

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Station Hill Plaza

Within Station Hill Plaza there are a number of different areas for people to use and enjoy. The intent is to provide a central flexible space that can be used in the everyday condition, as well as provide enough open, flexible space that it can be used for events, installations and cultural celebrations.

The edge condition between the frontages and the square provides more intimate seating areas for lunch time conversations and meeting up with friends and colleagues. These areas provide a comfortable edge from which to observe the activities taking place in Station Hill Plaza. These areas also provide some separation between the currents of people and the eddies at the active frontages.

The images give examples of the type of features within the landscape - with the raised lawn and seating edge and interactive water feature, and then examples of daily and monthly activities that the space can accommodate.



Seating Edge



Interactive Water Feature



Soft Seating Area



Deck Chairs



Table Tennis



Food Carts and Coffee Trucks



Outdoor Cinema



Artisan Food Markets on Lawns



Music and Umbrellas

4.1 LANDSCAPE



Illustrative CGI: Station Hill Plaza



Illustrative CGI: Station Hill Plaza

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Station Hill

The taxi ranks and vehicle drop-off areas are to be re-configured to increase capacity for both, and to provide improved pedestrian and cycle access from the tunnel entrance and through the pocket park to the development. When Phase 3 is developed the public realm to the south of the drop-off area will be improved to provide seating and planting, and space for people to spend time adjacent to the future new building (number 5 and 6 on plan).



Street trees



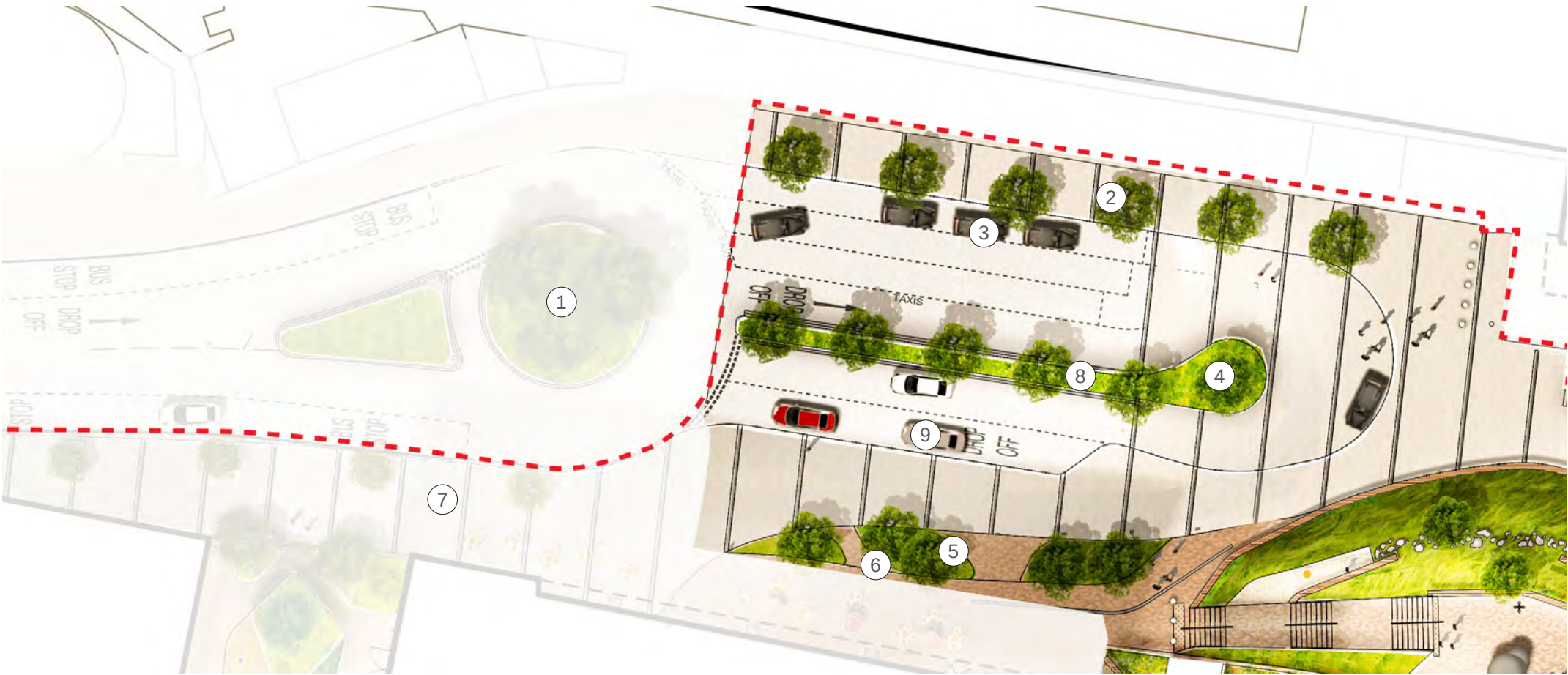
Existing paving



Existing trees retained

Key

- ① Existing mature London Plane trees retained
- ② Existing trees to the north of taxi drop off retained
- ③ Reconfigured taxi drop off zone
- ④ Banding continues through turn around
- ⑤ Herbaceous planting and trees to Pocket Park (Phase 3)
- ⑥ Movable tables and chairs(Phase 3)
- ⑦ Proposed street trees (Phase 3)
- ⑧ Trees and planting to turn around
- ⑨ Drop off



Illustrative Plan, Station Hill

Garrard Street

The public realm design for Garrard Street aims to create a comfortable, safe environment for pedestrians, reinforcing connectivity between Reading Station and the town centre, as well as leading into the proposed development via the stair case with art wall and climbers. Improvements include new paving, street trees and cycle parking.



Art Wall



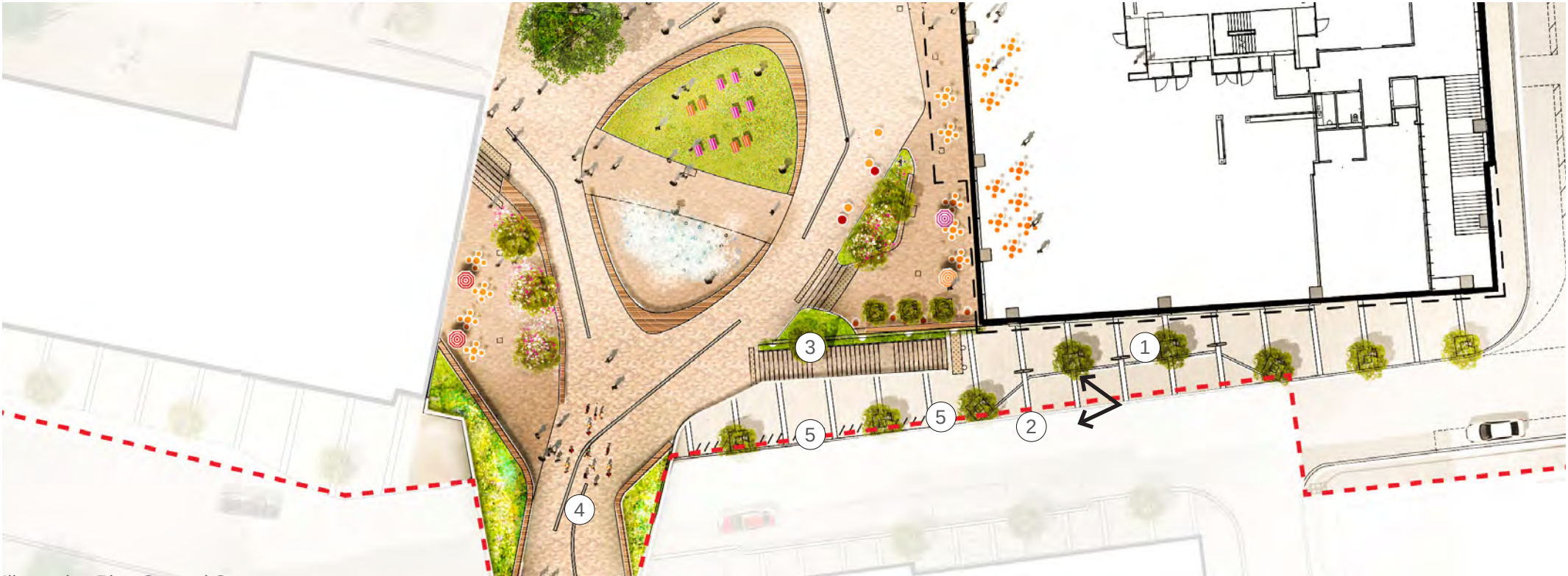
Proposed Street Trees

- Key
- ① Proposed banding to Garrard Street North
 - ② Proposed street trees
 - ③ Steps and art wall with climbers
 - ④ Bridge link with seating and planting
 - ⑤ Cycle Parking

↖ Direction of view on following pages



Climbers



Illustrative Plan Garrard Street

4.1 LANDSCAPE

4.1.5 STRATEGIES

Access & Levels

Creating a pedestrian-friendly, safe and convenient environment for people of all ages and abilities is a key design objective in the development of the scheme. It is critical in a public realm that accommodates residents familiar with the site, the occasional visitor or shopper, as well as the passer-by that might not know the area at all.

The layout of the public realm supports this with a clear and legible layout with directional paving banding and wayfinding features through the main spaces. The site is mostly pedestrian only and will be well-lit at night. Seating and resting points are provided throughout the development.

There is a 1.5m height difference from the Station entrance up to the Bridge link crossing of Garrard Street. This level change is accommodated with a gentle slope from the Station up to the entrance of One Station Hill on the north side of the building, and then another gentle slope up to the Bridge link through Station Hill Plaza around the flat central paved and grass area. All building entrances are accessible and without steps.

Key

- +44.20 Proposed Level
- +(44.20) Existing Level Retained
- Lift



Uses and Movement

The diagram opposite shows pedestrian movement and circulation as well as cycle routes and parking, and lifts. The layout provides a new accessible route from the station entrance through to Friar Street, over Garrard Street, and via the approved Phase 1 part of the development.

The stepped access from the 'existing Station Square down to the subway entrance has been retained, as this is an important existing pedestrian route, and new steps are provided from Station Hill up into the new development. A new lift provides disabled access from Station Hill up to the podium level, and the existing accessible ramps adjacent to the Station are retained. Accessible routes are provided to all commercial and retail entrances.

Key

10

10 Visitor Cycle Parking spaces (5 No. Sheffield Cycle Stands) - 50 spaces total for Phase 2
Location TBC in stage 4a

↔

Cycle Desire Routes

↔

Vehicular Route

↔

Pedestrian Routes

—

Cycle ramp

➡

Car park entrance

lift

All-Inclusive Access Lift

▬

Steps

The diagram is a site plan for Station Hill North, showing various development phases and circulation routes. Key locations labeled include Station Hill, Pocket Park, Station Square, One Station Hill, The Rest, Thames Tower, Station Hill Plaza, and Friars Walk (Phase 1). Roads shown are Greyfriars Road and Garrard Street. The diagram uses color-coded lines to represent different types of routes: blue for pedestrian routes, orange for vehicular routes, and purple for cycle routes. Arrows indicate the direction of travel. Specific features like cycle parking spaces (marked with '10'), cycle desire routes (dashed blue lines), and an all-inclusive access lift (pink square) are highlighted. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates 0 to 20 meters.

Circulation Strategy Diagram

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Utilities - Water and Power

Proposed water and power location across the site are shown on the plan, and are designed to encourage flexible use of the public realm throughout the day and year. The three water fountains will also include a bottle filler. The power points are a combination of pop-up power pedestals within the paving to be used flexibly for temporary events in different locations, and stations for charging devices at the seating workstations.



Drinking Fountain & Bottle Filler

Key

-  Wi-Fi, Pop Up Power Points and Charging Stations at work stations
-  Water Fountain Locations



Existing Open Space - Retained and Improved

The public open space within the Phase 2 planning application is a combination of the existing space between the Station and Thames Tower and at the lower level from the subway entrance to Station Hill, and the proposed new space which extends south through to and crossing Garrard Street and adjacent to Thames Tower. The existing open spaces are to be improved through the creation of the 'Pocket Park' which extends in front of the Station to Station Hill, and the addition of more seating, trees and planting.

The proposed new open spaces include 'The Rest' a quiet garden space between Thames Tower and One Station Hill, and 'Station Hill Plaza' with a water feature, seating, lawn and planting – at the heart of the new development and a focus of activity.



Public Open Space Strategy Diagram

Key

- Proposed new public open space
- Existing public open space

4.1 LANDSCAPE (LDA)

Surfaces

The material strategy aims to compliment the surrounding architecture – such as Reading's characteristic red brick – whilst contributing its own distinctive aesthetic. The surfaces and materials throughout the public realm have been designed to be durable and high quality, and provide site wide cohesion and ease of wayfinding. The materials noted below are illustrative to show the design intent for the scheme. Final materials will be provided at Condition and Reserved Matters stage.

Key

-  Paving Type 01 - Reconstituted flag paving 600 x 200mm; Oatmeal, Indian and Light Granite colour; textured finish.
-  Paving Type 02 - Reconstituted stone setts/brick 300mm x 100mm, Light Granite colour; smooth finish.
-  Paving type 03 - Reconstituted stone banding to 200mm x 400mm, Anthracite Grey; smooth finish.
-  Paving type 04 - In situ concrete/Natural Stones
-  Paving type 06 - to lower area is existing paving and new banding, re-laid and new paving to match if required
-  Paving type 07 - Proposed tarmac to match existing to engineer's detail and specification
-  Paving type 08 - Proposed paving to Garrard Street and Greyfriars Road; Reconstituted stone flag paving, 400mm x 200mm, Indian, Charcoal and Mid Grey Granite; textured finish.
-  Paving type 09 - Proposed banding to Garrard Street ; Reconstituted stone banding to Garrard Street, 400mm x 400mm; Light Granite colour; smooth finish.
-  Paving type 10 - Safety Surface



Surfaces Strategy Diagram

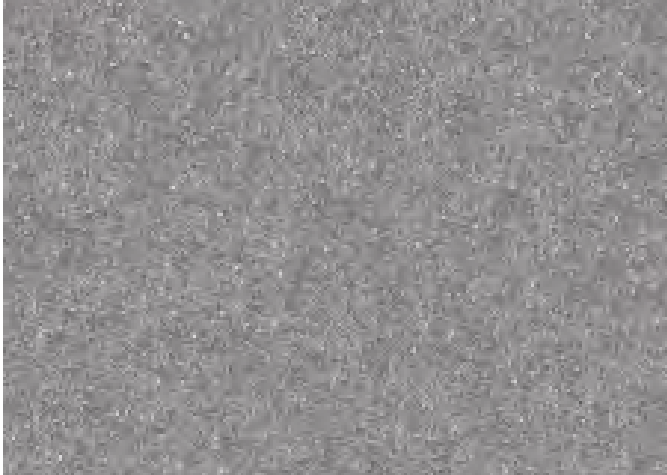
4.1 LANDSCAPE



Paving Type 01



Paving Type 02



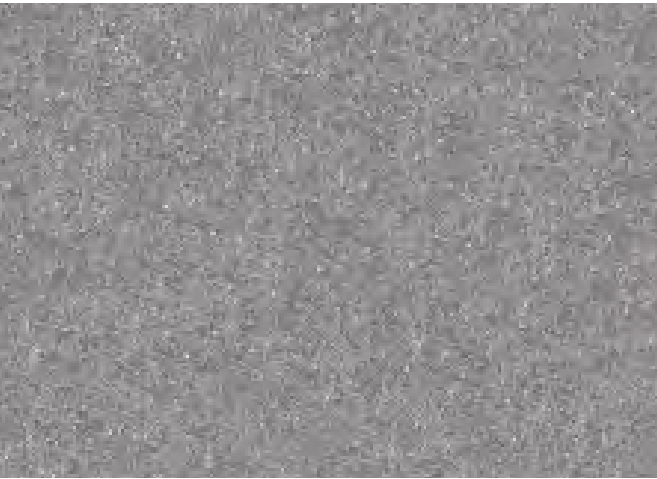
Paving Type 03



Paving Type 04



Paving Type 06 - To match existing



Banding to Paving Type 06



Paving Type 07



Paving Type 08



Paving Type 09



Note: Illustrative Material Palette

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Edge Types

The edge types have been selected to provide a sense of aesthetic cohesion across the project, and so that the materials are suited to their purpose in terms of durability and longevity. Where the edges function to retain the ground on one side then these low seating walls are to be in situ concrete topped with timber slats for comfortable seating. Where the planters are free-standing, and do not function to retain the ground, then a metal edging system is to be used - which has the double advantage of being easy to form the curves and can incorporate vents in the side of the required planters (marked in black on the plan).

- Key
- Flush Metal Edge
 - Raised Kerb (to engineer's detail and specification)
 - Raised Planter Edge Type 01 - Kinley powder coated planter edge 350-750mm
 - Raised Planter Edge Type 02 - In situ concrete wall
 - Raised Planter Edge Type 03 - Planter edges with perforated steel for ventilation
 - Green Wall
 - Retaining Wall
 - Existing Retaining Wall
 - Retaining Art Wall
 - Balustrade to Architect's Design
 - Temporary Hoarding Line



4.1 LANDSCAPE



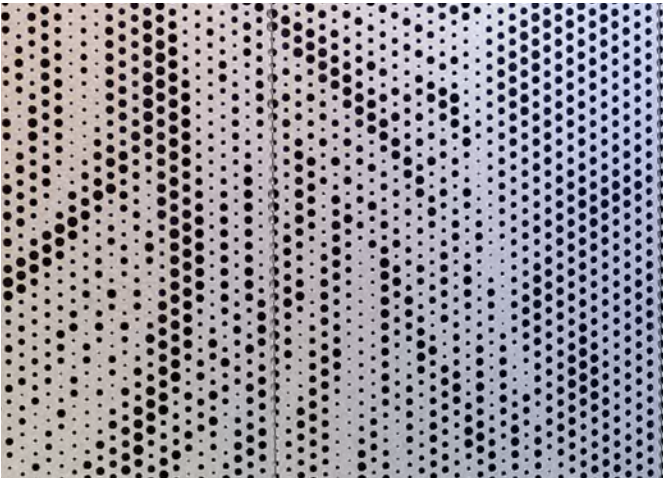
Raised metal edge to planting ■



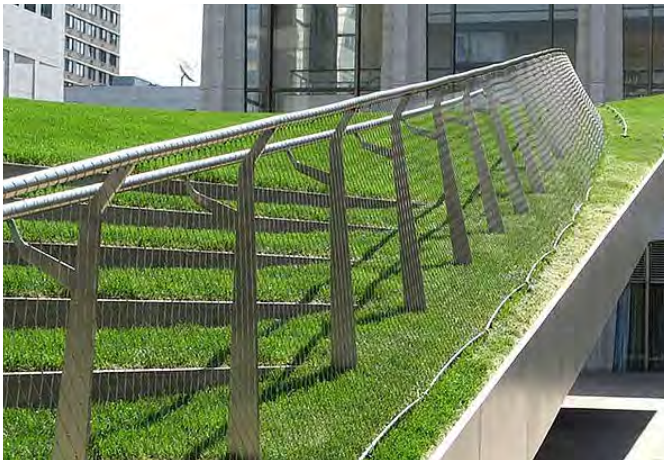
Flush Aluminium Edge ■



Green Wall ■



Perforated steel ventilation edge ■



Balustrade to Architect's Design ■



Raised Conservation Kerb ■



Temporary Hoarding Line ■



Art Wall ■



Retaining Concrete Edge ■

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Furniture

Furniture across the site has been selected to be beautiful, robust and easy to maintain.

The aim is for the furniture to support the character of the public realm, not to define or dominate it. The seating is integral to the design of spaces, often with other functions, such as helping retain a slope or being part of a raised planter.

Materials, texture and colours are coordinated with surface materials and the buildings' material palette.

- Key
- Tree grille 1.5m square, recessed to take paving, bolt fixing, water point.
- Steps and Handrails
- Movable furniture to spill out areas
- Movable furniture to Station Hill Plaza
- Slide
- Scramble area and stepping boulders
- Wayfinding public art
- Timber seating top to steel and concrete planters
- Work stations and seats
- Seating ledge to terraces in pocket park
- Feature seating edge
- Circular seating to feature trees
- Existing retained benches
- Existing bollards retained



Furniture Strategy Diagram

4.1 LANDSCAPE



Steps and Handrails



Existing Bollards

●● Bins



Tree Grille



Outdoor Slide



Raised Work Station



Feature Seating Edge



Chairs to Lawn



Singular Seats



Timber Tops to Benches



Movable Furniture/ Outside Dining



Wayfinding Art Feature to Artists Design



Circular Seating to Feature Trees



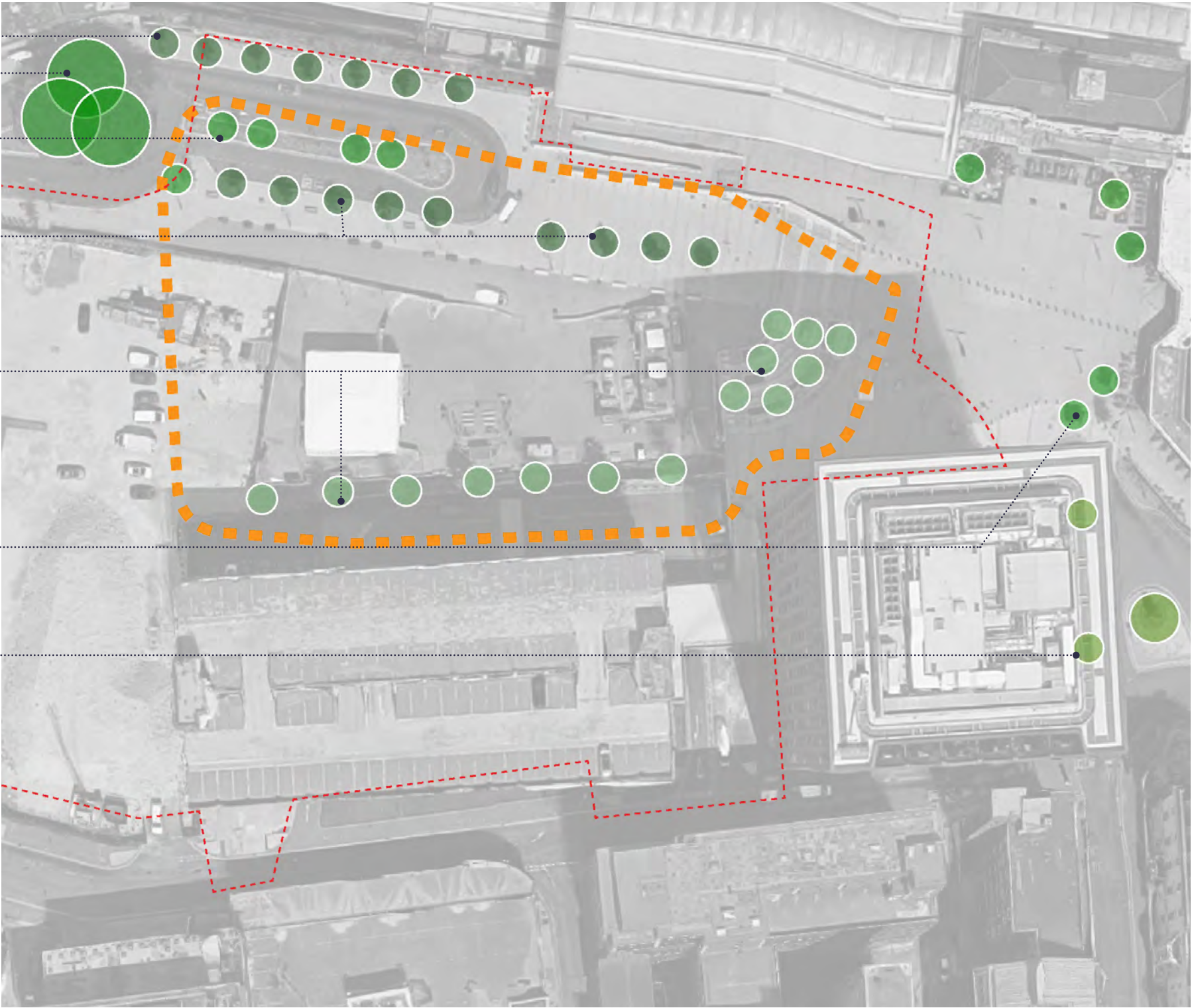
Seating Ledge in Pocket Park

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Existing Trees

A number of trees need to be removed to construct the re-configured taxi ranks and vehicle drop-off layout on Station Hill and the expanded public realm that extends south through the development to Garrard Street. These trees are indicated within the orange dashed line on the plan opposite. As these trees are young and have been recently planted, then we aim to carefully dig up and re-plant some of these trees within the proposed scheme. Refer to the plan on the Proposed Trees page which shows which proposed trees will be re-located from Station Hill. We will work with Reading to find homes for the remainder not re-planted within the project.

- Sweet Gum
- London Plane
Platanus x hispanica
- Pear
Pyrus calleryana
'Chanticleer'
- Sweet Gum
- Silver Birch; Betula
pendula & Maple
Acer sp.
- Pear
Pyrus calleryana
'Chanticleer'
- Maple Acer sp.



Existing Tree Strategy

4.1 LANDSCAPE



Sweet Gum and London Plane Trees to Existing Taxi Turnaround Area



Pear and Sweet Gum to Existing Taxi Turnaround



Pear to Existing Station Forecourt

4.1 LANDSCAPE

Proposed Trees

Trees have been carefully selected for a combination of reasons including function, aesthetics, ecology and history. The strategy is to have larger feature trees at key locations to act as landmarks for wayfinding, and provide shade and shelter. The selection of Holm and Chestnut oaks as the feature trees has been inspired by Reading's history – with the Chestnut oak the first tree to be planted when Reading Station was built, and the evergreen Holm oak being planted in the city centre and being part of Reading's ancient tree walk – as well as referencing the evergreen 'live' oaks in southern US where the client is based.

The groups of trees in planters vary according to how they function in the space, and from where they are viewed and appreciated. Honey Locust has been selected for the west side of Station Square as they have a light canopy, casting dappled light and shade, and are very pleasant to sit under within this quieter space. The planters surrounding Building G (1 Station Hill) contain field maple and sweet gum which have vivid yellow and red autumn colours and so will provide a visual spectacle from inside and outside the building. The birches along the edges reference the river theme and are suitable for planting in groups to provide screening, and create a visual link to Friar's Walk within Phase 1 of the development. Within the sloping pocket park, small flowering multi-stem trees are to be planted to provide visual interest without obscuring views across the space.

Where possible, existing trees that need to be removed that are not too large will be carefully transplanted within the project. For example the sweet gum, birch, and field maple that are planted around the existing taxi rank, and within the existing amphitheatre terraces are included within the proposed planting plan.

Refer to the diagram in the following pages for details of existing trees to be retained.



4.1 LANDSCAPE



Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris*



Holm Oak, *Quercus ilex*



Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*



River Birch, *Betula nigra*



Silver Birch, *Betula pendula*



Honey Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*



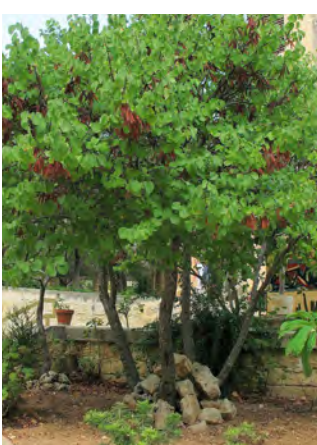
Field Maple, *Acer campastre*



Serviceberry, *Amelanchier lamarckii*



Judas-tree, *Cercis candendensis*



Chestnut Leaved Oak, *Quercus Castanaeifolia*



Whitebeam, *Sorbus aria*



Sweet gum, *Liquidamber*



4.1 LANDSCAPE

Planting

The planting has been inspired by both local history and ecology, which has resulted in a palette that is a combination of native and exotic species that are best suited to their aesthetics and function in the landscape. When leaving the Station the most visible planting will be the Pocket Park between the podium level and Station Hill. These slopes will be planted with a native wildflower meadow - combining tough grasses and wildflowers – to create a singular visual identity along its length. The wildflower meadow will have seasonal interest with species having different flowering times throughout the year.

Around the edge of the public realm, where there is a steeper drop down to Station Hill or Garrard Street, then planting will soften this change of level. Adjacent to both the steps down to Station Hill and Garrard Street the steep slopes / walls will be covered with climbers, and the south side of The Rest overlooking Garrard Street will have a shade-tolerant green wall to provide interest from both sides.

On the podium the planters under the trees will have a combination of herbaceous and evergreen ground cover plants and low flowering species to provide both cover year round and also seasonal interest and variety. Where trees are grouped and more densely planted, for example the Birches in front of Thames Tower, shade tolerant woodland understory species will be planted.

- Key
- Herbaceous & shrub planting
 - Planting to Bridge
 - Woodland planting ground cover
 - Herbaceous planting
 - Shade tolerant herbaceous planting
 - Wildflower grass meadow
 - Relocated median planting
 - Lawn
 - Double sided green wall to 'The Rest'
 - Sloped climbers merging to vertical green wall
 - Climbers (with art wall)

