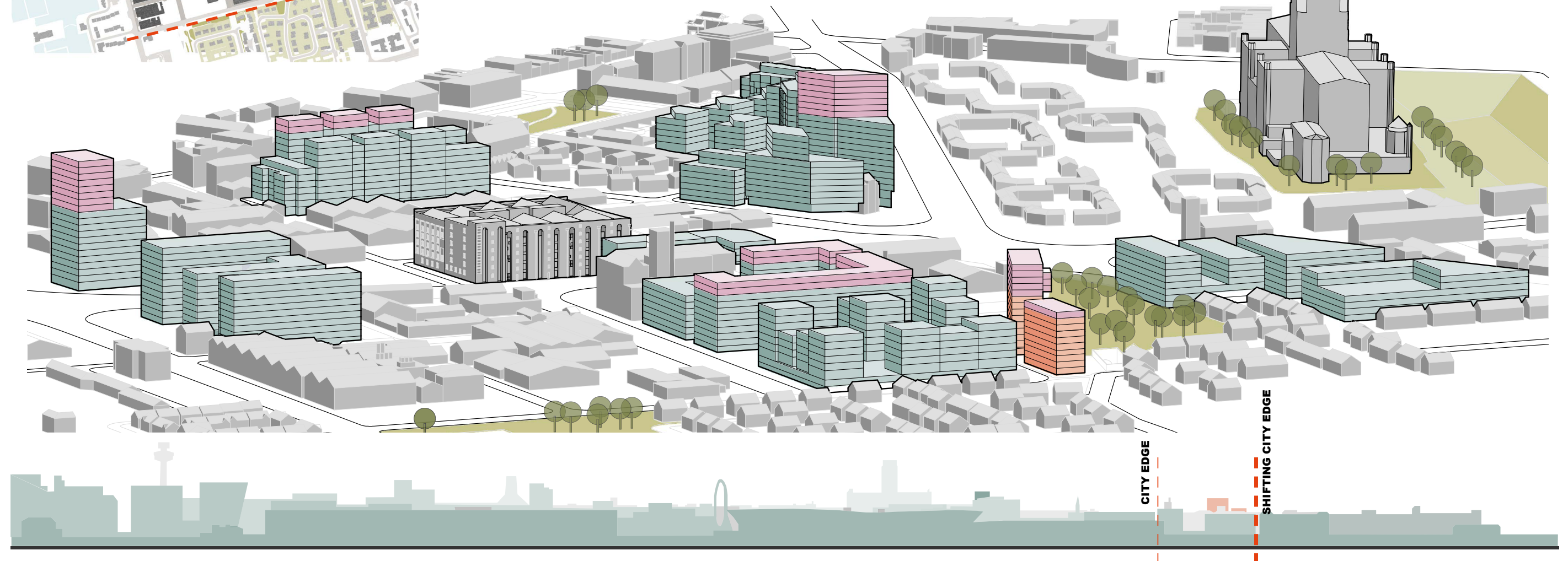


6 DESIGN RESOLUTION

6.1 URBAN MASSING & EDGE CONDITION

The urban block bound by Hill street and Parliament Street defines an extended city edge. What was previously the city edge at the Baltic has crept a little further taking in the Cains development and the area around St James Station. The historical density of the urban block will undoubtedly be re-interpreted as the city grows and development spreads outwards. At the far side of Hill Street the low rise housing defines another distinct area, symbolising community, historical and political facets of Liverpools development.



URBAN BLOCK DATUM: PINNACLE OF URBAN BLOCK

Liverpool's Urban typology centres around each cluster of buildings being defined by its own common datum. The highlighted storeys within each cluster of buildings shows where the building datum has been exceeded. This punctuation is a recurring feature of the city and reinforces its identity.

Brassey Street punctuates the block to mark both sectional plateau, its adjacency to the park and the edge condition with the suburban housing.

CONTEXTUAL MASSING: FORM EXPRESSING CONTEXT

The form of the building, slender but tall expresses the site conditions; in so far as it;

- connects itself to a collection of adjacent developments at Cains and Grafton Street,
- steps back from the open section of railway line,
- fully avoids the underground railway tunnel and,
- embraces the boundary to the park.

MARKING THE CITY EDGE

Opportunities: The building will act to signify the city edge becoming a way-finding element on the route from St Georges Street and Upper Parliament Street.

ROUTE LANDMARK : SIGNIFYING GREEN SPACE & GREEN ROUTE CONNECTION.

As the park connects to a series of green spaces in the city, the building also acts as a marker of its presence. The mass of the building is juxtaposed with the open space of the park creating a boundary to serve both the urban block and the open space.

DENSIFICATION OF URBAN BLOCK: RECAPTURING HISTORICAL DENSITY

Historically the urban block was a dense cluster of typologies creating a close relationship between home, work and leisure. With the mass of buildings signifying this use. As the area develops a critical density will give the block identity.

6.2 URBAN BLOCK & GREEN SPACE REGENERATION

“Liverpool’s parks and green spaces are an essential part of the City’s heritage and infrastructure, being a strong element in its architectural and landscape character, providing a sense of place and engendering civic pride”.

Currently the park is an unnamed, underused asset that needs to be integrated in Liverpool’s Green Infrastructure. Our proposal recognises its importance in creating a quality of green space for the urban block and facilitating connections between new developments and existing.

Our proposal uses the park in two ways.

Firstly by opening-up what is currently a hidden park and connecting it to Liverpool’s green route

Secondly, the park acts to connect new and existing developments by considering adding character areas at boundary points or nodes.

As a connecting park, several types of green space are encompassed within the proposal;

1. Heritage
2. Passing/Route
3. Hidden/Serene
4. Meeting point
5. Community Node

CONNECTION: The park opens up a new sequence from suburban edge to city center.

Practical steps: Defined routes, surveillance, lighting, crossing points.

HERITAGE: The park offers a connection to the historical identity of the area

Opportunities: Re-establish community provision of Caryl Street gardens, community recreation historically located in the Urban Block. Connect to Historical St James Church.

AREA DEFINITION: The park provides a green backdrop to the new developments of the area

Opportunities: To become an integral part of the developments of the Urban block, namely key developments at Cains, St James Street Master plan and the Baltic Triangle.

RECREATION, HEALTH & WELL BEING: The park naturally provides for the recreational and leisure needs of communities.

CHARACTER DESTINATION POINT: The park acts as a counter point to the new developments

Opportunities: Mixture of established mature natural elements with designed landscaped, developing identity for adjacent communities, new residents and businesses.



6.2 URBAN BLOCK & GREEN SPACE REGENERATION

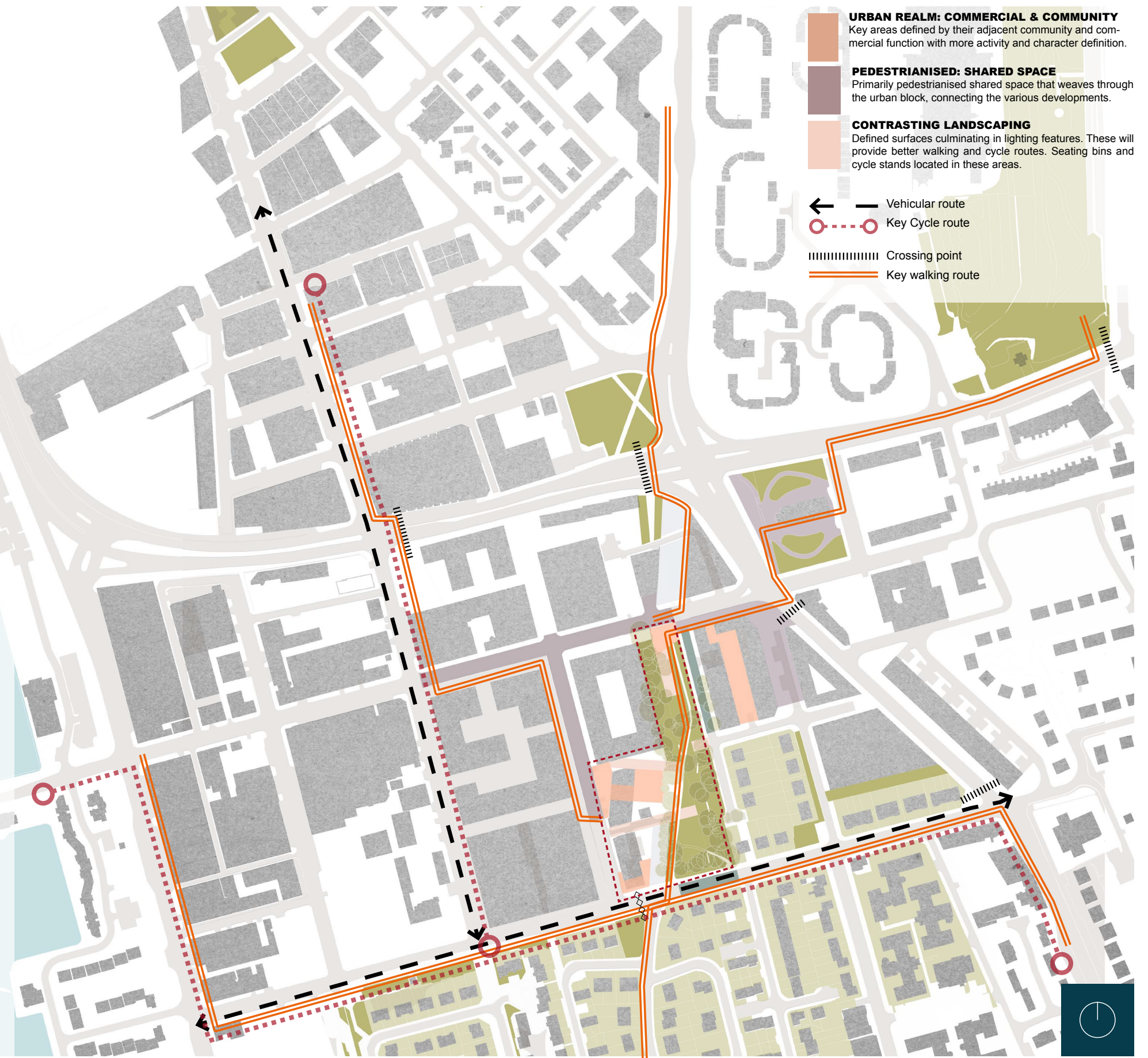
The changes to the park will be enhanced by subsequent changes to the infrastructure of the locality.

OPENING UP HILL STREET

Although closed in the 80's, the connecting streets between Park Road and Sefton Street were key routes as well as streets. Reopening Hill Street would provide better access for residents, reverse the suburban separation and revitalise the area with street activity. To prevent the road becoming a 'rat run' calming measures should be introduced.

PROVISION/ENHANCEMENT OF SAFE PELICAN CROSSINGS.

Currently the lack of crossing points across Parliament Street and Park Road makes worse the separation from City Centre to periphery. As the area develops, the park becomes a crossing point for routes to the city via Chinatown, to the Baltic Triangle, Riverside to Toxteth and the Georgian Quarter via the Anglican Cathedral. All these routes cross main roads so safe crossing points are vital.



6.3 GREEN SPACE REGENERATION

It is intended that the park caters for many different users and uses that interface at various points. All of these uses are dependent on the following design principles;

- Visibility
- Safety
- Boundary connection

Aside from the larger areas of landscaping, these will be achieved with the following simple measures;

- Tree trimming or removal
- Lighting
- Shared surfaces/Improved surfaces
- Crossing points

THE PARK DESIGN IS MADE UP OF THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS;

1. INTERFACE:

Interfaces with existing residents should provide privacy whilst also creating a strong link. At Gore Street new trees should be planted for privacy and a partial road closure would prevent unwanted traffic and create a link to the park edge. At Hill Street the removal of some trees will provide a visual link for the houses across the road. With the suggested opening of Hill Street, traffic should be calmed using general measures as well as a shared surface that would again blur the park edge.

2. HERITAGE/COMMUNITY:

Within the urban block there have been various historical community uses that the park make reference to, firstly in bringing it back into use, and secondly with the types of uses proposed.

The proposed community space at Hill Street makes reference to the social function of Public Houses that used to line Hill Street. The play area within the park references Caryl Street gardens, a historical community play area located in the area.

3. HIDDEN/SERENE:

To this point, the park has been relatively unknown to those who do not live in the immediate area. This characteristic should be enhanced to provide a different type of space within the urban block. The focal point is located in the centre of the park, at the interface between the development and the current park boundary. The form of the building, the wall to the railway and the trees enclose a small urban plaza and play area.

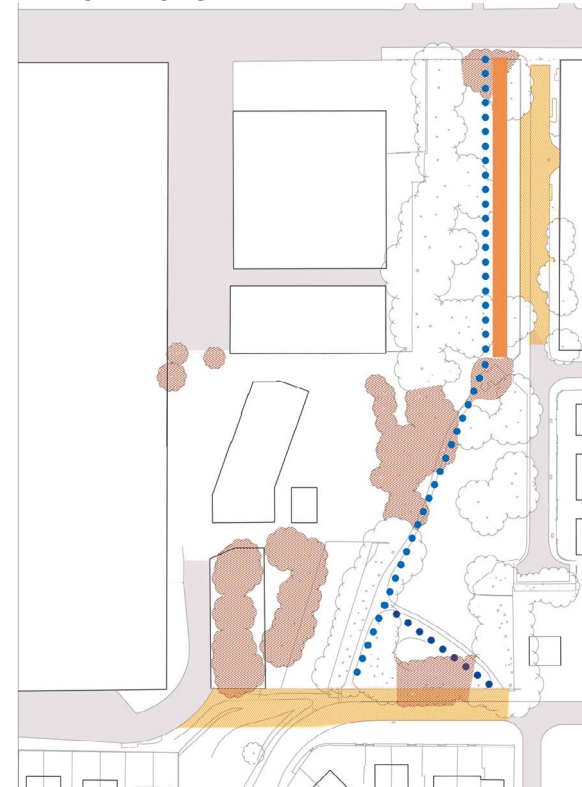
4. PASSING POINT & ROUTE:

At Hill Street, the entrance for local residents is key, as this will become a route through to the station & city centre. At this point safe access and visibility is important. The path through the park needs to be well defined and safely lit, using street lamps or building lighting.

5. MEETING POINT:

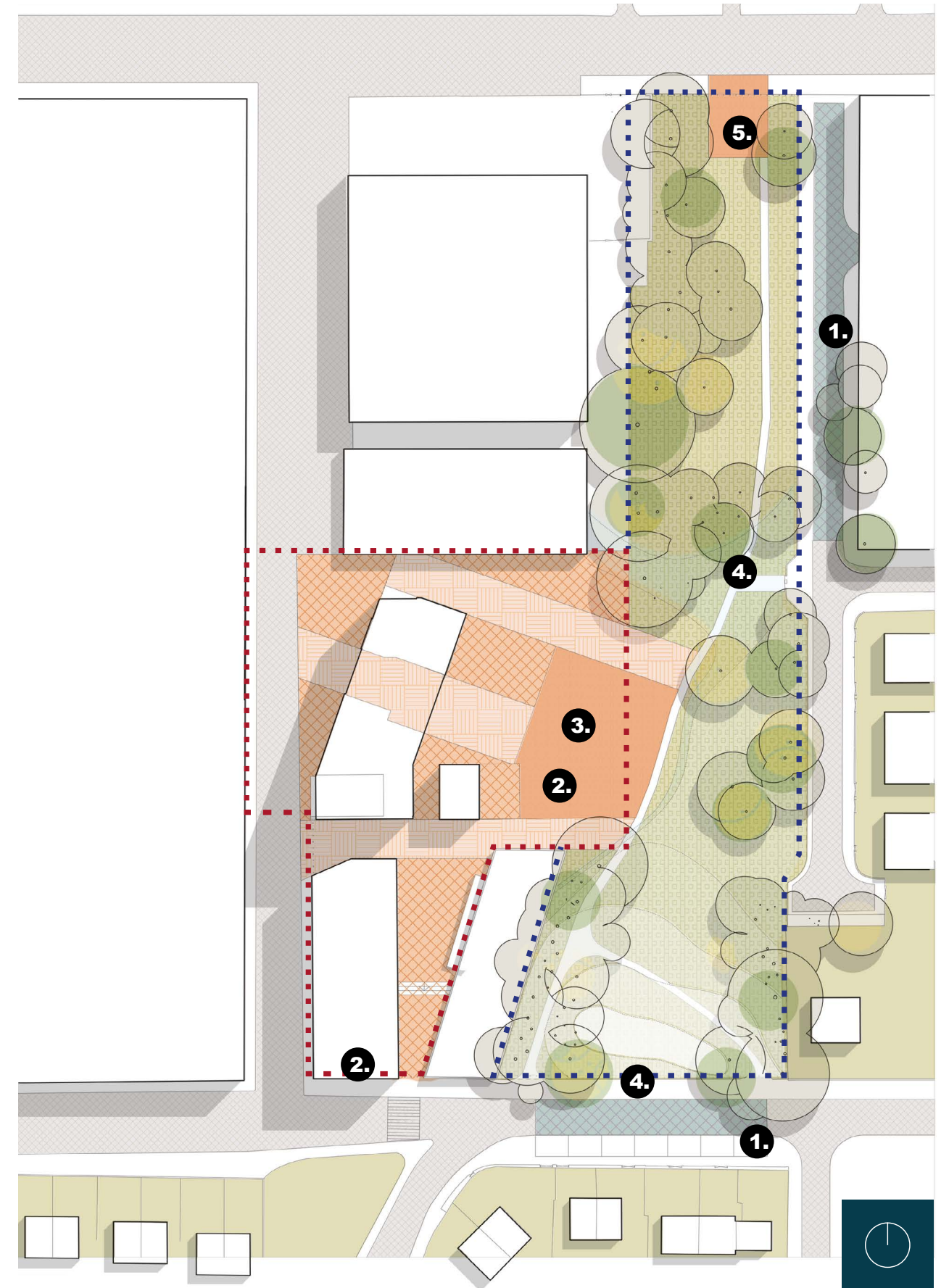
The North entrance to the park, opposite what will be James Street station will serve as a key entrance and meeting point from the station. This will be the first or maybe the only interface with the park for many people and should give a glimpse through the whole park.

PARK INTERVENTIONS: KEY CHANGES



- TREE REMOVAL
- ROAD RESURFACING
- LIGHTING PATH
- NEW PATHWAY

KEY AREAS: EDGES AND INTERFACES



6.4 PROPOSED LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Where the park meets the site boundary, a more elaborate landscape strategy blurs the edge wrapping around and through the buildings. Subtle borders are created using surface changes. Street lighting and building lights ambiently illuminate the area providing safety and atmosphere.

