

facing Princess Street and Peel Street, where there are direct entrances into the market hall.

4.79 The ten large, ceramic artwork panels along the Market's eastern edge are designed by the Architect Fritz Steller who pioneered the production of large-scale ceramic art. These panels are set over natural stone cladding and represent - in abstract form - the 'mushroom' shells of the Market as well as the goods on sale within. The largest of these panels is pierced by stairs and offers an entrance to the Market from Queensgate. The Market's eastern edge is set back from the A62 by a footway, a lawn area and a series of irregularly spaced trees; predominantly birch trees.

Castle Hill

('Castle Hill Setting Study'; 2nd August 2016; Kirklees Council)

4.80 The above report describes the setting and importance of Castle Hill as a Scheduled Monument and prominent landmark

Figure 10: Historical mapping of part of the site showing a higher proportion of civic buildings in the north of the site, 1950s; Digimap



within Kirklees and Huddersfield. Victoria Tower - which sits atop Castle Hill - is also a Grade-II listed building. Castle Hill is situated approximately 2.3 km to the south east of the site.

4.81 Descriptive elements of Castle Hill pertinent to this report include the following:

- 'Set on a steep-sided hilltop, Castle Hill dominates the local landscape [...] It is visible from a wide area around the site and is a familiar and valued landmark [...]

- Castle Hill is a well-used and attractive recreational resource that serves Huddersfield in particular as well as the wider Kirklees area [...]

- The earliest recorded evidence for settlement on Castle Hill is from the later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age [...] The Iron Age saw the remodelling of the small Late Bronze Age enclosure into a larger formal hillfort [...] The medieval period saw the next significant settlement activity on Castle Hill [...] evidence has suggested that the castle was complete and occupied by the 1140s [...] Victoria Tower was built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and was completed in 1899 [...]

- Castle Hill has retained its function as a recreational and defensive site into the post-medieval and modern periods [...]

- The numerous components of the site's setting produce a complex identity of Castle Hill as a highly prominent urban fringe site [...] The town of Huddersfield [...] does play a major part in the site's setting and helps tell the story of the wider landscapes development and industrialisation and urbanisation in the 19th and 20th centuries [...]

- The most striking element of the view [north] is certainly the urban centre of the Huddersfield, which, while relatively compact, contains a number of tall buildings, both commercial and residential, as well as industrial features [...]

- The urban and industrial character of the landscape to the north and west of the Site does not necessarily contribute to the aesthetic significance of the hilltop, in terms of quality of views [...] but views offered from the hilltop enable the appreciation of the development of Huddersfield.'

Other considerations

Project Overview: The Huddersfield Blueprint & Kirklees Cultural Heart

4.82 The Huddersfield Blueprint, produced by Kirklees Council, is a

ten-year vision to create a thriving, modern-day town centre. The plan aims to deliver five key objectives for Huddersfield Town Centre: A vibrant culture, art, leisure and nightlife offer, thriving businesses, a great place to live, improved access and enhanced public spaces that will be inclusive and family friendly area across all times of day. It focuses on regenerating six key areas: Station Gateway, St Peter's, Kingsgate and King Street, New Street, the Civic Quarter and a new Cultural Heart in the Queensgate and Piazza area.

4.83 The plan states that Huddersfield's new vibrant Cultural Heart will be a catalyst for change in the town and is the most iconic vision within The Blueprint. It will act as a cultural hub for the town where families, visitors and residents can gather and enjoy leisure, arts and music, with activities spilling out into a high-quality public space.

4.84 Kirklees Council's Cultural Heart programme is a key council-led regeneration scheme, part of a wider blueprint for Huddersfield Town Centre. Within the site area, proposals for a new Cultural Heart comprise a 'library, art gallery, museum and live music venue in the Piazza and Queensgate area' which will be built around the existing library and Queensgate buildings. The Blueprint envisaged that the scheme would be supported by surrounding restaurants, bars, cafés and the existing Lawrence Batley Theatre. The now-proposed food hall will provide the majority of the food and beverage uses.

4.85 The overall objectives of the Kirklees Cultural Heart project are as follows:

- 're-develop the Queensgate area to complement a modern-day town centre that will be busy, inclusive, family-friendly and stay open longer creating a tangible sense of community;

- create a vibrant and dynamic destination where visitors and residents of all communities and ages can gather and enjoy leisure, arts and music throughout the day, evening and into the night;

- be full of diverse and rich experiences that, not only bring people together, but are familiar, celebratory, and innovative and places Huddersfield's cultural heritage at the centre of the programme;

- be accessible, providing open opportunities to participate, learn new skills, explore and discover;

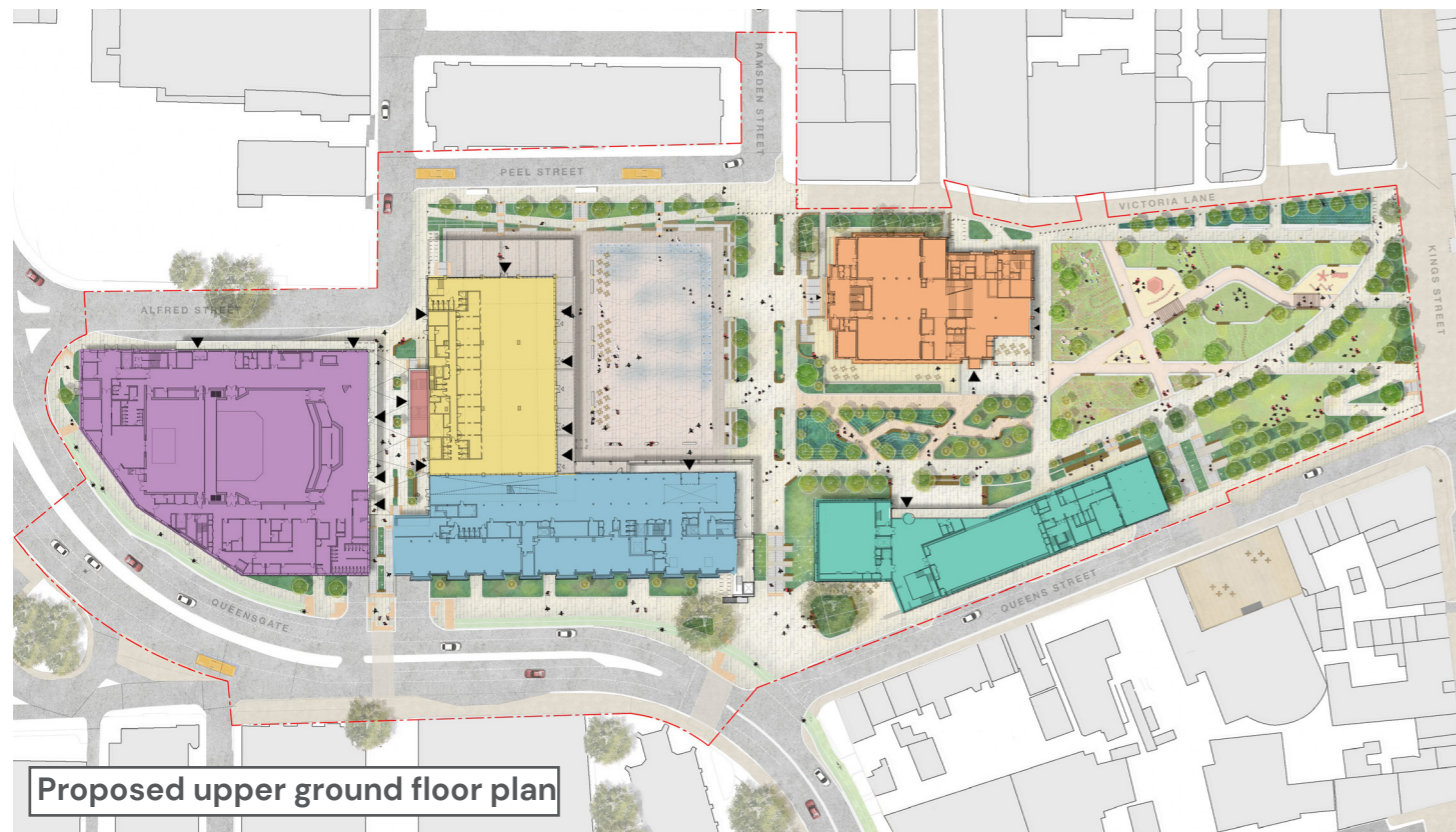
- increase town centre footfall, supporting local businesses and venues, employees and creating new commercial opportunities, making the proposition attractive to

stakeholders;

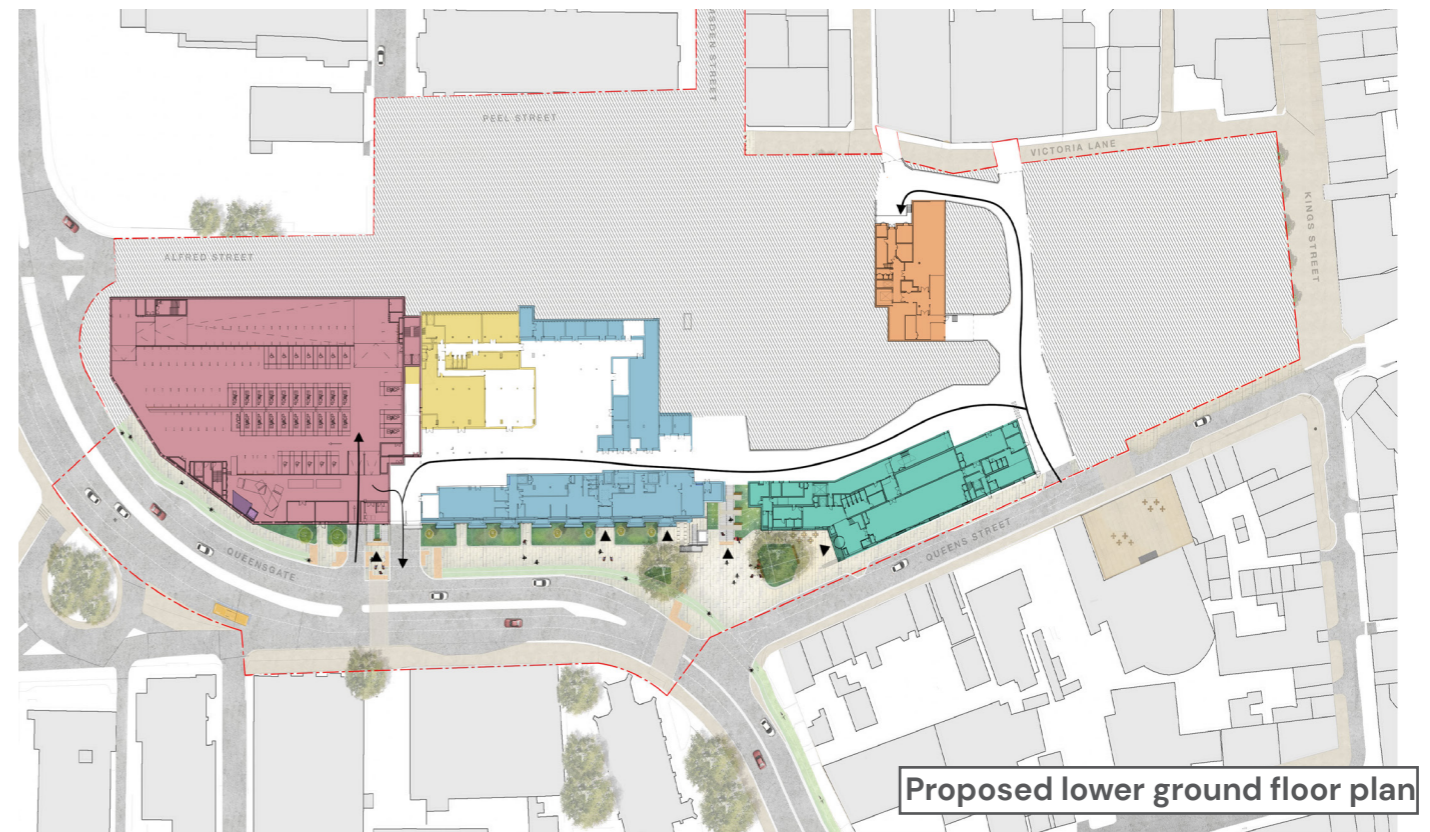
- *adapt and respond positively to the lessons learned and the impact of the pandemic, particularly the changing needs and aspirations of the town centre's catchment population;*
- *a masterplan that provides flexible spaces, high quality design and a variety of architecture bringing out the unique characteristics of the setting of the Cultural Heart and the listed buildings within it;*
- *enhance the use of the retained buildings and structures as destinations, increasing public access, while enabling them to perform an increased number of municipal and commercial functions more effectively;*
- *encompass the Council's 2038 Carbon Neutral Vision and policies encouraging sustainability and minimising the carbon footprint of the development;*
- *provide for the creation of high-quality digital and physical infrastructure;*
- *a design where activities in the buildings spill out into a high-quality urban park that is welcoming, safe and with facilities for outside events of scale;*
- *maintain and enhance connectivity to the rest of the town centre and its neighbourhoods, including essential links to the University.'*



Grade-II listed Victoria Tower atop Castle Hill



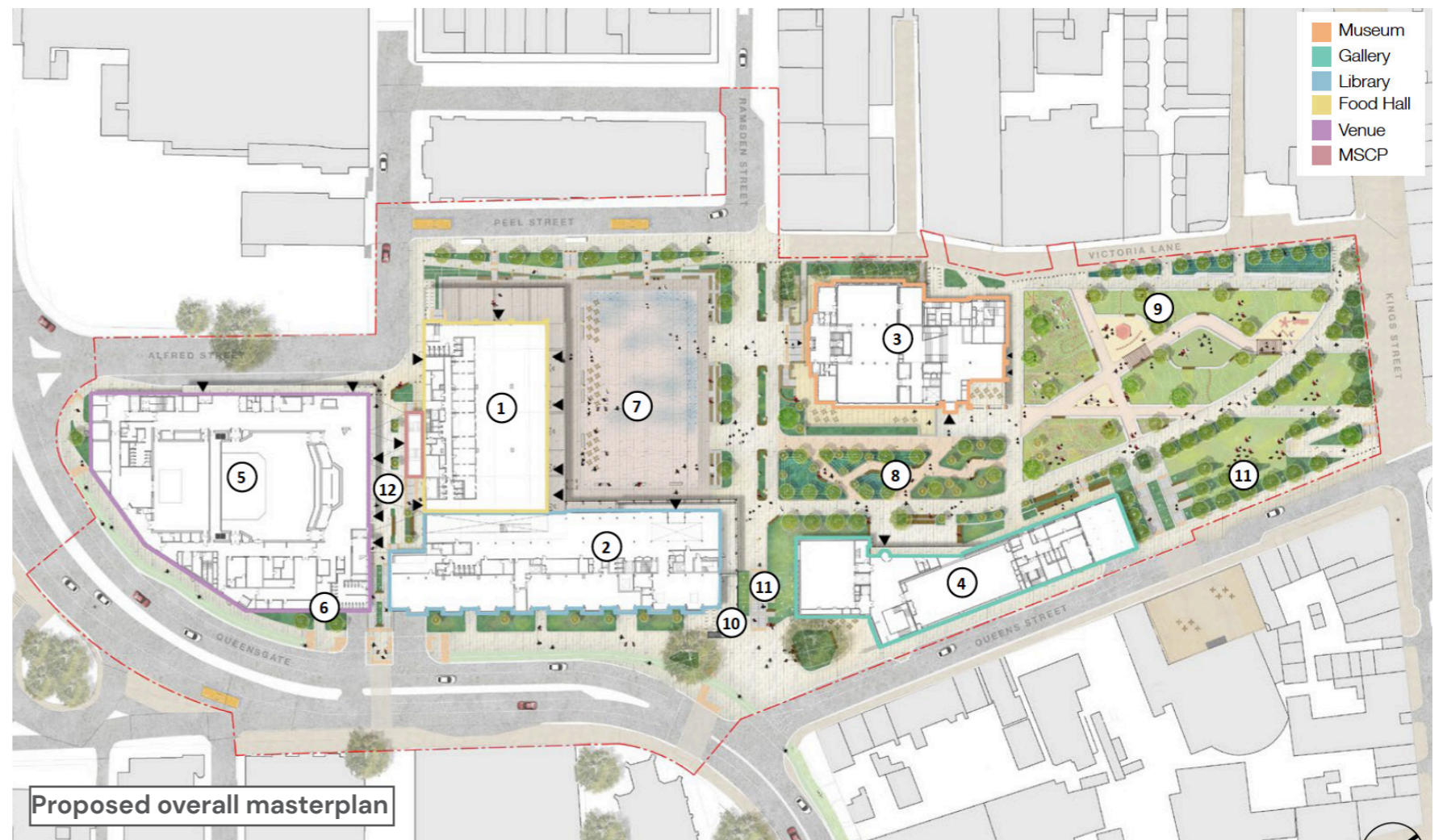
Proposed upper ground floor plan



Proposed lower ground floor plan

Figure 11: Assortment of proposal plans, current at time of writing

1. Existing Queensgate Market refurbished to contain a new food hall
2. New Library within existing east wing of the Queensgate Market. New Extension to the north framing the public square
3. Existing library refurbished and extended to the north to contain Museum brief
4. New build on Queen Street to contain Gallery brief. Provides a positive edge
5. New Venue located to south of Queensgate Market
6. New MSCP located underneath Venue
7. New civic public square framed by frontages of cultural uses
8. More intimate garden between Museum and Gallery buildings
9. New green park to the north of the Site
10. Lift connection from upper ground floor to Queensgate level
11. Terraces linking upper ground floor to lower ground floor along Queen Street
12. Extension of Princess Street providing east-west connections through the south of the Site



Proposed overall masterplan

5. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, POTENTIAL KEY IMPACTS AND MITIGATION PROPOSALS

The Proposed Development

- 5.1 This landscape / townscape and visual assessment considers the following interventions (applicable at time of writing – 26.09.22):
- demolition of the existing Piazza shopping centre, part removal of elements of Queensgate Market, and demolition/retention of service tunnels;
 - 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.
- 5.2 Core materials associated with the proposed development have been chosen to effectively integrate with the material fabric of surrounding buildings and include three main external materials: stone, glass and metal, composed in a way which references woven textiles as a nod to Huddersfield’s historical textile industry.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that natural, local stone will be extensively used through areas of public open space which will accompany a range of landscape interventions including street tree planting, tree avenue planting and rain garden creation, among other landscape elements.

Potential Key Impacts

Effects During Construction

- 5.4 Any effects on landscape / townscape and visual receptors during construction are likely to arise from temporary construction works including:
- site clearance and accommodation works;
 - movement and presence of associated construction vehicles and plant;
 - presence of construction compounds, site offices and welfare facilities;
 - presence of mobile or truck / track mounted cranes for construction of proposed buildings;
 - earthworks and construction associated with the formation of development platforms, foundations, road infrastructure and drainage; and
 - highways and junction improvements, including tie-ins with the existing road network.

Effects at Completion

- 5.5 The permanent components of the proposed development which may give rise to effects on landscape / townscape and visual receptors are listed as follows:
- the demolition of certain existing buildings;
 - the alteration and retention of existing, listed buildings;
 - new, proposed buildings;
 - changes in levels across the site;
 - the creation of new access points; and
 - public realm and soft landscape improvements integrated into the proposed development.

Embedded mitigation Proposals

- 5.6 The principal components of townscape and visual embedded mitigation are summarised as follows:
- building design which is appropriate in scale, design, use and ambition for this part of the town centre, with materials which reflect adjacent historical buildings in a contemporary manner;
 - the sensitive retention and enhancement of existing listed buildings within the site;
 - new, contemporary building design which reflects and complements surrounding built form;
 - increased areas of public open space to enhance gathering opportunities;
 - increased areas of soft landscaping and green space as part of public realm and environmental improvement;
 - improvement and refinement of materials within the public realm;
 - improved connections with surrounding streetscape, with the reestablishment of some historical routes running through the site.

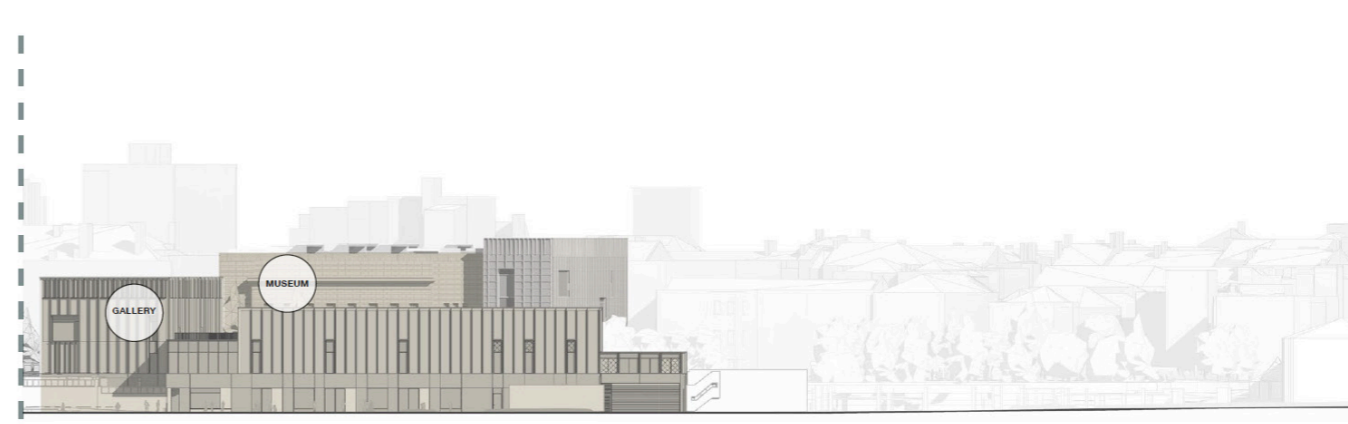


Figure 12: Assortment of visualisations, current at time of writing



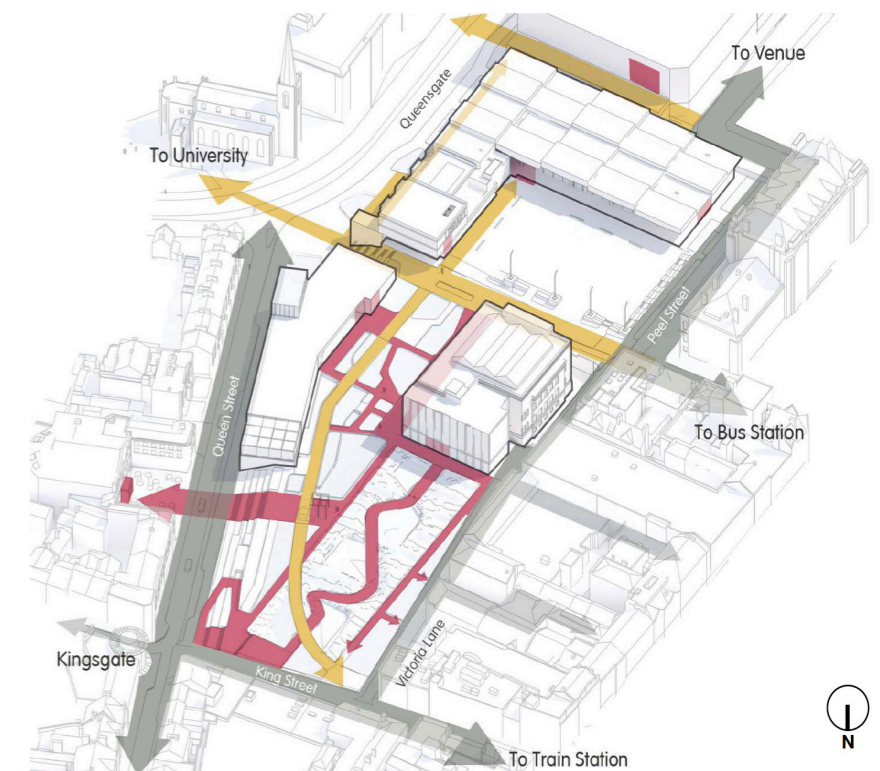
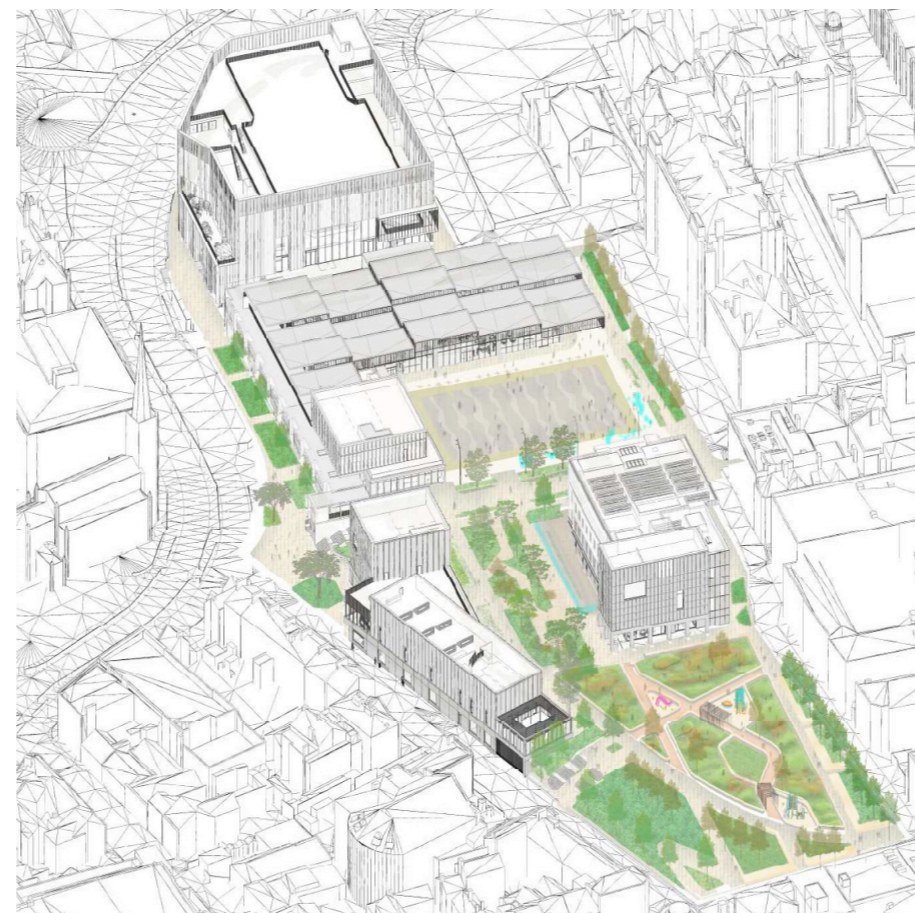
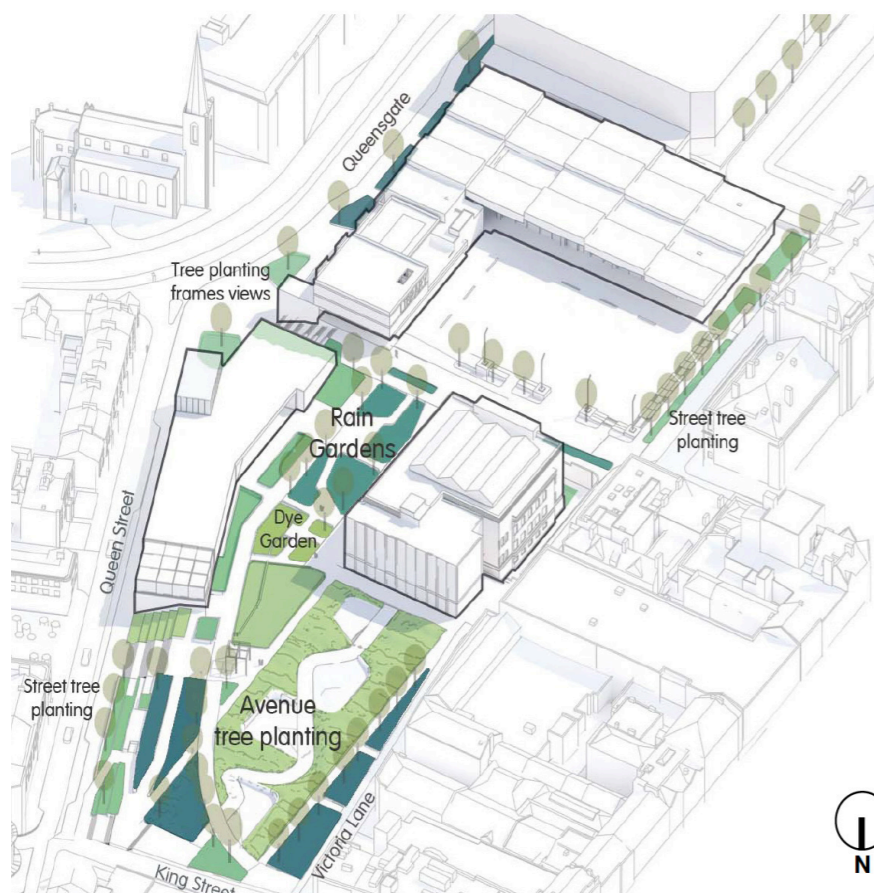
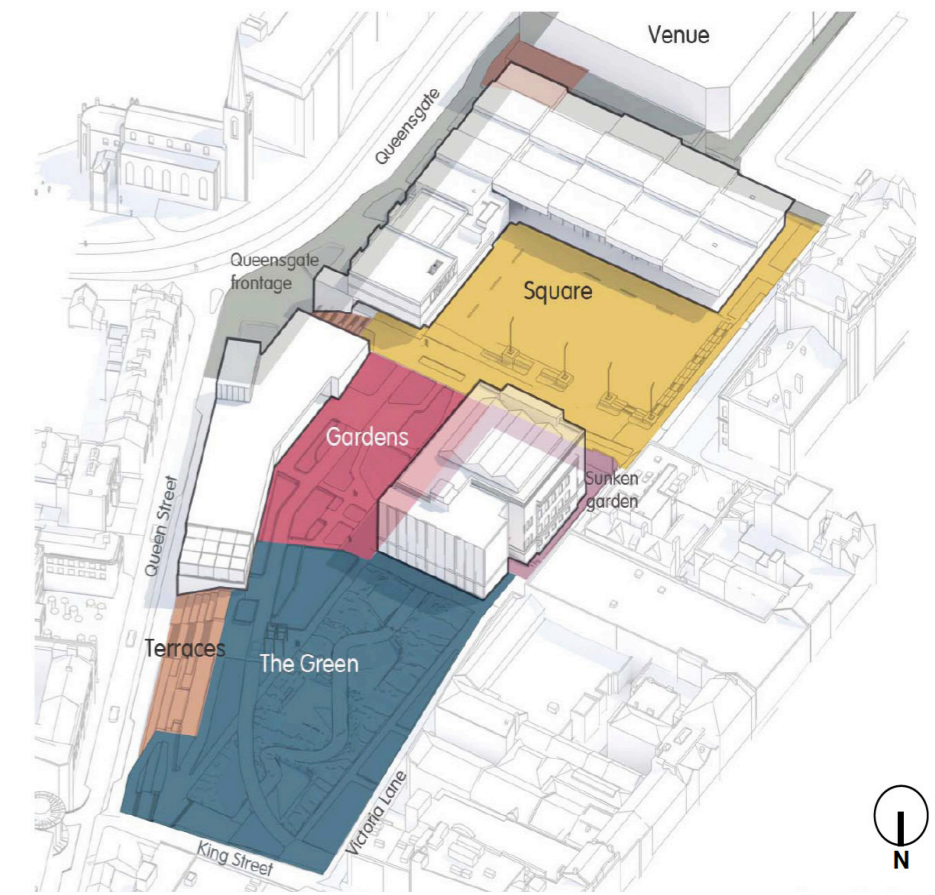


Figure 13: Assortment of plans, current at time of writing



Ceramic mosaic by Harold Blackburn depicting woollen industry on Ramsden House, to the west of the Town Hall

6. LANDSCAPE / TOWNSCAPE BASELINE AND EFFECTS

- 6.1 This section provides an overview of the landscape / townscape features and characters, an indication of their sensitivity to development of the type proposed and an assessment of the predicted level of effect.
- 6.2 In Landscape / Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment, sensitivity is assessed through consideration of both the susceptibility to development of the type proposed and the value attached to the landscape / townscape. In the case of the potential for effects on character, susceptibility means the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the existing characteristics of the site. An assessment is then made as to the magnitude of the change, in terms of its scale or size.
- 6.3 The assessments of sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of change are then combined with the duration of the effect and the reversibility of the effect, to assist in determining the relative level of effect on each landscape feature or character area.
- 6.4 For the purposes of the assessment of landscape / townscape effects, the magnitude of change is considered to be long-term and permanent.
- 6.5 The study areas applied to assessment of each townscape feature vary according to relevance.
- 6.6 A summary of landscape / townscape effects is included at Table 1.

General Townscape Features

- 6.7 The wider topographical context is varied, with Huddersfield sited upon relatively low-lying land associated with the courses of the rivers Colne and Holme which run near to the town centre; land in Huddersfield generally falls away to the south and the east before rising again. Land rises quite dramatically around the town to the east, south and west with views of surrounding countryside in these areas visible from the town centre and site area. Across the site area, the land generally falls from the west to the east, with levels varying across the site from c.85 AOD in the west to c.80 AOD in the east.

Townscape Features Specific to Site

Landform & Topography

Zone 1

- 6.8 Landform in this part of the site consistently slopes from west

to east, with the existing buildings following this slope to the east. Underneath some areas beneath buildings (particularly on the site's eastern side) landform has previously been altered to accommodate service tunnels.

Zone 2

- 6.9 Landform in this part of the site generally slopes from west to east and south to north, with some alterations of levels associated with the curved parade of shops to the east, which manifests in a raised, wide pavement increasing in height to the south and accessed from the lower lawn area around the Library building by a series of stone steps.

- 6.10 The lower floor of the Library building is sunk below surrounding ground levels on the building's eastern, southern and western sides as well as part of its northern side. A link to an existing service tunnel is present on the lower level on this building's eastern side.

Zone 3

- 6.11 As with Zone 1, landform in this area slopes from west to east. Connections between the western and eastern edges of the site in this area necessitates a series of steps along access routes in the north and south of this zone in order to accommodate access across level changes.

Zone 4

- 6.12 As with the other zones, landform in this area slopes consistently from west to east, with no existing features present in this part of the site.

Land Use & Buildings

Zone 1

- 6.13 Zone 1 comprises Phases 3 and 4 of the Murrarfield / Harris and Partners development, spanning 1971-1974. Phases 3 and 4 wrap around the northern and north-eastern edges of the site.
- 6.14 Phase 3 - in the north-western corner of the site - comprises a two-storey rectangular block with basement and access to an underground service tunnel. It currently houses a range of commercial premises. The building is flat-roofed with an exposed, reinforced concrete frame and a concrete canopy over the ground-floor shop windows on three of its elevations. A glazed walkway named 'The Shambles' runs in a north-south direction between the Phase 3 and Phase 4 buildings in this zone, providing access to internal shop fronts and connecting

the space around the Huddersfield Library building to King Street to the north.

- 6.15 Phase 4 - running along the eastern part of Zone 1 - comprises a flat-roofed, one-, two- and three-storey building, primarily constructed with brick and stone panels. This building was formerly a British Homes Stores department store. Along the eastern side of Phase 4 - facing onto Queen Street - the tall rear of the Phase 4 block is primarily a blank facade faced in stone panel cladding with cranked bands of dark-brown brick. This development edge also features a large vehicular entrance to the basement service tunnel below. The southern part of this elevation is set back and separated from Queen Street by an area of grass, tree planting and a pavement.

- 6.16 On the western-most corner of the Phase 4 development, the concrete frame building associated with the Phase 3 development rises to create a three-storey building in this location. A curved parade of single-storey, flat-roofed shops continue southwards, with glazed shop fronts to the ground floor and a wide pavement in front. A row of eight sail canopies projects over the wide pavement. Both Phases 3 and 4 are connected to a service tunnel, comprised primarily of concrete and brick components.

- 6.17 Primary land use in this area is that of commerce and retail.

Zone 2

- 6.18 Zone 2 comprises the Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery building and surrounding public open space. The building is generally square in shape and organised around a central atrium. The lowest level of this building is sunk below surrounding ground level and bordered by contemporaneous stone walls on the building's southern and western sides. A flight of steps leads up to the building's main entrance on the southern elevation.

- 6.19 Buildings to the Library's rear were demolished in the 1960s, leaving a conspicuously empty, tarmac space now known as Nelson Mandela Corner which is bordered by a small patch of grass containing three cherry trees to the east. To the east of the building, the Library is bordered by tall walls and infrastructure associated with an underground service tunnel. Further east, a small group of trees and shrubs and a curved lawn with four trees arranged along the lawn's eastern edge extend to meet paving and stone steps associated with the curved row of shops which form part of the Phase 4 Murrarfield development. To the south of the Library an open, pedestrianised area with various paving patterns and materials as well as varying levels

defines the streetscape. Some soft landscaping is in evidence along the Library building's southern and western edges. The pedestrianised street slopes upwards to the west and is raised along the Library's western edge and separated from lower ground around the Library by ashlar stone pillars and iron railings.

- 6.20 Primary land use in this area is that of green, publicly accessible open space and an historical building serving a civic function.

Zone 3

- 6.21 Zone 3 comprises the Queensgate Market and shopping arcades added between 1970–1974 which define the north-western corner of built form in this zone. The Queensgate Market building is broadly rectangular in shape and is situated on a considerable slope downhill from Peel Street in the west to the A62 in the east. The building is primarily constructed from reinforced concrete and partly clad in stone and distinctive, ceramic artwork panels on its eastern side. The structure includes distinctive 'mushroom' columns which support individual, asymmetrical rectangular roof sections. The market is set over a delivery bay and car park adjacent to the A62. The Market's eastern edge is set back from the A62 by a footway, a lawn area and a series of irregularly spaced trees; predominantly birch trees.

- 6.22 Shopping arcades in the north-western corner of this area provide various entrances to Queensgate Market from Ramsden Street and Princess Alexandra Walk, but have largely inactive frontages along this building's western side. Queensgate Market has further entrances along Peel Street and Princess Street.

- 6.23 Primary land use in this area is that of retail and commerce, with Queensgate Market acting as a commercial venue while also representing a building of key architectural and heritage interest in this location.

Zone 4

- 6.24 Following the demolition of the former multi-storey car park on this part of the site, there is currently no infrastructure nor land use to speak of in this location. The former car park in this part of the site was a four-storey building.

Vegetation

Zone 1

- 6.25 There is no vegetation to speak of in the area apart from the seven trees which stand to the east of the Murrarfield

Phase 4 building within a narrow area of mown grass. These trees comprise a range of different species, such as Norway Maple, Lime and London Plane within the mature and early mature life stage and all fall into categories B and C.

Zone 2

- 6.26 Within Zone 2, vegetation comprises groups of trees to the north, west and east of the Huddersfield Library building as well as a row of trees set within a mown lawn to the east. On the Library's northern side stand two, mature Cherry trees (both category C) within a small area of mown grass. On the Library's western side – on the sunken level of this building – stand six Cherry trees, all being mature, category C trees.

- 6.27 To the east of the Library building, beyond a stone wall, stands a group of six mature trees, comprising Rowan, Cherry and Norway Maple; all these trees ranging from category C to category U. Along the edge of the curved, mown lawn to the east stand three, mature Cherry trees, all being category C. The curved mown lawn and tree planting here represents the largest area of public green space within the site boundary.

Zone 3

- 6.28 Within Zone 3, vegetation is limited to tree planting and a stretch of mown grass which extends along Queensgate Market's eastern boundary with the A62. In this area stand eleven trees which predominantly comprise Birch but also include Cherry, Lime and Sycamore. These trees range in quality from category B to category C and comprise either early mature, mature or semi-mature trees.

Zone 4

- 6.29 Within Zone 4, there is very little existing vegetation apart from a single, mature, category C Whitebeam tree which stands on the western boundary of this part of the site.

Townscape Character

Zone 1

- 6.30 Townscape character within this part of the site is largely defined by the distinctive mid-20th-century style buildings associated with Phases 3 and 4 of the Murrayfield Development. The density of built form in this zone is high, with existing buildings covering nearly all of the site in this area apart from a narrow strip of tree planting above mown grass abutting Queen Street to the east.

- 6.31 Built form to the west of Zone 1 is low, wide and of a human scale, whereas built form further to the east increases somewhat in height and scale as seen where Phase 3 abuts Phase 4 resulting in a three-storey elevation and where the former British Home Stores building presents an imposing, blank and stark facade along Queen Street.

- 6.32 While the low, two-storey concrete building associated with Phase 3 presents some unusual, abstract fibre glass panels, the building's style and condition in the present day is generally poor, contrasting incoherently with surrounding, historical built form which is primarily faced with stone. This contrast is further emphasised by the visual clutter associated with commercial signage on this building. While the Phase 4 building to the east is more in keeping with the surrounding historical fabric of the townscape due to its use of stone facing, its stark, minimalist style and blank, imposing facade along Queen Street does not complement nor relate well to nearby historical buildings.

- 6.33 Similarly, the minimalist, curved parade of shops to the south of Zone 1 is modest and small in scale, with its concrete and fibreglass materials – as well as its sail canopies – contrasting quite markedly in a negative fashion with the style, scale and materiality of the historical Huddersfield Library building which it faces.

- 6.34 The existing buildings in Zone 1 do not contribute particularly positive legibility elements to the townscape character in this zone. However, the corner of the Phase 4 building provides a strong edge to the intersection of King Street and Queen Street, while the concrete ventilation towers provide townscape legibility in this area – although not necessarily in a positive way given their design – mirroring the vertical spire of St. Paul's Hall in the distance.

- 6.35 Soft landscape in this zone comprises a row of seven trees to the east of the Phase 4 building, with no real opportunity for public enjoyment of, or dwell-time within, this green space. Otherwise, public realm within this zone is minimal in design and ambition, with areas of mixed-colour Tegula paving, reconstituted stone paving slabs and tarmac pavement. The tarmac pavement along Queen Street appears to have retained its original stone kerb.

Zone 2

- 6.36 Townscape character within this part of the site is largely defined by the presence of the historical, early-20th-century Huddersfield Library building but otherwise is predominantly devoid of built form. The library building is built in a striking and imposing modernist style – comprising three storeys plus

basement, faced with local sandstone – and sets the character of the immediate surroundings. This building fits well in terms of size, proportion and materials with other historical stone buildings to its west and southwest but jars stylistically with the surrounding Murrayfield development to its north, east and south.

6.37 Key legibility features in the townscape near this zone comprise the Library building itself, the view of the Church of St. Peter’s Spire along Victoria Lane, the view of the northeastern corner of the Town Hall and the view of the spire of St. Paul’s Hall to the east, which is visible across much of Zone 2.

6.38 The open space around the Library building is the largest area of green public open space appropriate for gathering and lingering within the site, giving Zone 2 a welcome feeling of openness in contrast to Zones 1 and 3. However, soft landscaping in this area is not of particularly high quality and does not convey a strong or identifiable design concept which complements the Library building. Likewise, public realm design in this area is not of particularly high quality or condition and feels disjointed and jumbled, with a mixture of stone and Tegula paving (of various colours) as well as street furniture such as benches, bins and railings of various different colours and styles, some painted in a bright blue.

Zone 3

6.39 Townscape character within this part of the site is largely defined by the Queensgate Market building and the adjacent shopping arcades in the north-western corner of this zone. This zone is predominantly covered by built form, apart from a narrow strip of grass and tree planting to the eastern boundary which abuts the A62; this green space by the roadside feels incidental and does not invite public gathering or lingering for any length of time.

6.40 Buildings in this zone are relatively low and small-scale in contrast to surrounding, historical built form such as the Town Hall and St. Paul’s Hall. However, the ‘mushroom’ columns which support Queensgate Market’s distinctive roof on the building’s eastern side add some height and architectural drama to built form in this area. The style of built form in this zone is variable, with the northwestern part being of poor design quality and condition, and the rest comprising the notable, high-quality Queensgate Market design with associated ceramic artworks; stone facing and distinctive roof features. All buildings within this zone form part of the mid-20th-century Murrayfield development.

6.41 Key legibility features in the townscape near this zone include



Figure 14: Indicative townscape character images

the Huddersfield Library building, the spire of St. Paul's Hall and the Town Hall.

6.42 Public realm design within this zone is minimal, but includes areas of different coloured Tegula paving, reconstituted stone



Figure 15: Indicative townscape character image; Google Maps

paving slabs, sawn-stone paving slabs, gravel and tarmac.

Zone 4 (see Figures 14 and 15)

6.43 Distinguishable townscape character within this zone of the site is largely absent at this point following the demolition of the former multi-storey car park. Before demolition, the car park footprint took up the majority of the site area, with some scattered tree planting around the periphery of the site – most of these trees have also been removed.

6.44 The car park building ranged over four storeys and was of a minimalist design – comprised primarily of concrete – which did not complement surrounding built form to the north, east and west. The building had no distinctive character and did not present an attractive development edge to the A62. Before demolition, the car park building prevented views of built form to both the west and the east in particular. These views have now opened up; however, this large area of now-empty space feels incongruous at this location adjacent to the busy A62.

6.45 Townscape legibility in this area is primarily provided by St. Paul's Hall, Queensgate Market, the Ramsden Building and Milton Congregational Church (now the Sir. Patrick Stewart Building) to the east and – further away and less prominent –

the Town Hall building in the west.

6.46 Views to surrounding countryside hills to the south (Landscape Character Type 'Rural Fringes' and Landscape Character Area 'Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes') give this area a sense of connection with the pastoral landscape, albeit at a distance and with intervening topography. Views of the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument to the south east are pleasant and prominent from this part of the site and surrounding areas.

6.47 There was no public realm to speak of in relation to the former car park building.

Townscape Character Surrounding Site

6.48 A focus has been made within this assessment on parts of the townscape from where the site (and any future development on it) has the potential to be visible.

Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area

6.49 Townscape character immediately to the north, east and west of the site is largely defined by the grid work of historical, 19th-century buildings which predominantly form the historical core of Huddersfield Town Centre; these buildings reflecting the town's Victorian industrial history.

6.50 The conservation area (see Figure 5) is distinctly urban with very few green spaces. Its layout is a loosely arranged grid of streets forming blocks of buildings of predominantly Elland sandstone. With some exceptions, buildings are generally of between two and three storeys, but of varying storey heights and with ground floors generally being in commercial use. There are a number of 20th-century interjections of varying quality and interest.; generally, these more contemporary buildings do not sit well against historical built form.

6.51 Buildings within the conservation area surrounding the site are generally small-scale and unassuming, with the notable exceptions of prominent and elaborate historical buildings such as St. Peter's Church (1); the Lawrence Batley Theatre (2); St. Paul's Hall (3); the Ramsden Building (4); the Milton Congregational Church (5) and the Town Hall (6) – (see Figure 16 for plan of notable buildings within conservation area and in proximity to site).

6.52 The building materials in this part of the conservation area are varied – being a mix of brick, stone and concrete – but the pleasant, warm Elland stone is the most distinctive and unifying material in this area. Historical civic buildings in this area – such as the Town Hall– display an impressive amount of

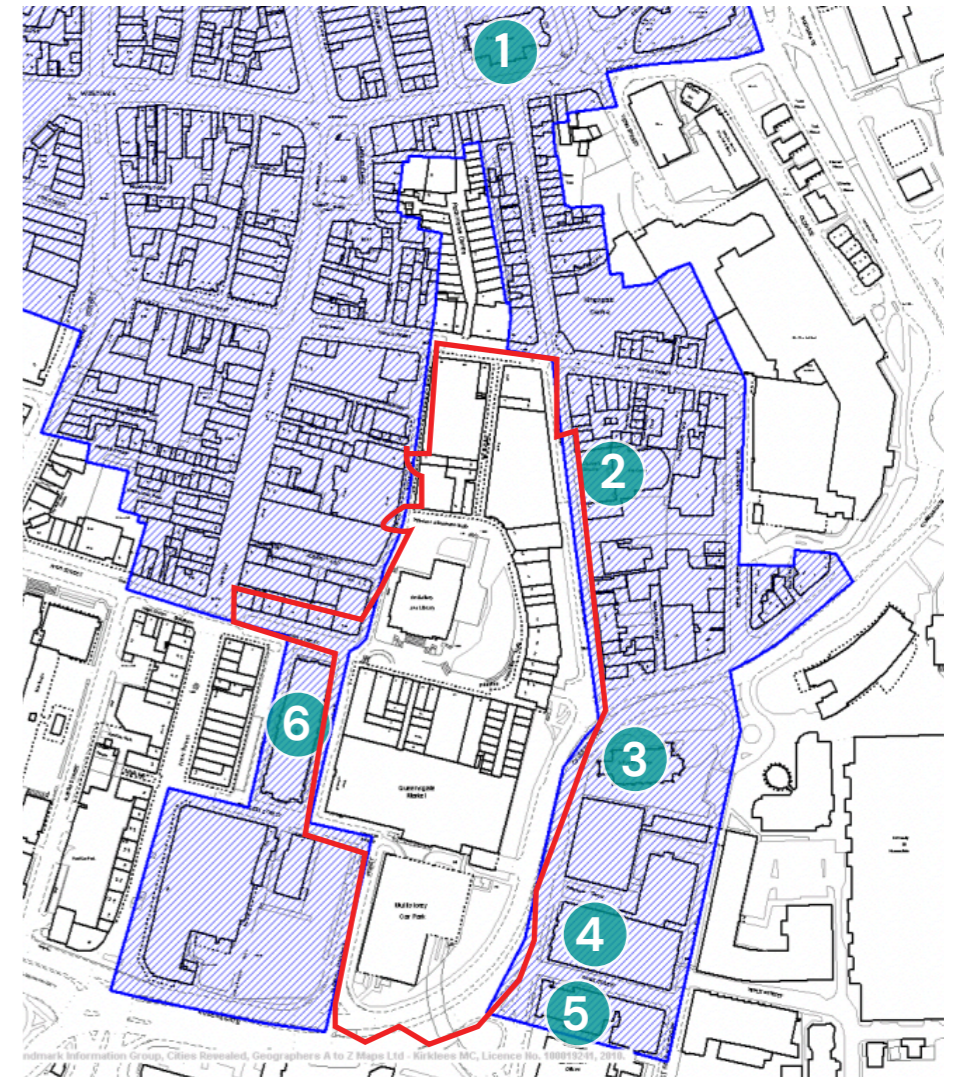


Figure 16: Map showing notable buildings within Conservation Area in proximity to site; base map: Kirklees Council



Figure 17: Notable buildings images

ornamentation. Streets in this area generally have a continual built-up frontage following the back of the old pavement line.

- 6.53 Townscape legibility is defined by prominent buildings surrounding the site, such as St. Paul's Hall and the Town Hall. The strong link between the spires of St. Peter's Church and St. Paul's Hall along Queen Street and Cross Church Street is also important in terms of townscape legibility and local distinctiveness.
- 6.54 Several of the streets in the conservation area near the site have been pedestrianised (such as King Street) and public realm in these areas mainly comprises hard landscaping, with very little intervention in terms of soft landscaping. Hard landscaping generally comprises Tegula pavers of various colours and laid out in various patterns, as well as reconstituted stone paving slabs and tarmac surfacing. There are some instances of high-quality street furniture in proximity to historical buildings (such as the bollards down Queen Street and the street lamps surrounding the Town Hall) but there are also examples of street furniture of jumbled style and limited aesthetic value.

A62 south and east of site

- 6.55 Townscape character immediately to the south and east of the site is largely defined by the busy A62 and associated traffic and road infrastructure. In contrast to the historical, rather tranquil character of the conservation area to the north, east and west of the site, much of the area surrounding the A62 (particularly to the west and south of the site) conveys an urban-edge, industrial character.
- 6.56 To the west, the A62 is bordered by generally low-lying, long buildings of various styles and materials, some of which are 20th-century commercial premises comprising one storey, such as 'Pet Warehouse' and 'Chesterfields'. These buildings are separated from the road by large car parks, reducing the density of built form in this area. The large car park which sits between the A62 and Alfred Street also represents a somewhat incongruous gap in urban built form with reduced building density in this area which contrasts quite notably with built form arrangement to the north. More notable buildings in this area include the large, multi-storey Huddersfield County Court on the south side of the A62 and the redesigned, large multi-storey, former 'Co-operative' building on the A62's northern side, which has recently been converted into flats.
- 6.57 Further to the east along the A62, the density of built form further reduces where the A62 meets Queen Street South with historical, three-storey stone warehouse buildings visible in the background to the south with the distinctive, medium-scale

Barbara Hepworth building also visible in the southeast. The scale (and quality) of built form increases as the A62 bends to the north with historical buildings within the conservation area (Milton Congregational Church), Ramsden Building and St. Paul's Hall) providing a strong and attractive edge to the road in this area. As the A62 bends to the east, the scale and density of built form is mixed, with large-scale, multi-storey contemporary buildings associated with the University of Huddersfield defining the area to the south of the A62 and smaller-scale, two to three-storey historical stone buildings forming a strong edge to the north of the A62 at this point.

- 6.58 The style of built form in this area is varied and diverse with no consistent character conveyed along this stretch of the A62; building styles and materials are continually in flux as one moves along the A62 from west to east. Generally, in the west, contemporary buildings are comprised of brick and metal roofing, with historical stone warehouse buildings being visible further south, but set within the context of road signs and other infrastructure which dilute the visual appeal of these historical buildings. Further east, the stylistic unity of built form increases with the ornate, stone Ramsden Building – and other, surrounding historical stone buildings – providing a high-quality, unified defined edge to the road. The stone material used in the construction of these impressive buildings is reflected in the smaller-scale, historical built form to the north of the A62 further east. However, large-scale, contemporary buildings comprised of various materials (especially glazing and contemporary-style cladding) associated with the University of Huddersfield once again dramatically change the style of built form in this area. With some notable exceptions (i.e. larger, historical stone buildings and buildings associated with the University of Huddersfield), the condition of some of the buildings along this stretch of road is poor.
- 6.59 Townscape legibility in this area is primarily defined by the group of historical stone buildings running south from St. Paul's Hall to the Milton Congregational Church as well as distinctive contemporary buildings which form part of the University of Huddersfield, such as the Richard Steinitz Building.
- 6.60 There is a small amount of public realm design and soft landscaping in this area. Around the entrance to the University, areas of soft landscape generally comprise swathes of mown grass, low evergreen hedging and groups of semi-mature trees. There are also several semi-mature trees – planted individually and in groups – located near to St. Paul's Hall, the Ramsden building and at the junction of the A62 and Queen Street South, with these trees being mainly located above mown grass areas. A small area of soft landscaping is also present adjacent to

the Wilko Car Park, with a few small trees and shrubs sitting between a stone boundary wall and the pavement to the north of the A62 in this area.

- 6.61 There is little in the way of public realm design along this stretch of the A62; the most distinct being design associated with the entrance to the University of Huddersfield which



Figure 18: View from Alfred Street, looking south across the A62



Figure 19: Views of historical, stone buildings to the north of the A62 set against the contemporary, large-scale buildings associated with the University of Huddersfield

comprises a range of Tegula paving and reconstituted stone slabs which are arranged in various patterns.

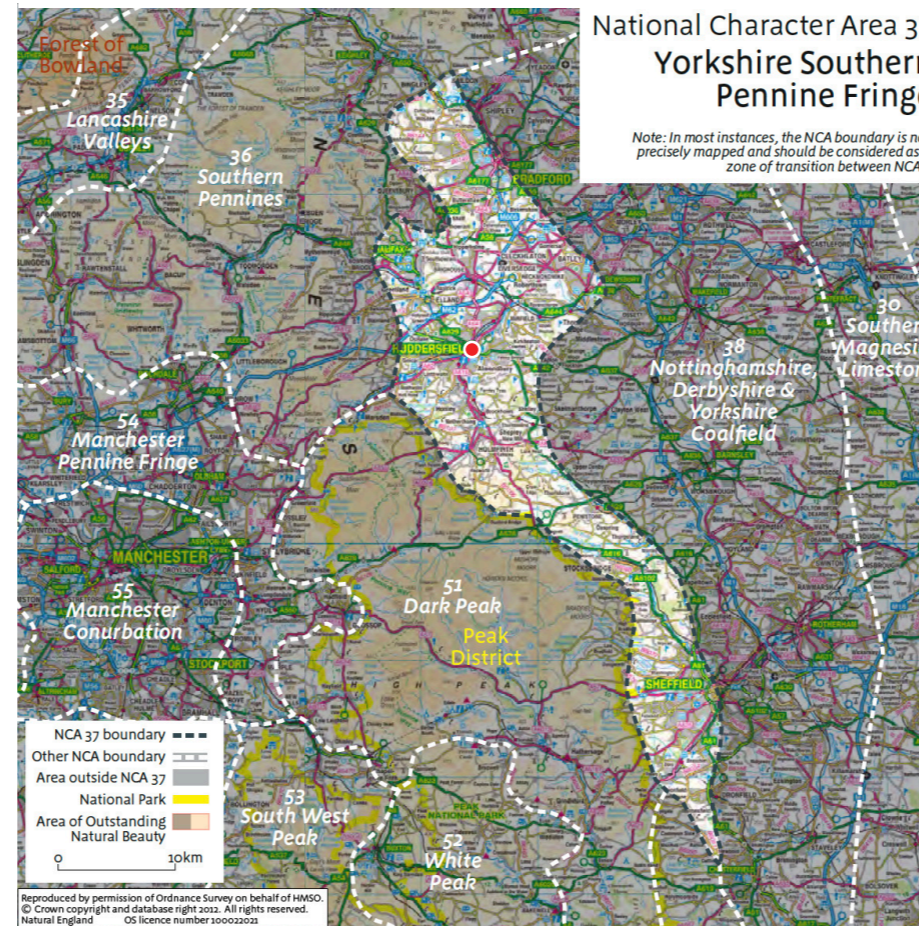
Landscape Character Assessments; covering, and adjacent to, Huddersfield

National Character Area (NCA) 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe Natural England

6.62 The site area lies within NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe, as shown in Figure 20. Key characteristics relevant to the site and its immediate vicinity are described by Natural England as follows:

- *'rivers creating a deeply dissected landscape, with high plateaux cut by steep-sided valleys, and fanning out in 'fingers' across valleys of the NCA [...]*
- *treeless hill tops with tracts of rough grazing and extensive areas of enclosed pasture to the west, but with broadleaved woodland on steeper valley sides, giving the impression of a well-wooded landscape [...]*
- *Predominantly pastoral farming, especially in western areas, with a shift to more arable land in the drier eastern areas [...]*
- *Close conjunction between rural landscapes and the rich industrial heritage of the urban areas, including settlements associated with the textile industry, with large mills and tall chimneys, and large factories and forges associated with the iron, steel and manufacturing industries [...]*
- *Urban development constrained within valley floors and up side slopes, with location and layout strongly influenced by the landform. [...]*
- *Industrial wealth revealed in magnificent civil architecture in town centres, notably Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Sheffield [...]*
- *Evidence of bronze-age and Roman habitation still present on uplands, and old pack-horse routes that once joined settlements across the Pennines still in place, or now forming modern major road routes [...]*
- *Extensive and dramatic views from higher land out over lower-lying land to the east, even from within urban areas [...]*
- *In places a dense network of roads and urban development, with many road, rail and canal routes crossing the NCA, and a*

Figure 20: National Character Area map; Natural England
See red dot for site location



high density of footpaths throughout [...]

6.63 The evidence base provided within the NCA description provides a useful contextual overview of the wider landscape character. However, this scale of character assessment is of limited assistance in considering landscape impacts at a localised level due to its broad coverage.

6.64 Although the document has been reviewed as part of the baseline study, it has not been deemed necessary to assess the effects of the proposed development on landscape character at this national level. The proposed development is not considered to have the potential to result in any noteworthy effects to landscape character at this scale and in this location. As such, effects on National Character Areas are not considered further in this assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area: 'Rural Fringes: E6 Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes' Kirklees Council

6.65 The Landscape Character Area of most relevance to the site

lies approximately 750 metres to the south east, and is known as 'Rural Fringes: E6 Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe', as shown in Figure 21. Rural hills that form part of this Character Area are visible from the site, and vice versa.

6.66 Key characteristics relevant to the site and its immediate vicinity are described by Kirklees Council as follows:

- *'Gently undulating plateau ranging from between approximately 150 and 280 metres [...]*
 - *Local variations in topography create some areas of more complex landform including deeply incised valleys with small tributaries and watercourses [...]*
 - *Large blocks of tree and woodland cover found on slopes, particularly in the north east of the LCA. Most are broadleaved woodlands, although there are occasional mixed woodlands [...]*
 - *Shelterbelts and mature in-field and boundary trees contribute to a well-wooded character [...]*
 - *Land cover patterns are small scale and relatively complex, and vegetation cover is varied [...]*
 - *A strong historic landscape character with traditional stone-built cottages, farm buildings and historic villages [...]*
 - *The nationally important Castle Hill Fort, to the north-west of the LCA, occupies a prominent position to the south of Huddersfield. In the same location, the Victoria Tower Monument is a widely visible landmark in views from across the District [...]*
 - *Dense network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes [...]*
 - *Mostly a settled and rural landscape, often with long views north across the district and beyond, as a result of elevation [...]*
- 6.67 It should be noted that Castle Hill – situated within this LCA and visible on elevated land to the south east of the site – is both a Scheduled Monument and a Local Nature Reserve.
- 6.68 While it is important to consider the visual impact that proposed development may have upon discrete areas in the north of this character area, it should be noted that this character area is already set within the context of visible urban development located in the south of Huddersfield Town Centre. Given this context, and the scale of proposed development relative to existing built form in this area, it is not deemed proportionate to

initiate a further analysis of visual impacts upon this character area.

6.69 However, given the relative proximity, visibility from site and importance of the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument and Nature Reserve, a consideration of the proposals' potential impact upon this asset's setting is pertinent. Such consideration will be presented in the Summary and Conclusion section of this report.

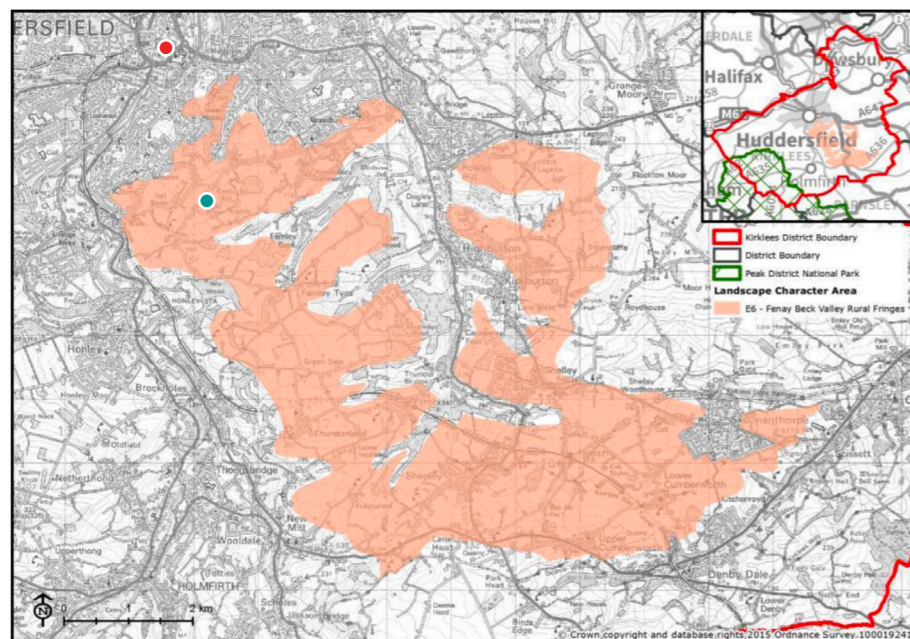


Figure 21: Local Character Area map; Kirklees Council
See red dot for site location & green dot for Castle Hill location

Effects upon Townscape Features

Landform & Topography

Zone 1

- 6.70 Topography in this area does not necessarily convey a particularly distinctive nor valuable townscape feature; its value is therefore low. Its susceptibility to change is also deemed to be low due to previous interventions associated with existing built form upon the site in this area. As a result, its overall sensitivity is low. The magnitude of change for this receptor in this location is assessed as medium due to the fact that sets of proposed terraced steps in the north-eastern corner do constitute some alteration to part of this landscape feature. The overall level of effect is therefore assessed as moderate / minor. The removal of the buildings across most of this area also conveys a further beneficial effect as the proposals serve to make the natural landform in this area more notable and legible.

Zone 2

- 6.71 Topography in this area does not necessarily convey a particularly distinctive nor valuable townscape feature; its value is therefore low. Its susceptibility to change is also deemed to be low due to previous interventions associated with existing built form upon the site in this area. As a result, its overall sensitivity is low. The magnitude of change for this receptor in this location is assessed as medium due to the fact that levels across this area will be rationalised as part of design interventions applied to public realm in this zone. The overall level of effect is therefore assessed as moderate / minor with a further assessment of beneficial effect as proposed level changes are more confluent with natural landform in this area than existing conditions, with proposals also enhancing accessibility to and within this space.

Zone 3

- 6.72 Topographic change in this area is largely absorbed by, and interpreted through, built form and changes in levels associated with these buildings. For example, the natural slope of land from west to east is largely obscured by the rising to the east of Princess Alexandra Walk (in contrast to natural topography), with the natural slope down to the east currently truncated by a set of relatively steep and abrupt steps emerging from a large ceramic panel on the eastern edge of Queensgate Market. Therefore, topography in this area does not necessarily convey a particularly distinctive nor valuable townscape feature;

its value is therefore low. Its susceptibility to change is also deemed to be low due to previous interventions associated with existing built form upon the site in this area. The majority of landform in this area will remain as-is due to the retention of much of the built form in this area (i.e. a large portion of Queensgate Market). However, landform will be altered most noticeably on the site's eastern side with the proposal of wide, terraced steps here – allowing a greater physical and visual connection between the Queen Street / A62 intersection and the site area. The magnitude of change for this receptor in this location is therefore assessed as medium. The overall level of effect is assessed as moderate / minor beneficial with the expectation of a beneficial effect arising from the proposals due to the fact that the proposed, wide steps on the site's eastern side are more in accord with the slope of natural landform, increasing the legibility of this townscape feature.

Zone 4

- 6.73 Topography in this area does not necessarily convey a particularly distinctive nor valuable townscape feature; its value is therefore low. Its susceptibility to change is also deemed to be low due to previous interventions associated with existing built form upon the site in this area. As with the other zones, landform in this area slopes consistently from west to east. Proposed built form will almost entirely cover the land in this zone, with the natural slope being retained and referenced by the change of levels associated with the proposed venue building and car park below. Little will change in terms of the general pattern of topography in this zone, with the proposed building generally accommodating existing ground levels, as the former multi-storey car park on this part of the site used to. The magnitude of change is therefore low, with an overall assessed level of effect of minor, and a further anticipation of beneficial effect due to the proposed building's sensitive incorporation of existing, sloping landform in its design.

Land Use & Buildings

Zone 1

- 6.74 Land use in this area is primarily commercial / retail which is reflective of historical land use on part of the site here (i.e. the former Victorian Market Hall in the northwest) and clearly relates to the retail properties to the northwest, north and north east of the site. However, it should be noted that the area referred to as 'Zone 1' is just one small part of the wider context of retail offerings throughout the town centre. Phases 3 and 4 of the Murrarfield development which wrap around the northern and north-eastern edges of the site are not considered to be

of special architectural interest, seem largely incongruous in design and material choice and generally relate poorly to the surrounding historical townscape and conservation area. For this reason, the value of the buildings in this zone is deemed to be low.

- 6.75 The susceptibility of this townscape feature to change is high, due to the proposed removal of all the existing built form in this area and its replacement with an open public park and a gallery building in the south-eastern part of this zone. The overall sensitivity of this townscape feature is therefore deemed to be medium.
- 6.76 The complete removal of a large amount of existing built form in this area and replacement with a public park and art gallery constitutes a very high magnitude of change to this existing townscape feature. The overall level of effect is therefore major / moderate.
- 6.77 Although proposals do constitute a considerable change in land use in this specific area, retail provision within the town centre is extensive and the change in use here does not constitute a notable loss of retail provision for Huddersfield. Furthermore, historical mapping shows a greater number of civic buildings located in this area in the past and – in that sense – this zone is being returned to its historical land use.
- 6.78 The proposed gallery building's design, material choice (predominantly local or reclaimed stone with a small amount of metal cladding) and location is sensitive, responsive to the surrounding conservation area and re-introduces a welcome, strong edge along part of the western side of Queen Street. The design of the public park is of high quality and responsive to the surrounding townscape in terms of material selection and visual amenity. This large area of public open space constitutes a valuable contribution to the townscape in this area, complementing the proposed, new grouping of civic buildings to the south. The park also acts as a welcome transitional space between more intensive retail land use to the north and civic provision to the south. Furthermore, there is a general lack of green space within the townscape in this area and a more balanced provision of green space in relation to built form is welcome. For these reasons, a further assessment of beneficial effect has been made.

Zone 2

- 6.79 Land use in this area is primarily that of green, publicly accessible space as well as civic provision associated with the historical Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery which is the only element of built form in this zone. The value of this townscape