

2.0 Urban Analysis

2.7 Qualitative Analysis: Digital Presence

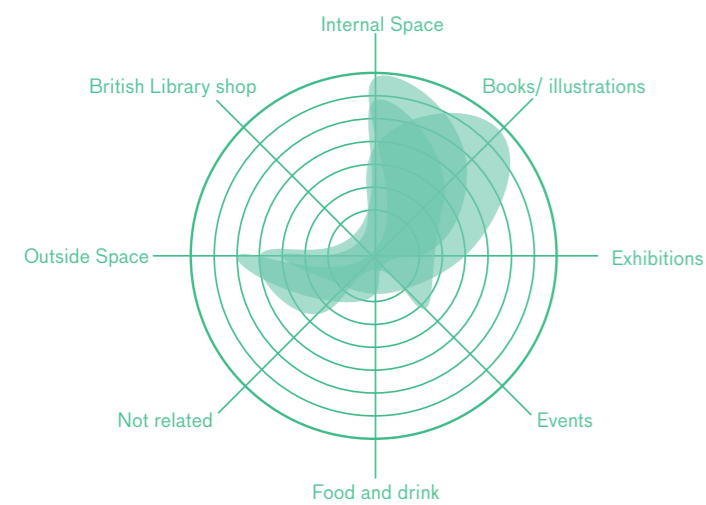
British Library: Social Media Presence #British Library

In order to have understand how the British Library is understood from the users point of view, a social media analysis was carried out. The application chosen was Instagram as per its relevance on the younger public and its wide use. The analysis was carried out in two different periods of time, August 2019 and March 2019, to identify the changes on the use of the spaces in relation to the weather. On the research, the first 100 pictures with the hashtag #britishlibrary of each month has been selected and classified by type. On this particular analysis, the pictures have been divided into the following categories: outside spaces, inside spaces, books and illustrations, exhibitions, events, food and drink, library shop and a category of non-related pictures.

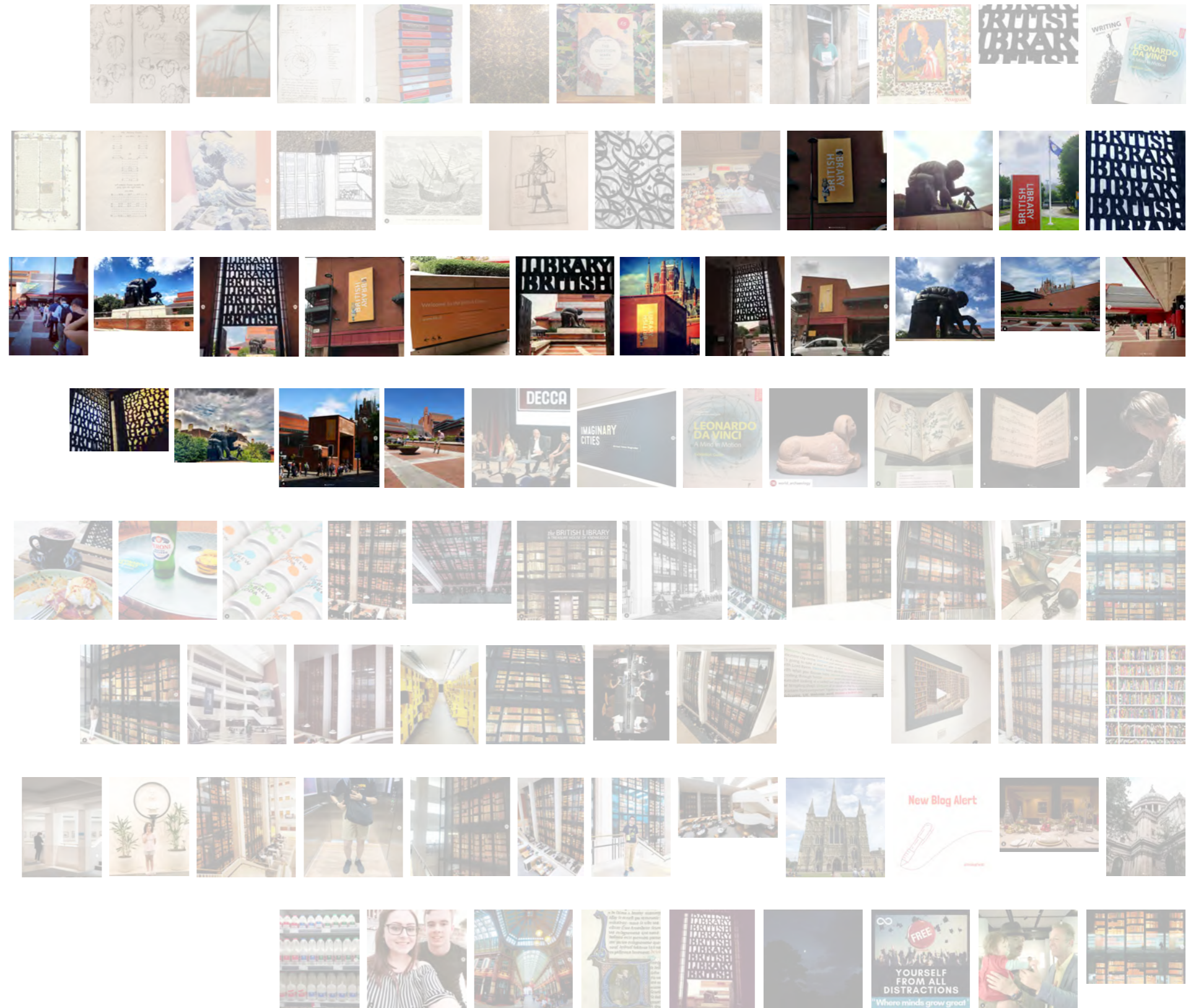
The following numbers represents people's interest on the library:

- Internal Space - 33%
- Books and illustrations - 23%
- Exhibitions - 6%
- Events - 1%
- Food and drinks - 4%
- Not related - 8%
- Outside space - 25%
- British Library shop - 0%

It is particularly interesting that the seating or greenery in the entrance courtyard are not documented. Most of the outside pictures are related to the lettering on the entrance gate and the building itself, none of them are about the micro spaces created around the courtyard area.



Most popular topics of the British Library on Social Media



Instagram pictures from August 2019
Source: Instagram #britishlibrary

2.0 Urban Analysis

2.8 Recent & Emerging Local Development

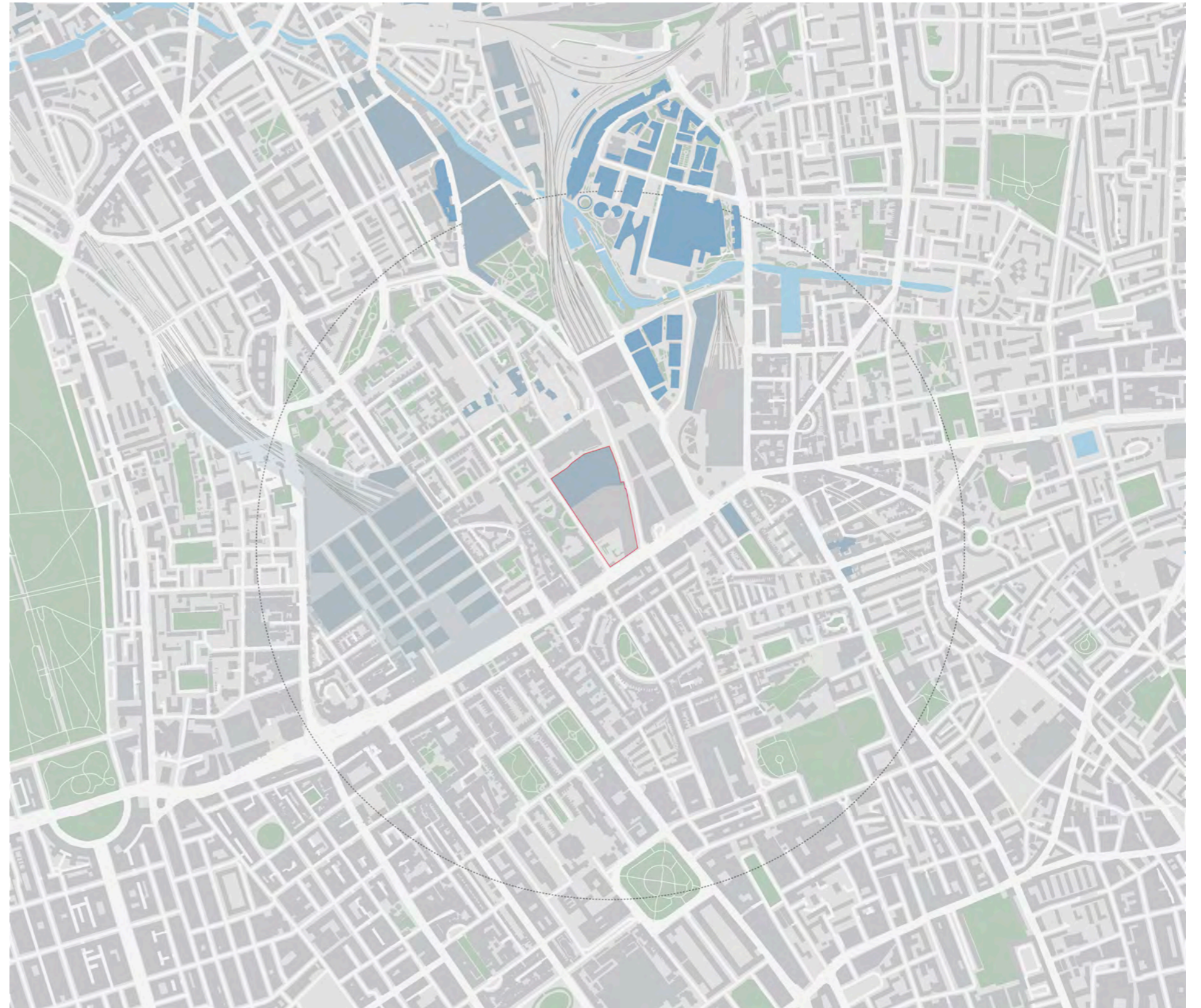
This section identifies recent and emerging significant development in close proximity to the British Library. This has been studied to understand what public realm proposals are being developed in the local neighbourhood how the British Library Public Realm can contribute to this wider network of public places.

These are summarised below. Images of the developments are shown on the next page:

- 1 Granary Square
- 2 Coal Drops Yard
- 3 Kings Cross
- 4 Central Somers Town
- 5 St Pancras Way
- 6 Euston Station

Key

- Recent Development
- Proposed Development
- Potential Development
- 15m Walking Distance



Map Identifying Recent and Emerging Development withing 15mins walk of the British Library

2.0 Urban Analysis

2.8 Recent & Emerging Local Development



1. Granary Square



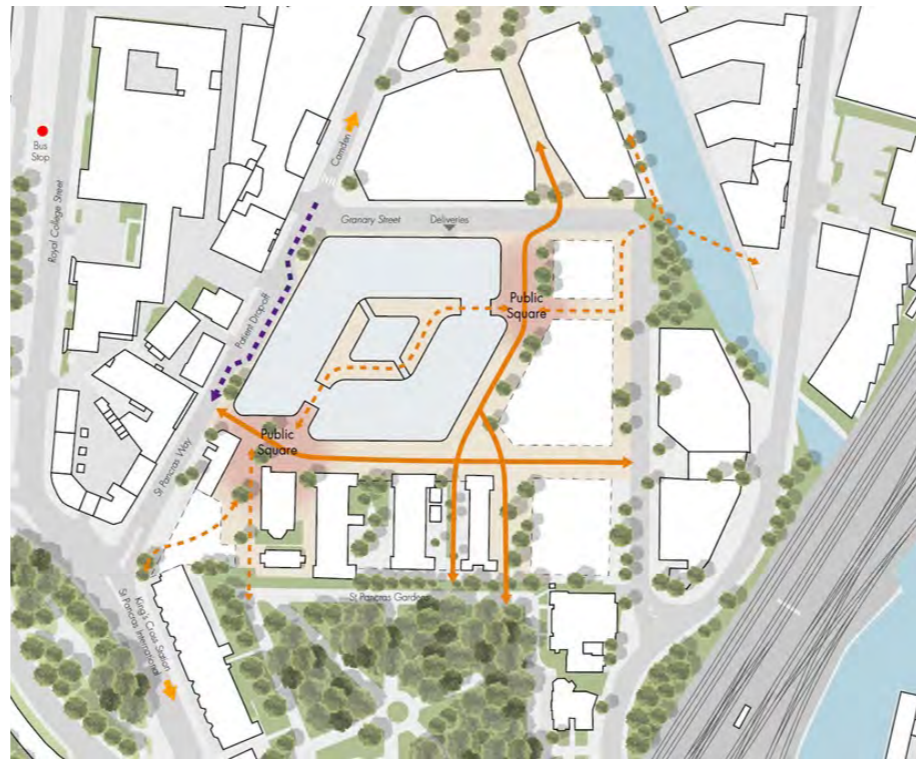
2. Coal Drops Yard



3. Kings Cross



4. Central Somers Town



5. St Pancras Way



6. Euston Station

3.0 The Site

3.1 Existing Site Conditions

The following image is an aerial view of the existing British Library and its surroundings. Photographs taken at eye level are shown on the following page.

The area outlined in blue is the wider British Library campus. Please refer to the drawings submitted for Planning for the application red line boundary.



Site overview

3.0 The Site

3.1 Existing Site Conditions



1 Midland Road looking South



2 Midland Road looking North



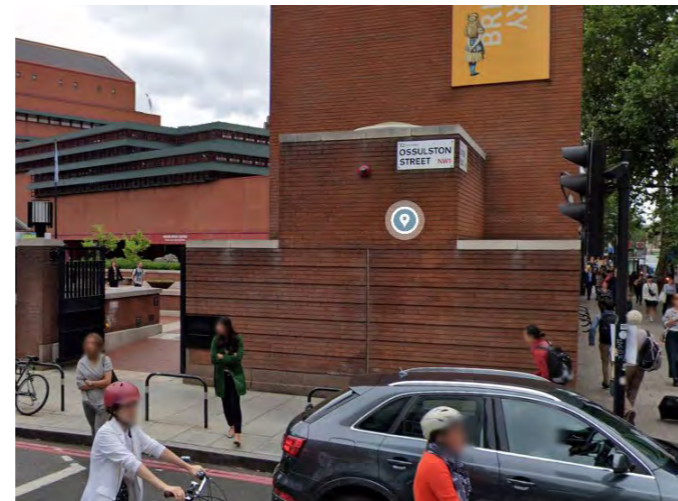
3 Midland Road looking South



4 British Library Forecourt



5 Euston Road Main Entrance



6 Ossulston Street Entrance



7 Ossulston Street looking North



8 Story Garden



9 Ossulston Street Looking South



10 View down Dangoor Walk



11 Midland Road Looking West



12 British Library Courtyard

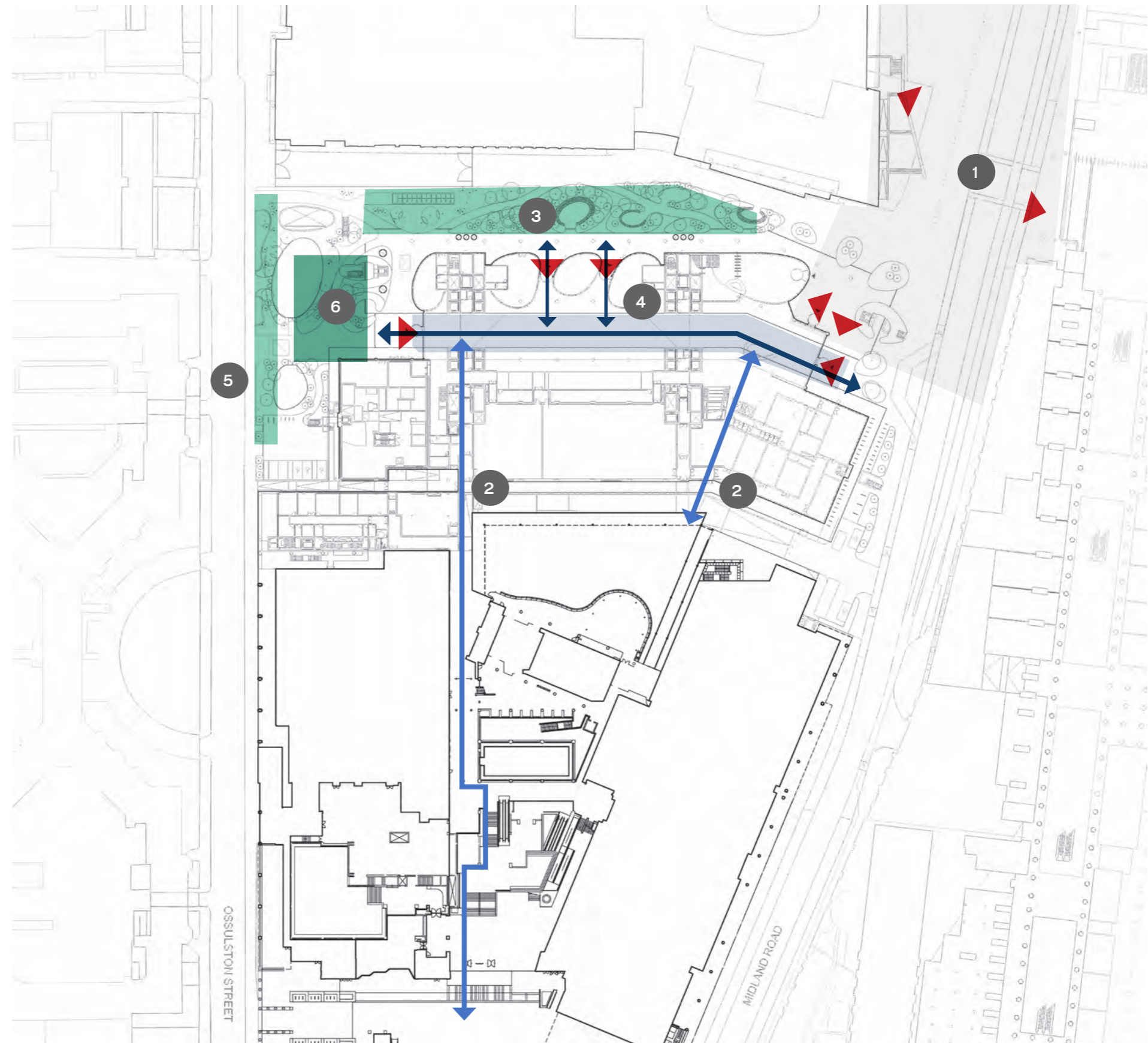
3.0 The Site

3.2 RSHP Library Extension

Public Realm Opportunities

The proposed library extension by RSHP will have a significant impact on the surrounding British Library open space and as such result in a number of opportunities to make significant public realm improvements to the site itself and its immediate context. The majority of the site will be publicly accessible both internally and externally, and a new entrance to the library from Somers Town will be created. These opportunities are summarised below:

- 1 The proposed orientation of main entrances on Midland Road create a connection to the Francis Crick Institute adjacent and St Pancras opposite that provide the opportunity to create a welcoming and inviting piece of public realm, improved connectivity and a public space of civic significance.
- 2 The configuration of the upper ground and first floor plans create a route between the existing library and proposed extension. As this will be open to the public during library opening hours, this will improve North-South permeability through the site and improve the accessibility of the existing courtyard.
- 3 There is the opportunity to introduce greening along the edge condition between the library extension and Dangoor Walk, which will improve biodiversity on site as well as create healthier, more attractive and more sociable spaces for users.
- 4 The British Library Foyer of the proposed extension provides an opportunity to increase East-West permeability through the site and increases the quantum of publicly accessible spaces, and to connect to Dangoor Walk.
- 5 There is an opportunity to create an entrance to the British Library of equal importance from Somers Town at the north western end which does not currently exist. There is also an opportunity to improve greening and pedestrian connections along the Ossulston Street boundary.
- 6 The existing temporary community garden is a well-used asset to the local area. Re-provision of this garden will reinforce the connection of the British Library to the wider network of green spaces in Somers Town, and will provide a continuity of community uses on the site.



3.0 The Site

3.2 RSHP Library Extension

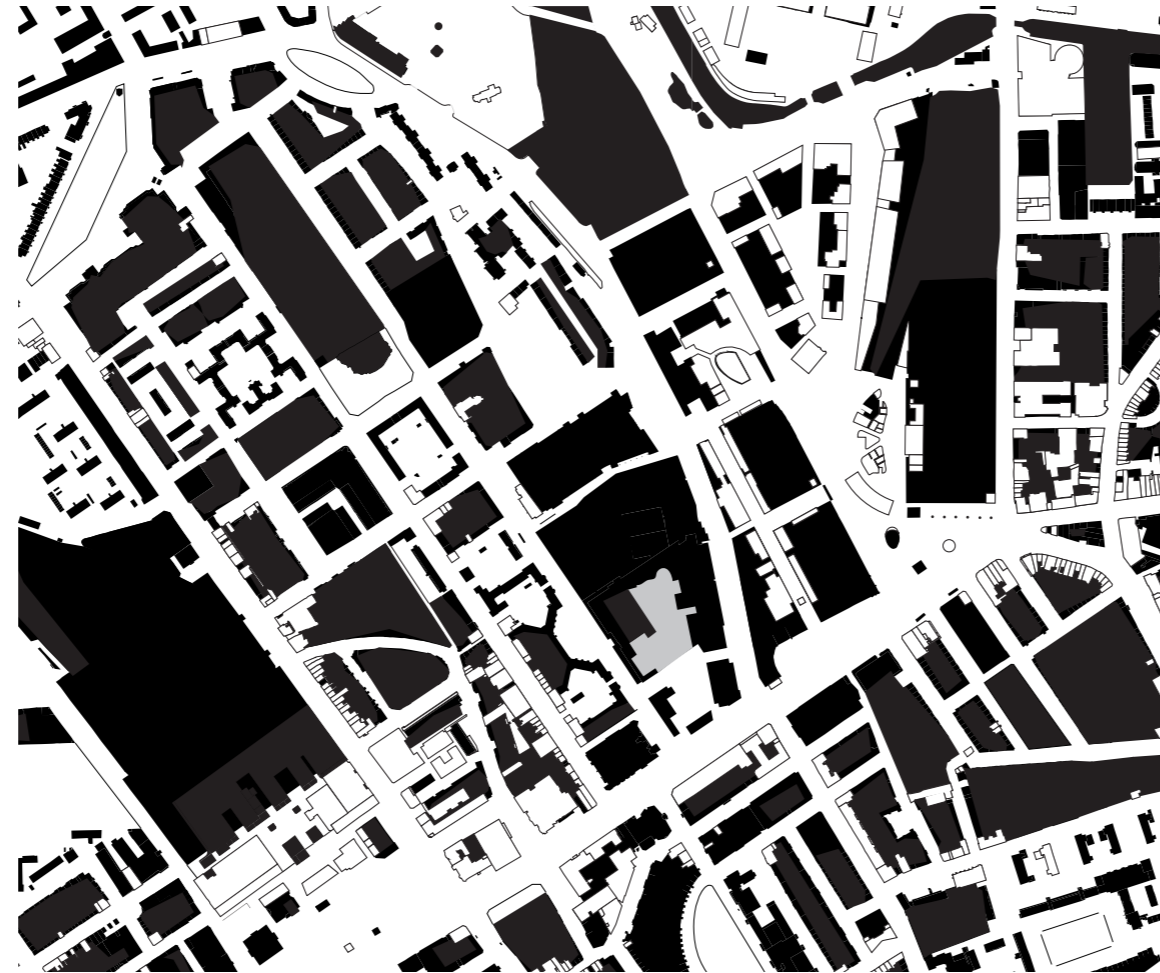
Public Space Analysis - Nolli Plan

The Nolli plans on this page have been drawn to distinguish between public and private space in the wider site of the British Library, and to demonstrate the impact that the development will have in terms of improving the public realm in this area.

As shown, the proposed British Library Extension results in a significant increase in public exterior space which will be accessible during the day and at night.

There is also a significant increase in the amount of public interior space. The design of the foyer / ground floor of the new extension and the external public realm has been developed in an integrated way so that there is a continuity in spatial qualities and character from external to internal spaces.

The Nolli plans on the right demonstrate how this development will provide new public space that can connect Somers Town and residential communities with St. Pancras and Kings Cross and the British Library itself.



Nolli Plan - Existing



Nolli Plan - Proposed

Key

- Private
- Public Interior
- Public Sheltered
- Public Exterior

3.0 The Site

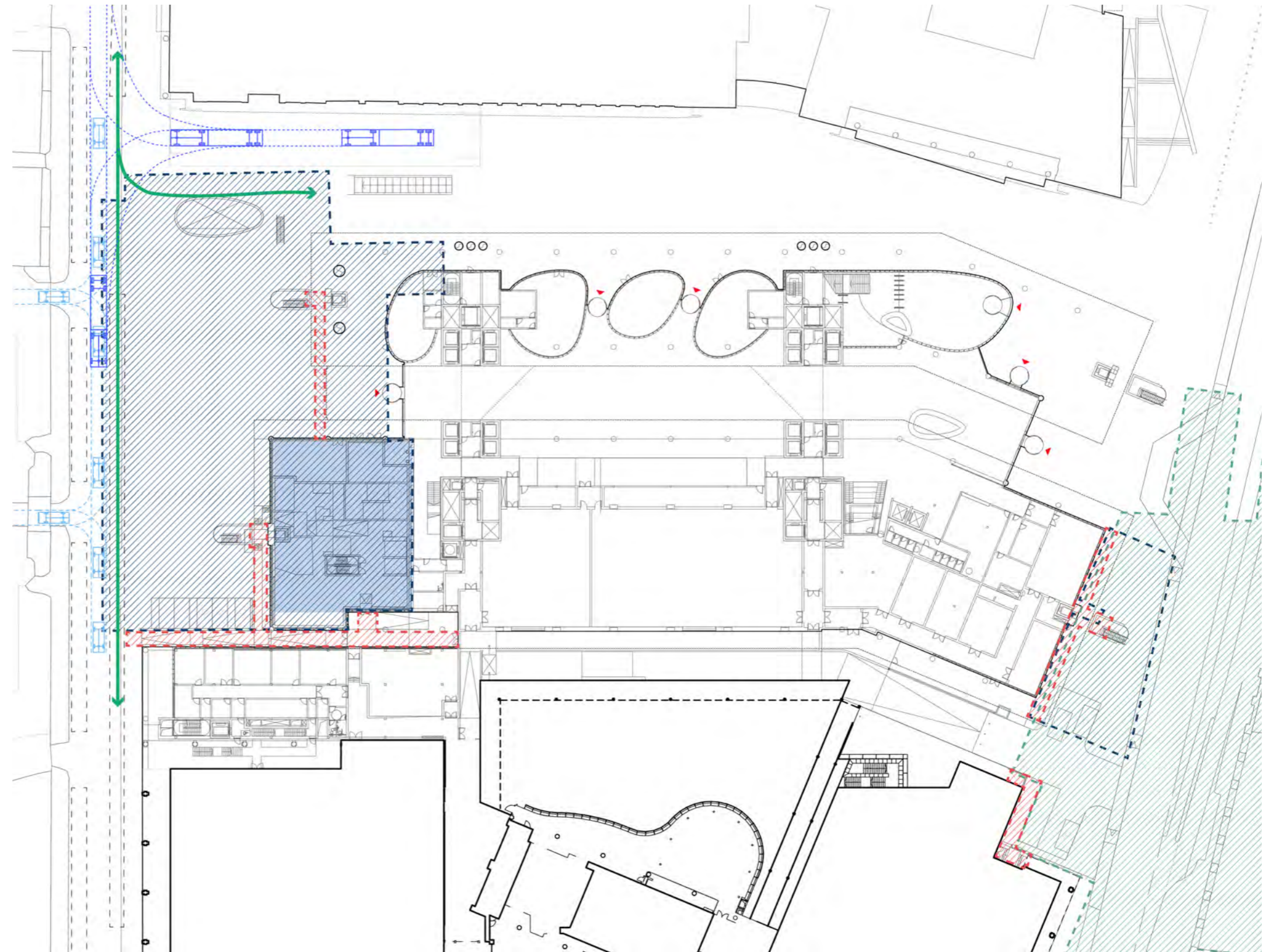
3.3 Constraints

There are a number of existing site constraints which require careful consideration. These are summarised below:

- 1 There are regular deliveries of hazardous materials to the loading bay of the Francis Crick Institute along Dangoor Walk. This area is currently fenced off but open to the public except for during deliveries when the gates are locked. During these periods, there is reduced access between Ossulston Street and Midland Road.
- 2 There are a number of existing utilities which run under Midland Road and Ossulston Street. Tree pits or other planting will need to be considered so that they do not impact these utilities.
- 3 There is an easement to the area highlighted in green which prevents penetrating below the surface level of the street. Careful consideration will need to be given if planting is proposed in this area.
- 4 The area highlight into light blue is located above the future Crossrail 2 vent shaft. Future provision for this vent shaft needs to be considered. This will also limit the opportunity for below ground works.

KEY

-  Existing Parking Bays
-  Potential Cycle Lane
-  Turning Path (Lorry)
-  Turning Path (Car)
-  CR2 Fit out Worksite
-  CR2 Head house
-  CR2 Midland Road Worksite
-  Nominal Zone for Fire Escape
-  Entrances
-  Blue Badge Parking
-  Turning Path (DDA)



4.0 Brief

4.1 Public Realm and Landscape Brief

In parallel to the development of the brief for the Library Extension (see section 4.3 of this document), a brief was developed for the surrounding external space. This is summarised below:

Four distinct key landscaped areas are proposed: the British Library entrance space off Midland Road; Garden Spaces to the south of Dangoor Walk; entrance space and Community Gardens off Ossulston Street; and the British Library Courtyard.

The space between Dangoor Walk and the north facade of the new extension is the largest space, constrained by shadow, pedestrian through traffic, the cycle ramp to the new basement, but leading to the entrance for the upper floors. There is the potential to connect to the Kings Cross/ St Pancras district to Somers Town, and beyond to Euston, more successfully than is currently experienced along Euston Road.

The public spaces on the Ossulston Street side need to be sympathetic to the adjacent residential buildings, be a space for the community, while also providing an entrance to the British Library.

The public space at the Midland Road entrance is the space contained between the east end of the new development and the west façade of St Pancras Station on Midland Road. It adjoins the wide open space on the frontage of the Francis Crick Institute. In combination the two area will become a substantial urban space similar in scale to Granary Square (approx. 100m x 50m). On this new square will be a main entrance to the British Library extension, the Francis Crick Institute, The Alan Turing Institute, St Pancras Station, and the commercial enterprises in the new development, arranged around a major urban space. This cluster of major international sites with their front doors on the square will provide a unique identity to this space, inviting ideas about how the status and profile these bodies can be represented and celebrated.

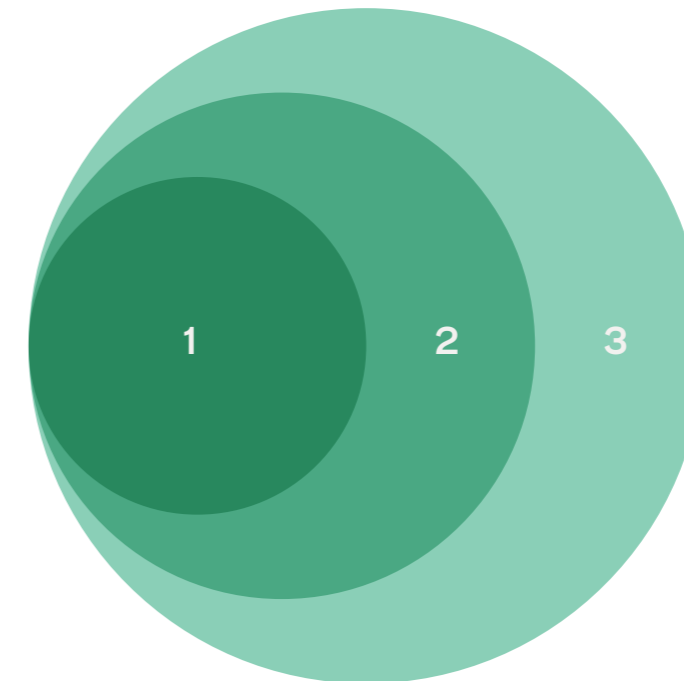
This should be a space where the integration of all the aspects of culture, research, education and commerce embodied in the community of institutions and businesses assembled on Midland Road is made visible and accessible. It is a threshold to some of the worlds most important knowledge bodies, as well as a national and international threshold to London.

Dangoor Walk is an East West pedestrian route linking the two new squares to the east and west of the extension, and framed by the northern elevation of the extension building and the southern elevation of the Francis Crick Institute. With the new development Dangoor Walk will become an urban scaled pedestrian conduit, subject to shadow, but with the scale and profile of sitting between two internationally recognised knowledge institutions. The design of the external area and use of materials will need to compensate. The design will also need to balance the route for the public traversing East West across the site between Euston/ Kings Cross/St Pancras and the entrance.

Dangoor Walk is created out of FCI land and is a public footpath. Integration and connection to Dangoor Walk where possible should be explored. This will need to consider the level changes. Establishing the character of Dangoor Walk will be critical to the success of the project, as this is where the two major institutions in the Knowledge Quarter address each other, and it is where the urban scale of Kings Cross/St Pancras meets the more domestic residential scale of Somers Town.

There is the opportunity for Dangoor Walk to be activated with some ground floor uses. The inclusion of Public art/ sculpture should be explored. Given its pedestrian urban character, and its function as a meeting place between the British Library and the Francis Crick Institute, it has the unique opportunity to be a setting for activities that elevate it above the typical commercial offer. The orientation could be exploited to create places for activity or exercise that benefit from northern light, open-air lecture and performance spaces, open air projections and screenings, appropriately designed box park stalls, video display walls, and highly transparent facades to let interior lighting displays spill out to the street. The space should also extend the British Library uses out into the open and reinforce the public nature and accessibility of the ground floor.

Beyond the site SMBL want to commence an initiative that will inform a S106 item- a legacy for the existing story garden that retains the connection of the British Library with the wider initiatives of community gardens in the local neighbourhood. The garden is a much-loved amenity for Somers Town residents who are fearful of a loss of green spaces to development in Somers Town.



1. Internal Public Spaces

- BL Foyer
- BL Courtyard

2. External Public Spaces

- Midland Road
- Dangoor Walk
- Ossulston Street

3. Somers Town

4.0 Brief

4.2 GLA Public London Charter

The GLA charter has been used to provide guiding principles for the brief of British Library Public Realm. These are summarised below:

1. Public Welcome

Public space should be managed to be welcoming to all. It should be kept clean, well maintained and appropriately lit, offer shade and shelter, places to stop and rest, and provide public amenities that reflect local needs.

2. Openness

Public space should be open and offer the highest level of public access possible. It should be understood as a part of London’s continuous public realm, irrespective of land ownership.

3. Unrestricted Use

All users should be able to move through, rest and relax freely, and facilitate or take part in activities within public space that are permitted by law without causing a nuisance to others. Public space should only have rules restricting the behaviour of the public that are essential for safe management of the space at different times of day and night.

4. Community Focus

Public space should be managed to enable users to meet, associate, spend time with others, and celebrate their community. It should make provision for community-led and cultural activities that reflect the diversity of London’s communities, as well as public art and other ways of celebrating diversity in the public realm.

5. Free of Charge

Public space should primarily be offered for use by the public free of charge. A balance should be struck between free and ticketed or commercial events taking into account the needs of the local and wider community. Ticketed events should be announced in advance with reasonable notice and should minimise their impact on the accessibility and enjoyment of the space for other users.

6. Privacy

Public space should be managed to respect the privacy and private property of all users. Where CCTV or other surveillance or data harvesting technologies are used, they should protect people and property in a way that is both legal and compliant with regulators’ codes of practice; they should not be solely used to obtain biometric information.

7. Transparency

Compliance with the Public London Charter should be clearly signposted. Users should have easy access online and on site to the principles of the Charter together with details of the owner and management company of the space, and any regulations that apply. Any regulations should be developed transparently and through public consultation with interested parties and relevant stakeholders.

8. Good Stewardship

Public space should be managed on behalf of all Londoners. Day-to-day supervision should be informal, with both supervision and maintenance carried out in a manner which is considerate of all users. The enforcement of any restrictions on the use of public space should be appropriate and reasonable. Any staff engaged in supervisory activities should undertake appropriate training and with an emphasis on making people feel welcome.

GLA Healthy Streets Indicator

Following the Official Document from the TFL and Mayor of London, creating healthy streets is seen as the way of creating a healthier society.

Healthy streets is an complex term which includes lots of variables. Not only includes greenery on the streets, but its air quality.

With this proposal we are looking to provide not only a healthier street but an active one where people can walk and cycle comfortably.



Pedestrians from all walks of life

London’s streets should be welcoming places for everyone to walk, spend time in and engage in community life.

People choose to walk, cycle and use public transport

Walking and cycling are the healthiest and most sustainable ways to travel, either for whole trips or as part of longer journeys on public transport. A successful transport system encourages and enables more people to walk and cycle more often. This will only happen if we reduce the volume and dominance of motor traffic and improve the experience of being on our streets.

Clean air

Improving air quality delivers benefits for everyone and reduces unfair health inequalities.

People feel safe

The whole community should feel comfortable and safe on our streets at all times. People should not feel worried about road danger or experience threats to their personal safety.

Not too noisy

Reducing the noise impacts of motor traffic will directly benefit health, improve the ambience of street environments and encourage active travel and human interaction.

Easy to cross

Making streets easier to cross is important to encourage more walking and to connect communities. People prefer direct routes and being able to cross streets at their convenience. Physical barriers and fast moving or heavy traffic can make streets difficult to cross.

Places to stop and rest

A lack of resting places can limit mobility for certain groups of people. Ensuring there are places to stop and rest benefits everyone, including local businesses, as people will be more willing to visit, spend time in, or meet other people on our streets.

Shade and shelter

Providing shade and shelter from high winds, heavy rain and direct sun enables everybody to use our streets, whatever the weather.

People feel relaxed

A wider range of people will choose to walk or cycle if our streets are not dominated by motorised traffic, and if pavements and cycle paths are not overcrowded, dirty, cluttered or in disrepair.

Things to see and do

People are more likely to use our streets when their journey is interesting and stimulating, with attractive views, buildings, planting and street art and where other people are using the street. They will be less dependent on cars if the shops and services they need are within short distances so they do not need to drive to get to them.

4.0 Brief

4.3 British Library Extension Brief

The British Library is home to one of the greatest collections of books, manuscripts, maps, documents, archives, newspapers, sound recordings and websites in the world. Hundreds of thousands of people use this collection each year to inspire the next great idea or a simple moment of a joyful discovery.

Every day the Library opens its doors to a school group discovering the Magna Carta, an entrepreneur launching a business, an academic making new discoveries, a tourist sharing pictures of the King's Library Tower, or a local community group enjoying a tour.

Now, a once-in-a-generation transformation is being planned to extend the British Library's site in London to make it the most open, creative and innovative institution of its kind anywhere in the world. This development will allow the British Library to display and celebrate the sheer diversity of its users, activities and collections and will be where its Living Knowledge vision will come literally and visibly to life.

The project to take this vision forward is a partnership between the British Library and SMBL Developments (a joint venture between Stanhope Plc and Mitsui Fudosan UK Ltd).

The vision: A Library for Everyone

At the heart of the British Library's Living Knowledge strategy sits a vision of the Library as the most open, creative and innovative institution of its kind. To help achieve this ambition the Library seeks to re-orient and expand its Grade 1 listed building at St Pancras to better anticipate and meet the changing needs of its users, the local community and the wider national and international network of libraries.

At the heart of the proposed development will be new spaces of exceptional architectural quality and distinction, which will support the Library's purposes in research, culture, learning and business support, as well as a brand new headquarters for the Alan Turing Institute.

The extended Library will present an open and welcoming face to all potential visitors and provide a 'neighbourhood' feel where local people are encouraged to enjoy the Library campus and its services. Accessibility and visibility from all points will attract

increased pedestrian footfall across the site, enabling the Library to attract new audiences to its enhanced services and facilities.

Inside, the Library will provide more public space with greater variety and more places to pause, spend time or study. Enhanced facilities will also provide more chances for people of all interests and backgrounds to engage with the Library through a public programme that continues year-round.

Once complete, the British Library will be known as one of London's most celebrated and familiar spaces, a destination for anyone with an interest in ideas, innovation and intellectual history and will have established a lasting and sustainable visionary model for the next 50 years of public realm.

Development Objectives

With the British Library facing continued growth in demand and given the need to adapt to a fast changing world, more capacity is needed to cater for Camden residents, visitors, schoolchildren, students, researchers, workers and businesses.

With the Library's existing spaces now at capacity, to meet their Living Knowledge vision the British Library Board sought to leverage underutilised land on a 2.8-acre site at the northern end of its freehold estate at St Pancras and to do so at no cost to the public purse. This will be achieved with a commercial partner to support it in creating a development to extend and complement its current Grade I listed building.

This will be a mixed-use development providing the new public spaces the British Library needs and a headquarters for the new Alan Turing Institute (approximately 100,000 sqft in total), alongside extensive space for diverse commercial uses.

It will include new northern entrances close to the Francis Crick Institute, the main St Pancras Station concourse and the Library's local community in Somers Town. These will be complemented by environmental improvements including accessible and open public spaces and enhanced east-west connectivity.

The spaces will be a model of accessibility, making full use of the generous area at ground level for those with mobility difficulties to enjoy the widest possible range of

BL experiences on a single level, from private study to exhibitions, events and catering.

These proposed new Library spaces will include:

- New facilities for learners of all ages, with expanded programmes for schools, colleges, families, adult learners and local communities.
- Double the volume of flexible exhibition and events space to increase public access to the Library's vast world-class collections
- An enhanced offering for business users, building on the success of the Library's Business & IP Centre and a new headquarters for the Alan Turing Institute.
- Welcoming and accessible public areas with more places to sit, study and enjoy.
- A new prominent and secure public entrance to the British Library campus, giving access to visitors from Midland Road.
- Improved public realm and connections to Somers Town, through opening up the site and providing new entrances to the British Library Extension at the north, accessible from both Midland Road and Ossulston Street, closer to Somers Town, to improve access for the local community.

These objectives have been defined in the British Library Brief for this project, which forms part of the suite of three project briefs alongside those of Transport for London, and SMBL.

Delivering Local Benefits

The local communities of which the Library is proud to be part, will also benefit as its public programmes and activities for schools and young learners expand and develop, enabling a fuller and richer engagement and collaboration with the diverse communities of Camden, Somers Town and King's Cross.

The British Library Extension will help to open up a world of ideas and inspiration for everyone. Sustainability, namely achieving a long-term balance between environmental, social and economic drivers, is leading design decision making for the project.

Creating Open and Accessible Library Spaces

The British Library Extension will be a real asset for local people.

A large and welcoming Foyer will be a place to meet friends and visit with families. Visitors will be able to use spaces in a variety of ways with the opportunity to enjoy

the diverse British Library collections and take part in exciting programmes of activities.

It will provide the opportunity to bring communities together to listen to talks or work on projects that are relevant to local concerns with the potential to host homework clubs, community group performances and events, working with local schools, or identifying opportunities for work experience, internships or apprenticeships.

An Environmentally Considerate Space for the Future

The Library's project brief includes the target of achieving a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating throughout the proposed development.

To support this aim, the project team has developed a sustainability framework informed by the UN SDGs.

- Introducing measures to reduce the level of embodied carbon in the building construction, through efficient design and the selection of low impact materials.
- Introducing measures to minimise the operational carbon emissions once the building is occupied.
- Introducing measures to embed flexibility and adaptability into the design, in order to prolong its lifespan and make best use of the carbon invested in creating the physical structure.
- Achieving a biodiversity net gain on the site in line with Camden's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Delivering Affordable Workspace, Business Support and Start-Up Space

The Library currently provides free space to study and free access to Wi-Fi for everyone, from schoolchildren, university students, local residents and researchers. This extension would increase the capacity of the Library with more informal desk space, which would be free to use on a first come first served basis. The extension would also enable an expansion of the existing Business and IP Centre offer by providing affordable co-working spaces and business support for new start-ups. The commercial, including lab-enabled accommodation, could be allocated to affordable workspace.

Supporting Local Initiatives and Celebrating Somers Town History

The British Library Extension will create opportunities to celebrate the important living heritage of Somers Town so that local residents and visitors to the British Library can appreciate the history and identity of the area.

4.0 Brief

4.4 DSDHA Spatial Intelligence Research

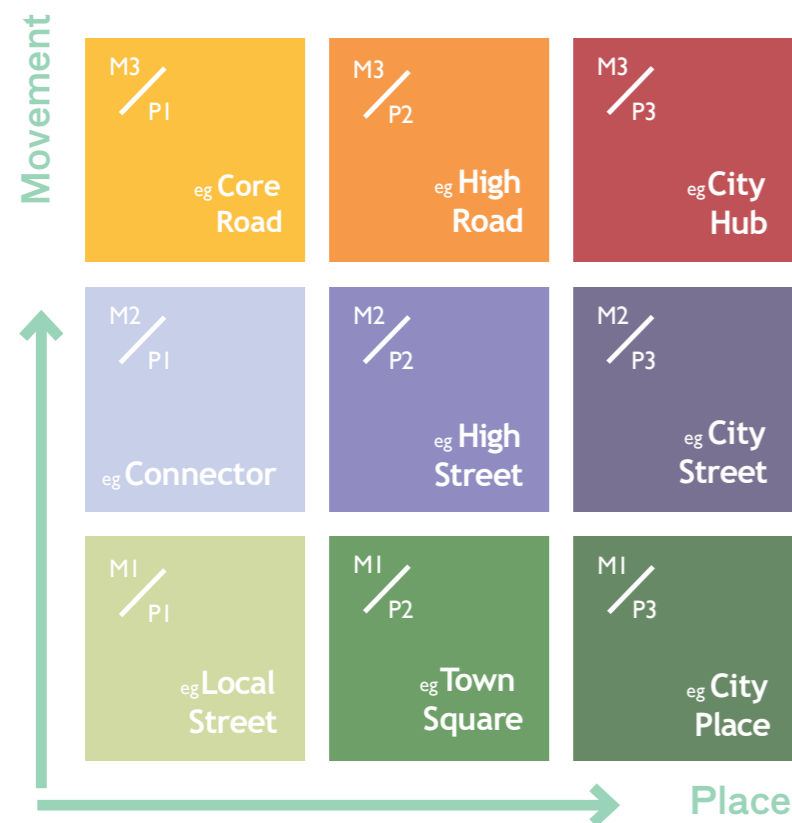
Urban Design Toolkit

Inspired by Transport for London's Road Task Force (RTF) Street Type matrix, which characterises streets by their movement or place functions, we have categorised cycling and pedestrian behaviours.

Understanding user needs and behaviours is essential in the design of an inclusive public realm. This has helped us assess what's happening, and to suggest creative solutions.

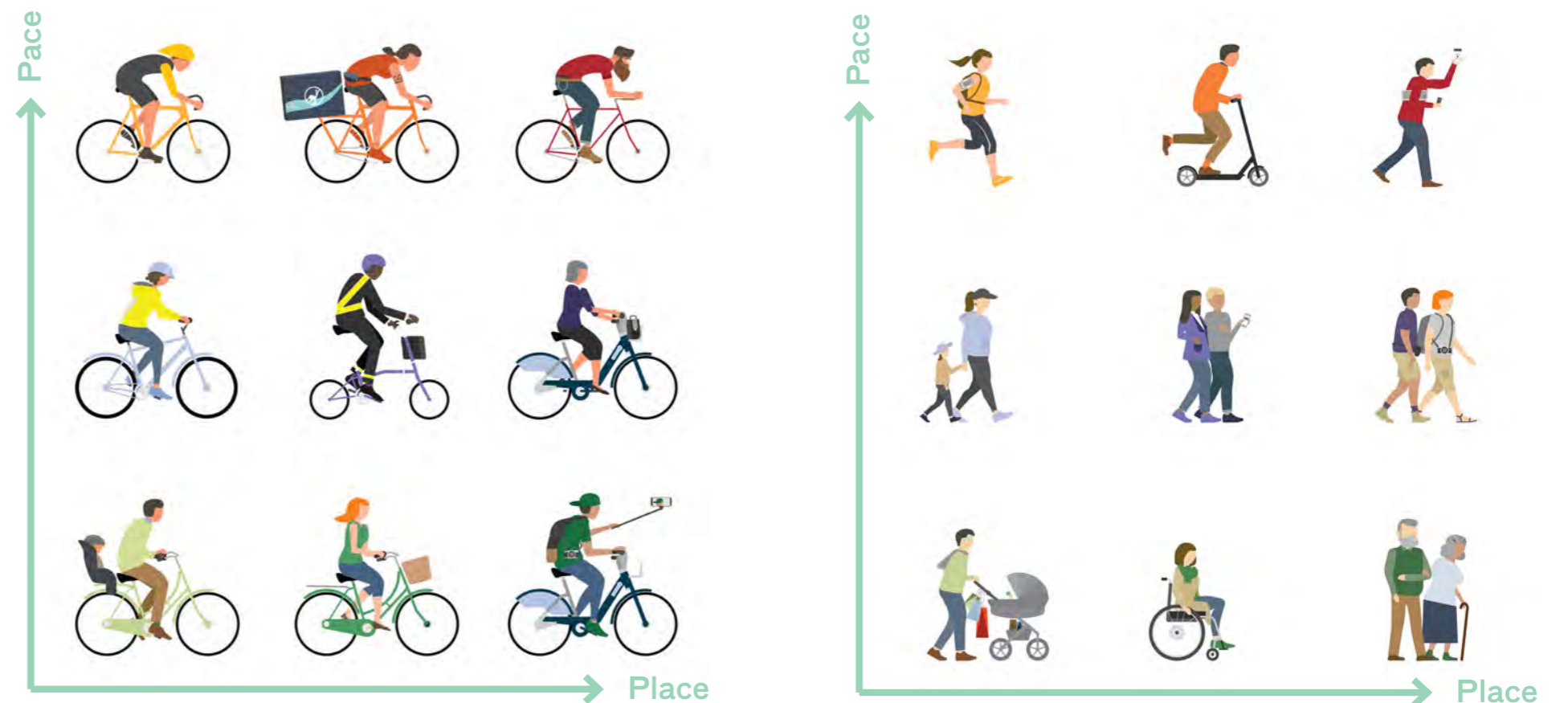
Everyone's needs are different. As people move fast or slow their mobility needs change. In the same way, different types of places are more or less suitable for moving at various paces. A town square is not the same as a major road.

Every street or public space should be designed to address diverse behaviours in balance with each other. New temporary or permanent infrastructure should respond to the full range of people's needs.



Above: RTF Street Type matrix

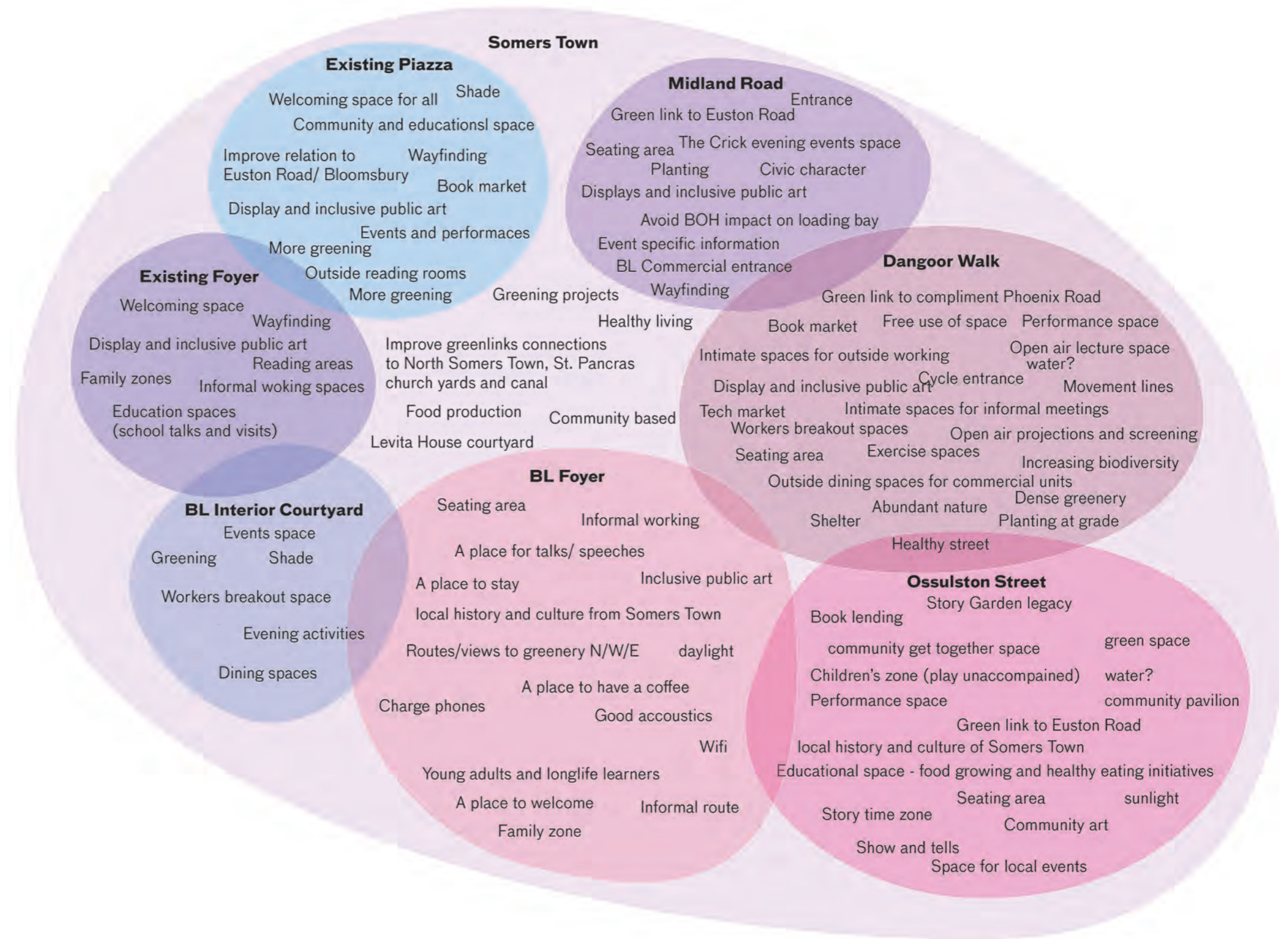
Right: DSDHA Character Behaviour Diagrams



4.0 Brief

4.4 Programme

Following design development and consultation, the following diagram was developed which provides a summary of the different functions and potential uses that could take place within the different character areas of British Library Public Realm. Adjacencies between uses and character areas where they were determined; as shown in this diagram.



Programming Brief Requirements and adjacencies between uses

4.0 Brief

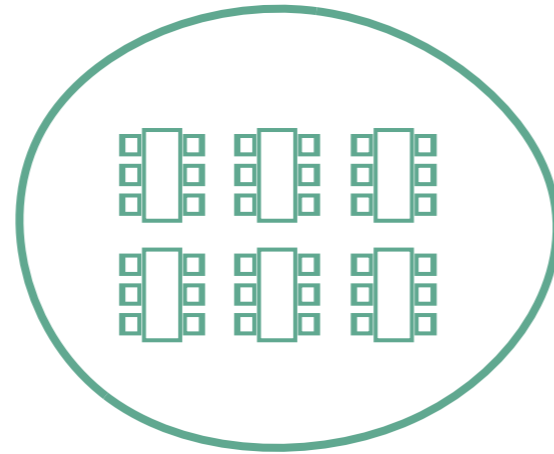
4.5 Spatial Requirements

Subsequent review of the programme was developed, as shown in this page, where the proposed uses for the public realm were explored spatially.

The proposed uses for spaces within the public realm was developed from the client brief and research in to current library uses and site opportunities identified through our research.

Types of activities were classified into different categories based upon their spatial requirements. These included larger, more community based function, medium sized spaces for smaller group activities as well as smaller spaces which could support art works, individual activities or quieter more intimate functions.

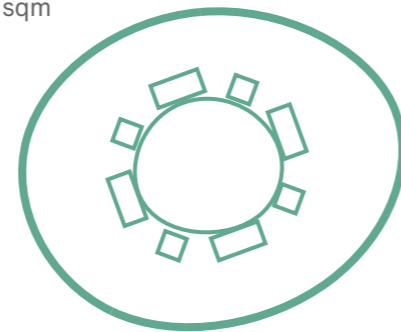
These were later spatially tested on site to understand what capacity the site had to provide these functions; leading to the design proposal described later in this report.



Local events

Large Size Spaces

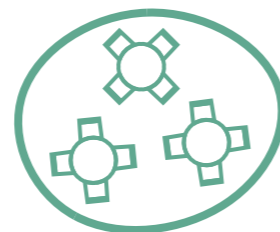
Area 90 sqm



Story telling space

Medium Size Spaces

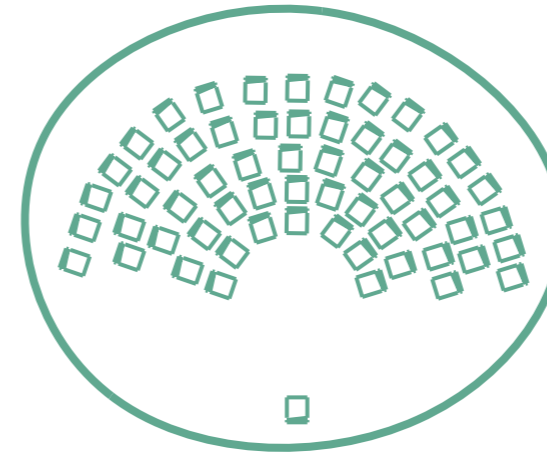
Area 45 sqm



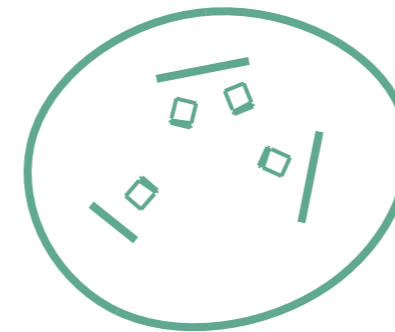
Small gatherings

Small Size Spaces

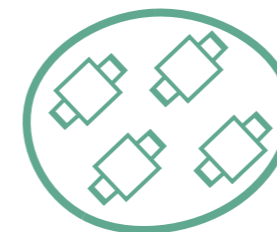
Area 22 sqm



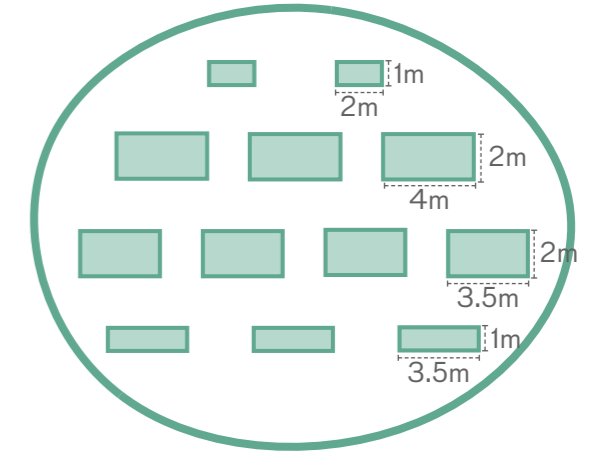
Performance space



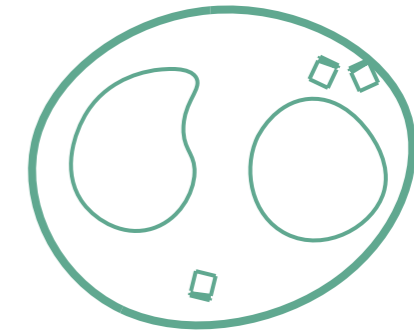
Show and tell



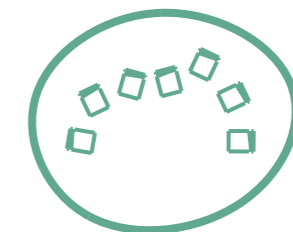
Chess space



Educational Space/Food growing/
healthy living learning



Children's zone



Book club gathering

5.0 Design Development

5.1 Public Realm Design Principles

In response to the Urban Analysis and brief development presented in the previous sections, a number of design principles have been developed which outline a set of ambitions for the public realm proposal to meet. These are summarised below:

01: A Strategy for Nature and People

Green public spaces offer a natural having within the city, engaging all of the sense and evolving through the seasons.

02: Character and Materials

Successful public spaces offer a range of character areas and spatial experiences, providing a sense of discovery and encouraging exploration.

03: Sustainability, Wellbeing and Health

Maximising the natural capital of the space, creating a biodiverse landscape that supports wellbeing and plays its part in combating the climate crisis.

04: Users and Uses

The design should cater for the needs of diverse groups and individuals: passers-by, visitors, tourists, workers and residents.

05: Connectivity, Legibility and Identity

The site should be integrated into the surrounding urban fabric as an inviting and distinctive destination.

06: Programme and Uses

A city's public spaces must be able to accommodate a wide range of cultural and social events.

07: Exploration and Learning

There should be a playful, inclusive elements suitable for all ages.

08: Quality of Materials

Public spaces should be resilient and robust, and design should aim to retain their qualities over time.

5.2 Pre App Discussions and Workshops with London Borough of Camden

The development proposals have been subject to extensive pre-application consultation with London Borough of Camden planning, design, highways, security, access, waste and sustainability officers. Please refer to Gerald Eve's Planning Statement for a full description of the Pre-Application Consultation process.

The summary below is focused on Pre-application that related particularly to design of the public realm and landscaping.

Camden Pre-Application Public Realm Meetings 10th and 23rd September 2020

These initial meetings to review the Public Realm design were important in defining the principles, design approach and methods of demonstrating the benefits of the scheme. Feedback on the initial design and research on the opportunities for public space from these meetings, and how the proposed design responds to this advice is set out below:

- * Initial design and site observations should be captured in a set of key working principles articulated for the role of the public realm in this development. These principles have been developed through the design process and are set out at 5.0 on this page.
- * Importance of sustainability principles was highlighted e.g. biodiversity, SUDs and social value. These ideas are fundamental to the design of the landscape particularly in terms of planting specification and the rain garden on the Ossulston Street side of the site. Inclusivity and healthy place-making are key to the proposed public realm design and to the plans for the development of the Community Garden spaces as described in section 8.0 of this report.
- * Following a review of the site analysis research, officers recommended taking suggest taking an area by area approach to the public realm design. This is directly reflected and described in the section on key landscaped areas in section 6.3 of this report.
- * Officers recommended that the relationship between inside and outside, and the organisation of spaces needs to be more relaxed, with soft edges, rather than having a more corporate character with pronounced delineation between private/public. There should be significantly more green/soft-landscaping across and within the site, and wider consideration/imagination needs to be applied

to responding to the level changes across the site. This advice led to a new approach to the design of the plan form of the foyer space and the associated external public spaces, and the design team's reponse is explained in detail in section 6.3.2 of this report, which looks at the design of the landscaped areas between Dangoor Walk and the north facade of the new library extension.

- * The design team were asked to explore the opportunity for a large, flexible community-based open space towards the west side of the site. Two community garden spaces are proposed here as part of the proposed design.

Design Review Panel 23rd October 2020

The design team presented site research, public realm design principles and initial ideas for 'character areas' within the public realm. The DRP response included the following:

- * Evolving public realm principles were welcomed and the panel recommended appointing a Landscape Architect to the design team.
- * The DRP also supported the creation of a community garden on the Ossulston Street side of the site, making use of the microclimate there and the relationship to the local community in Somers Town.
- * Idea of a square along on Midland Road with a civic character, and which provides a space to pause on the way to or from St Pancras station, was welcomed.

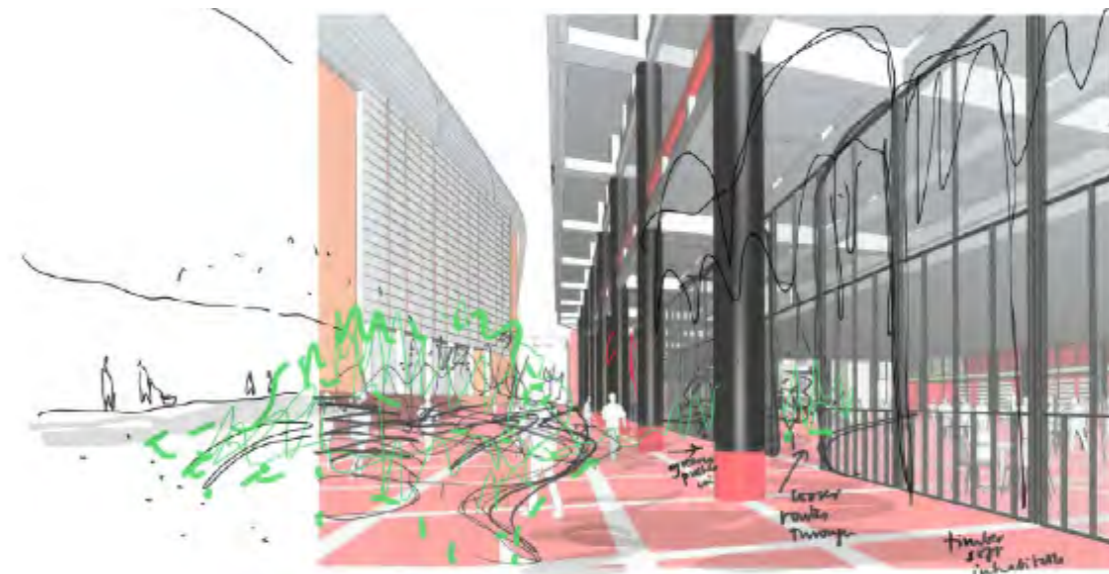
Design Review Panel 21st May 2021

The design team presented developed public realm strategies and landscape design, building on the previous feedback from the DRP in October. The following advice was given by the panel:

- * The panel generally supported the landscape strategy as progressed since the previous review, and that now included many positive elements. In particular, the extra space created on the Ossulston Road frontage was highlighted as a very good decision, relating the building better to its setting and providing amenity to local residents.
- * In the detailed design of the planting, safety, security and accessibility needs to be considered to ensure the planted spaces appear open and engaging. The understorey planting and choice of trees has been considered carefully to allow visual openness across the site. This is described in more detail in section 6.7 of this report.

Workshop Review 23rd June 2021

The design team presented updated proposals including a curved facade to the extension facing the British Library Courtyard and further illustration of the proposed spaces. This included a new design for the landscaping to the courtyard in response to the architecture of the extension, and the requirements of the library for hosting events in this space.



Sketch from September 2020 showing development of the public realm to the south of Dangoor Walk

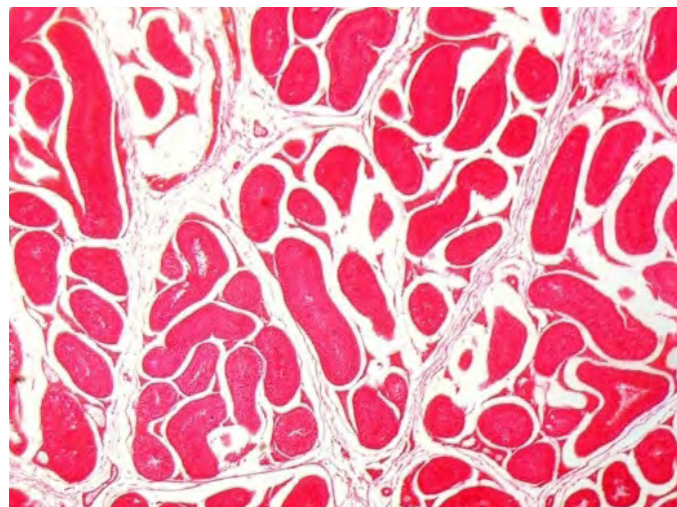
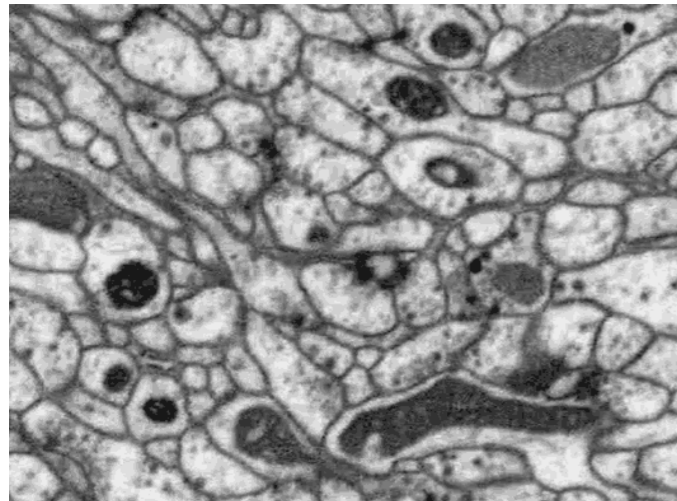
5.0 Design Development

5.3 Design Concept

The spatial organisation and arrangement of the public realm at the British Library Extension has been designed with reference to groups of living cells.

The shape and configuration of these forms are a key concept across the public space of the external areas and the internal foyer space. This idea is translated in to the design of landscape elements externally and the retail cells internally to make a coherent and integrated public realm.

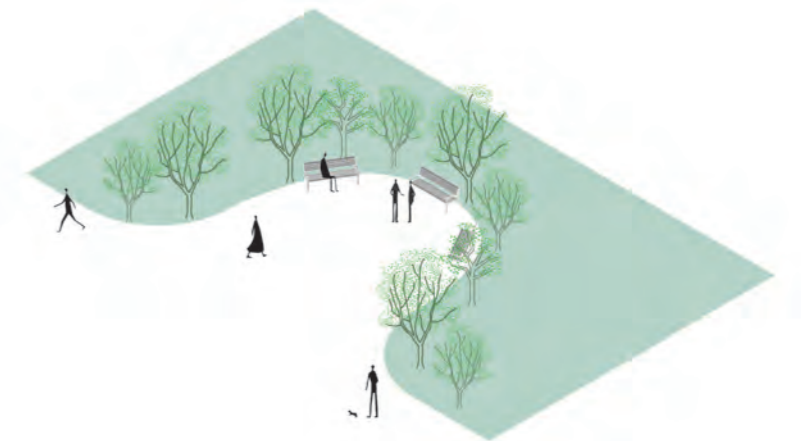
In the external landscape areas, a series of ‘activity cells’ are set within a range of paths and open spaces, and facilitate a range of uses and programmes, to make a unique landscape environment that is accessible and inviting.



1. Urban Greening



2. Trails and quiet places to dwell



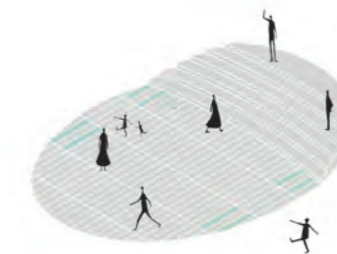
3. Green buffer zones



4. Spaces to play



5. Seating perimeters



6. Places to gather and meet

Examples of Cell Activities (top left to bottom right)

1. Urban Greening
2. Trails and quiet places to dwell
3. Green buffer zones
4. Spaces to play
5. Seating perimeters
6. Places to gather and meet

5.0 Design Development

5.4 Design Approach

The following diagrams summarise the approach to the proposed layout of the public realm and illustrate how the activity cells have been configured in response to key site requirements and conditions:

01: Movement

Anticipated primary and secondary routes have been mapped to understand how people will move and navigate across the site.

02: Climate

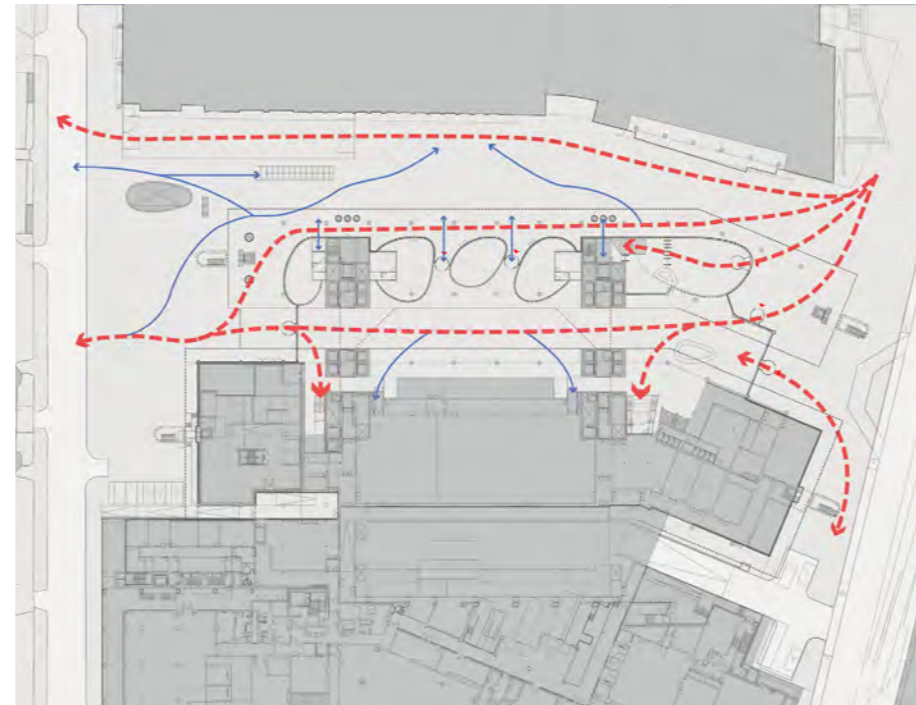
The proposed location of different uses has been considered in response to the microclimate of the site.

03: Activity Cells

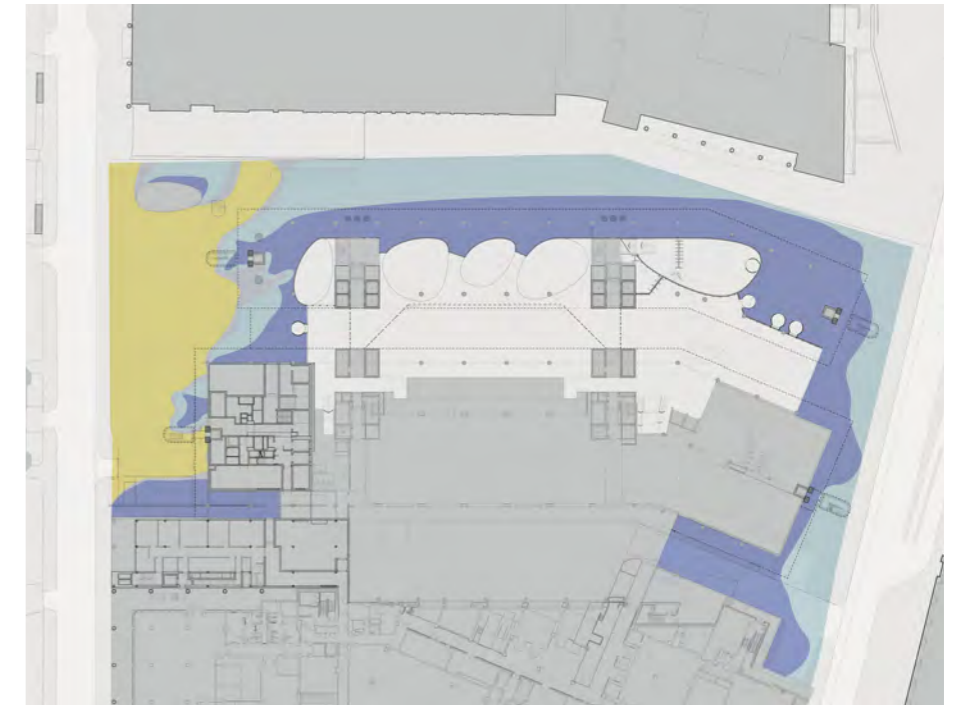
The size, location and orientation of the activity cells is proposed to respond to the movement studies and the microclimate as stated above.

04: Landscape Strategy

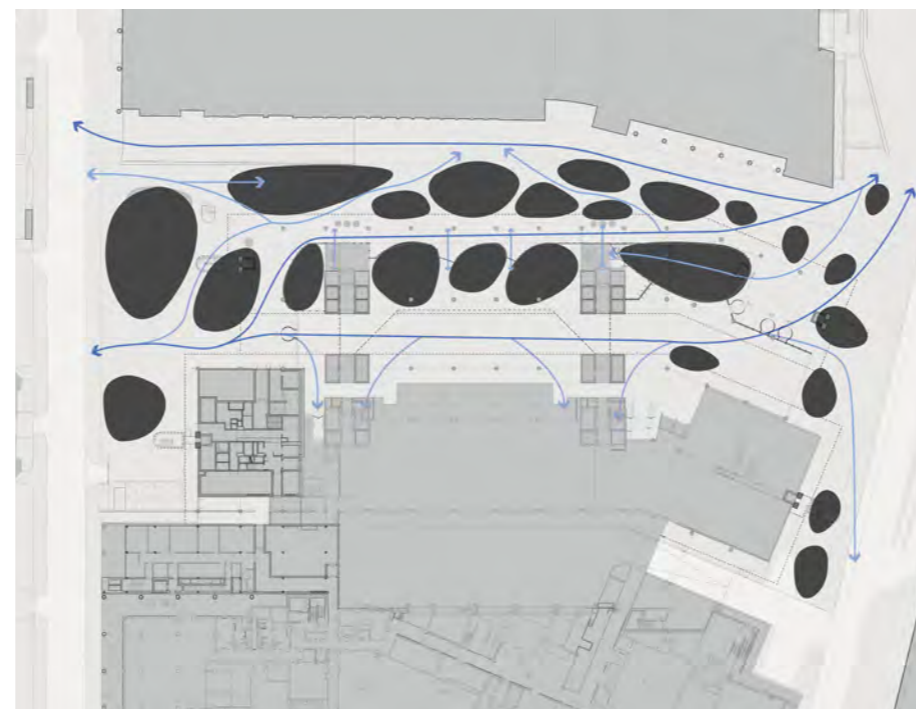
The composition of hard landscaping and soft landscaping responds to the organisation of activity cells.



O1: Movement



O2: Climate



O3: Activity Cells



O4: Landscape Strategy

- Key**
- Primary Routes
 - Secondary Route
 - Slightly Warm - Comfortable Spaces
 - Slightly Cool - Cool Spaces
 - Activity Cells
 - Pavilions
 - Hard Landscape - Routes
 - Hard Landscape - Activity Cells
 - Soft Landscape
 - Building Entrances
 - Site Boundary

6.0 Design Proposal

6.1 Illustrative Landscape Plan

This plan is an illustration of the proposed layout of the landscape, combining both the ground floor and first floor. The floor surface of the internal public foyer space is shown to demonstrate how the external and internal public spaces work together at ground floor level.

This plan should be read in conjunction with DSDHA's Landscape Planning drawings, which have been prepared as part of this application. Please note that tables and chairs shown, as well as the planting installation in the community gardens, are indicative only.

Regarding car parking provision, the following will be provided on site: 4 No. BL accessible spaces; 1 No. Commercial accessible space; 4 No. Ops spaces; and 1 No. Minibus space. Ten Spaces will be provided in total, of which nine are in BL control. The use of BL parking bays will be managed by the Library. Disabled staff and guests will be given priority.

Key

- 1 Access to Basement Level Cycle Storage
- 2 Disabled Staff and Maintenance Spaces.
- 3 Cycle Parking
- 4 Community Garden
- 5 Multifunctional internal courtyard space
- 6 Drop Off
- 7 Location for Crossrail 2 vent
- 8 Loading Bay Access
- Hard Landscape
- Playspace
- Street Furniture
- Soft Landscape - understorey planting
- Soft Landscape - Taller Planting & Trees
- Building Entrances



Combined Illustrative Landscape Plan NTS

6.0 Design Proposal

6.2 Scheme Overview

The proposed scheme for the British Library Extension external public spaces at ground floor level is illustrated in the adjacent overview of the public spaces viewed from the north.

The core elements of the site proposed scheme are summarised as follows:

Key

- 1 Community Gardens
- 2 Ossulston Street Entrance
- 3 Midland Road Entrance
- 4 Dangoor Walk
- 5 East-West pedestrian route at the gardens to the south of Dangoor Walk.
- 6 Landscaping to service entrance area.



Overview of proposed landscape from Dangoor Walk

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

The drawing on this page is an illustration of the proposed layout of the landscape, combining both the ground floor public spaces and the first floor courtyard. Please read in conjunction with the Landscape Planning drawings and the Landscape Statement, which have been prepared as part of this application.

Key Spaces

On the following four pages, more detail is given on proposals for four distinct areas of the site and how these proposals respond to the particular site conditions and microclimate, and the brief objectives in each case.

These four areas are:

- 1 Ossulston Street Entrance & Community Gardens
- 2 Gardens to the South of Dangoor Walk
- 3 Midland Road Entrance and Service Entrance
- 4 British Library Courtyard

Further detail of each of these key areas is provided on the following pages.



Plan locating key areas



6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

6.3.1 Ossulston Street Entrance and Community Gardens

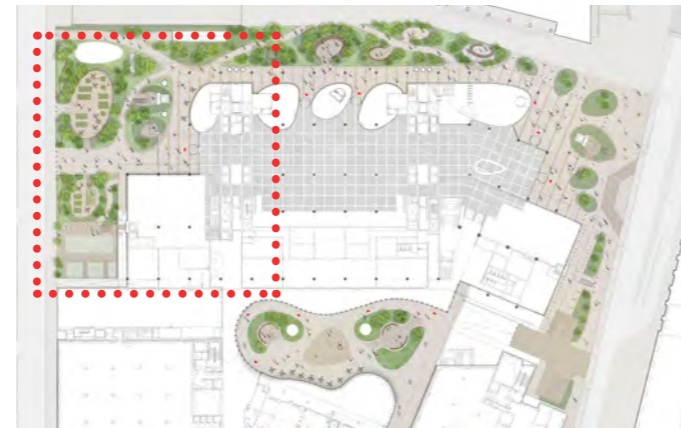
The Ossulston Street Entrance and Community Gardens area is located to the West of the Site close to the location of the existing Story Garden.

The landscape and planting design responds to the microclimate, site conditions and the brief for these spaces.

For long term resilience against flooding a requirement of the public realm is to accommodate sustainable urban drainage solutions to achieve substantial rainwater attenuation. SUDS elements are therefore integrated into the landscaping proposals to manage the rainwater on site and bring the added benefit of delivering additional biodiversity value.

On the Ossulston Street boundary, a planted 'buffer' is proposed, within which the new Community Gardens are located. This planted zone includes a Raingarden, which links into the SUDS features provided for the rainwater management on site. Extensive tree planting in this area provides some shading to the Community Garden in summer.

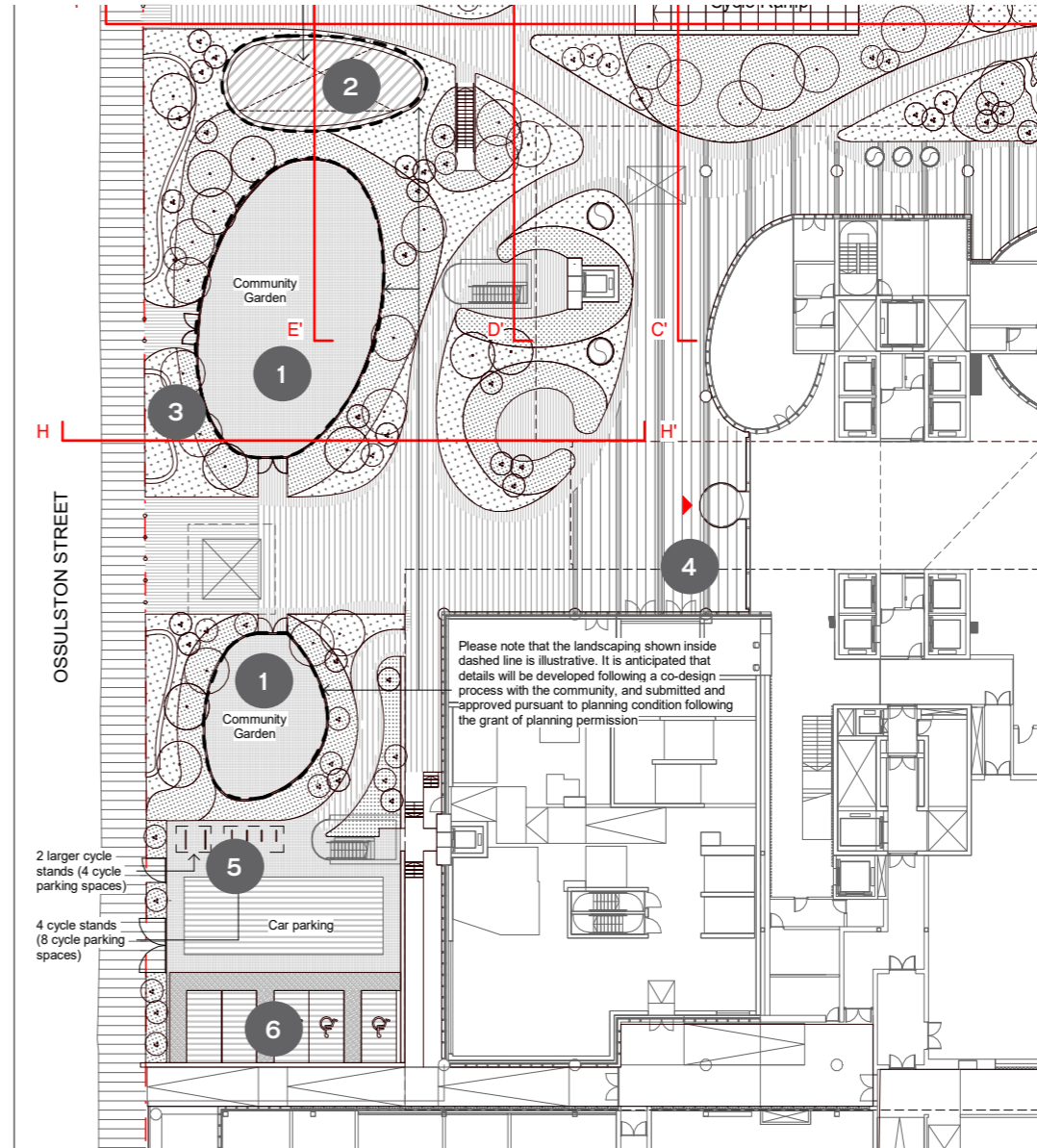
The Community Gardens are proposed as a codesign project between the local community, the Library and SMBL, to develop a space that is designed, curated and used collaboratively with Somers Town residents. The design shown in this document is illustrative and will be superseded by the co-design post planning. Please refer to the Landscape Drawings and Planting Schedule for full details of proposals in this area.



Key plan



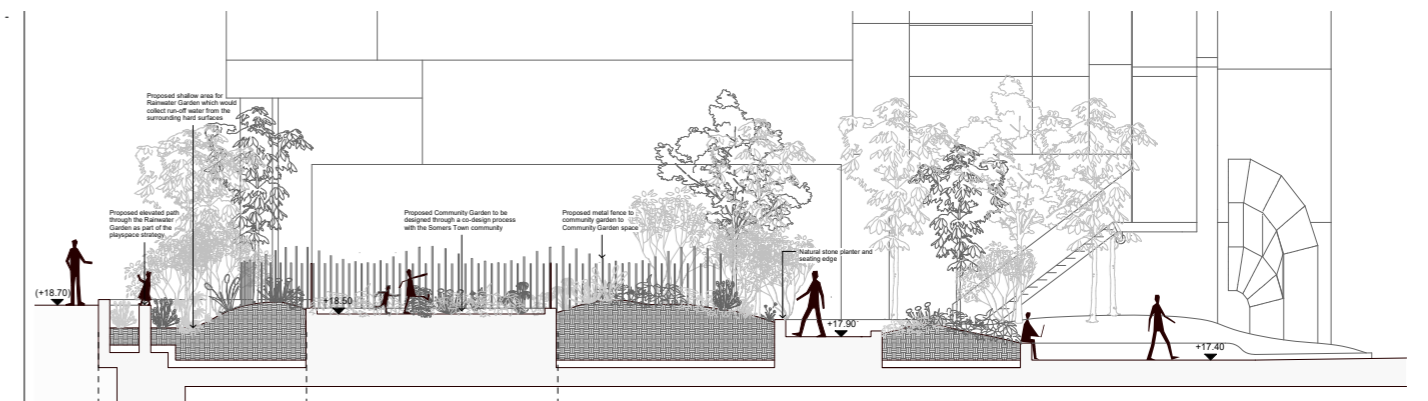
Visualisation of Ossulston Street entrance



Plan of Ossulston Street Entrance and Community Gardens

Key

- 1 New community gardens
- 2 Crossrail 2 vent location
- 3 SUDS rain garden
- 4 British Library Extension entrance
- 5 Cycle Parking
- 6 Disabled Car Parking



Section HH through proposed raingarden towards the Community Gardens

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

6.3.1 Ossulston Street Entrance and Community Gardens

The overview from Ossulston Street on this page gives an overview of proposals in this key area.

- 1 Building Entrance
- 2 Community Garden
- 3 Cycle and Disabled Car Parking
- 4 Location for future CR2 Vent
- 5 Dangoor Walk
- 6 New East-West walking route
- 7 SUDS Rain Garden



Overview of proposed landscape from Ossulston Street

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

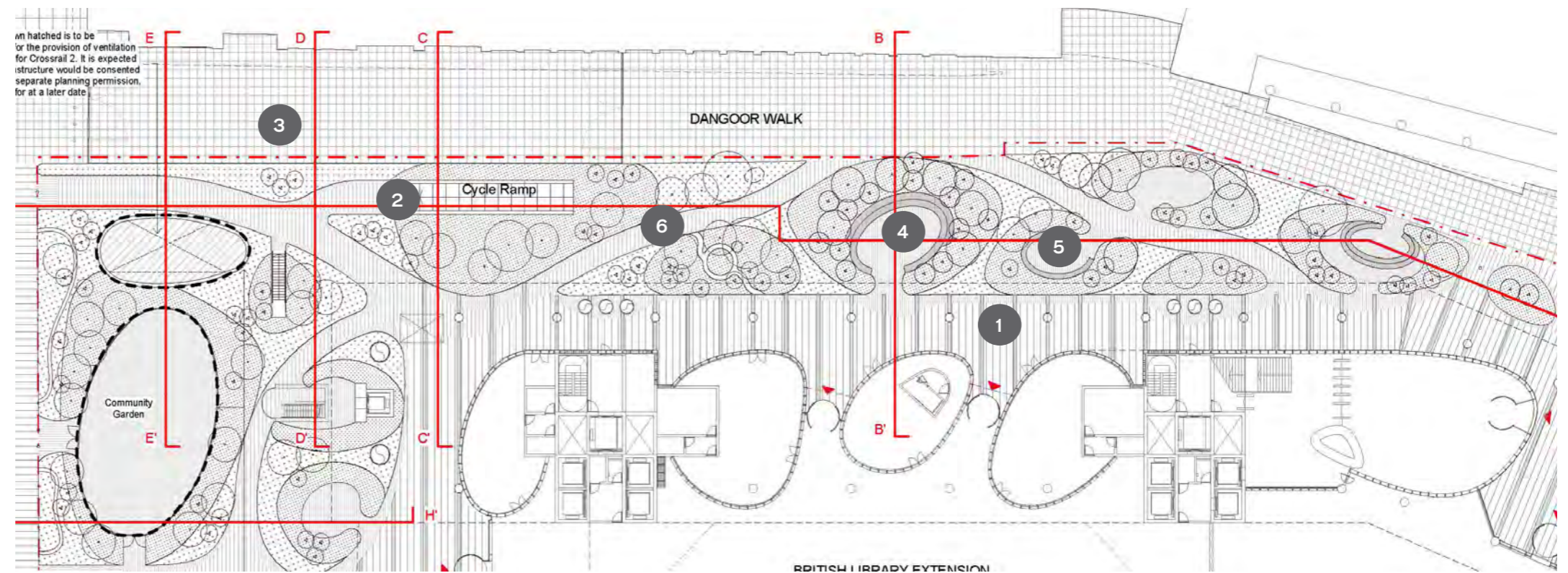
6.3.2 Gardens to the South of Dangoor Walk

This area is located towards the northern edge of the Site between the north facade of the proposed extension and the boundary with Dangoor Walk.

An East-West primary pedestrian route runs adjacent to the building which creates a main pedestrian route through the site and provides visual access to the ground floor community uses within the extension.

Extensive and varied planting is proposed to the north towards the boundary with Dangoor Walk. Secondary routes and activity cells containing play spaces, seating areas and an events space are located within this planted zone.

A new fence is proposed to replace the existing enclosure that provides security to the Francis Crick Institute. Further detail are given on page 37 of this document.



Gardens to the South of Dangoor Walk Plan

Key

- 1 New east-west Route
- 2 Access to basement cycle parking
- 3 Existing bottle gas deliveries enclosure at Francis Crick Institute
- 4 Activity Cell
- 5 Play Space
- 6 Sloped walking routes connecting library site with Dangoor Walk



Key plan



View of new courtyard towards Midland Road and St. Pancras Station

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

6.3.2 Gardens to the South of Dangoor Walk

Access to Basement 1 Cycle Parking

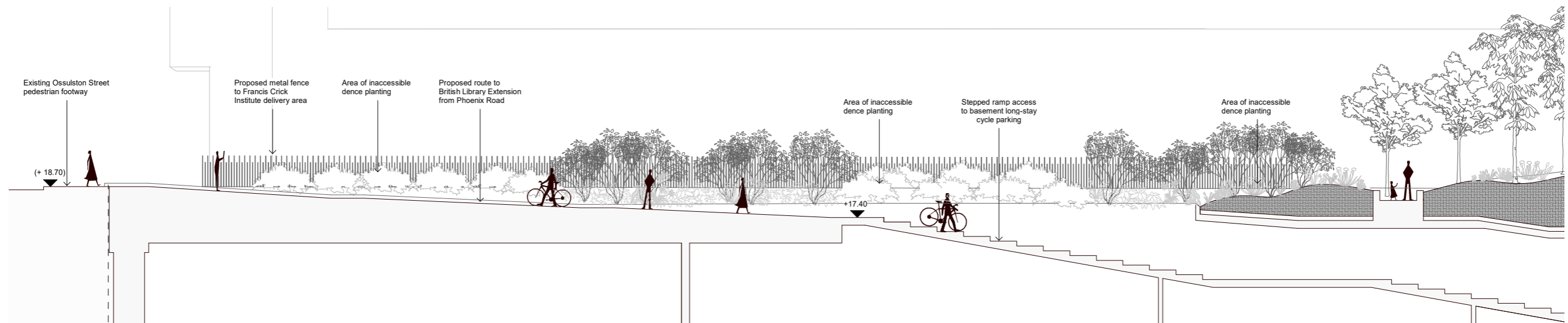
Long-stay cycle parking for staff and tenants' staff is located at B1 and is accessed via a stepped ramp north of the proposal, adjacent and parallel to Dangoor Walk, where the coordination of ground levels, routes and landscape assists in mitigating impacts on public realm. A secure gate will be provided at a half landing below ground level, limiting unnecessary journeys during closure and allowing the ramp to be secured without above ground impact. The ramp is 3m wide overall with inset channels on both sides allowing cyclists to dismount and safely wheel cycles via separate up and down routes.

A number of alternative ramp arrangements have been considered during design stages and it is worth noting that an inclined ramped surface at 8% (1:12) gradient would increase ramp length to approximately 75m overall, which would have significant knock-on impacts on landscape coordination, availability of attenuation and accessible compliance of pedestrian routes connecting Dangoor walk to the lower ground floor level: In short, an erosion of public realm overall and a significant reduction in green space with commensurate impacts on public routes for pedestrians and water attenuation within the site.

For all of these reasons, the stepped ramp access to the B1 Cycle Parking is proposed as part of this application.



Overview of Cycle Ramp Access and new pathways from Dangoor Walk



Proposed Section through cycle ramp looking towards new fence on boundary with Dangoor Walk and Francis Crick Institute's bottle gas delivery enclosure

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

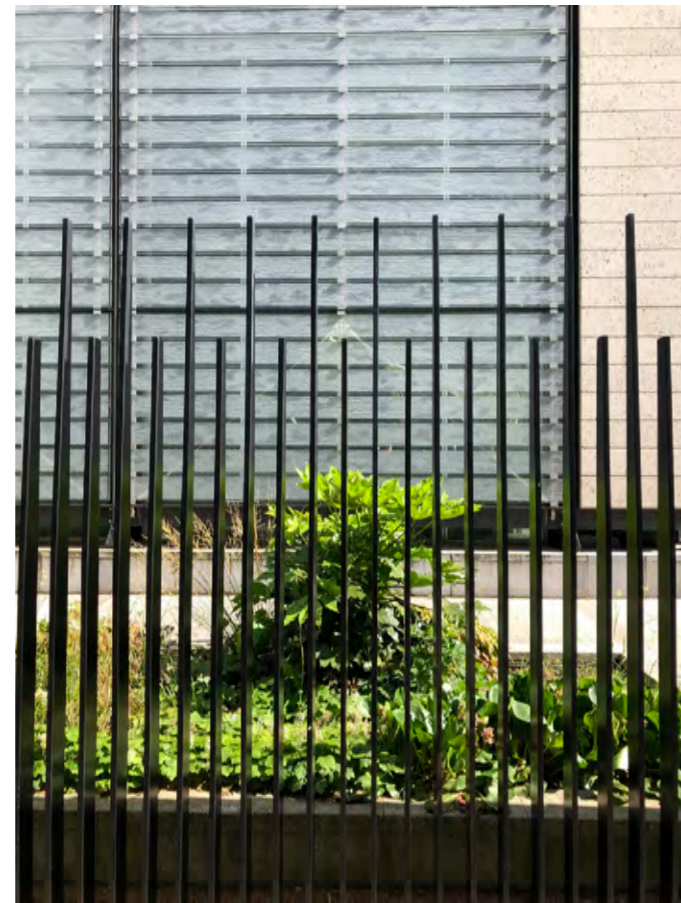
6.3.2 Gardens to the South of Dangoor Walk

New fence to boundary with Francis Crick Institute bottle gas delivery enclosure on Dangoor Walk

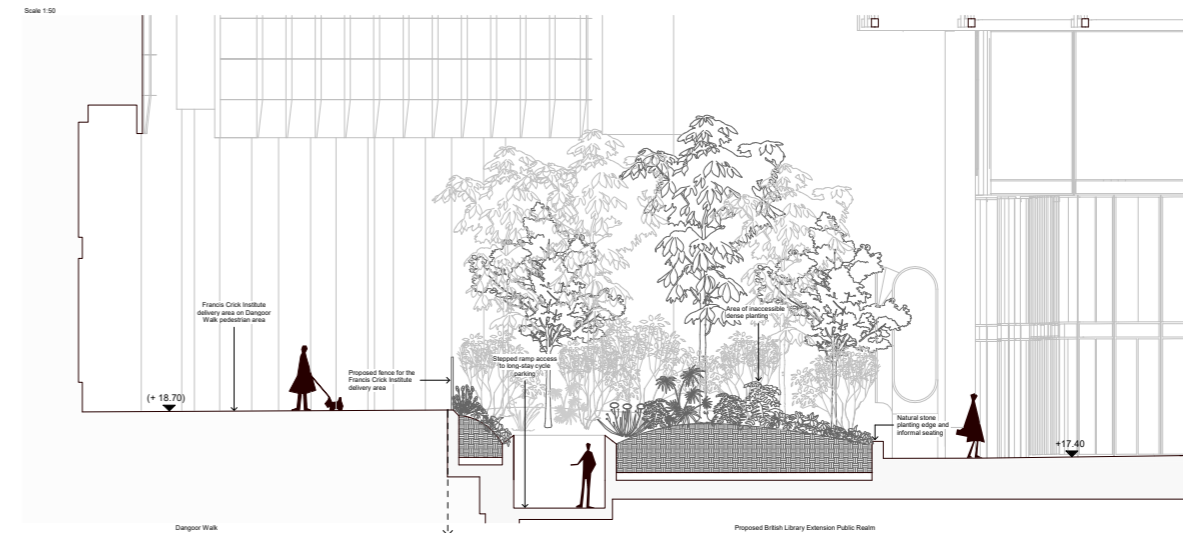
A new fence is proposed to replace the existing bottle gas delivery enclosure that provides security to the Francis Crick Institute subject to agreement with the Francis Crick Institute.

The landscape proposal for the British Library Extension offers an alternative walking route when the FCI's delivery area is in use. It is proposed to have a 1400mm tall fence in place of the 2100mm fence currently installed, which would greatly improve the quality of the public realm in this area.

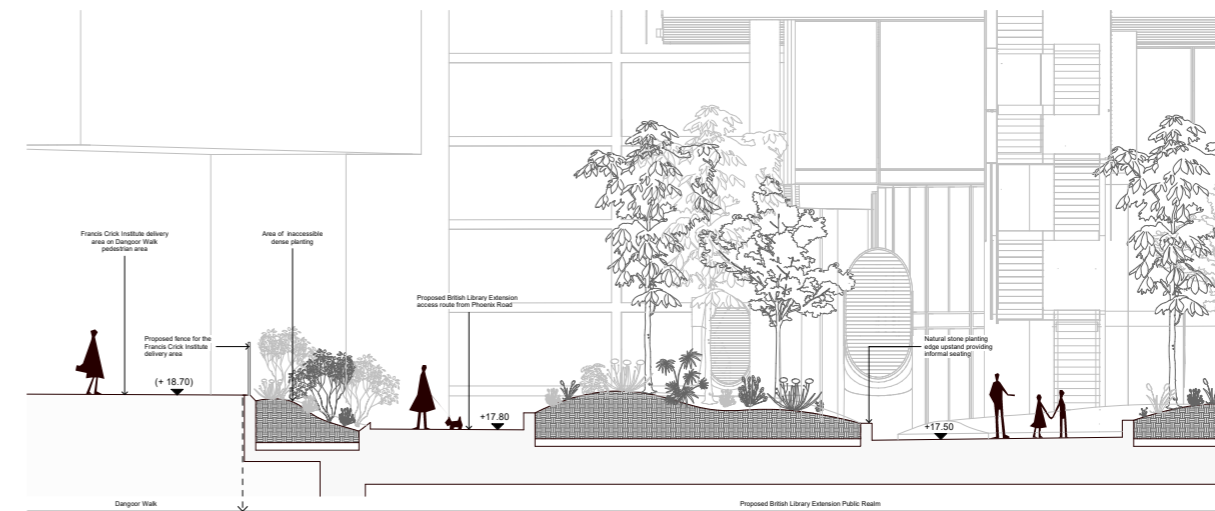
The sections on the right show that the existing change in level across the site, in addition to the new cycle ramp that runs in parallel, provides additional security to the FCI's delivery enclosure.



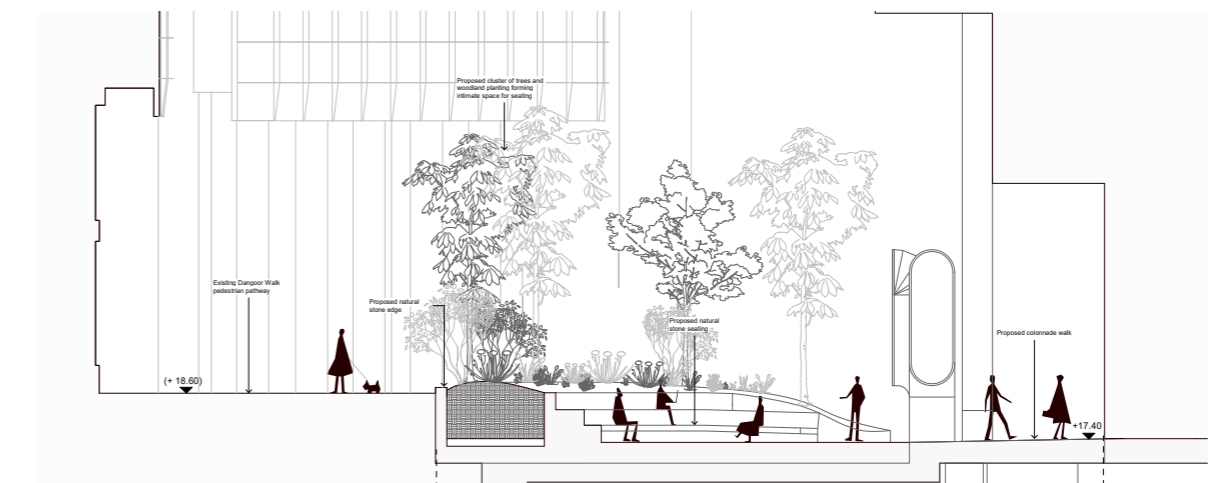
Similar 'anti-climb' fence type at the British Museum



Section CC



Section DD



Section BB

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

6.3.3 Midland Road Entrance

The Midland Road Entrance area encapsulates public realm improvements along the Western edge of Midland Road up to the site boundary with the Francis Crick Institute and up to the main entrances on the Western Side of the Proposed Extension. This area also includes the service entrance landscaping at the entrance to the loading bay from Midland Road.

The landscape design of the Midland Road entrance areas has been developed to create a welcoming and legible new front door to the British Library Extension and provide good accessibility, way finding and orientation.

To the south of this area adjacent to the loading bay raised planters are proposed which provide a green edge to the pavement and create a dedicated short stay cycle area behind it. The landscaping proposals for the entrance to the loading bay have been carefully designed to ensure high quality form and function. (For information on cycle parking see the transport section of this report).

Towards the North Eastern edge of the site, a number of activity cells are proposed which provide pockets of greening and seating areas. The planter cells have been arranged to take in the established 'desire line' routes from St. Pancras Station.

A disabled drop off bay is located along Midland road which provides a direct route to the main entrance.

There is a wider ambition to introduce additional planters along Midland Road which would extend beyond the site boundary and in front of the Francis Crick Institute as a shared piece of public realm.



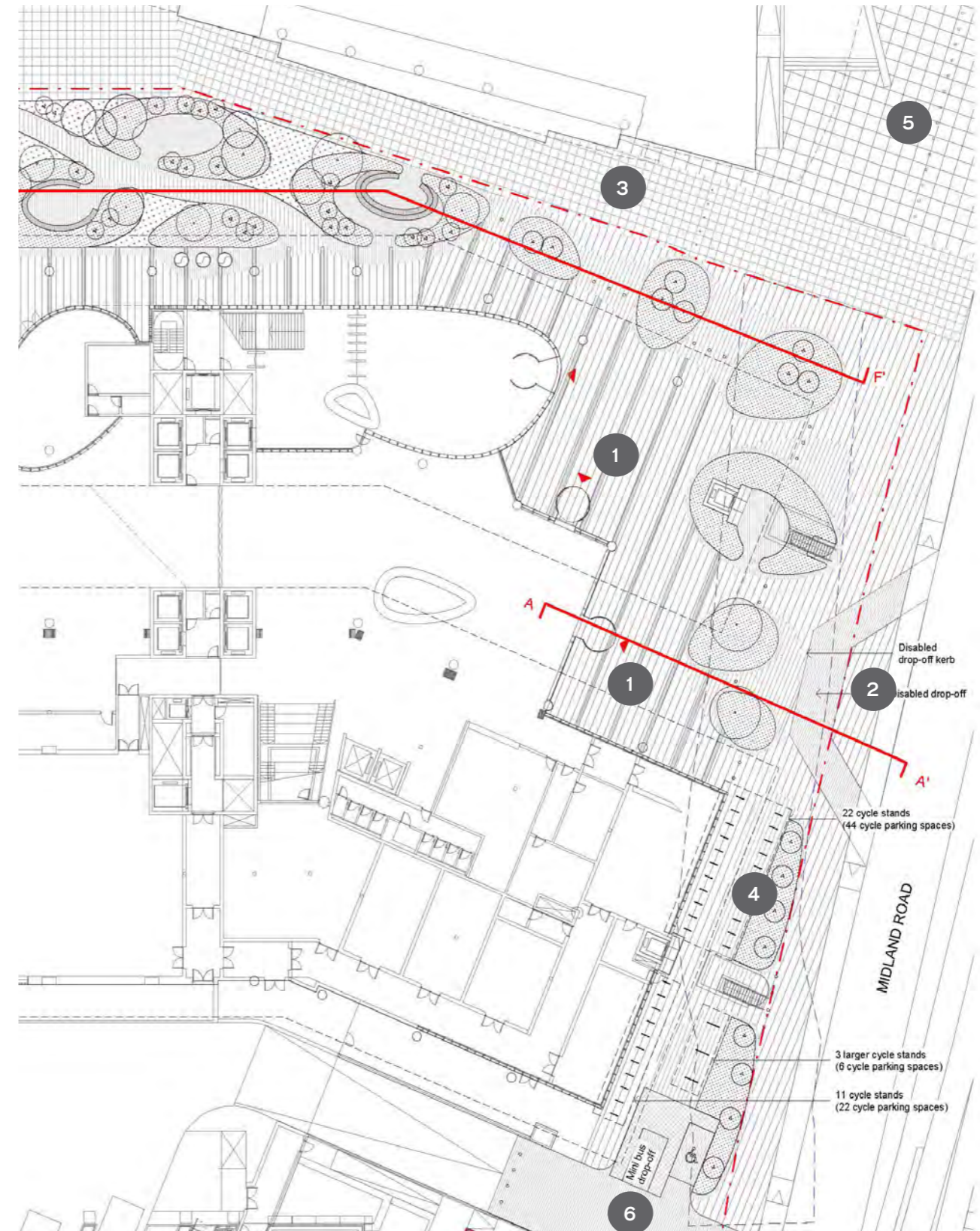
Key Plan

Key

- 1 Entrance to British Library Extension foyer
- 2 Disabled drop-off point
- 3 Dangoor Walk
- 4 Cycle parking
- 5 Francis Crick Institute entrance forecourt area
- 6 Service entrance area



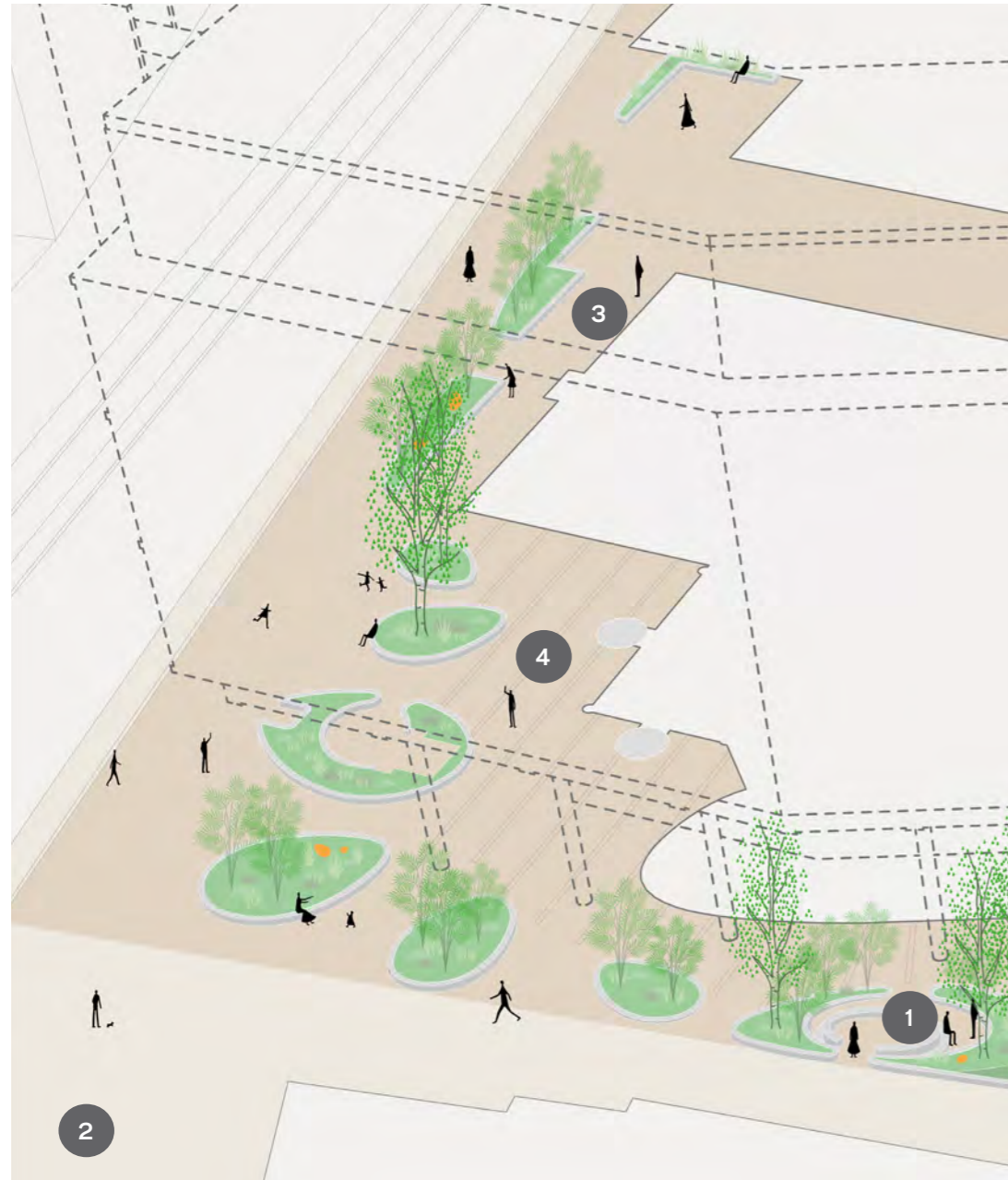
Visualisation - Approach from St. Pancras Station



Plan of Midland Road Entrance Area

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas



Overview of Midland Road entrance area

Key

- 1 Activity Cell
- 2 Francis Crick Institute front forecourt
- 3 Cycle Parking
- 4 Entrance to building



Section AA



Proposed: View Looking East

6.0 Design Proposal

6.3 Key Areas

6.3.4 British Library Courtyard

The internal courtyard is at first floor level and located between the existing British Library Building and the proposed Extension. This proposed courtyard space is an extension of the existing British Library outdoor space here, which is currently used by the Terrace Restaurant, British Library staff and Events Teams.

The courtyard landscape design has been developed in response to micro-climate of the site as well as the architecture of the existing building and the new extension. The layout of the paving and planting in the space has been arranged in response to the brief provided by British Library to provide a flexible space that can accommodate a range of events and activities within the courtyard.

Two activity cells are proposed within the courtyard which provide greenery and seating. The activity cells are arranged so that the courtyard space can accommodate events as well as being a circulation space, allowing for movement between different parts of the British Library buildings.

The proposed planters have been designed to provide to places to sit and dwell, and their forms also respond to the curved facade of the new extension. The height of the planters is proposed at 450mm so that an informal seated edge is created to the outer perimeter. Clear-stemmed trees with an open habit are proposed to provide vertical elements in the space against the curved facade of the extension, and to provide light shade underneath their canopies to the seating and event 'cell' spaces.

Stone paving is proposed to courtyard ground surface in general, similar to the ground floor public spaces. These areas of hard paving will allow building uses to spill out into the courtyard and provide animation. As the courtyard is located within close proximity of the new flexible spaces that the community can use within the new extension, the hard landscaped open spaces provide spill out space for community space and evening activities.

The existing sculpture, Oval Form (Trezion) by Barbara Hepworth which stands in the courtyard currently will be retained and carefully repositioned within the new landscaped space to ensure its artistic value and historical significance can be appreciated.



Key plan

Key

- 1 Natural stone paving
- 2 Clear stem tree planting
- 3 Seating in activity cells

Proposed British Library Courtyard Plan



Proposed Section HH

