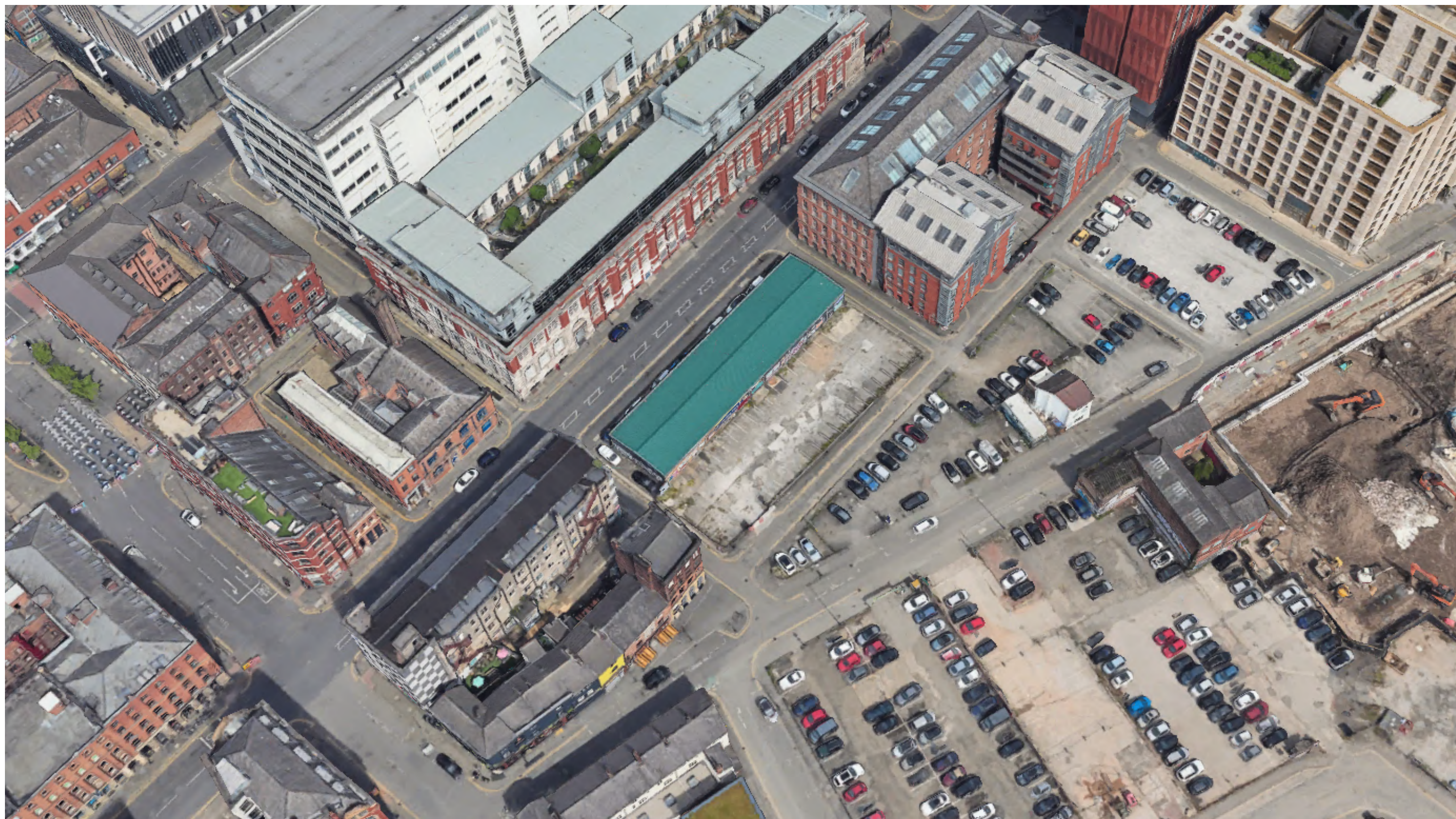




## Postal Street, Manchester

Landscape & Public Realm Strategy

1196-RFM-XX-00-RP-L-0002 P04

17.12.2025

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Purpose of this Document

This document has been collated to outline how the landscape and public realm proposals have developed alongside the building design. It discusses the following key analysis elements which have informed its direction:

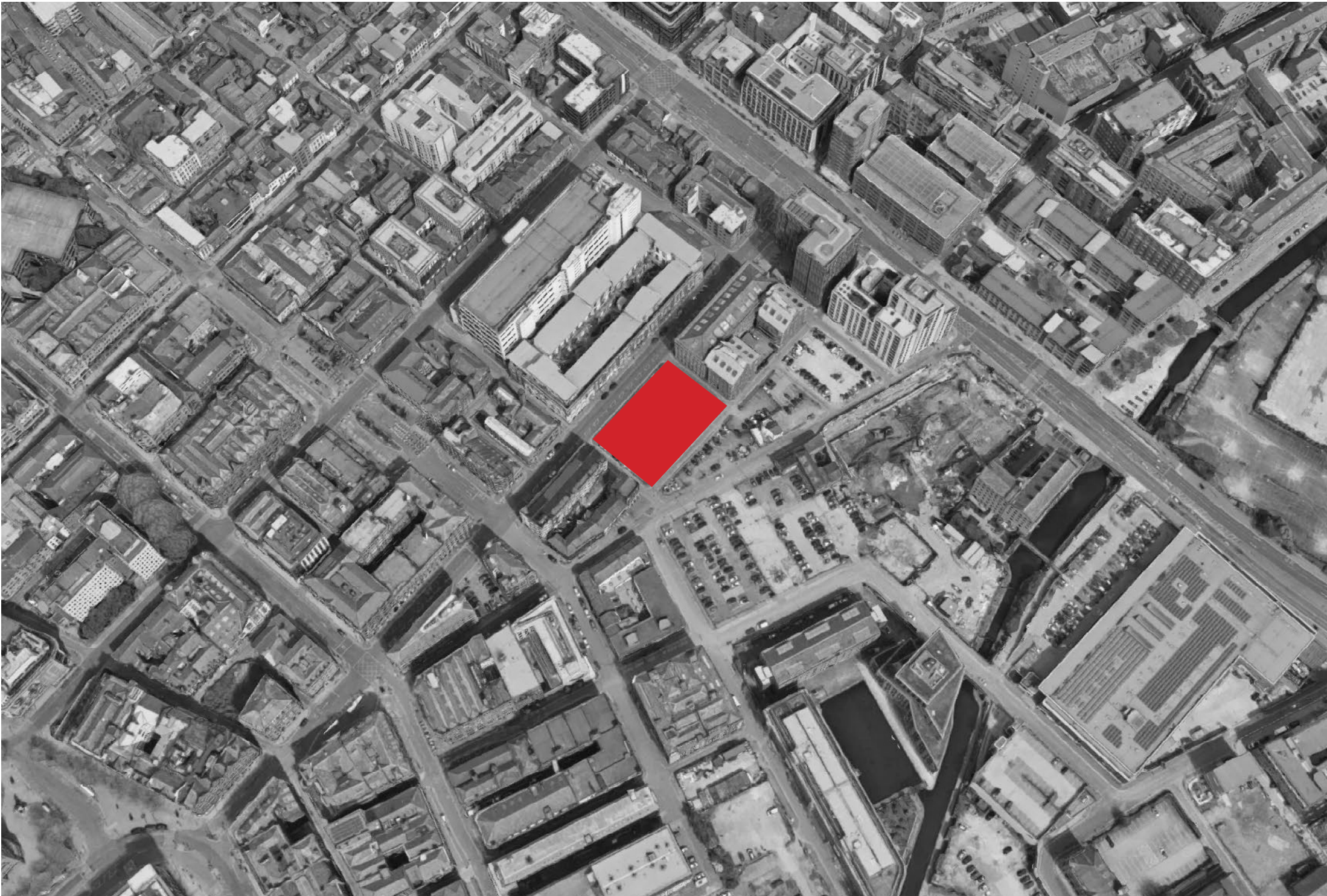
- Location and connections to public open space amenity
- Visual characteristics of the area
- Permeability and movement
- Frontages and activity
- Microclimate

The document then goes on to outline a concept and approach, capturing a series of vision principles and targetted areas of improvements.

The final section of the document illustrates the design proposals in more detail through sections, axonometric drawings, plans and precedent imagery. A summary of materiality covering hard, soft and street furniture elements concludes the content of the document.

Contents

|     |                        |       |
|-----|------------------------|-------|
| 01. | Introduction & Context | Pg 04 |
| 02. | Site Analysis          | Pg 05 |
| 03. | Concept & Approach     | Pg 07 |
| 04. | Landscape Proposals    | Pg 08 |



Site Location

Local Character

The Northern Quarter is known for its vibrant, artistic, and eclectic character, and both Newton Street and Faraday Street contribute to the area's reputation as a creative, gritty, and diverse neighbourhood, which combines industrial history with modern-day cultural energy.

Newton Street is lined with buildings that were once warehouses, factories, and mills, but many have been re-purposed for modern uses, such as offices, studios, shops, and apartments. This gives Newton Street a blend of old industrial architecture with a contemporary twist with the Sorting House building to the west, and Wentwood building to the north offering the most significant heritage character.

Connection to key public open space

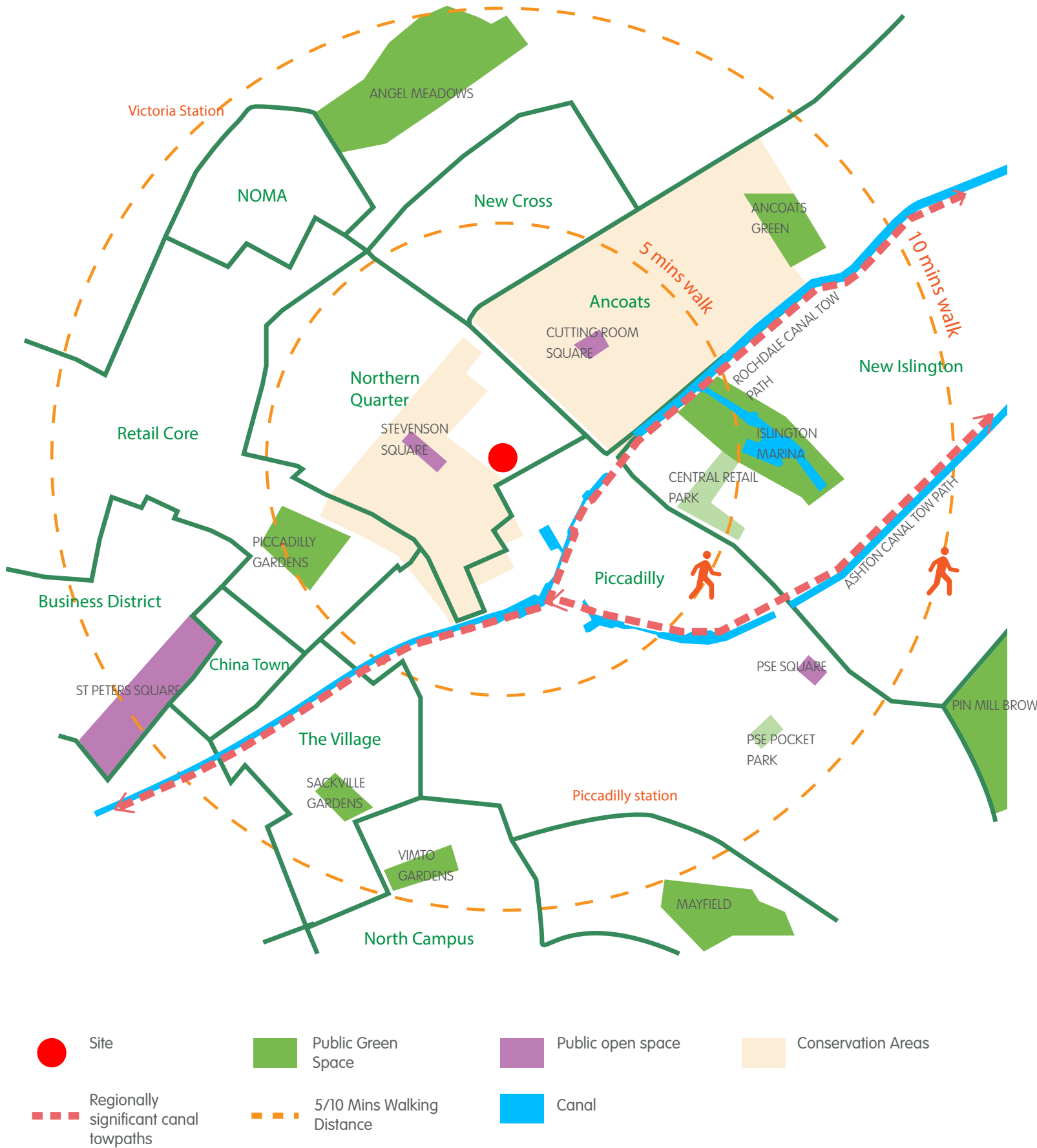
The site offers direct access to key public open spaces within 5 minutes walk. Stevenson Square and Cutting Room Square, both of which are more urban in character are within 200m. Piccadilly Gardens and Islington Marina offer access to green open space with further opportunities for seating, walking and more active uses. The Marina offers access to the Rochdale and Ashton canals footpaths which link north east to Philips Park and Clayton Vale. These parks are about 25 minutes walk away and of a regional scale, providing opportunity for access to more natural spaces. Mayfield Park and Pin Mill Brow are also within 10minutes walk of the site.

Opportunities

The site extent is limited with existing roads constraining it. However, there are opportunities to change the functions of these roads so they better support the new uses and establish more pedestrian focussed surroundings.

Broadly, the landscape proposals aim to:

- Reduce vehicle movements around the building
- Improve footpaths and connections
- Enrich the sites biodiversity
- Create active streets building on the success of Port Street



# Landscape & Public Realm Strategy

## 02 Site Analysis

### Site Context

The site is tight, as a result of the grid of streets that surround it and is synonymous of urban blocks within this area of the northern quarter.

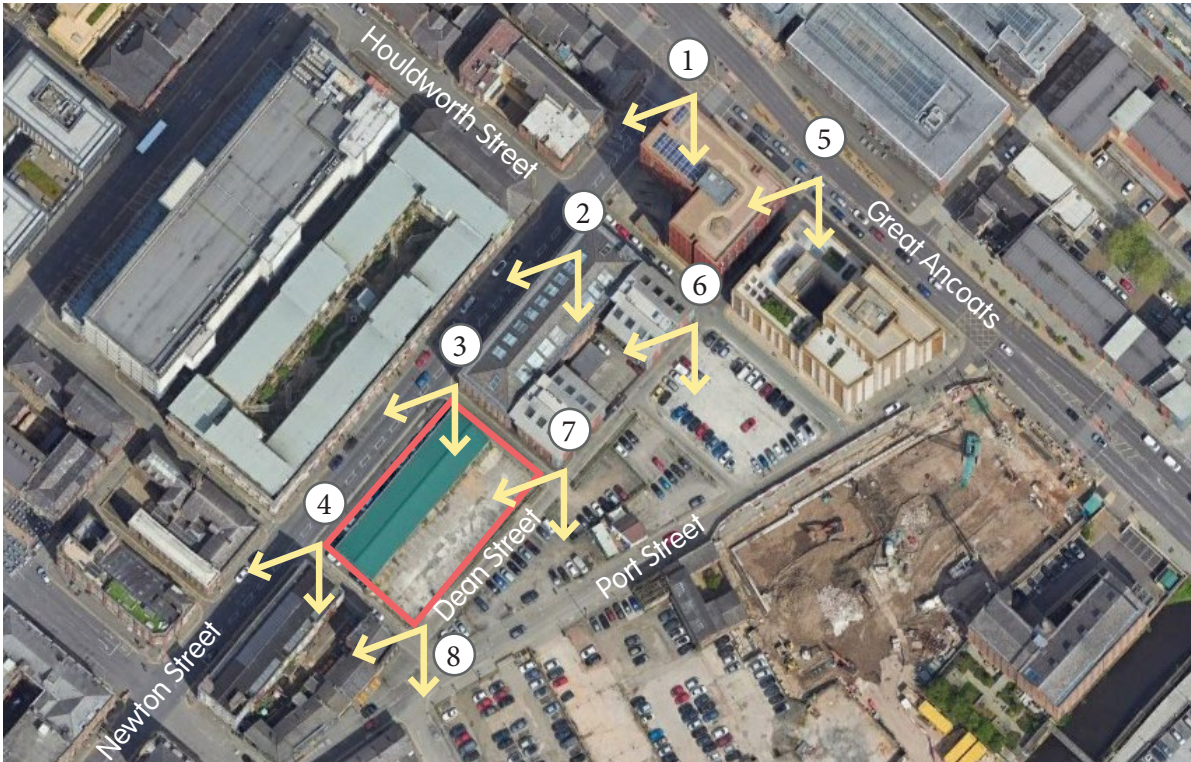
Within these blocks buildings sit to the back of pavements and there are limited areas where broader spaces are available for seating or points to pause.

The materials palette within the public realm is mixed, which contributes to the diverse character of the northern quarter. However, tarmac is the dominant material used for the footpaths, creating a functional flow throughout the streets.

Some of the more recent developments in the area have paved curtilages. These are generally in a standard concrete flag, largely buff, square format with a smooth finish. Whilst these are functional as a surface they do not marry with the more creative, gritty nature of the area.

In certain instances sandstone has been used to mark entrance points. This displays some natural variation in its appearance so feels more in keeping with the area.

The streetscape surrounding the immediate site is laid to tarmac. Newton Street offers a wide footpath which is representative of it being a primary connecting route but the connecting east west streets are much tighter. This is particularly evident along Faraday Street where the paths are less than a metre in width which cause pedestrians to walk along the carriageway.



Photograph location points



① View at junction of Newton Street and Great Ancoats looking south



② View from the Wentwood on Newton Street, looking south



③ View from The Site on Newton Street, looking south



④ View from Marlsbro House looking south



⑤ View at junction of Dean Street and Great Ancoats looking south



⑥ View from the Wentwood on Dean Street, looking south



⑦ View from The Site on Dean Street, looking south



⑧ View from junction of Dean Street and Faraday Street looking south

Aspect

The site is orientated in a north easterly direction with a first floor roof space facing in a south easterly direction. The roof space receives a good level of light throughout the year with several hours of direct sunlight throughout the day.

Connectivity & Movement

The site sits on Newton Street, one of the key movement corridors from Piccadilly Gardens through the northern quarter and on to Ancoats and New Islington. It has direct links to Stevenson Square, Thomas Street and Oldham Street in the heart of the northern quarter.

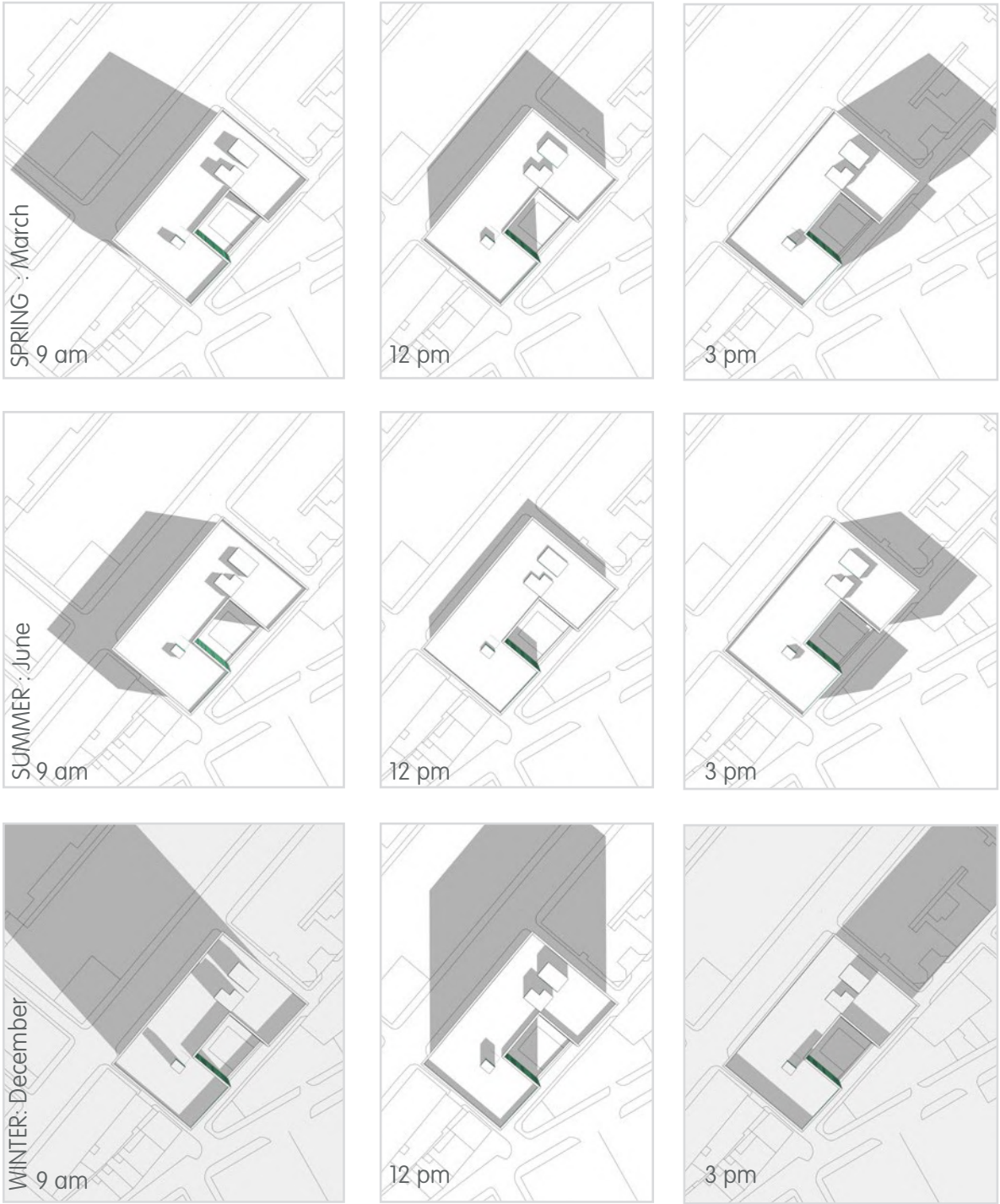
Port Street to the east of the site performs a key pedestrian and cycle connection from Piccadilly Train Station through to Ancoats. Dean Street sits as a secondary spur to this and facilitates some pedestrian movement, but it is not seen as a primary connecting route.

Faraday Street offers some east west permeability through the area but the path widths mean pedestrians are forced to use the carriageway.

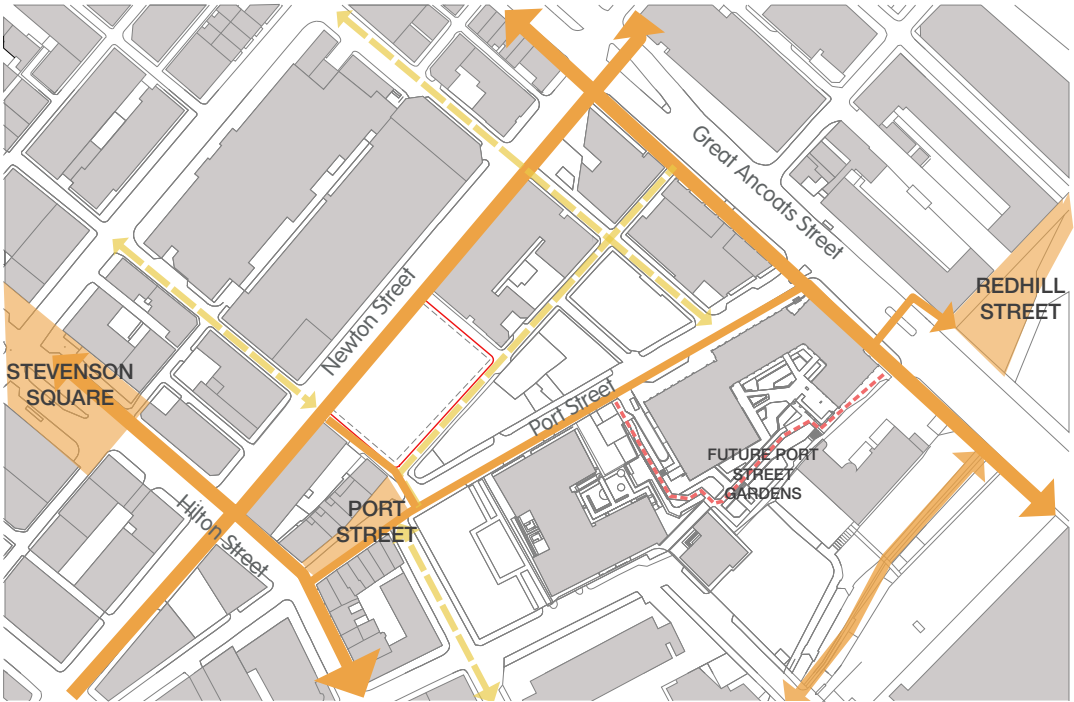
Frontages and Activation

Activation is evident along Newton Street in the form of front doors and key entrances to residential blocks. This encourages footfall, movement and adds a vibrancy to the street. This is more and more evident as you move south along the street towards Piccadilly Gardens where front doors become shop and cafes frontages.

To the east of the site, along Port Street there is a cluster of shops, pubs, bars and cafes which create a vibrant frontage street. Here footpaths widen out and offer opportunity for spillout, with seating and tables marking the edge of Faraday Street.

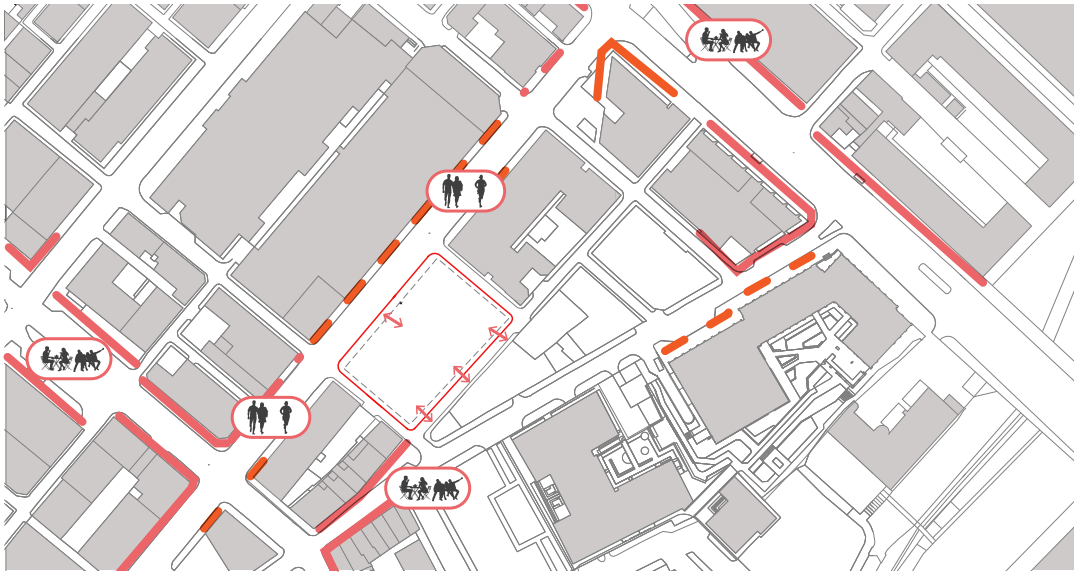


Sun/Shade Analysis  
Enhance and activate the footpaths to Newton Street and Dean Street



Connectivity & Movement  
The site is located on a primary connecting route offering good access into and out of the city core.

| Routes and Spaces |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Primary           | Tertiary Spaces |
| Secondary         | Spaces          |



Frontages  
The streets and spaces surrounding the site offer a good level of activation ranging from shops and cafes to front doors and entrances

| Active Frontages/ Spaces |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cafe Spillout            | Cafe/ shop frontage   |
| Entrances                | Residential entrances |

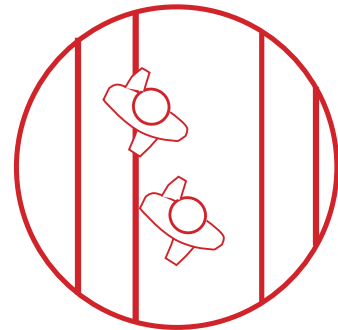
Design Objectives

The proposed development creates an opportunity to enrich the quality of the Site and local urban context. Working with the positives of the surroundings, the development can further enrich the streetscape and improve connectivity.

Key moves;

- **Pedestrian Focussed Environment:**  
Close off general vehicle access to Faraday and Dean Street to create a pedestrian focussed environment.
- **Improved Connections:**  
Footpaths to Faraday and Postal Street are enhanced with refreshed surfacing to improve pedestrian movement from Port Street through to Newton Street.
- **Support Spillout:**  
Widen the curtilage along Dean Street to enable spillout from the building and any ground floor commercial units.
- **Create Active Streetscapes**  
Remove the standard kerb upstand along Dean Street creating a flush surface to support use of tables and chairs as part of the spillout and extend the activation that is evident on Port Street.
- **Support Cyclists:**  
Include on street cycle hoops to support active travel movements.
- **Revitalised Streetscapes:**  
Resurface footpaths with considered detailing improving the appearance and direct curtilage to the building.
- **Improve BNG**  
Support BNG enrichments as part of the development, offering visual and ecological improvements to the first floor roof space.

Design Objectives



REFLECT AND ENHANCE  
THE CHARACTER OF THE  
NORTHERN QUARTER

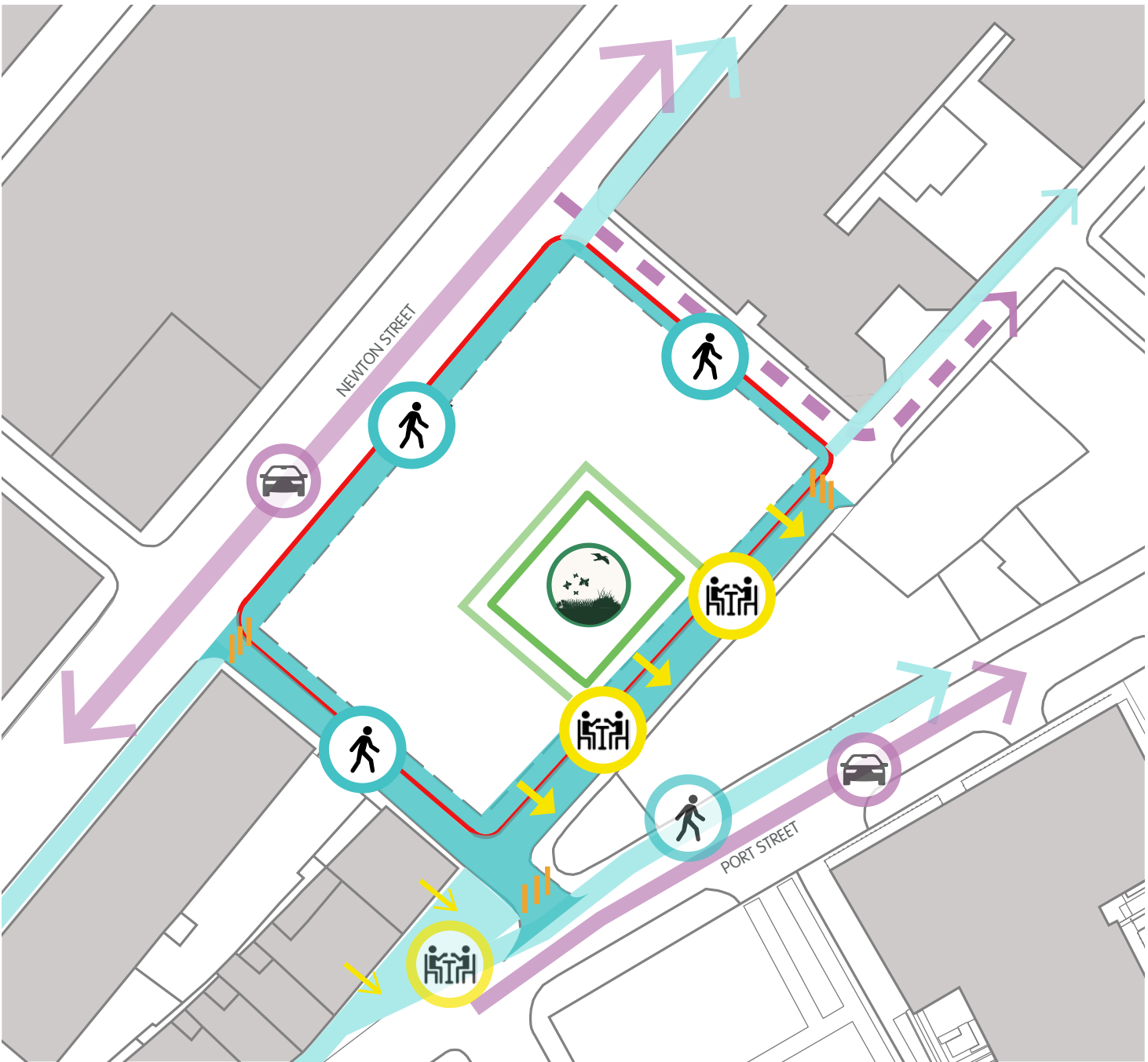


CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOCAL  
STREET VIBE



ESTABLISH A NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WITH AN ENRICHED BIODIVERSITY

Strategic Proposals



 Newly Pedestrianised street

 Existing Pedestrian Connections

 New ground floor activation with spillout

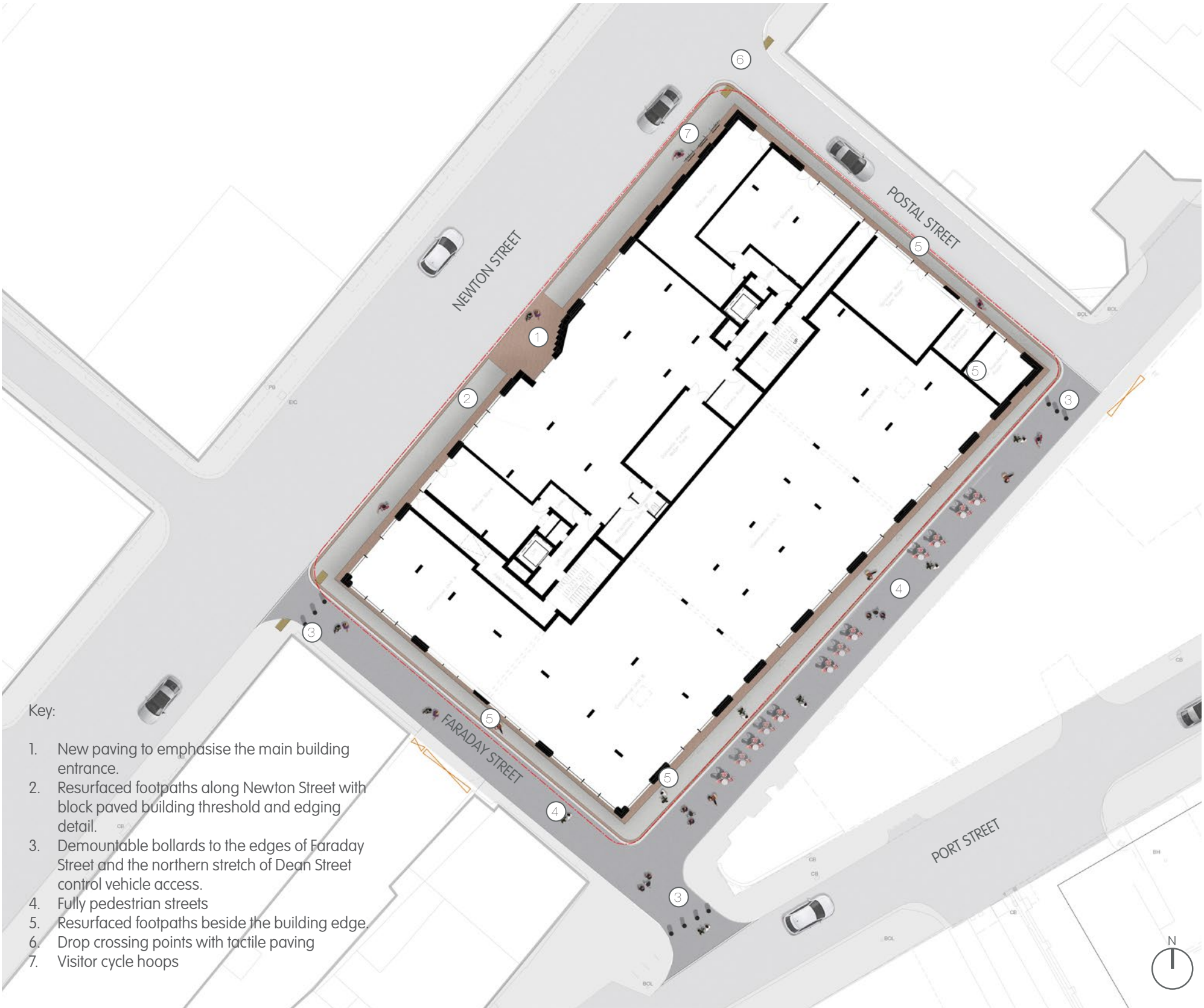
 Green roof with BNG enhancements

 Vehicle Routes

Design Proposals

The illustrated plan translates the design considerations and strategies discussed in the previous sections of this document. It aims to improve the condition and quality of the streetscape and create a series of pedestrian only routes and spaces around the building.

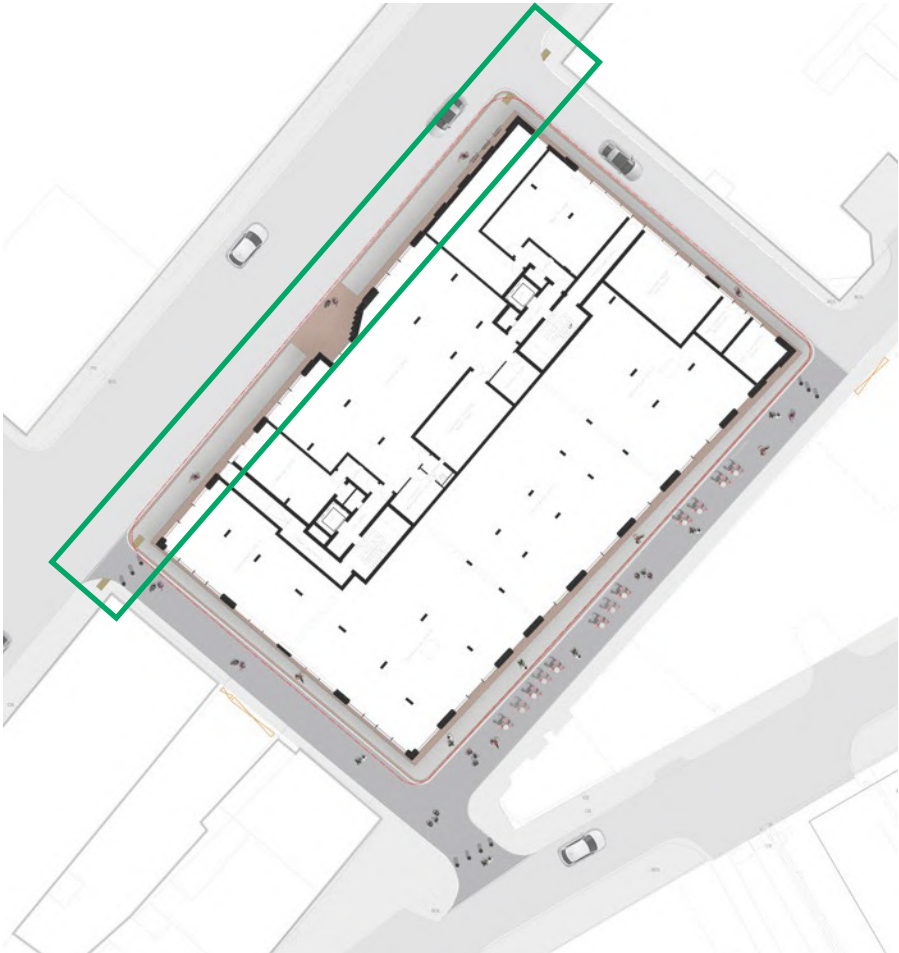
The scheme enhances and reflects the urban character of the surrounding streets ensuring that is not diluted. The re-purposed streets encourage and facilitate ground floor uses to spillout, particularly onto Newton and Dean Street.



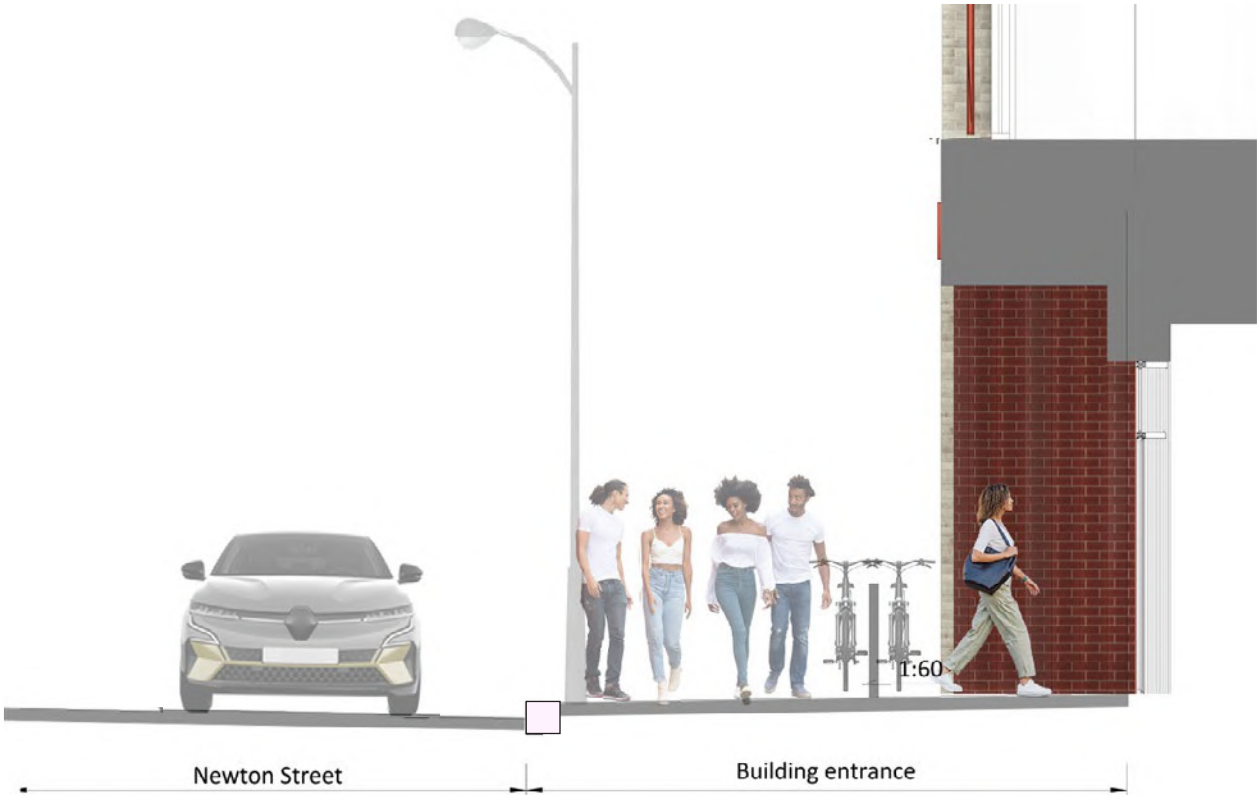
Landscape Proposals Ground Floor General Arrangement

Design Proposals - Newton Street

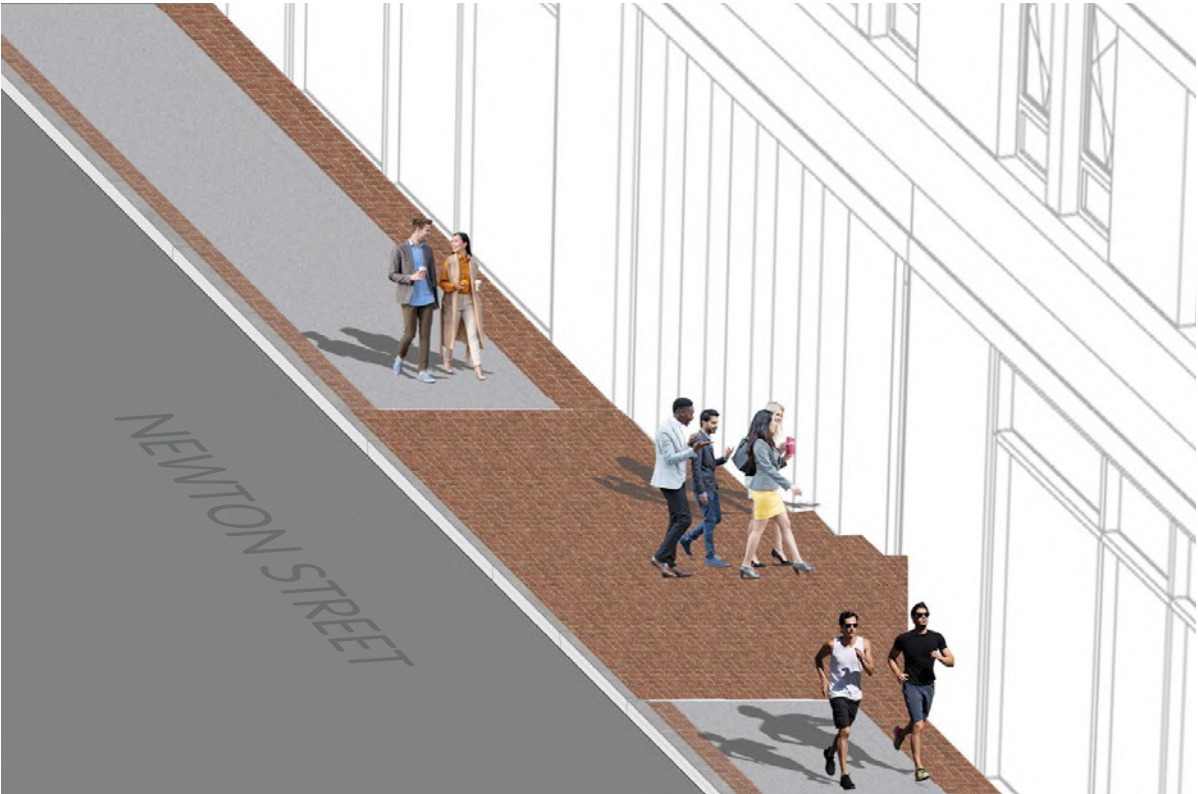
- Resurfaced footpath along Newton Street
- Generous paving band around the building threshold ensures neat detailing around set backs and entrances
- Paving area covers the full width of the footpath to mark the buildings main entrance
- A narrower band of paving wraps around the inside face of the new kerb which lines the edge of Newton Street.
- Cycle hoops to cater for visitors
- New kerbs to the edge of the footpath
- Existing Newton Street carriageway retained as existing



Location Plan



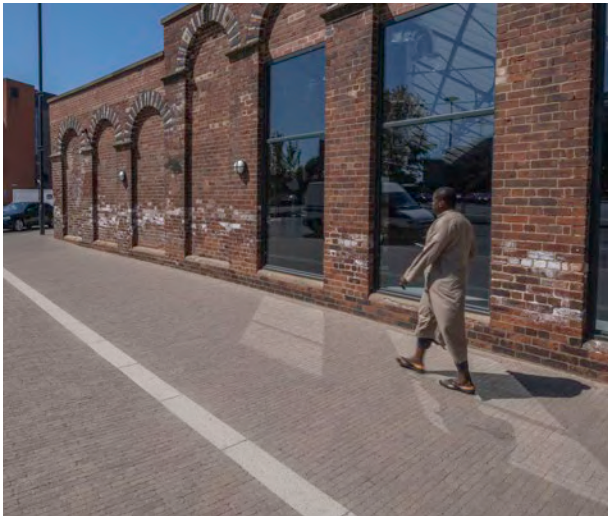
Section of proposed streetscape



Axonometric of proposed streetscape  
Paving band around the building floods into the entrance set back and across the footpath



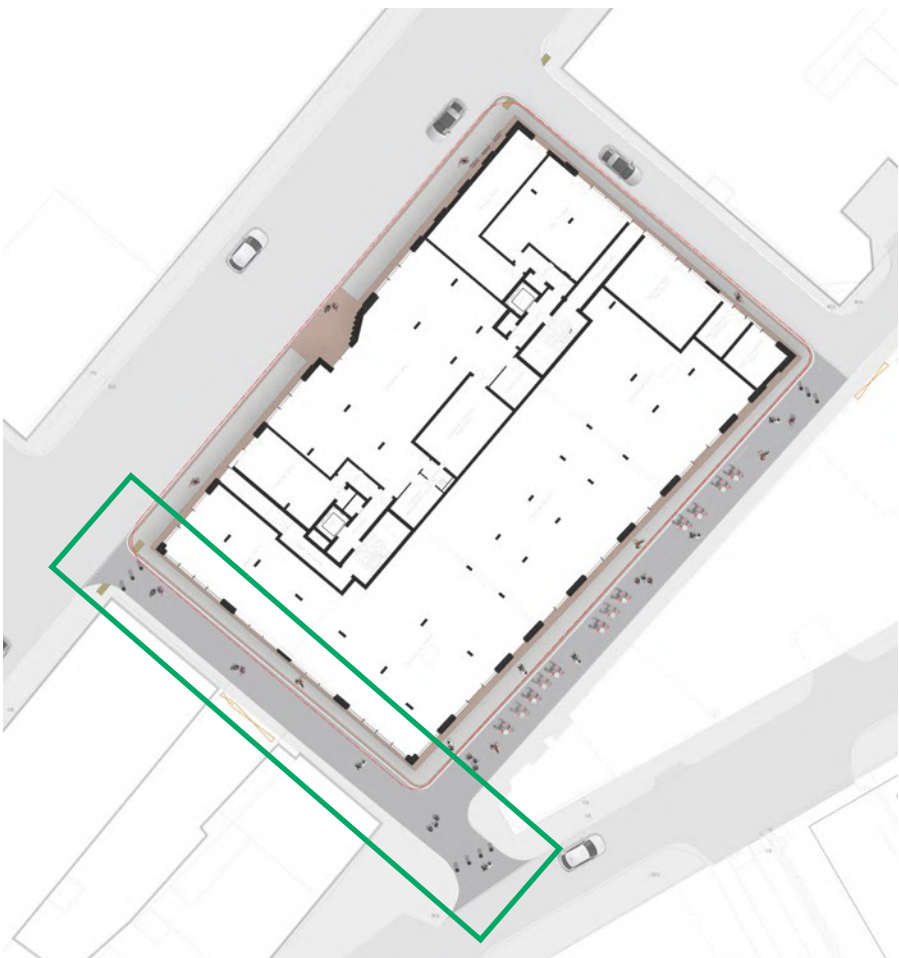
Clay style block paving  
New surface detailing to Newton Street.  
Tumbled Inish block paving: 200 x 50 x 80mm



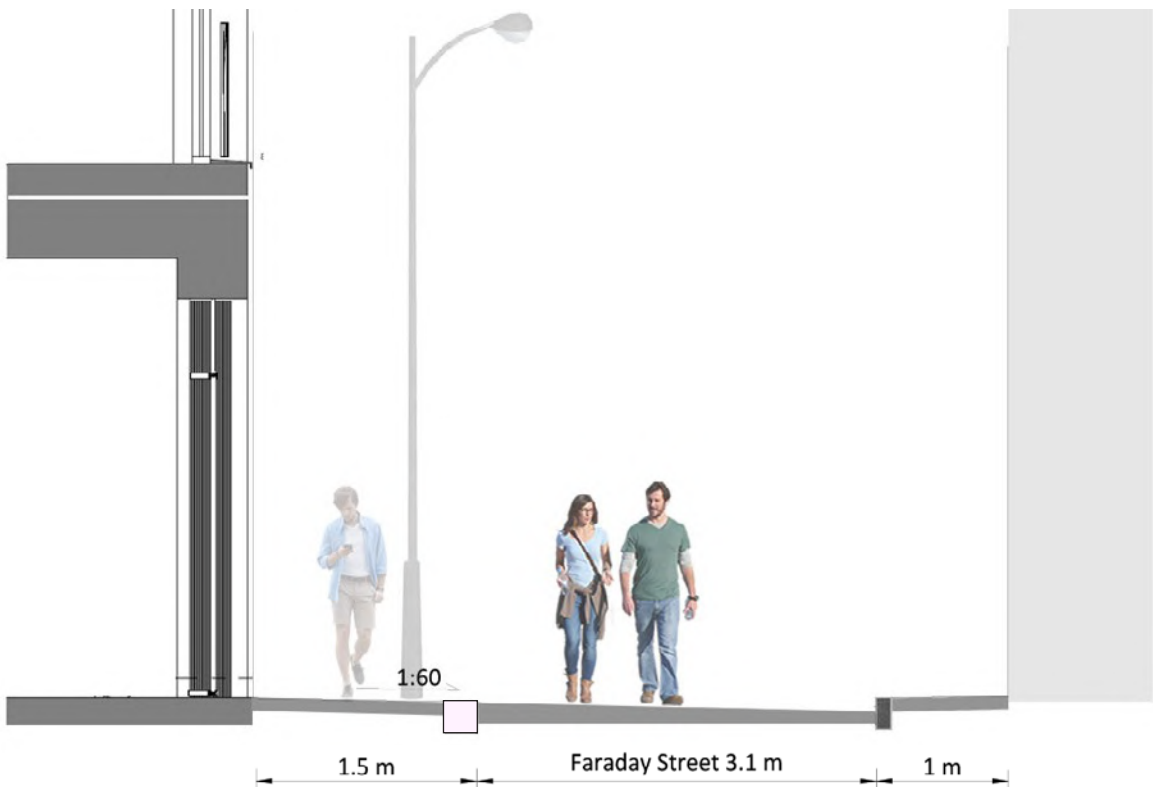
Clay style block paving  
Muted brown and red paving blend set beside a silver grey conservation kerb

Design Proposals - Faraday Street

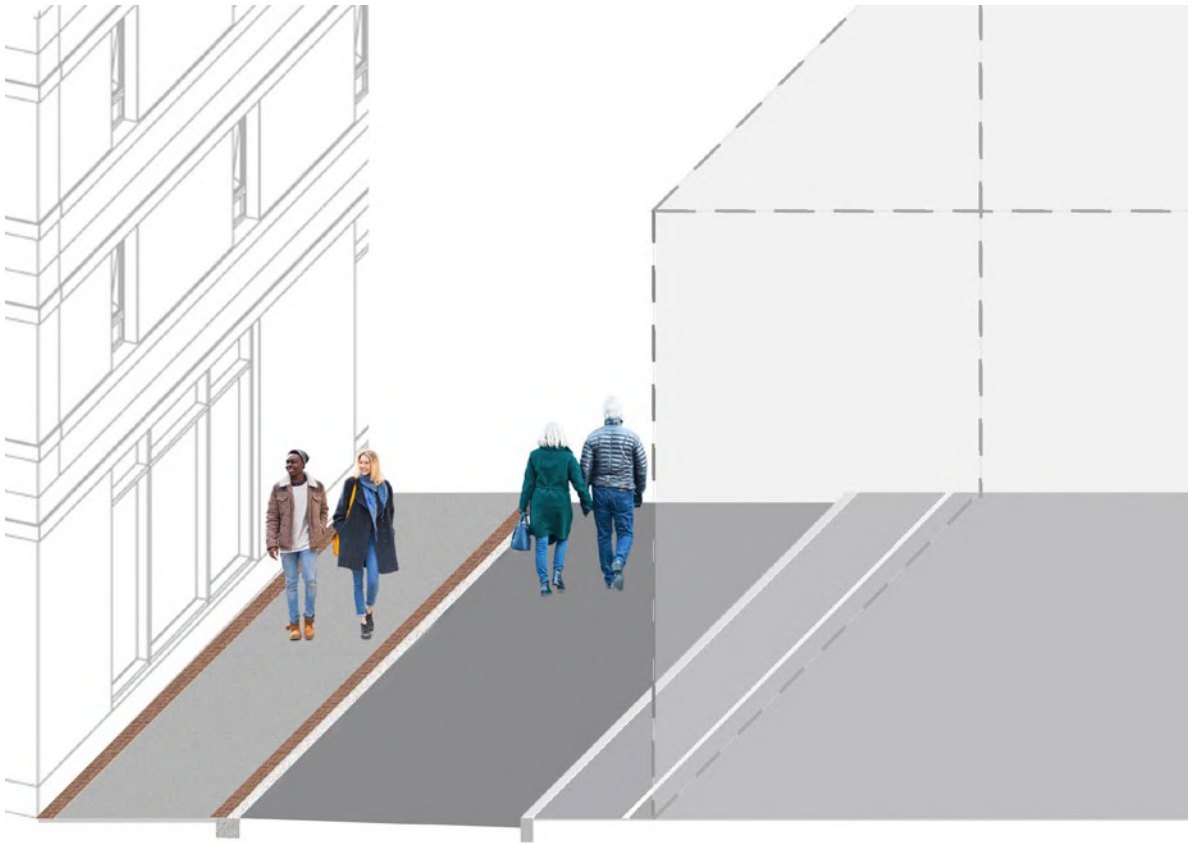
- Resurfaced footpath along Faraday Street
- Path widened to a minimum 1.5m
- New kerb edging to carriageway
- Narrow paving band around the building ensures neat detailing around set backs and entrances
- Band of paving wraps around the inside face of the new kerb which lines the edge of Newton Street.
- Carriageway resurfaced to work with existing profile and levels
- Demountable bollards to either end of the street controlling vehicle access



Location Plan



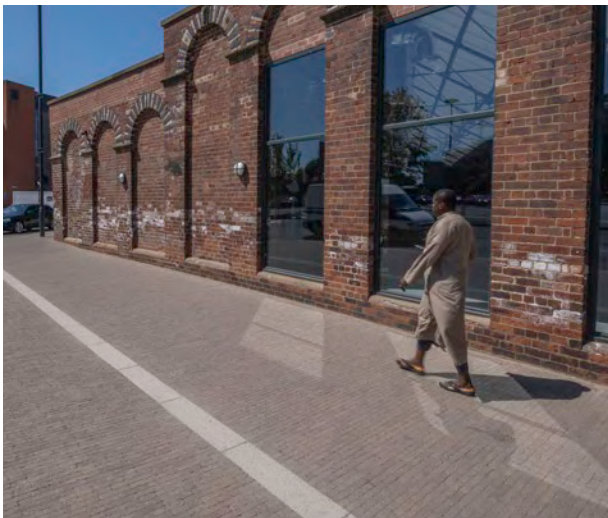
Section of proposed streetscape



Axonometric of proposed streetscape  
Threshold paving band around the building and to the footpath edge



Clay style block paving  
New surface detailing to Newton Street.  
Tumbled Inish block paving: 200 x 50 x 80mm



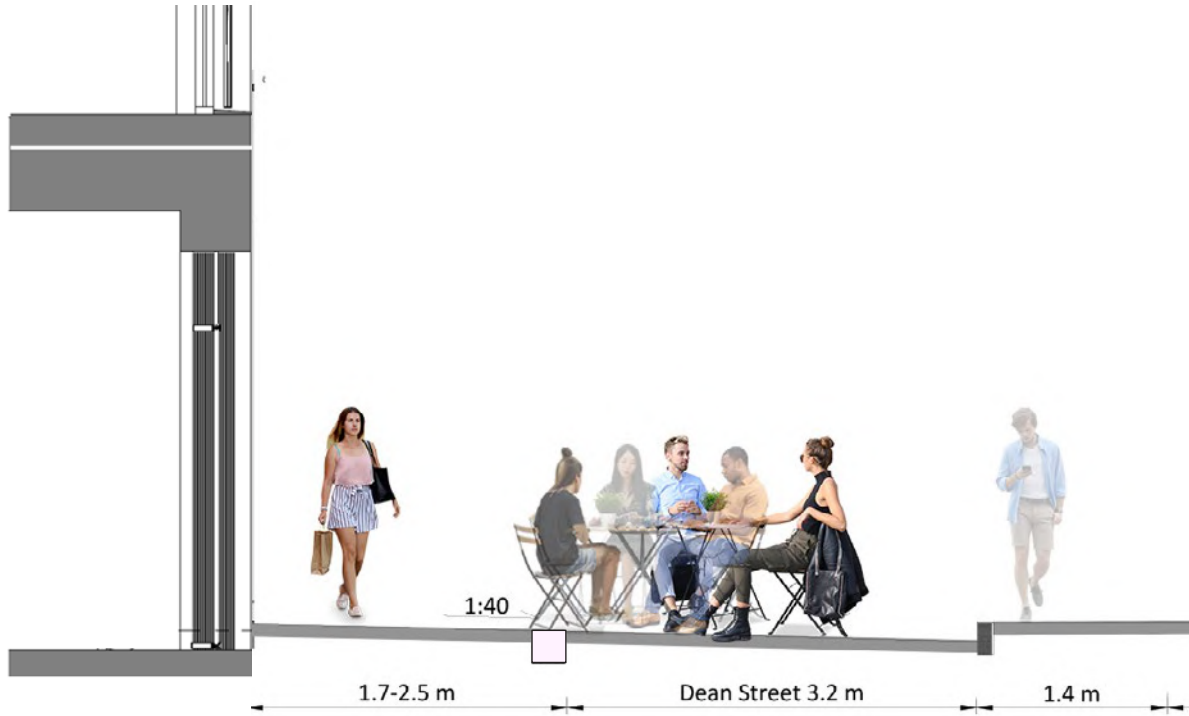
Clay style block paving  
Muted brown and red paving blend set beside a silver grey conservation kerb

Design Proposals - Dean Street

- Resurfaced footpath along Dean Street
- Path widened to offer between 1.7 and 2.5m width
- New flush kerb edging to footpath to encourage spillout
- Generous paving band around the building ensures neat detailing around set backs and entrances
- Band of paving wraps around the inside face of the new kerb which lines the edge of Newton Street.
- Carriageway resurfaced to enable a flush kerb alongside the building whilst still tying in with the existing adjacent kerb with a typical upstand
- Demountable bollards to either end of the street controlling vehicle access



Location Plan



Section of proposed streetscape



Axonometric of proposed streetscape  
Wide paving band around the building marking key entrances and to the footpath edge



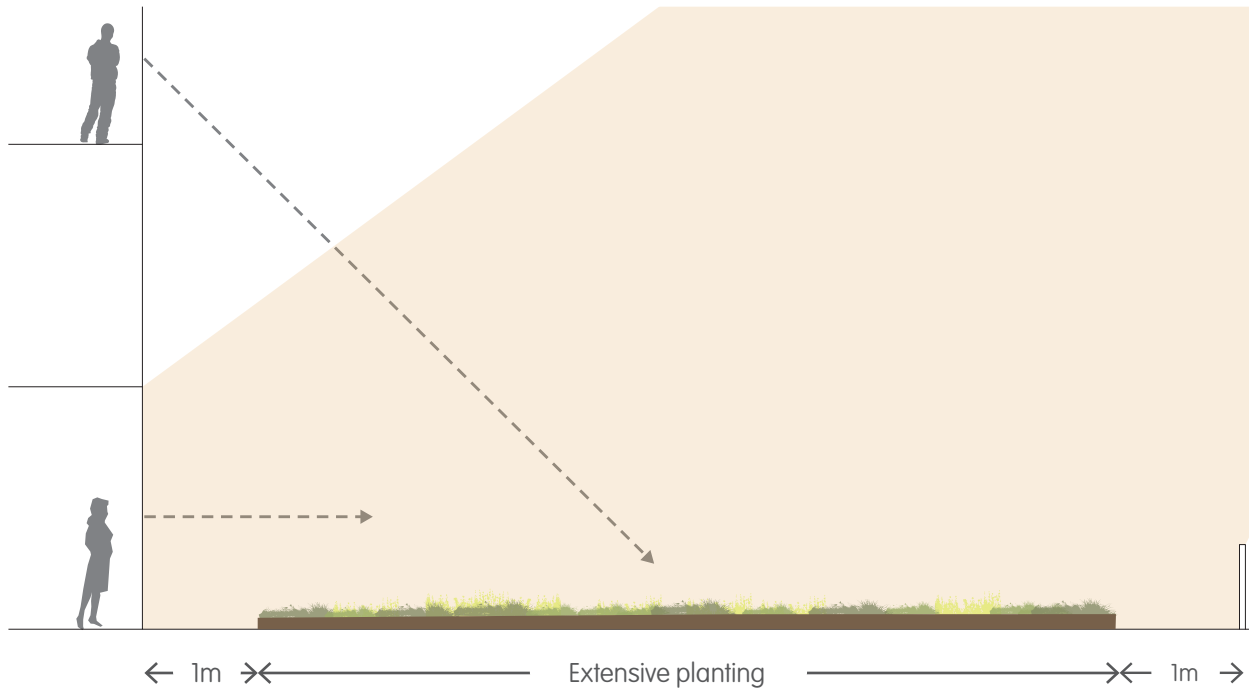
Clay style block paving  
New surface detailing to Newton Street.  
Tumbled Inish block paving: 200 x 50 x 80mm



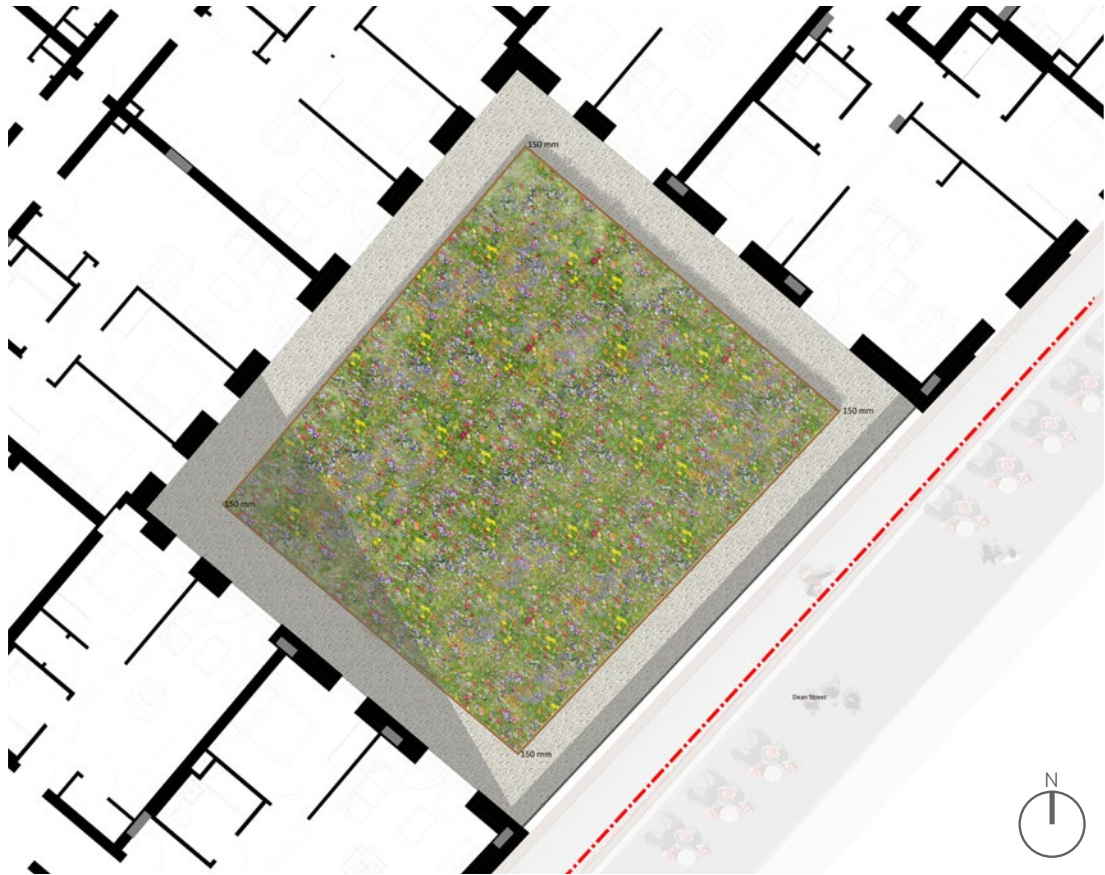
Clay style block paving  
Muted brown and red paving blend set beside a silver grey conservation kerb

Illustrative Level 1 Roof Design

- The roof space provides an opportunity to enrich the site's biodiversity credentials.
- Offer a positive visual amenity for residents
- 1.0m gravel margin for maintenance access
- Central extensive green roof with mixed native grass, sedum and wildflower planting to support insects and invertebrates. Plant specification selected to be appropriate for aspect.
- Substrate depths between 150-300mm to support mixed seed and plug planting



Roof Terrace Section



Roof Terrace General Arrangement



Typical extensive roof build up, 150-200mm deep



Location Plan

Materiality - Hard Landscaping

- Resurfaced footpaths along Newton Street, Faraday Street, Dean Street and Postal Street to include block paved thresholds and edging bands in line with the earlier imagery.



Paved entrance space  
Tumbled concrete block pavers,  
Inish by Hardscape, 200 x 50 x 80



Paving bands to building edge and outer edge of the  
footpath with Tarmac surfacing infill



Conservation kerb edging to inside of the site &  
resurfaced carriageway as indicated

Materiality - Street furniture & Lighting

- Existing lighting is to be retained as existing
- Demountable bollards included to either end of Faraday Street and Dean Street.



Lighting - existing  
columns retained  
T1 - Newton Street



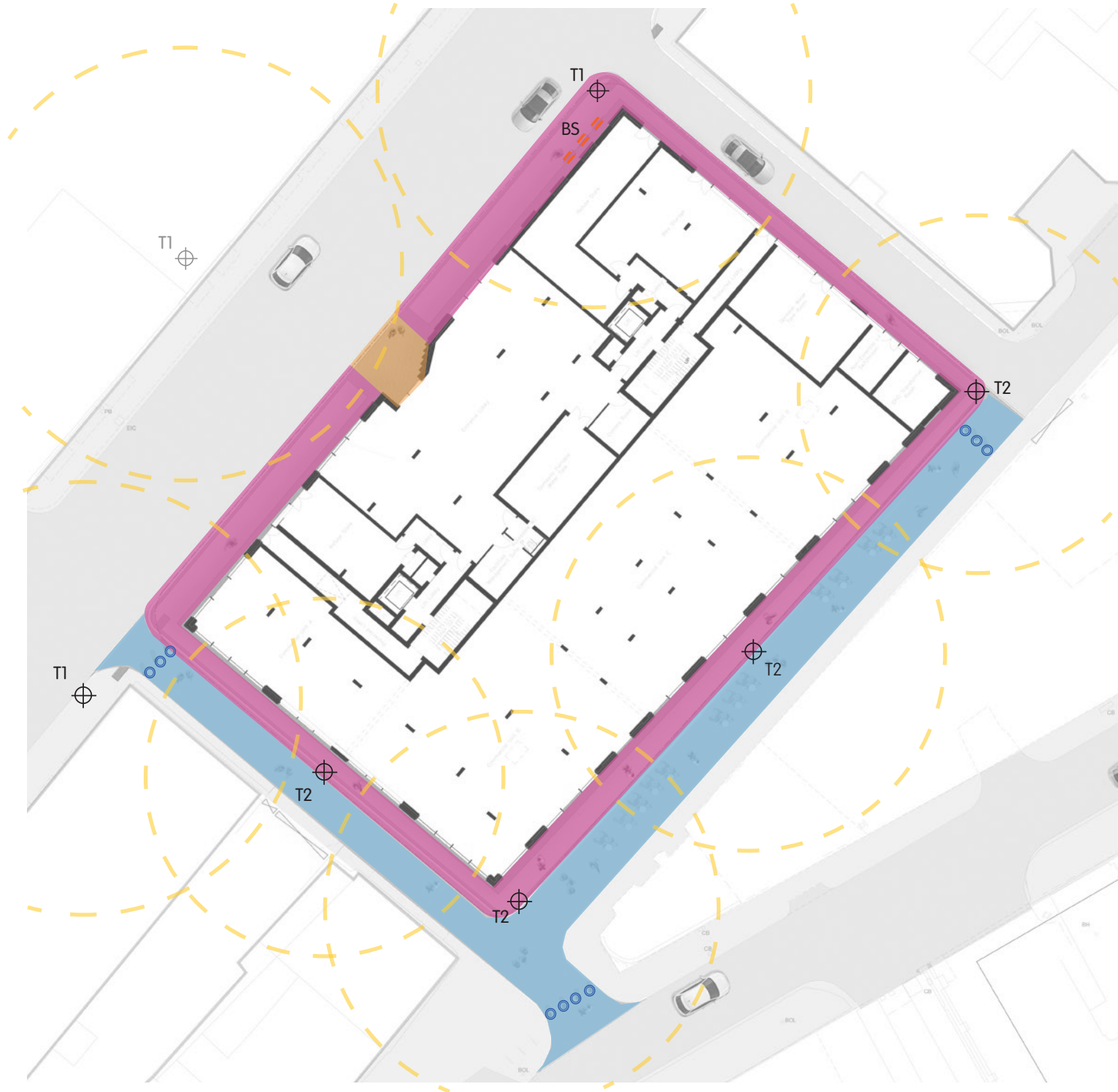
Lighting - existing  
columns retained  
T2 - Faraday and  
Dean Street



Demountable  
bollards,  
Standard MCC Spec



BS Visitor Bicycle  
Stand



Hard landscape & street furniture elements

Planting Strategy

- Planting species will be selected that are suitable for the aspect with species that thrive in sun full, partial shade and full shade used depending on their positioning on the roof.
- Focus is on species attractive to pollinators, which will be supported by evergreen, and semi-ever green species, and ornamental grasses.



Precedent images of similar roof top planting - Extensive green roof scenarios  
Semi extensive biodiverse seed mix, Bauder GREEN Flora 5 seed mix



Additional plug planting to support instant establishment and coverage



Soft landscape extent

## Leeds

Department, Leeds Dock, Leeds

T 0113 2454695

## Manchester

Beehive Mills, Jersey Street, Manchester

T 0161 397 4953

## Edinburgh

5 Rose Street, Edinburgh

T 0131 354 1876

E [info@re-formlandscape.com](mailto:info@re-formlandscape.com)

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