



The Green Malahide Dublin

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murray & associates

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## Project Brief

Murray & Associates Landscape Architecture were commissioned by Fingal County Council Parks Department to prepare landscape masterplanning and design proposals for the development of The Green, Malahide.

A Public Realm Strategy was conducted for Malahide in 2014, and these proposals for The Green take heed of the wider outcomes of this study.

This document presents research, analysis and design proposals for improvement works at The Green.

The site at The Green is an integral element in the open space and pedestrian network within Malahide. It is well utilised at all times of the day and as well as an important waterfront space in its own right. The Green is a link area between the urban core of the Village and the Marina area. It is the only large public open space within the town centre and as such has an important role to play in the fabric of the community.

The landscape proposals contained herein will form a framework for long term development of The Green within the framework of the Public Realm Strategy, with further detailed design of access routes and landscape spaces required to create the finished park. Designs and plans, as presented at this stage, are subject to change as a result of detailed design following the consultation process with all parties concerned, including the local council.

## Aims and Objectives

- To re-invigorate and improve the quality of the open space.
- Allow a multiplicity of uses within the space; spaces for rest and play.
- Conserve and Improve pedestrian connectivity and legibility.
- To strengthen links between The Green and Malahide village
- To provide a cohesive palette of materials and site furniture that can be utilised in the wider area
- To create a strong focal point and identity within the village
- Enhance views and reference to the estuary while strengthening links to the town
- Integrate vehicular elements into the proposed design
- To follow and expand the proposals cited in the Malahide Public Realm Strategy (April 2014).



Malahide Village



Malahide Marina



View from The Green to Ireland's Eye

## Location

The focus of our proposals, The Green, sits close to the compact centre of the village. The space is bounded to the west and south by roads and recent development. From the north and east, The Green faces out to the estuary and enjoys exclusive sea views. This space is an important link between the built and natural environment. The Green is the focal point of this transition. Nowhere else in Malahide affords the visitor an extensive space to enjoy both the village and the sea.

The wider village possesses a high quality built and natural environment. The street layout of the historical village centre reflects elements of a planned town, evidence of which strongly remains today. There are four Architectural Conservation Areas in Malahide, a number of Protected Structures, along with elements of archaeological interest.

Important community, cultural and tourist amenities including Malahide Castle and Demesne, the coast and the estuary. The Malahide Estuary is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Above all, Malahide is a coastal village that has had important cultural and socio-economic links with the estuary and the sea beyond. Although these links may have lost something of their meaning and become less obvious in recent years, these proposals for the refurbishment and upgrading of The Green are aimed at restoring and highlighting this relationship.

## Context

A Public Realm Strategy, undertaken by Fingal County Council and with comprehensive public participation input, was conducted for Malahide in 2014. The proposals in this document take heed of many of the study's outcomes and recommendations.

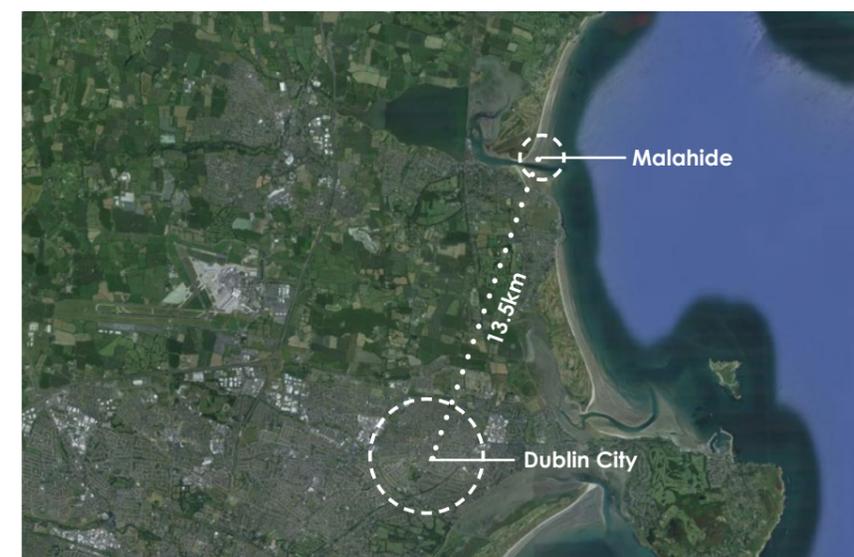
The focus of the Strategy is the enhancement of the public realm, both in a physical and socio-cultural dimensions.

### KEY FINDINGS

Through public participation and engagement with stakeholders, the Strategy recognises and concentrates on three main themes of enhancement within the Public Realm of Malahide:

- **Create a Destination:** visitors spend more time in Malahide with knock-on benefits for the local economy
- **Create Movement:** ease with which pedestrians move about the village, wayfinding, a pedestrian focus.
- **Create Streetscape:** provide appropriate street furniture (bins, seats, lighting etc). Improve greenery.

The proposed public realm enhancements to The Green are at the core of these recommendations. Indeed, they could provide a platform for a future 'design guide' template as to the quality of streetscape; from a consistent design philosophy through to appropriate material choices.



# SITE ANALYSIS - History

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Malahide is known to have become a persistent settlement from the coming of the Vikings, who landed in 795, and used Malahide Estuary (along with Baldoyle) as a convenient base. With the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, the last Danish King of Dublin retired to the area in 1171. From the 1180s, the history of the area is tied to that of the Talbot family of Malahide Castle, who were granted extensive lands in the area and over the centuries following developed their estate, and the small harbour settlement.

By the early 19th century, the village had a population of over 1000, and a number of local industries, including salt harvesting, while the harbour continued in commercial operation, with landings of coal and construction materials. The area grew in popularity in Georgian times as a seaside resort for wealthy Dublin city dwellers.

In the 1960s, developers began to build housing estates around the village core of Malahide. Further estates followed, to the northwest, south and west, but the village core remained intact, with the addition of a marina and apartment complex development adjacent to the The Green.

Malahide has a higher percentage of professionals living in it than any other town in Ireland, according to figures released by the Central Statistics Office. Malahide came top of the socio-economic charts with the highest proportion of residents classified as employers, managers and higher professionals.

These groups combined, make up 41.3% of Malahide's population.

## INDUSTRIAL

Sailing boats and small coasters carrying coal came up the estuary on the high flooding tide and sat on the hard sand off The Green when the tide later ran out. The coal was unloaded over the side into horse-drawn carts and taken over the hard sand, on to The Green and in to the coalyard where the Marina Village now sits.

From the early 1700's up to 1900, oysters were cultivated in the estuary. Malahide oysters earned a far ranging reputation for excellence. In 1837 2 million were sold.

A railway built in 1844 cut the size of beds by half and created silt and mud build up that further cut down the size of the beds. By 1864 only 10 acres of beds were in production. It was as late as 1903 that the beds were still being restocked but the continuing impact of the railway viaduct along with coal dust pollution from unloading ships and the growing sewerage problem finally put paid to the Malahide oysters.

There were also extensive mussel beds in the estuary which were a useful source of food and employment. However, the construction of the railway led to their decline also.



View from The Green towards New Street



Oyster Fishermen - 1865



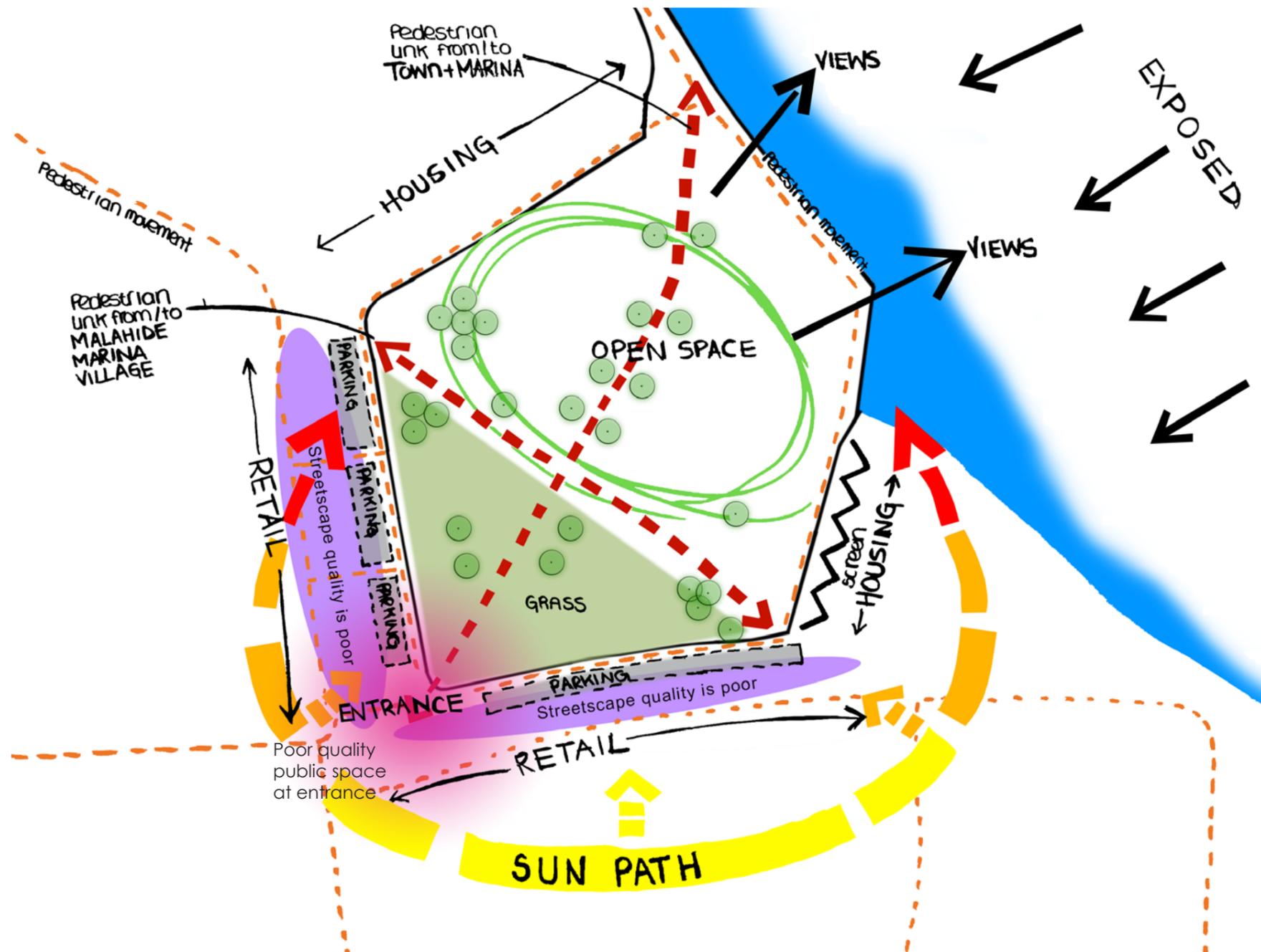
OS Map 6 inch 1829 - 1841



OS Map 25 inch 1897-1913



Google Earth 2016



## Summary of Main Findings

### Views and Location

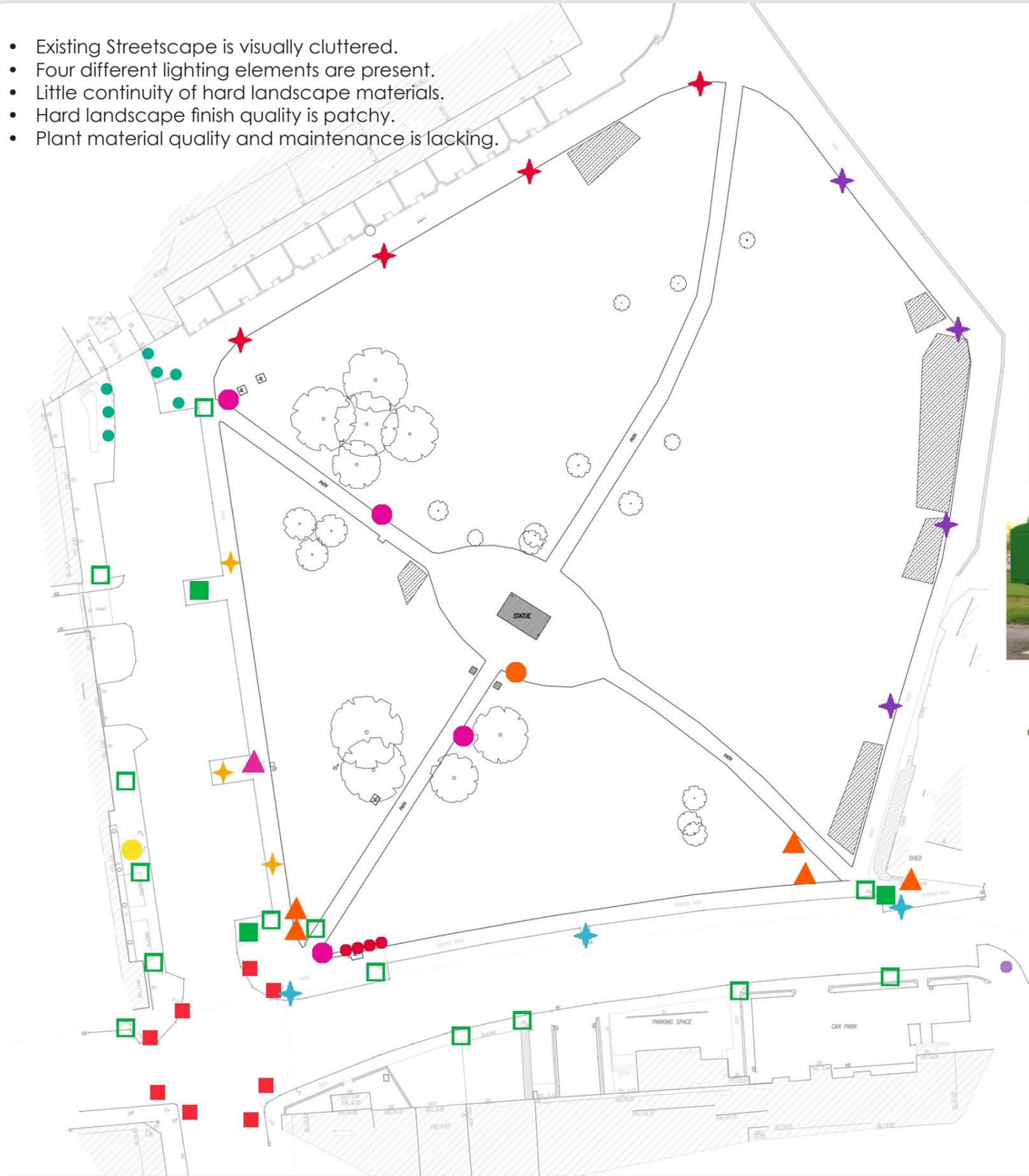
- South-facing entrance - good exposure to sun all day.
- Wind exposure on north-east of site.
- Undisturbed views from the north-east of site.
- Desire lines linking Town to Marina and the Malahide Village Marina.
- Vehicular traffic at southern and western side of site.
- Mainly pedestrian traffic at northern and eastern side of site.
- Open space is screened at north-west and south-east with direct views to sea.

### Streetscape

- The type and condition of the street furniture is poor. There is no cohesive design ethos within the space.
- Car parking dominates the streets.
- The quality of road and footpath paving is poor.
- The quality of pedestrian wayfinding is poor.
- Maintenance and Planting Quality is lacking.

# Existing Streetscape Analysis

- Existing Streetscape is visually cluttered.
- Four different lighting elements are present.
- Little continuity of hard landscape materials.
- Hard landscape finish quality is patchy.
- Plant material quality and maintenance is lacking.



## DIVERSE STREETScape ELEMENTS



# Photographic Analysis





G View from East looking North at the Marina



H View from East looking East



View of Sea

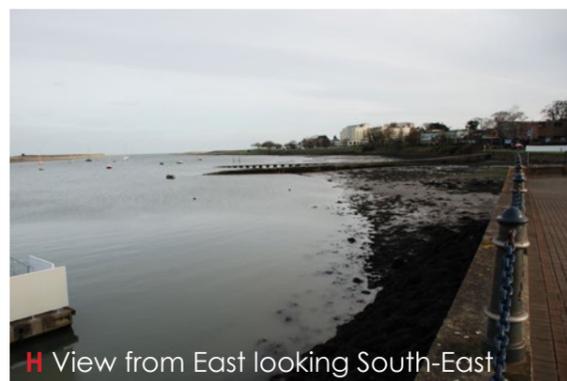


View of Sea

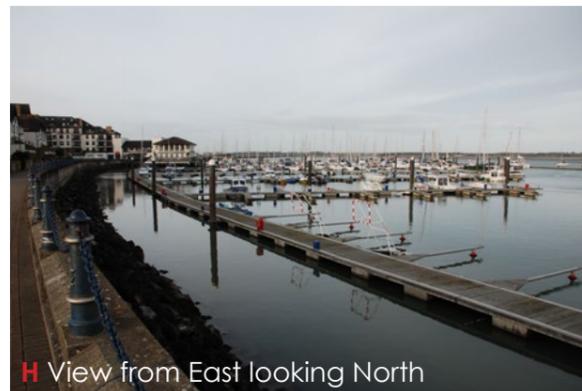


View of site from New Street

The views out from The Green are spectacular. The flat horizontal nature of the estuary means that views are generally wide ranging, with occasional low hills and dunes. There are some groups of trees to the edges of the estuary zones especially to the north side of the Swords/Malahide estuary. The margins of the estuary is generally free of development. Views are across to Lambay Island, the sea, and across to Donabate.



H View from East looking South-East



H View from East looking North



View of sea from Townyard Lane



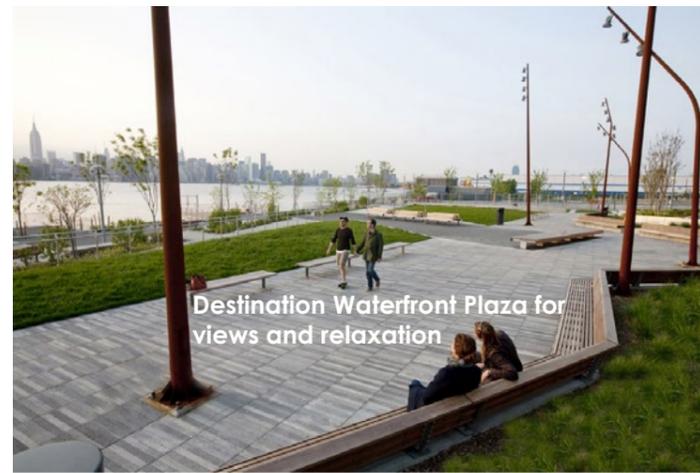
View of site from Townyard Lane

# PRECEDENT STUDIES Design Inspiration & Comparative Studies



Strong contrast in paving enhances wayfinding and delineates spaces

Square des Frères Charon - Montréal



Destination Waterfront Plaza for views and relaxation

The Edge Park, Brooklyn



Creating linked pedestrian spaces

Millenium Coastal Park, Wales



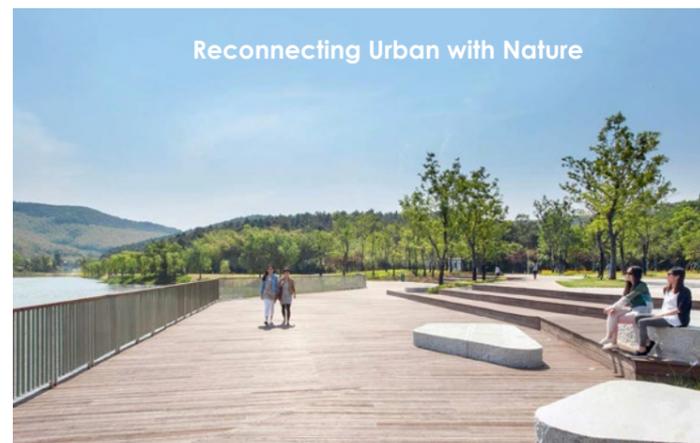
Simple yet strong design ethos creates multi-use spaces for programmed events and informal use

Kranplatsen Docks, Sweden



Using landform for sculptural seating elements

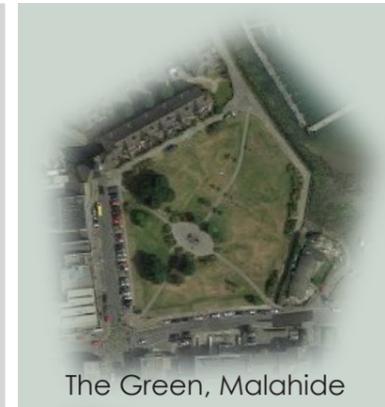
Potter's Field, London



Reconnecting Urban with Nature

Niushoushan Park, China

## Size Comparison



The Green, Malahide



Eyre Square, Galway



Grand Canal Square, Dublin

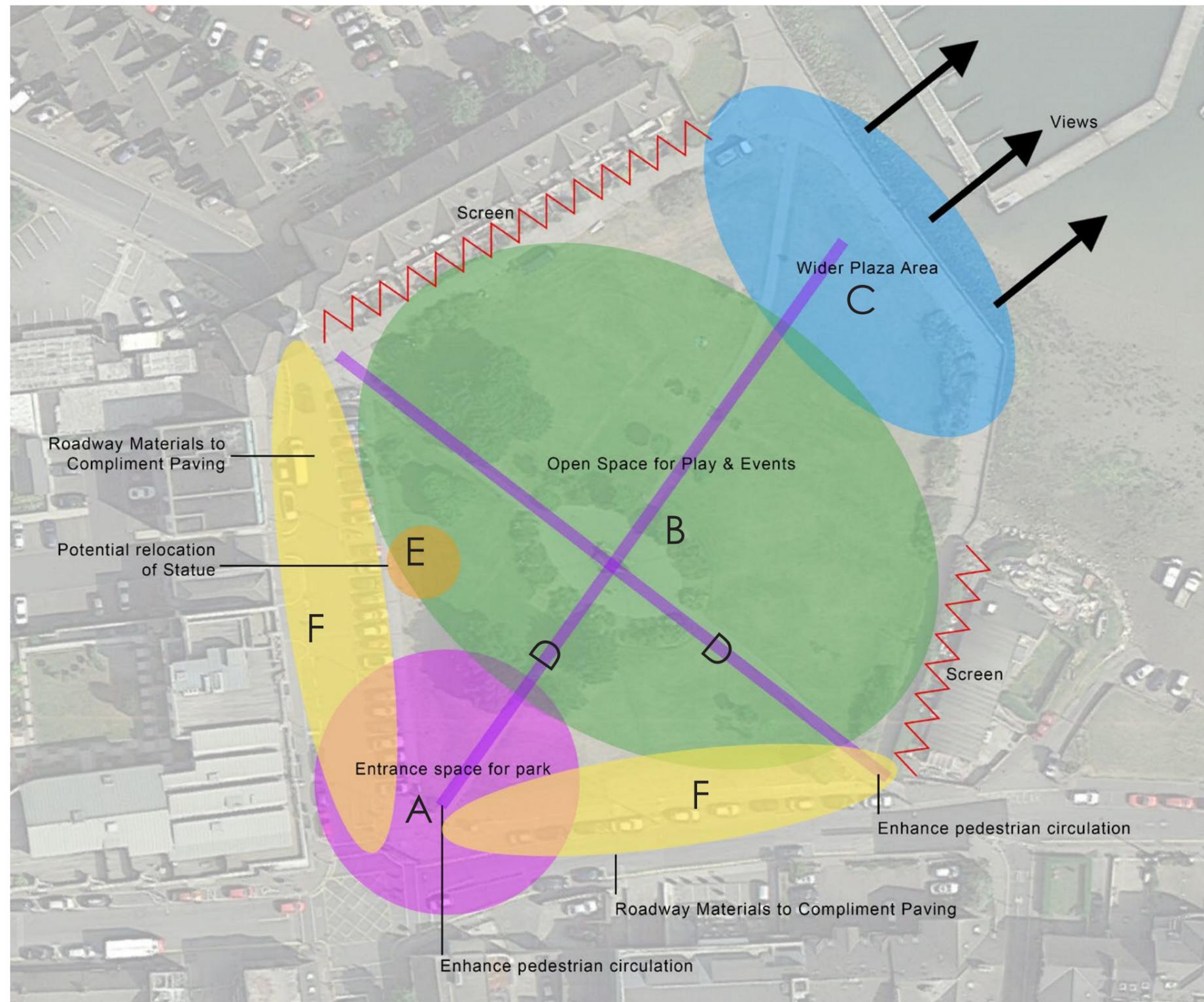


The Green, Howth



St Stephens Green, Dublin

## Activating the Open Space



### A ENTRANCE SPACE FOR PARK

- First welcoming entrance space from New Street, allowing people to meet and sit
- Urban entrance of the park with specimen seating and lighting - widened entrance space moves 'centre of gravity' towards the village urban core.

### B OPEN SPACE FOR PLAY & EVENTS

- Multi-purpose open grass area for informal play and relaxation
- Space for potential events.

### C WIDER PLAZA AREA

- Existing pathway expanded to create larger destination space with complete views of the sea.
- Potential space for markets etc.

### D PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

- Significant Pedestrian Axes widened, re-aligned and given more importance. Creates simpler, more defined movement within the site and responds to pedestrian movements in wider area.

### E POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF STATUE

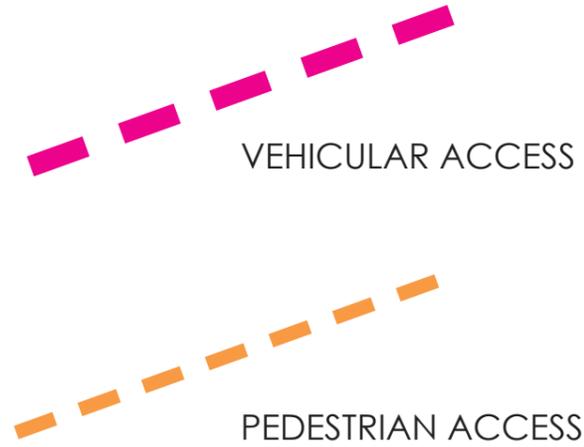
- Creates interest and a secondary focus from west side of park.

### F ROADWAY MATERIALS TO COMPLIMENT PAVING

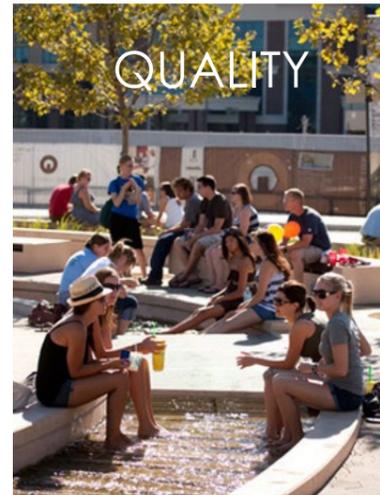
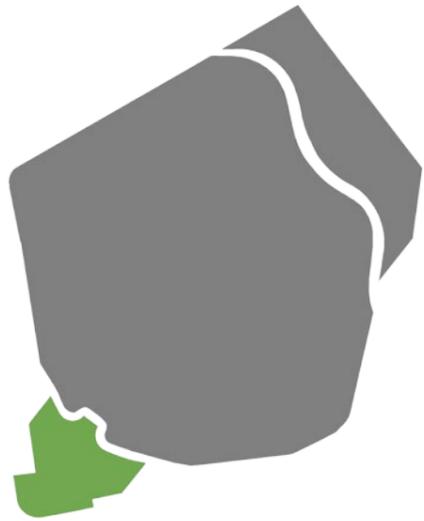
- Relating the surrounding area with the park by the use of complementary material palette.

# PEDESTRIAN ACCESS/CIRCULATION/USES

The Green acts as a pedestrian node and destination between several walking routes.

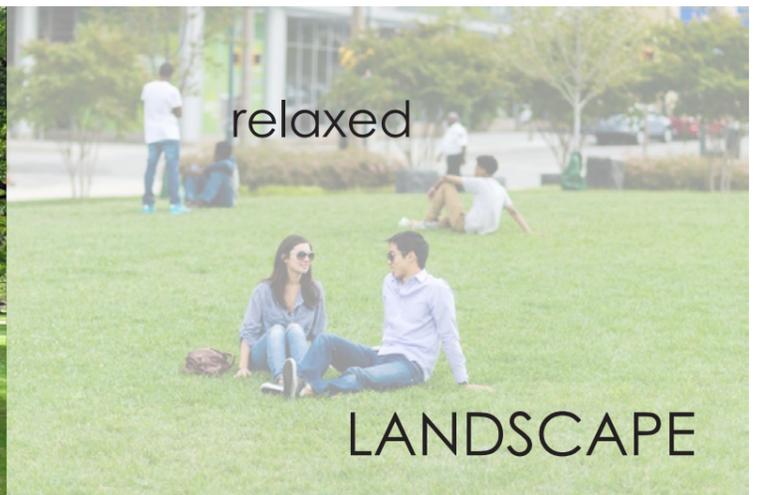


# CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT - Defining Spaces



Function

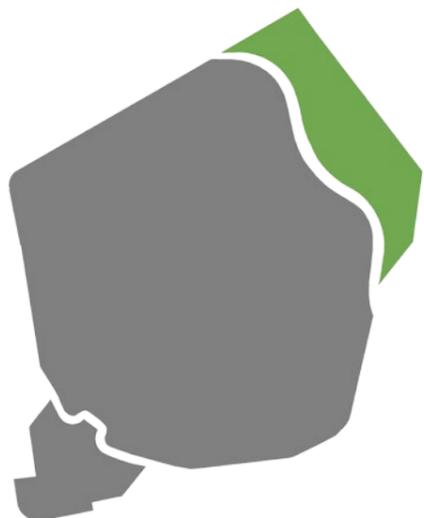
Identity



Activity

Informal

LANDSCAPE



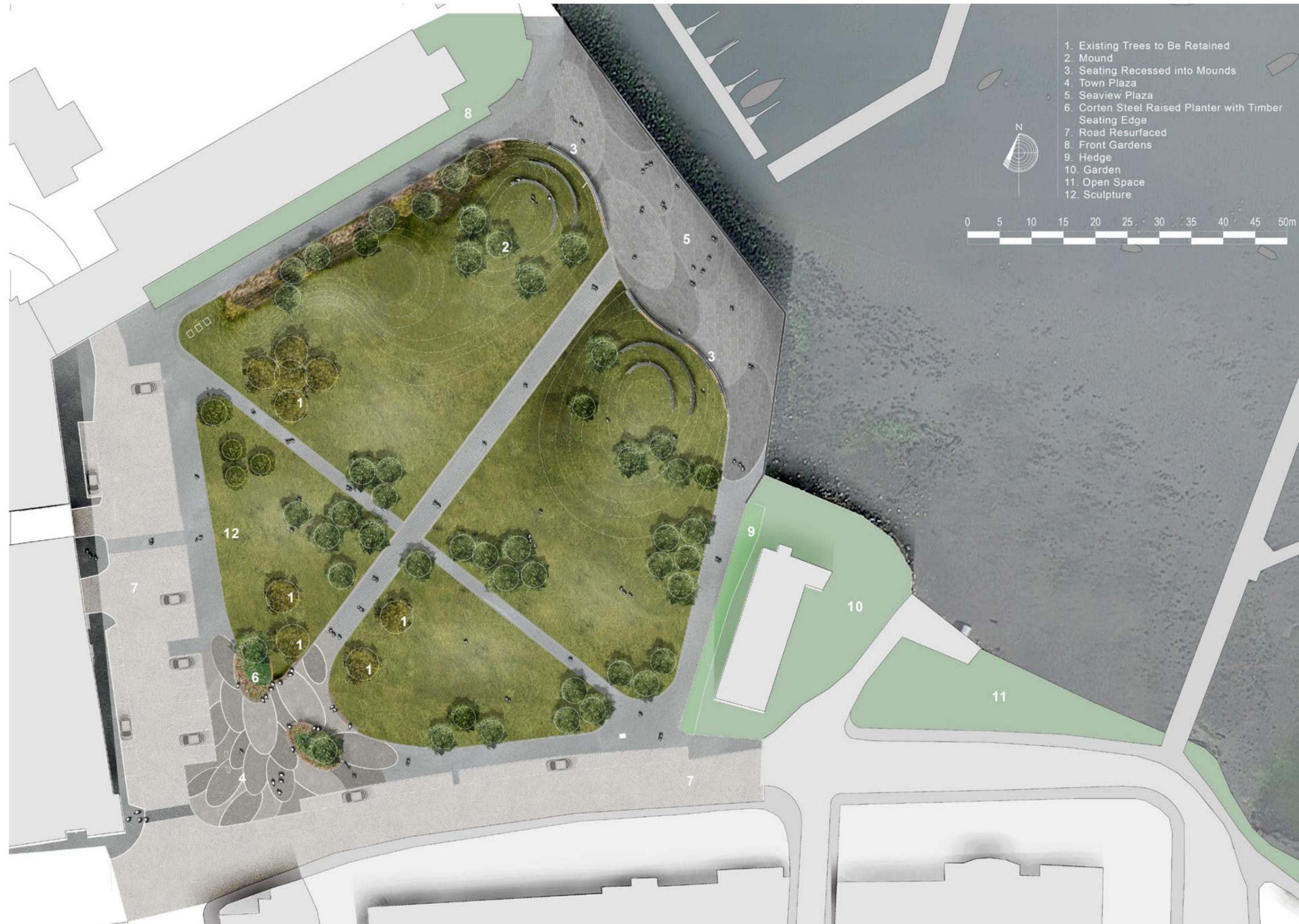
ESCAPE

VIEWS

Beauty

Experience

ENVIRONMENT



The Green can be seen as a single space subtly divided into three parts.

The lively Town Plaza (4) is a paved open space and can be used for various cultural and commercial events. Feature raised planters (6), incorporating seating, provide opportunity for rest and frame the entranceway into The Green

The Green Lawn central area serves as a protected and shady space surrounded by the undulating lawns and existing and proposed trees. This space provides informal play areas and space for events.

The Seaview Esplanade is a space for escape, for sitting and appreciating the view. Ample space is also provided for events such as markets.

The composition is completed by a distinctive axis which leads across the space, providing a strong direct link between the Town Plaza and village and the wider extensive views of the estuary.

The Green is a barrier-free space with the footpaths, roadways and the open lawns at a similar level. This solution physically and optically unites the whole space.



The Town Plaza to The Green has been enlarged, providing a new urban plaza at the transition space between the village and The Green.

This is the meeting point between town and nature, providing a visually distinct focus for the area and a major entry to The Green.

The existing mature trees and supplementary planting provide a unique setting adjacent to the hard landscape and raised planters.

Seating is provided to allow interaction and contemplation.

The paving pattern suggests an oyster/mussel shape, referencing the rich history of The Green, while also denoting a more high quality focal area befitting the new plaza.



The existing footpath running along the waterfront has been extended in order to create a wider, more generous space. This allows more space for promenading and 'staying' activities, whilst also increasing flexibility for spontaneous and unplanned activities. The result is a more dynamic experience of the landscape and more "space for life".

The subtle oyster-shell shape of the Village Plaza paving is also echoed here, but in a more extensive manner. This visually and physically links the two spaces, providing continuity of material and a harmonic design, whilst denoting a focal area for the visitor.



# Open Space and Mounds



In contrast to the activity and engagement of the Town Plaza, the existing mature trees, grass mounding and further tree planting of The Green creates quiet, sheltered spaces.

There is ample open space for informal play, with a feeling of gentle enclosure provide by the proposed new trees and undulating mounds. Long Sculptural seating elements nestle into the distinctive mounds, receding back into the ground as they wrap around. These are positioned to make the most of the unique view out across the estuary and to Lambay, and being slightly elevated allows everyone to get the best of the most vantage points.

This area is also a flexible open space, which can be used for the numerous events organised in the village. As an additional focal point to The Green the existing statue is to be relocated to a prominent position to the east, adjacent to the well-trafficked road leading to the Marina Village.





**Outdoor Concert Space**

The scheme is designed to accommodate up to 400 people for music events without the need for amplification.



**Outdoor Market Space**

44+ Market stalls can be erected within the Green for seasonal events / farmer's market.

# Materials Palette



Natural Stone with varying sizes to delineate spaces and paths



Small format natural stone elements form focal areas

Natural Stone is proposed to the destination areas and main linking path, for a sense of quality and arrival.

Concrete Pavers would be recommended for pedestrian pathways edging the space and secondary paths.

Resurfaced roadways and parking spaces edging The Green are coloured to provide a sense of continuity of the whole space.



Contrasting textures, same material gives continuity of design



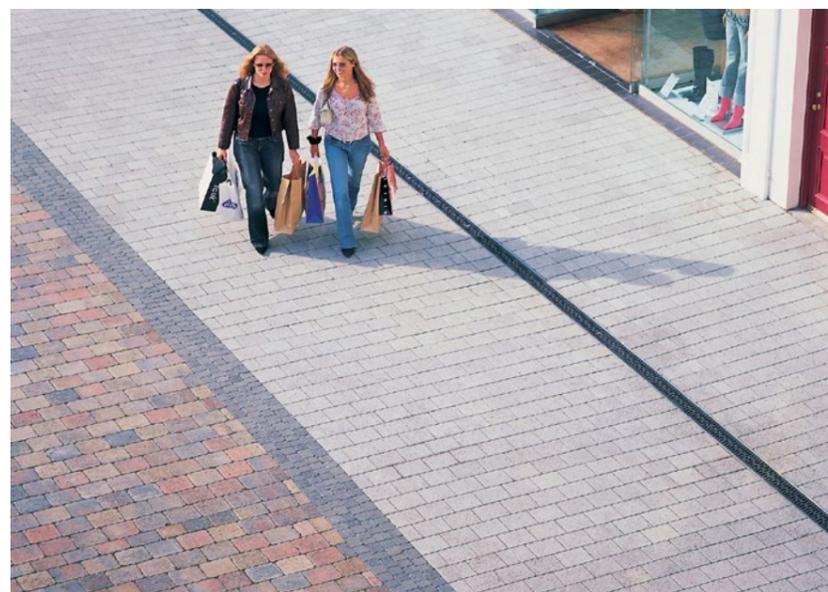
Resurfaced roadways in coloured tarmac.



Local history and place incorporated into the hard landscape



High quality concrete paving for pathways

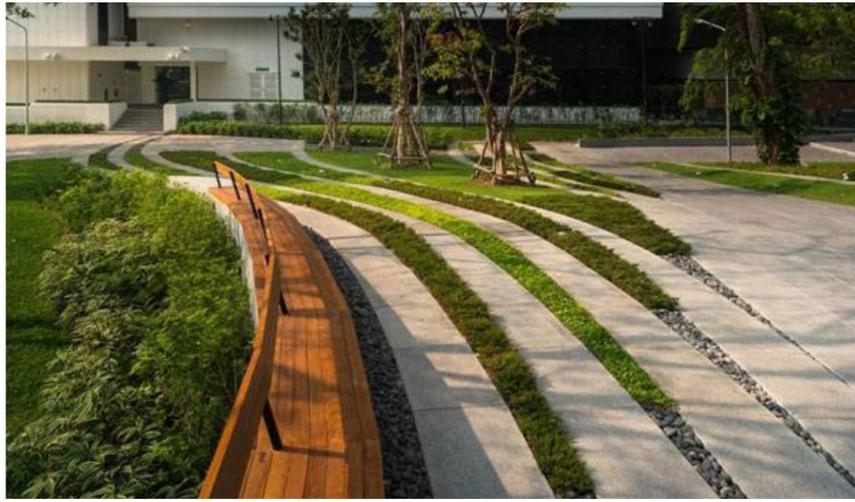


High quality concrete paving for pathways



Opportunity for site specific paving design

# Street Furniture - Seating



Raised Timber Seating - incorporated into planters at entrance plaza



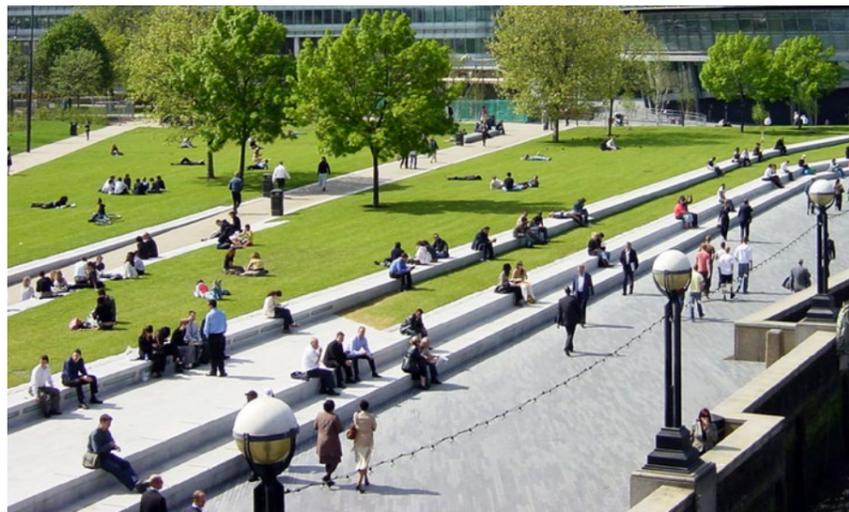
Corten Steel raised planters echo the industrial heritage of The Green



Timber seating at Entrance Plaza



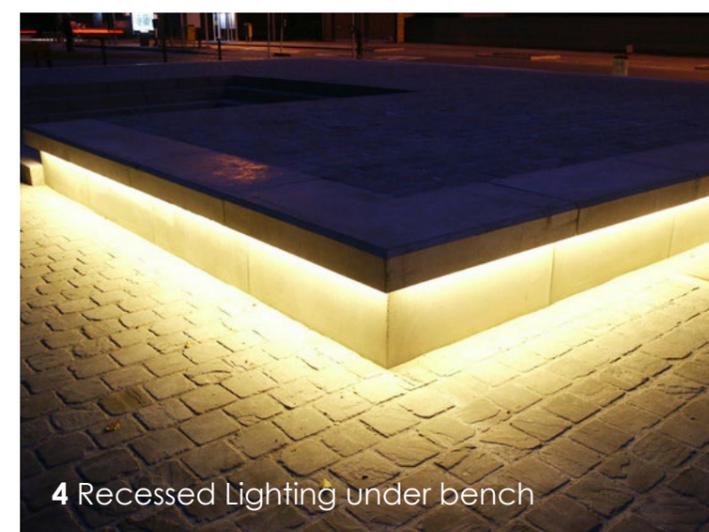
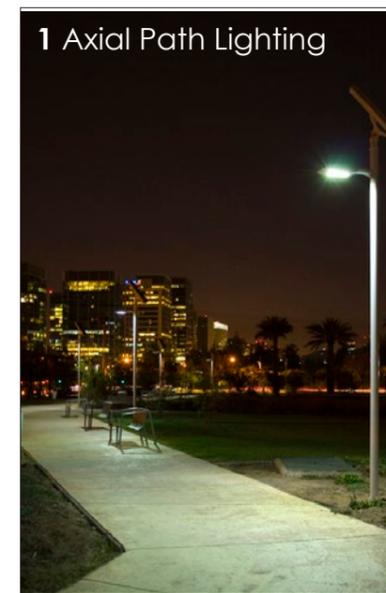
Bespoke seating incorporated into landforms



Long bench Seating provides extensive area for viewing and rest



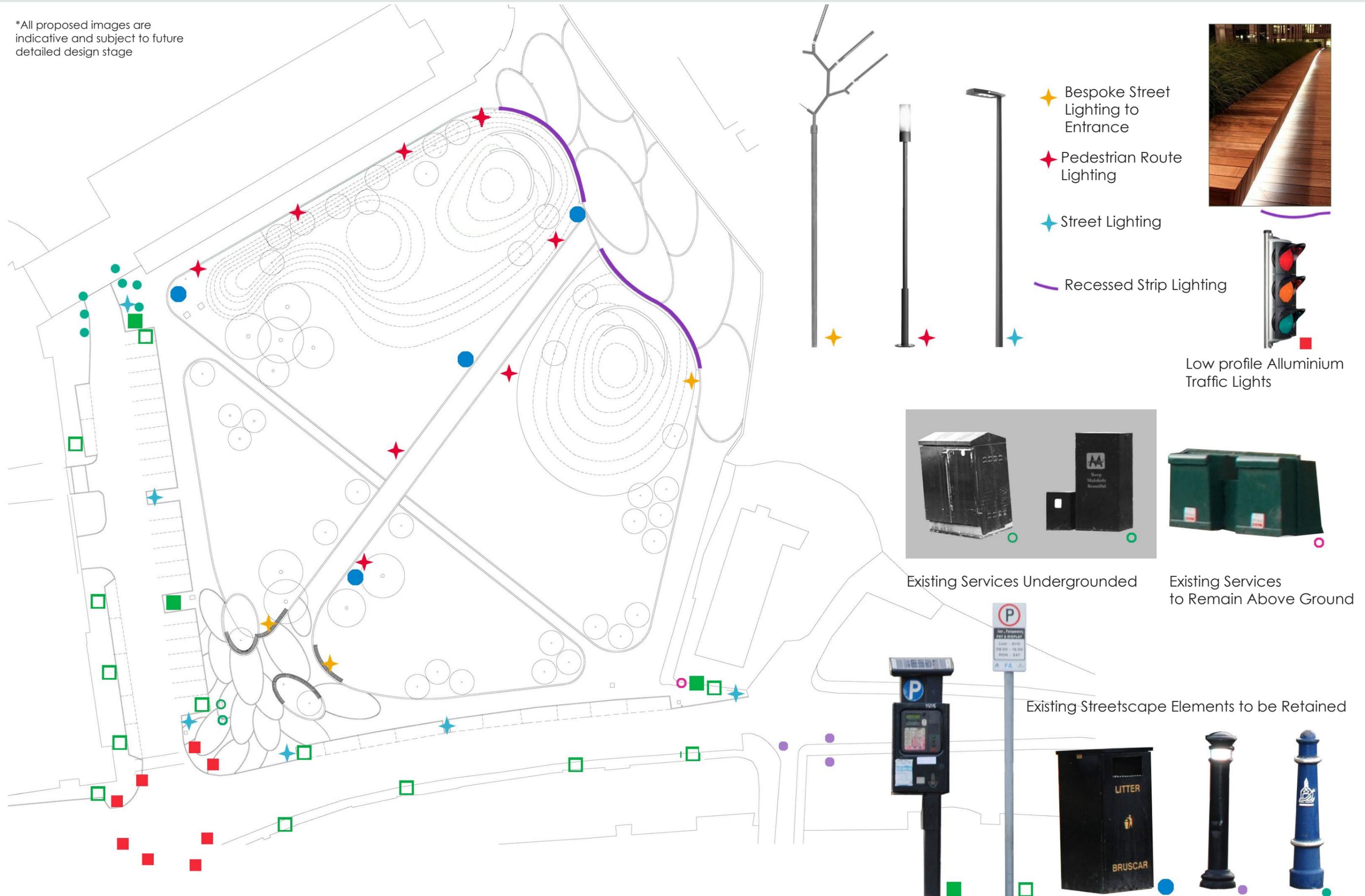
Seating forms sculptural element in the landscape



\*All proposed images are indicative and subject to future detailed design stage

# Proposed Streetscape Elements

\*All proposed images are indicative and subject to future detailed design stage



- ★ Bespoke Street Lighting to Entrance
- ★ Pedestrian Route Lighting
- ★ Street Lighting
- Recessed Strip Lighting



Low profile Aluminium Traffic Lights



Existing Services Undergrounded



Existing Services to Remain Above Ground



Existing Streetscape Elements to be Retained

