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Soft & Hard
Landscaping Strategy

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LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

The proposed landscape strategy has been developed to reinforce the historic domestic character and setting of the listed building through the introduction of a restrained and heritage-sensitive palette of hard and soft landscaping materials. The approach seeks to balance the practical requirements of the residential conversion with the preservation and enhancement of the site's historic significance.

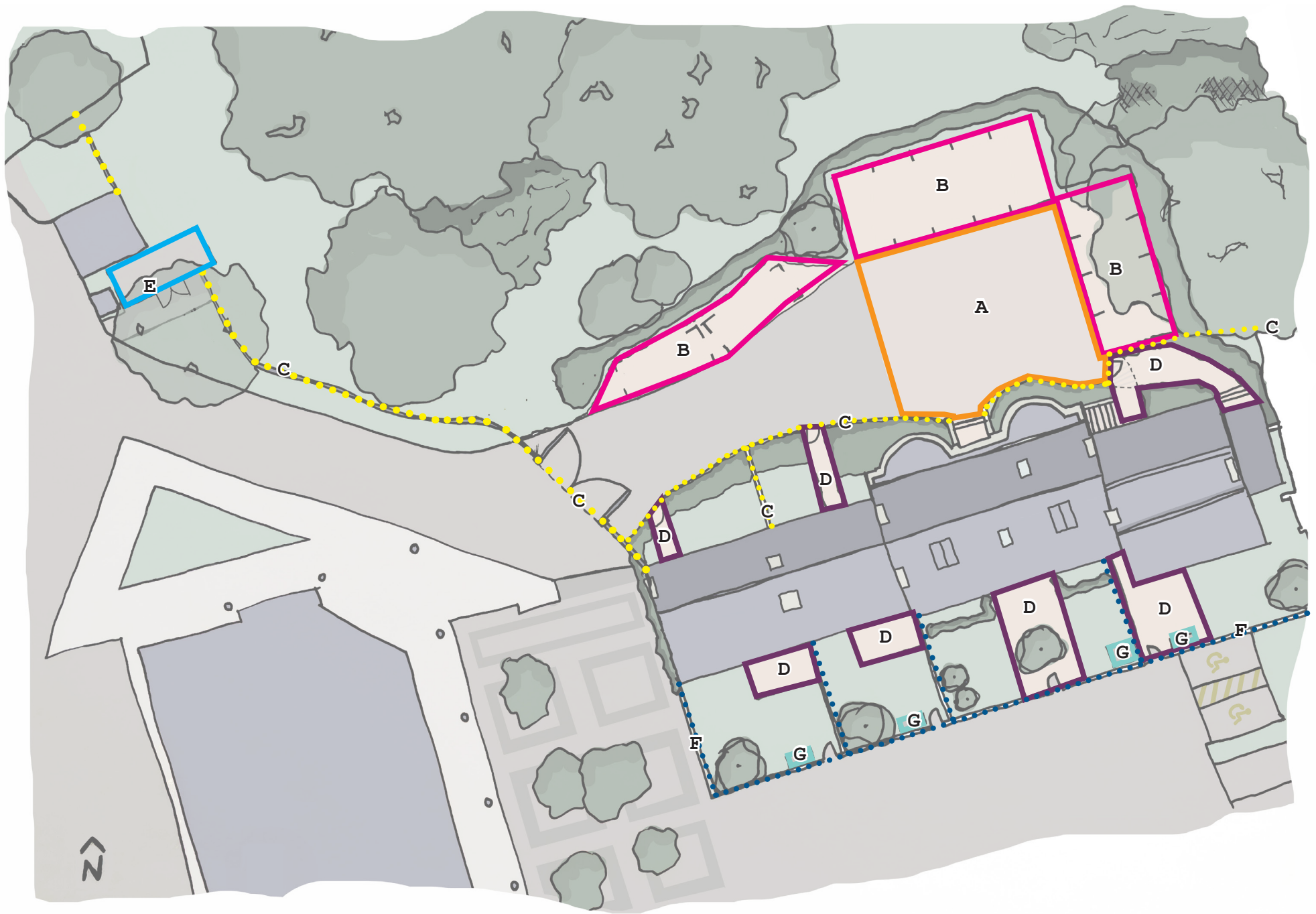
The hard landscaping strategy adopts a simple and traditional material palette informed by estate and courtyard treatments commonly associated with Georgian properties. Shared surface and parking areas are proposed in rustic cobblestone-style stone paving with varied sizes, tones and aged finishes to create a reclaimed and informal appearance appropriate to the character of the site. Residential patio areas are proposed in rustic natural stone paving with reclaimed-style clay brick edging, carefully arranged to reflect and reference existing hardstanding lines and historic site patterns.

Boundary treatments have been designed to provide enclosure and security while remaining visually lightweight and sympathetic to the listed setting. Traditional black powder-coated estate fencing is proposed to principal areas, providing a visually permeable boundary treatment appropriate to the character of the historic property. Rear garden boundaries are formed using pale timber fencing with integrated lattice trellis detailing, introducing a softer domestic character to private amenity areas while supporting climbing planting and biodiversity. Timber refuse and cycle storage structures are intentionally modest and recessive in appearance, utilising simple timber cladding and lightweight detailing to minimise visual impact within the setting of the listed building.

The soft landscaping strategy adopts a predominantly native and long-naturalised planting palette appropriate to the historic landscape character of the site. Planting has been arranged in informal sweeping forms to soften views of hardstanding and parking areas while reinforcing the naturalistic approach associated with Georgian estate landscapes. Native hedging species including *Taxus baccata*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Crataegus monogyna* and *Fagus sylvatica* provide structure, enclosure and seasonal variation throughout the site.

Shrub and perennial planting incorporates species such as *Lavandula angustifolia*, *Salvia nemorosa*, *Nepeta racemosa*, *Digitalis purpurea* and *Alchemilla mollis*, contributing seasonal interest, biodiversity value and a softer cottage-garden character adjacent to the building and private amenity spaces. Small native and heritage-appropriate specimen trees, including multi-stem Silver Birch and *Acer campestre*, are proposed to soften the setting of the development and provide light canopy cover and seasonal interest without obscuring key views of the listed building.

Overall, the landscape proposals seek to create a cohesive and high-quality setting which preserves and enhances the significance of the listed building while delivering functional and attractive amenity spaces for future residents.



HARD LANDSCAPING



A
Shared Surface - Rustic cobblestone-style stone paving in mixed dark greys. Varied stone sizes and aged finish to create a traditional reclaimed appearance



B
Parking Spaces - Rustic cobblestone-style stone paving in mixed light greys. Varied stone sizes and aged finish to create a traditional reclaimed appearance



C
Estate Fencing - Traditional black powder-coated metal estate fencing with vertical steel pickets with classic open-bar design.



D
Residentail Patio - Rustic natural stone patio paving in mixed beige with reclaimed rustic clay brick edging and detailing to denote lines of existing hardstanding edges in varied red tones



E
Refuse Storage - Horizontal timber clad, timber framed with open roof with capacity to meet Reading Borough Councils refuse storage requirements



F
Rear Garden Fence - Timber privacy fencing comprising vertical tongue-and-groove timber boards with integrated square lattice trellis extension above.



G
Cycle Storage - off the shelf timber cycle store with space for min. 2 bicycles to serve individual dwellings and min. 5 bicycles for the communal flats

SOFT LANDSCAPING



A
Planting Palette - Native plants such as *Lavandula angustifolia*, *Salvia nemorosa*, *Nepeta racemosa*, *Geranium Rozanne*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Alchemilla mollis*



B
Taxus Baccata - A traditional native evergreen species with a dense year-round foliage provides structure, enclosure and visual softness within the landscape scheme.



C
Carpinus Betulus - A native hedging species with soft seasonal foliage providing structure, enclosure and a refined natural character within the landscape scheme.



D
Crataegus monogyna - A native hedging species with delicate blossom and dense foliage providing seasonal interest, biodiversity value and a soft natural boundary within the landscape scheme.



E
Fagus Sylvatica - A traditional hedging species with soft seasonal foliage providing structure, enclosure and a refined character appropriate to the historic landscape setting.



F
Euonymus Europaeus - A native shrub species providing delicate seasonal colour, wildlife value and soft naturalistic planting within the landscape scheme.



G
Multi-Stem Silver Birch - A light and elegant native tree species provides seasonal interest, and contributes to the soft naturalistic landscape character of the scheme.



H
Acer campestre - A native British tree species selected for its restrained form, seasonal variation and suitability within historic landscape settings.

SOFT LANDSCAPING PLAN

