



King Edward Square Stage 2 Summary document

28.04.2023

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1.0

Introduction and context

Introduction

Overview

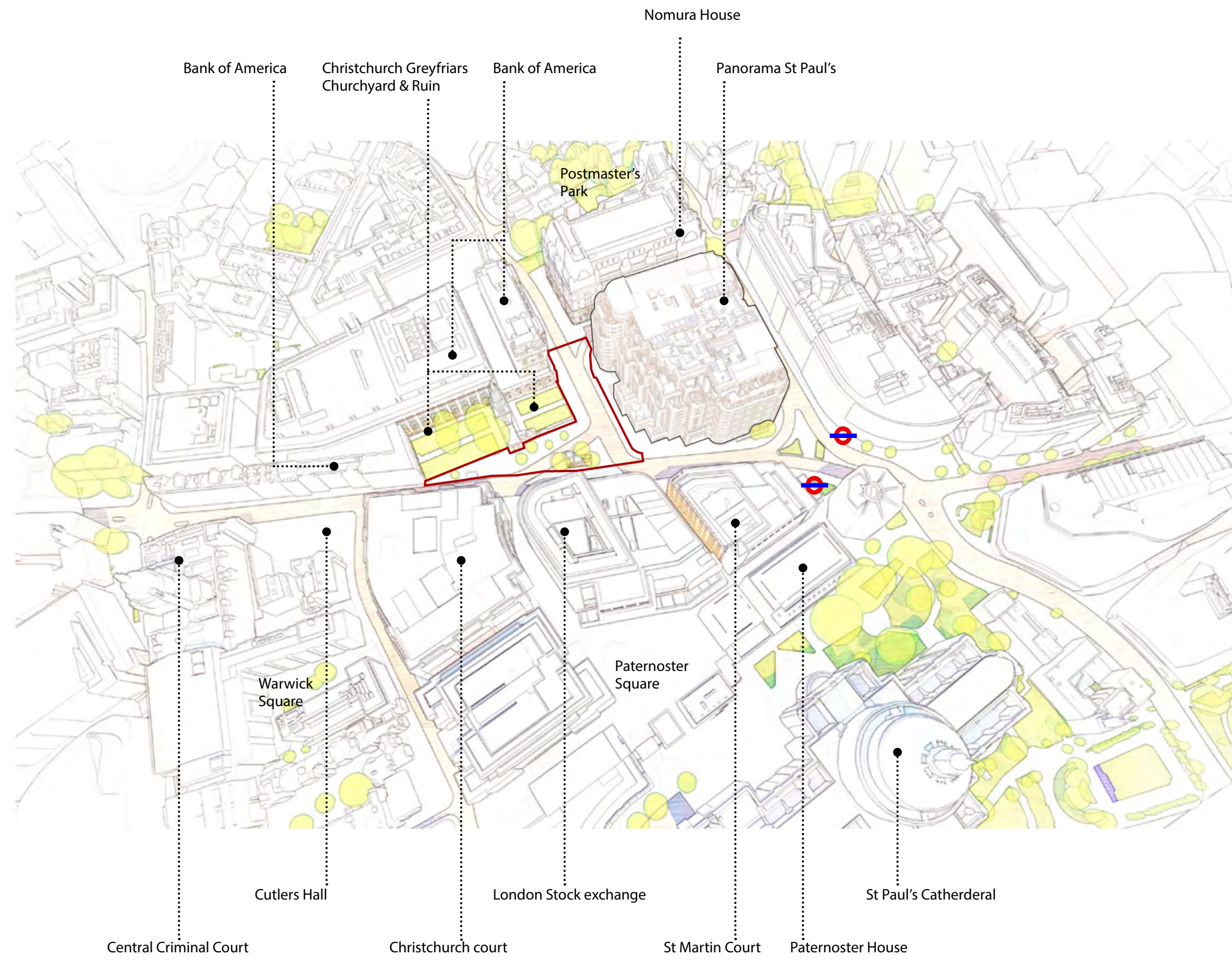
The existing gyratory between St. Paul's and the Museum of London is a complex and traffic dominated one-way system, introduced in the 1970's. It severs pedestrian and cycle connections, is difficult to navigate, and is both polluted and noisy. The St Paul's gyratory project proposes the removal of this one-way system and reassigns space for walking and cycling, public realm and green infrastructure. It creates an exciting opportunity to close a section of King Edward Street and the adjacent slip road and transform a traffic dominated environment into a space for people and nature. Creating a place that people want to spend time in, and providing an experiential, green, sociable, connected and beautiful public space.

Over the last few months, working closely with the team at City of London and Panorama St Paul's, the Landscape Architects at LDA Design, have developed a preferred concept design for this remarkable new public space, as well as options for design, if King Edward Street were to be retained.

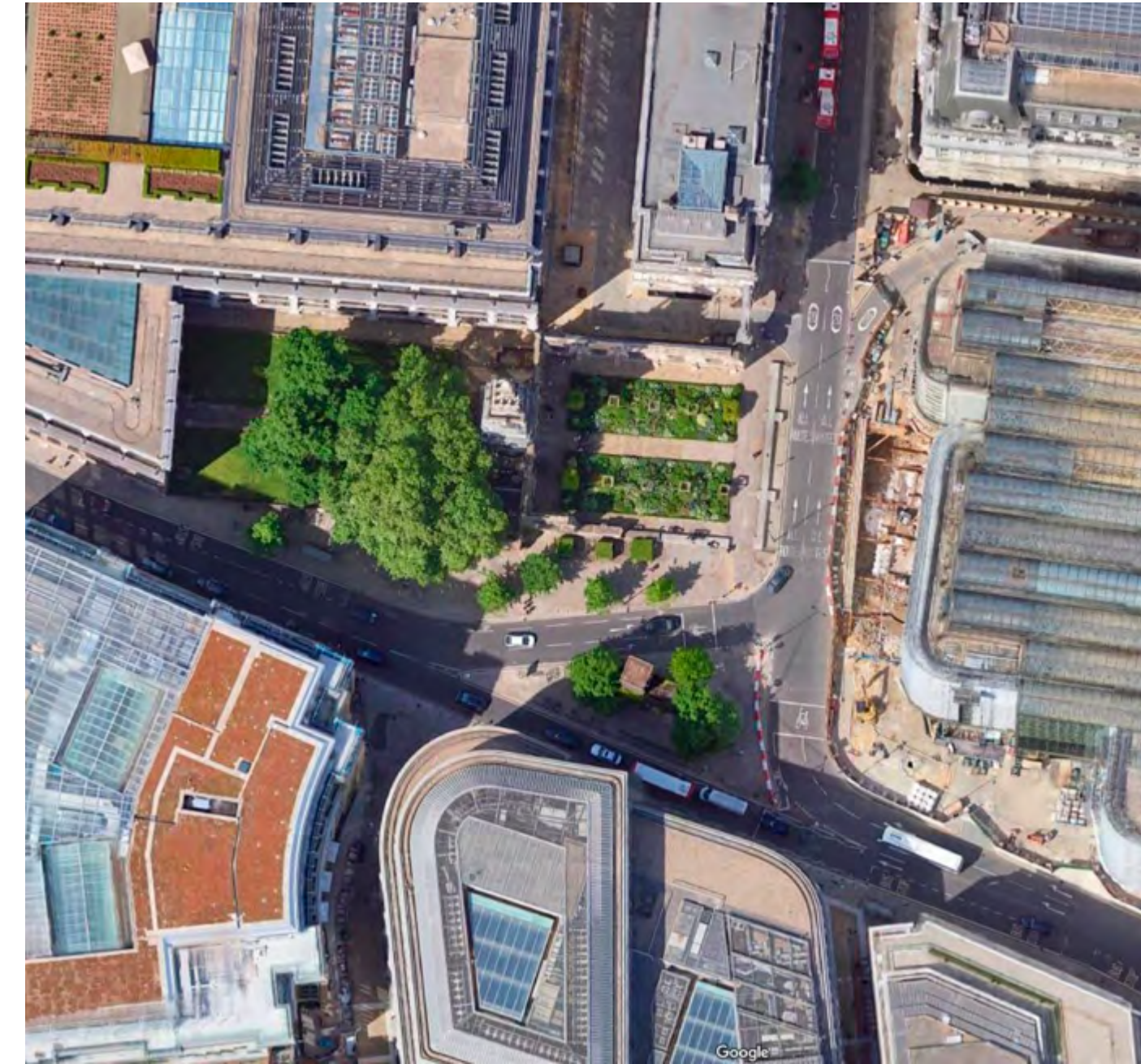
The space sits in a remarkable and contextually strategic location at the intersection of north-south and east-west movement, close to St Paul's station and at the southern gateway to the Cultural Mile. Within a short walk lies Sir Christopher Wren's internationally renowned masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral. Looking south from King Edward Street, the north transept of the cathedral is beautifully framed by Queens Head Passage and Canon Aly. The Grade I listed tower and ruins of Christchurch Greyfriars church, churchyard, and garden (also designed by Wren) are all that remain of a large friary, that once sat here, subsequently destroyed during the Blitz. Road widening in 1974 saw the surviving east end of the church, demolished and this footprint is now demarcated by a low stone wall. The new space also lies in an area of transformation. Panorama St Paul's, now under construction and adjoining the space, will provide a new type of office development, supporting health and well-being. To the north, the exciting re-development of the Museum of London, 150 London Wall, and Bastion House also brings major change.

The project offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to reclaim road space for people and nature. Importantly, the site's location, history, and architectural capital demand a world-class response.

Context



The site



The site at a glance



Important axial views and approach to St Paul's
Low wall provides historic interpretation but divisive



A place to move through and not dwell



A place to move through and not dwell



Relationship with Greyfriars and the garden important



Existing trees provide multiple benefits

Listed buildings

Scheduled Ancient Monument



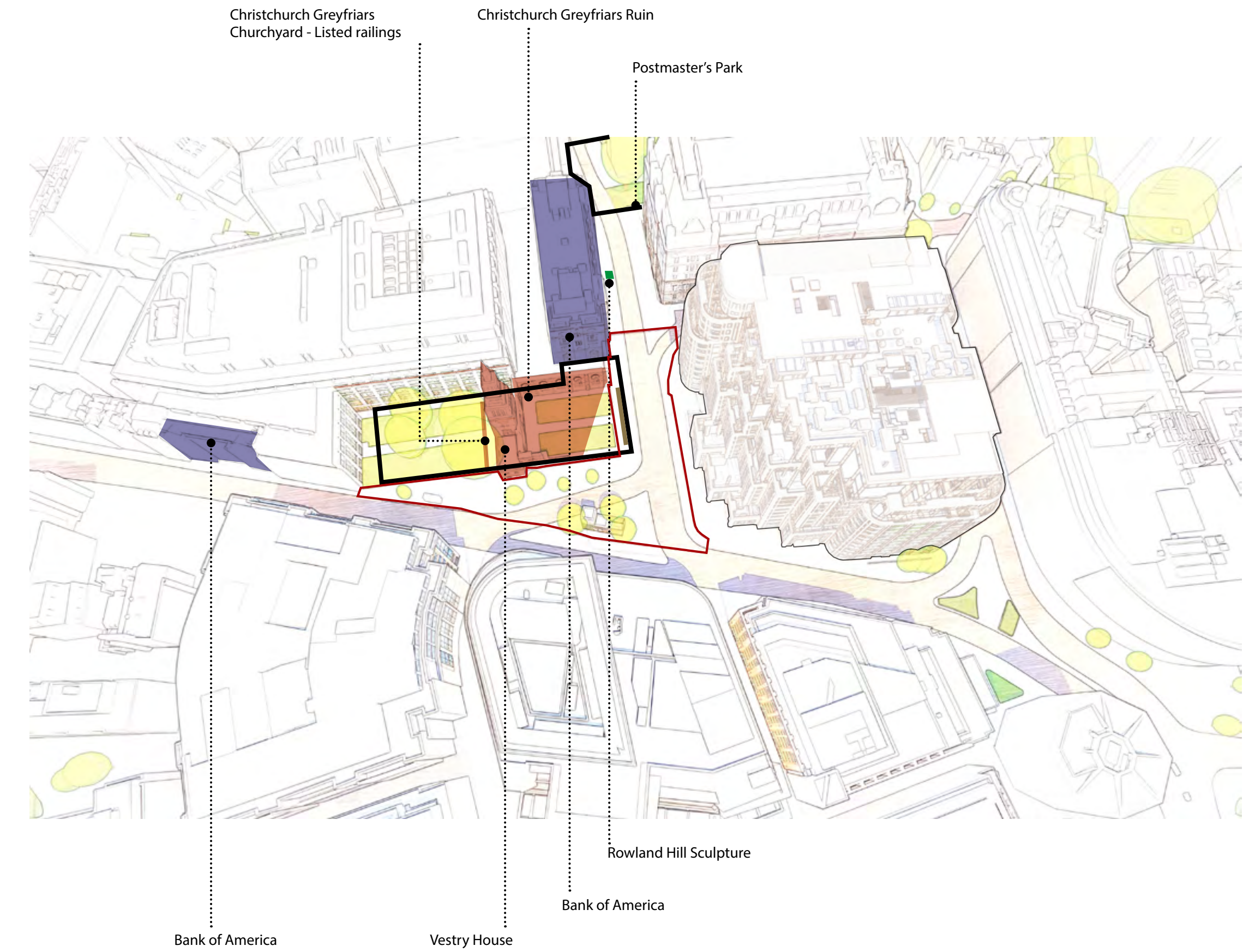
Grade I Listed



Grade II* Listed



Grade II Listed



2.0

The brief

Overarching aims and objectives

- Enhance the City of London's position as a global business district and embrace the 'Destination City' Programme.
- Respond to the City's Climate Action Strategy and Cool Streets and Greening Programme.
- Respond to the key view to St. Paul's Cathedral through Queens Head Passage and Canon Aly to the North Transept.
- Reinforce the historic setting and views to Christchurch Greyfriars church and sensitively integrate the garden with the new space.
- Align with the City of London's Cultural Strategy to celebrate the heritage of the context and rediscover sense of place and community.
- Create a single cohesive public realm, responding to surrounding features and integrating and coordinating Panorama St. Paul's.

Key considerations

- Respond to feedback from the 2022/23 public engagement, for example, 87% of people want to see 'trees and plants' in the newly pedestrianised space and 79% also 'places to sit'.
- Consider a variety of seating and dining opportunities, for relaxing in the sun, immersed in nature, and enjoying remarkable views to St Paul's, Christchurch Greyfriars and Gardens and Panorama St Paul's,
- Introduce beautiful trees and biodiverse rain gardens, with pollinator plants that support climate resilience and strengthen the 'biodiversity corridor' from the Barbican to Bankside.
- Provide a flexible layout with the necessary infrastructure to support pop-up events.
- Given potential conflicts, a dedicated or shared cycle route is not provided through the space. Space/ infrastructure to support cycling and micro mobility (e.g. racks) is however to be included.
- Explore opportunities for re-purposing/improving the low wall and historic interpretation of this. This will require Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Consent.
- Provide opportunities for Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions (SUDs).
- Sensitively integrate Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) to minimise visual/physical intrusion.
- Explore opportunities for incidental play, encouraging people to have fun, extending dwell time.
- Ensure a fully accessible and inclusive environment, with opportunities for lighting, to create a safe and attractive space.
- Explore opportunities for art and interpretation to celebrate the stories of place, including its historic significance.
- Provide a legible public space and clear wayfinding.

3.0

Design summary

Design summary

The developed design for King Edward's Square provides a sequence of spaces derived from the important geometries of Christchurch Greyfriars, the St Paul's axis and Panorama St Paul's. A series of outdoor rooms create a range of tranquil as well as sociable spaces, extensive areas of planting, and opportunities for incidental play, whilst responding to key pedestrian desire lines, and high levels of footfall.

A major structuring element - 'The Grand Axis' provides an impressive visual and physical connection north south to St Paul's Cathedral, framed by 'The Garden Grid' a series of beautiful gardens and informal avenue of trees. Alongside this route, a linear band of large granite stones reinforces the axis. It is intended that these blocks re-use the reclaimed stone from the river wall as part of the construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel. They have acquired a beautiful rich patina that reflect 150 years of weathering and provide an informal and incidental play feature. This re-use supports the circular economy project 'From The Thames to Eternity'.

At the 'heart' of the space, the existing wall to denote the old church boundary is replaced by a beautiful in-ground arts feature, removing the existing severance, improving the setting to the church, and opening the space up and integrating the existing special garden. The central area connects key desire lines, north south and east west, with the new street created by Panorama St Paul's. The space also provides flexibility for pop-up events, such as small-scale performance, occasional kiosks and markets, with in-ground power supporting these potential uses.

To the south, a quieter garden space pays homage to the richness of the areas monastic garden origins, as a place for health, well-being, and productivity. A range of comfortable seating, planting areas and scattered trees provide a sense of tranquillity and enclosure, with key views and protection from the road to the south carefully considered. The inclusion of long tables and seats, supports the 'Destination City' objectives, encouraging people to spend more time in the space, providing much needed places to sit in comfort for eating, study and work.

And finally, a series of 'social gateways' to the north and southwest draw people in to the space at key thresholds. These comprise scattered trees and seats, with a variety of views and configurations. The seats are gravity fixed, enabling greater flexibility by the City, to reconfigure the spaces as they wish, such as for occasional events.

**Developed concept overview
Illustrative plan
(Highways option 1)**

A sequence of spaces, derived from geometries of Christchurch Greyfriars, the St Paul's axis and Panorama St Paul's.

To the south, more intricate linear banding is inspired by a monastic garden approach offering a tessellated sequence of planting, seating decks, benches, long table dining and scattered trees.

A central flexible events space provides generous circulation at a key movement decision making point.

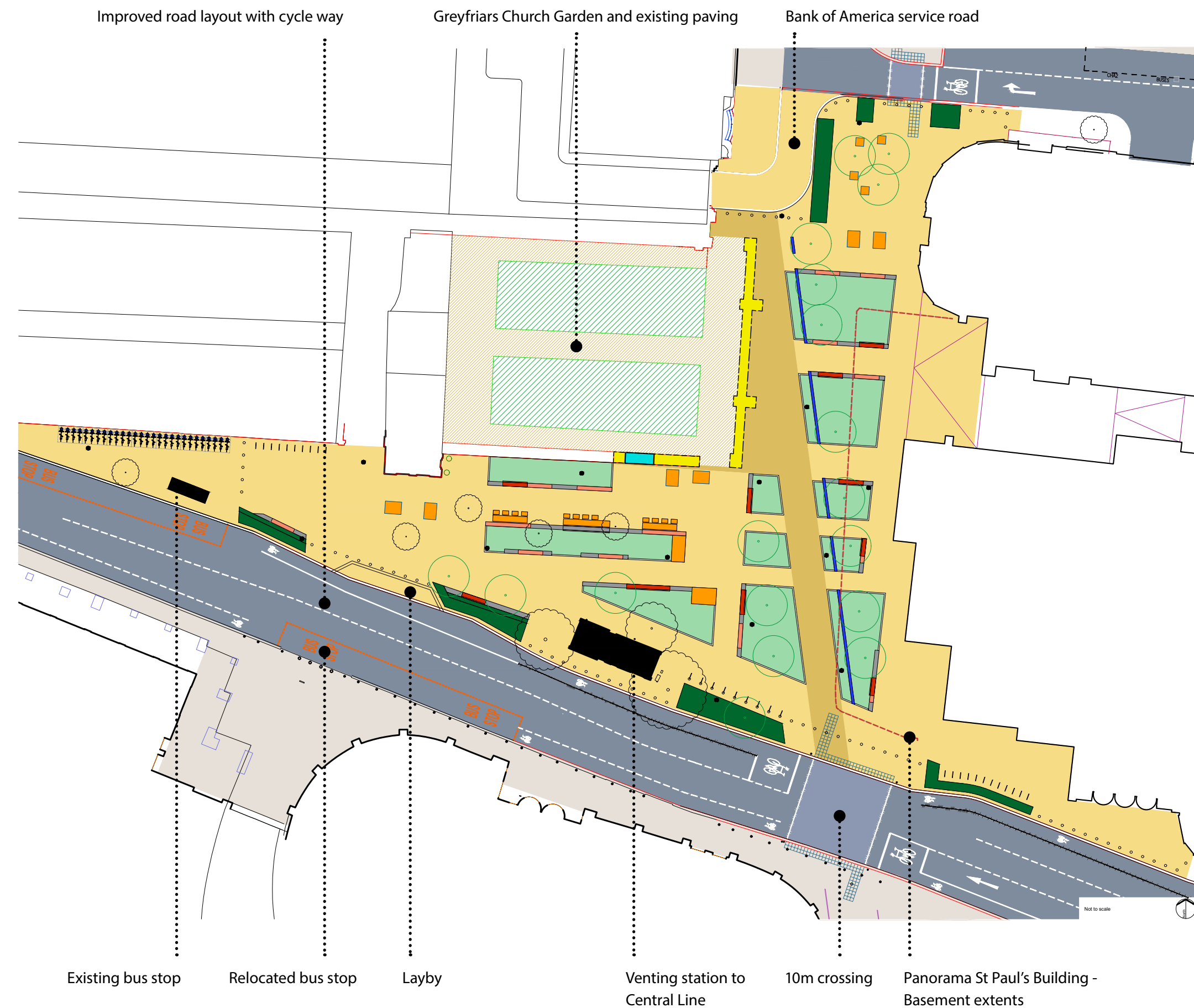
Scattered seating and trees to the north and west as corresponding welcoming gateways.

Christchurch Greyfriars integrity protected as having it's own distinct identity but integrated through the wider structure.

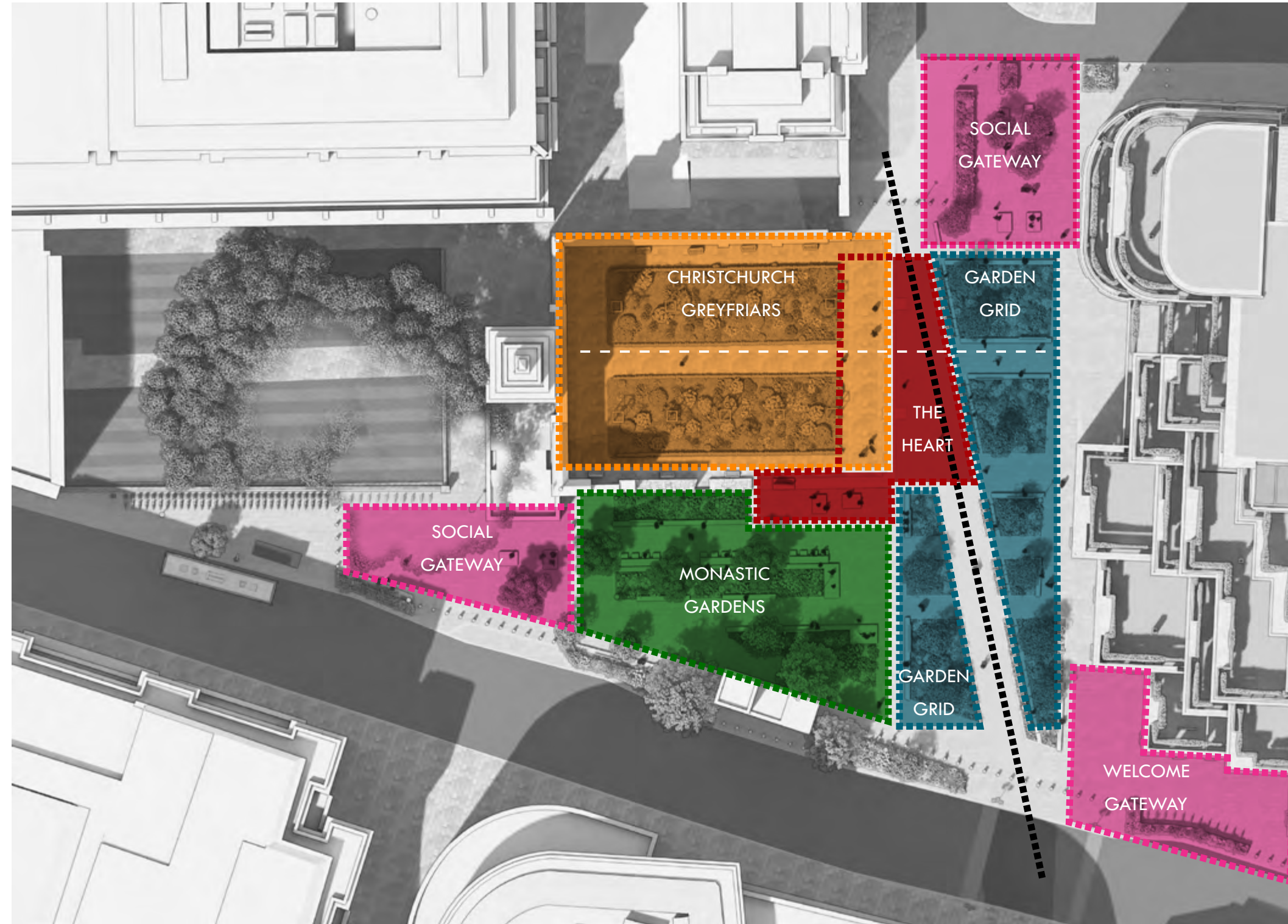


**General arrangement plan
(Highways option 1)**

- Planting - Rain garden
- Planting - HVM high edges_Hidden bollards
- Paving_01
- Paving_02
- Modern raised wall to Greyfriars Garden_REDUCED to finished floor level - Decorative interpretation of former wall within paving / ground plane
- Proposed Tree
- Existing Tree
- Relocated statue
- Communal dining tables and cube seats (root fixed)
- Timber top
- Timber top with back rest
- Seating pad 2m x 3m (fixed)
- Movable seating pad 1.5m x 2m
- Movable cube seat
- Stone / Concrete edge 500mm x 500mm
- Incidental play element (within planting) Reused granite - Victoria Embankment
- Santander cycles / docking stations / Terminal
- Cycle stands
- HVM PAS 68 rated Cycle Stands
- HVM PAS 68 rated bollards
- Indicative lighting DW Windsor_Sky lighting column To match Panorama St Paul's Building

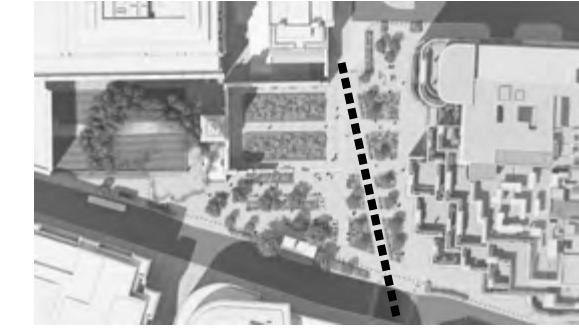


Spatial Character and identity



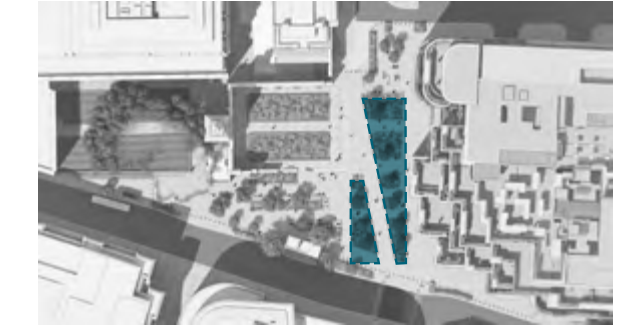
Grand axis

- Processional
- Fast, direct and enticing
- Generous, a primary connection
- Open and clear
- Reinforcing views



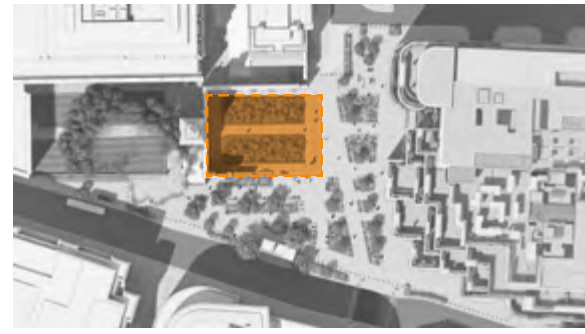
Garden grid

- Transitional, connecting Greyfriars with Panorama St Paul's and the wider geometries
- Maximised planting area
- Playable
- Clear connections and legible
- Close contact with nature



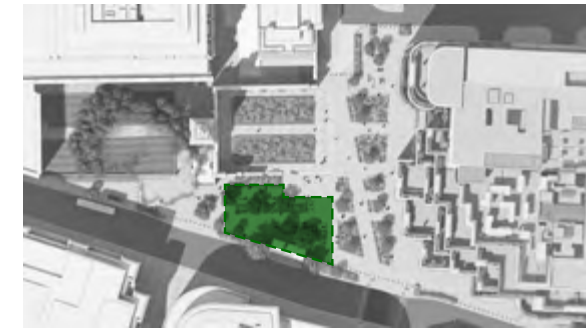
Christchurch greyfriars

- Protected individual identity
- Distinct from the wider square
- Connected through planting
- Drives wider geometry
- Tranquil and peaceful



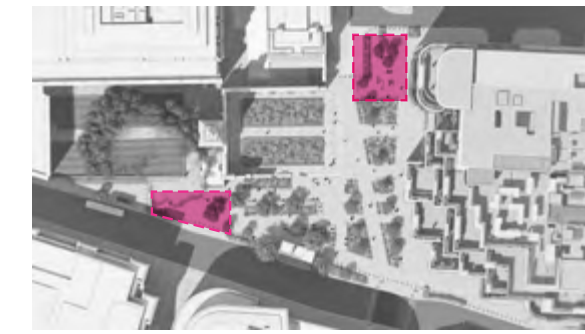
Monastic gardens

- Slower pace, tighter grain
- Rich network of spaces
- A varied social condition
- Immersive and experiential
- Close contact with nature



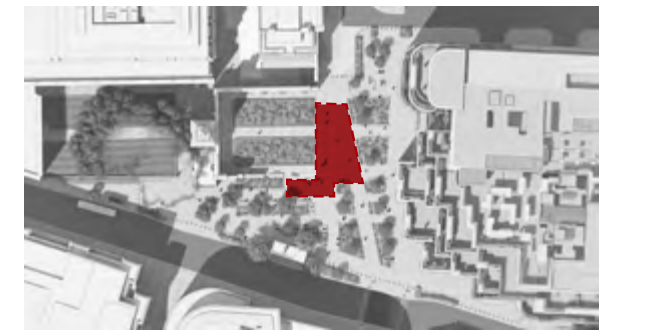
Social gateway

- Suggestive of a welcoming place
- Variety of social opportunities
- A mixture of configurations
- Adaptable and changeable
- A threshold



the HEART

- King Edward's Square heart
- Orientation space, busy, high footfall
- A moment to pause with amazing views
- Open and programmable (opportunities for a kiosk)
- Integrated history and narrative of place



3.0 Selected views



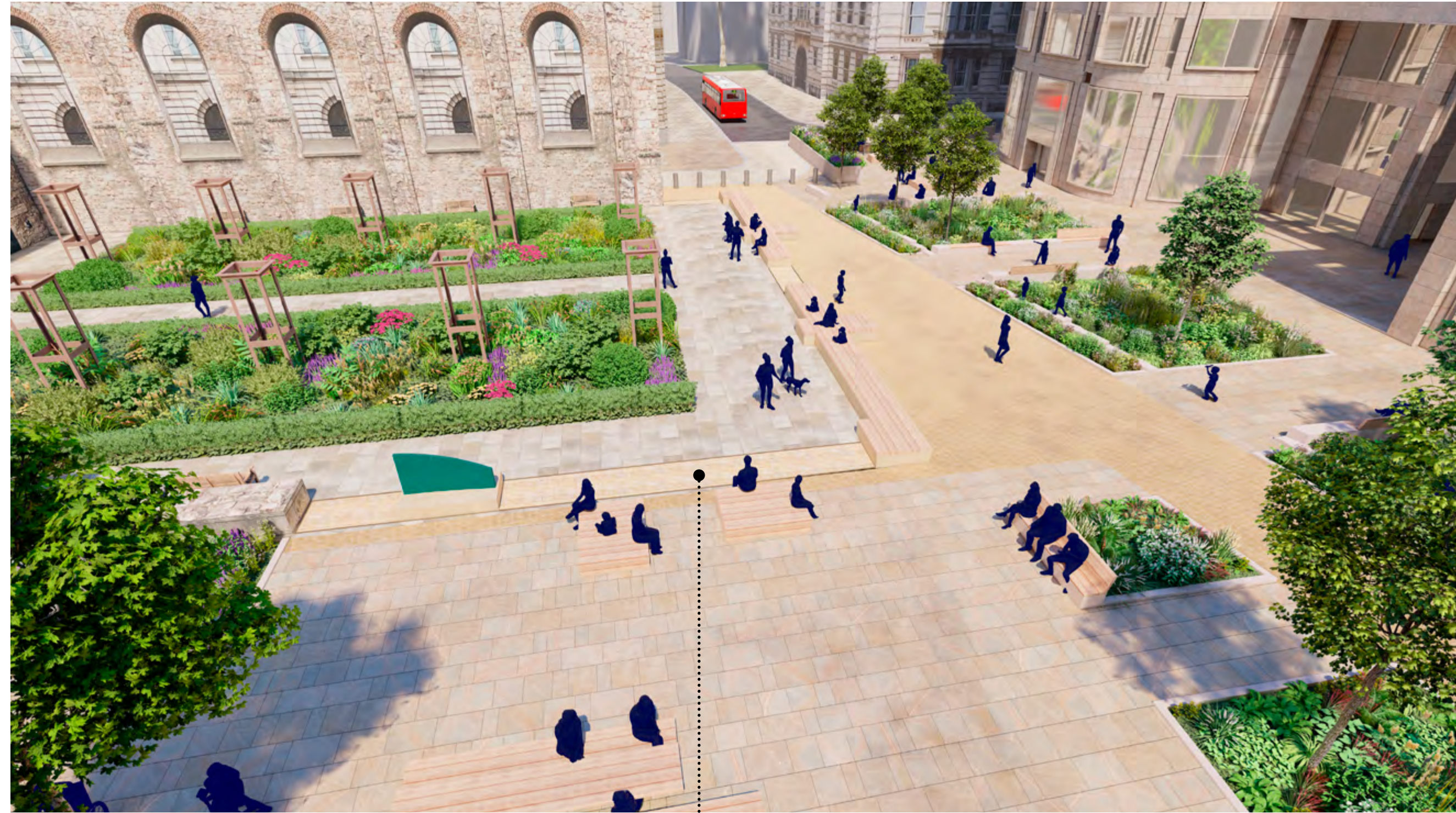








View showing 'low wall' reduced to possible seating edge with timber top



Removal of side wall to allow for movement through and across the space, increasing visual and physical connectivity to Greyfriars garden



Central aperture to seat allowing for movement centrally to Greyfriars garden

4.0 Appendix

Carriageway Retained Option

Illustrative plan (Highways option 2)

Broadly a similar approach has been taken to address highways options 2 and 3.

It is clear that the retention of a road will dissect the space and create two distinct spaces:

- A small pocket park to the west.
- A linear edge space that acts defensively to the Panorama St Paul's frontage in the east.

The pocket park pays homage to the geometry of Christchurch Greyfriars Garden.

The new area to the south of the garden references a finer geometry to that of the garden itself. It provides a significant number of seating edges and large areas of biodiverse planting in the form of raised planters and rain gardens where permitted.

An uplift of 15-17 new trees for both options 3 and 4.



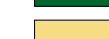
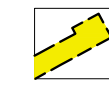



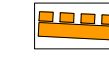
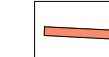





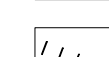


LDA would recommend reducing the existing raised wall in the Greyfriars garden as this would naturally create a connective square uniting the two smaller spaces.

We have also created provision for a small central square space within the new public realm. This new social space, over looked by the Greyfriars ruin is fortified by the introduction of communal dining and large pad seating.



General arrangement plan




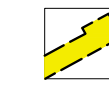




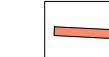





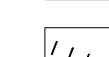


(Highways option 2)

-  Planting Rain garden
-  Planting Hedge_Hidden HVM bollards
-  Paving_02
-  Modern raised wall to Greyfriars Garden_REDUCED to finished floor level - Decorative interpretation of former wall within paving / ground plane
-  Proposed Tree
-  Existing Tree
-  Relocated statue
-  Communal dining tables and cube seats (root fixed)
-  Timber top
-  Timber top with back rest
-  Seating pad 2m x 3m (fixed)
-  Movable seating pad 1.5m x 2m
-  Movable cube seat
-  Stone / Concrete edge 500mm x 500mm
-  Santander cycles / docking stations / Terminal
-  Cycle stands
-  HVM PAS 68 rated bollards



General arrangement plan

(Highways option 3)

-  Planting Rain garden
-  Planting Hedge_Hidden HVM bollards
-  Paving_02
-  Modern raised wall to Greyfriars Garden_REDUCED to finished floor level - Decorative interpretation of former wall within paving / ground plane
-  Proposed Tree
-  Existing Tree
-  Relocated statue
-  Communal dining tables and cube seats (root fixed)
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-  Movable cube seat
-  Stone / Concrete edge 500mm x 500mm
-  Santander cycles / docking stations / Terminal
-  Cycle stands
-  HVM PAS 68 rated bollards



Key views - Highways option 2





Temporary coffee cart

Greifriars statue relocated









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