park, and as such targeted engagement was essential to understand what and how they would like to use a new public space in the town centre.
- 7.2.22.2 re-form Landscape Architecture collaborated with local arts charity The Children's Art School who have have a workshop space in the Piazza which offers drop in art workshops for children during school holidays. Two days of workshops were held on the 16th and 18th August 2022 where over 340 children and families were asked to build their dream playground in miniature out of recycled materials. This was an opportunity to both gather opinions and ideas on the play spaces, get local children involved in the designs, as well as inform parents and guardians of the re-development of this part of the town centre.
- 7.2.22.3 A local artist, Hannah Bendon, was then commissioned to produce a single, sculptural play object using the ideas developed by the children. The intention is for this piece to be used to inform the design of the play equipment to be built on site.
- 7.2.22.4 The piece is loosely based on the form of a French Horn, as a reference to the rich musical heritage of the town. It is intended to be both sculptural and playful, with non-prescriptive use meaning children would be able to use it in a variety of different ways, unlike standard play equipment which is single purpose. This makes for a more inclusive, intuitive and multi functional play environment.
- 7.2.22.5 The French Horn was also used during a follow up outdoor public consultation exhibition whereby local children were invited to help paint it, and the intention is that this will go on display within the town centre (to be confirmed).
- 7.2.22.6 The detailed design of the play equipment is still in development and will include references to the work done with local children. Details will be made available to the public at a later date, however an indicative concept idea is included in chapter 15.



Fig.7.2.3 Children painting French Horn sculpture at Park consultation event



Fig.7.2.4 Children attending Children's Art School engagement



Fig.7.2.5 Children attending Children's Art School engagement



Fig.7.2.6 French Horn sculpture

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

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8

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8 | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.1 | INTRODUCTION AND FOUR ROOMS

8.1.1 INTRODUCTION

8.1.1.1 The following pages describe the main objectives of the landscape design in delivering the brief and aspirations for the external spaces at the Cultural Heart.

8.1.1.2 The initial landscape response to the masterplan layout is explored initially which sets out the overall framework, character and use of the spaces proposed. The following pages then describe how the park will be a destination in itself which is green, accessible, vibrant and welcoming to all.

8.1.2 DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1: FOUR ROOMS.

8.1.2.1 Through the disposition of existing and proposed built form associated with the emerging masterplan the external space can be considered in four distinct parts:

The Green

8.1.2.2 The largest area of open space bounded by the new museum and gallery buildings to the south, victoria lane to the west, queen street to the east and king street to the north

Gardens

8.1.2.3 The space between the museum (former library) building and the proposed gallery

The Square

8.1.2.4 Located between the food hall (former market hall) and the museum.

The Terraces

8.1.2.5 A landscape of changing topography which connects the park to Queen Street, Queensgate, and the university campus to the east.

8.1.2.6 In addition to these main zones, included within the site are the Queensgate road frontage and pedestrian route between the venue and food hall (shown in grey on the diagram opposite) and the sunken area (shown in purple) which surrounds the museum.

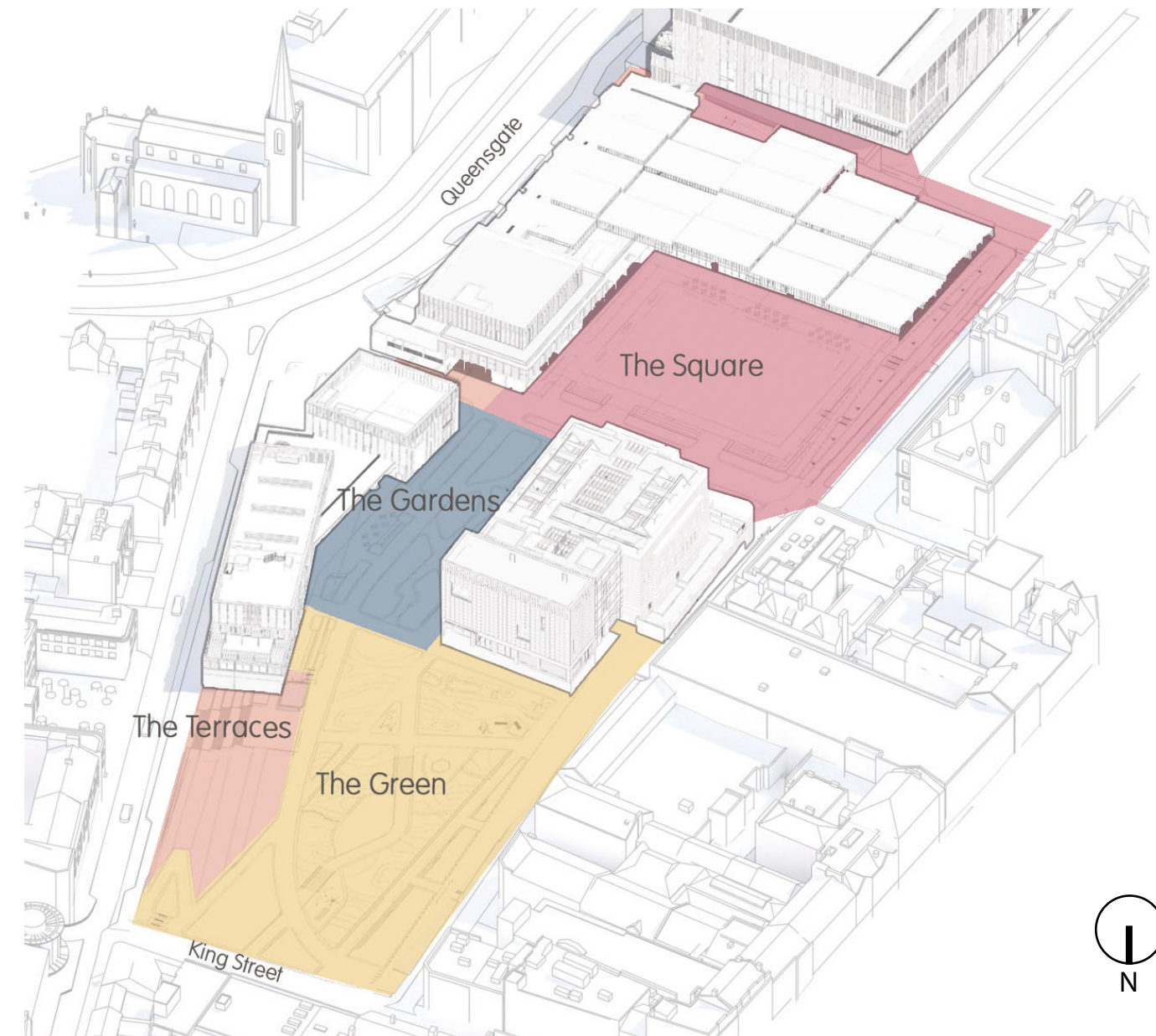


Fig 8.1.1 Four Rooms

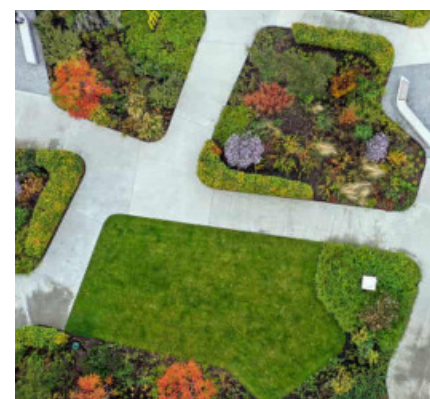


Fig.8.1.2 Museum Gardens Precedent: Hepworth Garden, Wakefield

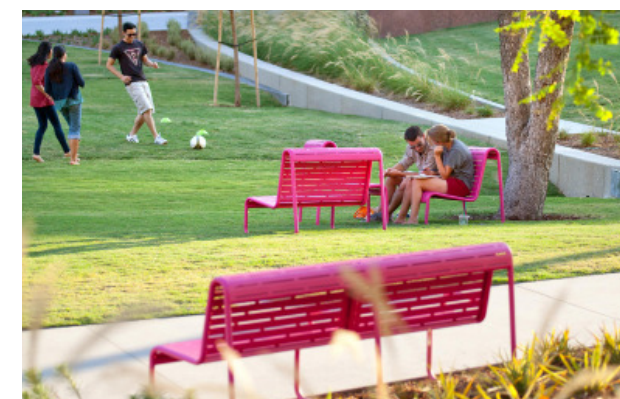


Fig.8.1.3 The Green Precedent: Grand Park, LA

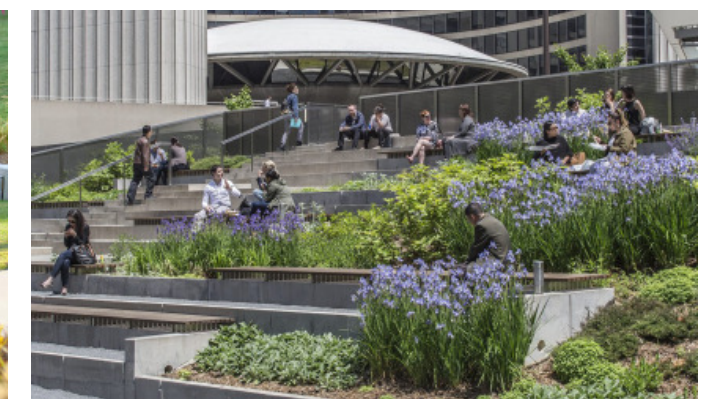


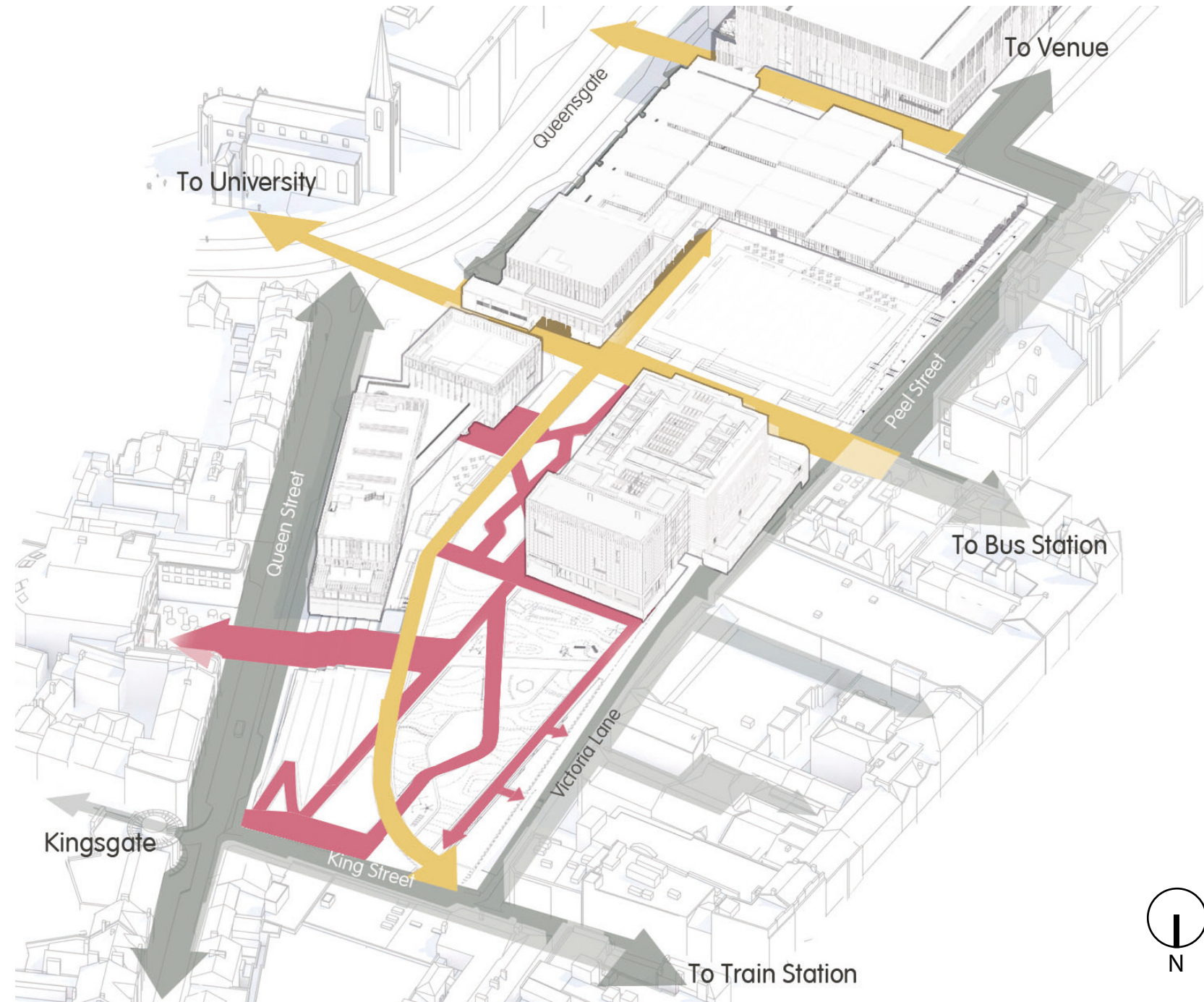
Fig.8.1.4 The Terraces Precedent: Grand Park, LA

8 | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.2 | CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE

8.2.23 DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2: CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE

- 8.2.23.1 The need to provide a clear & legible network of connections across the site, and which pass through the park is well understood. There are a number of key desire lines which should be used to form the primary routes and the gateways these create should be celebrated.
- 8.2.23.2 The removal of the Piazza shopping centre creates an opportunity to provide more direct pedestrian links between the town centre and the University, as well as the cultural heart itself. These new connections will be open, inviting and accessible routes, with clear sight lines to key destinations.
- 8.2.23.3 Secondary routes will link the cultural destinations on the site via a series of attractive and accessible paths, taking users on a journey which enables them to experience the different elements of the park.
- 8.2.23.4 Where pedestrian routes are not stepped, footpaths will be designed with gradients not exceeding 1:21 to provide accessible routes in accordance with Building Regulations Part M and BS:8300 Design of Accessible and Inclusive Environments.
- 8.2.23.5 Due to the severe level change across the site, a publicly accessible lift will be provided off Queensgate adjacent to the Library to facilitate wheelchair and pushchair access to the site from the east 24hours a day.
- 8.2.23.6 The park will be entirely pedestrianised, with vehicles permitted for loading and emergency access during events only. It is envisaged that cyclists will be encouraged to use the existing street network, and visitor cycle parking for the Cultural Heart will be provided to the edges of the park. Staff cycle parking is likely to be within the buildings.



Key

- Primary routes
- Secondary routes
- Existing connections

Fig.8.2.1 Connected and accessible

8 | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.3 | CULTURAL DESTINATION

- 8.3.7 DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3: THE PARK AS A CULTURAL DESTINATION
- 8.3.7.1 The park will be a cultural asset in itself, a place which changes in cultural offer seasonally, attracting visitors back again and again. It will provide a canvas for a variety of cultural activities, complimenting the building uses and creating vibrant, engaging outdoor spaces.
- 8.3.7.2 Kirklees is a place which has a rich and varied catalogue of public artworks, many of which are not currently accessible to the public. Therefore, there will be no newly commissioned pieces of fixed public art for the Cultural Heart, rather opportunities created for relocation and celebration of existing pieces.
- 8.3.7.3 The Square will cater for large scale outdoor events, with infrastructure for music, lighting, concessions, first aid, emergency services etc. When events aren't being hosted, the square will be animated with playful water jets.
- 8.3.7.4 The building uses will spill out into the landscape, with areas for outdoor dining associated with the food hall and museum/gallery eateries provided.
- 8.3.7.5 The Gardens will contain areas which may be used for exhibiting pieces of sculpture or items from the museum catalogue on a temporary basis, or for public art which may be commissioned. It is intended this would be a secondary function of the space, so as not to detract from the space's primary function as a garden.
- 8.3.7.6 Covered seating pavilions are proposed in the Green area of the site. These will provide shelter and seating for visitors with good surveillance over the play spaces.

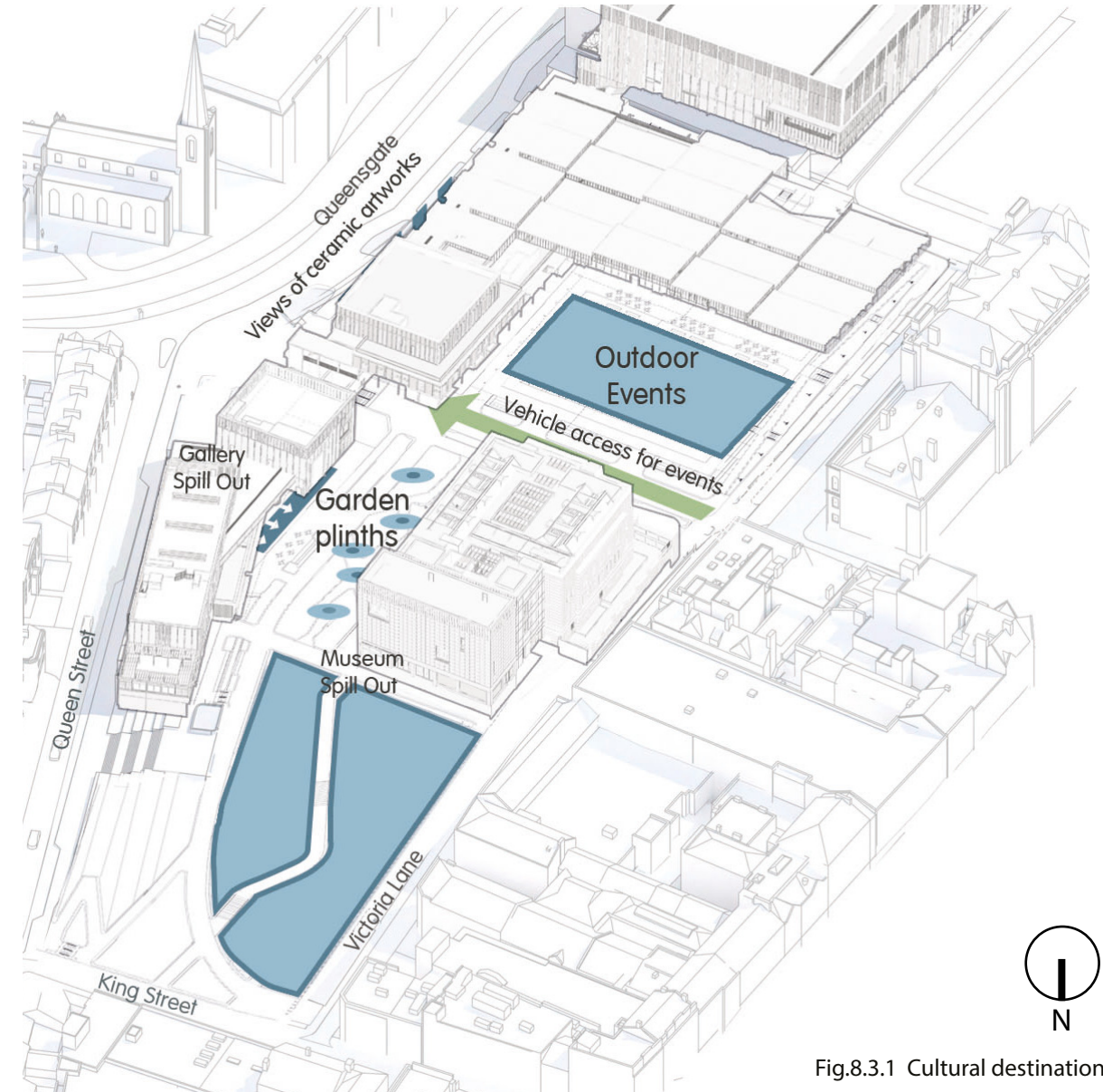


Fig.8.3.1 Cultural destination



Fig.8.3.2 Fritz Steller artworks



Fig.8.3.3 Places for impromptu performance



Fig.8.3.4 Sculpture in the garden



Fig.8.3.5 Travelling exhibits

8 | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.4 | A PLACE FOR ALL

- 8.4.3 DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4: A PLACE FOR ALL
- 8.4.3.1 Play will permeate the park, creating activity and life throughout the site. It will take different forms, from more formal equipped play to the north of the site, to interactive and multi functional play opportunities created by the water feature to the south of the site in the events space.
- 8.4.3.2 Play will be designed to cater for all age groups, from 0 – 88years of age, fostering a multigenerational and widely inclusive approach to play. Although play will be non-age specific, consideration has been given to how different age groups behave and are likely to interact with the Cultural Heart and it's surroundings, in order to position play features appropriately. For example, places where younger children can play which have a strong visual connection to where parents and carers will want to spend time, and informal social spaces for teenagers and young adults.
- 8.4.3.3 Water generates a multitude of play opportunities for all ages. It's inclusion within the events space will help to give purpose to the space when not being used to host events and adds vibrancy and animation to the space.
- 8.4.3.4 Seating terraces are proposed along the eastern and western boundaries of the site, adjacent to Queen Street and Ramsden Street. These assist with managing the severe level changes on the site, as well as providing informal, social seating.

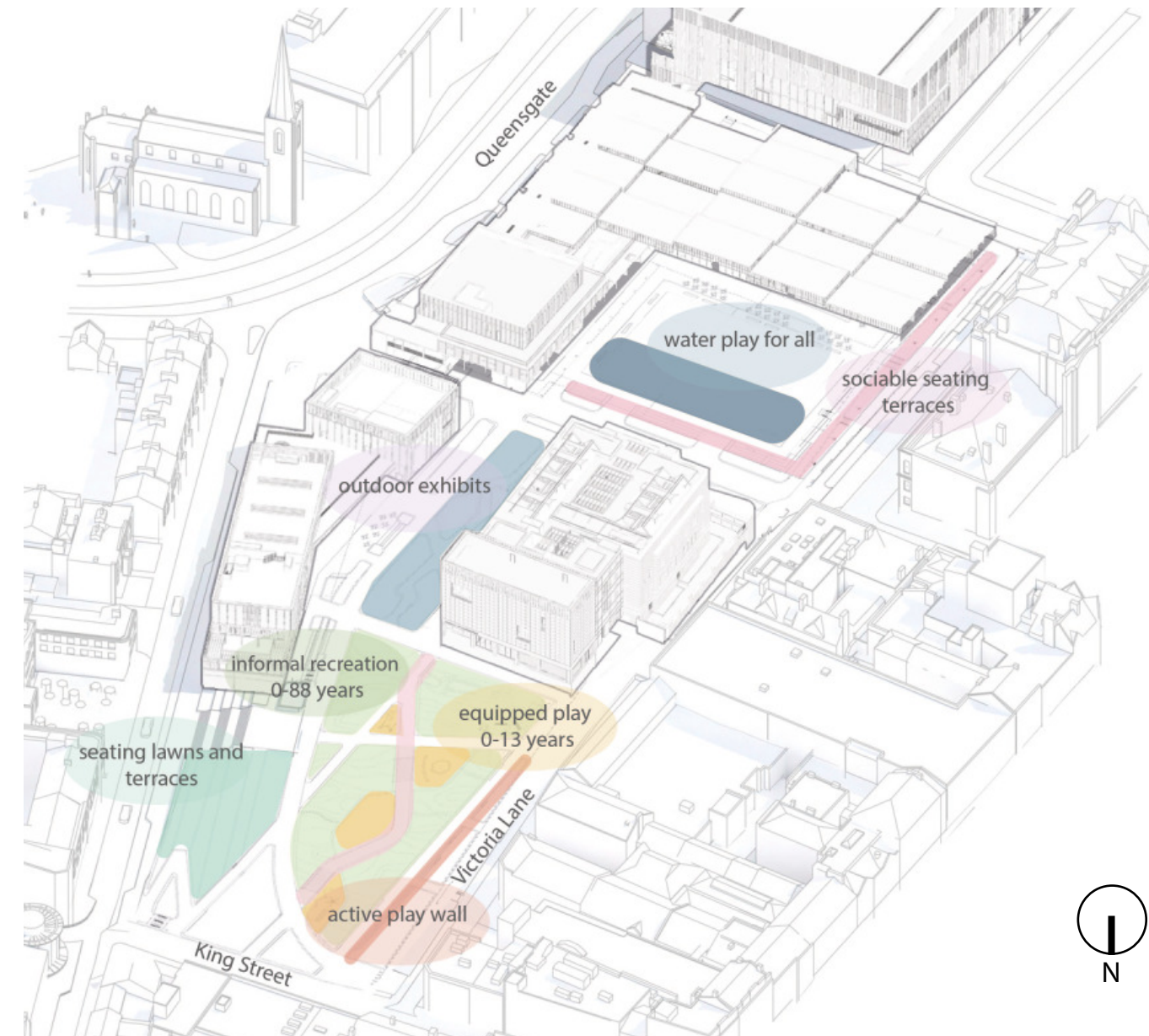


Fig.8.4.1 Places for all



Fig.8.4.2 Inclusive play



Fig.8.4.3 Multigenerational play



Fig.8.4.4 Water play

8 | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.5 | GREEN AND BIODIVERSE

8.5.4 DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5: GREEN AND BIODIVERSE

8.5.4.1 The park will be a green and verdant place, containing a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses. Planting will be designed to be easily maintainable, with an emphasis on selecting species capable of withstanding extended dry periods to reducing potable irrigation requirements. This is especially important as the construction of many of the planting beds will be above concrete roof slabs and therefore the absence of made ground can intensify irrigation requirements.

8.5.4.2 A significant quantity of new trees will be planted, contributing to the sustainability performance of the site as well as visual amenity. Proposed trees are located to frame, not obstruct views across the site, and are away from the tunnels so as not to impact on the structure or loading requirements. Trees will be planted as semi mature stock into constructed tree pits – the majority of which will be in soft landscape areas – to further reduce irrigation requirements. The development of the site will require removal of a number of existing trees (see page overleaf for further information).

8.5.4.3 A biodiverse solution to sustainable drainage is proposed in the form of rain gardens. These are planted areas consisting of a free draining substrate above a gravel soak away which will take run off from surrounding areas of hard landscape.

8.5.4.4 There will be an area within the garden containing plants used historically in the natural dyeing process, making a connection with the heritage of the town and providing a resource for educational and creative workshops. Sensory plants will be also be used to stimulate and engage visitors.

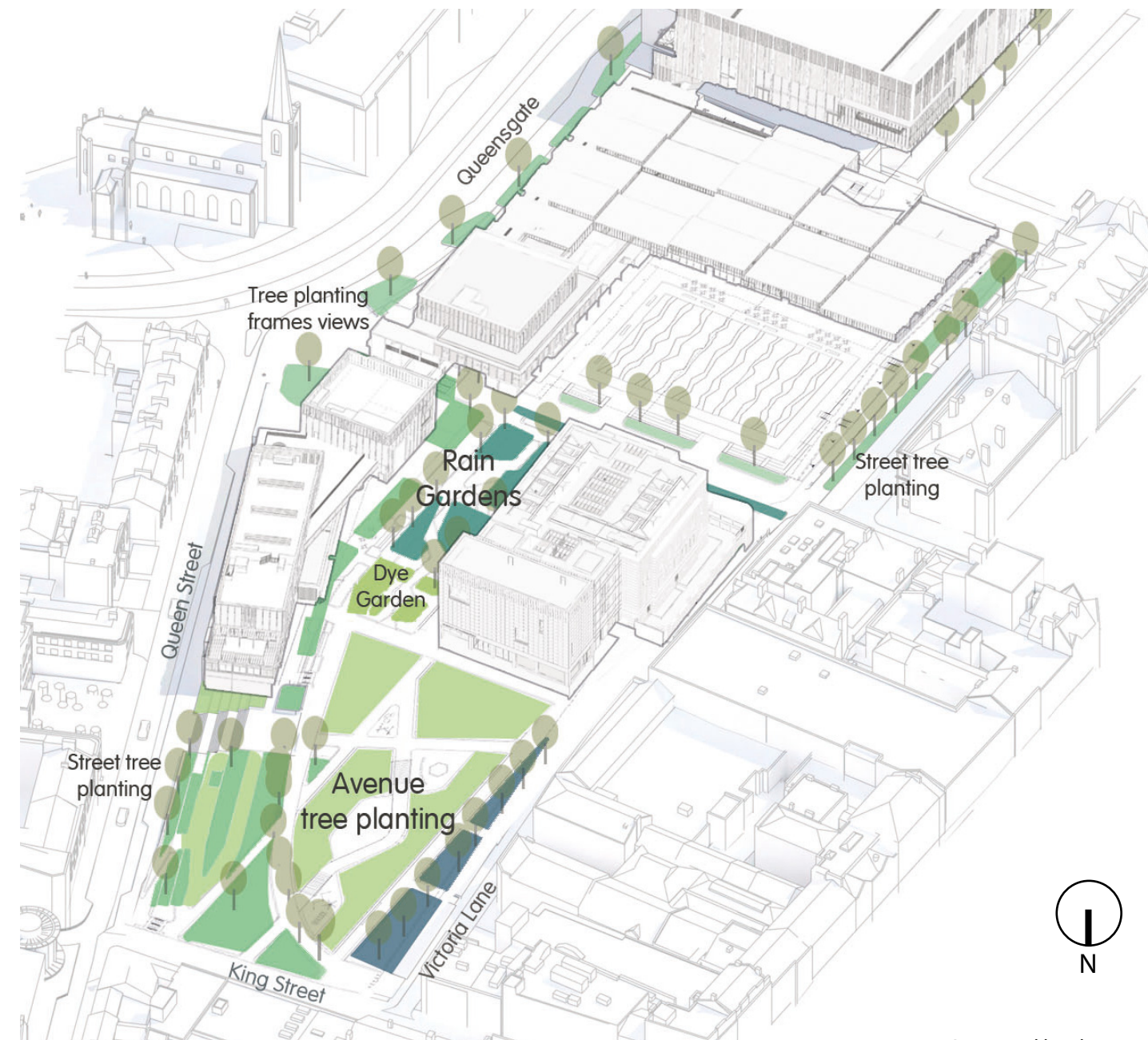


Fig.8.5.1 Green and biodiverse



Fig.8.5.2 Horticultural innovation



Fig.8.5.3 Informal plantings



Fig.8.5.4 Rain gardens



Fig.8.5.5 Inspired by plants used in natural dyeing

8 | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.6 | SENSE OF BELONGING

8.6.5 DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6: A SENSE OF BELONGING

8.6.5.1 An understanding of Huddersfield as a place; it's history, influences, landscape and culture has been an important consideration in the design development of the park. Sense of place and heritage will permeate the look, feel and function of the park. The layout, fabric and planting will be carefully considered in order to take advantage of townscape and views, and which makes subtle reference to the local vernacular architecture and industry upon which the town was founded, whilst at the same time providing a new, forward-looking sense of place, which is both contemporary and timeless in character.

8.6.5.2 The following pages explore how the physical form and texture of the landscape of Huddersfield is echoed in the design ideas for the park.

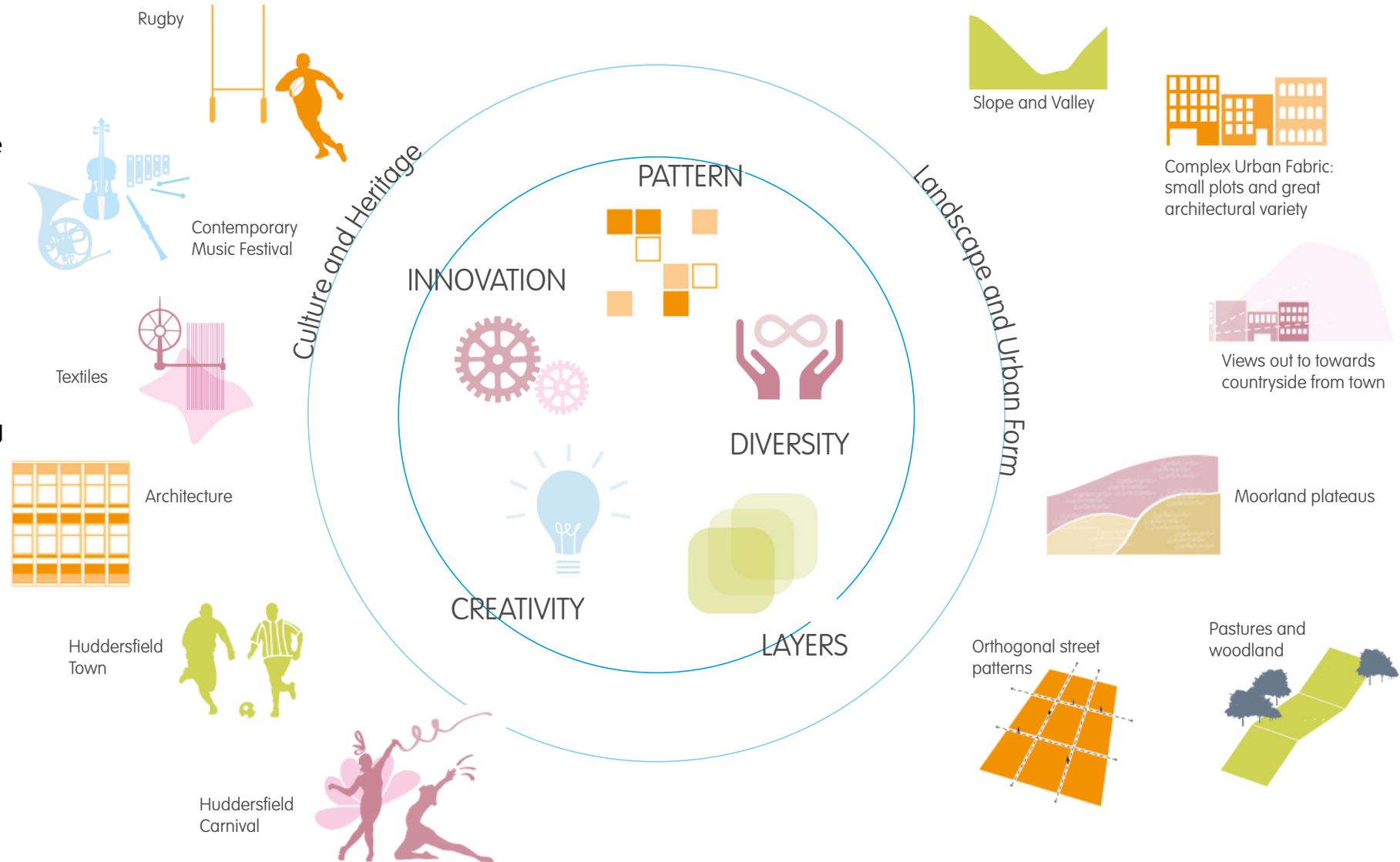


Fig.8.6.1 Sense of belonging



Fig.8.6.2 Pennine moorland



Fig.8.6.3 Huddersfield carnival



Fig.8.6.4 Locally woven cloth



Fig.8.6.5 Celebrated architecture



Fig.8.6.6 Industrial heritage

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

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MASTERPLAN

9 | MASTERPLAN

9.1 | SYNOPSIS

9.1.1 SYNOPSIS

9.1.1.1 This chapter illustrates the site wide landscape proposals, before breaking them down into the following 'rooms' as described below.

9.1.1.2 The Green- a predominately green space located to the northern part of the site. Facilitating connecting routes as well as activities that draw people in and animate the space. The Green is dominated by a dynamic undulating play space, the concept for which is based upon a billowing cloth. Designed for all ages the playscape offers spaces to play, explore & discover, to socially interact and to just watch the world go by.

9.1.1.3 The Gardens - occupying central space between the former library (proposed museum) and gallery buildings, is a series of more intimate spaces - full of planting and complimentary to the surrounding building uses, facilitating spill out activity and access. These incidental spaces also provide opportunities to display items within the Kirklees Gallery & Museum collections, as well as playing host to travelling exhibitions.

9.1.1.4 The Square - a bespoke hard paved space capable of hosting events for over 3000 people standing. Located between the former market hall and the former library (proposed museum) and symbiotic with the adjacent food hall and events space uses. During times when events are not being hosted the space will be animated through water and light, and trees will frame the space, helping to soften the otherwise hard expanse and provide places for shade and nature.

9.1.1.5 The Terraces - a landscape that addresses the level changes between the park plateaux and Queen Street & Queensgate to the east. Where elegant stepped and meandering routes designed for accessibility allow good connectivity with destinations such as the University and the Lawrence Batley Theatre. Seating opportunities adjacent to steps and paths a welcoming place for rest, as well as locations to sit and people watch or to watch the world go by.

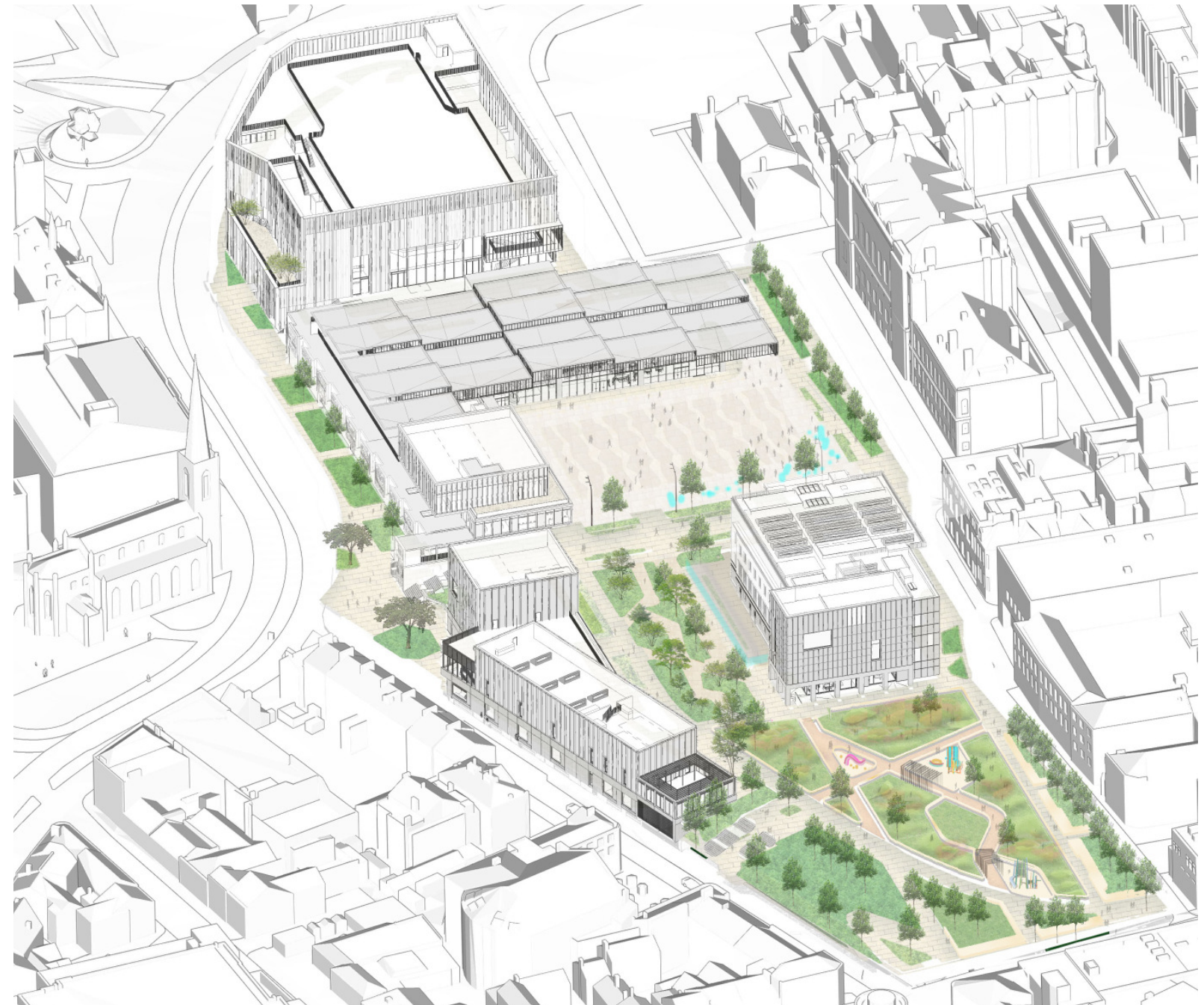


Fig.9.1.1 Masterplan aerial view

9 | MASTERPLAN

9.2 | GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

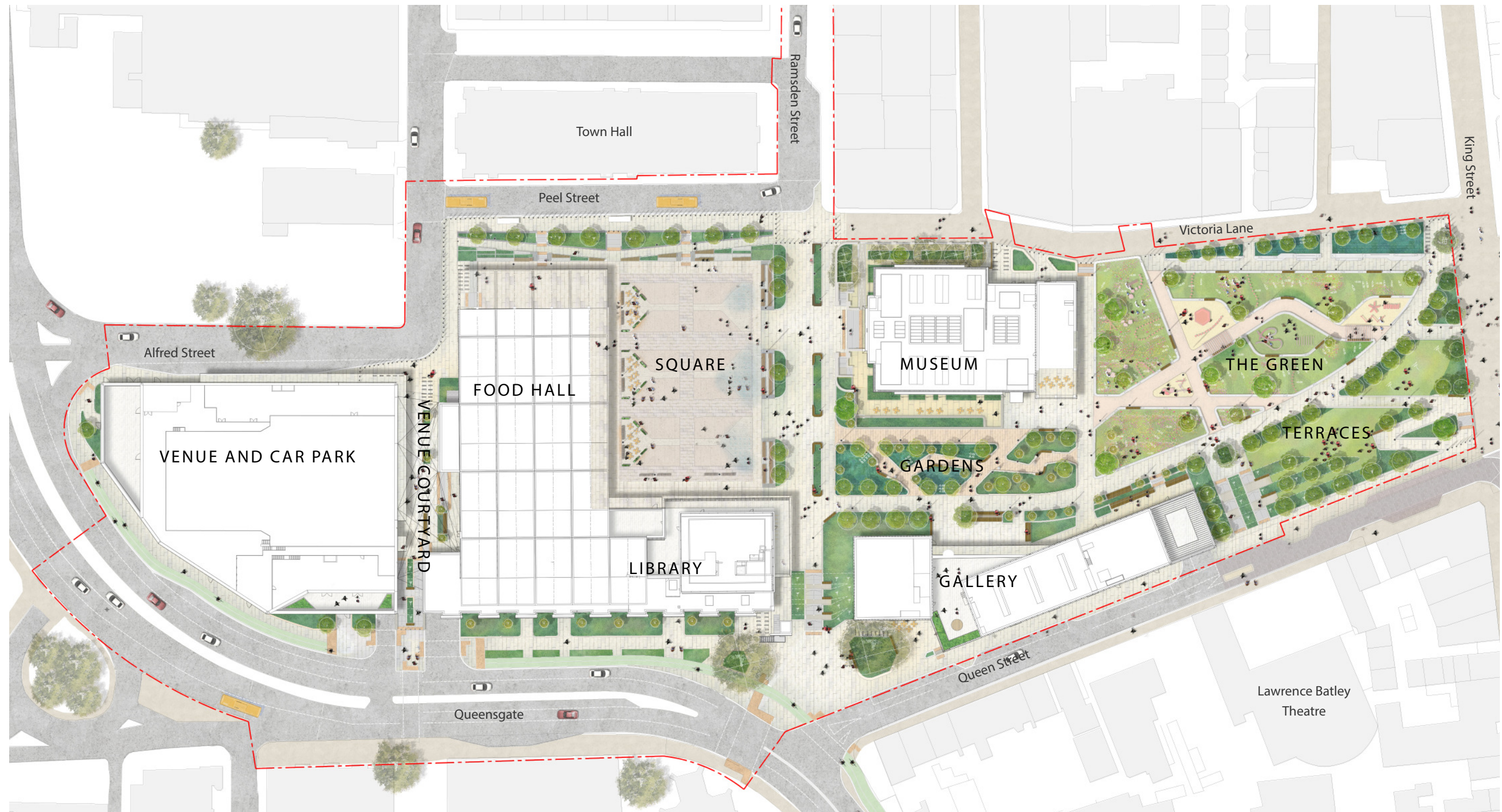


Fig.9.2.1 Illustrative landscape masterplan

9 | MASTERPLAN

9.3 | SITE SECTIONS: THE SQUARE



Fig.9.3.1 Section D-DD



Fig.9.3.2 Section E-EE

Fig.9.3.3 Location plan

NOTE: Tree heights shown at planting +3years

9 | MASTERPLAN

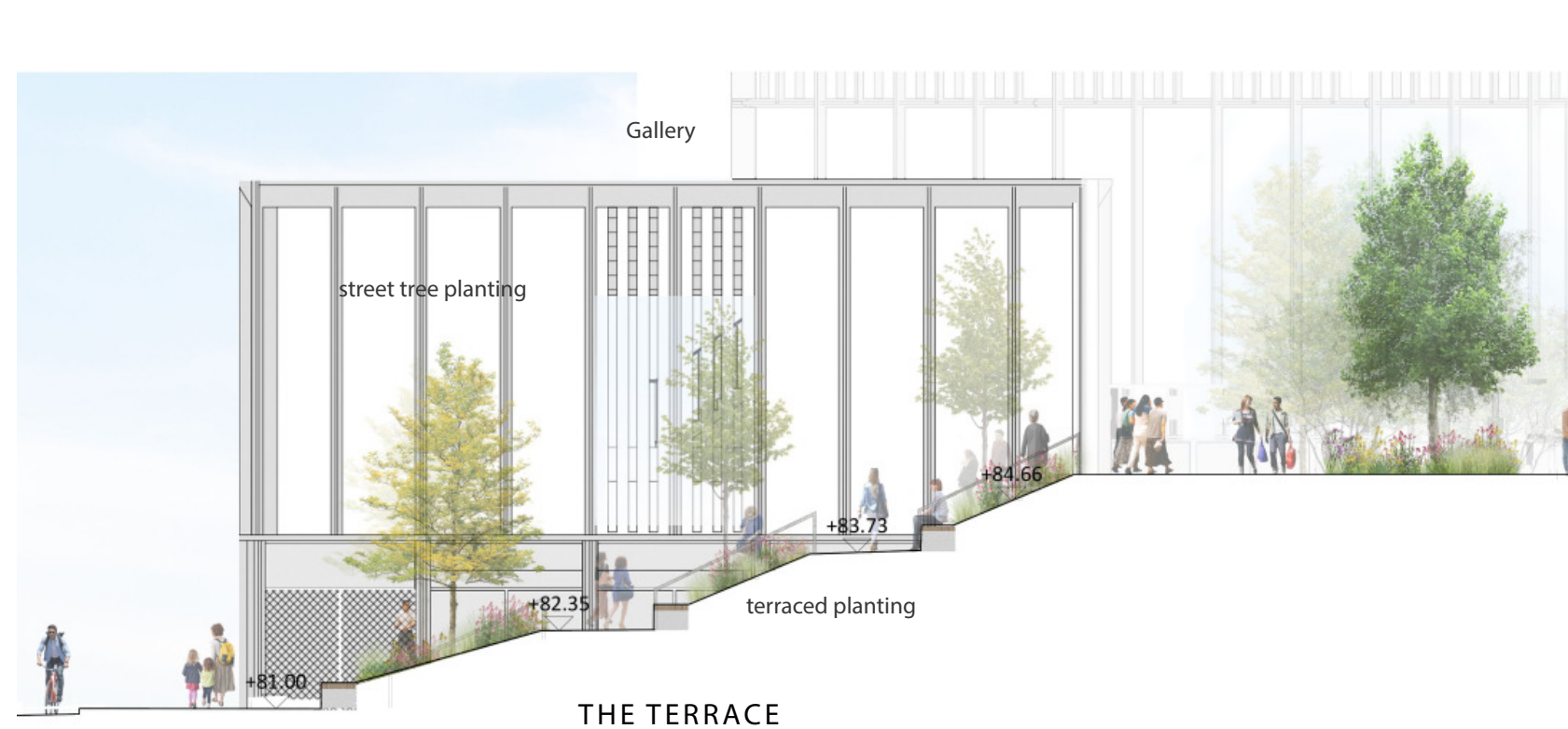
9.3 | SITE SECTIONS



NOTE: Tree heights shown at planting +3years

9 | MASTERPLAN

9.3 | SITE SECTIONS



Queen Street
Fig.9.3.7 Section C-CC



Fig.9.3.9 Location plan

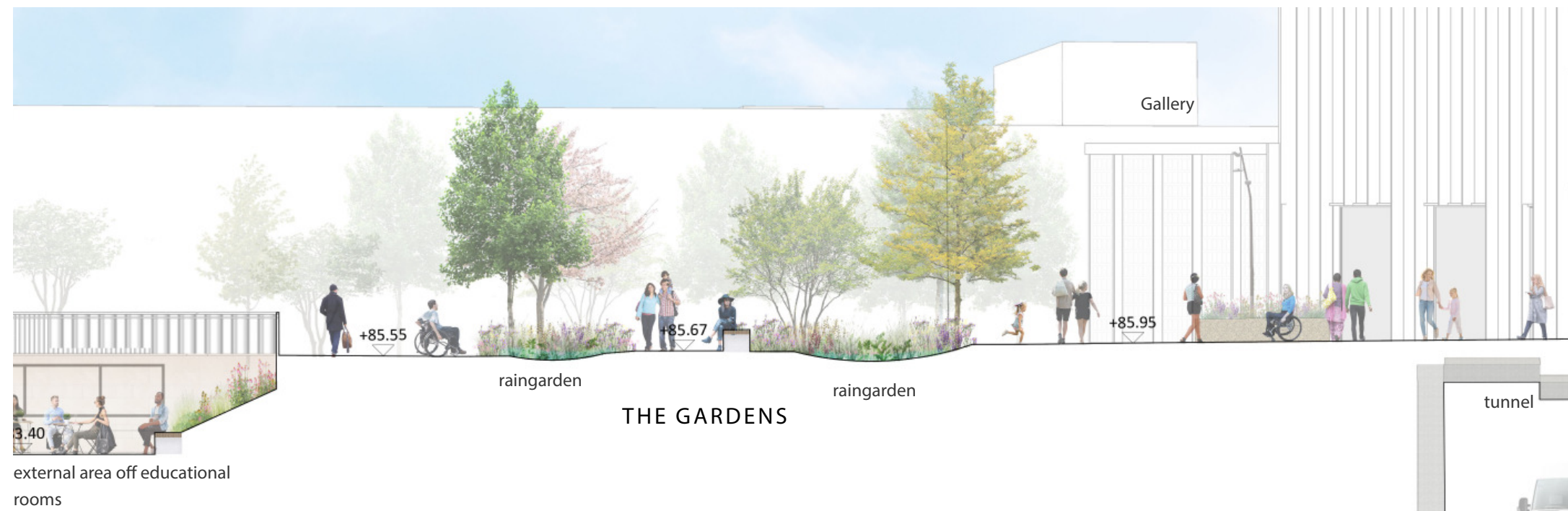


Fig.9.3.8 Section B-BB

NOTE: Tree heights shown at
planting +3years

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

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10

LIFE AND ANIMATION

10 | LIFE AND ANIMATION

10.1 | DAY TO NIGHT

10.1.1 OVERVIEW

10.1.1.1 The following pages are 'a day in the life' studies of the site, looking at who and how the site will be used during various times of the day and when events are being held. These help to further understand the brief in terms of the everyday function of the external spaces on the site, how they will be used and by whom, as well as how they will be managed.

10.1.1.2 The studies examine a typical weekday – morning through to evening, and a typical weekend when slightly different users and uses might occur. These different users and functions will be used to inform the emerging design of the park and public realm.

10.1.2 DAYTIME

10.1.2.1 Commuters and students using the site to access the University and places of work.

10.1.2.2 Opportunity to enhance the experience of walking through the town centre and individual wellbeing through access to nature and green space.

10.1.2.3 Weekday afternoons the site will become busier with people coming to use the site's daytime cultural destinations - the gallery, museum and library.

10.1.2.4 Tour groups, school trips will feature to enjoy the space, access the cultural destinations and learn about the planting.

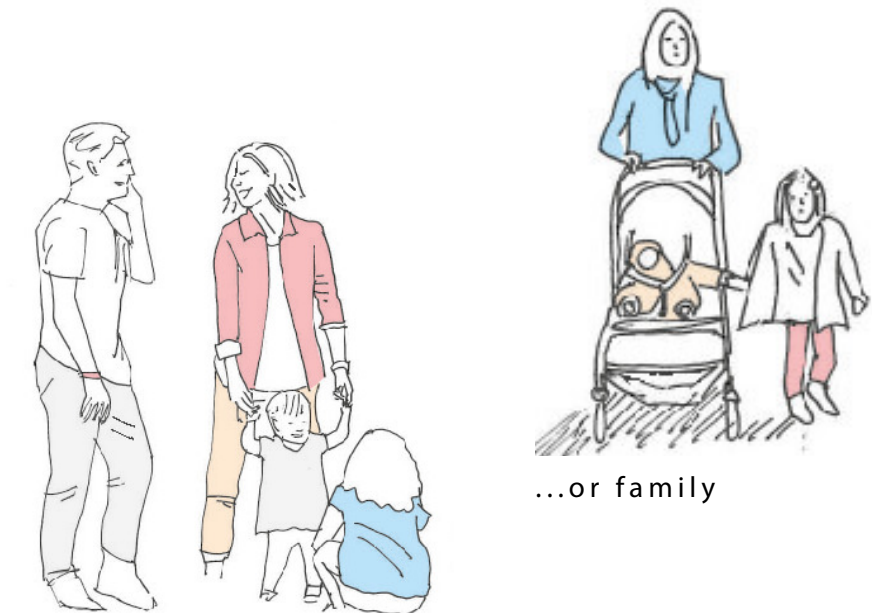
10.1.2.5 Shoppers and workers meeting for lunch, looking for somewhere to rest.

10.1.2.6 Families with young children - opportunities for play to encourage dwell time.

10.1.2.7 People looking for somewhere to pause and relax, away from busy shopping environment.



school museum trips...



...or family

parents hanging out...



shopping with friends...



walking to work....



...stopping off for coffee



....meeting up for lunch



...visiting the gallery

or to uni....

10 | LIFE AND ANIMATION

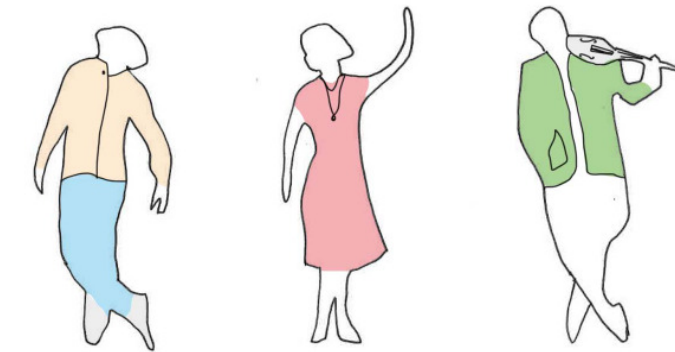
10.1 | DAY TO NIGHT

10.1.3 EVENING

10.1.3.1 The site will be busy into the evening hours, with people coming to the new venue and food hall, as well as bars and restaurants in the vicinity. Evening events happening in the museum, gallery and library will also increase footfall to the site later in the day.

10.1.3.2 There will be large numbers of people walking through the site before and after performances at the venue. It will be important to maintain safe, unobstructed and well lit routes through the site.

10.1.3.3 There will be areas where the food hall will spill out into the square which will continue into the evening.



...performance at the venue



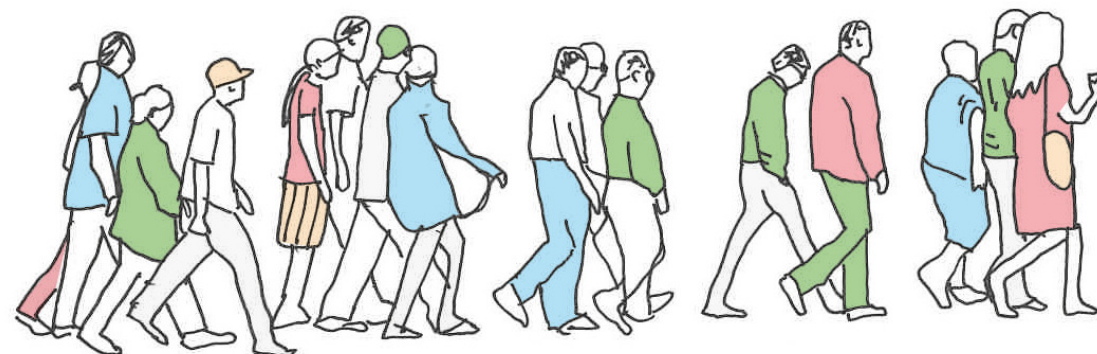
meeting for drinks...



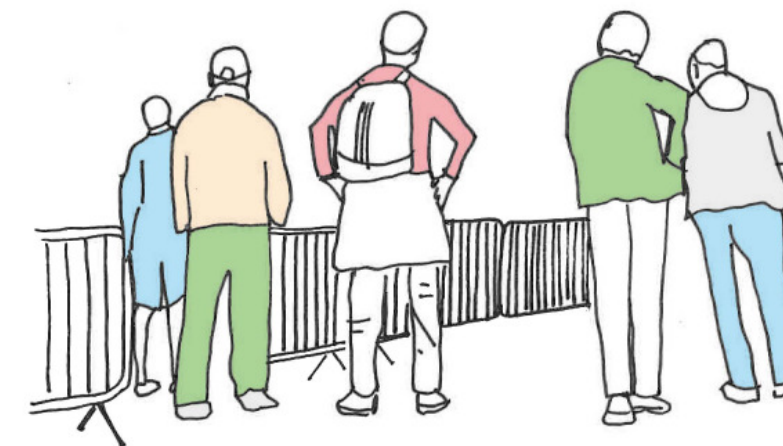
...cinema



open air gallery....



people walking to the venue...



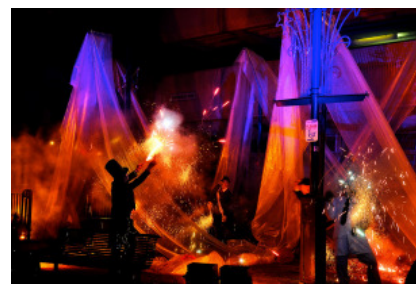
crowd management...

10 | LIFE AND ANIMATION

10.2 | SEASONALITY AND EVENTS

10.2.24 SEASONAL EVENTS

- 10.2.24.1 The Cultural Heart will provide places for the community to come together, a place where different cultures can be celebrated.
- 10.2.24.2 There are currently a number of religious and community based festivals and events which take place in and around Huddersfield. There are opportunities for these to come into the town centre for larger scale festivities where they will capture a wider audience.
- 10.2.24.3 The town centre hosts a range of seasonal and periodic events in spaces/ places such as New Street, St George's Square and Greenhead park, however the ambition is to have a space where these can be accommodated without constraints.



Easter

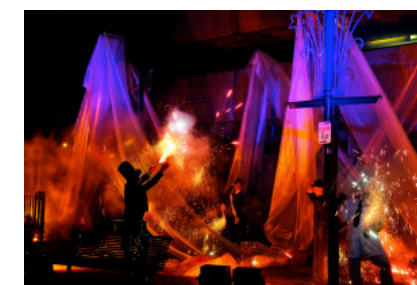
Eid



Sangam Festival



Food and drink festival



Festival of Light



Winter Festival



Christmas

Spring

Summer

Autumn

Winter

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11

FOUR ROOMS

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.1 | THE GREEN



Fig.11.1.1 Illustrative plan: The Green

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 Proposed street tree planting | 6 Spine route | 11 Play equipment |
| 2 Proposed avenue tree planting | 7 Play path | 12 Natural play |
| 3 Proposed specimen trees | 8 Cycle parking | 13 Covered seating |
| 4 Undulating lawn | 9 Ornamental planting | 14 Museum cafe spill out |
| 5 Seating retaining edges | 10 Rain gardens | 15 Bollards |
| | | 16 Linear skate wall (to be agreed) |
| | | 17 Seating walls along King Street with engraved artworks |

11.1.1 OVERVIEW

11.1.1.1 This Green will connect the Cultural Heart with King Street and the main retail core of the town centre. It will be permeable with numerous pedestrian routes connecting King Street, Victoria Lane and Queen Street with the site.

11.1.1.2 A pedestrian spine route forms the primary circulatory route through the site which will be generous in width (circa. 4m) and have avenue style tree planting to one side, as well as ample opportunities for seating.

11.1.1.3 Secondary routes provide alternative routes to/from the adjacent street network, as well as link cultural destinations within the site.

11.1.1.4 The area is defined by a large area of open grass which contains undulating landform, thus creating a playful topography to compliment the child friendly, playful character of this area.

11.1.1.5 The edges of the undulating grass will be sculpted from stone and follow the topography of the landform. As the edges rise and fall, places to sit or perch on the edge will be provided.

11.1.1.6 Smaller spaces are carved out of the grass for equipped play. This element is represented indicatively on the plans and is subject to further development.

11.1.1.7 The green spaces closest to the museum will be designed as natural play environments for younger children where parents will be able to supervise from nearby cafe spill out areas. Grass will be subject to a reduced mowing regime in these areas, and natural play equipment such as logs and boulders will be used.

11.1.1.8 Covered seating is provided overlooking the play spaces to offer parents and carers, as well as others, a comfortable place to rest and supervise children using the play equipment

11.1.1.9 In respect of interfaces with the existing urban context the master planning process identified the need to provide a positive relationship with the existing surrounding streets – King Street, Queen Street and Victoria Lane. The inclusion of built form along these edges was explored early on during the design development process, however, in the absence of need for additional uses in this part of the site – coupled with the opportunity to maximise the quantum of valuable green space it was felt that the edges of the park should be extended, and green edges created in these locations. The solution is to provide tree planting to provide height - thus continue to visually frame the streets, whilst at ground level providing permeability and good access through the provision of several clear gateways & access points. Amenity planting (low level to allow good intervisibility) and sitting walls will combine to provide further definition to these edges at ground level.

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.1 | THE GREEN

11.1.2 PLAYScape INSPIRED BY BILLOWING CLOTH

11.1.2.1 To the north of the site, The Green will accommodate a 'Billowing Cloth' inspired play space. This area, which leads people from the town centre to the Museum, will contain an undulating lawn which uses topography to create a playful landscape. Within the lawn will be a series of equipped play spaces containing bespoke and manufactured play equipment themed around Huddersfield's textile heritage, and aimed at different age groups.

11.1.2.2 Play for younger children will be located close to the Museum cafe and the spine route where parents and carers can supervise. Equipment for ages 5-13 will be provided in the centre of the area, away from main pedestrian routes and building entrances. Places for carers to sit will also be provided within each of the areas.



Fig.11.1.2 The Green precedent: Drapers Field, London



Fig.11.1.4 The Green precedent: Drapers Field, London

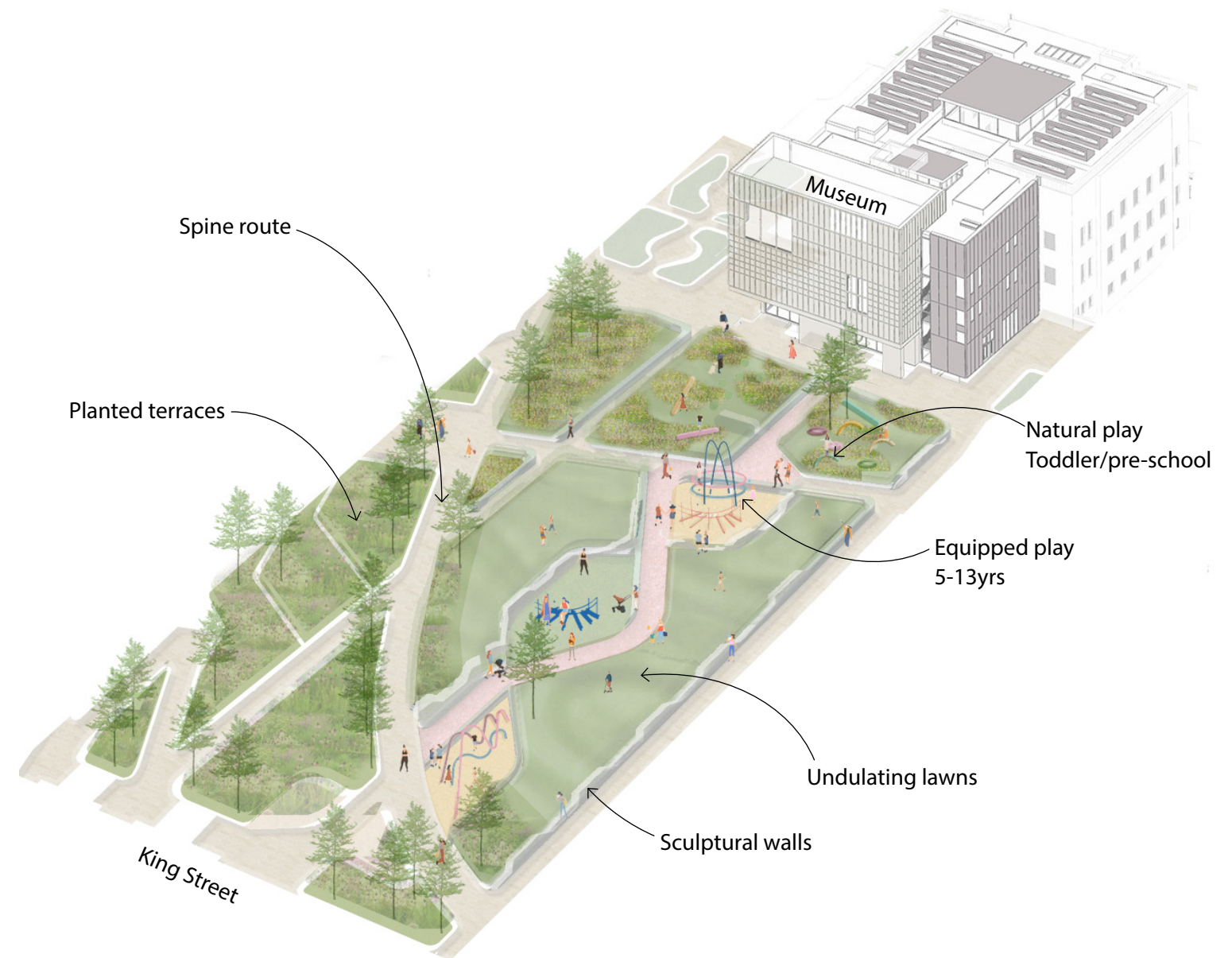


Fig.11.1.3 The Green concept axonometric view

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.1 | THE GREEN



Fig.11.1.5 The Green visualisation from north west corner of museum looking towards King

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.2 | THE GARDENS



Fig.11.2.1 Illustrative plan: The Gardens

- 1 Proposed avenue tree planting
- 2 Ornamental planting
- 3 Small trees and specimen shrubs
- 4 Seating edges
- 5 Balustrade to Museum sunken area
- 6 Planting, retaining wall and terrace Museum sunken area
- 7 Museum cafe spill out

- 8 Gallery entrance
- 9 Seating deck
- 10 Light columns
- 11 Spine route
- 12 Meandering routes through planting

11.2.25 OVERVIEW

- 11.2.25.1 This area will be characterised by naturalistic style planting with year round seasonal interest. There will be a number of pedestrian routes providing direct linkages across the site, as well as more meandering paths allowing people to view the planting more closely.
- 11.2.25.2 The pedestrian spine route continues through this area to the east of the space, running parallel with the proposed gallery and providing a direct route to the entrance. The avenue style tree planting will continue where possible, however some of this area is located above the service tunnels, prohibiting tree planting in some locations. Where not possible, smaller specimen shrubs will be planted.
- 11.2.25.3 The layout of the planting is purposefully non-linear, creating a more organic space which encourages people to dwell for longer. Tree planting around the edges of the planting will provide some containment from the adjacent buildings and footways, providing a quieter environment away.
- 11.2.25.4 Opportunities to sit and rest amongst the planting will be provided throughout. Seating will be integrated into walls and include backrests and armrests.
- 11.2.25.5 Surfacing will be subtly different from the adjacent areas, whilst still being natural stone to compliment the materials palette used elsewhere. The option for re-using the existing stone cladding which is currently used on the facade of the Piazza is being investigated.

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.2 | THE GARDENS



Fig.11.2.2 The Gardens autumnal visualisation looking from the spine route northwards

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.3 | THE SQUARE

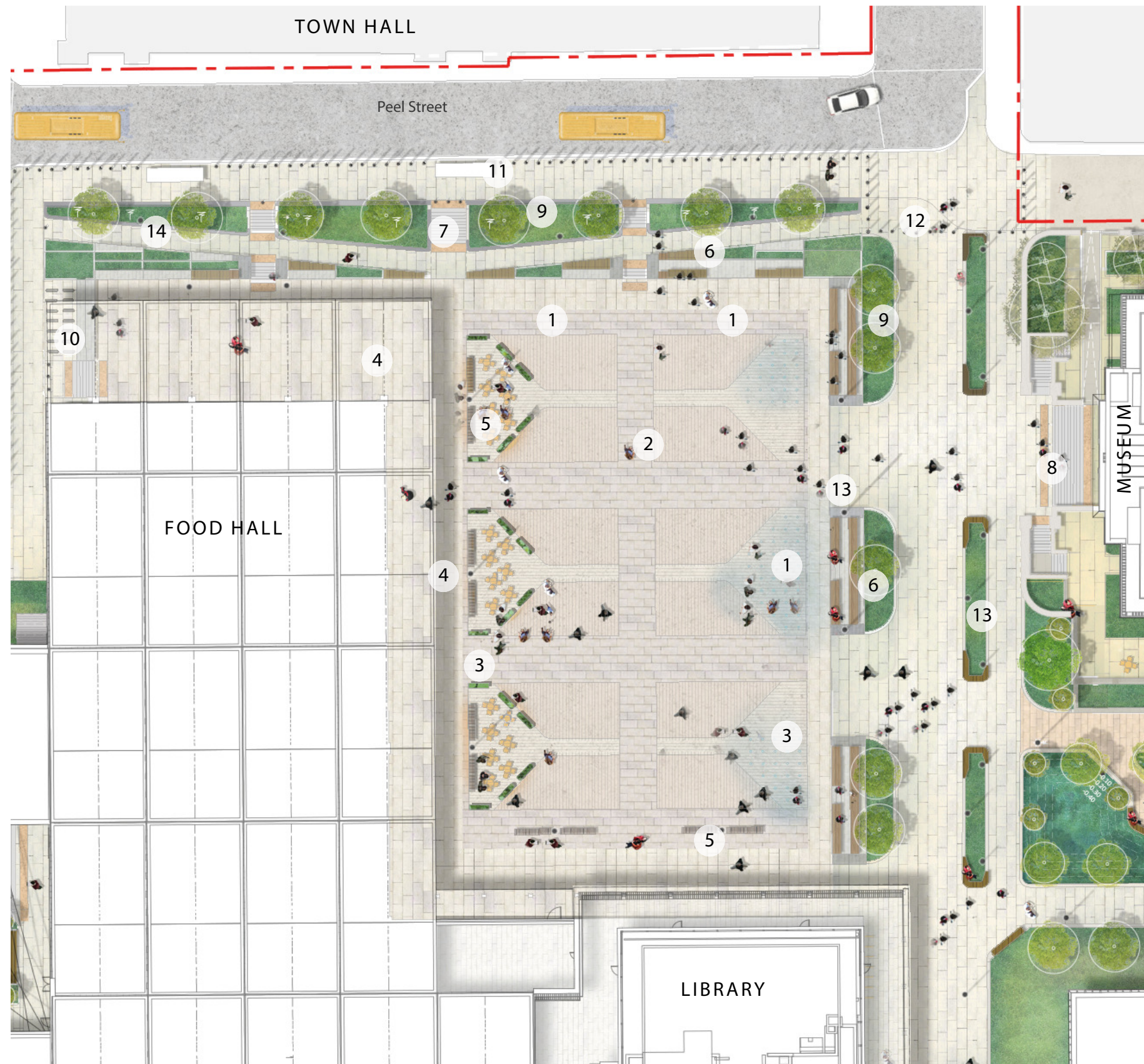


Fig.11.3.1 Illustrative plan: The Square

11.3.8 OVERVIEW

- 11.3.8.1 In contrast to the Gardens and the Green, the Square will be a predominantly hard space and urban in character.
- 11.3.8.2 It will be framed on the south and east by the library and food hall, the latter including areas for outdoor dining and spill out. To the north and west the square will be framed by tree planting and the cultural destinations of the museum and Town Hall beyond.
- 11.3.8.3 There is a circa. 1.5m drop in level from Ramsden Street/Peel Street into the square. A combination of stepped and sloped routes within planting will be provided along this edge.
- 11.3.8.4 In addition, seating terraces are proposed along the north and west sides of the square, providing places for individuals and groups to sit overlooking life in the square.
- 11.3.8.5 In ground water jets are proposed along these edges, creating activity and animation in the square when not being used for an event.
- 11.3.8.6 The surfacing is to be natural stone and designed in a way which gives a subtle nod to the 'Articulation in Movement' ceramic relief sculptures which are found on the Queensgate Market Hall.

- 1 Water jets
- 2 Natural stone surface with occasional water spill over from jets (in controlled locations)
- 3 Natural stone perimeter/events area demarcation
- 4 Food hall spill out (loose, to be provided by operators)
- 5 Fixed seating
- 6 Seating terraces with planting
- 7 Steps up to Ramsden Street/Peel Street
- 8 Existing steps and walls to Museum to be refurbished
- 9 Avenue tree planting
- 10 Cycle parking
- 11 Bus stops
- 12 Access control bollards
- 13 Lighting columns
- 14 Accessible route

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

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12

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.3 | THE SQUARE



Fig.11.3.2 Visualisation of the Square

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.3 | THE SQUARE

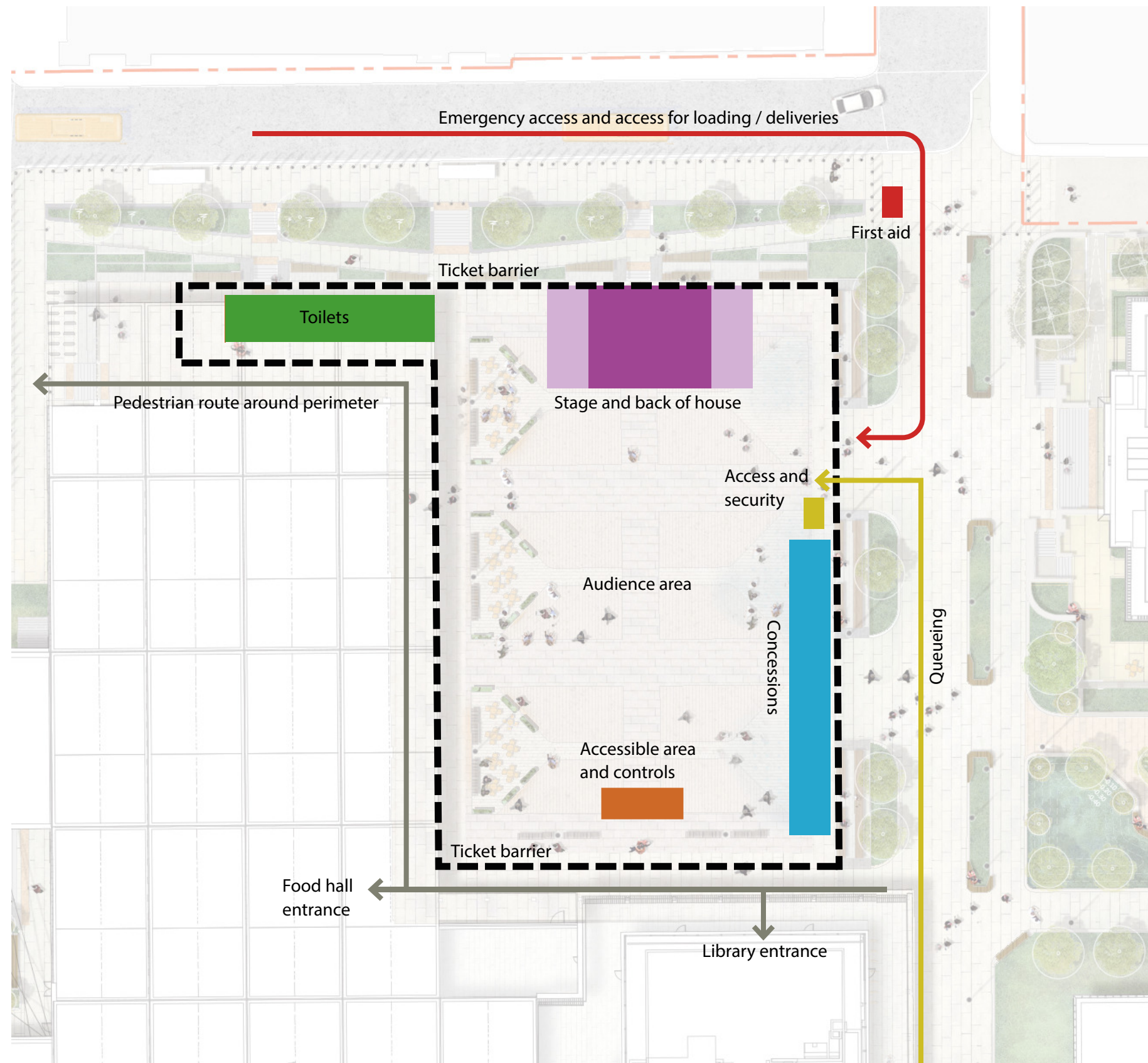


Fig.11.3.3 The Square indicative events layout

11.3.9 EVENT MODE

11.3.9.1 The Square has been designed to hold events with a capacity of up to 3000 people (standing). Typical events will include:

- Music events / festivals
- Craft / Christmas markets
- Funfairs
- Theatre / comedy festivals
- Street theatre/ performances
- Film screenings
- Family events
- Public art displays
- Pride / cultural festivals and events

11.3.9.2 In addition, the layout infrastructure required for such events has also been factored into the design as shown on the diagram to the left. Also included but not shown on the diagram are:

- Power and water supply
- Lighting
- CCTV

11.3.9.3 Pedestrian routes around the square will be maintained during events to allow access across the site and in and out of buildings.

11.3.9.4 Space for queuing will be provided along the eastern portion of the east-west link so as to avoid conflict with emergency vehicles.

11.3.9.5 Vehicle access will be permitted off Peel Street during events set up/down only, which will approach the square via the entrance opposite the proposed museum. Emergency access will also be via the same route.

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.4 | THE TERRACES

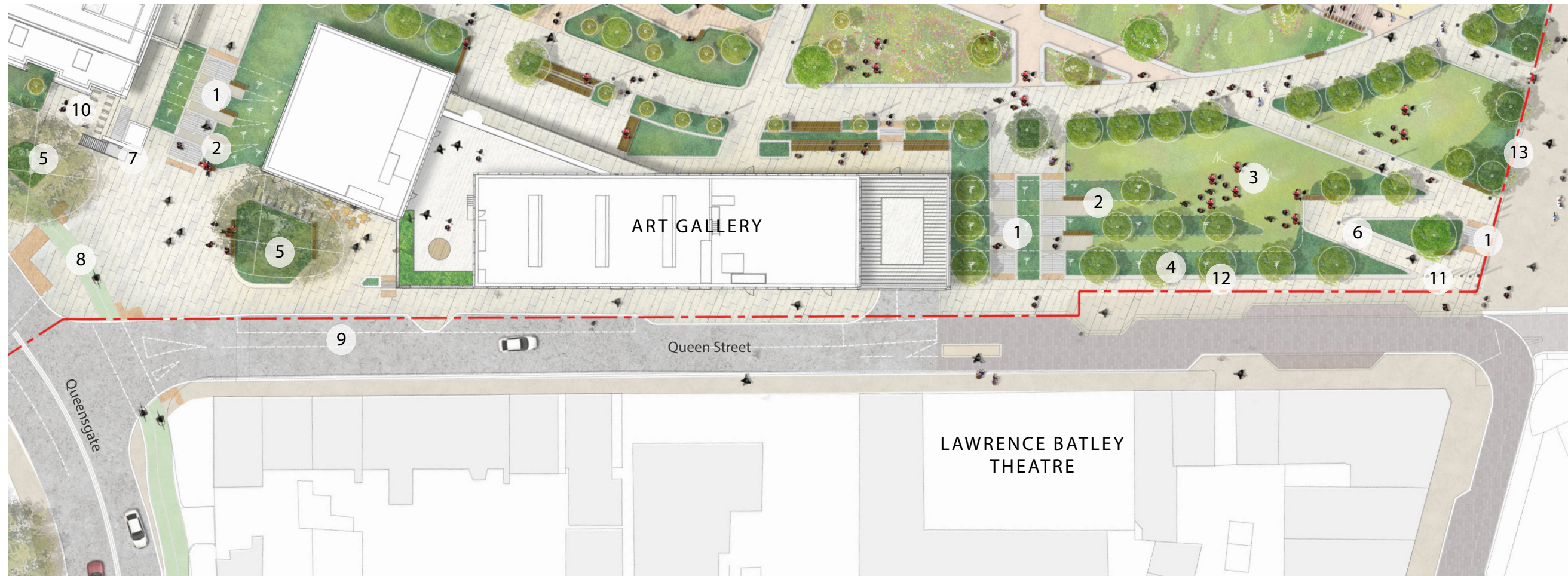


Fig.11.4.1 Illustrative plan: The Terraces

11.4.4 OVERVIEW

11.4.4.1 The removal of the Piazza buildings provides a significant opportunity to improve the quality of the environment on Queen Street, and better connect Lawrence Batley Theatre and the University with the town.

11.4.4.2 The circa. 5m level change in this area poses a significant challenge, one which has been overcome with a non-engineered, landscape solution involving a series of planted embankments, seating terraces and stepped routes.

11.4.4.3 Lighting will be provided to create safety and enhance planting and landscape features.

11.4.4.4 This will be an open, green and inviting edge to the site in this key location for the town.

- 1 Step with landings, handrails, tactile paving
- 2 Seating/rest points off landings
- 3 Ornamental planted slope and sculpted landform
- 4 Street trees
- 5 Existing trees to be retained
- 6 Sloping route from King Street

- 7 Lift
- 8 Cycle path
- 9 Queen Street highway and cycle improvements by others
- 10 Cycle parking
- 11 Bollards
- 12 Low wall to bottom of slope
- 13 Seating walls along King Street with engraved artworks

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.4 | THE TERRACES



Fig.11.4.2 The Terraces: Visualisation from Queen Street/King Street

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.5 | VENUE COURTYARD

11.5.6 OVERVIEW

- 11.5.6.1 The courtyard will create a new pedestrianised connection, allowing people direct access from the University to the venue site and beyond.
- 11.5.6.2 It will be an attractive route with feature lighting, planting and natural stone surfacing, as well as offering places to sit, particularly beneficial for those waiting in queues attending events at the proposed venue.
- 11.5.6.3 The food hall level is slightly lower than that of the venue which means a stepped and sloped access is required here.
- 11.5.6.4 Highways works to Queensgate are required to form new entry and egress points for the multi story car park located beneath the venue, and to allow access in and out of the service tunnels.

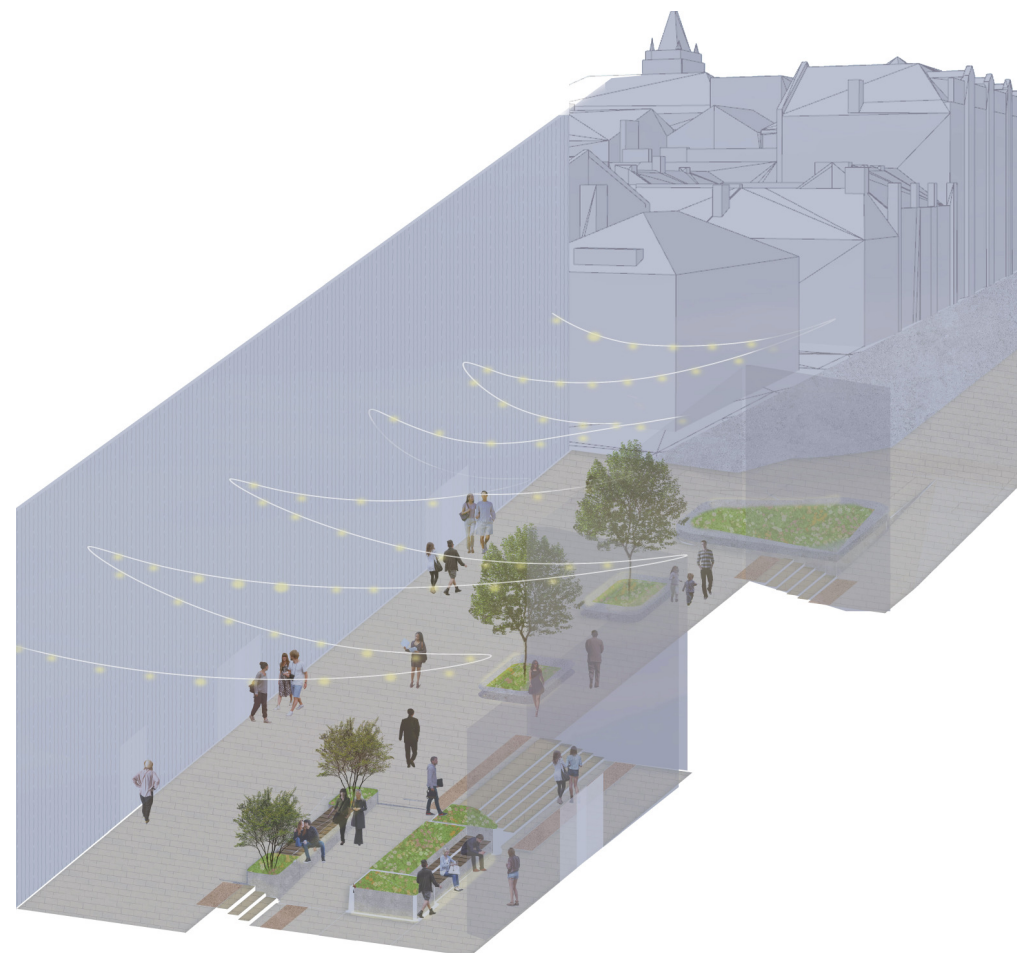


Fig.11.5.1 Courtyard concept visualisation

1. Planters
2. Steps to food hall entrance
3. Accessible route to food hall
4. Overhead catenary lighting
5. Bollards
6. Steps down to Queensgate
7. Car park entry/egress
8. Pedestrian crossing



Fig.11.5.2 Illustrative plan: Courtyard

11 | THE FOUR ROOMS

11.5 | VENUE COURTYARD



Fig.11.5.3 Venue Courtyard visualisation view from Alfred Street

12 | ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

12.1 | SYNOPSIS AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

12.1.1 INTRODUCTION

12.1.1.1 Accessibility has been central to design development, from masterplanning through to the detailed design. Whilst the landscape and public realm designs have been developed in accordance and with sound understanding of the regulations, it is understood that often the scope of the regulations does not extend far enough to capture the wide ranging access needs of a diverse population.

12.1.1.2 The design team have carried out consultation with local access groups to gain a better understanding of pre-existing issues in accessing and navigating the town centre which are site specific (refer to chapter 6 for further details).

12.1.1.3 In addition, a specialist consultant has been appointed to advise the design team on issues of accessibility. Jane Simpson has over 30 years' experience in inclusion, is an architect and NRAC consultant. She is assisting with statutory permissions, reviewing of designs & specifications, and supporting other design team members.

12.1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

12.1.2.1 Article 9 states that appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that disabled people have access on an equal basis with others to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, and to enable them to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

Equality Act (2010)

12.1.2.2 Under the Equality Act (EA) there are nine protected characteristics including, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnerships, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion & belief, sex and sexual orientation.

12.1.2.3 The EA requires that as a service provider, whether you give the service for free, or if you charge for it, the Equality law applies.

12.1.2.4 Service providers are required to make reasonable adjustment to practices, policies and procedures which would exclude disabled people, provide auxiliary aids and services to facilitate use of a service and provide a reasonable alternative method of service where a physical feature precludes use of the service. The EA has an anticipatory duty and for public buildings, or those providing a service on behalf of a public body, there are additional public sector duties.

12.1.2.5 In relation to the EA and Building Regulations, the Approved Document M Use of Guidance clearly states in 3rd paragraph page 6 that compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations does not necessarily equate to compliance with the obligations and duties set out in the EA. In addition, Building Regulations ADM refers to other best practice guidance, such as the Sign Design Guide and Sport England documents. The provision must be appropriate for Building Regulations and the duties of the client under discrimination legislation.

12.1.3 GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS

12.1.3.1 Inclusive design issues will be addressed in accordance with the objectives and those identified in this statement with particular reference to:

- Equality Act 2010
- Building Regulations 2010 & 2013
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

12.1.3.2 There are a number of best practice guidance documents available. It may not be possible to comply with all of these documents, they are cyclic and continue to be updated or amended and therefore some may be contradictory. Where conflict occurs, any deviation has been and will be discussed and agreed as to the most appropriate solution. There are a number of key best practice design standards which have been and will continue to advise the development of the project. These access standards have been informed by the anticipated obligations of the current legislation.

- Building Regulations Approved Document Part M Volume 2 – Buildings other than Dwellings 2010 (ADM)
- Building Regulations Approved Document Part K – Protection from falling, collision and impact 2013 (ADK)
- BS8300: 2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment Part 1 External & Part 2 Buildings – Code of Practice
- Dulux – Colour and Contrast: A design guide for the use of colour and contrast to improve the built environment for visually impaired people
- JMU Access Partnership/Sign Design Society – Sign Design Guide



Jane Simpson Access

12 | ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

12.2 | ACCESSIBLE DESIGN STRATEGY

12.2.26 EXISTING CONDITION

12.2.26.1 Huddersfield is situated within the dramatic topography of the South Pennines and the River Colne valley, and as such is a town built on steeply sloping terrain. The historic fabric of the town which pre-dates cars means pedestrian access is compromised by the highway network. Getting around the town centre on foot can be challenging for people with mobility issues and disabilities.

12.2.26.2 Specific areas on or around the Cultural Heart site which pose a challenge for accessibility are:

- Lack of accessible parking
- Pedestrian crossing facilities on Queensgate
- External steps are inconsistent in use of tactile paving, as well as too steep and there are insufficient landing points
- Block paved surfaces are uneven
- Lack of handrails
- Lack of places to sit
- Existing Library has no level access
- Lack of public toilets

12.2.26.3 The re-development of such a sizable part of the town centre poses a significant opportunity to improve this situation and encourage more people to visit.

12.2.27 ACCESSIBLE DESIGN: NAVIGATING THE SITE

12.2.27.1 The landscape and public realm proposals provide a safe, accessible, and inclusive environment. As identified previously, a number of statutory regulations and best practice guidance have and will continue to influence the design as it progresses. The following text outlines the principles that have been adhered to.

12.2.27.2 Opening up the area which is currently occupied by the Piazza shopping centre will connect the Cultural Heart with the retail core of the town, as well as the University and Queensgate. This will make space for new, legible and well defined pedestrian only routes across the site.

12.2.27.3 The 5.5m level change across the site is a major challenge for accessible design. This has been overcome with integration of gently sloping (no greater than 1:25), attractive routes with opportunities for rest along the way. Stepped routes are also proposed, albeit with a gentler going than those currently found on the site (max. 150mm high risers). Places to sit with views of the town are provided off landing points. Tactile paving, handrails and landings will be provided in accordance with regulations.

12.2.27.4 A publicly accessible lift is to be provided on Queensgate adjacent to the new library to improve access between the town centre and University/east of the town.

12.2.27.5 Pedestrian routes will be a minimum width of 2.0m; wide enough for two wheelchair users to travel side by side. The majority of the footpaths will be wider than this, and the primary pedestrian spine route 4m width to allow for greater footfall. Paths will be surfaced in a combination of natural stone paving, laid on a solid (bound) base which is less liable to sinking/lifting than the block paving currently found on much of the site, and resin bound gravel. Upstand edges will be provided at a minimum height of 65mm so as to be detectable with a cane.

12.2.27.6 Street clutter will be minimised and limited to street lighting, seating, litter bins, and bollards (only at key access points). Signage and wayfinding will be kept to a minimum.

12.2.27.7 Tonal contrast in surfacing to indicate changes in priority is to be provided in consultation with local access groups to ensure adequate visual contrast.

12.2.27.8 Covered areas for seating and walking are proposed. The proposed Library will have a canopied walkway along its north and west elevations which will enable people to walk under cover from the public lift on Queensgate to the food hall. Sheltered seating is also proposed in the Green, overlooking play spaces and planting, thus enabling year round use and providing places to rest for all, including carers of children using the play equipment.

12.2.27.9 The existing thoroughfare through Queensgate Market will remain and provide an accessible, indoor route from the Square to the proposed venue and multi story car park.

12.2.28 ACCESSIBLE DESIGN: BUILDING APPROACHES

12.2.28.1 The Venue entrance is located off Alfred Street and will be at street level. Level access is provided if approaching from Alfred Street or the town centre. A stepped access is provided from Queensgate, with the alternative being via the public lift located further north along Queensgate or via the lift provided in the car park.

12.2.28.2 The food hall and library's internal floor level will be slightly higher than existing. The level of the square which abuts the food hall will be designed to allow seamless level access in and out of the building.

12.2.28.3 The existing library building which will become a museum under the development proposals is currently only accessible via a set of steps off its southern elevation. A new pedestrian bridge link is proposed off Victoria Lane to provide a level access route in and out of this entrance. The proposed extension off the north of the building will contain the primary building entrance and will be level access.

12.2.28.4 The proposed art gallery will have a level entrance on Queen Street at lower ground floor as well as off the garden space at the upper ground floor level. An internal lift is proposed.

12 | ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

12.2 | ACCESSIBLE DESIGN STRATEGY

12.2.29 ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

12.2.29.1 All routes on the site will be designed in accordance with the standards listed in section 12.1 of this chapter. The sections opposite illustrate the different user needs which have been considered in establishing widths of footpaths and routes across the site.

12.2.29.2 The design seeks to implement a clear hierarchy of footpaths across the site which will create routes which are legible and intuitive where needed. This consists of the following typologies:

- Primary routes: town centre connections i.e. new routes to the University, transport hubs
- Secondary routes: connections to the cultural destinations on the site
- Tertiary routes: meandering footpaths which encourage dwell time in the park

12.2.29.3 These typologies will vary in width, however surface detailing will remain consistent as far as is practical.

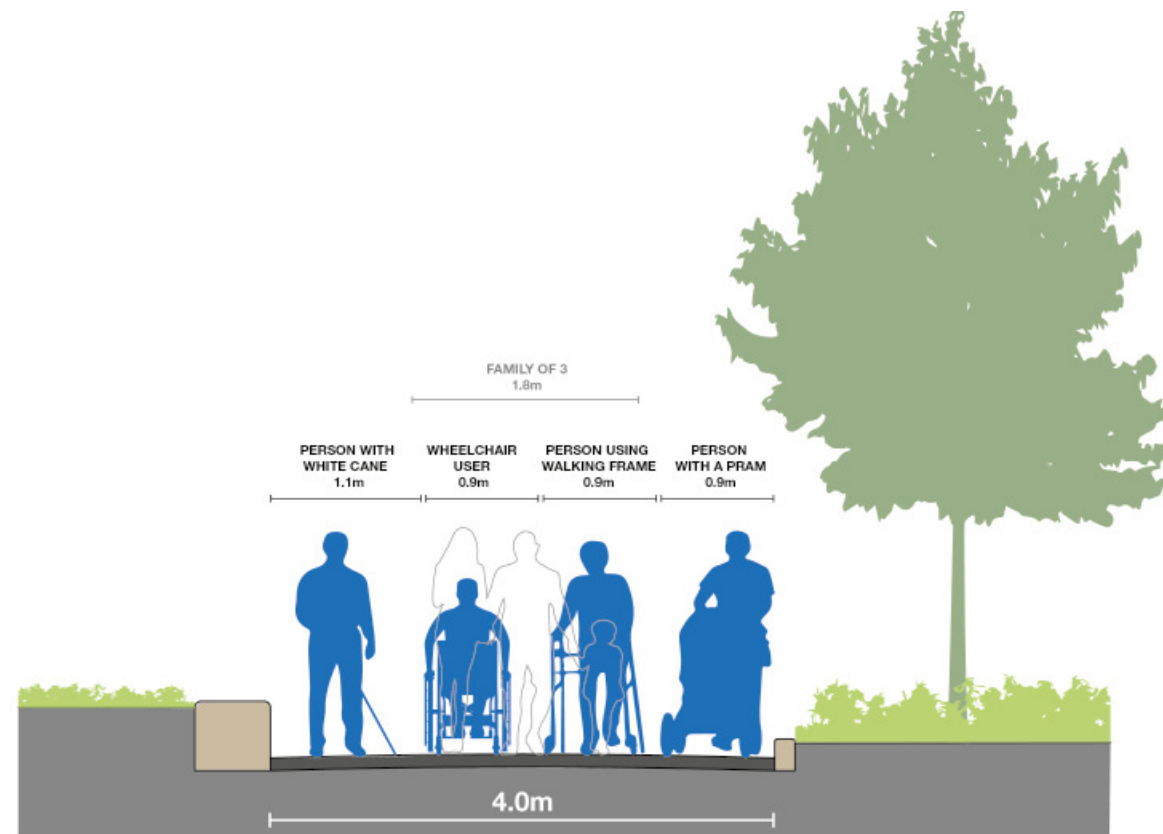


Fig.12.2.1 Primary routes (Spine route and east-west link)

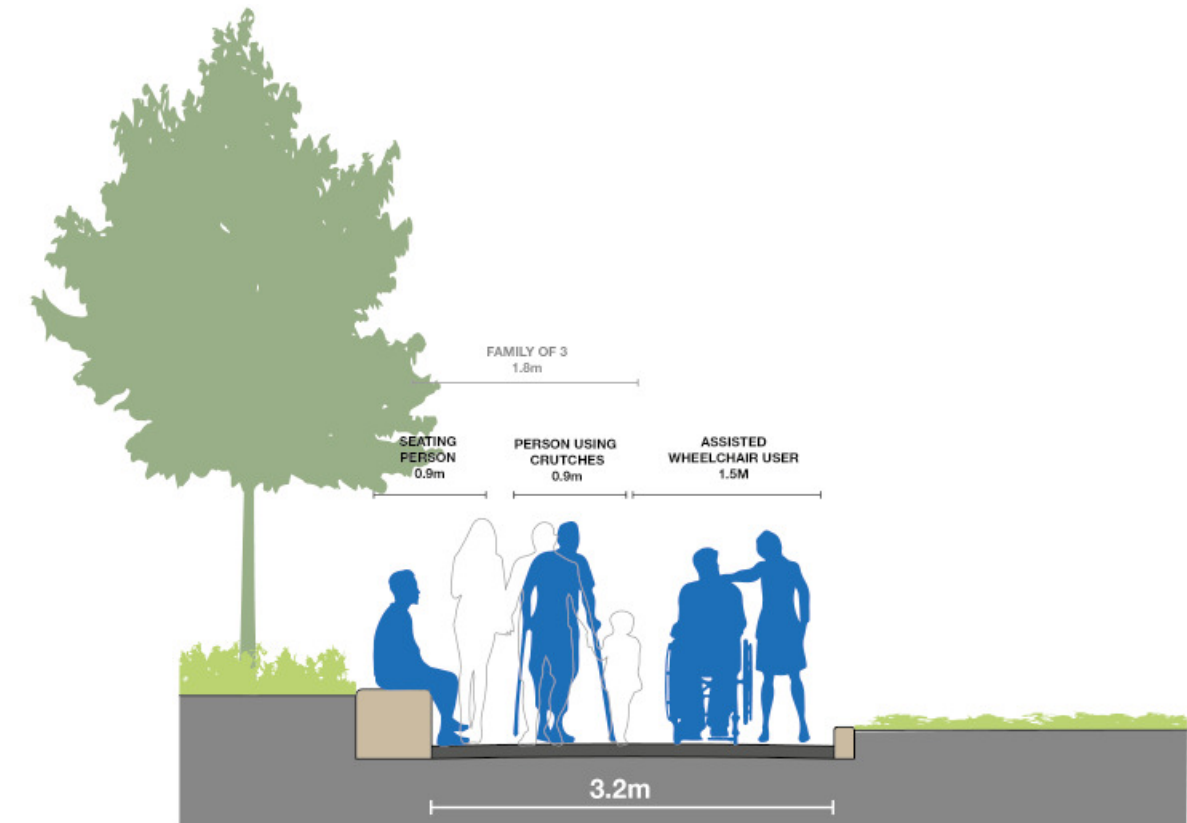


Fig.12.2.2 Secondary routes (to buildings and destinations on site)

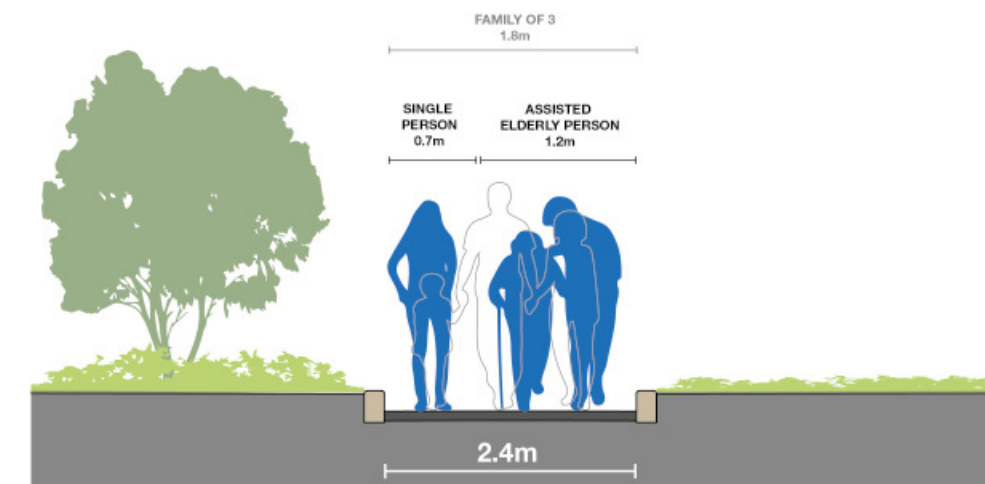


Fig.12.2.3 Tertiary routes (meandering paths and dwell areas)

12 | ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

12.3 | DIVERSITY

12.3.10 INTRODUCTION

- 12.1.3.3 Kirklees is home to a diverse, multi ethnic, multi generational and multi cultural population. As a culture led masterplan, representation of the diverse population and creating a place which has meaning to all walks of life is critical to ensuring the success of the project.
- 12.1.3.4 The development of the Cultural Heart, with particular reference to the outdoor spaces which will be provided, are an opportunity to engage diverse groups in the design development.
- 12.1.3.5 Kirklees Council have produced an Inclusion and Diversity Strategy which forms the primary guidance on this topic. This is described below.

Kirklees Council 'Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2021/23 - Recovery Through Inclusion'

This publication sets out the council's core aims with regards to inclusion, considering the affects of the pandemic on community integration.

The priority aims are summarised as follows:

1. *Inclusion First: Reworking our processes to realign inclusion as a first thought, rather than an after-thought will mean the impact is felt more strongly in communities that need it the most.*
2. *Project Search: We will seek to diversify our workforce and develop inclusion across teams, working with one of the most under-represented groups within our community; young adults with learning disabilities.*
3. *Culturally Confident Colleagues: It is every employee's responsibility to make sure we understand one another and the wider community. Cultural confidence training will become a core element of our essential induction and refresher training, focussed by managers to ensure training is bespoke to individuals.*
4. *Inclusion Allies: We want to recognise those staff who champion diversity across the organisation, broadening network membership to include a new tier of allies.*

- 12.1.3.6 A separate Integrated Equality Impact Assessment is being carried out for the project by Kirklees Council, in accordance with priority aim 1 listed above.
- 12.1.3.7 The design team have carried out extensive consultation and community engagement, specifically focussed around inclusivity in the park. This involved discussions with representatives of groups from diverse ethnicities, disabilities, age and gender. Further detail on this can be found in chapter 6 of this report.

12.3.11 INCLUSIVE DESIGN

- 12.1.3.8 Diversity is to be represented within the outdoor spaces at the Cultural Heart through the following elements:
- 12.1.3.9 Play spaces will cater for a variety of user needs, including disabled and multi generational play.
- 12.1.3.10 Places for display of culturally significant artefacts and temporary art installations
- 12.1.3.11 Places for cultural events to take place such as Huddersfield Carnival, Sangam festival, Divali celebrations, Christmas Markets and so on
- 12.1.3.12 Proposed stone seating walls along the edge of King Street will contain engraved graphics representing different communities of Kirklees. This element is subject to further consultation with the community and development of an artist brief.



Fig.12.3.1 Huddersfield Carnival



Fig.12.3.2 Culturally significant patterns within landscape elements



Fig.12.3.3 Multi-generational spaces

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

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13

FABRIC

13 | FABRIC

13.1 | HERITAGE INFLUENCE AND EXISTING MATERIALS

13.1.1 HERITAGE INFLUENCE

- 13.1.1.1 The buildings of heritage significance on the site contain external features which contribute to the appearance and setting. These features set a precedent and provide design influences for future public realm works in the area.
- 13.1.1.2 The existing library building has within it's curtilage several flights of external stairs, walling and public artworks all formed of natural stone. These will be retained, along side the original bronze handrails which will be restored.
- 13.1.1.3 The friezes which are mounted onto the Queensgate elevation of the existing market hall are constructed from ceramic earthenware tiles of which the sculptural forms are carved from.
- 13.1.1.4 The market hall roof structure is an excellent demonstration of the capabilities of concrete as a building material, and a prime example of the architecture of it's era.



Fig.13.1.1 Locally sourced sawn Yorkstone stairs at Lawrence Batley Theatre



Fig.13.1.2 Bronze handrails to existing Library

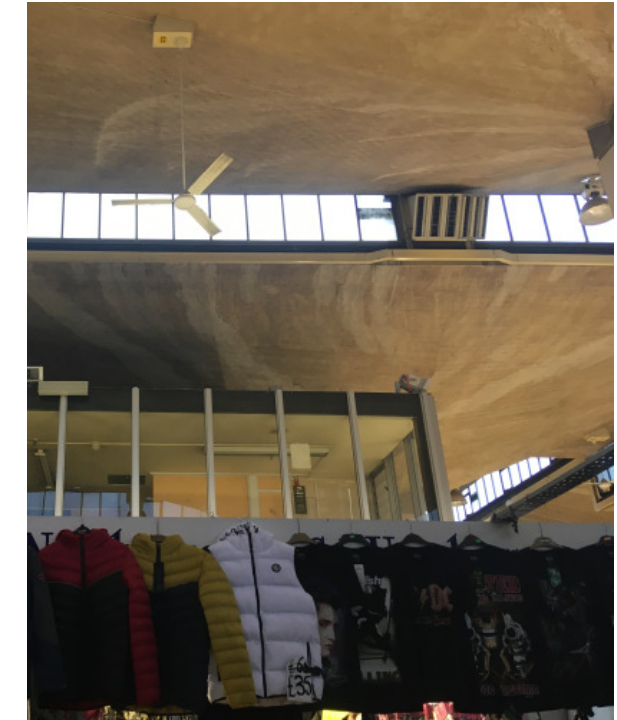


Fig.13.1.3 Concrete market hall roof

13.1.2 EXISTING MATERIALS

- 13.1.2.1 The surface materials on the site currently are a mixture of concrete block and flag paving, and brick pavers in blue, buff and red. The majority of these date from back to when the Piazza shopping centre was originally built.
- 13.1.2.2 The surfacing is generally of low quality and in a relatively poor condition with uneven areas and lack of pointing.



Fig.13.1.4 Ceramic tile friezes



Fig.13.1.5 Existing surface materials on site; brick and textured concrete flags



Fig.13.1.6 Sandstone cladding on existing Piazza shopping centre on Queen Street; sawn and split faced

13 | FABRIC

13.2 | TOWN CENTRE PALETTE

13.2.30 TWENTIETH CENTURY PALETTE

13.1.2.3 Modern developments within the town such as the bus station precinct, council offices, and the Cultural Heart site embody a different character to those of the historic fabric of the town.

13.1.2.4 Brick pavers are used extensively, and in various patterns and colours. This type of appearance is now considered dated and the intense colour contrast can be confusing for people with disabilities trying to navigate the town.

13.1.2.5 There is some consistency in the street furniture elements within the town, particularly evident around the outdoor market area. Steel benches, bollards, and lighting columns are in a victorian style and painted blue - the official colour of the town. The colour also offers good tonal contrast for partially sighted people. However, painted steel is no longer considered an acceptable material for seating due to it's temperature in the colder months, and also scratches easily.

13.1.2.6 This street furniture palette is now being phased out.

13.2.31 NEW TOWN PALETTE: SURFACING

13.2.31.1 Kirklees Council are currently in process of developing an adoptable standard for public realm materials in the town centre. There is no official publication on this as yet, however those within the council involved in recent public realm developments in the town have been consulted by the Cultural Heart design team to ensure consistency where required.

13.2.31.2 As alluded to above, the Huddersfield Blueprint project has led to the re-development of a number of streets which will improve linkages between the bus and train stations.

13.2.31.3 In addition, Kirklees Council have a number of other public realm improvements in the pipeline, including New Street and Cross Church Street.

13.2.31.4 These projects advocate use of both Yorkstone and granite block paving as shown on the images.



Fig.13.2.1 Concrete block and brick pavers used in a variety of arrangements



Fig.13.2.2 Multiple tones of brick used to create surface pattern by the bus station



Fig.13.2.3 Steel benches painted blue



Fig.13.2.4 Victorian replica steel decorative bollards, painted blue with gold inlay



Fig.13.2.5 Victorian replica steel decorative lamp columns outside outdoor market



Fig.13.2.6 Litter bins

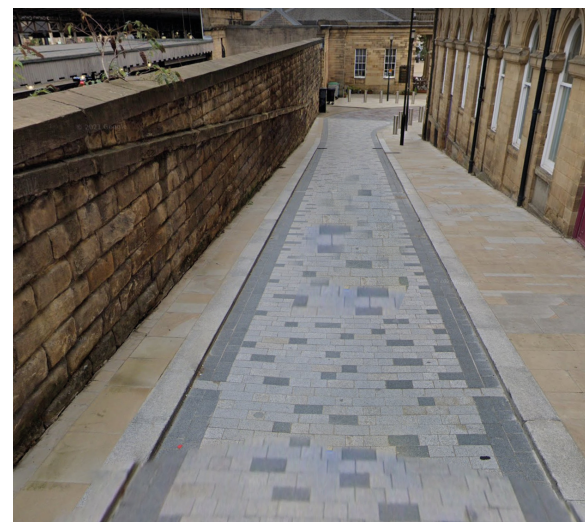


Fig. 13.2.7 Granite block paved carriageway on St. George's Street; grey mix and yorkstone footway with 100mm kerb upstand



Fig. 13.2.8 Locally sourced sawn Yorkstone to St George's Square



Fig. 13.2.9 Locally sourced Yorkstone setts and flags on Half Moon Street

13 | FABRIC

13.3 | CULTURAL HEART PALETTE

13.3.12 SURFACING

13.3.12.1 The surface materials proposed for the Cultural Heart will comprise of a limited palette with the following objectives:

- Create coherence and consistency across the site
- Consistency with materials used elsewhere in the town
- Be robust and long lasting
- Capable of withstanding vehicular loadings where required for emergency access and maintenance
- Offer sustainability through longevity and whole life cost
- Be high quality and create a distinctive vernacular and sense of place
- Easy to clean using mechanical road sweepers without the need for investment in additional equipment

13.3.12.2 Locally sourced yorkstone will be used on primary pedestrian routes and thoroughfares, where consistency with the materials used elsewhere in the town is key for legibility and accessibility purposes.

13.3.12.3 The main body of the square will be in a natural stone with a subtle contrast to that of the Yorkstone used elsewhere. It will be a material which changes it's appearance when rain water or run off from the water feature cascades over it.

13.3.12.4 Resin bound gravel will be used in the Green. The material has a softer character which will compliment this part of the site well. It has excellent accessibilty qualities in that it is a continuous bound surface, and will contain a slip resistant coating.



Fig. 13.3.1 Locally sourced Yorkstone setts, tumbled (possibly re-used cladding from Piazza subject to suitability)



Fig.13.3.2 Locally sourced Yorkstone flags, sawn to footpaths

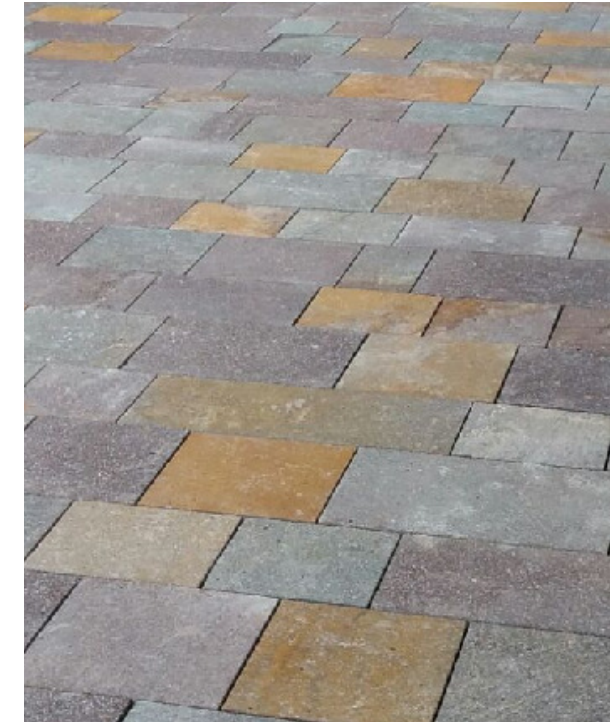


Fig. 13.3.3 Natural stone paving mix with colour contrast to events square

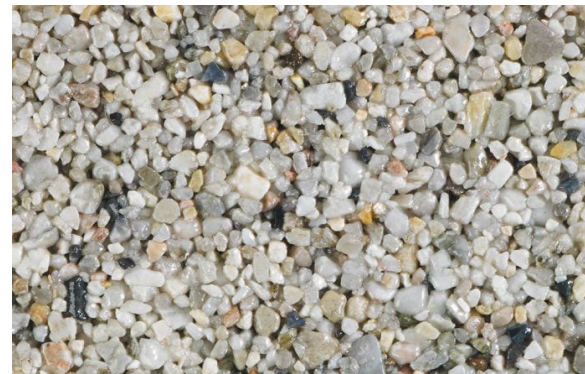


Fig. 13.3.4 Resin bound gravel in grey-buff mix to footpaths in the Green



Fig. 13.3.5 Stone walls to the Green



Fig. 13.3.6 Natural stone steps with contrast nosings

13 | FABRIC

13.3 | CULTURAL HEART PALETTE

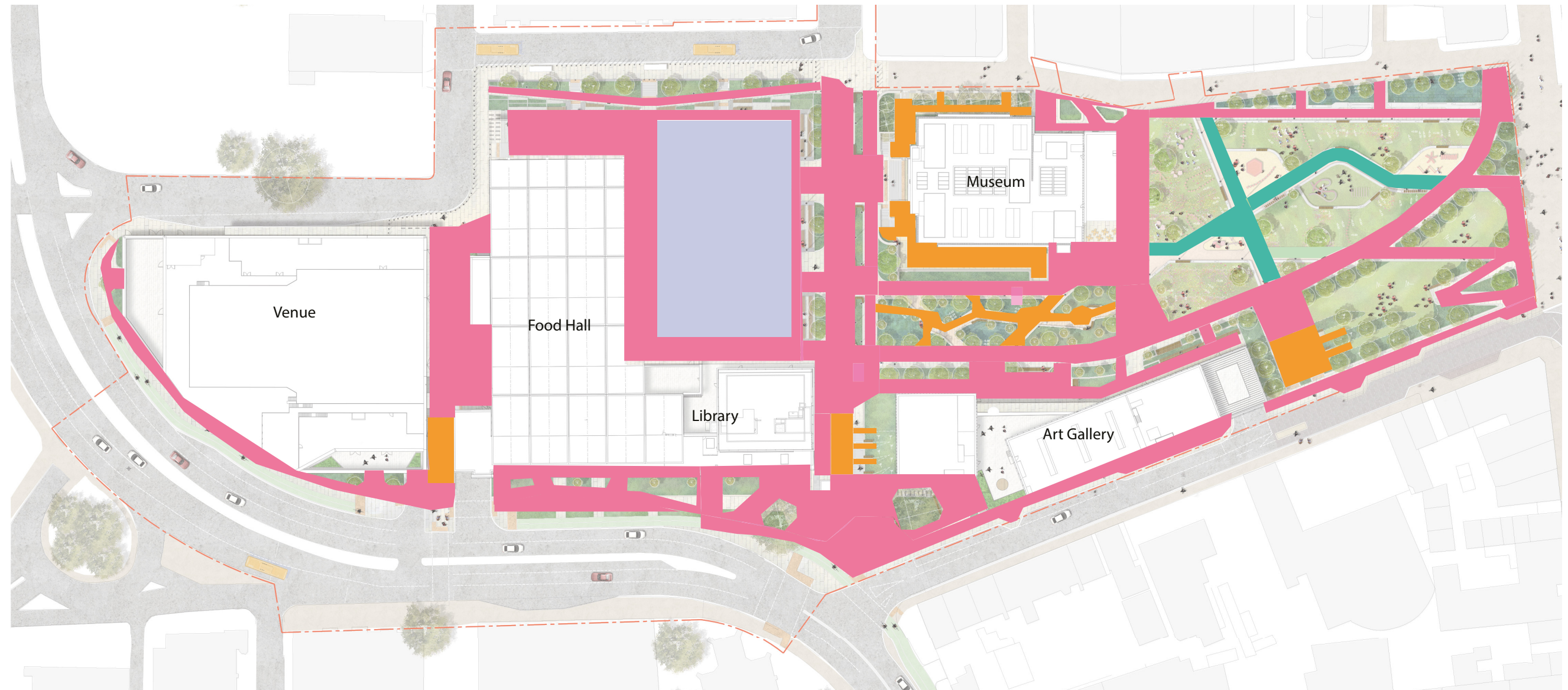


Fig. 13.3.7 Surfacing plan

- Natural stone paving (Yorkstone)
- Natural stone paving
- Resin bound gravel
- Natural stone paving, possibly re-used sandstone cladding subject to testing for suitability

13 | FABRIC

13.3 | CULTURAL HEART PALETTE

13.3.13 STREET FURNITURE

13.3.13.1 A coherent palette of street furniture items will be used at the Cultural Heart. This will be complimentary to the new town palette which is still under review/development.

13.3.13.2 Seating elements will be largely integrated into planter edges, walling and terraces, making for robust design. Free standing seating will only occur in the square where benches are to be designed with integrated basement vents (see images). Backrests and armrests will be provided.

13.3.13.3 Slatted timber will be used as a coping material which outperforms stone or metal for comfort. This also provides a degree of protection from skateboarding.

13.3.13.4 Freestanding canopies will be provided for protection from the elements. These will be lightweight and constructed from metal.

13.3.13.5 Raised planters will be built from stone to ensure longevity and robustness.



Fig.13.3.8 Bench seating with perforated metalwork base to provide basement ventilation



Fig. 13.3.9 Bench seating with perforated metalwork base to provide basement ventilation



Fig.13.3.10 Stone seating walls of varying heights with timber inlay and armrests

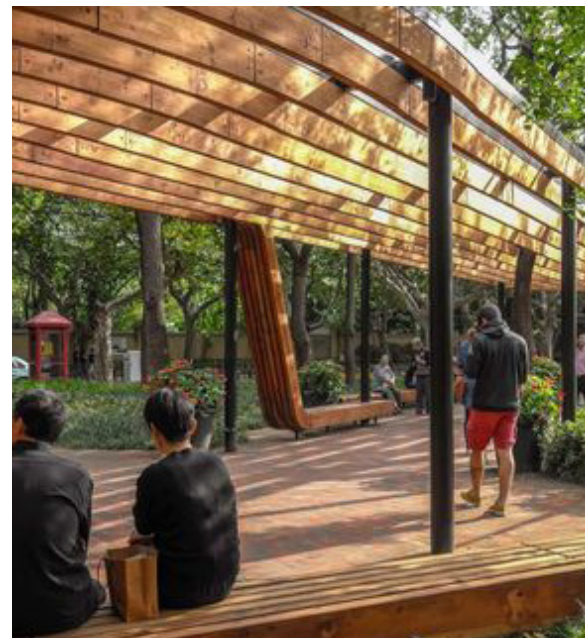


Fig. 13.3.11 Seating canopies



Fig. 13.3.12 Raised planters



Fig.13.3.13 Steel cycle stands with tapping rail

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

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14

PLANTING

14 | PLANTING

14.1 | OBJECTIVES

14.1.1.1 The proposed planting for Kirklees Cultural Heart project will seek to create a bold and unique character of the proposed development through creation of a diverse and multi-layered planting communities comprising street trees, low ornamental planting, long sward grasslands/wildflower meadows and formal mown lawns.

14.1.1.2 The main objectives of the planting strategy are as follows:

- Strengthen local landscape character and create a sense of place by drawing inspiration from the surrounding landscape and incorporating plants and habitats found in locality;
- Mitigate the loss of existing trees and reduce the carbon footprint of the proposed development through planting of 91 large semi-mature trees;
- Increase on-site biodiversity and attract local wildlife through planting of a mix of native and wildlife-friendly ornamental species;
- Introduce adaptive and resilient planting communities that will minimise the adverse impacts of the climate change and will improve the local microclimate;
- Trees and low level planting to comprise a mix of formal and naturalistic planting styles; the formal planting in form of tree avenues will help to add height interest, structure, frame key spaces and aid with wayfinding throughout the site while naturalistic style planting will create a diverse and stimulating environment for the residents of Huddersfield to enjoy;
- Introduce a year round interest by planting species that are known for their seasonal interest, such as flowers, berries or autumn and winter colour. The proposed plant species have been selected to create a dynamic and stimulating environment throughout the year.



Fig.14.1 Local landscape photographs



Fig.14.2 Local landscape colour palette

14 | PLANTING

14.2 | EXISTING TREES

14.2.31.5 An arboricultural survey has been undertaken by Brooks Ecological in March 2022, identifying total of 38 trees present on or adjacent to the site. The trees present on site comprise common species such as Ash, Birch, Cherry and Rowan.

14.2.31.6 In accordance with BS 5837:2012, the trees have been assessed and divided into following categories:

- 3 no. category B trees;
- 34 no. category C trees; and
- 1 no. category U tree.

14.2.31.7 The proposed development will result in removal of 28 no. category C trees and 1 no. category U tree.

14.2.31.8 A total of 9 trees will be retained, protected and incorporated into the proposed development.

14.2.31.9 To offset the loss of the existing trees, the landscape proposals will include planting of 134 new trees throughout the development, meaning 4.75 trees will be replanted for each tree lost due to the proposed development.

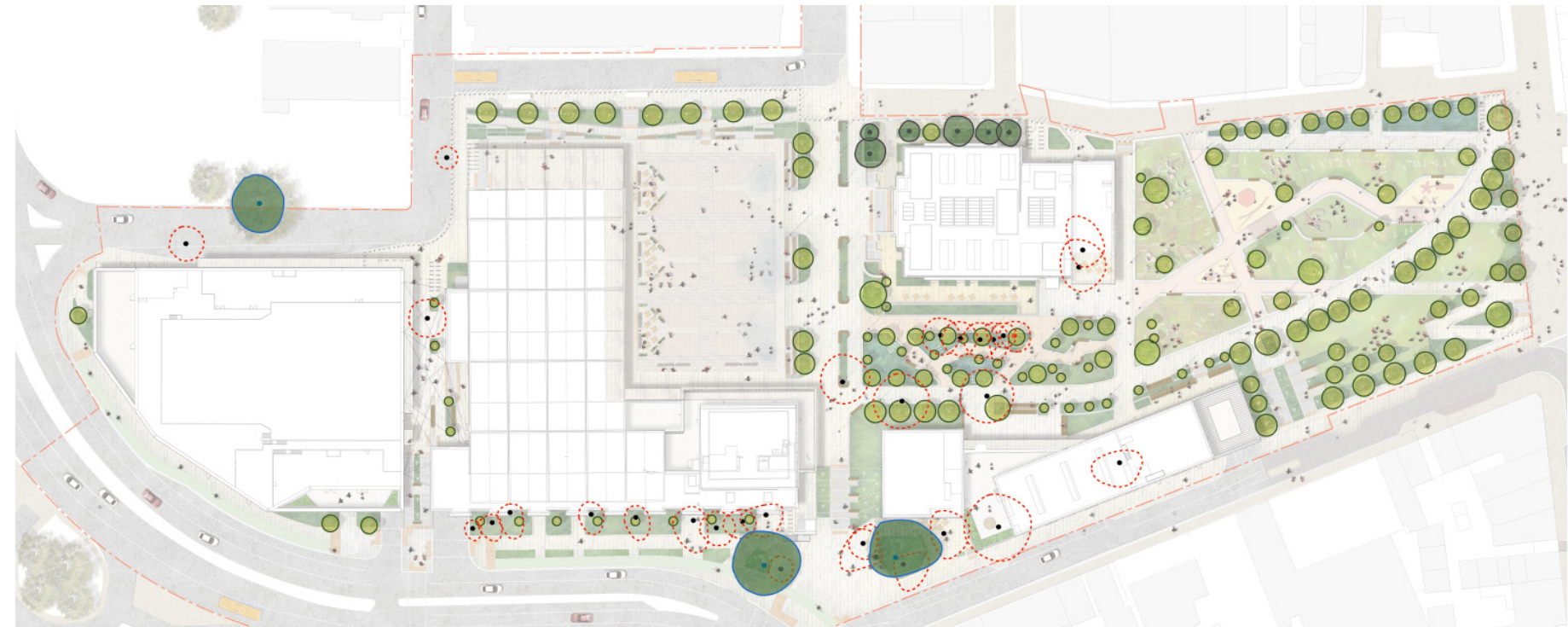


Fig.14.3 Existing & Proposed Trees Diagram

KEY

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|------------------------|
|  | Existing category B trees to be retained |  | Existing category C trees to be removed |  | Proposed tree planting |
|  | Existing category C trees to be retained |  | Existing category U trees to be removed | | |



Fig.14.4 Existing trees along Queensgate



Fig.14.5 Existing trees along Queen Street



Fig.14.6 Existing trees along Huddersfield Library

14 | PLANTING

14.3 | TREE PLANTING

14.3.13.6 The proposed tree planting will comprise a mix of native and ornamental tree species selected for their height, crown shape, seasonal interest and adaptability to the changing climate. The proposed trees have been divided into 3 key categories as outlined below.

14.3.13.7 Large street / avenue trees (10-15m) are proposed along the key pedestrian routes through the site and along the Peel Street and Queen Street frontages. The proposed species have been selected for their compact, conical crown shape and brilliant autumn colours that will transform the site in autumn months. The avenue trees will comprise such species as:

- *Acer x freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze'
- *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Aureomarginatum'
- *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon'
- *Pinus sylvestris*
- *Quercus palustris* 'Woodside Splendor'
- *Sorbus intermedia* 'Brouwers'

14.3.13.8 Medium park trees (6-10m high) are proposed within the Green and The Gardens. The proposed tree species have been selected for their seasonal interest, in particular flowers, berries and autumn leaf colour and will include such species as:

- *Acer campestre* 'Queen Elizabeth'
- *Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis'
- *Betula pendula*
- *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'
- *Malus trilobata*
- *Prunus sargentii* 'Rancho'
- *Prunus x schmittii*

14.3.13.9 Small multi-stem trees (up to 4m high) are proposed to compliment the larger avenue and park trees and in areas where planting of larger trees is deemed not practical. The small multi-stem trees will provide height interest and seasonal interest at the eye-level and will comprise of such species as:

- *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill'
- *Crataegus mongyna*
- *Morus alba*
- *Prunus maackii* 'Amber Beauty'
- *Sorbus aucuparia*



Fig.14.7 Tree planting strategy



Fig.14.8 Photographs of proposed tree species

14 | PLANTING

14.4 | PLANTING CHARACTER AREAS

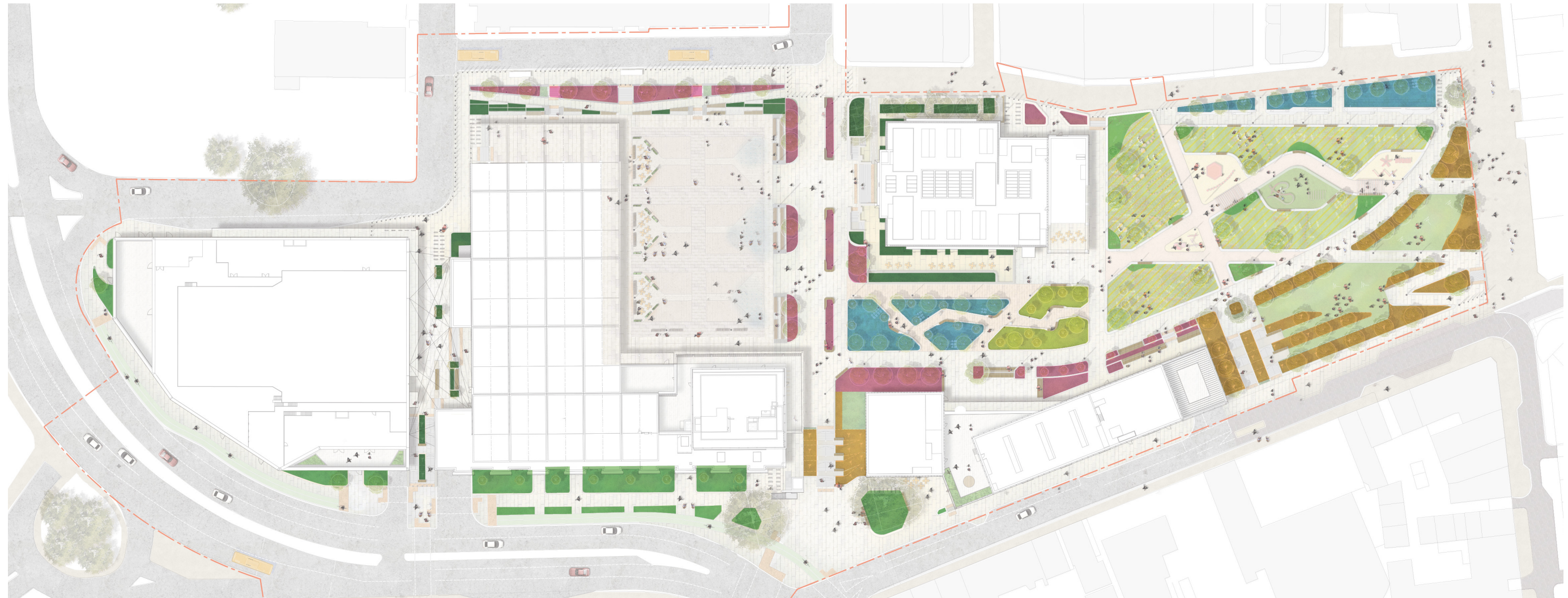


Fig.14.9 Planting character plan

14.4.4.5 All planted areas are proposed to be in naturalistic style comprising a mix of low growing ornamental shrubs, grasses, and perennial plants arranged in larger swathes or smaller groups, reflecting the natural plant communities found in local area. The naturalistic style of planting will create a more dynamic, diverse and stimulating environment for the visitors and local wildlife

14.4.4.6 The low level planting have been divided into six key character areas, each offering a diverse mix of native and ornamental species, appropriate to the location and growing conditions and these are as follows:

- Core landscape areas
- Rain Gardens

- Heritage textile/dye gardens
- Terraced gardens
- Hard shade gardens
- Semi-native gardens

14.4.4.7 The details of the proposed planting mixes have been presented on the consecutive pages of this report.

14.4.4.8 In addition to ornamental planting the Urban Park will feature a mix of mown grass providing amenity space for Kirklees residents and visitors and long sward grass / wildflower meadow that will add height interest and create a more biodiverse environment.

KEY

	Core landscape		Hard shade gardens
	Rain gardens		Semi-native gardens
	Heritage textile/dye gardens		Mown grass
	Terraced gardens		Wildflower meadow

14 | PLANTING

14.4 | PLANTING CHARACTER AREAS



Core Landscape Mix

Swathes of low-growing shrubs, ornamental grasses and ferns with small groups of flowering perennials.

Indicative species: Dryopteris, Calamagrostis, Deschampsia, Euphorbia, Mahonia, Echinacea, Sanguisorbia, Salvia, Cornus, Hebe



Rain Garden Mix

Swathes of ornamental grasses with small groups of flowering perennials

Indicative species: Carex, Molinia, Juncus, Thalictrum, Persicaria, Crocosmia, Lysimachia, Iris



Textile/Dye Garden Mix

Traditional textile and dye plants planted in small groups.

Indicative species: Linum, Anchusa, Yucca, Rheum, Artemis, Rubia, Gallium, Genista



Fig.14.10 Photographs of indicative mix species and precedent images

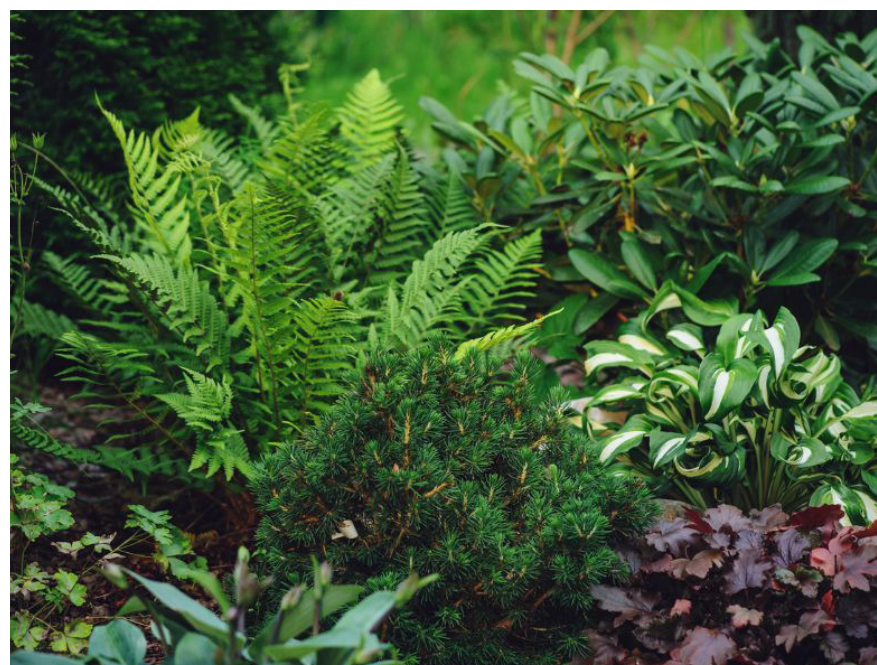
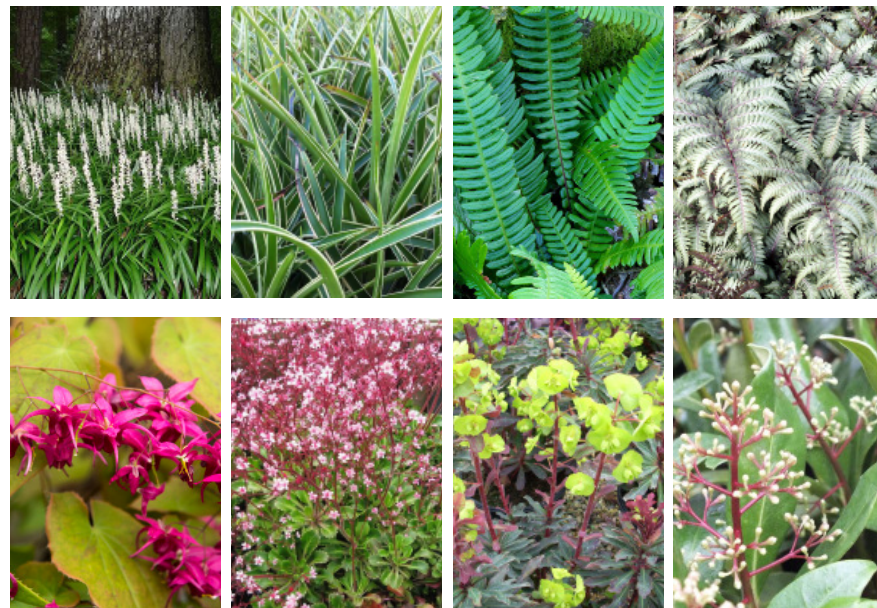
14 | PLANTING

14.4 | PLANTING CHARACTER AREAS

Hard Shade Mix

A shade tolerant mix of low-growing evergreen shrubs, ferns, grasses and perennial plants planted in small groups.

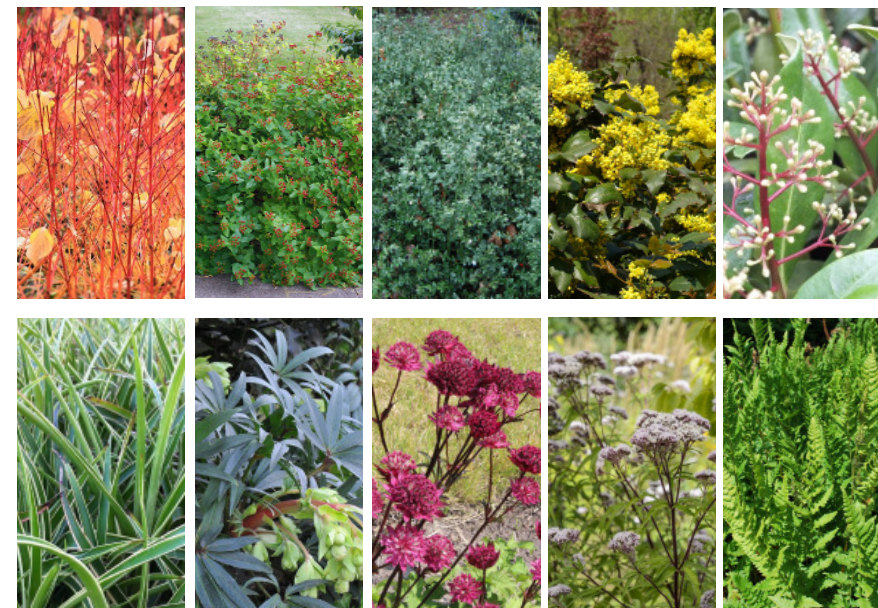
Indicative species: Liriope, Luzula, Blechnum, Athyrium, Epimedium, Saxifraga, Euphorbia, Skimmia



Semi-Native Mix

A mix of native and ornamental shrubs, grasses and ferns planted in groups with incidental spots of flowering perennials.

Indicative species: Cornus, Hypericum, Ruscus, Mahonia, Skimmia, Luzula, Helleborus, Atrantia, Eupatorium, Dryopteris



Terraced Gardens Mix

Swathes of low-growing shrubs, ornamental grasses and ferns with small groups of flowering perennials.

Indicative species: Sessleria, Calamagostis, Euphorbia, Dryopteris, Cornus, Digitalis, Rudbeckia, Anemone, Sarcococca, Spiraea



Fig.14.11 Photographs of indicative mix species and precedent images

14 | PLANTING

14.5 | SEASONALITY

- 14.5.1.1 Seasonal variation and interest has been an important consideration in informing the planting strategy. The proposed tree and low level planting have been selected to define different character areas of the proposed development and help with wayfinding throughout the site.
- 14.5.1.2 The Spine Route running on a north-south axis from the King Street towards the Square will be lined with *Acer x freemanii* and *Liquidambar styraciflua* trees known for their brilliant burgundy to purple autumn colours. In addition, the spine route will feature *Quercus* 'Woodside Splendor' trees at the key nodes of the route and smaller multi-stemmed *Amelanchier* trees over the underground tunnels, where planting of larger trees is not possible. These trees will form a main spine and 'celebratory way' of the urban park.
- 14.5.1.3 The Square will be framed by *Sorbus intermedia* and *Liriodendron tulipifera* trees. These trees will feature spring flowers, followed by variegated foliage on *Liriodendron* and red berries on *Sorbus* and yellow to orange autumn foliage.
- 14.5.1.4 The gardens will be planted with *Acer campestre*, *Betula pendula*, *Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis' and will be accompanied by smaller multi-stemmed trees such as *Morus alba*, *Prunus* 'Amber Beauty' and *Sorbus aucuparia*. These trees will feature a distinctive from adjacent areas yellow autumn colour.
- 14.5.1.5 The Green will feature a mix of native and ornamental tree species, displaying attractive flowers and foliage in spring, followed by berries in summer and brilliant orange to red foliage in autumn. The green will also feature a number of *Pinus sylvestris* trees that will add winter interest.
- 14.5.1.6 The Terraces and Queensgate frontage will feature a mix of smaller trees displaying attractive white flowers in spring, followed by red berries and orange to red autumn colour.

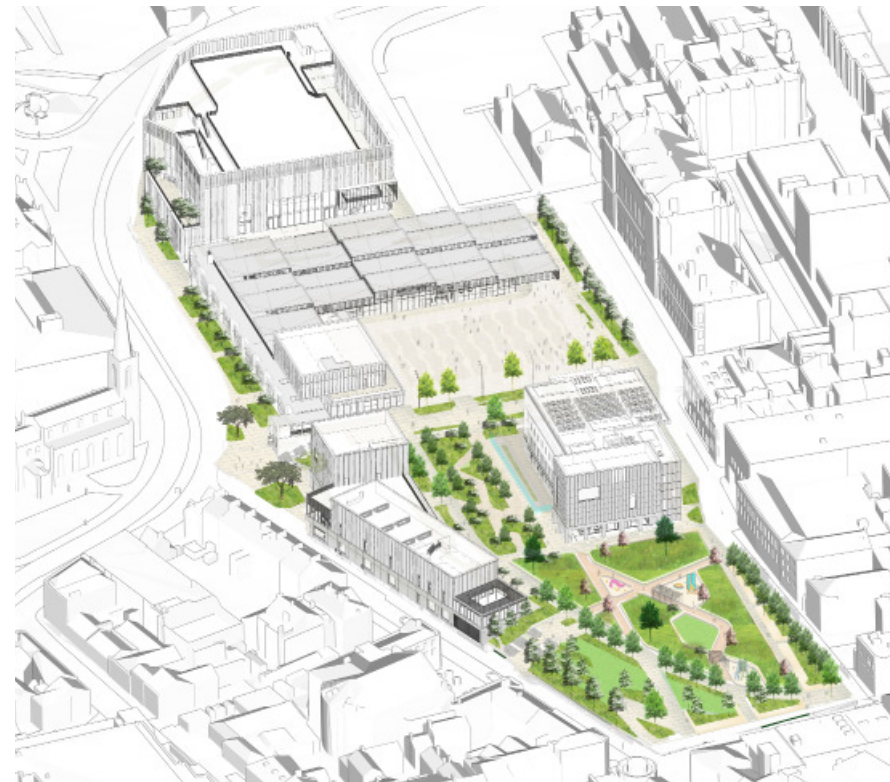


Fig.14.12 Spring interest

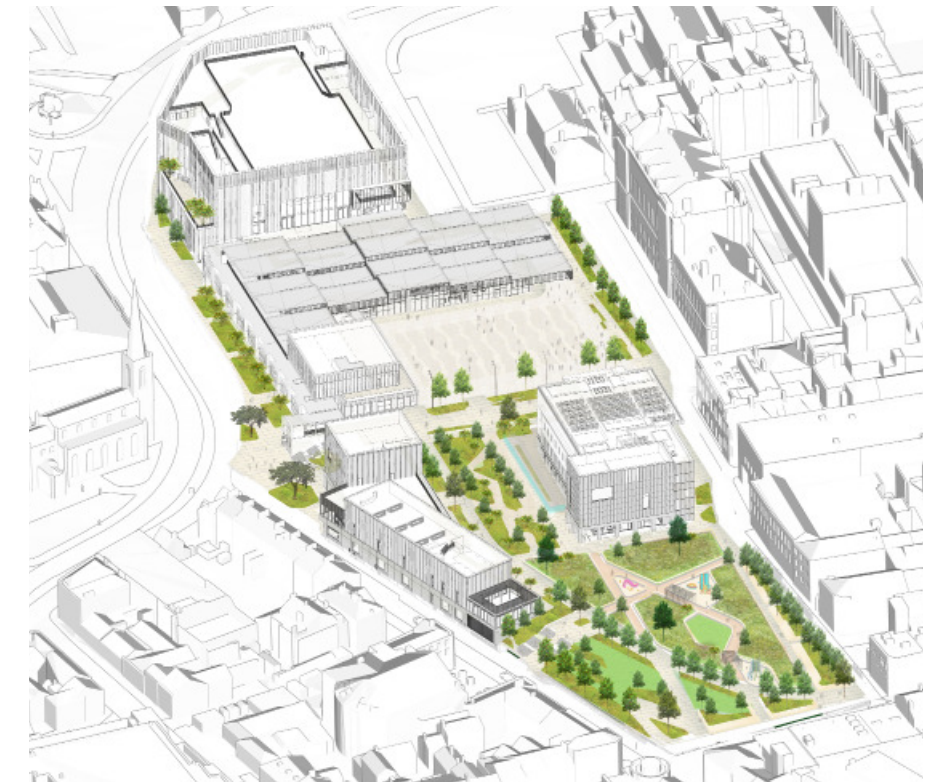


Fig.14.13 Summer interest

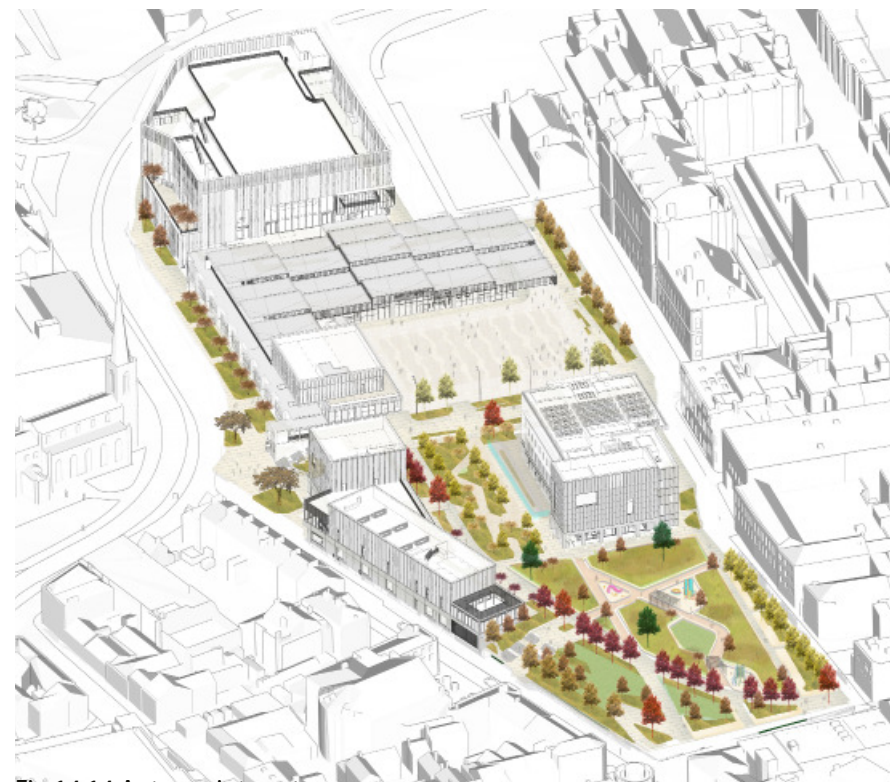


Fig.14.14 Autumn interest

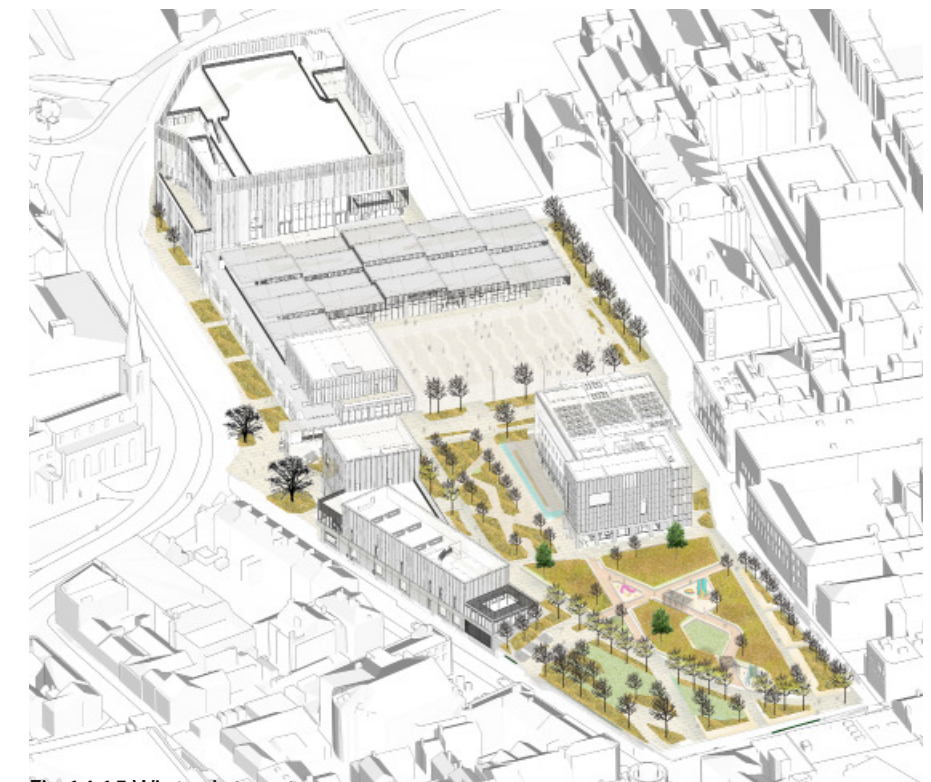


Fig.14.15 Winter interest

14 | PLANTING

14.6 | BIODIVERSITY

- 14.6.6.5 The site currently comprised large areas of build-up environment with small, fragmented areas of mown grass of low ecological value.
- 14.6.6.6 The proposed development will seek to improve on site biodiversity by creating a range of new plant communities and planting a substantial number of trees throughout the site, aiming to achieve minimum 50% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
- 14.6.6.7 In order to achieve this goal, a comprehensive strategy has been drawn up to improve ecological value of the site. this will be achieved by doing the following:
- Increase the coverage of soft areas on site
 - Introduce more varied and diverse plant communities, including long sward grassland, ornamental planting, rain gardens
 - Incorporate native and wildlife-friendly ornamental plants into all mixes
 - Mitigate the loss of existing trees by planting 92 new semi-mature trees



Fig.14.16 Biodiversity enhancements plan

KEY

	Ornamental planting		Existing trees retained
	Rain gardens / SUDS		Large trees
	Mown grass		Medium trees
	Wildflower meadow		Small trees

14 | PLANTING

14.7 | SOILS

- 14.7.1.1 The extensive plans to green-up Huddersfield Town Centre through creation of new Urban Park will require a comprehensive strategy for the handling of soils. The site currently comprises large areas of build-up environment that potentially will not be a suitable medium for new planting.
- 14.7.1.2 Wherever possible, the existing topsoil and subsoil will be tested, treated and reused on site. Defra's Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites 2009 will be adhered to throughout.
- 14.7.1.3 It is however anticipated that most of the soft areas will require use of imported topsoil and subsoils in large quantities.
- 14.7.1.4 A lightweight soil will be used on roof terraces and in areas over existing underground tunnels, where use of a low-density, free draining medium may be required.
- 14.7.1.5 All imported topsoils and subsoils will be peat free and comply with following British Standards - BS 3882:2015 and BS 8601:2013.

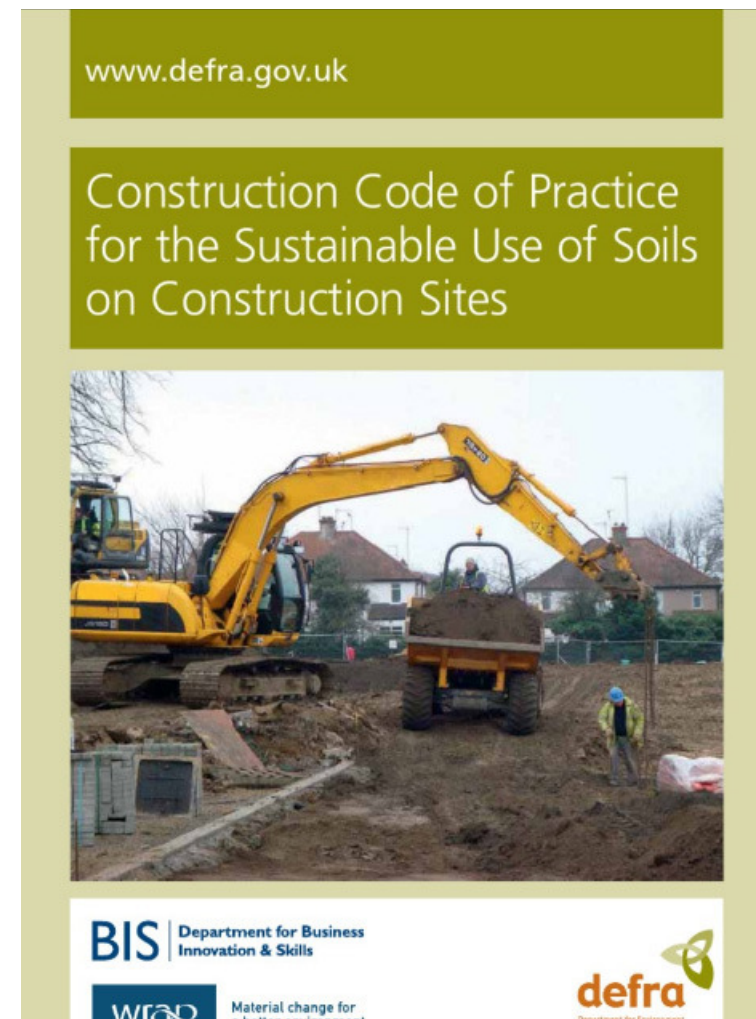


Fig.14.17 Defra publication on use of soils

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15

PLAY

15 | PLAY

15.1 | SYNOPSIS

15.1.1 OVERVIEW

15.1.1.1 Play has been central to the design development for the proposed park as a means of encouraging children and families into the town centre, increasing dwell time, improving public health and breathing life and vibrancy into the new spaces.

15.1.2 IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

15.1.2.1 The importance of play in towns and cities is well documented, and with numerous individual and community benefits. These include:

- Improving health and wellbeing through physical and social activity
- Stronger communities through greater attachment to neighbourhood and counterparts
- Cognitive and motor skills development
- Connecting with nature and the outdoors
- Economic benefits generated through greater footfall/time spent

15.1.3 POLICY CONTEXT: NATIONAL POLICY

15.1.3.1 The following paragraphs describe our national guidance on the design and provision of public space. No specific mention of play spaces is made, however there are points of relevance within the guidance of which play will some way to meeting on behalf of the project.

15.1.3.2 *Chapter 8; Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

(a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;

15.1.3.3 *Chapter 12; Achieving Well Designed Places of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

(e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and

(f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users 49 ; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

15.1.4 POLICY CONTEXT: LOCAL POLICY

15.1.4.1 Kiklees Council's play strategy has been a source of reference in the Cultural Heart development proposals. This document includes and assessment of council owned existing provision, as well as the vision and strategy for improving public health and inclusion through play. It does not consider school, at home or private provision.

15.1.4.2 Key parts of this publication are described below.

Living play 2020; Playable Spaces Strategy, Kirklees Council

Kirklees Council have an ambition to move away from designated play areas, and move towards creating a well connected network of playable spaces which tie together the urban centre of Huddersfield with the semi rural suburbs. This will create opportunities for not only play, but access to nature and green infrastructure also.

In addition, the assessment of existing play provision indicates Kirklees has good provision of play spaces aimed at 4-11 year olds. There is a deficiency in provision for other age groups, as well as accessible play.

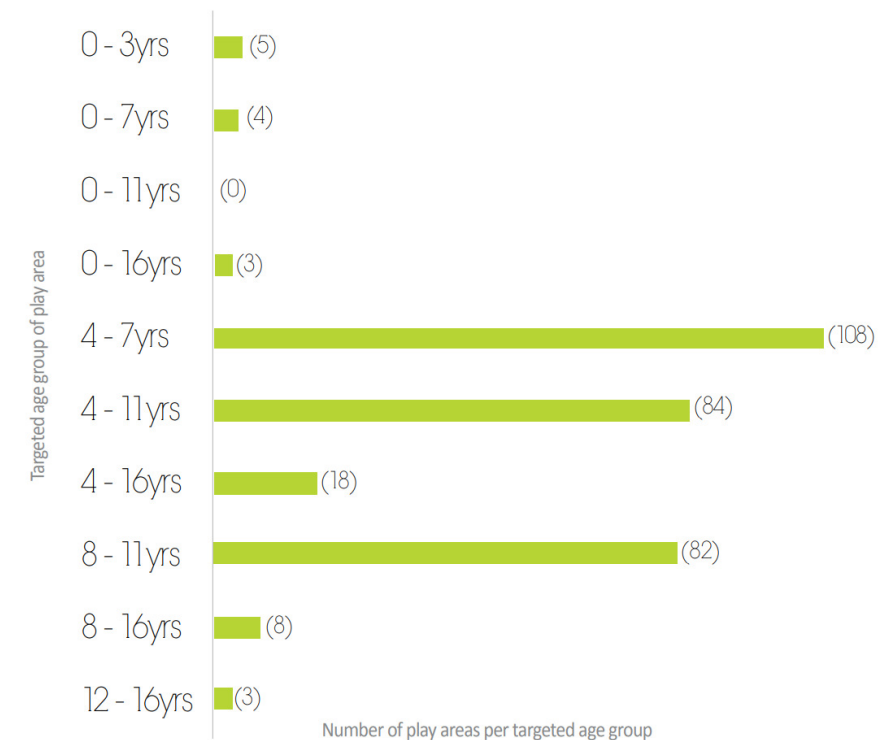


Fig.15.1.1 Existing Kirkees play provision by target age group; source: Kirklees Council

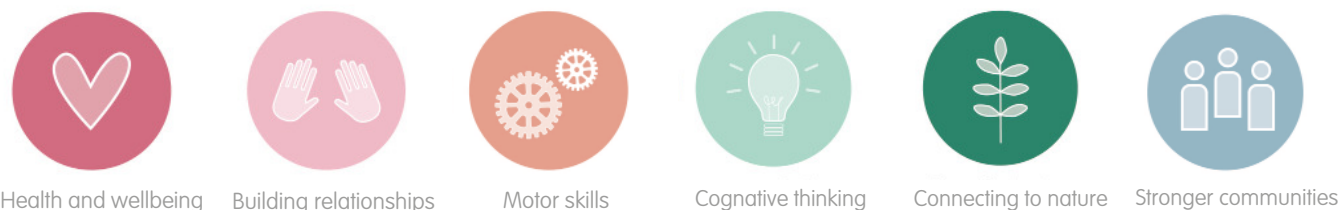


Fig.XX Benefits of play

15 | PLAY

15.2 | MULTI GENERATIONAL PLAY

15.2.32 HOW WE PLAY

15.2.32.1 How we interact with public space differs according to age, gender, ability and neurodiversity. Different scales and adjacencies take on different social qualities which will appeal to different to users. This has concept has been used in the development proposals for the Cultural Heart to inform the arrangement and relationship between play areas.

15.2.32.2 Play will be encouraged throughout the site, not just within designated spaces.

15.2.32.3 The following types of play will be provided:

- Social play: creating opportunities for all generations to play together
- Inclusive play: enabling opportunities to cater to needs of specific marginalised user groups
- Interpretative play: create opportunities that can be used differently between various user groups
- Nature based play: encouraging greater interaction and enjoyment with the natural world for restoration and discovery
- Inspiring: creating bespoke and exciting play opportunities unique to Hudedrsfield
- Active Play: promoting physical activity and energetic play particularly amongst teenagers and young adults

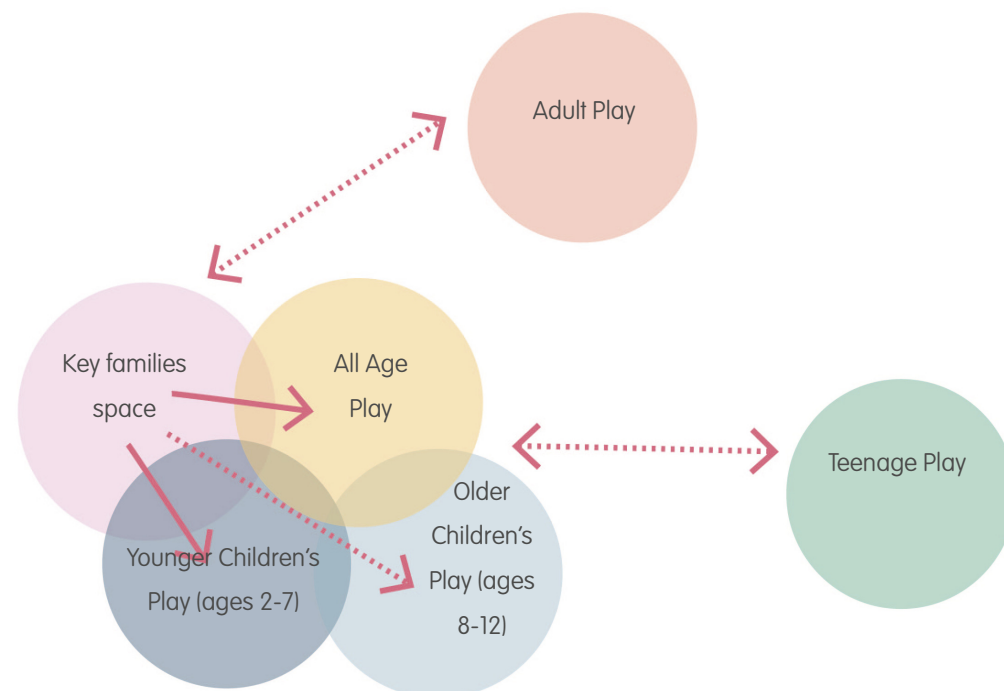


Fig.15.2.5 Relationship between play spaces by age



Fig.15.2.1 Inclusive play



Fig.15.2.2 Water play



Fig.15.2.3 Structured play



Fig.15.2.4 Social play



Fig.15.2.6 Active play

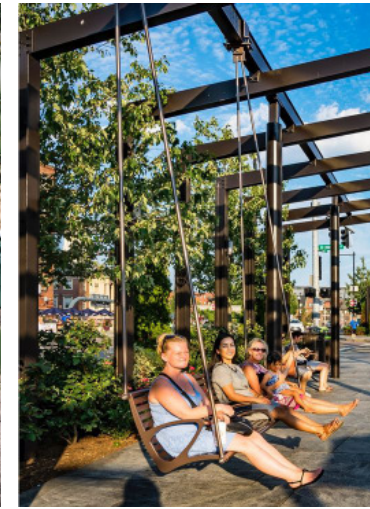
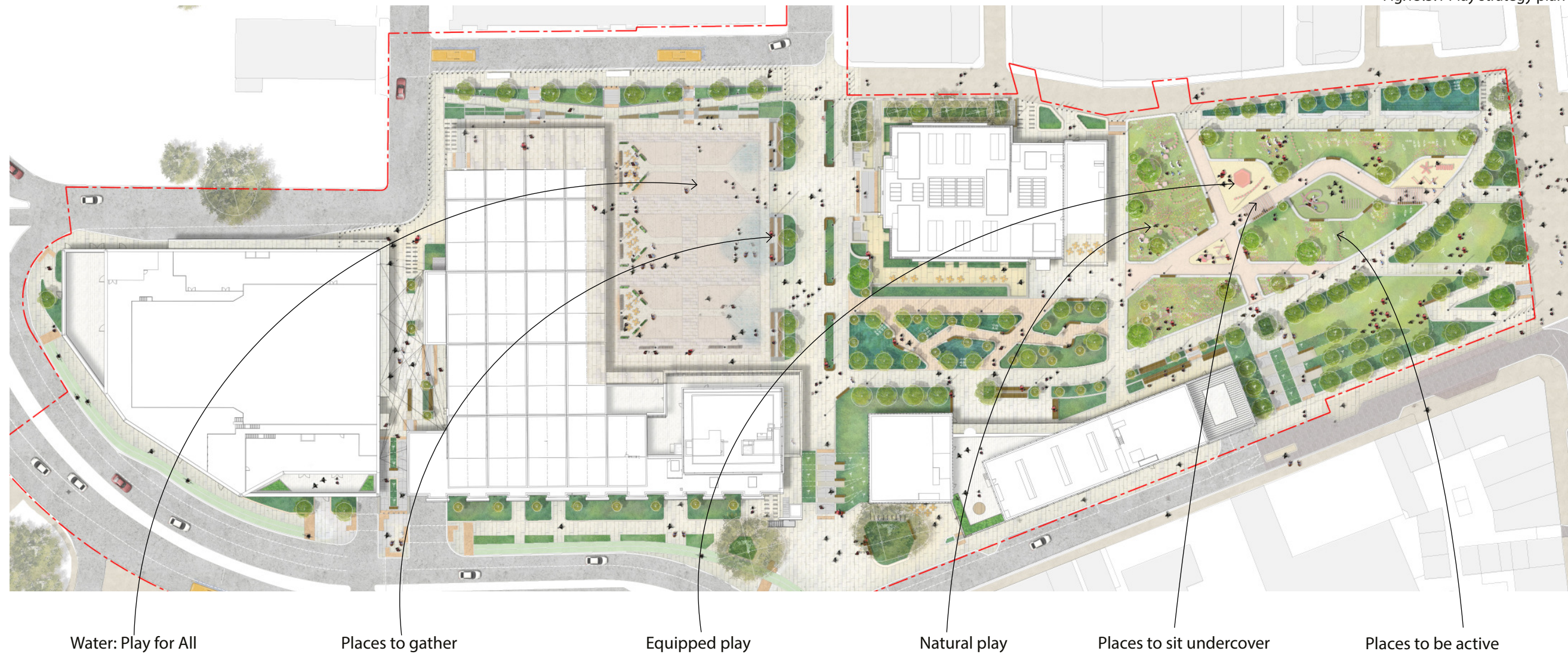


Fig.15.2.7 Nature based play

15 | PLAY

15.3 | STRATEGY

Fig.15.3.1 Play strategy plan



15 | PLAY

15.4 | EQUIPPED PLAY

15.4.5 EQUIPPED PLAY

- 15.4.5.1 The equipped play spaces in the Green area of the site will contain a variety of play equipment with the objective of creating an exciting destination playground which is bespoke to the Cultural Heart. The detailed proposals for the play equipment are subject to further engagement with Kirklees Council and do not form part of the planning application at this stage. The details provided on this page are intended to provide an indication of the style, materials, and concepts which are subject to further development.
- 15.4.5.2 It will include play equipment which has been informed by the co-design process (refer to chapter 7) and community engagement work done in collaboration with tThe Children's Art School. The French Horn sculpture which was produced with the community will inform the design as a reference to the town's musical heritage.
- 15.4.5.3 This is likely to take the form of play sculptures, which can be used in a variety of ways by different age groups and people with different needs, creating an inclusive play environment.



Fig.15.4.1 Play precedent metal and timber materials



Fig.15.4.2 Children's Art School French Horn sculpture



Fig.15.4.4 Play precedent bespoke themed equipment

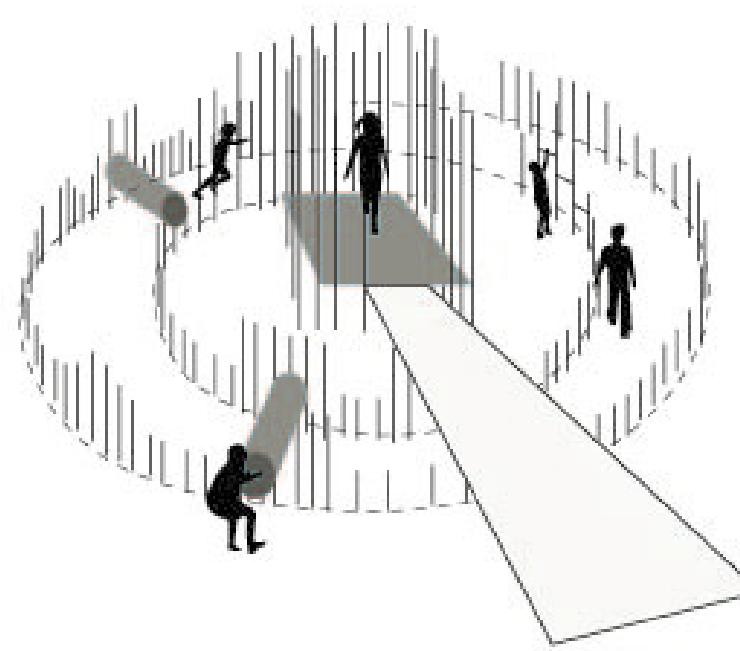


Fig.15.4.5 Initial concept ideas: French Horn play sculpture

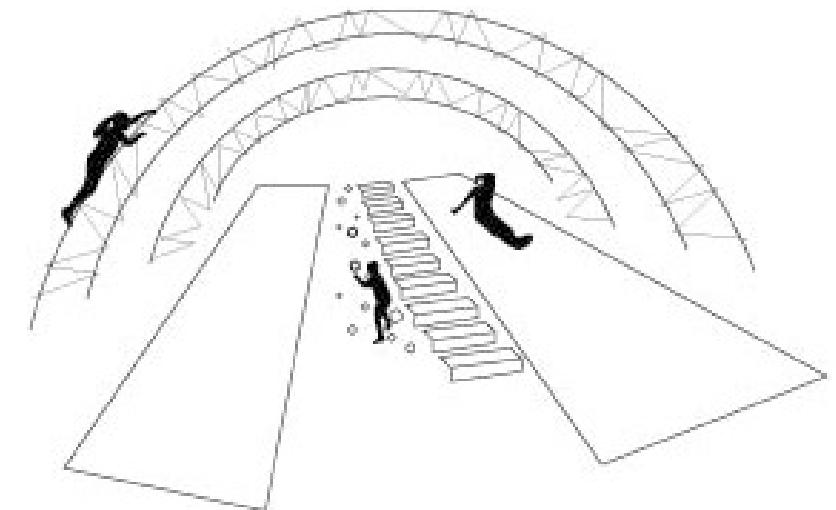


Fig.15.4.3 Initial concept ideas: French Horn play sculpture

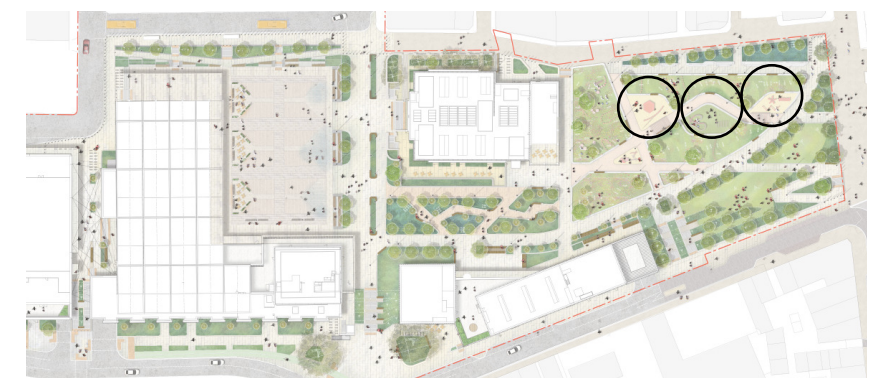


Fig.15.4.6 Equipped play locations

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16

SUSTAINABILITY

16 | SUSTAINABILITY

16.1 | BENEFITS

16.1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 16.1.1.1 Kirklees Council's declaration of a climate emergency and it's target for net zero carbon emissions by 2038 demands that the Cultural Heart is delivered with sustainability a, and the park creates a unique opportunity to make significant gains.
- 16.1.1.2 The public realm will support the ecological improvements of the scheme in addition to providing resilience to flood risk and changes to our climate. The public realm will also offer a space to users of all abilities and be an inclusive place for all.
- 16.1.1.3 The public realm sustainability strategy can be summarised under the following categories. These are described on the following pages. A seperate sustainability report by Etude has also been produced for the site wide proposals, and which accompanies the application.

16.1.2 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

16.1.2.1 Access, Play and Exercise

- Routes through the park encourage pedestrian movement through the space and link in with existing public transport routes.
- Cycle racks & accessible routes provide physical access to the Cultural Heart to multiple user groups.
- Active spaces for play and social gatherings. Active and incidental play builds physical activity and wellbeing into childrens' (and adventurous adults') movement through the park.

16.1.2.2 Air Quality

- General improvements to air quality from reduced vehicular traffic and increased green space & tree planting.
- Tree planting strategy focused on the reduction of NO2 and small particulate matter in line with Kirklees Council wide-scale priority to improve air quality in town centres, and address the 2017 AQMO for Huddersfield Town Centre.
- The relevant air quality objectives for NO2, PM10 and PM2.5 are predicted to be met at all existing and proposed human receptors. The impact of operational traffic as a result of the Site is predicted to be negligible at all human receptors. The effect of the Site on local air quality is therefore not significant.

16.1.2.3 Biophilia, Mental Wellbeing and Education

- Access to green space increases mental wellbeing as well as reducing stress and anxiety.
- Rich planting & biodiversity gains create educational opportunities.

16.1.4 MITIGATION

16.1.4.1 Embodied Carbon

- Careful material choice to minimise lifetime CO2 costs including considerations of transport impacts, renewability, production and construction CO2 costs.
- Minimisation of waste material transported off-site e.g. balance cut / fill in topographical changes, consider use of waste material from demolition as drainage material or additive growing media (as appropriate).

16.1.4.2 Sequestration

- Trees & ornamental planting to aid carbon sequestration.
- Potentials of soil sequestration through adoption of low-impact / no-dig management plan (possible integration circular economy).

16.1.4.3 Circular Economy

16.1.4.4 Consider end of life for landscape furniture and surfaces from day 1. Sequestration

- Trees & ornamental planting to aid carbon sequestration.
- Potentials of soil sequestration through adoption of low-impact / no-dig management plan (possible integration circular economy).

16.1.4.5 Circular Economy

16.1.5 Consider end of life for landscape furniture and surfaces from day 1.

16.1.6 RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

16.1.6.1 Water Management

- Use of planted rain gardens & SUDs to reduce water-runoff from site.
- Potential to use of landform & topography to capture run-off from nearby urban areas

16.1.6.2 Ecology and Biodiversity

- NET 50% biodiversity gain.
- Diverse planting strategy that balances nativeness with resilience.
- Habitat management to ensure longitudinal biodiversity increase & responsiveness to changing climatological conditions.

16.1.6.3 Urban Cooling

- Use of tree planting (hardscape & softscape) and large greened areas to provide shade and reduce urban heat island effect. Improving comfort within the park and the wider urban area.

16 | SUSTAINABILITY

16.2 | STRATEGY OVERVIEW

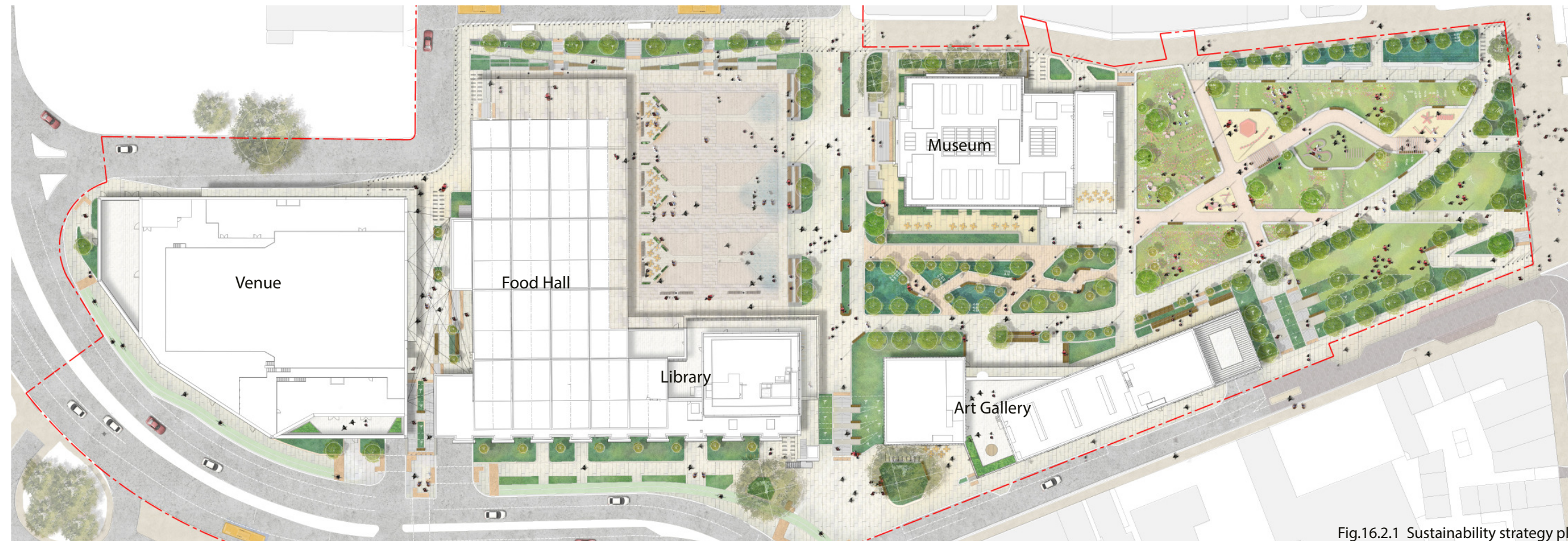


Fig.16.2.1 Sustainability strategy plan

Promoting walking and cycling

Design for longevity whole life cost

Re-use of site won material

Rain Gardens (SUDs)

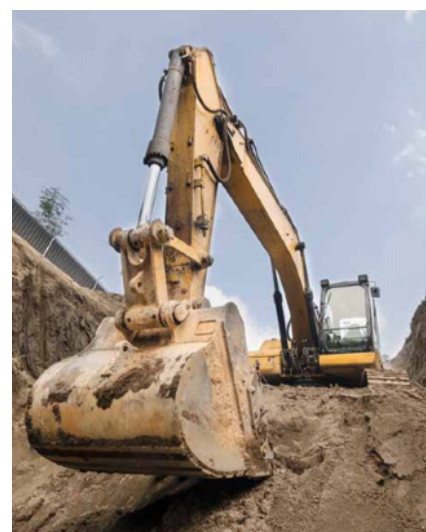
Diverse tree planting, including native + non-native



- Improved pedestrian connectivity
- Attractive, green routes
- Cycle storage



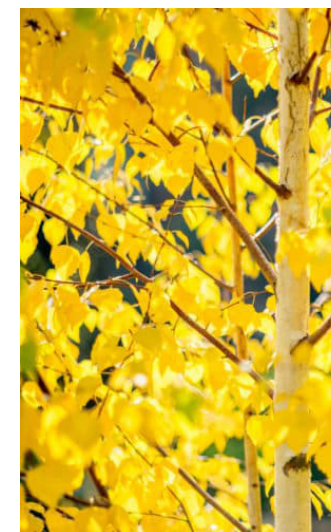
- Hard wearing materials
- Robust construction detailing



- Re-use of soils from on site.
- Re-use of natural stone cladding as paving (subject to further testing).



- Planting to be designed to receive surface water run off from adjacent hard surfaces, reducing site wide discharge rates.
- A biodiverse planting mix to be developed (refer to chapter 14).



- Significant new tree planting across the site, mitigating the loss of existing trees at a rate of 1:3 minimum.
- Species to include large canopied trees, native and non native varieties.

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17

PUBLIC ART

17 | PUBLIC ART

17.1 | SYNOPSIS

17.1.1 SYNOPSIS

17.1.1.1 Art And culture are fundamental components of the Cultural heart project, and as such is at the forefront of the Urban Park and Public Realm proposals. There are four key opportunities for the inclusion of public art within the project:

- Existing public art: The retention of existing public art and the design response to it.
- Planning & Design Process: The involvement of art and artists in the planning and design process
- The future public realm: spaces that enable art & culture.
- Informing identity: heritage, local character and distinctiveness

Taking each opportunity in turn:

17.1.2 THE RETENTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC ART

17.1.2.1 Key pieces of public art retained in the public realm proposals include 'Articulation in Movement' by Fritz Steller and comprising a series of square ceramic panels set over natural stone cladding which face onto Queensgate, and two stone sculptures in stone outside the current library entrance by by James Woodford RA. A further piece 'Commerce' by Fritz Steller is retained within the former market hall.

17.1.2.2 The Ceramic panels facing onto Queensgate have, for a number of years, been obscured by the canopies of mainly birch trees. The strategy here is to remove some of these trees to open up clear views and to plant the area of soft landscape immediately in front of the former market hall with a bio diverse mix of planting comprising species that will visually soften the lower stone plinth, but which will not grow so tall that they obscure the ceramic panels.

17.1.2.3 James Woodford's sculptures will be retained in their present position. There will be some improvement works to steps and a new accessible 'bridge' access provided off Victoria Lane to the Museum (former Library) entrance.



Fig.17.1.1 James Woodford sculptures

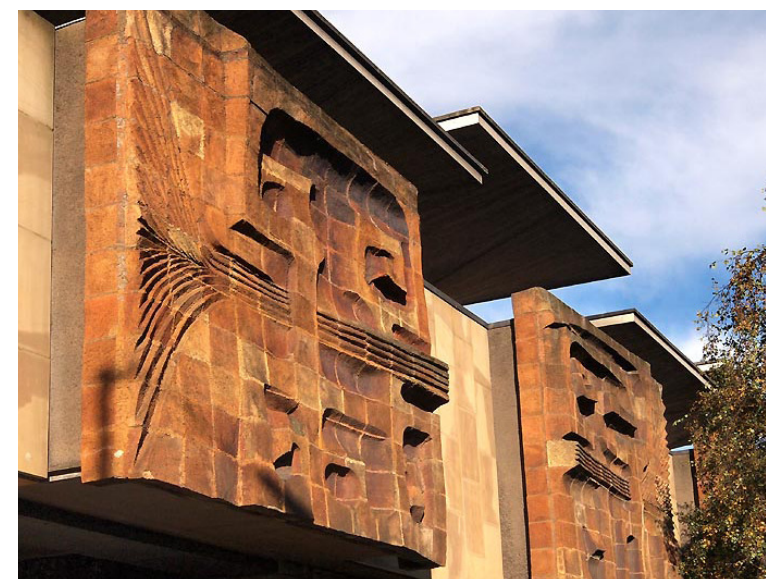


Fig.17.1.2 Articulation in Movement by Fritz Steller

17 | PUBLIC ART

17.2 | STRATEGY

17.2.33 THE INVOLVEMENT OF ART AND ARTISTS IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS

- 17.1.2.4 Artists and arts organisations have been involved in facilitating consultation and engagement of the design of the park and public realm – and in particular during co-design workshop session. A series of drop in workshops with young people were facilitated by Children's Arts School (<https://thechildrensartschool.co.uk>) at 'Maker World' located on the Piazza – where over 340 young people and their parents, guardian or carers attended.
- 17.1.2.5 Ideas generated at the Maker World sessions were then realised by Hannah Bendon in the form of an imaginative model that represented a centre piece item of play equipment shaped like a futuristic French Horn – celebrating Huddersfield traditions in music. This model was then used as an attracter piece during a wider consultation event held on the piazza on August 27th 2022. Children were invited to help paint it as parents, guardians and/or carers were consulted on the emerging proposals for the cultural heart.
- 17.1.2.6 All the work produced by children during the drop in sessions has been documented and the ideas are being distilled by a specialist play equipment designer in order to produce a play concept for the Cultural Heart.



Fig.17.2.1 Children's Art School attendees



Fig.17.2.2 Work produced by attendees of Children's Art School

17.3.14 SPACES THAT ENABLE ART & CULTURE

- 17.1.2.7 Our approach to the planning and design of the public realm and Urban Park is to treat the spaces as a canvass or stage, where either public art can be applied, or cultural activities can take place. Spaces are multifunctional and adaptable and can be easily and readily curated and programmed.
- 17.1.2.8 The proposed civic square is capable of hosting arrange of event types - ranging from performances, to markets, fairs, fetes, seasonal events through to periodic art installations.
- 17.1.2.9 Within the Museum gardens there will be a number of locations were artefacts or works of art, either within existing council owned collections, or periodic temporary exhibitions, can be displayed. The exact number and location of these will be worked through with the Museums and Galleries team during the detailed design stages.
- 17.1.2.10 Within the Green the play zone will comprise a number of bespoke designed elements that are a direct response to the young people consultation evets and co-design workshops. Flexible areas within the Green can also be utilised for temporary public art displays and or cultural events.
- 17.4.6 HERITAGE, LOCAL CHARACTER AND DISTINCTIVENESS
- 17.1.2.11 Huddersfield has a strong and distinct character, and it is important that this is harnessed in order to inform the look and feel of the new cultural heart landscape.
- 17.1.2.12 A design language for elements within the park have been taken from the landscape setting, the textile heritage, and cultural associations of Huddersfield. Inspiration for the water feature and paved surface for the Civic Square is being taken from the Fritz Steller ceramics, the play zone seating edge, rolling lawns and planting textures draw on inspiration from the surrounding south Pennine hills and moorland, and the concepts for the bespoke elements of play equipment that are being developed, are based on musical instruments (see above). At a more detailed level, heritage plants traditionally associated with weaving and textile dyes are being incorporated into the Museum Gardens planting palette.

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18

EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18 | EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18.1 | PHILOSOPHY

18.1.1 INTRODUCTION

18.1.1.1 The quality of experience of the external spaces at the Cultural Heart is as important after dark as it is during the daylight hours. The provision of an appropriate lighting scheme is a key element of the project.

18.1.1.2 A separate more detailed report has been produced on external lighting by Arup. Refer to report CDT430201-ARP-ZZ-ZZ-RP-YL-00002 for full details.

18.1.2 LIGHTING PHILOSOPHY

18.1.2.1 Without good quality lighting urban spaces often become confusing and disorientating; the texture and colour of materials is lost and the character becomes hostile and uninviting. A clear understanding of the shape and scale of spaces, their mood and atmosphere, textures and colours are therefore critical during the hours of darkness –not only so that people can ‘see’ but also so they can enjoy their environment.

18.1.2.2 The approach to the external lighting design will focus on the quality of the overall experience, not only for visitors to the venues, but also uses moving through the space. The design will be developed to consider careful integration of the light with the various streetscape, landscape and architectural features within.

18.1.2.3 The lighting design philosophy is captured by the following core objectives:

- Identity
- Placemaking
- Legibility
- Sustainability
- Safety
- Longevity

18.1.2.4 The sections below provide further information and illustrate how these core objectives are envisioned to be achieved in the context of the varying areas and opportunities that can be developed as part of the regeneration strategy.



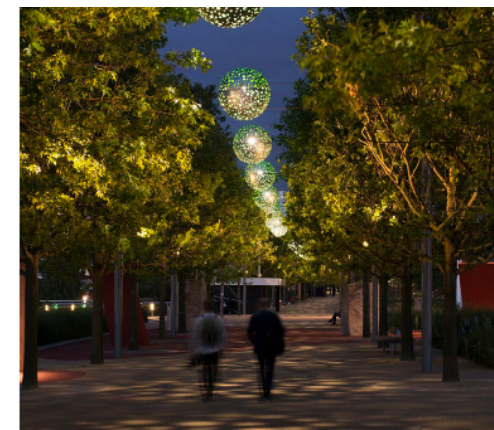
Identity

Promoting the unique identity of the development and its constituent areas.



Placemaking

Cultivating the appropriate ambience and mood in each individual space and area.



Legibility

Providing intuitive wayfinding through the highlighting and enhancement of routes and vistas



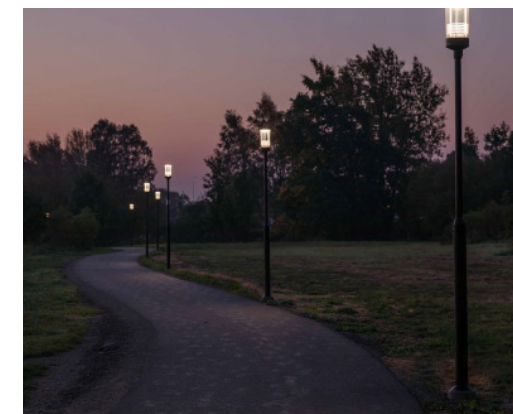
Longevity

Designing for ease of maintenance and procurement without compromising on quality.routes and vistas



Safety

Illuminating to provide a sense of safety and assurance to the users and the community.



Sustainability

Utilising the appropriate light, minimising energy use and respecting the surrounding ecology.

18 | EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18.2 | MASTERPLAN

18.2.34 BUILDING ENTRANCES AND ROUTES

18.2.34.1 The plan shows the anticipated movement of people around the new development between the key destinations on site.

18.2.34.2 The development is fully pedestrianised, with the only vehicular access as routes from the highway, into the car park.



Fig.18.2.1 Hierarchy of routes and building entrances

Key:

-  Main building entrances
-  Car park entrance and exit
-  Primary routes
-  Secondary routes
-  Tertiary routes

18 | EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18.3 | VISION

18.3.15 GATEWAYS, NODES AND DESTINATIONS

18.3.15.1 The creation of successful destinations, nodes and gateways is essential to creating identity, placemaking and promoting legibility throughout the development, and the lighting is a key ingredient for distinguishing these spaces.

18.3.15.2 These areas provide the opportunity for contained, unique illuminated characters, such as the use of coloured light, rhythm or dynamic features.

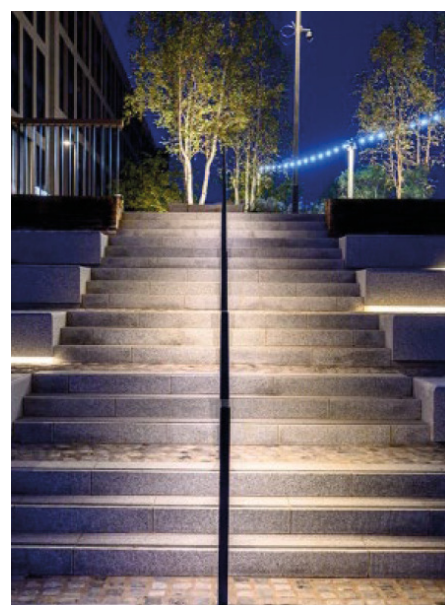
18.3.15.3 These spaces each have their own function and the duration of time users are expected to stay, which have direct implications on the type and design of lighting to best support the intended function.

18.3.15.4 The three categories are:

- Gateways
- Destinations
- Nodes



Fig.18.3.1 Nodes, gateways and destinations plan



Gateways to site

- Provide a sense of beginning, anticipation and understanding
- A brief feature generating interest for passing through
- Lighting for character
- Lighting leads the way, foreshadowing the destination beyond



Nodes

- Way points on a route, used to orientate and act as descriptions on a journey
- Creating interest for short visits by hosting permanent or temporary show installations such as public art or interactive features – a place for people to visit
- Lighting for experience



Destinations

- Encouraging longer dwell times by creating social and play environments - a place for people to stay
- Lighting for ambiance and vitality
- Lighting takes a more permanent nature in the backdrop, allowing for the activity to be organic, front-and-centre
- Provide sense of arrival
- Lighting for experience

18 | EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18.3 | VISION

18.3.16 KEY SPACES

18.3.16.1 To create different character areas within the site, but maintain a cohesive lit environment, different approaches to the lighting of key spaces will be applied.

18.3.16.2 These are summarised on the diagram opposite and further detail on each zone is provided in Arup report CDT430201-ARP-ZZ-ZZ-RP-YL-00002.



Fig.18.3.2 Lighting by key spaces

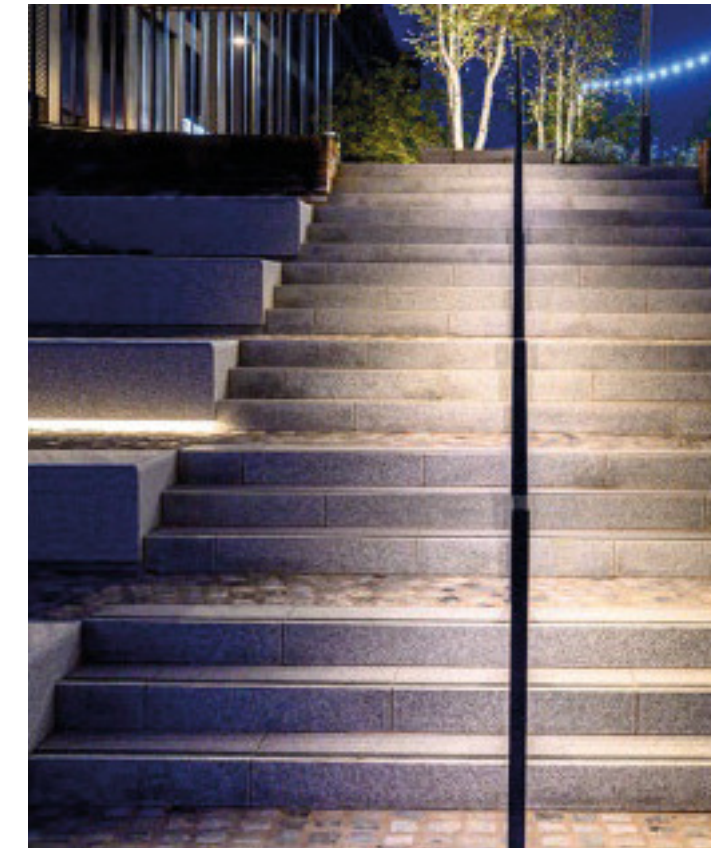
18 | EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18.3 | VISION

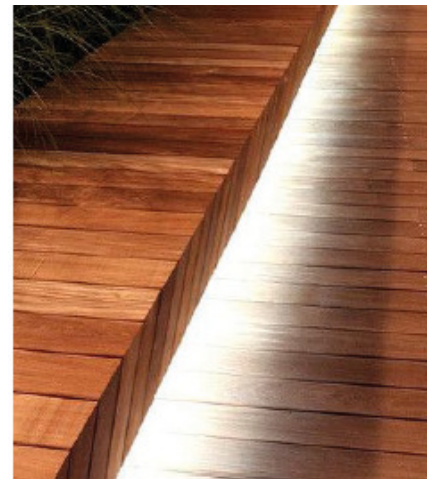
THE GREEN:



THE TERRACES:



THE GARDEN:



THE SQUARE:



18 | EXTERNAL LIGHTING

18.4 | CONTROL

18.4.7 LIGHTING CONTROLS

- 18.4.7.1 All proposed lighting is to be maintained by Kirklees Council. The controls treatment for routes and areas within the site will be zoned to allow for part night dimming. Special events that occur in the square and venues will be designated and commissioned to extend use of the public realm into the evening.
- 18.4.7.2 To promote sustainability and reduce energy usage, a control schedule will be employed. This will allow lighting to be switched on and off when required to best support the design aspirations, to follow guidance on obtrusive light and to limit sky glow. Time scheduling will have input from a photocell to switch lighting on when daylight levels have dropped below a predetermined level.
- 18.4.7.3 For example;
- 18.4.7.4 Routes around the development will be on all night, providing safe levels of light but may dim to a lower level after an agreed time when expected pedestrian traffic reduces.
- 18.4.7.5 Security lighting will be controlled through the buildings.
- 18.4.7.6 Façade lighting will be controlled with the public realm lighting
- 18.4.7.7 Lighting to soft landscaping, features will switch off at a curfew time, to be agreed.
- 18.4.7.8 Lighting within the play areas will switch off, or change to white light, at a curfew time, to discourage negative use later in the evening
- 18.4.7.9 The square lighting will be controllable for events and large gatherings.

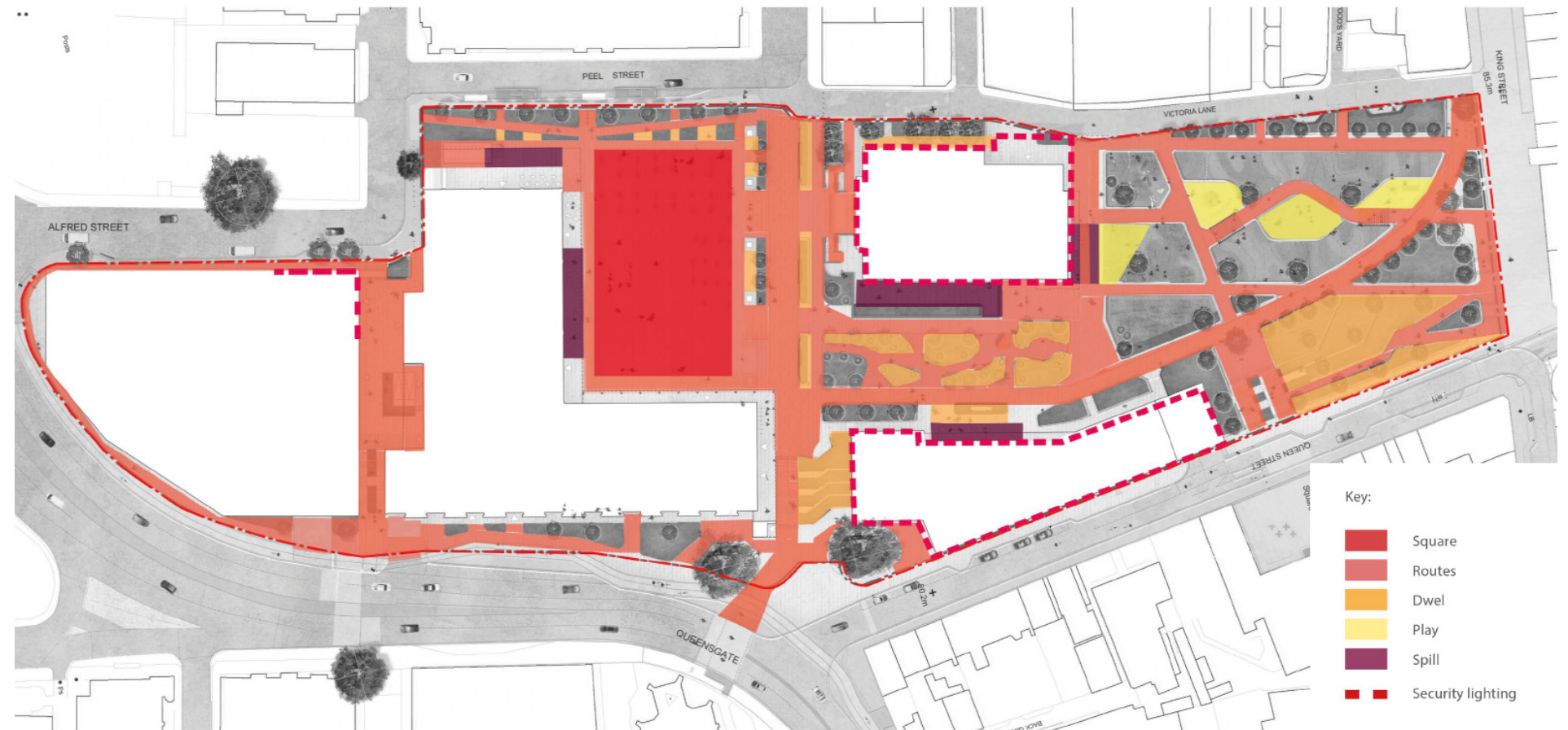


Fig.18.4.1 Lighting control plan

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

CDT430201_RFM_XX_XX_RP_A_010010_P01

19

SAFETY AND SECURITY

19 | SAFETY AND SECURITY

19.1 | STRATEGY

19.1.1 SYNOPSIS

19.1.1.1 It is clear from community and stakeholder engagement that security of the site is a concern to many of the users, and this has been considered throughout the design stages thus far

19.1.1.2 We want to create a safe environment which discourages antisocial behaviour without feeling overbearing. This has involved a balance of strategies, utilising both active and passive means, to achieve an integrated and sensitive approach which does not dehumanise the spaces.

19.1.2 DESIGNING OUT CRIME

19.1.2.1 Good visibility throughout the site is key, with trees positioned to frame not block views. The buildings on the site are predominantly located to the edges which means there will be good passive surveillance over the external spaces as well as the existing surrounding street network. Queen Street in particular will benefit from this.

19.1.2.2 There will be a number of entrances to the park. These will be generous in width and feel open and inviting. Upon any entrance to the site you can see where you are heading.

19.1.2.3 Provision of a number of active uses within the park, such as play spaces and places where events can take place, will help to create a sense of life and activity which will discourage misuse.

19.1.2.4 Play spaces have been positioned along routes, as opposed to dead ends to dissuade anti social behaviour and colonisation of spaces.

19.1.2.5 In terms of active means of crime prevention, a specialist security engineer has been engaged to work on the project who has advised the following measures: These have been incorporated into the design, but are of a confidential status meaning limited information is released into the public domain at this stage.

- Means of preventing attacks from hostile vehicles in line with anti terror legislation
- CCTV coverage of building entrances, primary routes and spaces

19.1.2.6 Consultation meetings have taken place between the design team and West Yorkshire Police Designing Out Crime Officers and Counter Terror Unit (CTU). This engagement will continue during the detailed design period.

19.1.2.7 An external lighting strategy will also be implemented. Refer to chapter 17 for further details.

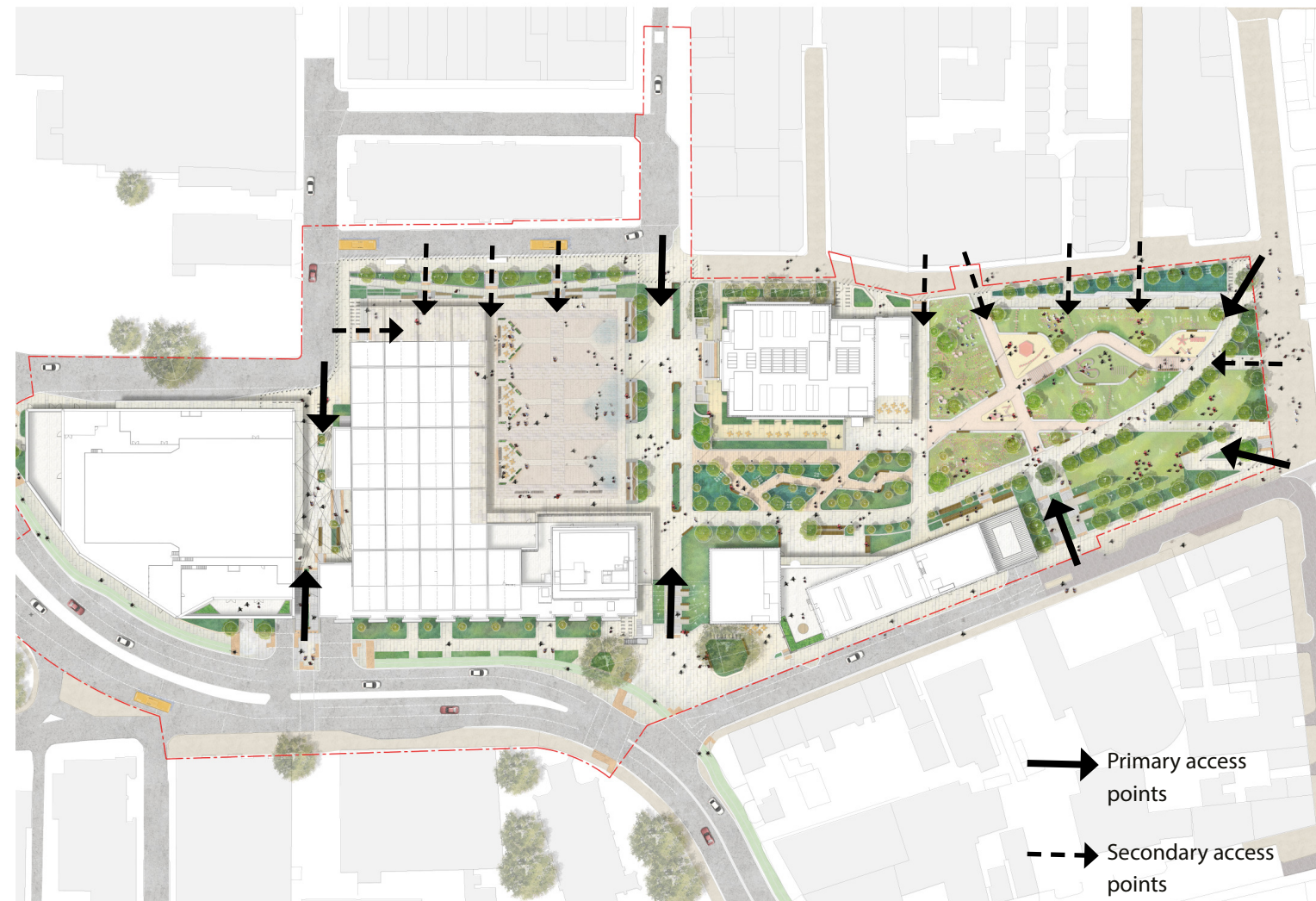


Fig.19.1.1 Park entry points and views

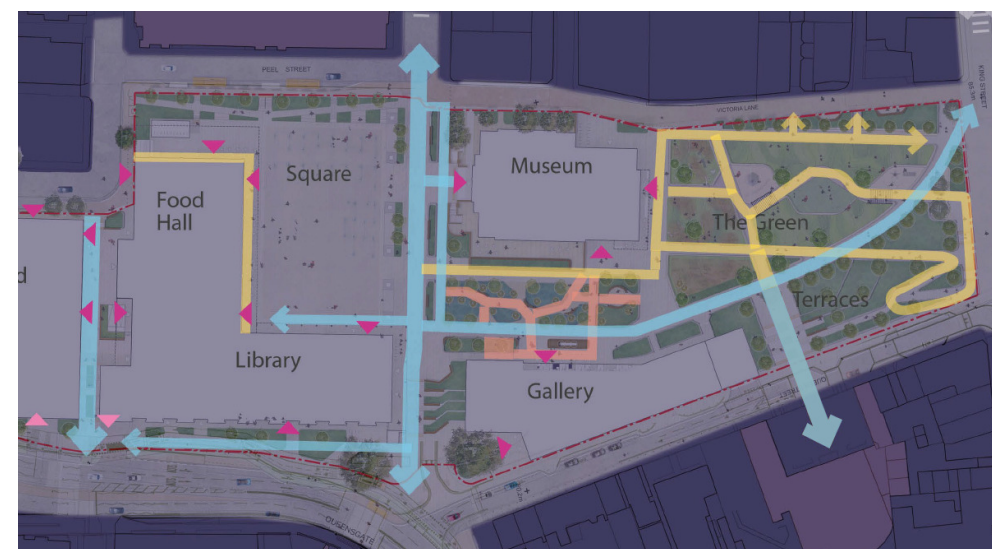


Fig.19.1.2 External path lighting



Fig.19.1.3 CCTV cameras discreetly contained within lighting columns

KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART

LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

CDT430201_RFM_XX_XX_RP_A_010010_P01

20

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

20 | MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

20.1 | GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

20.1.1 OVERVIEW

20.1.1.1 A comprehensive management plan, including operation schedules is to be produced by re-form landscape architecture limited, in conjunction with Kirklees Council. This is to follow at a later date by landscape condition. It will set out the following:

- Maintenance responsibilities,
- key stakeholders,
- Plan Objectives/Design vision
- Ecological/BNG considerations
- Sustainability considerations
- Indicators of success
- Schedules of operations for both hard & soft landscape

20.1.2 GOVERNANCE

20.1.2.1 Who is responsible for maintenance operations, likely to include the following representatives:

Kirklees Council:

- Parks & Open Spaces,
- Play area maintenance team
- Street Lighting.
- Curation & Programming: Kirklees Council, Culture & Tourism
- Other Services: Kirklees Library Services, Kirklees Museums & Galleries, Kirklees Streetscene.

20.1.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

20.1.3.1 To prescribe the key operations required for the successful establishment of the park and its development into the destination space envisioned and set out within the park & public realm strategy

20.1.3.2 These objectives will be clearly prescribed within the plan.

20.1.4 PLAN PERIOD

20.1.4.1 10 years from completion of the construction works.

20.1.4.2 Plan (objectives) to be reviewed at end of year 1, and year 5.

20.1.5 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES

20.1.5.1 To cover:

- Play Areas
- Hard Landscape Areas
- Street furniture
- Special design features
- Lighting (input from Arup/Kirklees)
- Planting – Trees
- Planting – shrubs & groundcover
- Planting – lawns & biodiverse/wildflower area



Fig.20.1.1 Grounds maintenance

20 | MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

20.2 | EMERGENCY ACCESS

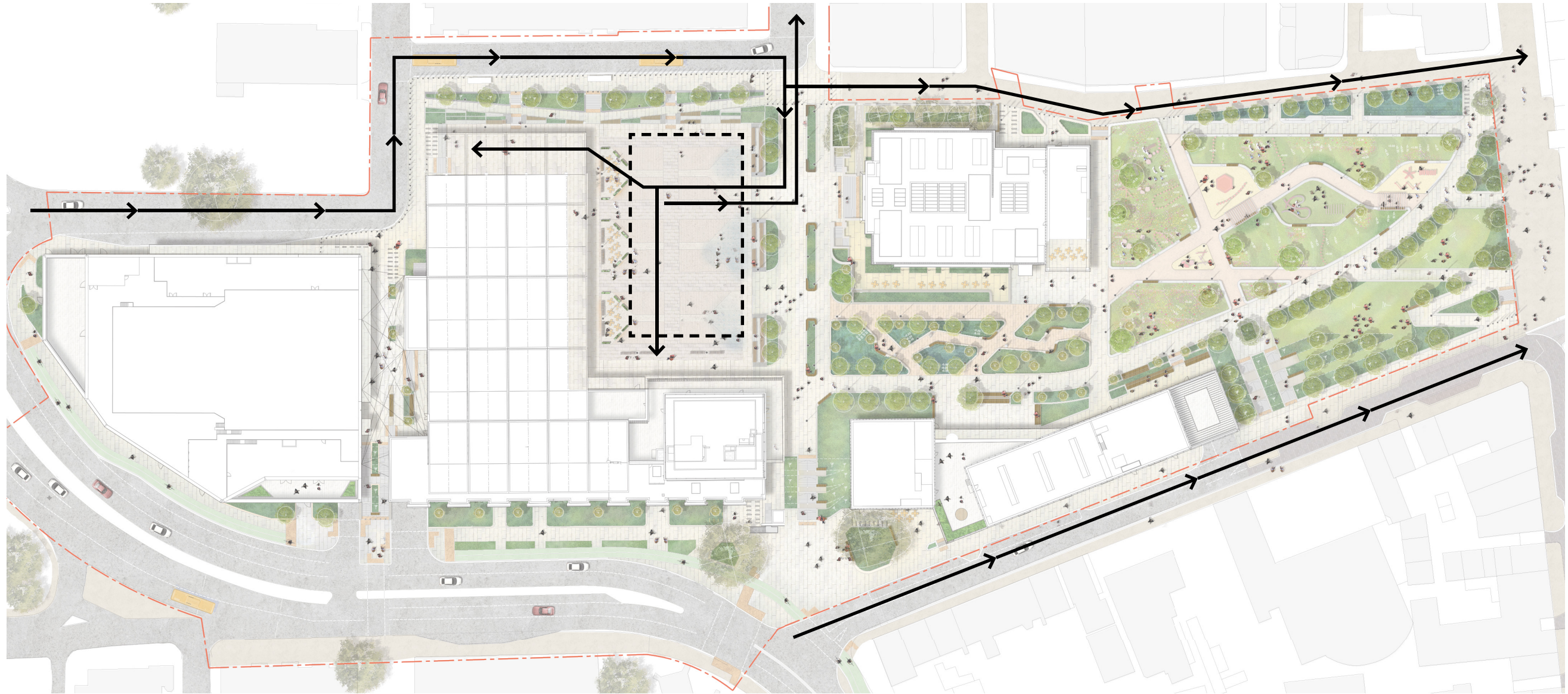


Fig.20.2.1 Emergency access routes plan

20.2.35 EMERGENCY ACCESS

20.2.35.1 Emergency access to the buildings and the outdoor spaces will follow the route shown above. It will predominantly involve utilising the existing surrounding street network to avoid conflict with pedestrians within the Cultural Heart site. The exception to this being the Square, whereby emergency access will be permitted from Peel Street/Ramsden Street via the proposed east-west link. This is to facilitate emergency access to the food hall and library facades overlooking the square.

20 | MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

20.3 | SERVICE ACCESS

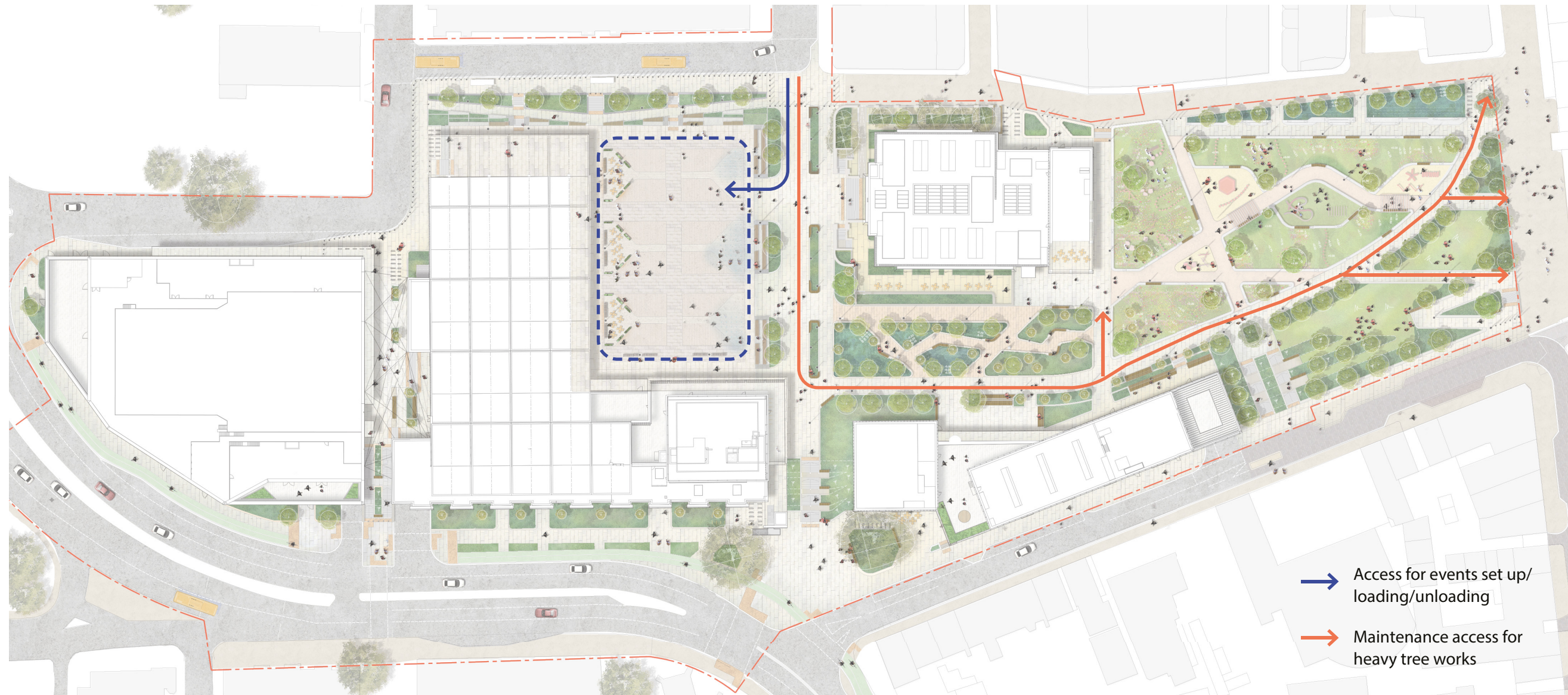


Fig.20.3.1 Service access routes plan

20.3.17 SERVICE ACCESS

20.3.17.1 Buildings will be serviced from the basement areas beneath the site.

20.3.17.2 Access for deliveries and events set up for the outdoor events space will be permitted on the site and will approach the Square from Peel Street, utilising the proposed east-west link to access the Square. The entirety of the east-west link and the Square will be designed to withstand heavy vehicular loadings.

20.3.17.3 All footpaths proposed on the site will be designed to accommodate loadings from mobile elevated working platforms (MEWPs) to allow maintenance of building facades and trees.

20.3.17.4 In addition, the primary pedestrian spine route will be designed to accommodate an 18tonne truck which is used for heavy tree works, as advised by Kirklees Council.

END

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Landscape and Public Realm Strategy| September 2022

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