



*Pinus nigra* 'Austriaca'



*Quercus palustris*



*Magnolia Kobus*



*Betula nigra*



*Amelanchier lamarkii*



*Prunus serrula*



## 8.21 PLANTING STRATEGY

A wide variety of soft landscape typologies are incorporated into the design, which will transform the space from an area to a more bio-diverse landscape of mixed planting beds, tree planting and lawns creating a more dynamic landscape with a variety of characterful spaces.

A diverse planting scheme will provide year-round structure and seasonal interest throughout the site; aiming to provide a visually striking palette.

### TREE PLANTING

Tree planting is an important and distinctive element of the development and one which will create a bold landscape structure that will mature and create a sense of longevity for the scheme. Increased tree cover will improve air quality, storm water attenuation and provide urban cooling.

- 8.21.1 A selection of broadleaf varieties including *Quercus palustris*, *Acer campestre* and *Gleditsia triacanthos* will be planted as anchor trees in key locations.
- 8.21.2 A series of evergreen trees are selected to create year round interest within the park. *Pinus nigra* is selected for its resilience to a broad range of weather and ground conditions from dry to damp soils.
- 8.21.3 A variety of flowering tree species such as *Cornus*, *Prunus*, *Amelanchier* and *Pyrus* will be introduced throughout the garden spaces in both multi-stem and clear-stem forms ensuring a vibrant array of colours and textures from spring through to late summer and autumn
- 8.21.4 Species such as *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Betula* varieties and *Sorbus acuparia* will provide autumn and winter interest creating balance throughout the year.



## **8.21 PLANTING STRATEGY**

### **8.21.1 ORNAMENTAL & HERBACEOUS PLANTING**

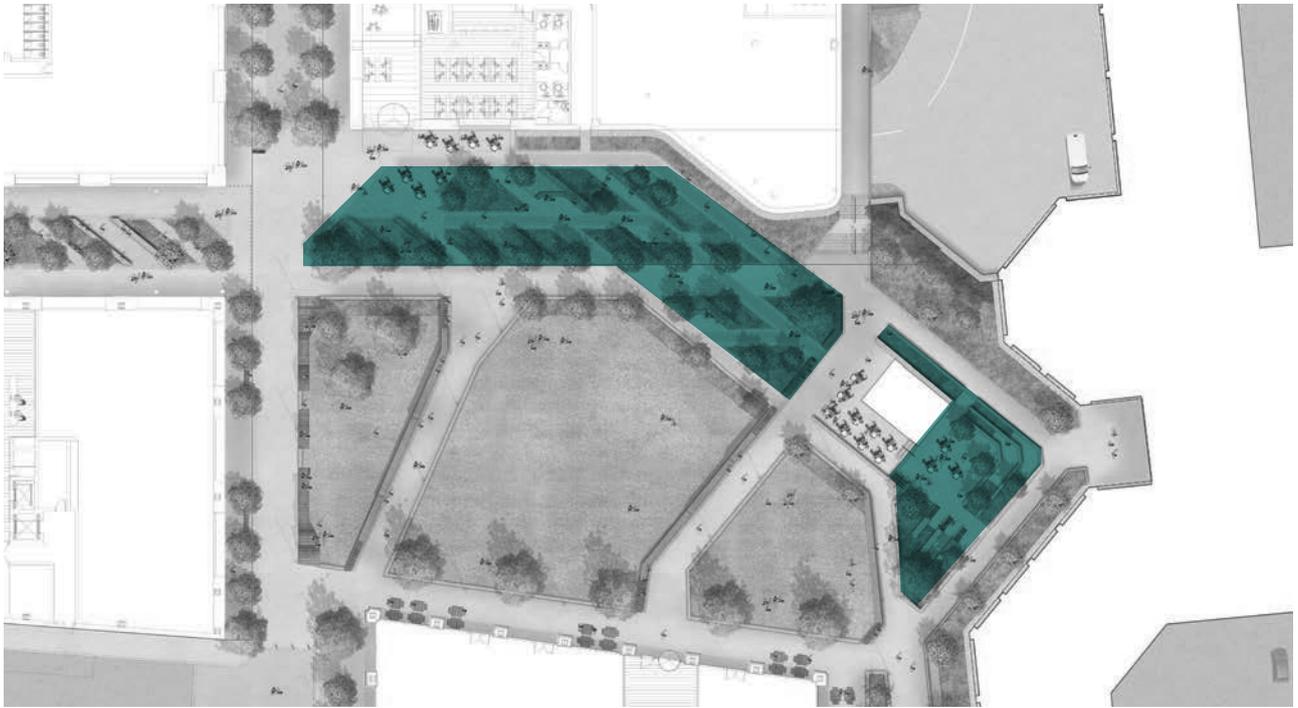
The ornamental planted areas are largely centred around Bixteth Walk, The Terraced Gardens and the Siding Gardens.

8.21.2 A carefully considered palette of shrub planting will provide year-round structure with seasonal interest. Evergreen shrub, fern and grass species will create a textural foil against which dramatic, emergent herbaceous species will form strong bursts of colour.

8.21.3 More structural planting is used to build thresholds and screening. This is located around key social spaces and includes intermittent hedge planting that will provide structure, form and a greater range of height through the beds.

### **8.21.4 BULB PLANTING**

Bulbs will ensure colour emerges within the gardens during late winter and early spring. Bulbs will also be introduced within the lawns and provide additional interest and variation to this element of the park.



Proposed location of permeable paving and rain gardens as part of the site wide SUDs strategy



Miscanthus grasses mixed through the gardens



Example of rain gardens



Diagram of a typical rain garden system

## **SUDS STRATEGY**

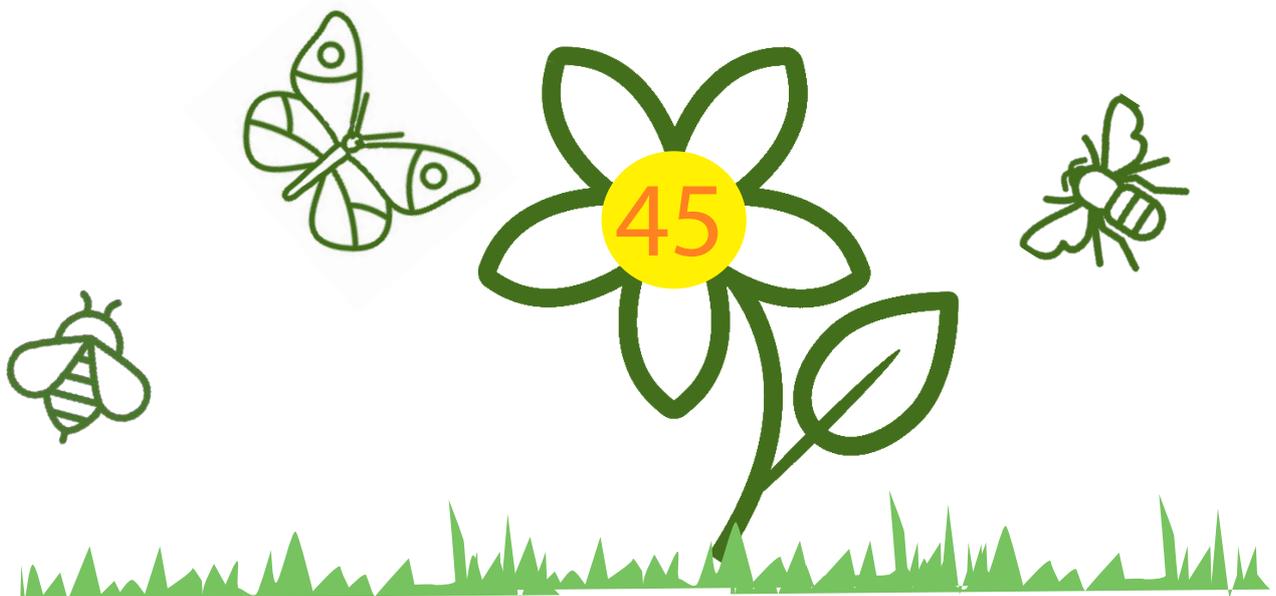
- 8.21.1 Network of rain gardens that will support and feed into the site wide SUDs approach.
- 8.21.2 Including planted rain gardens that capture surface run off enables the scheme to discharge water at a reduced rate and volume.
- 8.21.3 Native and adapted plants are selected for these rain gardens because they are more tolerant of the local climate, soil, and water conditions; and have habitat value and diversity for local ecological communities.
- 8.21.4 Plants include a selection of wetland edge and emergent vegetation, such as wildflowers, sedges, rushes, ferns, shrubs and small trees which during the growing season help take up excess water flowing into the rain garden. They create an attractive wildlife-friendly space.
- 8.21.5 Beside rain gardens there are proposals to consider connecting the tree pits along Edmund Street. Here below ground cell systems which helps prevent soil compaction enabling the rooting area to be used as part of the rain water attenuation system.
- 8.21.6 This enables the utilisation of the sub soil and rooting zone as part of the storage capacity.
- 8.21.7 Proposals include permeable paving through the garden areas which contribute to flash flood prevention by absorbing water and slowing run off rates.
- 8.21.8 The porous paving system provides a natural infiltration system where sub base helps remove hydro carbons before releasing the water back into the ground or formal drainage system.



Proposed number of trees across the outline application area



25 different tree species within the proposals across the outline application area



45 different shrub species with a focus on pollinator attracting species across the outline application area

## **BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS**

- 8.21.1 The proposals will significantly increase the overall amount of planting to provide a more verdant environment. Over double the amount of planting to the previous site.
- 8.21.2 The scheme will also include a more extensive variety of plant species to enhance biodiversity and provide year round interest.
- 8.21.3 Increasing the current species diversity up to 45 varieties
- 8.21.4 This range of species enables the park to support a broader community of wildlife.
- 8.21.5 Species selection will recognise guidance within the 'North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan' with the introduction of a greater number of protected plant species including native Bluebells.
- 8.21.6 The planting strategy places emphasis on providing a more attractive environment for pollinating insects and birds.
- 8.21.7 The variety of plant species has been selected in recognition of guidance from The British Bee Keepers Association, Woodland Trust, RHS and RSPB. Specific species selected include Crocus, Allium, Echinacea, Lavender, Rudbeckia and Salvia amongst others.

**Materiality Study: Architecture**



Orleans House, Grade II listed Bixteth Street



Exchange Station Front and Rear, Tithebarn Street



Proposed materiality

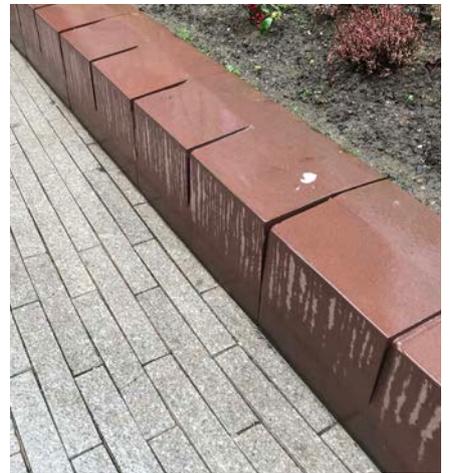
**Materiality Study: Public Realm**



Exchange flags - Segmental arch cobbles



St Paul's Square - Dark grey granite

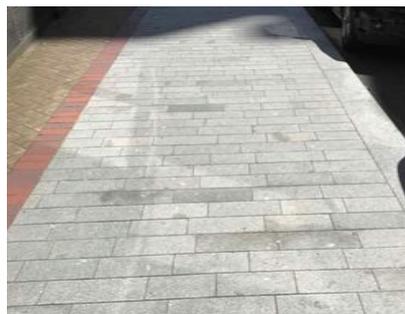


St Paul's Square - Grey granite & Red sandstone

**Materiality Study: Surfacing**



Grey granite cobbles to historic streets

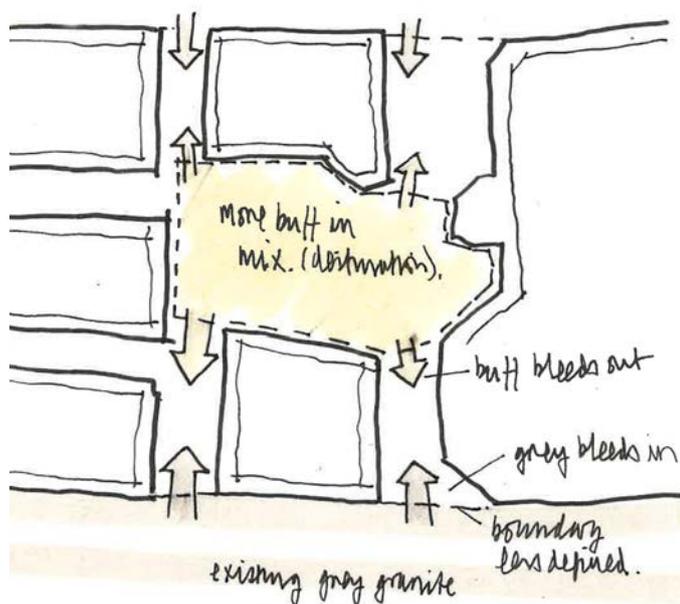


Mid grey granites to Bixteth Street



Yorkstone threshold to Exchange Station Building and Porphyry

### Strategy for surface materiality



## 8.22 PAVING STRATEGY

- 8.22.1 The site sits on the edge of Castle Street Conservation area, which contains a range of listed buildings so it's important to recognise their appearance and curtilage treatment.
- 8.22.2 The site also sits within the buffer zone of the Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site. Supporting documents for the WHS suggest that proposals for the public realm should follow the Liverpool City Centre Public Realm Implementation Framework guidance. This document recognises Edmund Street, Bixteth Street and Tithebarn St. as 'City Streets' and suggests the use of Granite for its surface.
- 8.22.3 The most visibly prominent materials found within the surrounding architecture are buff sandstone, buff and red brick, and Portland stone.
- 8.22.4 Existing surface material along Bixteth Street is grey granite which runs through to St Paul's Square.
- 8.22.5 Material used down Pall Mall is poor quality and consists of a mix of tarmac and concrete flags.

### APPROACH

- 8.22.6 Target the use of high quality natural stone for the majority of the development.
- 8.22.7 Reflect the suggestions of the WHS and continue using grey granites along Bixteth Street and run that through into Edmund Street.
- 8.22.8 Use of a warmer tone of material colour at the heart of the park to reference the buff of the Exchange building and the use of red brick within the new office building.
- 8.22.9 Consider a subtle blurring of these materials as you move into and out of the park.



Blend of greys through to buff granite merging from Bixteth street into the site



Subtle blend of warmer granite pavers to the core of the park

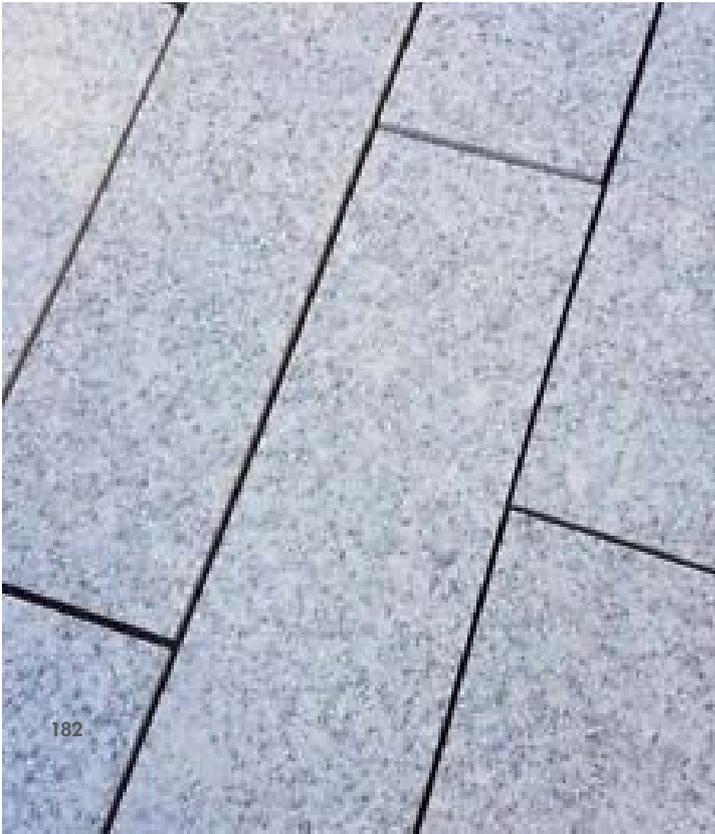


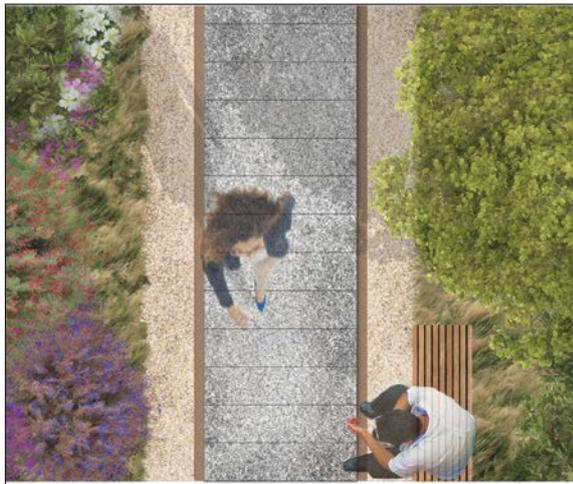
Resin bound gravel surfacing used within the gardens areas



Cropped surface units used to deter skate boarders and as an edging detail

Below: Granite planks used within the garden spaces to reference the identity of the site through a series of stack bonded sleepers

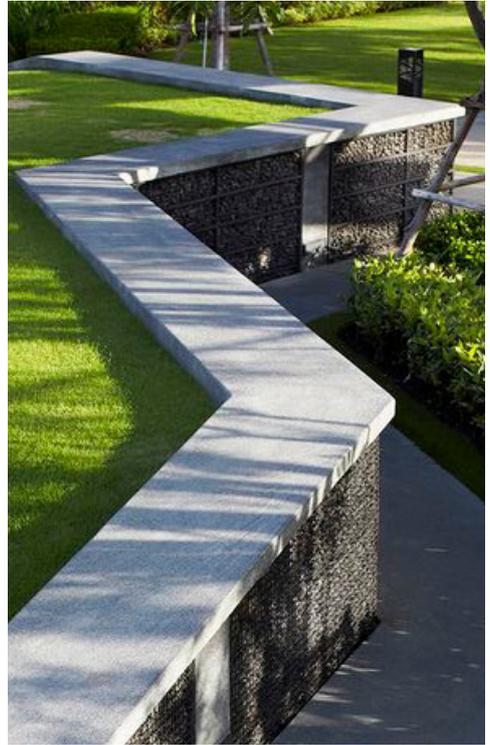




Detailed blow ups indicating materiality

## 8.22 PAVING STRATEGY

- 8.22.1 Light to mid grey granites will be used along Bixeth Street and the junction with Edmund Street. This will knit in with the existing streetscape treatment creating a strong synergy with the new development and St Paul's Square.
- 8.22.2 Moving into the heart of the park there will be a subtle change in tone with the introduction of a warmer granite blend. This will be introduced along Edmund Street and Bixteth Walk. These will be a small to mid sized unit and will be laid stretcher bond.
- 8.22.3 A blend of buff granite will be used throughout the main pathways within the park to create continuity, legibility to the pedestrian routes and support wayfinding across the development. A mid-large sized unit will be used.
- 8.22.4 Porous, buff resin bound gravel will be introduced within the gardens to mark the change in character and compliment the curved nature of its pathways.
- 8.22.5 Larger grey granite plank units are proposed for the key footpaths through the gardens. Laid stack bond these units represent the sleepers used at the station.



Precedent examples of street furniture elements

## 8.23 STREET FURNITURE STRATEGY

The durability and robustness of the street furniture selected and their detailing will be carefully considered to ensure the quality of the public realm is maintained.

All materials are of the highest quality in terms of durability and be specified to deal with heavy use, and wear and tear. The following key street furniture elements are included within the proposals:

### 8.24.1 Seating:

Seating elements are located throughout the scheme and include back rests and arm rests. Timber is used as a primary seating surface with durable steel or stone bases. All fixings to be consealed.

### 8.24.2 Cycle hoops:

High grade steel with durable powder coated finish is used for all cycle hoops within the park areas. These are located at key entrance points and also within the core of the park

### 8.24.3 Bins:

Durable, robust bins are positioned throughout the park. The bins have a good capacity with strong opening/ closing mechanism to avoid damage. Bins include cigarette ash trays and stubbing out points.

### 8.24.4 Bollards:

At the junction of Edmund Street and the park and Edmund Street and Pall Mall there is a requirement for vehicle control points. It is intended that automated bollards will be located here to control delivery and maintenance access.

### 8.24.5 Anti skate elements

Raised anti skate elements are used to deter skateboarders in conjunction with cropped surface finishes to edges of pathways.

### 8.24.6 Signage

Signage totems are located at key entrances to the site and mark the arrival at Pall Mall with clear lettering. Signage elements also include wider way finding routes



Lux level diagram indicating possible lighting arrangements



## 8.24 LIGHTING STRATEGY

The site will be well lit and in line with relevant BS standards and Liverpool city guidelines. Coverage will include all key pedestrian and service routes with entrance points and junctions highlighted.

- 8.25.1 Column lighting is proposed for all primary routes throughout the park and key streets.
- 8.25.2 Feature up and down lighting will be included to the anchor trees around the site and within the park and where appropriate more character lighting introduced- for example through the garden areas.
- 8.25.3 Bespoke seating elements will be picked out with recessed lighting where appropriate.
- 8.25.4 Illumination through the gardens should include low-level amenity lighting such as illuminated bollards and directed column lighting. This will help create a pedestrian scale environment, whilst minimising light spill.
- 8.25.5 Appropriate cowls shall be included to column lighting when used adjacent to existing residential units, ie. Lumber Street and the adjacent X1 building.
- 8.25.6 Signage will be illuminated to ensure wayfinding remains clear throughout winter months and into early evening.