

5.15 Concept 3D Views



View from the footbridge towards NKQ, USW to the left



View looking east along Emlyn Street towards USW, NKQ on left, houses to right



Elevated view from the north



View from Usk Way looking North towards NKQ

5.15 Concept 3D Views



View looking South through the new Public Realm



View looking North along Usk Way



View of brickwork detailing - College logo in brick



View from Usk Way looking North towards NKQ

5.15 Concept 3D Views



View from the north looking south across River Usk towards NKQ, footbridge and USW

Landscape Design

6.1 Character Areas

The site has been divided into four distinct character areas, each shaped by its function, surrounding context, and associated technical constraints. These zones inform the emerging landscape strategy and provide a framework for developing appropriate materiality, planting, and spatial organisation as the design progresses.

Building Frontage / Main Entrance

This area will form the primary arrival point to the college, setting the tone for the building's civic presence and establishing a clear visual and physical connection with the wider public realm. The landscape treatment here will support accessibility, wayfinding, and a welcoming identity.

Public Realm

Located between the building and the adjacent multi-storey car park, this area is expected to function as a key public space. It will accommodate pedestrian movement, informal gathering, and potentially some amenity functions, while responding to issues of safety, accessibility, and robust maintenance.

Usk Way Circulation

This linear space along the eastern edge of the site will serve as a transitional corridor between the north and south ends of the building along Usk Way. Its role will be to facilitate safe pedestrian circulation, link the proposed drop-off bays to the main entrance, define the site boundary, and contribute to the legibility of routes around the site.

Service Yard / Deliveries

A dedicated service and operational zone to the south, this area will accommodate deliveries, staff access, and back-of-house functions. While primarily functional, its landscape treatment will be considered to help manage visual impact and integrate it into the wider public realm.



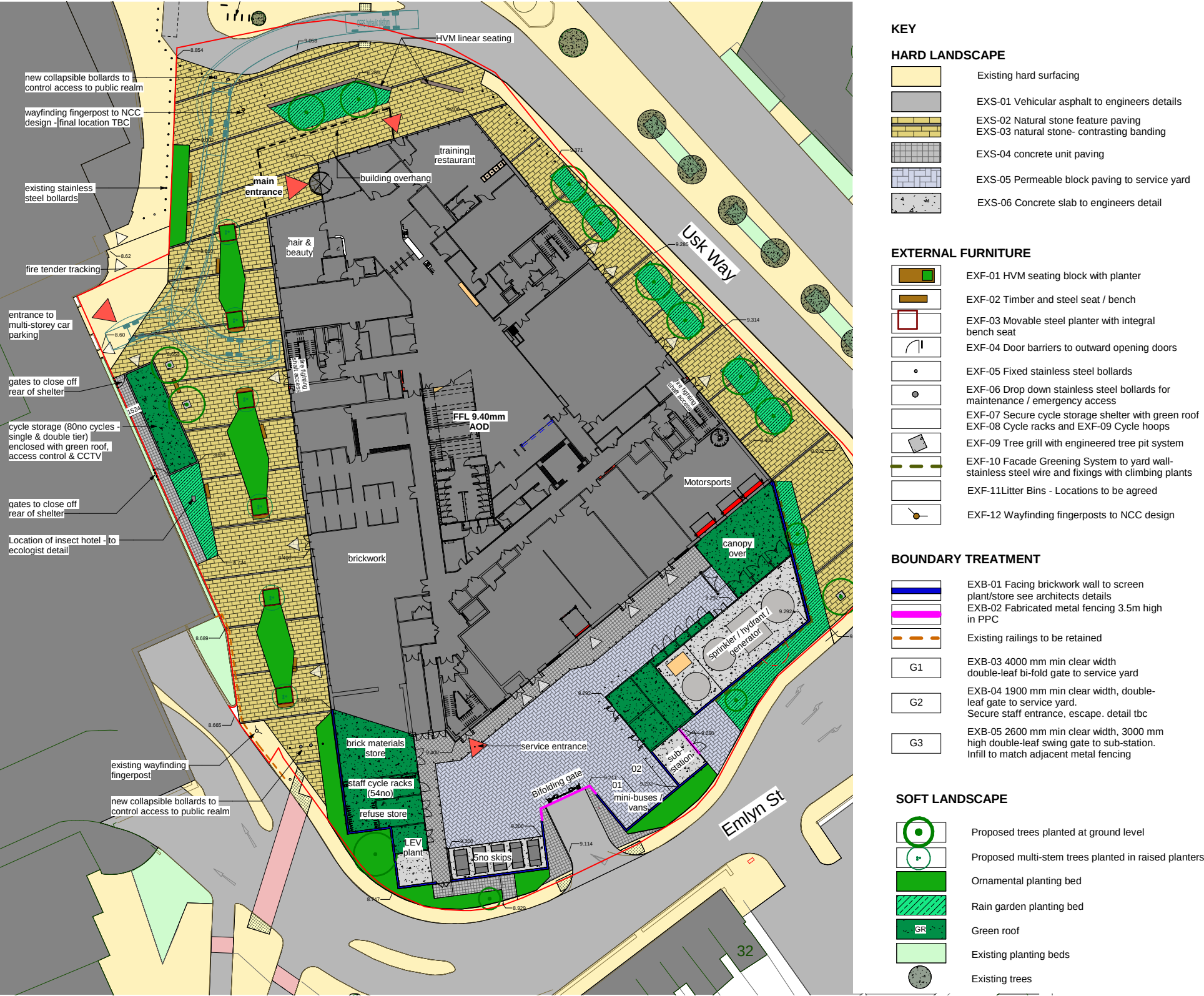
6.2 Design Rationale

The landscape design has been developed to respond sensitively to a complex set of site conditions, while creating a coherent and welcoming setting for the new building and its wider urban context. As a prominent city centre site with high levels of footfall, the proposals aim to support legibility, safety, and movement, while incorporating robust and manageable public realm elements. Key design moves include a clearly legible pedestrian network that accommodates strong north–south desire lines, connecting Friars Walk and the city centre to key destinations to the south and east. The layout facilitates inclusive access to all building entrances and accommodates anticipated pedestrian flows.

A simple broad paved footpath is provided to Usk Way, broken up and softened by the introduction of rain garden beds and semi mature street tree planting, mirroring and reinforcing the existing avenue planting to the North of Usk Way. To the West of the building the Public Realm area provides a more informal streetscape. Generous seating is provided for public and college users strategically located by entrances and key spaces. Planting design is restrained, primarily due to the density of underground services across the site. New tree planting in the ground is proposed where opportunities occur but is still subject to ongoing discussions with service providers and SABS approval. The use of movable raised planters with large specimen plants will provide impact and spatial definition.

A cycle shelter is located to the west, near the boundary with the multi-storey car park, providing active travel infrastructure (80spaces) close to the main building entrance. To the south, a functional service yard accommodates operational needs, including staff cycle parking and vehicle access, while minimising its visual and spatial impact.

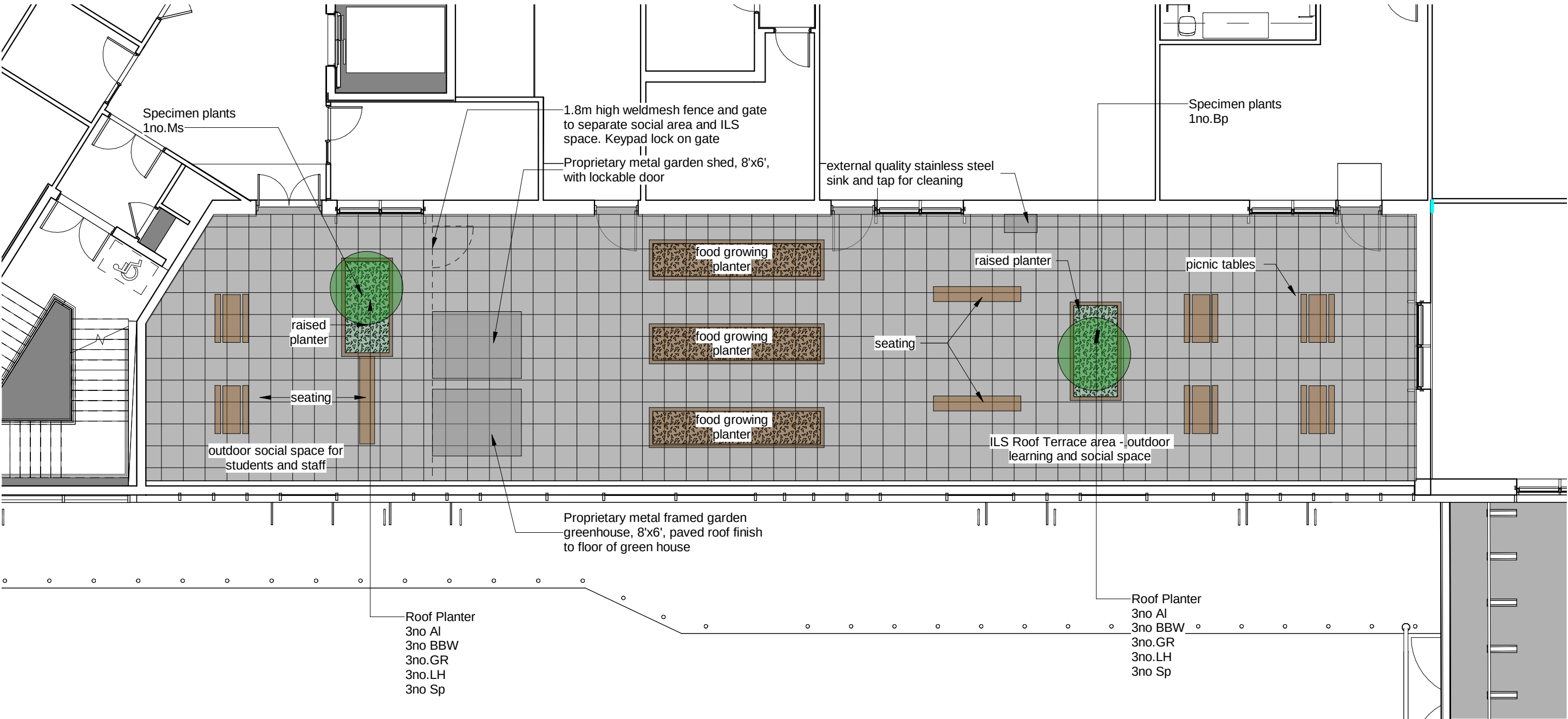
The scheme overall reflects a pragmatic but thoughtful approach to city centre public realm — balancing robustness, movement, and user comfort.



6.2 Design Rationale - Roof Terrace

The roof terrace is only accessible from the third floor of the building, and is predominantly for ILS use. There is a small section adjacent to Stair 03, where staff and students can access, with some seating and a raised planter.

The majority of the terrace features growing planters, raised planters, and seating, as well as a standalone greenhouse and shed, which are all within a secure area specific for the ILS department. This area can be accessed via a secure gate within the terrace itself, or accessed directly from ILS kitchen, flat, or staff room.



6.3 Proposed Hard Landscape

The proposed hard landscape design responds to the varying character and prominence of the spaces surrounding the new college building, using a clear material hierarchy to reflect movement, setting and function.

High-quality natural stone paving is proposed around the building's main circulation areas, enhancing the relationship Friar's Walk nearby that is already paved with natural stone.

This area will also accommodate limited emergency vehicle access from the north, designed to maintain a predominantly pedestrian character while allowing for three-point turning movements.

All surfaces are designed to be flush and fully accessible, with paving set against planters, rain gardens, or retained edges to provide definition.



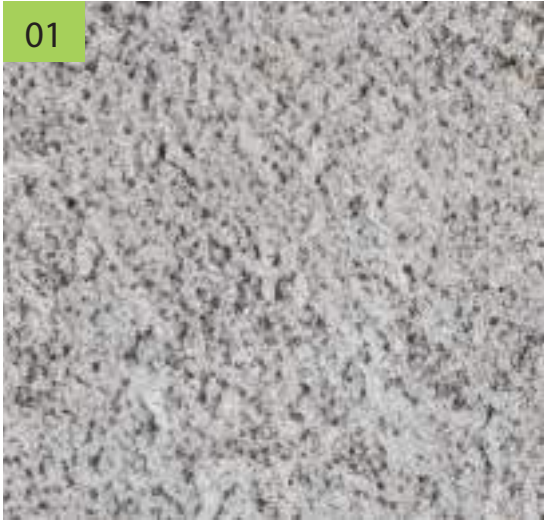
6.3 Products Palette

01/ EXS-02 Paving To Public Realm, Usk Way and north frontage
Hardscape or accepted equivalent
Material: Natural stone
Bond: Staggered
Finish: Flammed
Colour: Grey
Dimensions: Bespoke natural stone product. Cut-to-size:
600 x 200 x 80 mm

02/EXS-03 Banding paving
Hardscape or accepted equivalent
Material: Natural stone
Bond: Stretcher
Finish: Honed
Colour: Mixed
Dimensions: Bespoke natural stone product. Cut-to-size:
600 x 200 x 65 mm

03/ EXS-04 Paving to service yard
Hardscape or accepted equivalent
Material: Concrete
Bond: Stretcher
Finish: Shotblasted
Dimensions: 600 x 300 x 50 mm
Colour: Silver granite

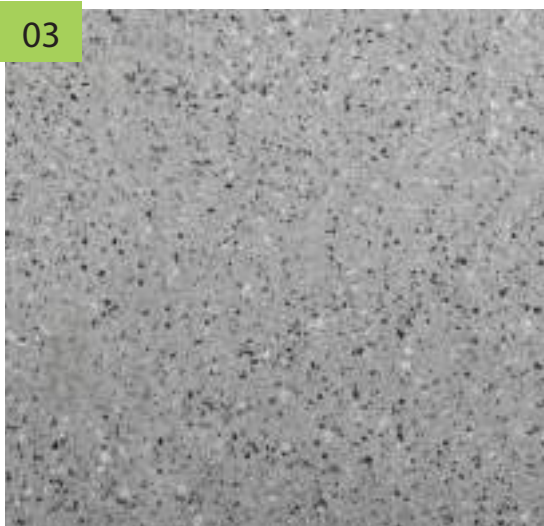
04/ EXS-05 Permeable paving to service yard
Hardscape or accepted equivalent
Material: Concrete
Bond: 90° herringbone
Finish: Standard
Dimensions: 205 x 105 x 80 mm
Colour: LichtgrijsGrey
Accessories: Drainjoint



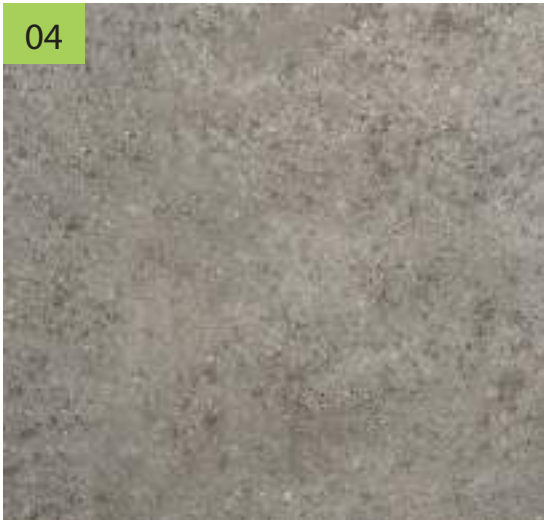
600 x 200 x 80mm
Natural stone



600 x 200 x 80mm
Natural stone



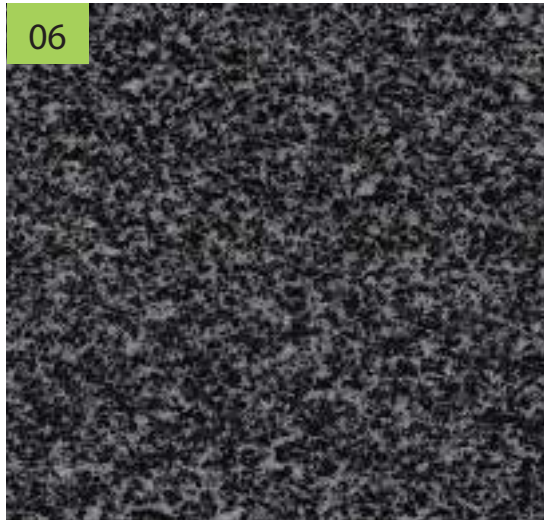
600 x 300 x 50mm
Concrete



205 x 105 x 80mm
Concrete



400 x 400 x 63mm
Concrete



200 x 200 x 900mm
Natural Stone

05/ EXS-07 Paving to roof terrace
Hardscape or accepted equivalent
Material: Concrete
Bond: Stacked
Finish: Shotblasted
Dimensions: 400 x 400 x 63 mm
Colour: Buff granite

06/ Edging to paving/Plat beds
Hardscape or accepted equivalent
Material: Natural stone
Bond: Soldier course
Finish: Honed
Dimensions: Bespoke natural stone product. Cut-to-size:
200 x 200 x 80 mm
Colour: Black

6.3 Precedents



6.4 Proposed Soft Landscape

Opportunities for soft landscape interventions across the site are limited, primarily due to the density of underground services and associated easements. Tree planting is especially constrained, with limited scope in the prominent zones. However, opportunities have been taken to propose limited new tree planting through a variety of tree planting techniques. These include planting into topsoiled beds where utilities allow, provision of SuDS trees within rain garden beds, installing tree pits in paved areas using engineered tree pit systems, and planting multi-stemmed specimens in raised planters.

12 new trees are proposed across the site with 6 multi-stemmed specimens in planters. This includes the replacement of 3 poor quality trees to the junction at Emlyn Street. These were identified as poor quality and of limited long-term value in the arboricultural report carried out in 2022. Plant species have been chosen for climate change resilience, seasonal interest, and textural variety, providing visual richness while remaining suited to the challenging urban conditions.

Many species are valuable for wildlife providing berries, flowers for pollinators, and increasing biodiversity across the site.

Extensive green roofs are proposed atop the service yard enclosures. These will help mitigate visual impact when viewed from the upper levels of the college building and will also contribute to the site's overall biodiversity value.

The design of the roof terrace includes small trees, ornamental shrubs and herbaceous plants in planters and a small kitchen garden where herbs and vegetables can be grown.

The soft landscape integrates with the site-wide Sustainable urban Drainage Strategy (SuDS) through the inclusion of rain gardens, located where underground conditions allow. These features support surface water management while also enhancing the biodiversity and ecological character of the site. The rain garden beds include mixes of trees, shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses, suited to the extremes of temporary wet and dry conditions.

At the south west corner of the service yard wall, a façade greening system is proposed using climbing plants growing up tensioned steel wires. This not only softens views towards this key approach but enhances biodiversity and green infrastructure.

