HOARE LEA

Piccadilly Gardens Redevelopment.
Prepared for Galliford Try on behalf of Manchester City Council.

EXTERNAL LIGHTING STRATEGY

AUGUST 2026



Audit sheet.

Rev	Date	Description of change / purpose of issue	Prepared	Reviewed	Authorised
00	02/07/26	Preliminary issue for discussion	KF	MC/DLB	DLB
01	15/07/26	Planning Issue	KF	MC/RM/DLB	DLB
02	20/07/26	Planning Issue	KF	MC/DLB	DLB
03	22/07/26	Planning Issue	KF	MC/DLB	DLB
04	07/08/26	Planning Issue	KF	MC/DLB	DLB
05	10/08/26	Planning Issue	MC	DLB	DLB

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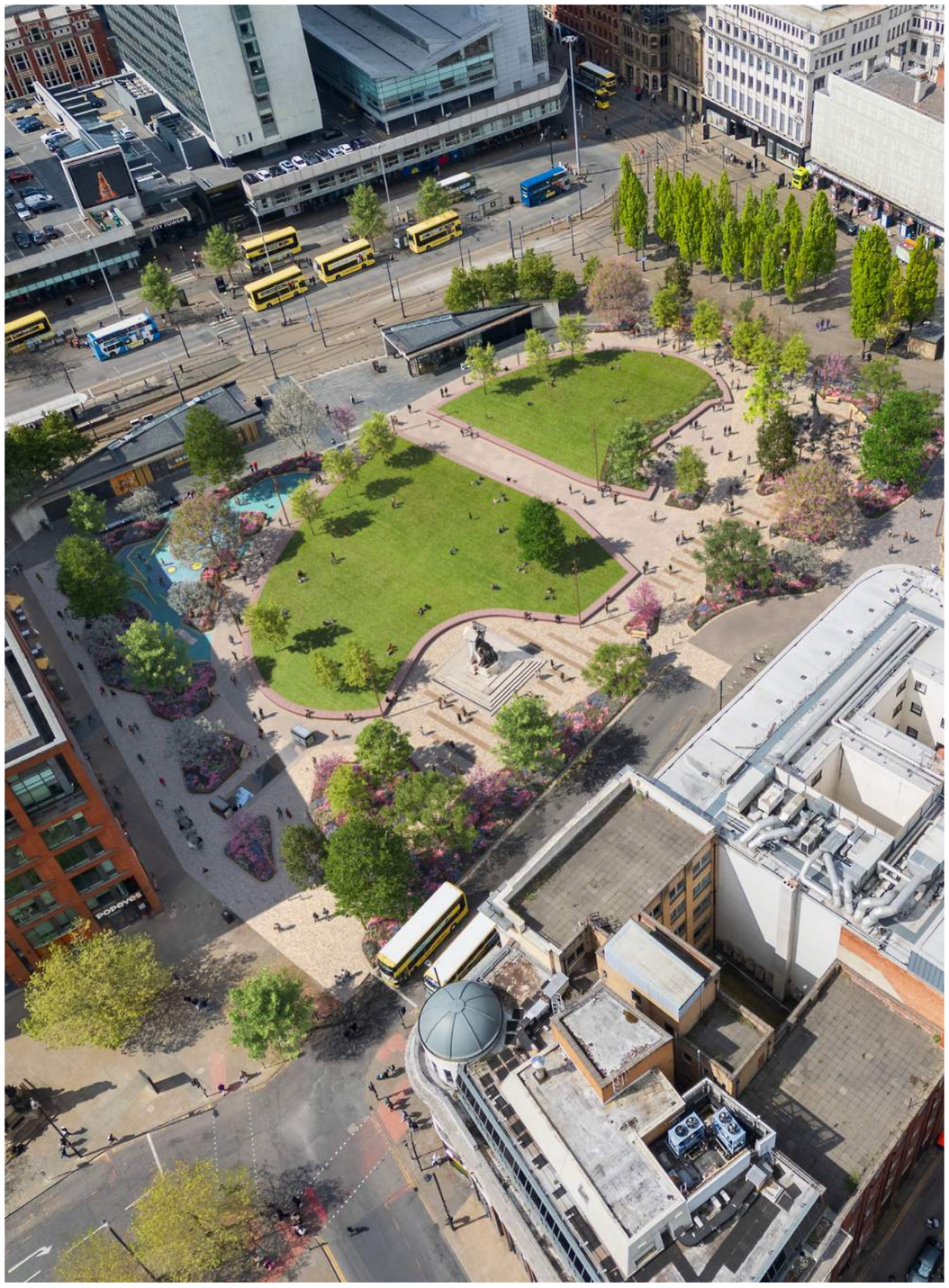
Introduction.

Project overview and objectives.

Piccadilly Gardens is one of Manchester's most significant public spaces and occupies a prominent position within the city centre. As the city's principal civic green space, it serves residents, workers and visitors alike, whilst acting as an important gateway between Piccadilly Station, the public transport interchange and the wider city centre. Its strategic location and relationship with the surrounding transport network establish the Gardens as a key component of Manchester's public realm.

The Gardens support a wide range of everyday activities throughout the day and into the evening, providing space for movement, informal recreation, social interaction and occasional small-scale community and cultural activities. As a civic landscape of strategic importance, the lighting strategy has been developed to support safe and accessible use after dark, enhance legibility and visual comfort, and reinforce the distinctive character and identity of Piccadilly Gardens.

The lighting strategy seeks to support the wider landscape proposals by delivering a coordinated and integrated lighting scheme that responds sensitively to the character of the Gardens and their surrounding urban context. The proposed approach balances the operational requirements of the site with environmental responsibility, energy efficiency and careful control of obtrusive light, creating a welcoming, sustainable and visually coherent public realm after dark.

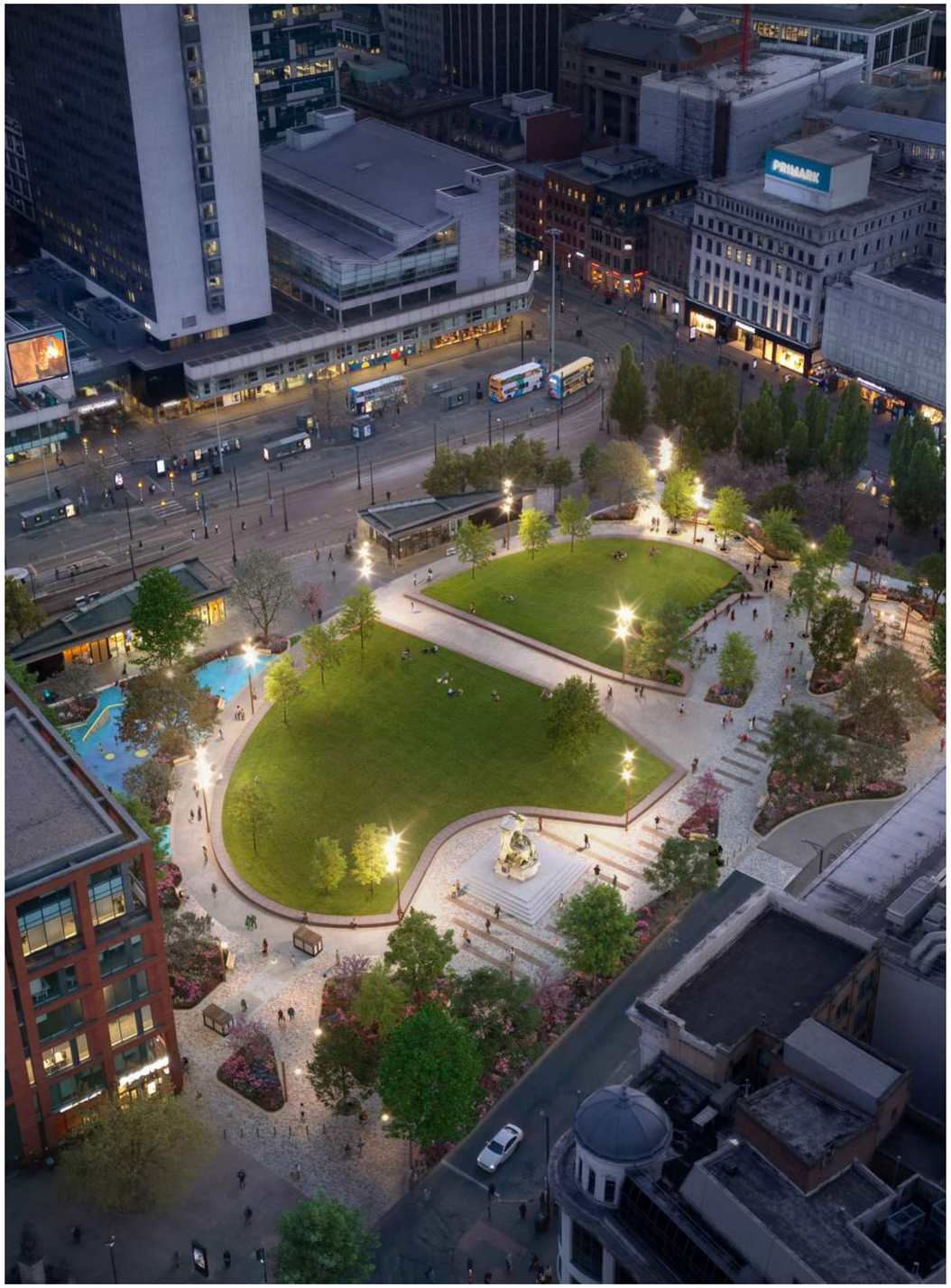


Lighting vision.

The lighting vision for Piccadilly Gardens is to create a coherent and welcoming night-time environment that complements the landscape design and reinforces the Gardens as one of Manchester's principal civic spaces. The proposed lighting has been developed to reveal the character of the landscape after dark, strengthen connections with the surrounding public realm and establish a distinctive yet sensitive identity within the wider city centre.

The strategy seeks to balance functional lighting with placemaking, providing a safe, accessible and legible environment while enhancing the ambience and aesthetic appeal of the Gardens. A layered lighting strategy is proposed to support movement and orientation, improve visual comfort and facial recognition, and create a comfortable and welcoming environment after dark, whilst respecting the character of the landscape and its civic setting.

Overall, the lighting strategy aims to create an inclusive and resilient public realm that supports everyday use, responds sensitively to its urban context and contributes positively to Manchester's night-time environment through a coordinated, sustainable and visually coherent lighting scheme.

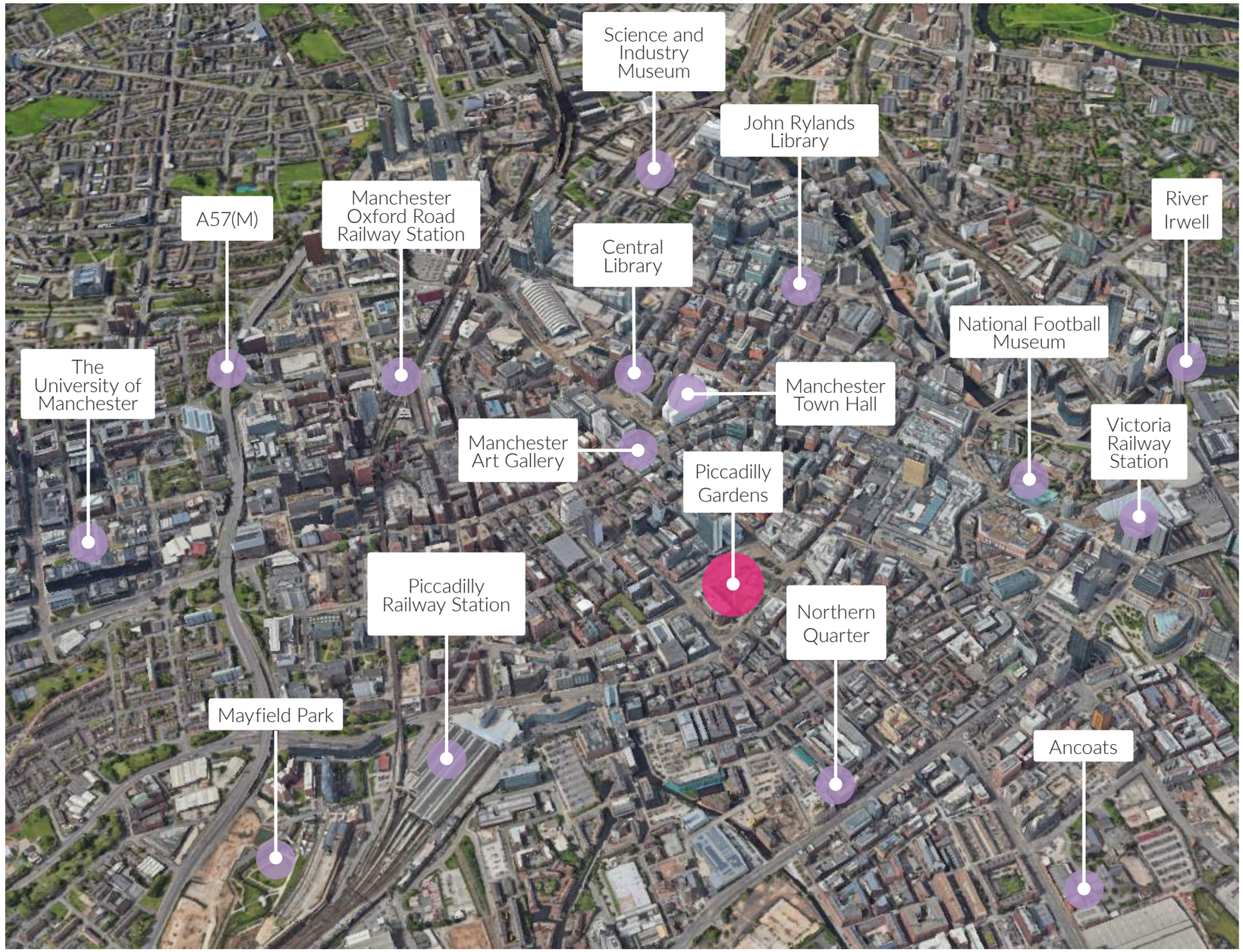


Site context.

Piccadilly Gardens occupies a strategic position within Manchester city centre, bounded by Piccadilly, Portland Street, Parker Street and Mosley Street. The Gardens form an integral part of the city's transport and pedestrian network, connecting Piccadilly Station with the commercial core, public transport interchange and surrounding neighbourhoods. As one of Manchester's principal arrival spaces, the Gardens experience significant pedestrian movement throughout the day and into the evening.

The surrounding townscape is characterised by a diverse mix of retail, commercial, leisure and civic uses, together with a rich architectural context that combines historic landmarks with contemporary development. Nearby destinations, including Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Town Hall, Central Library and the Northern Quarter, contribute to the civic importance of the area and establish Piccadilly Gardens as a key component of Manchester's wider public realm.

The existing lighting environment reflects this complex urban setting, comprising highway lighting, transport infrastructure, commercial frontage illumination and public realm lighting. The proposed lighting strategy responds to these conditions, creating a coordinated lighting hierarchy that supports movement, improves legibility and visual comfort, and reinforces the distinctive civic character of the Gardens whilst integrating seamlessly with the surrounding city environment.



Ariel View of Manchester City Centre
© Google Earth

Context & use.

Piccadilly Gardens supports a diverse range of users and activities throughout the day and into the evening, reflecting its role as Manchester's principal civic green space. The Gardens accommodate commuters, residents, workers and visitors moving between the city's transport interchange, commercial centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, whilst also providing opportunities for informal recreation, relaxation and social interaction.

As one of the city's few significant open green spaces, the Gardens provide an important contrast to the surrounding urban environment. Open lawns, planting and seating areas encourage people to pause, meet, rest and enjoy the landscape, contributing positively to health and well-being whilst enhancing the quality of Manchester's public realm.

In addition to its everyday function, the Gardens are capable of accommodating occasional small-scale community, cultural and seasonal activities that contribute to the vitality of the space without compromising its primary role as an accessible civic landscape. The lighting strategy responds to this varied pattern of use by supporting safe and intuitive movement, creating a comfortable and inclusive environment after dark, and reinforcing the Gardens as a welcoming destination for everyday public life.





Existing lighting review.

Assessment.

A visual review of the existing lighting was undertaken in June 2026 to assess the lighting within the project boundary and the surrounding public realm. The review considered the condition, distribution and characteristics of the existing installation to inform the proposed lighting strategy and understand how the site relates to the wider city lighting environment.

The assessment identified that the lighting within the project boundary has evolved over time, resulting in a varied collection of lighting columns, post-top luminaires, wall-mounted fittings and in-ground luminaires. Although much of the existing installation has been upgraded to LED technology, the lighting lacks a coordinated hierarchy and is not fully integrated with the proposed landscape design.

The proposed landscape redevelopment introduces significant changes to the layout, circulation routes and character of the Gardens. As a result, the existing lighting locations and infrastructure within the project boundary are not considered suitable for retention, irrespective of the light source employed. Some redundant lighting elements also remain from previous phases of development, including the in-ground uplights associated with the former Tadao Ando pavilion canopy.

The lighting beyond the project boundary forms part of Manchester's wider public realm lighting network and provides the contextual setting to which the proposed scheme will respond. The following page identifies the principal lighting types recorded during the site review.



1. LED highmast



2. Redundant recessed inground LED uplight



3. LED post top luminaire



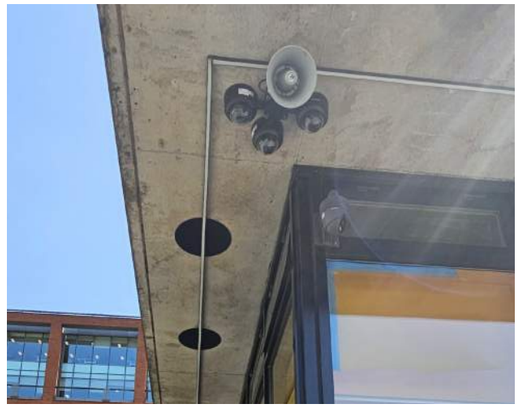
4. Single headed LED column mounted street light with single arm bracket



5. Single headed column mounted LED street light



6. LED highmast and double headed column LED lighting types to both tram and bus stop



7. Surface mounted linear LED profile mounted to the underside of the pavilion canopy



8. Double headed column mounted LED street light with twin arm bracket

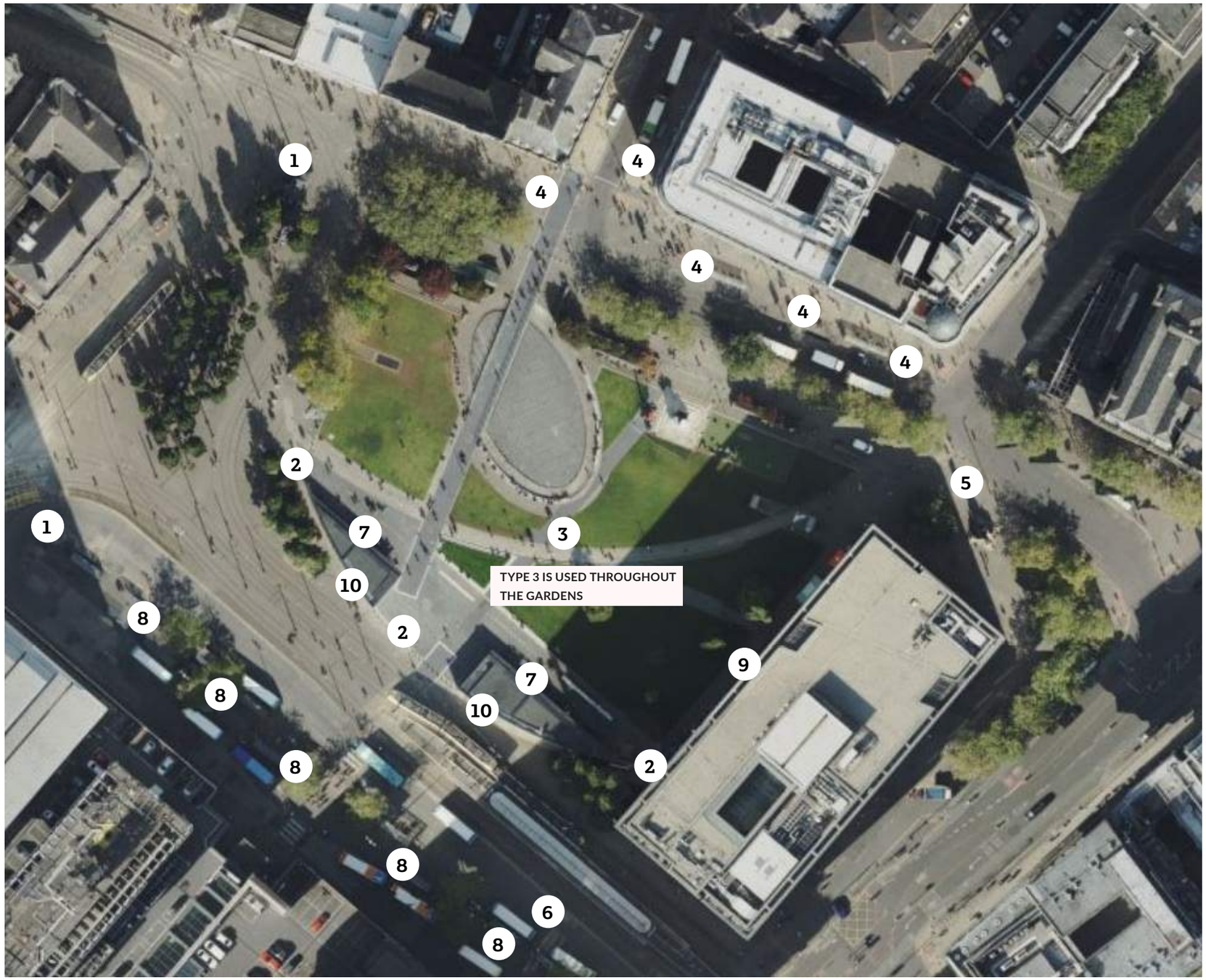


9. Wall mounted LED downlight

Existing lighting review.

Lighting locations.

The plan opposite identifies the principal existing lighting installations recorded during the site survey. The numbered locations correspond with the photographs and lighting types shown on the previous page, illustrating the distribution of existing lighting both within and immediately surrounding the project boundary.



Ariel image of Piccadilly Gardens site
© Bing Maps

Existing Light Art Installation.

An existing light art installation is incorporated within the pavilion adjacent to Piccadilly Gardens. Although it falls outside the scope of the proposed landscape and lighting works, it forms an established component of the Gardens' night-time character and contributes positively to the identity of the wider public realm.

The installation demonstrates the role that light can play in reinforcing civic identity, enhancing the quality of the public realm and supporting cultural expression within Manchester city centre. As an established feature of the site, it provides an important point of visual interest after dark and contributes to the evolving character of Piccadilly Gardens.

The proposed lighting strategy has therefore been developed to complement the existing installation, ensuring that new lighting proposals respect its visual presence and integrate cohesively with the surrounding landscape rather than competing with it.

The location of the existing light art installation is identified on the previous page (Location 10).



Image of art installation called 'Weave' from Space Invader's website
© Jody Hartley Photography

Lighting design approach.

Lighting design drivers.

The lighting strategy has been developed to support the wider landscape vision for Piccadilly Gardens, ensuring that artificial light complements the public realm rather than becoming its defining feature. The proposed approach seeks to reinforce the character of the landscape after dark, creating a cohesive and welcoming night-time environment that responds sensitively to the Gardens' civic setting and surrounding urban context.

A layered lighting hierarchy is proposed to respond to the different functions and character of the Gardens. Appropriate levels of illumination will support movement and orientation, whilst carefully integrated feature lighting will enhance key landscape elements, public art and monuments, helping to establish a distinctive yet balanced night-time identity. This approach allows each space to respond to its intended use whilst maintaining a consistent visual language across the site.

The quality of light is fundamental to the success of the scheme. The lighting strategy seeks to provide a safe, inclusive and comfortable environment after dark through well-controlled illumination that supports visual comfort, facial recognition and intuitive wayfinding. At the same time, the design aims to minimise upward light, glare and unnecessary light spill, ensuring artificial light is directed only where it is needed and reducing its impact on the surrounding environment.

Warm white light sources, generally not exceeding 3000 K, are proposed throughout the Gardens to create a welcoming pedestrian environment whilst complementing the character of the landscape and reducing the environmental impact of artificial lighting. Luminaires should achieve a minimum Colour Rendering Index (CRI) of 80, enabling planting, paving, public art and surrounding materials to be perceived naturally after dark and supporting good facial recognition within the public realm.

The lighting strategy has also been developed with consideration for long-term maintenance, energy efficiency and future adaptability. Together, these design principles establish a balanced lighting approach that supports the operational requirements of the Gardens whilst creating a high-quality civic environment that is both environmentally responsible and appropriate to its prominent city centre setting.



Guidelines and criteria.

Lighting Illuminace Levels.

The proposed lighting hierarchy has been developed in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5489-1:2020 and BS EN 13201-2:2015, taking account of the function of each space, the surrounding urban context and the anticipated patterns of use across Piccadilly Gardens. As the site is located within a busy city centre environment, it is considered appropriate to adopt an Environmental Zone E4 (see page 17 for further details), with the lighting classes selected accordingly.

The majority of the Gardens have been designed to achieve Lighting Class C2, providing a consistent level of illumination appropriate for a pedestrian environment within an urban setting. This approach establishes a coherent lighting hierarchy across the site whilst supporting visual comfort, good facial recognition and intuitive way-finding after dark.

The central lawn has been designed with the capability to temporarily increase lighting levels above the normal C2 operating condition where operationally required. The reference to Lighting Class C1 should therefore be regarded as an enhanced operating mode rather than the normal lighting condition, providing flexibility to respond to occasional changes in site operation whilst maintaining C2 as the standard day-to-day design target.

Any future ancillary structure within the severable plot should be designed with reference to the Open Arcade recommendations contained within BS 5489-1:2020. This classification is considered an appropriate design basis for any open-sided, under-canopy areas.

Lighting Level Plan

Table A.6 - Lighting classes for city and town centres

Table extracted from 'BS5489-1:2020'

Type of traffic	Lighting class			
	Normal traffic flow		High traffic flow	
	E3 a)	E4 a)	E3 a)	E4 a)
Pedestrian thoroughfare	P2	P1	P2	P1
Pedestrian only	C4	C3	C3	C2
Mixed vehicle and pedestrian with separate foot-ways	C3	C2	C2	C1
Mixed vehicle and pedestrian on same surface	C2	C1	C1	C1

Table extracted from BS 5489-1: 2020

Table 2 - C lighting classes based on road surface illuminance

Table extracted from 'BS EN 13201-2:2015' Values in lux

Class	Horizontal illuminance	
	E_{av} *[minimum maintained average]*	U_o *[minimum overall uniformity min/av]*
C0	50	0.40
C1	30	0.40
C2	20	0.40
C3	15	0.40
C4	10	0.40
C5	7.5	0.40

Table extracted from BS EN 13201-2: 2015

Table 2 - Lighting levels for covered shopping arcades and canopied areas

Table extracted from 'BS 5489-1 2020' Values in lux

Type	Day		Night	
	E_{av} *(minimum maintained average)*	E_{min} *(maintained minimum)*	E_{av} *(minimum maintained average)*	E_{min} *(maintained minimum)*
Open arcade	-	-	75	50
Completely enclosed arcade or canopied area	250	150	150	75

Table extracted from BS 5489-1: 2020

Guidelines and criteria.

External Lighting.

A number of documents lay down the best practice and guidance on providing sufficient and appropriate lighting for pedestrians passage and visual interest.

Including, but not limited to:

BS 5489-1:2020: Design of road lighting

BS EN 13201-2:2015: Road lighting - Performance requirements

BS EN 12464-2:2024: Lighting of Work places - Outdoor work places

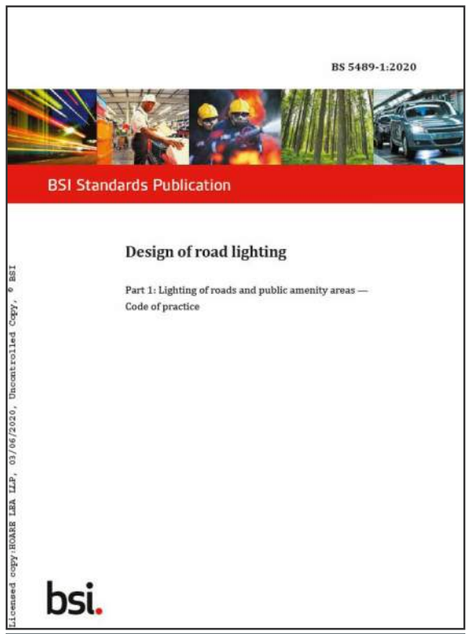
CIE 136:2000: Guide to the lighting of urban areas

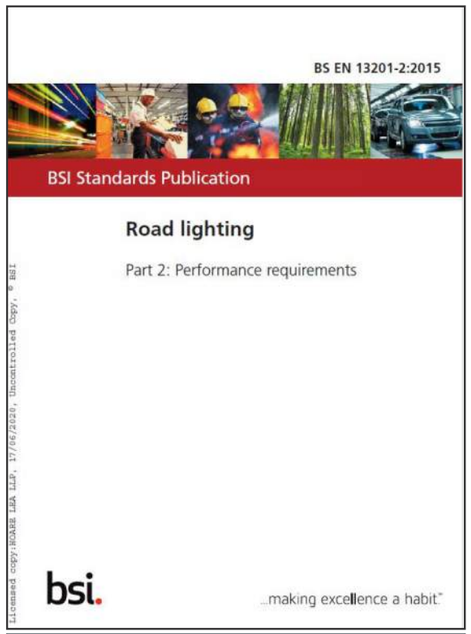
Various ILP guidance notes and technical documents

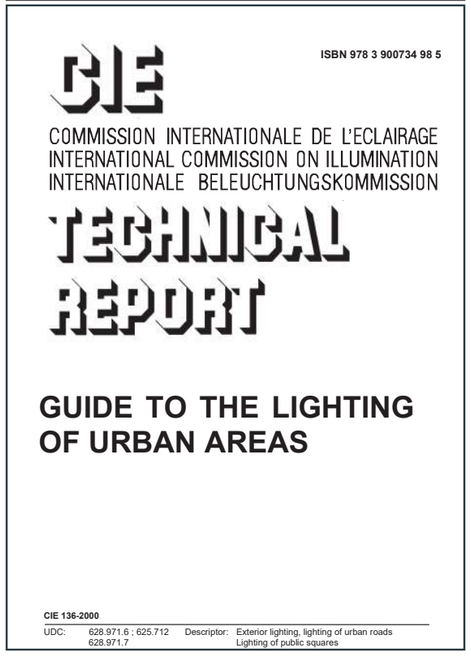
And, as appropriate:

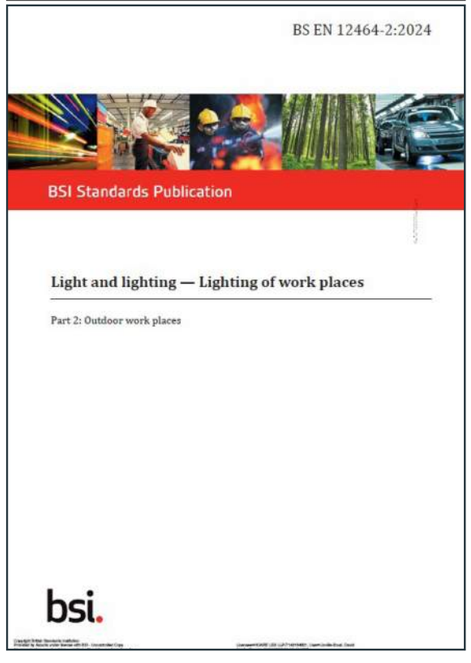
CIBSE Lighting Guide 6: The Exterior Environment 2016

CIBSE Lighting the Environment: A guide to good urban design









Design considerations - guidelines and criteria.

Light pollution.

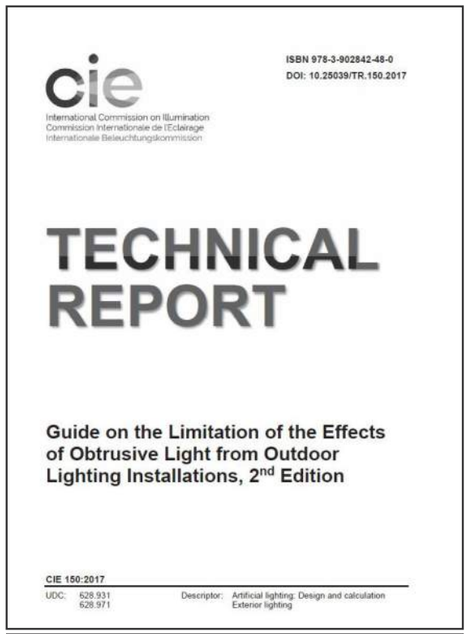
A number of documents lay down the best practice and guidance on reducing the visual and environmental impact of external lighting in relation to light pollution.

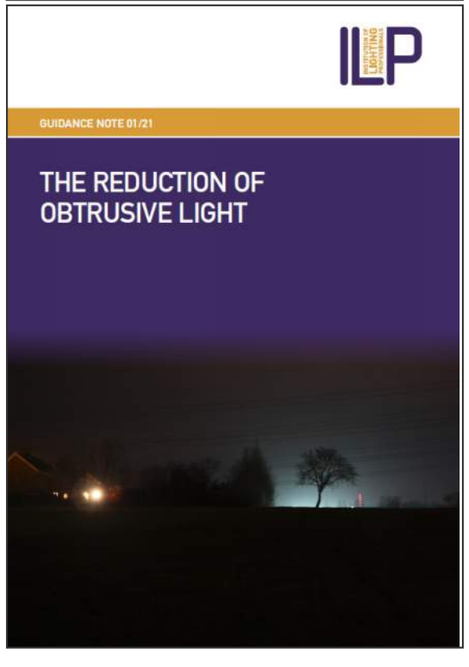
Including, but not limited to:

CIE 150: 2017 – Guide on the Limitation of the Effects of Obtrusive Light from Outdoor Lighting Installations, 2nd Edition

ILP Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (GN01/21)

The implementation of these standards is vital because of “Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005” introduced artificial light as a potential statutory nuisance.





Environmental lighting considerations.

Light pollution.

The lighting strategy has been developed to minimise the environmental impact of artificial light whilst supporting the operational requirements of Piccadilly Gardens. The approach seeks to ensure that illumination is provided only where it is required, reducing unnecessary light whilst maintaining a safe and welcoming public environment after dark.

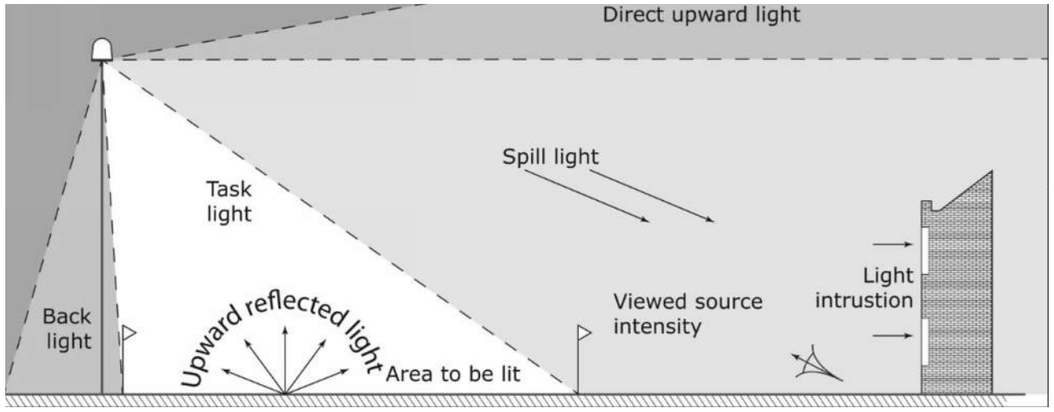
A key design objective is the control of obtrusive light. Appropriate optical control will be employed to direct light accurately onto the intended surfaces, minimising glare, upward light and light spill beyond the site. Where appropriate, optical accessories may be incorporated to further improve visual comfort and reduce unnecessary illumination of neighbouring buildings and the surrounding public realm.

The strategy also promotes long-term sustainability through the use of durable, energy-efficient lighting technologies that reduce energy consumption, lower maintenance requirements and minimise whole-life operational costs. This approach supports both environmental responsibility and the long-term management of the Gardens.

The lighting strategy also recognises the importance of the landscape setting. Unnecessary illumination of trees and planting will be avoided wherever practicable, ensuring the scheme responds sensitively to the character of the Gardens whilst limiting the environmental impact of artificial lighting.



Glare cap to prevent upward light spill



Types of light pollution from the ‘ILP Guidance Note for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light’



Example of ‘sky glow’

Environmental lighting considerations.

Obtrusive Light.

The lighting strategy has been developed with reference to the Institution of Lighting Professionals' Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (GN01/21), which provides recommendations for limiting the environmental effects of external lighting. The tables opposite summarise the relevant guidance for the proposed environmental classification and have informed the development of the lighting strategy.

Piccadilly Gardens is located within Manchester city centre, characterised by high district brightness, extensive public realm lighting and significant evening activity. On this basis, the site is considered to fall within Environmental Zone E4, and the lighting strategy has been developed with reference to the recommendations applicable to this classification.

Light spill.

The lighting strategy seeks to minimise light spill beyond the site through the application of high-quality optical control and careful luminaire aiming, directing light only where it is required. This approach supports visual comfort within the Gardens whilst reducing unnecessary illumination of neighbouring buildings and the wider public realm.

For an E4 Environmental Zone, GN01/21 recommends maximum vertical illuminance limits of 25 lux pre-curfew and 5 lux post-curfew at surrounding properties. Given the civic function of Piccadilly Gardens and its role as a key pedestrian route through Manchester city centre, the application of a post-curfew regime requires further discussion with Manchester City Council. Maintaining appropriate lighting levels throughout the Gardens is essential to support public safety, accessibility and operational requirements after dark, and any dimming strategy will therefore need to balance these operational needs with the recommendations of GN01/21.

A visual assessment undertaken in June 2026 identified that surrounding frontages are predominantly occupied by retail, food and beverage, and commercial uses at ground level, with a limited number of residential receptors located at upper levels. Two hotels are also located adjacent to the site; however, guest accommodation is positioned above ground floor level. On this basis, it is proposed that post-curfew vertical illuminance limits apply only to upper-level receptors, whilst pre-curfew limits are considered appropriate for ground-floor frontages.

The lighting strategy also seeks to minimise Upward Light Ratio (ULR) in accordance with the recommendations for Environmental Zone E4, reducing unnecessary sky glow whilst maintaining appropriate illumination within the public realm.

Ecology.

Ecological advice provided by Team-Civic indicates that the site currently has very limited suitability for bats based on professional judgement. Nevertheless, the principles contained within ILP Guidance Note GN08/23 – Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night have informed the lighting strategy as a precautionary measure. Particular consideration has been given to avoiding unnecessary illumination of trees, planting and other potential ecological features, ensuring the scheme remains sensitive to the landscape whilst responding appropriately to the operational requirements of the site.

Table 2 - Environmental Zones (subject to agreement with Manchester City Council)

Table extracted from 'ILP GN01/21'			
Zone	Surrounding	Lighting environment	Examples
E0	Protected	Dark (SQM 20.5+)	Astronomical Observable dark skies, UNESCO starlight reserves, IDA dark sky places
E1	Natural	Dark (SQM 20 to 20.5)	Relatively uninhabited rural areas, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, IDA buffer zones etc.
E2	Rural	Low district brightness (SQM ~15 to 20)	Sparsely inhabited rural areas, village or relatively dark outer suburban locations
E3	Suburban	Medium district brightness	Well inhabited rural and urban settlements, small town centres of suburban locations
E4	Urban	High district brightness	Town / City centres with high levels of night-time activity

Table extracted from GN01/21

Table 3 - (CIE 150 table 2): Maximum values of vertical illuminance on premises

Table extracted from 'ILP GN01/21'						
Light technical parameter	Application conditions	Environmental Zone				
		E0	E1	E2	E3	E4
Illuminance in the vertical plane (E,)	Pre-curfew	n/a	2 lx	5 lx	10 lx	25 lx
	Post-curfew	n/a	0.1 lx*	1 lx	2 lx	5 lx

Table extracted from GN01/21

Table 6 - (CIE 150 table 5): Maximum values of upward light ratio (ULR) of luminaires

Table extracted from 'ILP GN01/21'					
Light technical parameter	Environmental Zones				
	E0	E1	E2	E3	E4
Upward light ratio (ULR) / %	0	0	2.5	5	15

Table extracted from GN01/21

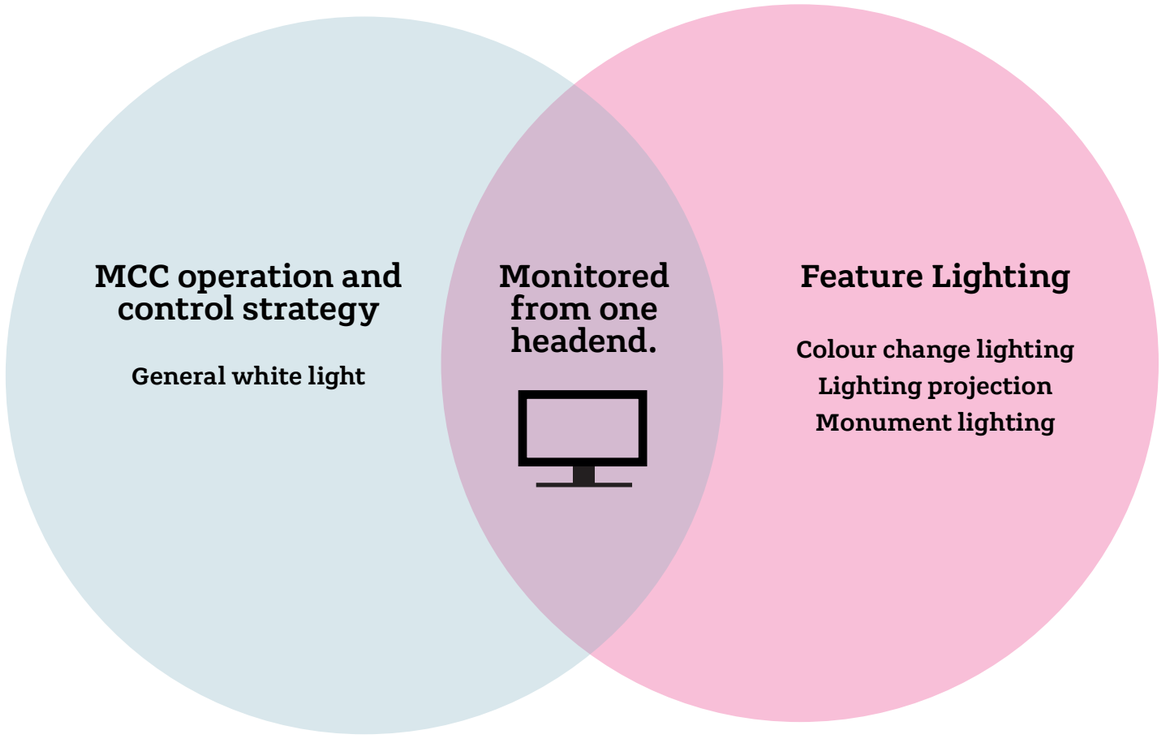
Controls and management strategy.

The lighting strategy incorporates an intelligent control philosophy to support the efficient operation of the installation throughout its life. Appropriate lighting controls will reduce energy consumption, lower operational costs and minimise maintenance requirements, whilst providing the flexibility necessary to respond to changing operational needs.

The control strategy is intended to integrate, with Manchester City Council's city centre CMS lighting management systems, allowing scheduled operation, dimming profiles and remote monitoring to support efficient asset management and fault reporting. This approach will help maintain consistent operation across the site whilst improving long-term maintenance planning and reducing operational downtime. Operational times for ambient lighting are to meet MCC and GMP requirements, operating as a minimum from dusk until dawn.

The proposed lighting hierarchy allows selected areas of the Gardens to respond to different operational requirements without affecting the overall character of the scheme. Feature lighting elements, including colour-changing and projection lighting where incorporated, should be independently controllable to support seasonal displays, civic occasions and other appropriate programmed activities, whilst ensuring decorative lighting operates only when required and does not contribute to unnecessary energy consumption or over-lighting.

The control strategy also provides flexibility for future changes in the management and operation of Piccadilly Gardens. This approach supports the long-term resilience of the lighting installation, allowing future technological developments and operational requirements to be accommodated whilst maintaining the design principles established within this strategy.



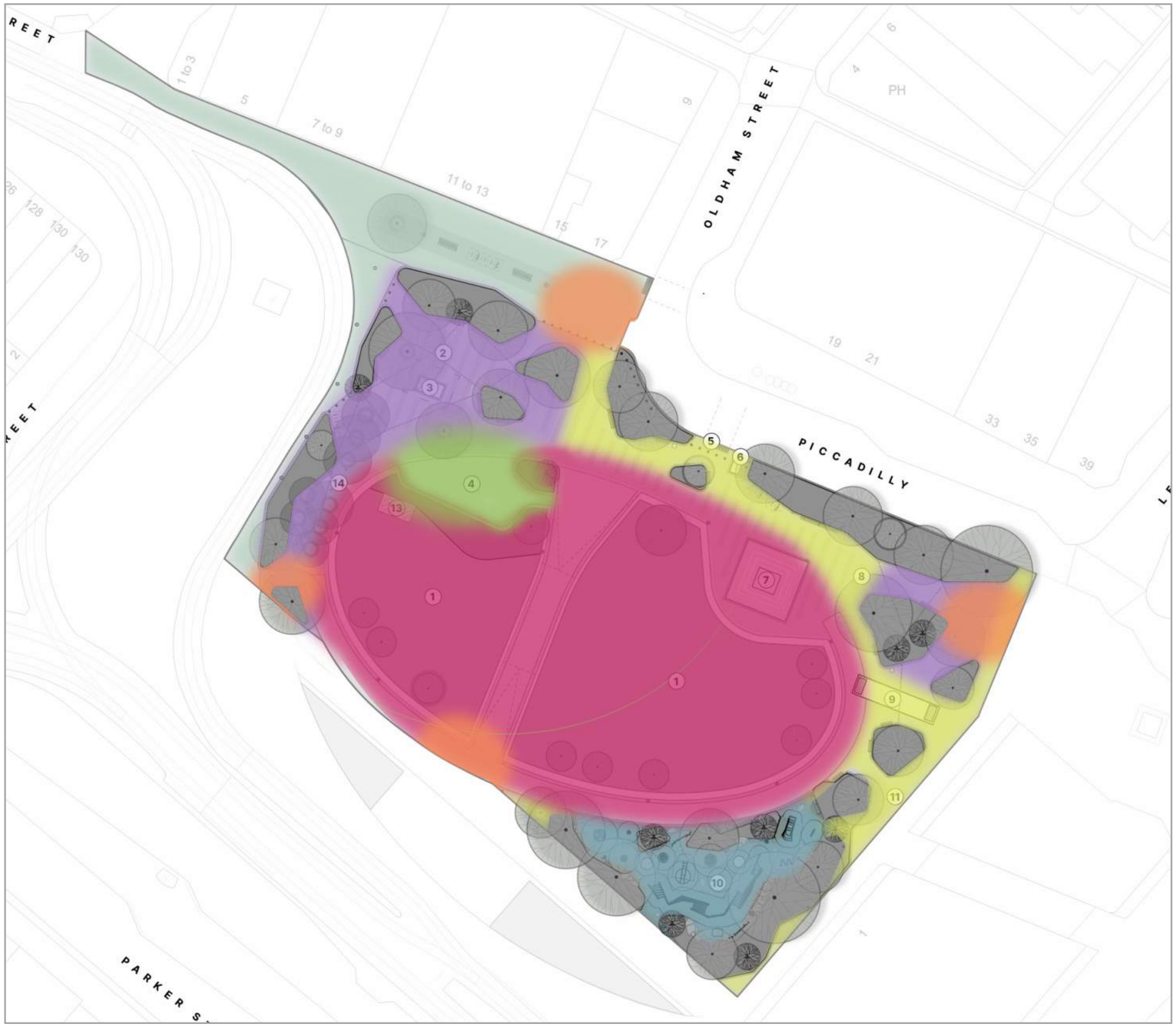
Lighting strategy.

Lighting strategy framework.

The lighting strategy has been developed around a series of distinct landscape character areas, each responding to a different function within Piccadilly Gardens. This approach establishes a clear lighting hierarchy across the site, ensuring that the lighting strategy responds appropriately to movement, amenity, play and key civic spaces whilst maintaining a coherent night-time identity.

The following sections describe the proposed lighting approach for each character area, demonstrating how the overall strategy responds to the varied uses and spatial qualities of the Gardens.

1. Central Lawn.
2. Future ancillary structure
3. Tree canopy circulation.
4. Circulation.
5. Playground.
6. Key entrances.
7. Pedestrian thoroughfare.



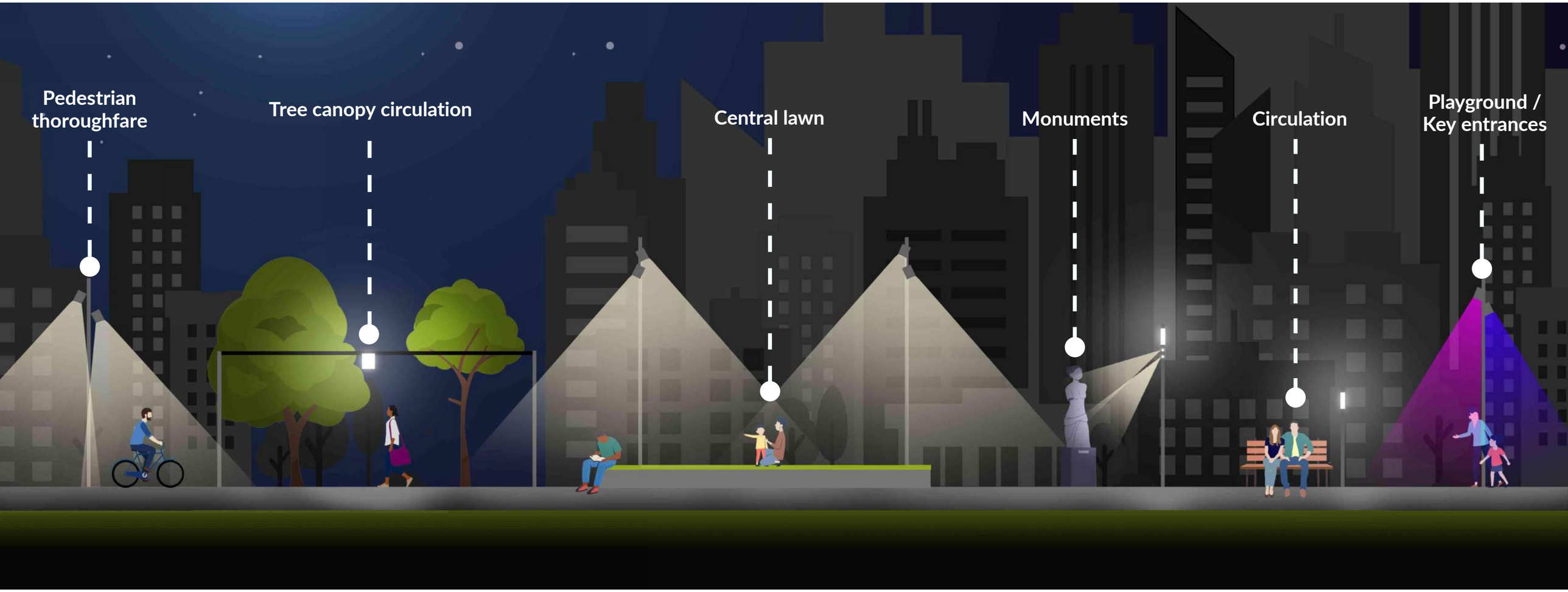
Lighting composition.

The lighting strategy has been developed to reinforce the landscape hierarchy established within Piccadilly Gardens, using different scales and layers of illumination to respond to the character and function of each space. Rather than applying a uniform lighting solution across the site, the strategy creates a balanced composition that supports movement, amenity and civic identity whilst maintaining a coherent night-time character.

The Central Lawn forms the focal point of the Gardens and is recognised within the lighting strategy as the principal civic space. Accordingly, the broadest layer of illumination is focused on this area and its surrounding circulation routes, establishing the visual anchor of the scheme whilst preserving the openness of the landscape. As the hierarchy transitions into secondary spaces, including the circulation routes, tree canopy and future ancillary structure, the scale of lighting becomes progressively more intimate, responding to the changing character of the public realm and creating a more comfortable pedestrian environment.

Feature lighting is applied selectively to reinforce important destinations, including monuments, key entrances and the playground. These interventions provide moments of visual interest and assist with orientation after dark without competing with the wider landscape composition.

Together, these lighting layers establish a coherent night-time identity that responds to the differing character of each landscape area whilst maintaining a consistent visual language across Piccadilly Gardens.



Lighting typologies.

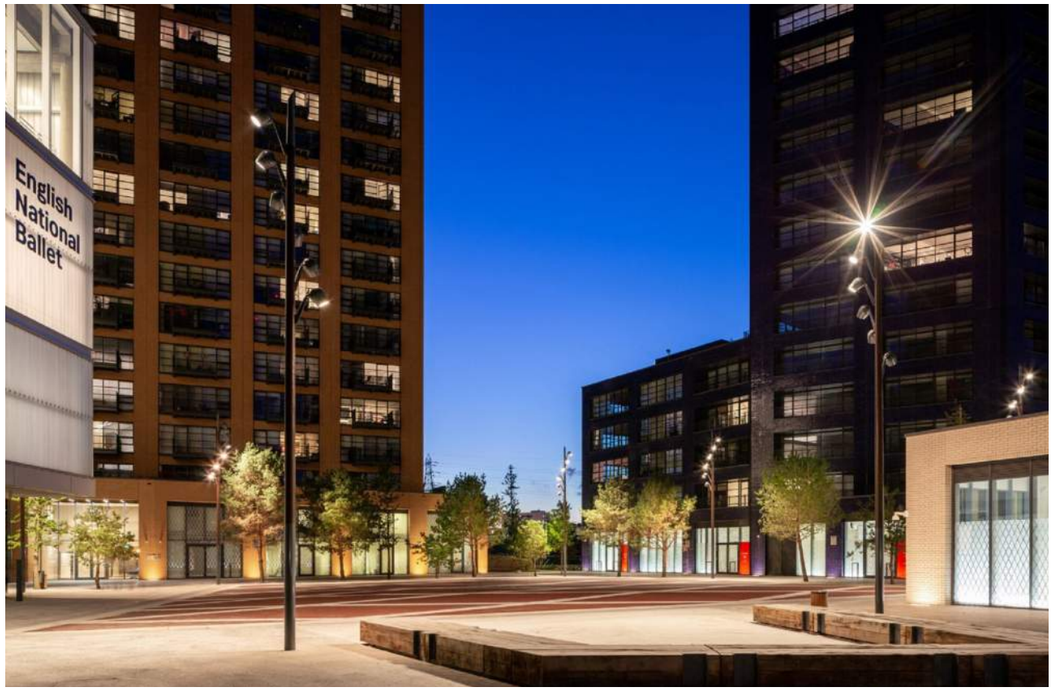
Central lawn.

The Central Lawn forms the principal civic space within Piccadilly Gardens and establishes the focal point of the wider landscape. The lighting strategy responds to this importance by providing a broad, coherent layer of illumination that supports everyday public use whilst preserving the openness and simplicity of the landscape.

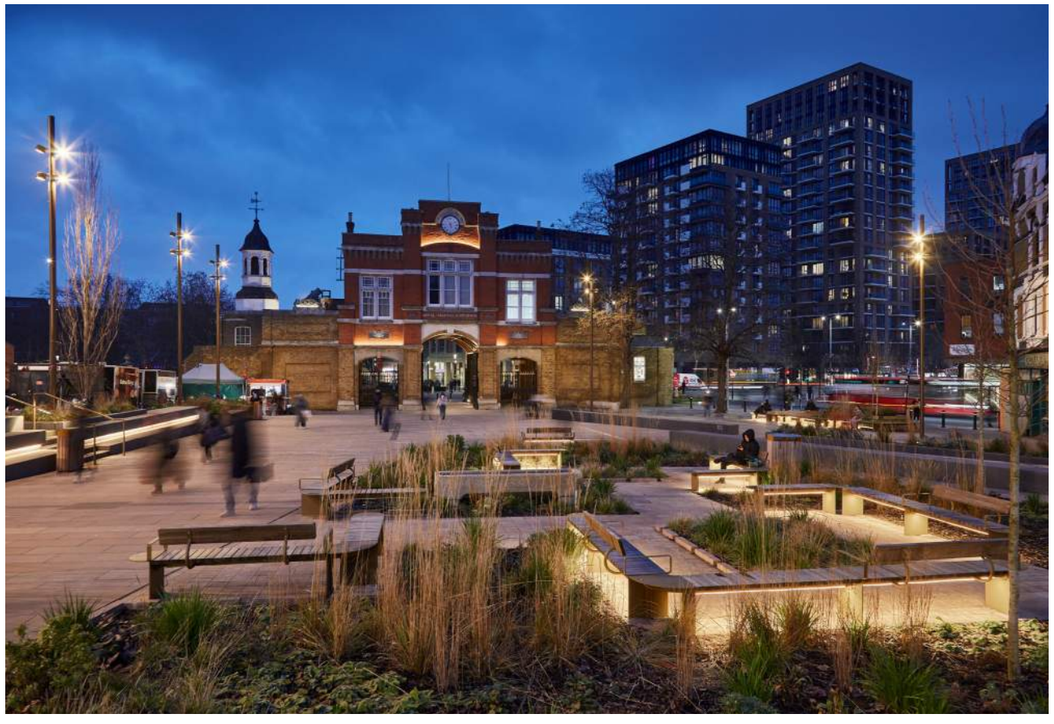
The proposed lighting treatment comprises taller perimeter lighting columns incorporating multiple luminaires to illuminate both the Central Lawn and the surrounding pedestrian routes. Concentrating the primary lighting around the perimeter allows the centre of the lawn to remain free from lighting columns, maintaining clear views across the space and reducing visual clutter whilst delivering efficient and consistent illumination where it is required.

This approach also provides opportunities to integrate supporting infrastructure, including CCTV, reducing the need for additional standalone equipment within the Gardens and contributing to a cleaner and more coordinated public realm. The proposed lighting treatment will prioritise high-quality optical control and, where appropriate, optical accessories to minimise glare, upward light and light spill, ensuring illumination is directed only where it is needed whilst supporting the wider environmental objectives of the lighting strategy.

Overall, the proposed lighting approach balances operational performance, environmental responsibility and the landscape aspiration to maintain an open, flexible and welcoming civic space, establishing the Central Lawn as the visual anchor of the Gardens after dark.







Tree canopy circulation.

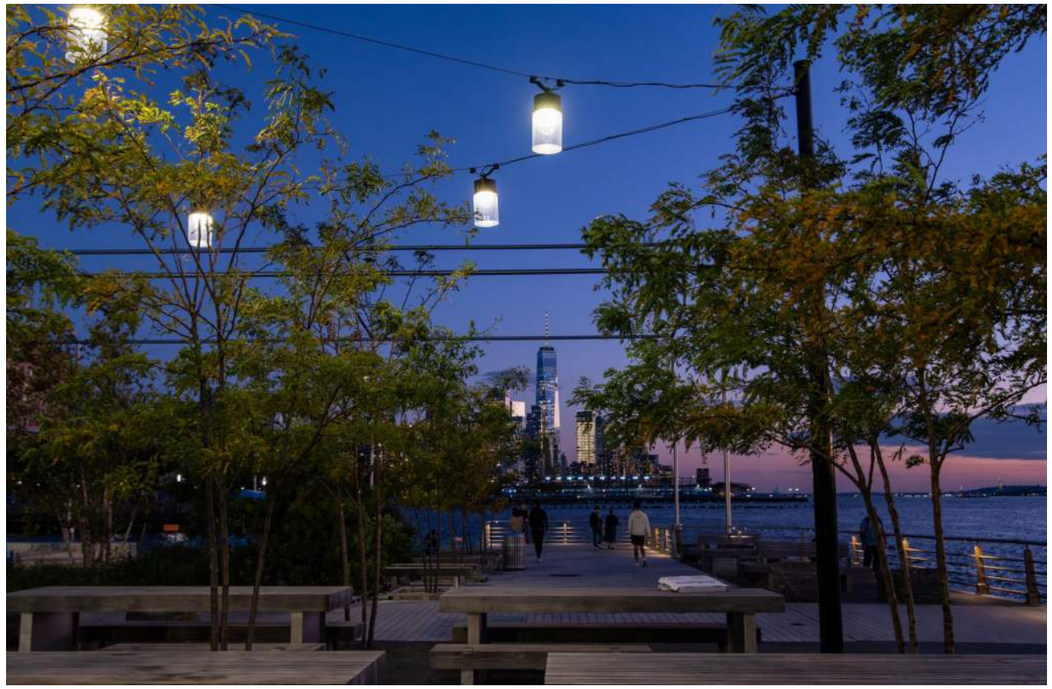
The tree canopy circulation routes provide a transition between the openness of the Central Lawn and the more intimate landscape spaces within the Gardens. The lighting strategy responds to this changing character by creating a softer and more enclosed lighting environment that complements the surrounding planting whilst maintaining comfortable pedestrian routes after dark.

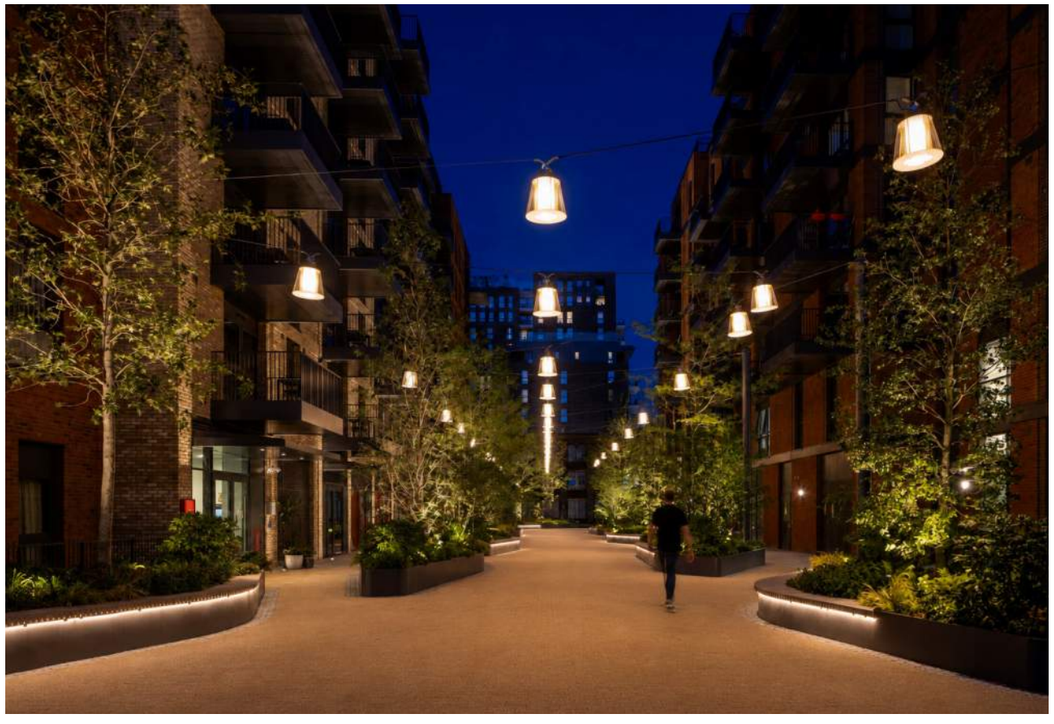
The proposed lighting treatment utilises catenary lighting suspended beneath the tree canopy to establish a continuous layer of illumination along the primary pedestrian routes. This approach reinforces the spatial character of the landscape, creating a more human-scale environment that contrasts with the broader illumination of the Central Lawn and contributes to a distinctive night-time identity within the Gardens.

Where appropriate, subtle feature lighting may be incorporated to gently reveal selected trees and landscape features. Any feature lighting will be carefully controlled, low in intensity and limited to agreed locations, enhancing the landscape without introducing unnecessary brightness, glare or environmental impact.

Together, these lighting treatments strengthen the experience of moving through the landscape after dark, creating a comfortable and visually coherent transition between the principal civic spaces and the quieter areas of the Gardens.







Circulation.

The circulation routes connect the principal spaces within Piccadilly Gardens and support movement between the surrounding streets, transport interchange and key destinations. The lighting strategy responds to this varied pattern of use by combining two complementary lighting treatments that provide both efficient general illumination and a comfortable pedestrian-scale environment.

The primary lighting treatment comprises taller lighting posts positioned along the principal pedestrian routes and throughout the wider circulation areas. These provide the broad layer of illumination required to support movement through the Gardens, reinforce key desire lines and establish a consistent lighting framework across the public realm.

To complement this primary layer, lower-height lighting posts are proposed adjacent to benches and places where people pause or gather. This secondary lighting treatment improves facial recognition and visual comfort within these spaces, ensuring seating areas remain welcoming and well observed after dark whilst reducing the potential for isolated dark pockets within the landscape. The combination of taller and lower lighting posts creates a more balanced night-time environment, providing appropriate illumination where people move as well as where they choose to stop.

Together, these complementary lighting treatments establish a clear hierarchy of illumination that supports intuitive movement through the Gardens whilst responding to the different ways in which the space is experienced after dark.







Playground.

The playground provides an important recreational space within Piccadilly Gardens, supporting play and informal activity for children and families. The lighting strategy responds to this character by combining functional illumination with opportunities for interactive lighting that reinforce the playful identity of the space.

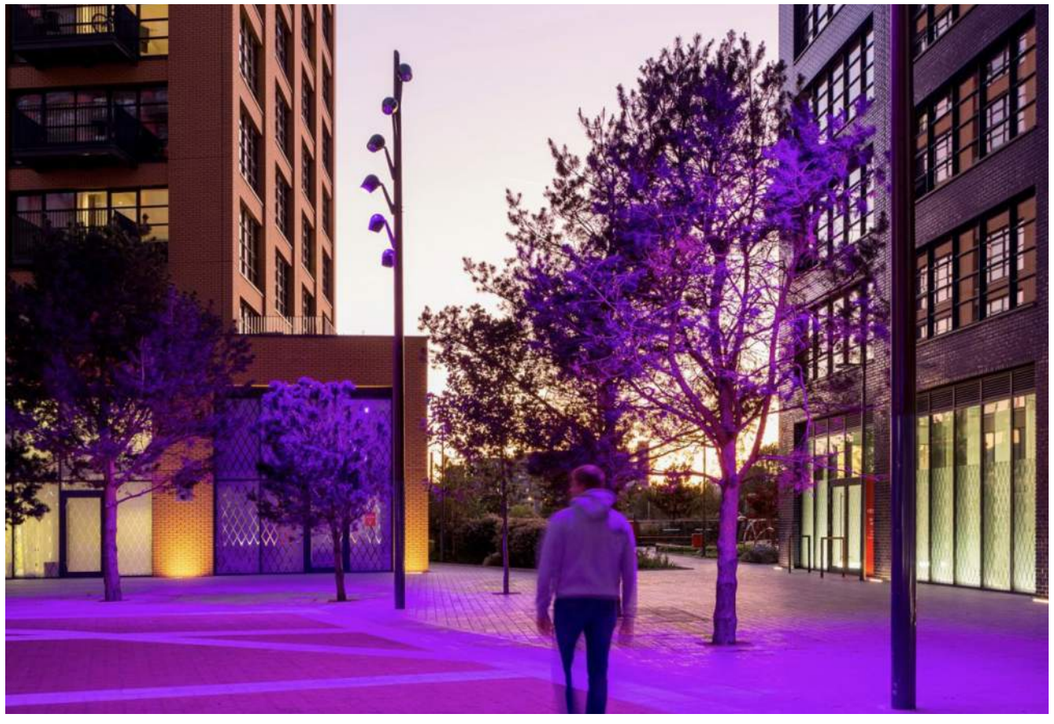
The proposed lighting treatment incorporates RGBW projection lighting capable of creating interactive coloured shadow effects during periods when the playground is most actively used. These effects are intended to complement the play experience by introducing movement, colour and visual interest without dominating the wider landscape.

As the children's activity within the playground reduces into the evening, the lighting strategy allows the same installation to transition from colour-changing operation to white light, maintaining appropriate illumination of the playground and surrounding public realm. This approach enables the lighting to respond to changing patterns of use throughout the evening and maintaining an appropriate level of illumination for the surrounding public realm.

Together, these lighting treatments create a distinctive and engaging play environment that complements the wider lighting strategy, balancing play value with the operational, environmental and public realm objectives of Piccadilly Gardens.







Key entrances.

The principal entrances to Piccadilly Gardens provide important transition points between the surrounding streets and the Gardens themselves. The lighting strategy responds to these arrival points by introducing carefully integrated feature lighting that reinforces the identity of the Gardens, improves legibility and creates a clear sense of arrival after dark.

The proposed lighting treatment includes the potential for subtle gobo projections and patterned lighting to provide moments of visual interest at selected gateway locations. These elements are intended to complement the wider lighting strategy by enhancing the character of the public realm rather than becoming dominant visual features. The content, brightness and operation of any projections will be carefully coordinated to ensure they remain appropriate to the setting whilst minimising glare, light spill and unnecessary visual distraction.

Feature lighting also provides opportunities to support seasonal displays and civic occasions, allowing selected entrances to respond to appropriate community activities whilst maintaining a consistent lighting character throughout the remainder of the year.

Together, these lighting treatments reinforce the identity of Piccadilly Gardens as one of Manchester's principal civic spaces, creating welcoming arrival points that complement the wider landscape composition and establish a distinctive night-time character.







Pedestrian thoroughfare.

The northern pedestrian thoroughfare forms the principal interface between Piccadilly Gardens and Manchester's wider public realm. The lighting strategy responds to this important transition by creating a continuous and coordinated lighting environment that complements the surrounding highway infrastructure whilst maintaining a clear relationship with the wider Gardens.

The proposed lighting treatment utilises taller lighting columns from the same design family as those used elsewhere within the scheme, creating a consistent visual language across the site. Whilst sharing a common architectural appearance, the arrangement and orientation of the luminaires responds to the different spatial characteristics of the thoroughfare, providing greater flexibility to illuminate the varied geometry of the public realm whilst maintaining appropriate lighting levels along this key pedestrian route.

This coordinated approach enables the lighting strategy to integrate with the surrounding city lighting network and existing highway infrastructure, creating a seamless transition between the civic landscape and the adjoining streets. The taller columns also provide opportunities to integrate supporting infrastructure, including CCTV, reducing the need for additional standalone installations and maintaining a coordinated public realm.

Together, these lighting treatments reinforce the relationship between Piccadilly Gardens and the surrounding city centre, ensuring the pedestrian thoroughfare forms an integral part of the overall lighting composition whilst responding appropriately to its urban context.







Monuments.

Lighting strategy.

The monuments within Piccadilly Gardens are important heritage assets that contribute to the civic identity and historic character of the Gardens. The lighting strategy responds to their significance by providing a subtle and carefully integrated lighting treatment that enhances their presence after dark whilst respecting their architectural and historic importance.

The proposed lighting treatment incorporates discreet spotlights integrated within adjacent lighting columns, avoiding the need for additional standalone lighting equipment and maintaining a clean and uncluttered public realm. The lighting will be carefully coordinated to respect the form, orientation and heritage significance of each monument, whilst minimising source visibility, upward light and unnecessary visual prominence.

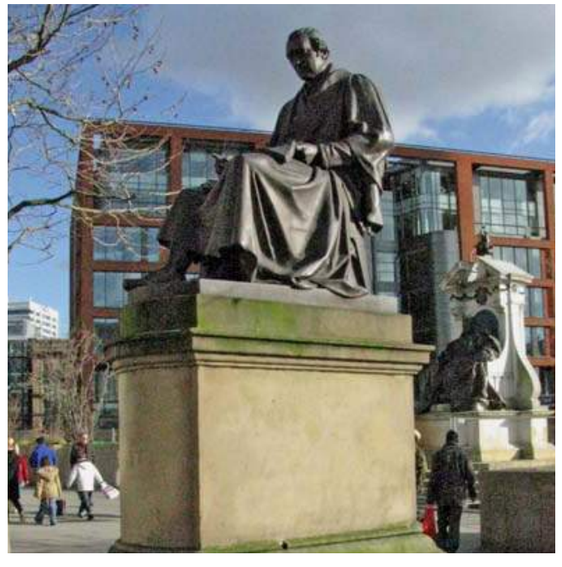
The lighting strategy reinforces the monuments as important landmarks within the Gardens, supporting orientation and reinforcing the site's civic character through a consistent and restrained lighting approach.

Although outside the current project boundary, the Duke of Wellington statue forms part of the original group of four statues that once surrounded the former Manchester Royal Infirmary before the site was redeveloped as Piccadilly Gardens. Whilst no lighting proposals are included as part of this scheme, its future illumination would provide an opportunity to establish a coordinated lighting approach across the original four monuments, reinforcing their shared historic significance.

The following page identifies the locations of the principal monuments within and adjacent to the site.



1 - Sir Robert Peel Statue



2 - James Watt Statue



3 - Queen Victoria Monument



4 - Duke of Wellington Statue (outside of scope)

Monuments.

Locations.

The plan opposite identifies the principal monuments within and immediately adjacent to Piccadilly Gardens. The numbered locations correspond to the photographs shown on the previous page and illustrate the relationship between each monument and the surrounding public realm.

The location, orientation and setting of each monument have informed the proposed lighting strategy, ensuring that illumination responds appropriately to their heritage significance, viewing angles and contribution to the wider landscape composition.



1 Sir Robert Peel Statue

2 James Watt Statue

3 Queen Victoria Monument

4 Duke of Wellington Statue (outside of scope)

Integrated infrastructure.

The lighting strategy seeks to minimise street clutter by integrating multiple functions within a coordinated lighting infrastructure wherever appropriate. This approach reduces the need for separate standalone installations, helping to preserve the openness of the landscape whilst supporting the operational requirements of a prominent city centre public space.

The proposed lighting columns are intended to form the backbone of this integrated infrastructure, providing opportunities to accommodate CCTV, communications equipment, power and future digital technologies where required. Where CCTV is not installed as part of the initial works, selected lighting columns will be structurally designed to accommodate future installation, allowing the Gardens to respond to changing operational requirements without the need for additional columns or alterations to the public realm.

This coordinated and future-proofed approach improves the long-term adaptability of the Gardens, supporting evolving operational requirements whilst maintaining a clean, coherent and resilient public realm.



CCTV locations.

Selected lighting columns are proposed to be structurally designed to accommodate CCTV infrastructure, allowing surveillance equipment to be installed as operational requirements evolve without the need for additional standalone structures.

The plan opposite identifies the proposed locations of these future-proofed columns. Where CCTV is installed, integrating the equipment within the lighting infrastructure will reduce street clutter whilst supporting the operational and security requirements of Piccadilly Gardens.

Existing CCTV Locations

Lighting columns future proofed for CCTV



Summary.

Summary.

The lighting strategy for Piccadilly Gardens establishes a coordinated and integrated approach to lighting one of Manchester's most significant civic spaces. Developed alongside the wider landscape proposals, the strategy seeks to reinforce the character of the Gardens after dark through a carefully considered lighting composition that supports movement, orientation and everyday public use whilst respecting the site's civic, historic and landscape setting.

The proposed lighting strategy responds to the different functions and character of the Gardens through a clear hierarchy of lighting treatments. Broad, functional illumination defines the principal civic spaces and primary pedestrian routes, whilst more intimate lighting approaches respond to secondary spaces such as the tree canopy and areas of recreation. Any future ancillary structure will require a lighting treatment appropriate to its intended function, safety requirements and relationship with the wider public realm. Carefully integrated feature lighting provides emphasis to key destinations and heritage assets, creating a cohesive night-time identity without competing with the wider landscape.

Environmental responsibility, operational efficiency and long-term resilience have been fundamental considerations throughout the development of the strategy. The proposed approach promotes careful control of artificial light, minimising glare, light spill and upward light whilst supporting energy efficiency, reduced maintenance requirements and lower operational costs. The lighting infrastructure has also been developed to accommodate future operational requirements through integrated and future-proofed infrastructure where appropriate.

Collectively, these principles establish a flexible and sustainable lighting framework that supports the long-term management of Piccadilly Gardens, creating a welcoming, coherent and distinctive public realm that reflects the significance of one of Manchester's most important civic landscapes.

Appendix - existing lighting.









Appendix - existing lighting.









Appendix - existing lighting.









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