

L A N D S C A P E Landscape Design Statement

Landscape Strategy

The landscape design proposals for General Offices and associated Station Square will complement both the striking nature of the existing and proposed buildings, along with providing connectivity to the future elements and infrastructure surrounding Station Square. The principle objective of the landscape design is to create an attractive public realm and functional space which is a stimulating environment for residents, visitors and people working in and around the General offices and Station Square. This will be achieved using quality paving materials and carefully selected tree and planting stock.

The landscape proposals to the General Offices (Plot 1A) will provide a public realm which is reflective of both the eastern elevation of the listed General Offices, the western section which integrates Station Square and the adjacent car park.

The same design principles have been applied to the Station Square (Plot 1N) providing a public space to the rear of the listed General Offices.

The design of both 1A and 1N plots have been responsive to the existing General Offices building and a simple but strong geometric layout has been applied with the hard landscaping elements aligned perpendicular to the building to accentuate key features of the façade.

Routes and Spaces

The masterplan has been designed with a well defined and easy to navigate route which leads to the main entrance of the General Offices from the car park and bus stop to the south. Similarly the associated Station Square has taken into consideration the pedestrian routes and desire lines which lead through the surrounding infrastructure to the General Offices. Way-finding is aided by using subliminal techniques such as a co-ordinated range of paving materials, paving patterns, street furniture, hedges, semi mature tree planting and lighting.

The public realm to the General Offices frontage is defined with low level hedge planting, and the proposed paving will create a gateway feature. Semi mature fastigiated tree planting and high quality materials will lead to the entrance of the building.

The frontage design has a strong geometric layout in plan and accentuates key features of the building façade. This is extended into the adjacent car park and surrounding landscape for continuity and legibility. Natural stone paving will be used to define the main entrance of the General Offices.

The public realm surrounding the General Offices includes:

- General break out areas and pedestrian links to the General Offices and proposed terminus station building.
- The raised turfed planters and water features.

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- Café break out space.
- Shared surface and vehicular drop off zone.

Natural stone flags will be used define the principle pedestrian routes, main entrance rear to the General Offices and proposed terminus station building.

Three low raised turfed planters are centrally located within the square, together they are rectangular in shape to provide a traditional character. The internal shapes of the planters are defined by the footpaths and desire lines which cut through them.

Simple reflective/ mirror pools on polished natural stone are set within the arrangement of raised turf planters which will provide an eye catching centre piece to the square

Shrub and Groundcover Planting

All shrub and ground cover planting to the car park (Plot 1A) shall be native. It is intended that the landscape design will be simplistic, uncluttered and easy to maintain

Low level hedging to the frontage of the General offices, will provide structural delineation between public realm and the Peripheral Distributor Road.

Tree Planting

The quality and appropriateness of size is important to the success of the project. Semi mature trees will form the structure define routes, provide screening and framing key architectural features of the General Offices. The avenue trees to the Peripheral Distributor Road (PDR) will be semi mature and the feature trees to the General Offices frontage will be semi mature specimens

Tree planting to the Frontage of the General Offices will differ in style and character to those used within the car park to reflect the importance and stature of the building. The tree species has been chosen for their compact and upright habit to both reflect the scale and frame, without detracting from the General Offices building

Semi mature trees to the Station Square will form the structure of the square and will define spaces, provide screening, and framing of key architectural features to the rear of the General Offices, the sizes will be comparable to those adjacent the frontage of the General Offices.

All trees in paving shall have a tree grille with frame and be planted in an urban tree soil mix. All trees will have irrigation and appropriate drainage to the pit. Trees will be supported by underground guying and where adjacent to underground services appropriate root barriers will be provided.

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The following are the proposed semi mature trees. Trees within native shrubs will also be UK native:

Avenue and principal trees within Plot 1A

Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck' - Fastigate Beech Semi mature

Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' - Lime Semi mature

Hedging

Fagus sylvatica - Beech

Station Square Plot 1N

Platanus x hispanica – London Plane

Prunus 'Sunset Boulevard' - Cherry

Davidia involucrate – Handkerchief tree

Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' - Lime

Maintenance

The hard and soft landscape has been designed to keep maintenance operations to a minimum.

Hard Landscape Materials

The hard landscaping will be based on the selection outlined in the approved The Works – Ebbw Vale Design Code. There will be a hierarchy of paving materials with natural stone material situated at key entrances to buildings. The frontage of the General Offices will be treated with high quality exposed aggregate paving with natural stone flags to the main entrance.

High quality exposed aggregate paving located to other areas including car park footpaths and other areas associated with the Station Square.

Natural stone sets will be used for detailing and edging and will offer textural and linear demarcation. Feature banding will consist of natural stone sets arranged to accentuate key features of the General Office's building front and rear elevations.

The hard landscaping to the Station Square will be based on the same selection and hierarchy outlined. Natural stone material situated at key entrances to the General Offices and key pedestrian desire lines.

High quality exposed aggregate block paving to match the paving will be used for any shared surface and natural stone feature banding will be used to break up large areas of. A section of the shared surface to the avenue tree planting will be raised to prevent parking and promote the use of safe pedestrian crossing.

Exposed aggregate kerbs to match the block paving will be used as either an up stand to the raised section or laid flush where there are shared surfaces.

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Car Park

Car parks will be surfaced in bituminous macadam surfacing and include a taxi rank, 40 No standard car parking and 5 No disabled spaces. There is allocation for parking 2 No coaches and a bring facility for public recycling. Clearly defined pedestrian routes within the car park assist pedestrian navigation to the General Offices main entrances.

Street Furniture

The street furniture shall be a co-ordinated range based on the selection outlined in the approved The Works – Ebbw Vale Design Code. It shall be robust, capable of withstanding the wear and tear expected in a busy public realm area.

Seating shall be either stainless steel benches with back and arm rests or slab seating at principle entrances, litter bins will match the seating and shall have integral ashtrays. These elements will be located at key locations and entrances to the General Offices building.

Lighting

Lighting to the General Offices and Station Square shall be a co-ordinated range based on the selection outlined in the approved The Works – Ebbw Vale Design Code. The lighting will consist of stainless steel fittings and comprise of up lighting to feature and specimen trees, wall lighting to the low raised turfed planters and surface mounted lighting to highlight key desire lines and pedestrian movement.

Boundary treatment

Trees have been positioned to reduce the visual impact of the car parking adjacent the General Offices and the PDR, these will provide screening and form part of the general landscape strategy for the PDR. Refer to separate boundary proposals for the treatment between the car park and the rail corridor