

04 DESIGN RESPONSE

Entrance Area | Staff Facility options

The current entrance area of Phase 01 consists of a visitor seating area, a welcoming kiosk, a bike stand, two fully accessible WCs, and a low-level planter. To facilitate future operations, a new refurbished container will be added, providing work space for three National Trust staff and serving as a kiosk if needed. A new kitchenette with a dining space has also been added to support staff and volunteers in their day-to-day operations.

The existing accessible WCs will be replaced with three new WC facilities (one fully accessible and two standard WCs with additional baby changing facilities). This upgrade will cater to a wider group of visitors in phase 02 and future phases. The container also offers clarity of wayfinding and branding to allow visitors to identify the site while not imposing on the existing girder structure.

Considering the operational needs of the National Trust Garden, a new dedicated working zone with an adjacent bin will be provided, with minimal modifications to the existing low-level planter. Access-controlled storage, discreetly tucked away from the public area, can also be provided if required. Other minor amendment would be the relocation of 3 cycle stands to provide space for the new container.

Multiple design options were explored with different focus and priorities. As the result of this exercise, a single stories balance both operational needs as well as heritage advices.



Existing Entrance Zone condition

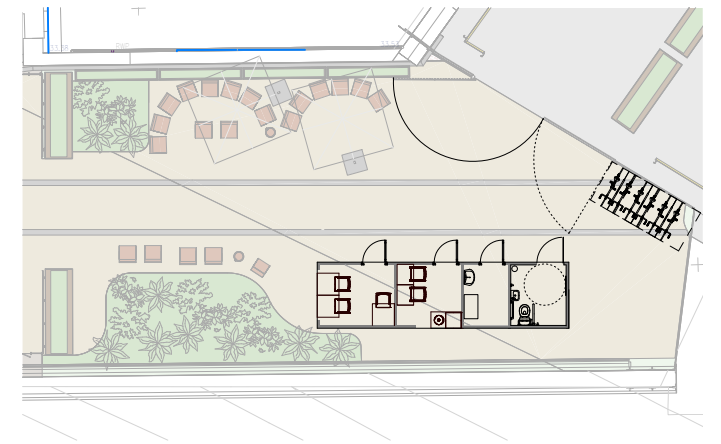
9.14x2.44m container - single storey

Pros

- Provide some facilities for staff and public usage.
- Sit below the lattice girder hence does not impact the site from heritage point of view.
- Slightly more cost effective compared to other options

Cons

- Does not satisfy the operation needs of National Trust



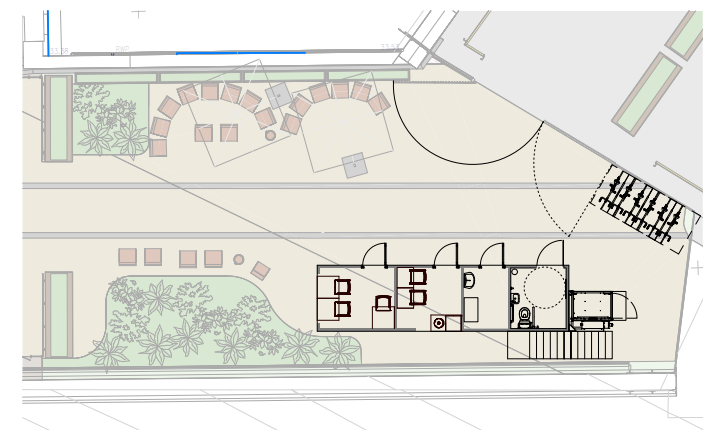
9.14x2.44m container - two-storey

Pros:

- Provide majority of the facility for staff and public usage.
- Additional roof terrace provide new experience for public and a new vantage point towards Phase 01

Cons

- Potentially impact from heritage point of view as facility height exceed the lattice Girder
- Major cost and construction sequence to install platform lift and stair



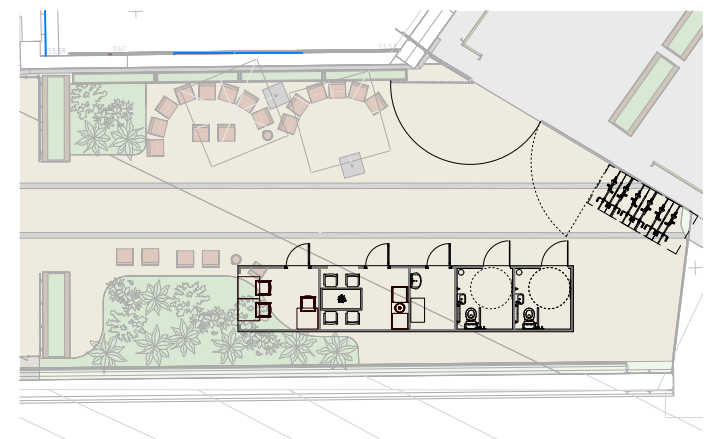
12.2x2.44m container - single storey (preferred)

Pros

- Provide space for all operational needs of staff
- Relatively cost effective
- Container is refurbished off site which facilitate quick installation
- Sit below the lattice girder hence does not impact the site from heritage point of view.

Cons

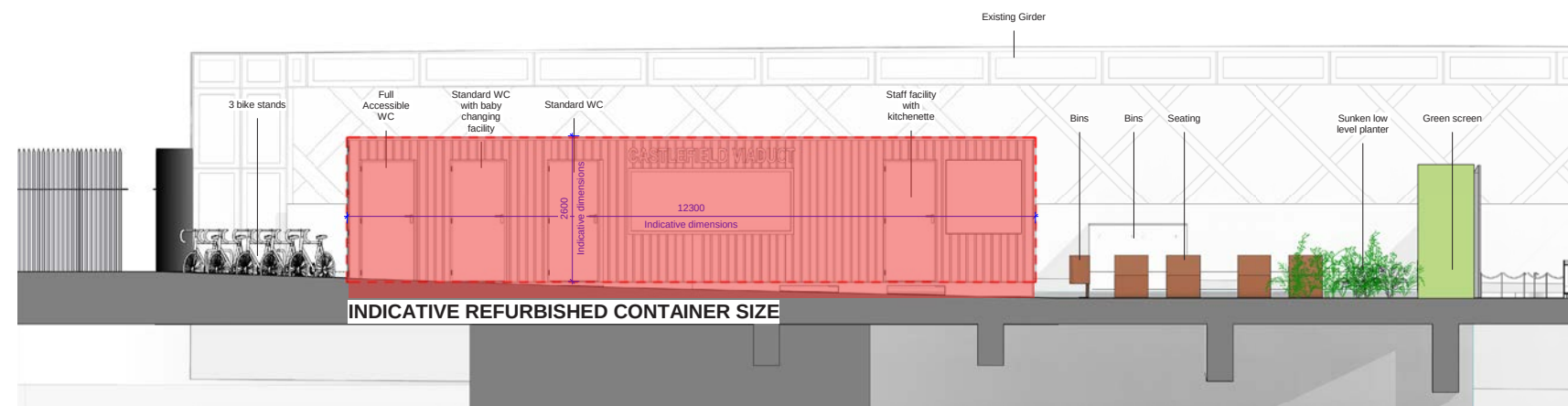
- Required remedial work on current low level planter



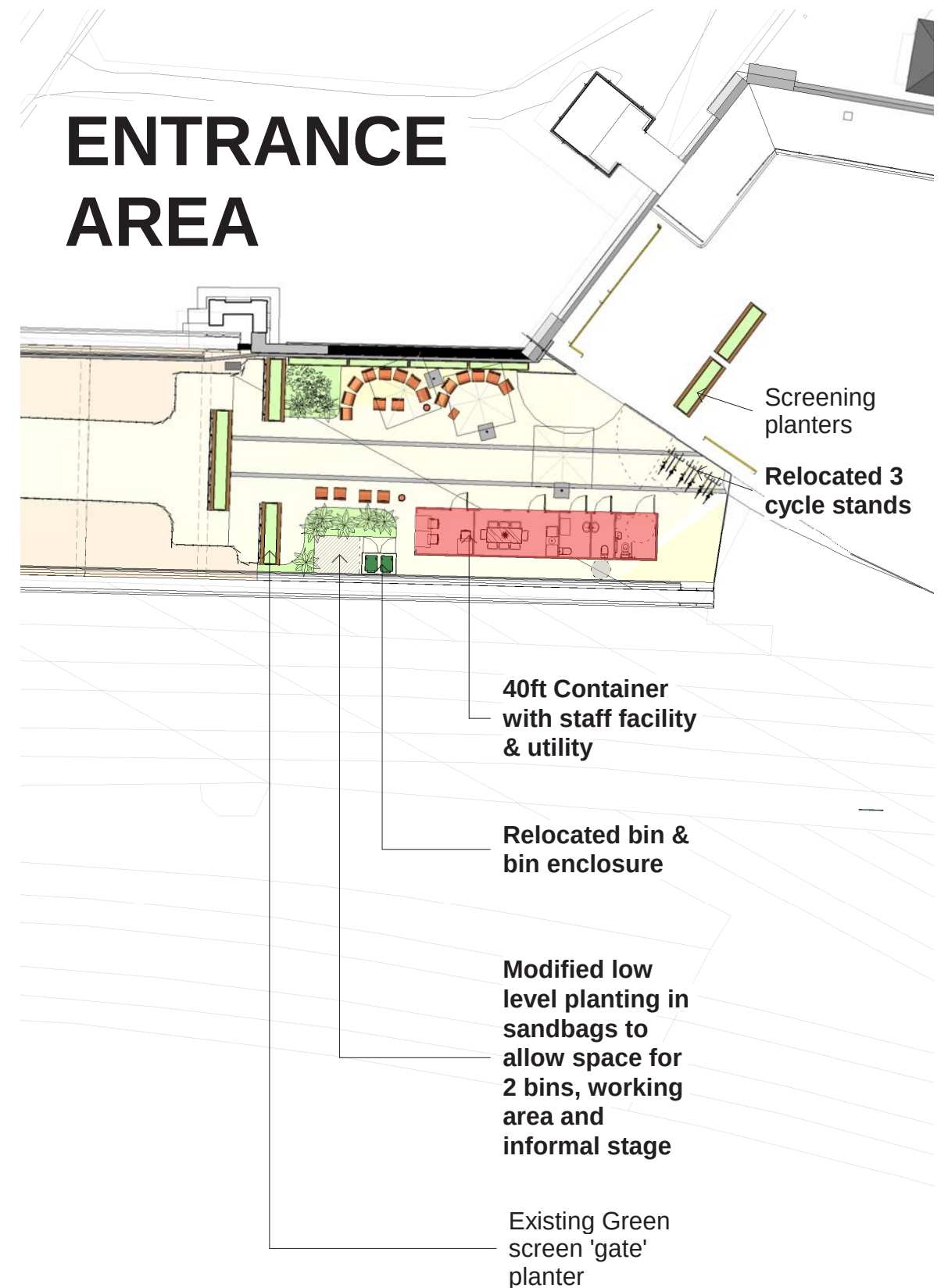
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Staff Facility Design & indicative location

The new staff facility will be situated within the boundary of the entrance area without being too obstructive to the existing girder. Additionally, as the container is located outside the steel viaduct decking, no additional structural reinforcement will be required.



Indicative size of Staff Facility including workspace, kitchenette, 1 full accessible WC, 2 standard WC with 1 baby changing facility



Indicative footprint of Staff Facility including workspace, kitchenette, 1 full accessible WC, 2 standard WC with 1 baby changing facility

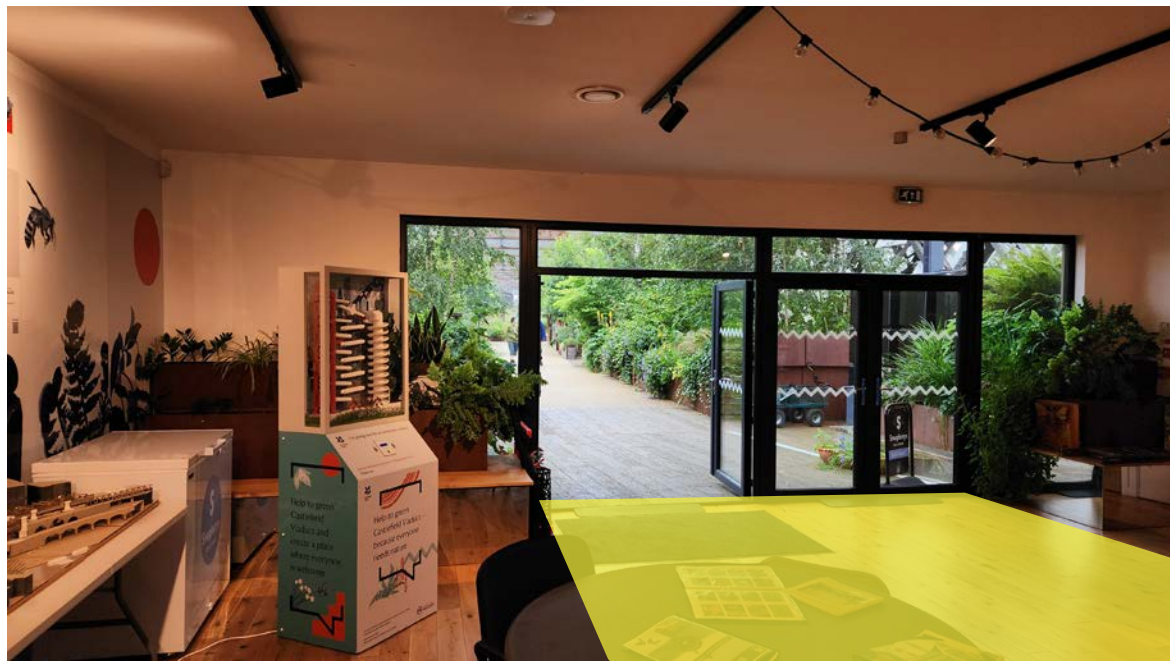
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Engagement Centre - Through route

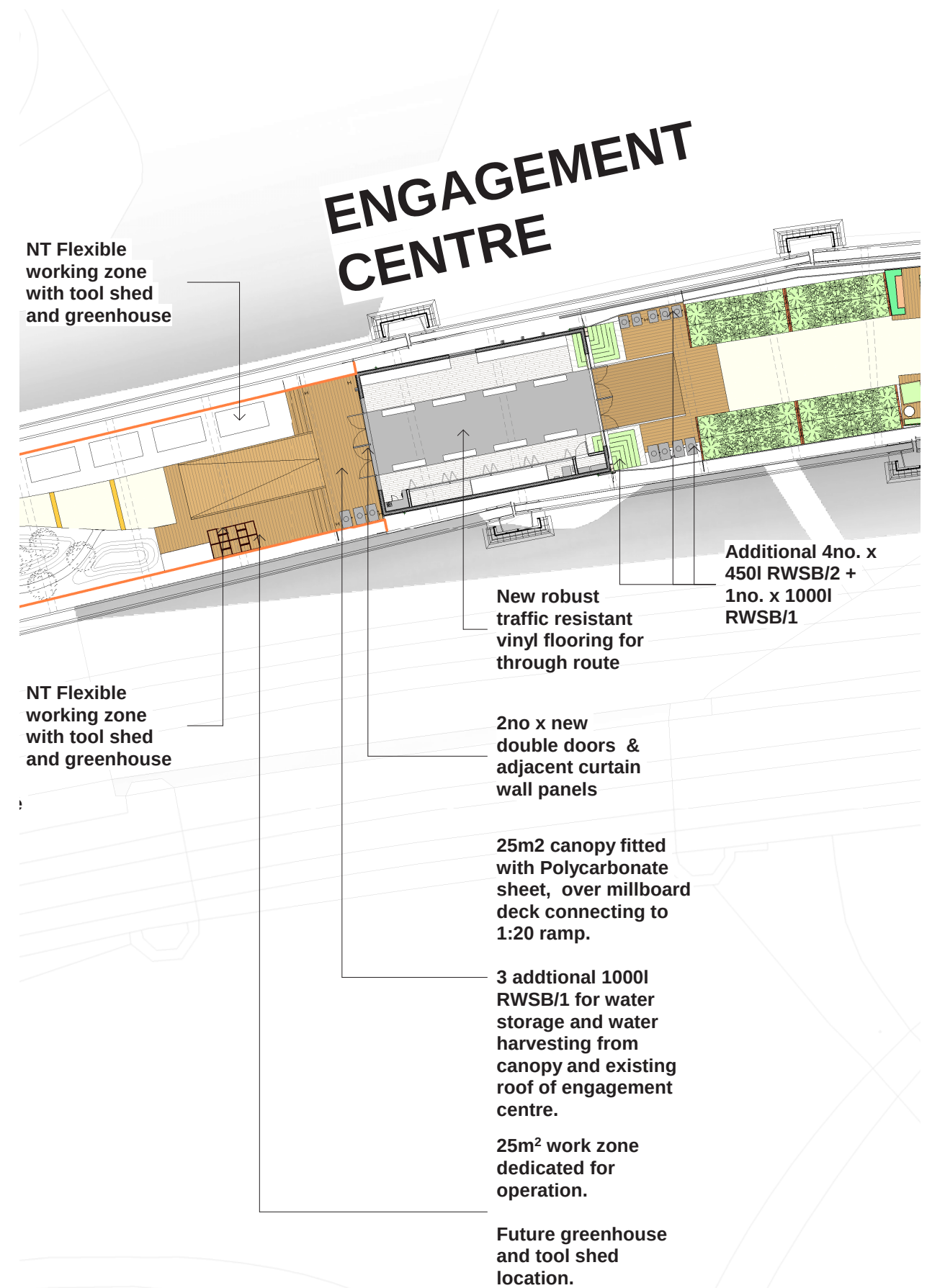
The Engagement Centre (formerly known as the Central Visitor Building) has provided a sheltered space for visitors and served as a gathering location for planned events during Phase 01. With the implementation of the through route, the Engagement Centre will feature a robust, traffic-resistant central path, as well as additional double doors similar to those in Phase 01. This central path will guide visitors towards the area that was previously confined during the pilot scheme.

While serving as a through route, the Engagement Centre will remain open during the official operating hours of the National Trust, offering exhibitions, guidelines, and information. Visitors can linger in the building to learn more about the project's details, future developments, or simply seek refuge under the Viaduct during undesirable weather conditions.

Outside of official hours when the through route is closed, the Engagement centre also has a possibility to serve as a venue for planned events, lectures as well as exhibitions.

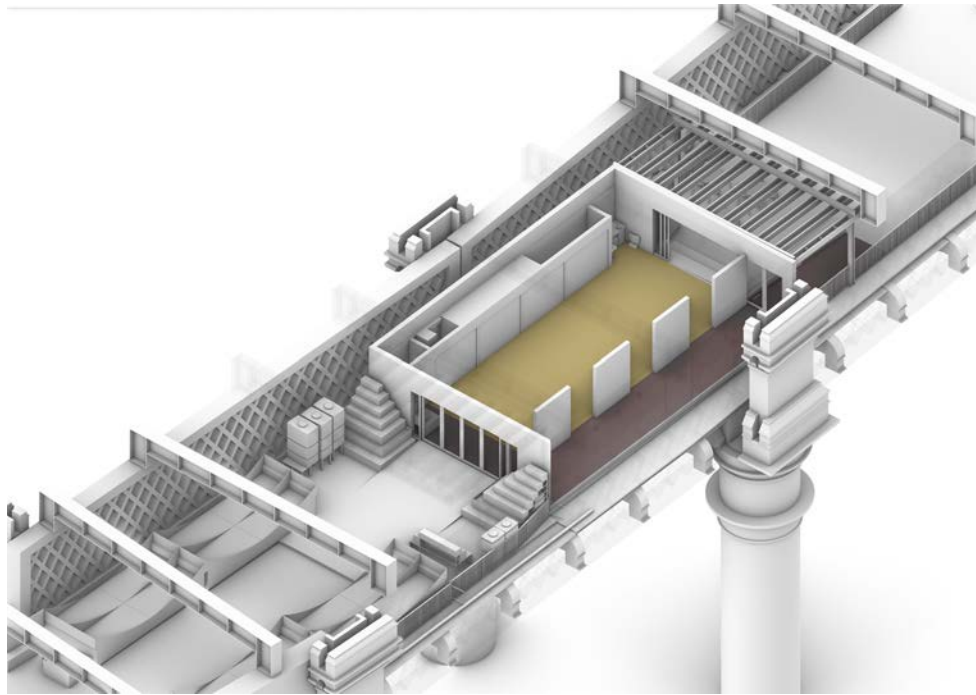


Indicative Through route location



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Engagement Centre - Through route options



Design Option 1: Side pathway

Pros

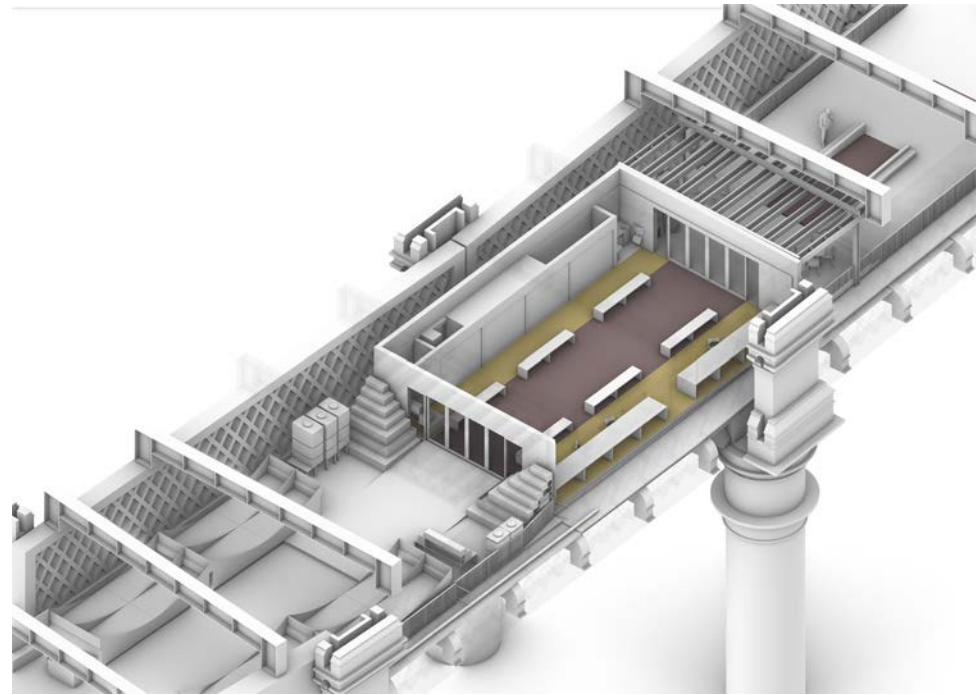
Side path does not intrude with activities taking place within the Engagement Centre thus create minimal disruption with day to day operation of National Trust staff.

Area of floor intervention is limited to one side of the building.

Corridor provide space for curated exhibition and gallery

Cons

Does not give impression of a through route hence may discourage visitors to go through the building.



Design Option 2: Central pathway

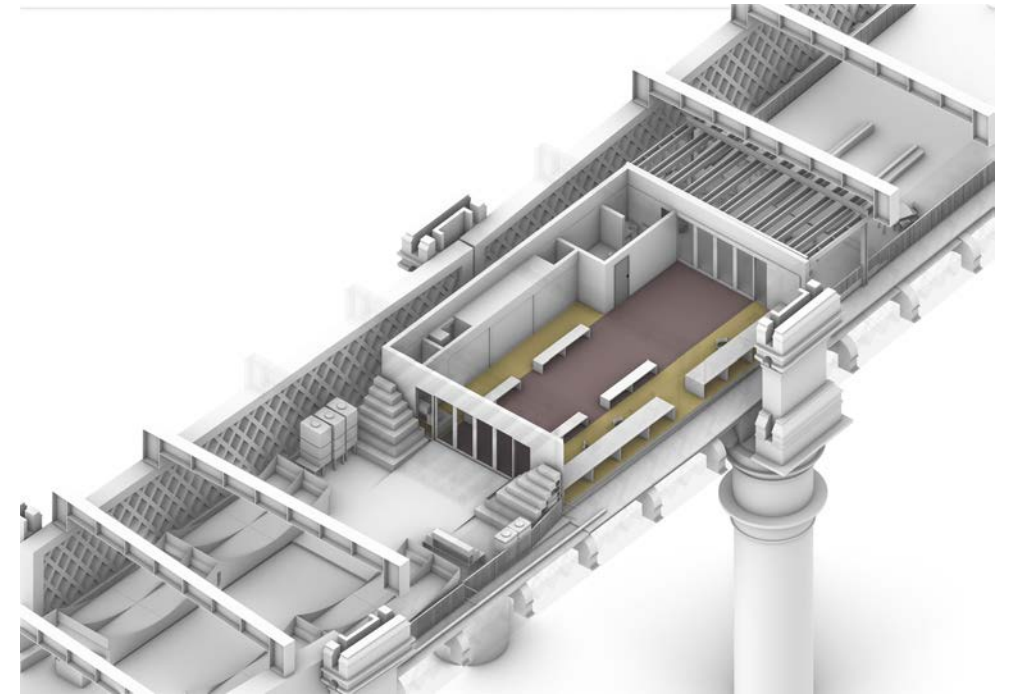
Pros

Clear indication of a through route.

Incorporate design of entrance opening out to Phase 2, creating decking that resolves level difference between Engagement Centre and Phase 02

Cons

More costly as a larger area requires floor finish replacement.



Design Option 3: Central pathway with additional staff work space

Pros

Clear indication of a through route.

Incorporate design of entrance opening out to Phase 2, creating decking that resolves level difference between Engagement Centre and Phase 02

Provide workspace for staff and resolve operational needs.

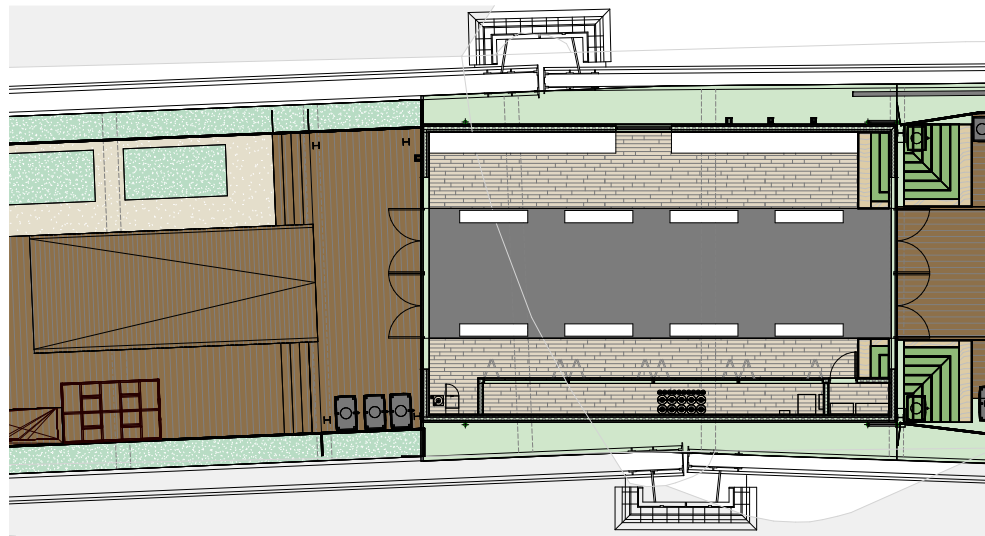
Cons

More costly as a larger area requires floor finish replacement.

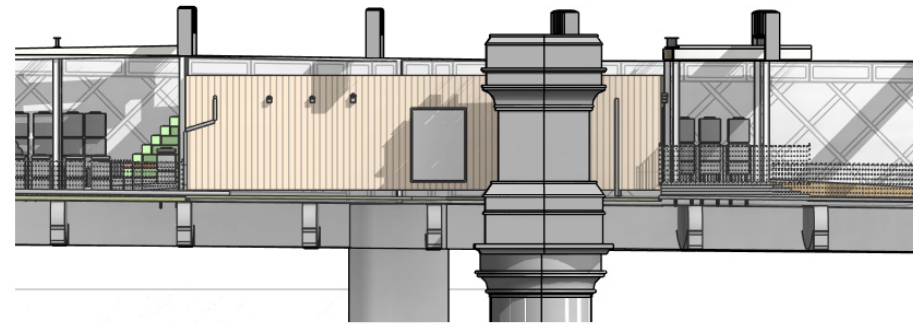
Additional cost required to install the workspace.

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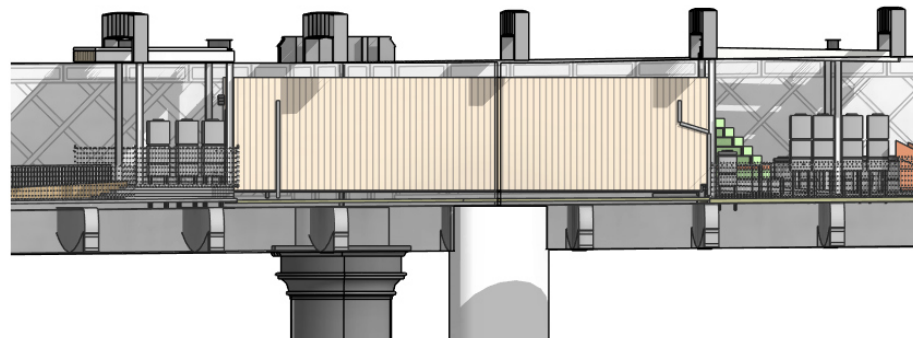
Engagement Centre - Final Design



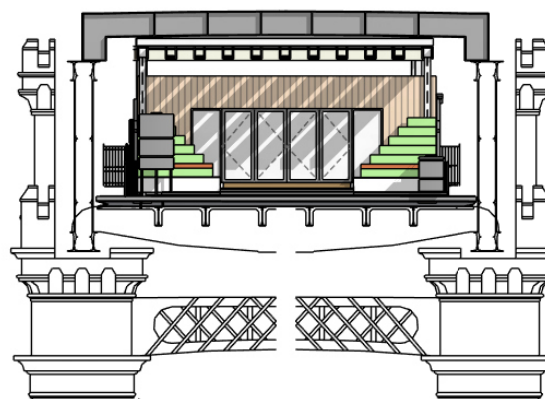
1 (PL) PLAN
1 : 100



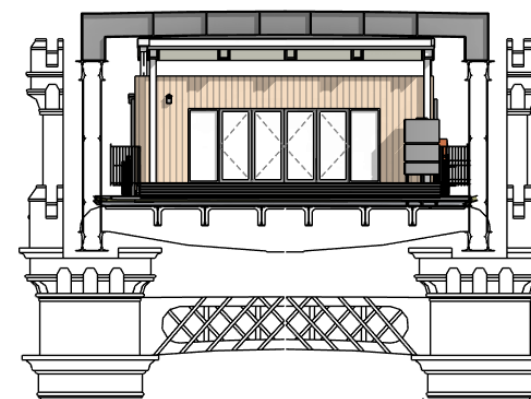
3 (PL) NORTH ELEVATION
1 : 100



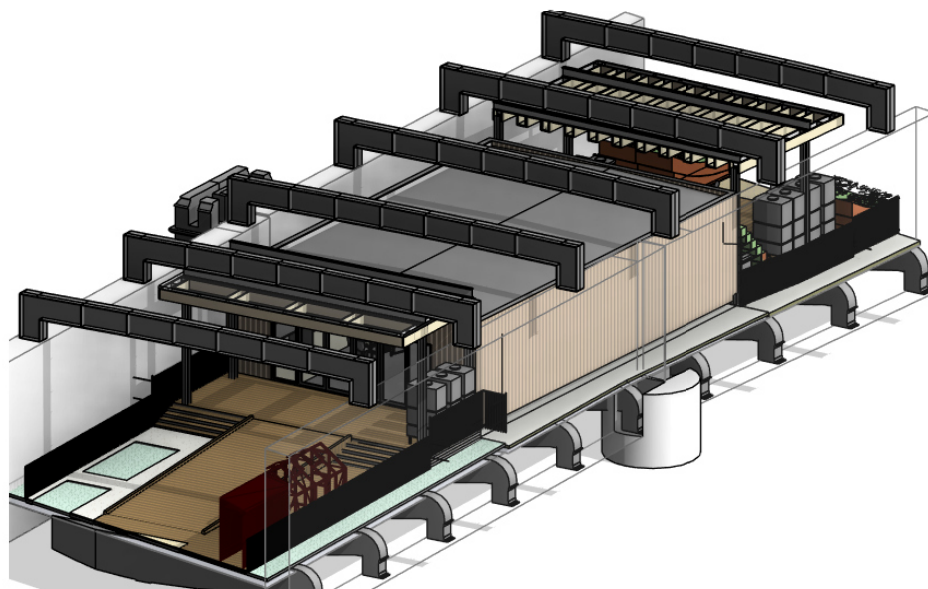
4 (PL) SOUTH ELEVATION
1 : 100



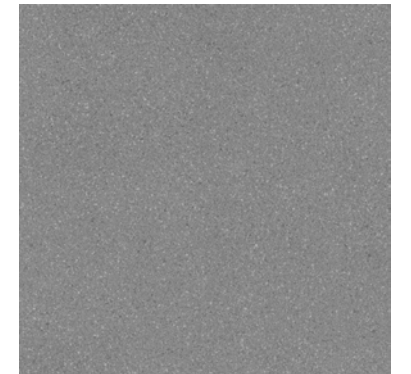
5 (PL) EAST (FRONT) ELEVATION
1 : 100



6 (PL) WEST (REAR) ELEVATION
1 : 100



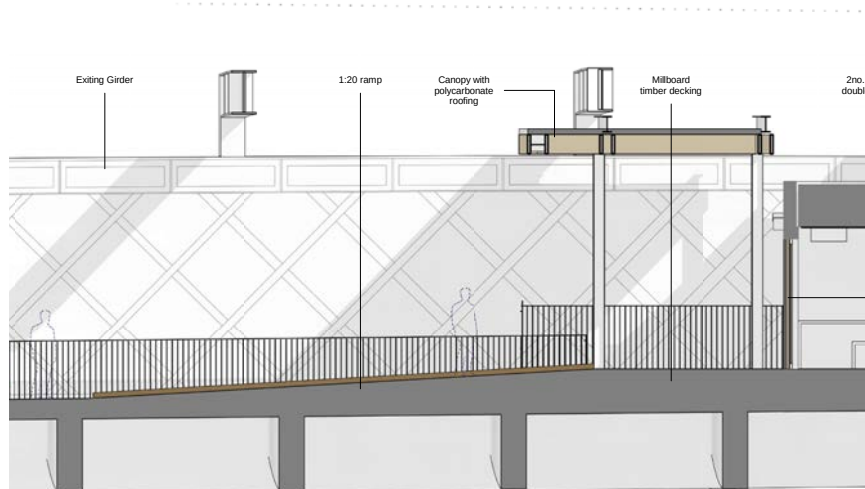
2 (PL) 3D
1 : 100



Anti-slip Vinyl flooring (Sand)

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Engagement Centre - Decking & Canopy Design



Additional decking and a canopy were designed to provide shelter for visitors upon exiting the Engagement Centre. The canopy will be equipped with a polycarbonate sheet roof to contribute to stormwater harvesting. Lighting is also incorporated to illuminate the entrance and ensure easy wayfinding.



Canopy timber plank cladding



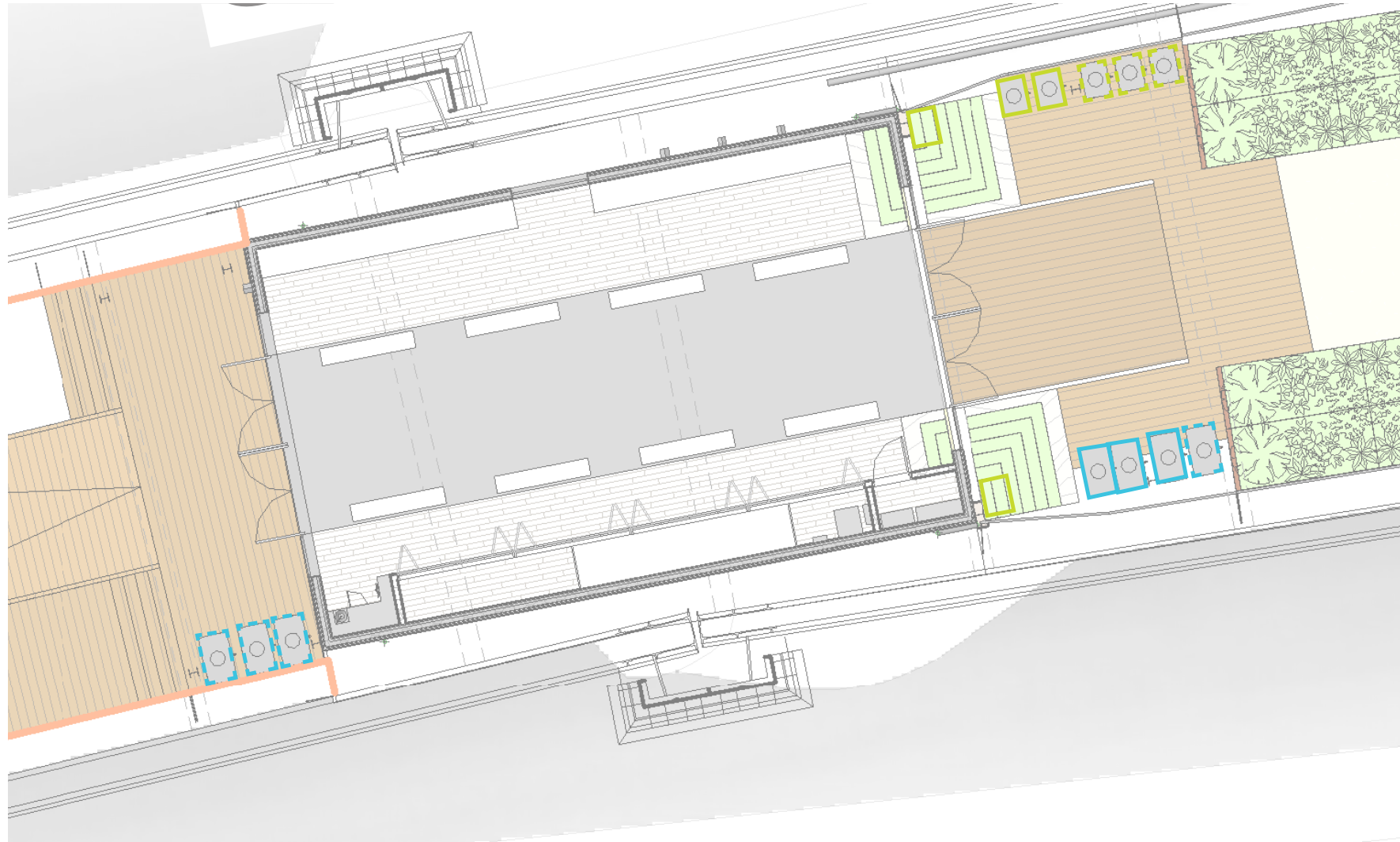
Polycarbonate sheet (roofing)



Millboard decking (weather oak)

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Engagement Centre | Additional Rain Storm Water Butts (RSWB)



The additional planting area of Phase 02 requires a significant increase in water storage for maintenance and watering. This necessitates approximately four additional 1000L Rain Water Storage Butts (RWSB) and three 450L RWSB, increasing the watering capacity of the site to approximately 2.4 times the current capacity. Similar to the water strategy in Phase 01, these RWSBs will store water collected from the roof of the Engagement Centre. The new canopy at the Engagement Centre entrance will also increase the surface area for sustainable water harvesting. Additional irrigation systems will be incorporated into the detailed design post-planning.

- Existing 450L RWSB
- - - New 450L RWSB
- Existing 1000L RWSB
- - - New 1000L RWSB



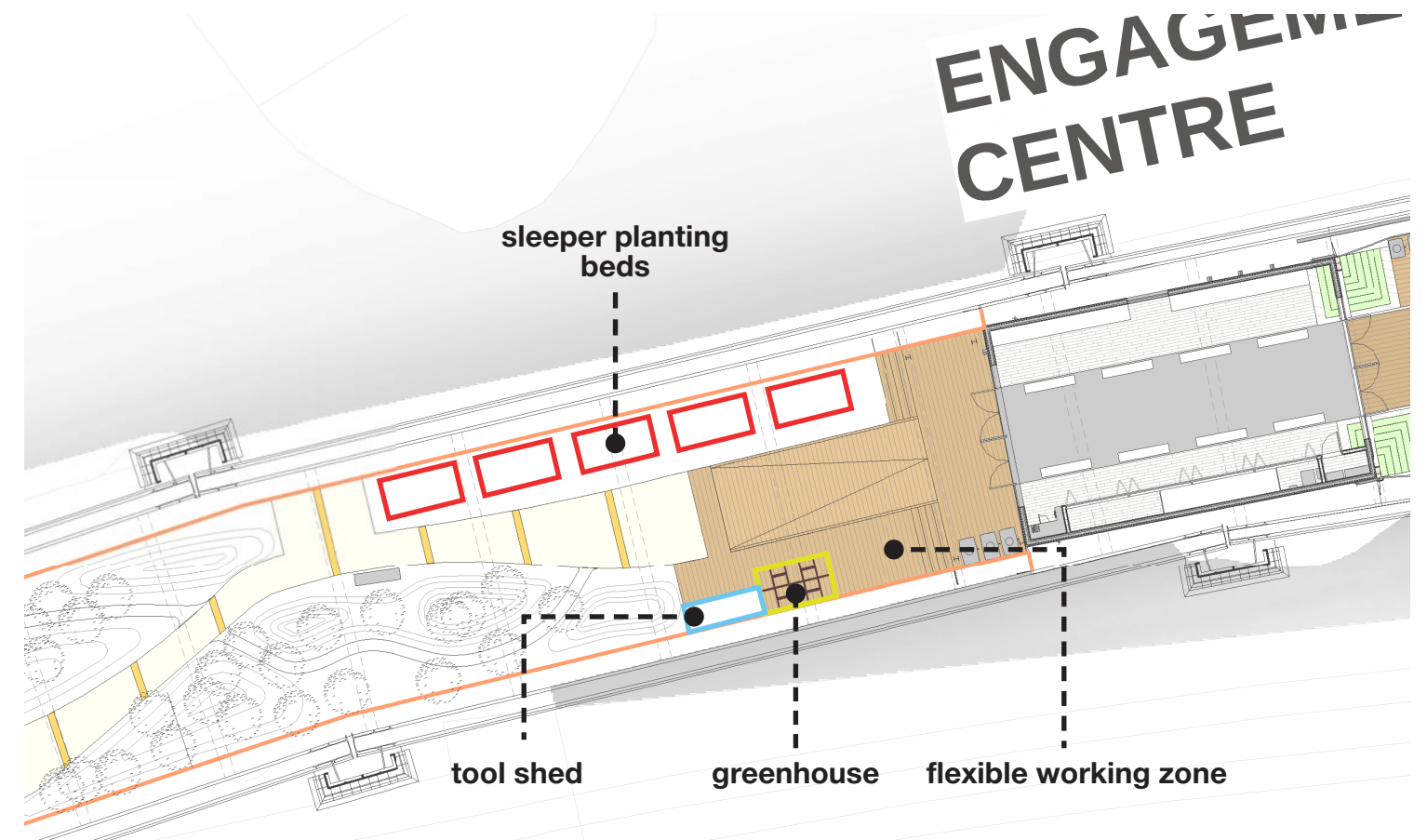
Existing RSWBs on site and proposed silhouette of additional RSWBs

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The Garden - Horticultural zone, Green house, Tool shed & Sleeper planting bed

In discussions with the National Trust, to facilitate maintenance of the Garden and promote local horticultural activities, Phase 02 Garden will include a horticultural zone dedicated to planting and nursery, featuring a new greenhouse and a dedicated work shed.

The horticultural zone is directly connected to the flexible work zone and 5 sleeper planting beds, allowing horticultural events and workshops to utilize this adjacent space.



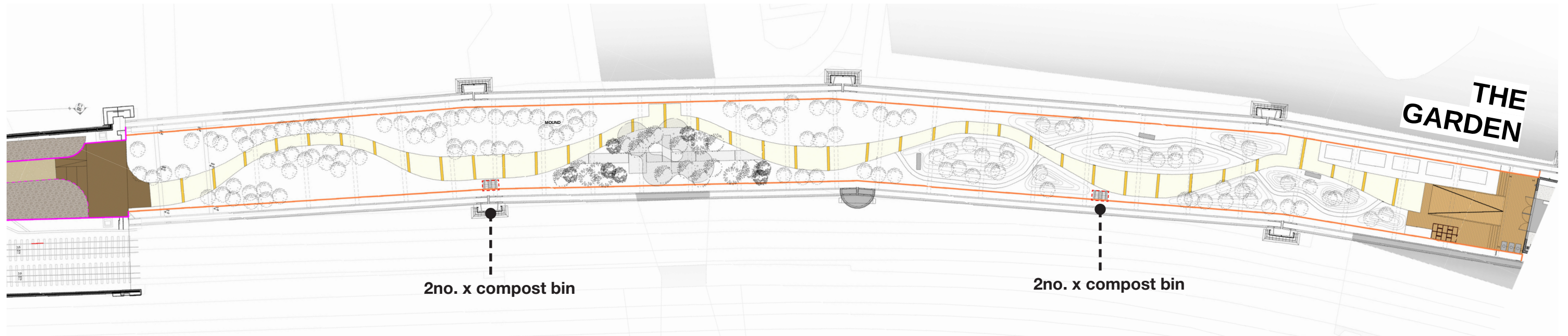
Timber sleeper planting bed in Phase 01



Proposed Horticultural Zone

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The Garden | Compost bins



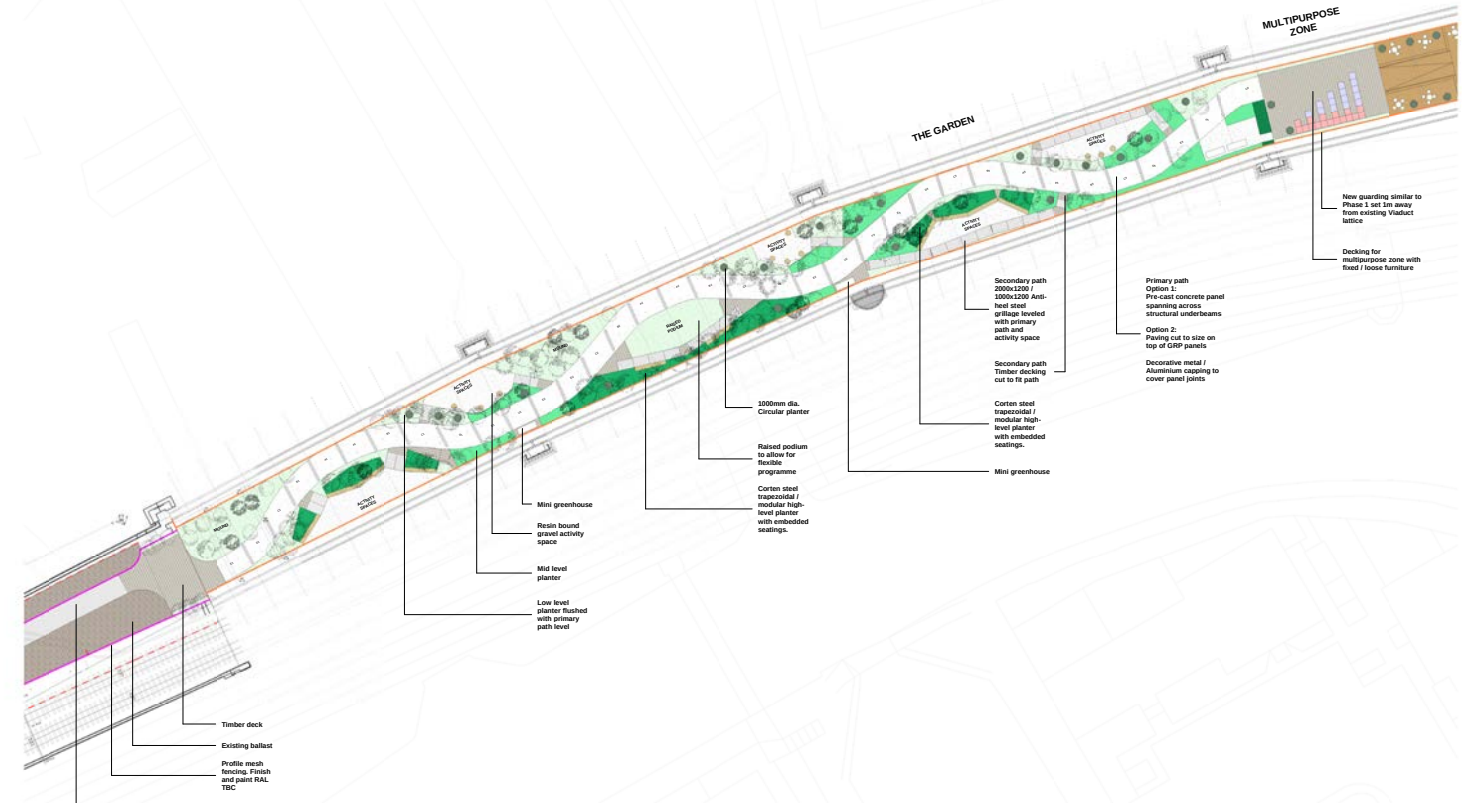
To further facilitate planting and maintenance of the Garden, 4no. x Compost bins will be provided throughout the entire length of the garden.



The Garden - Layout options

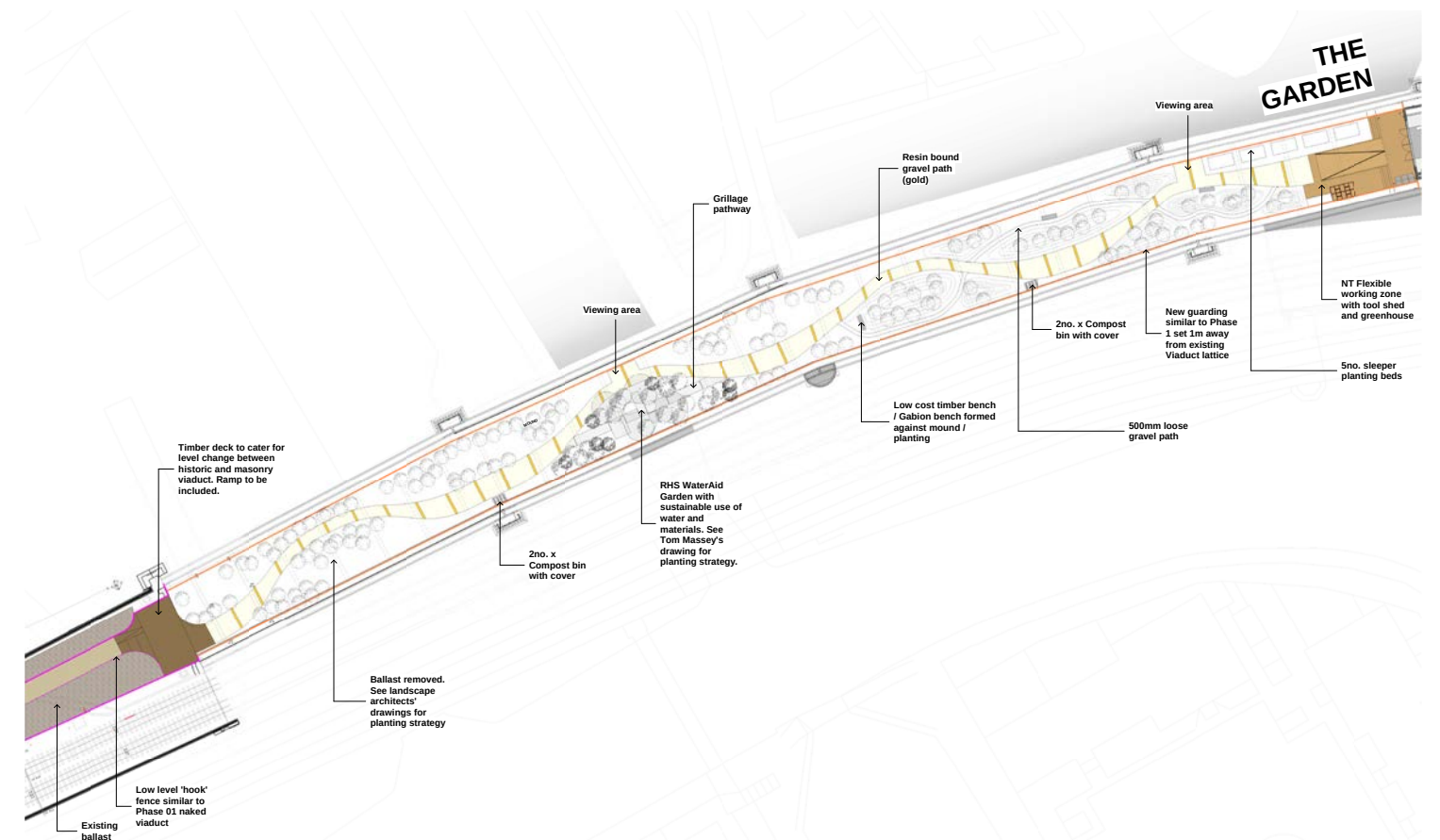
Masterplan shown in Pre-App Meetings

- Eight main segments: Entrance Area / Naked Viaduct with WaterAid Garden / Partner Plots / Engagement Centre / Multipurposed Zone / The Garden / the Broadwalk / Egerton Egress.
- Meandering primary concrete modular path through the Garden
- Secondary grillage path leading to curated activity spaces
- Custom multi-tiered planter.
- Raised metal walkway over masonry viaduct connecting the garden and Egerton Egress.



Current Masterplan.

- Seven main segments: Entrance Area / Naked Viaduct / Partner Plots / Engagement Centre / The Garden / The Broadwalk / Egerton Egress.
- WaterAid Garden moves to second phase and become the part of the Garden
- Multipurposed zone merged with Horticultural zone
- Meandering primary resin-bound gravel path through the Garden instead of concrete for construction feasibility and cost efficiency.
- Secondary path reduced to curated geocell retained gravel path through dedicated pocket of the garden.
- Custom multi-tiered planter removed. Ballast to be removed to ensure structural allowance for planting and rid context contamination. Landscape focuses on using top soil mound to create the garden.
- Raised metal walkway over masonry viaduct omitted. Straight geocell retained gravel path connecting the garden and Egerton Egress.



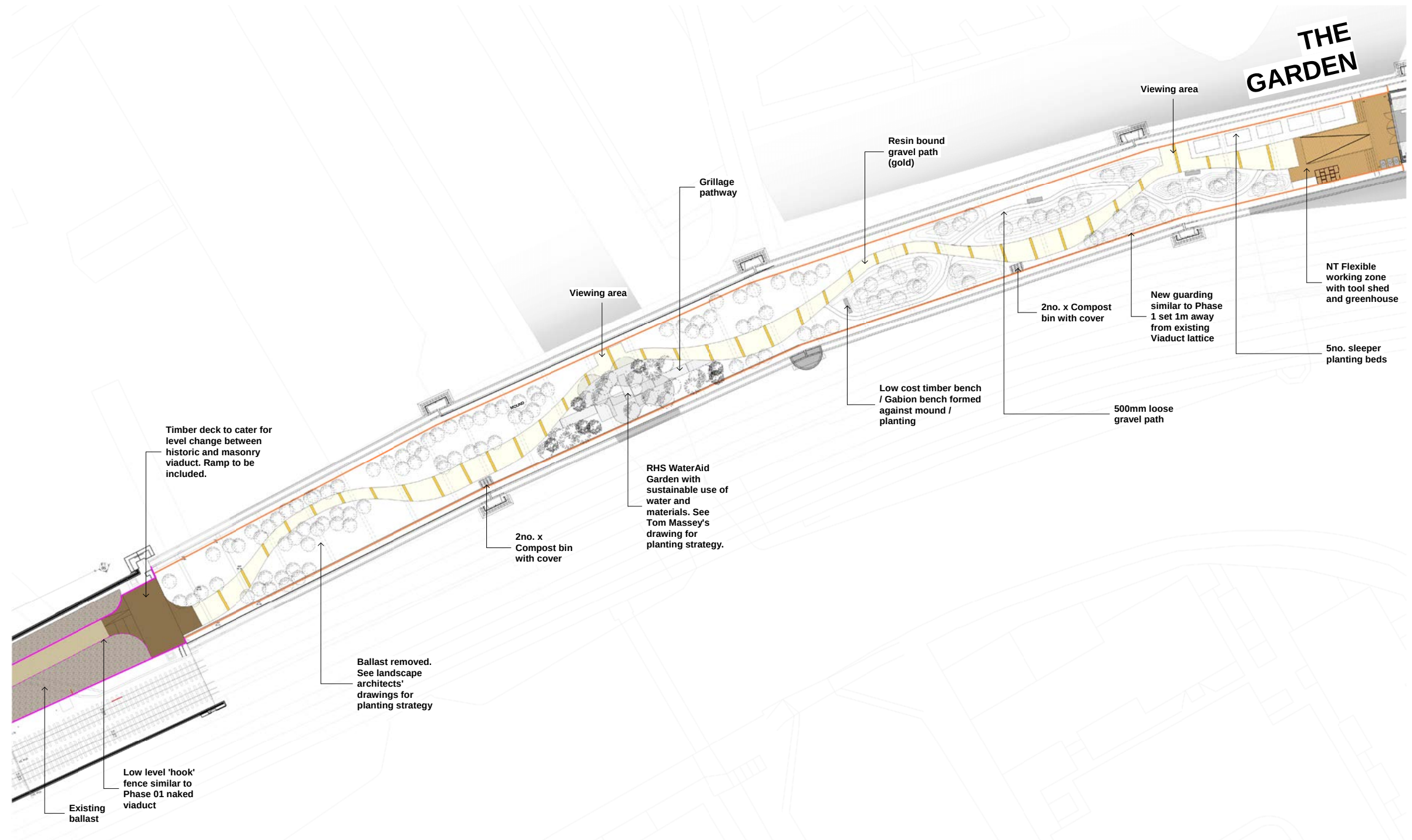
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The Garden | Primary path design

The meandering path running through the urban garden serves as the central spine, winding its way through the lush landscape. Designed to guide visitors on a journey of discovery, this path offers glimpses of various garden zones and invites self-guided exploration, viewing moments and walks.

Generally 3m wide, the primary path is thinned out at specific points to create strategic view point towards Manchester landmark as well as avoid invading the privacy of neighbouring development

This meandering path is more than just a walkway; it is a journey through a thoughtfully designed urban garden, connecting various elements and activities while celebrating the garden's unique structural and community features.



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The Garden | Primary path materiality

Made from coloured resin-bound gravel to ensure cost-effectiveness, this approach allows for easy installation and maintenance, providing a seamless and uniform appearance throughout the garden.

Decorative metal cappings are added along the path to reveal the location of the existing viaduct underbeams—a feature that tends to be hidden and obscured. These metal cappings not only serve as a visual guide to the viaduct's structure but also add an artistic and industrial touch to the pathway.

The surface of the pathway can also be engraved or cast to memorialize the names of contributing sponsors and institutions who made the project a success. This feature not only honors their support but also creates a historical record for visitors to appreciate.



Resin Bound Gravel (gold)



Indicative metal capping



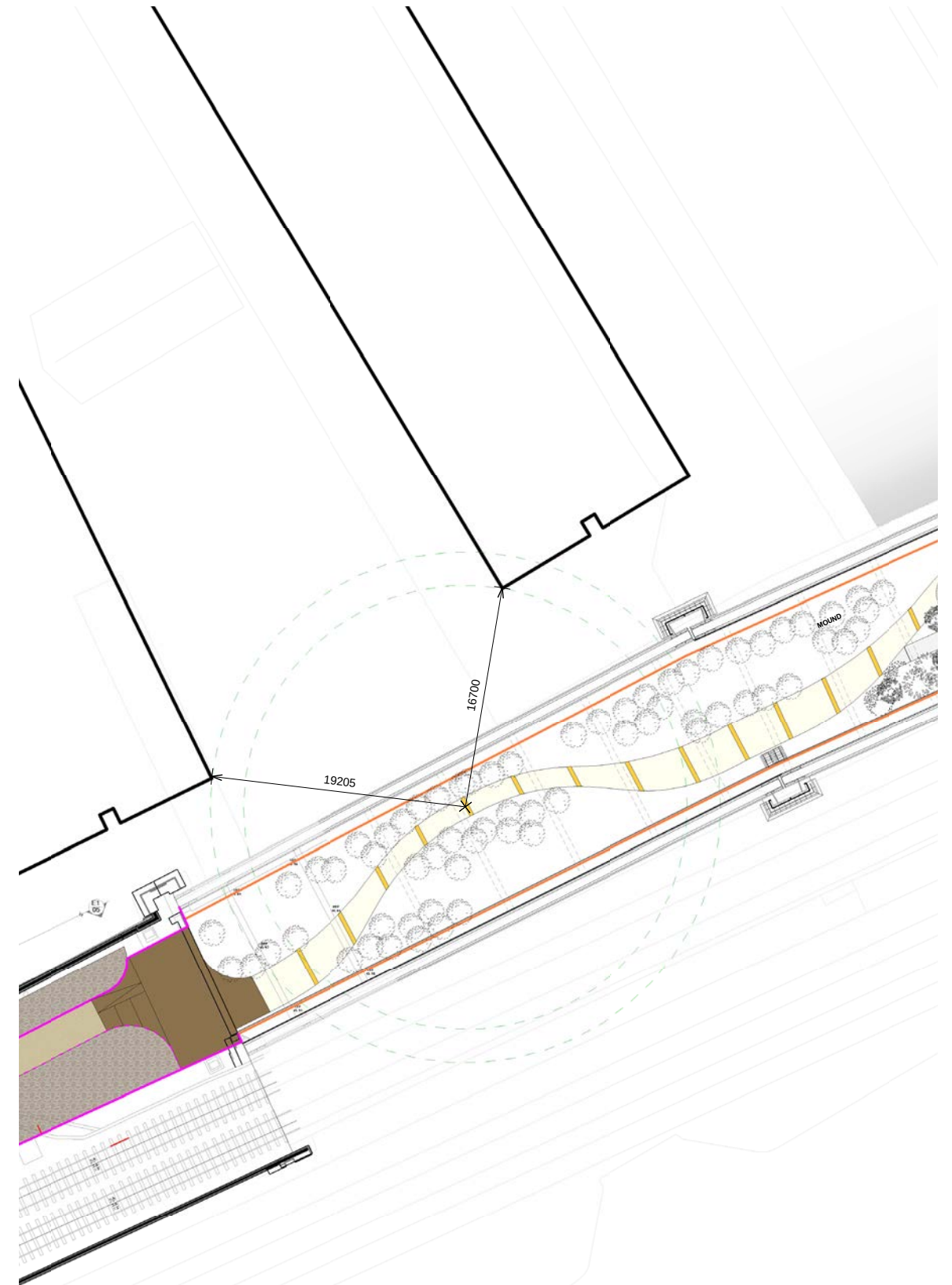
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The Garden | Proximity from nearby Residence

Generally 3 meters wide, the primary path narrows at specific points to create strategic viewpoints towards Manchester landmarks and to avoid invading the privacy of neighbouring developments.

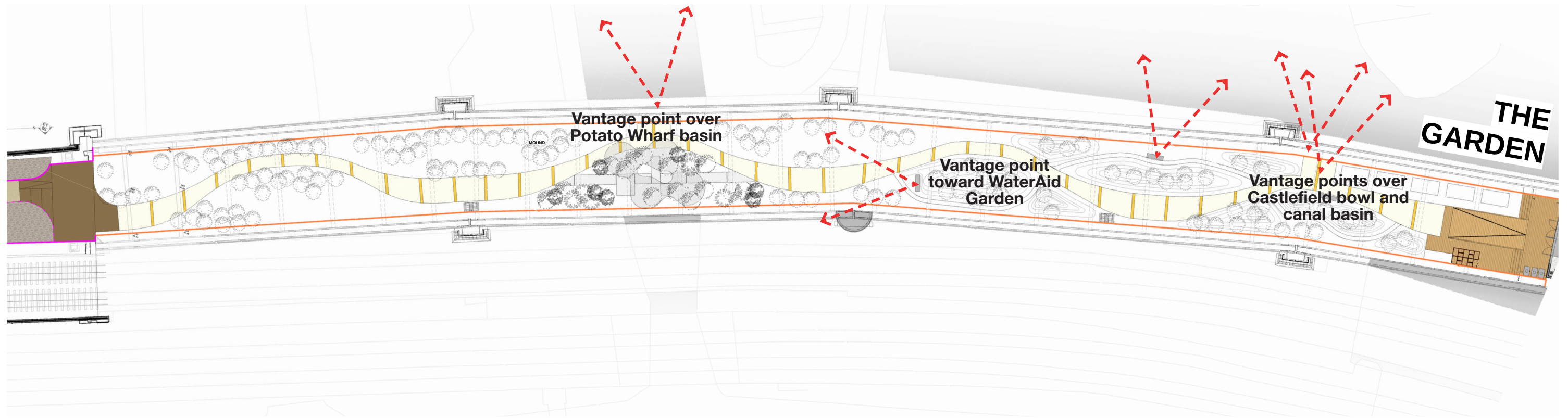
By thinning the path to 1.5 meters at these locations, the distance from the center point of the path to the nearest residential development ranges between 15 and 20 meters.

Additional planting will help screen the area and provide privacy for residents in these existing developments, ensuring a balance between public enjoyment and residential tranquillity.



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The Garden | Framing the view & urban furniture



Timber/ gabion benches are strategically positioned throughout the park to capitalize on vantage views of major attractions within the urban park.

These seating offer visitors the best perspectives of the WaterAid Garden, historic viaduct, canal basins and other landmarks over Manchester skyline.



View toward WaterAid Garden