



BROAD STREET DESIGN NARRATIVE

Issue 03

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THE VISION FOR BROAD STREET

With such a wealth of historic landmarks and cultural buildings, the Marischal Neighbourhood has the potential to become the pre-eminent quarter for mixed-use urban life. The Civic Square is a similar width to Castlegate and slightly longer in response to the need to provide a setting to Marischal College. Activities around the square will create the kind of lively atmosphere at day time and night time that the council wishes for the space. The desired pedestrianisation of the square may well be compromised by the need to maintain a public transport route linking Union Street with Gallowgate. However, all other private motor vehicles should be excluded. Uses around the square will include retail, restaurants, offices, residential, hotel, cultural and civic creating a genuine, economically sustainable mixed-use Neighbourhood within the city centre.



Marischal College

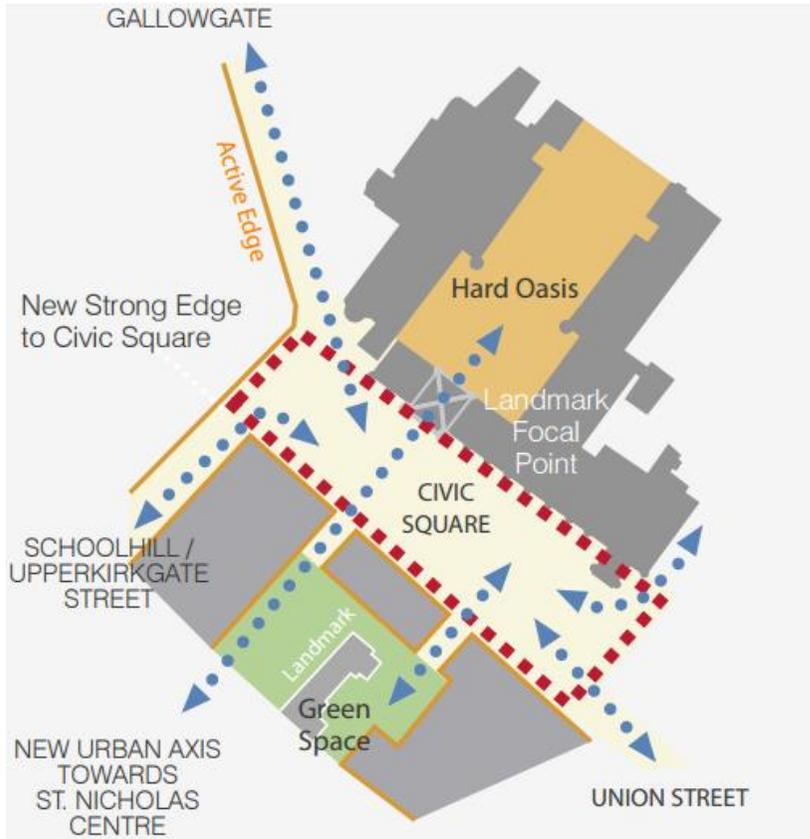


Current Activity

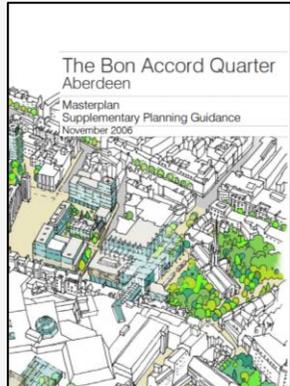


Street Furniture

THE VISION FOR BROAD STREET



- Key**
-  Heart
 -  Pedestrian Route
 -  Circulation
 -  Active Edge
 -  Green Spaces
 -  Hard Oasis

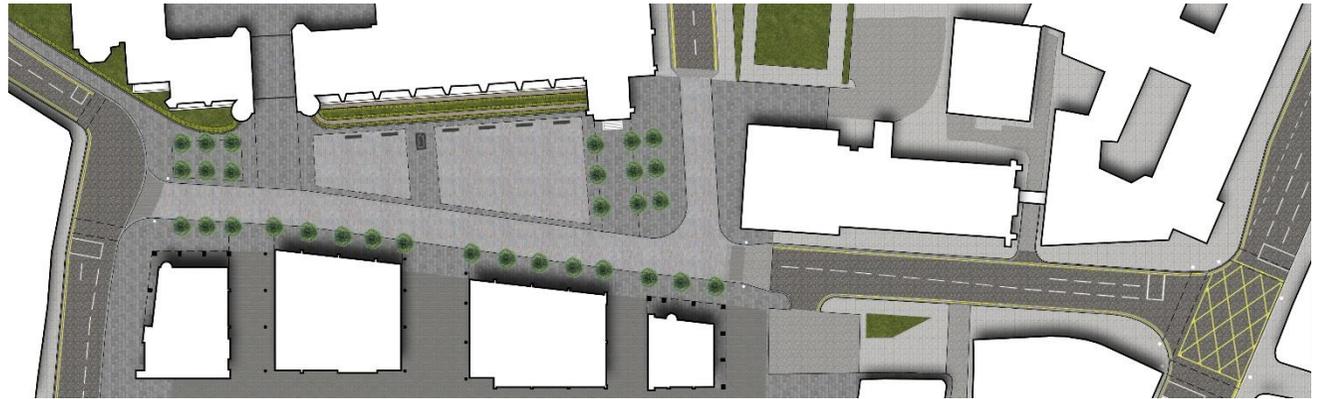


“The Marischal Neighbourhood is the focus for civic events within the city. With Aberdeen City Council relocating into Marischal College there is the opportunity to create a civic space: this should become a ‘what’s on’ space surrounded with restaurants, cafés and leisure retail, with the potential for a four-star city centre hotel. It is also the Neighbourhood most appropriate for genuine mixed-use with residential and office uses at upper levels.”



OPTION 2 – BUSES AND CYCLIST ONLY

The vision for a new Civic Square took a significant step forward on 29th June 2016 when Aberdeen City Council voted to develop Option 2 which closes Broad Street to all vehicles except for buses and cyclists. The intention is that a new destination is created in the heart of the city, in the form of a new Civic Square. Whilst Broad Street is currently a busy city centre street dominated by cars and buses with limited public realm amenity, the opportunity exists to create a wonderful new space. This Design Narrative identifies how a dynamic new Broad Street can be created. It specifically looks at examples of how other cities have handled similar spaces focusing on materials, landscape, water features and uses. The Narrative will develop as the design progresses and the detail is agreed with all the stakeholders who have an interest in the City Centre.



OPTION 2 SITE PLAN



Through road with moderate level of pedestrian usage



Buses dominate Broad Street



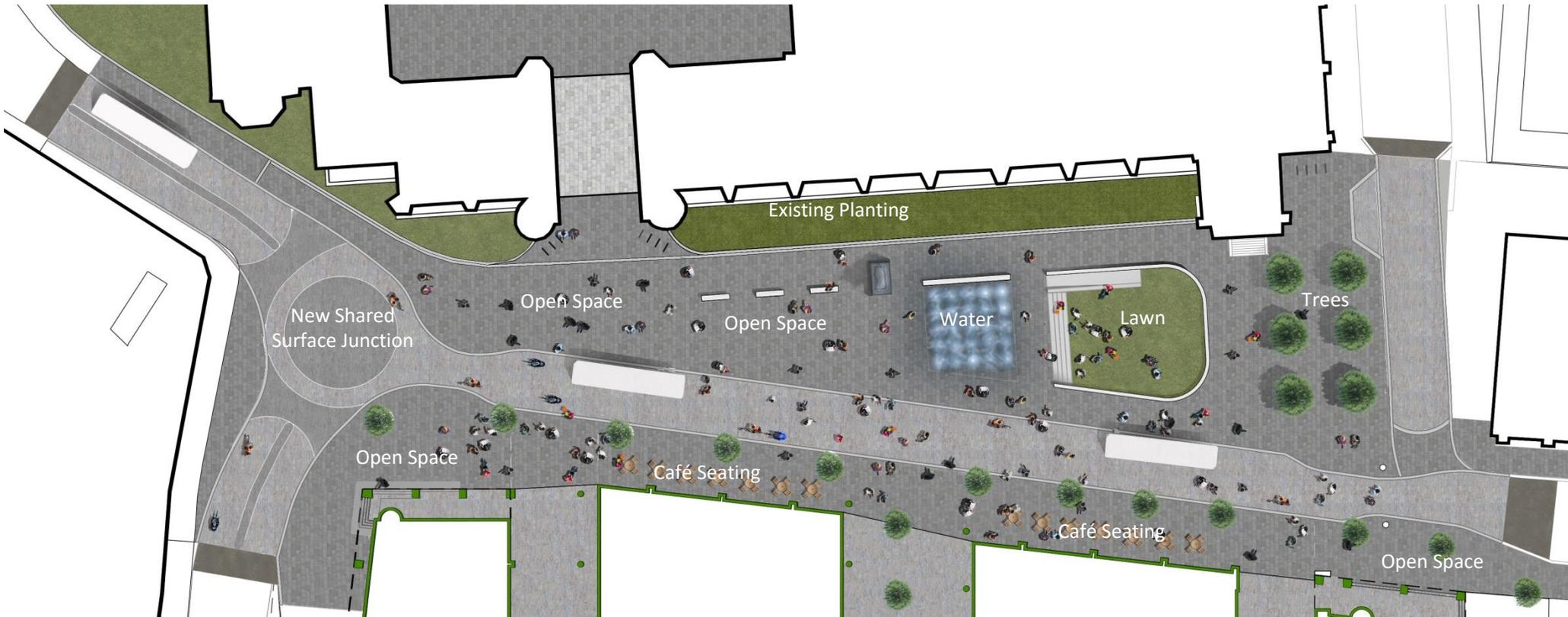
Buses queuing

DESIGN CONCEPT – BASE SCHEME



- Opportunity to create new civic space which enhances the setting of Marischal College
- Introduction of some green space in the form of trees and raised land to soften hard landscape and provide informal seating area
- Hard landscaping improved
- Water feature to be considered to help animate the space
- Lighting of Marischal College and the new space is critical
- Opportunity for outdoor events to take place

DESIGN CONCEPT – EXTENDED SCHEME



- Opportunity to create new civic space which enhances the setting of Marischal College
- Introduction of some green space in the form of trees and raised land to soften hard landscape and provide informal seating area
- Hard landscaping improved
- Water feature to be considered to help animate the space
- Lighting of Marischal College and the new space is critical
- Opportunity for outdoor events to take place
- Extended shared space to Upperkirkgate and Gallowgate to improve setting and access

DESIGN CONCEPT – EXTENDED SCHEME



- Extended level pavements to Union Street to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists
- Upgraded crossings to Union Street for both pedestrians and cyclists connecting to existing cycle route in Shiprow
- Continuation of Caithness pavements from Union Street to Broad Street to link scheme into existing city centre streetscape

MATERIALS

Materials used must be simple, elegant and robust. It is proposed to reuse the existing Caithness paving stones but to supplement them with granite slabs, kerbs and setts. Street furniture needs to meet the same criteria as the ground finishes and will be predominately granite. Precedent such as Belmont Street have been identified and will be analysed to learn lessons and aid in selection and detailing of materials.



MATERIALS

Granite Setts / Granite Paving Slabs / Limited Signage & Road Markings
Belmont Street, Aberdeen



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Granite Setts / Granite Paving Slabs / Limited Signage & Road Markings

Belmont Street, Aberdeen



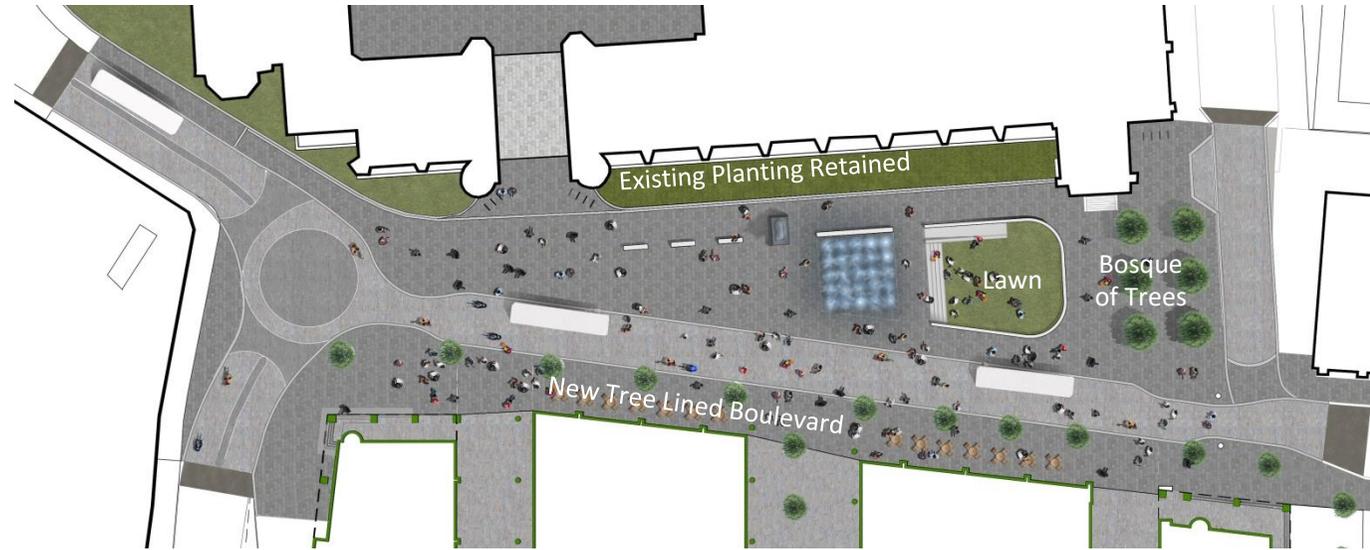
MATERIALS

Granite Setts / Granite Paving Slabs / Limited Signage & Road Markings



SOFT LANDSCAPING

It is proposed to reintroduce a popular area of grass outside Marischal College that is missed by many. A single small raised lawn is indicated at the southern end of the square. It is proposed to create a granite bench round three sides of the lawn and wide steps on the fourth side overlooking the water feature and Marischal College. The grass lawn will be raised up to bench level creating a green oasis in the busy city centre. A place to stop, to rest, to drink a cup of coffee. A place for children to run and roll around on, a place to sunbath. The intention is for the lawn to be immaculate, treated like your front lawn or a bowling green and beautifully illuminated at night. Provision will be made for the lawn to be covered over for events if necessary. While the lawn is small in area it will have a tremendous effect in lifting the entire space when viewed alongside the water feature, public art and Marischal College and will provide a much needed and missed area of grass in the city centre. Two distinct groupings of trees are proposed. A linear boulevard of trees will run along the frontage of Marischal Square providing a strong natural visual edge and setting for the cafes and restaurants. A second copse of six trees will be located at the southern end of the space as a bookend. All trees will be chosen for their distinct properties and suitability for this particular setting. They will all be set into the ground into flush tree grilles. The trees will be beautifully illuminated and will be an important part of the square from season to season. They have been positioned to allow large events to take place in the square.



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Raised Lawns with Natural Stone Perimeter Seating / Formal Trees in Flush Tree Grilles

Brindley Place, Birmingham



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Raised Lawns with Natural Stone Perimeter Seating / Formal Trees in Flush Tree Grilles
Brindley Place, Birmingham



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Formal Trees in Flush Tree Grilles / Gravel
Brindley Place, Birmingham



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Raised Lawns with Natural Stone Perimeter Seating / Trees

Bishops Square, Spitalfields, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Raised Lawns with Natural Stone Perimeter Seating / Trees

Bishops Square, Spitalfields, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Formal Trees set out to form a Book End to a Square

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Formal Trees set out to form a Book End to a Square

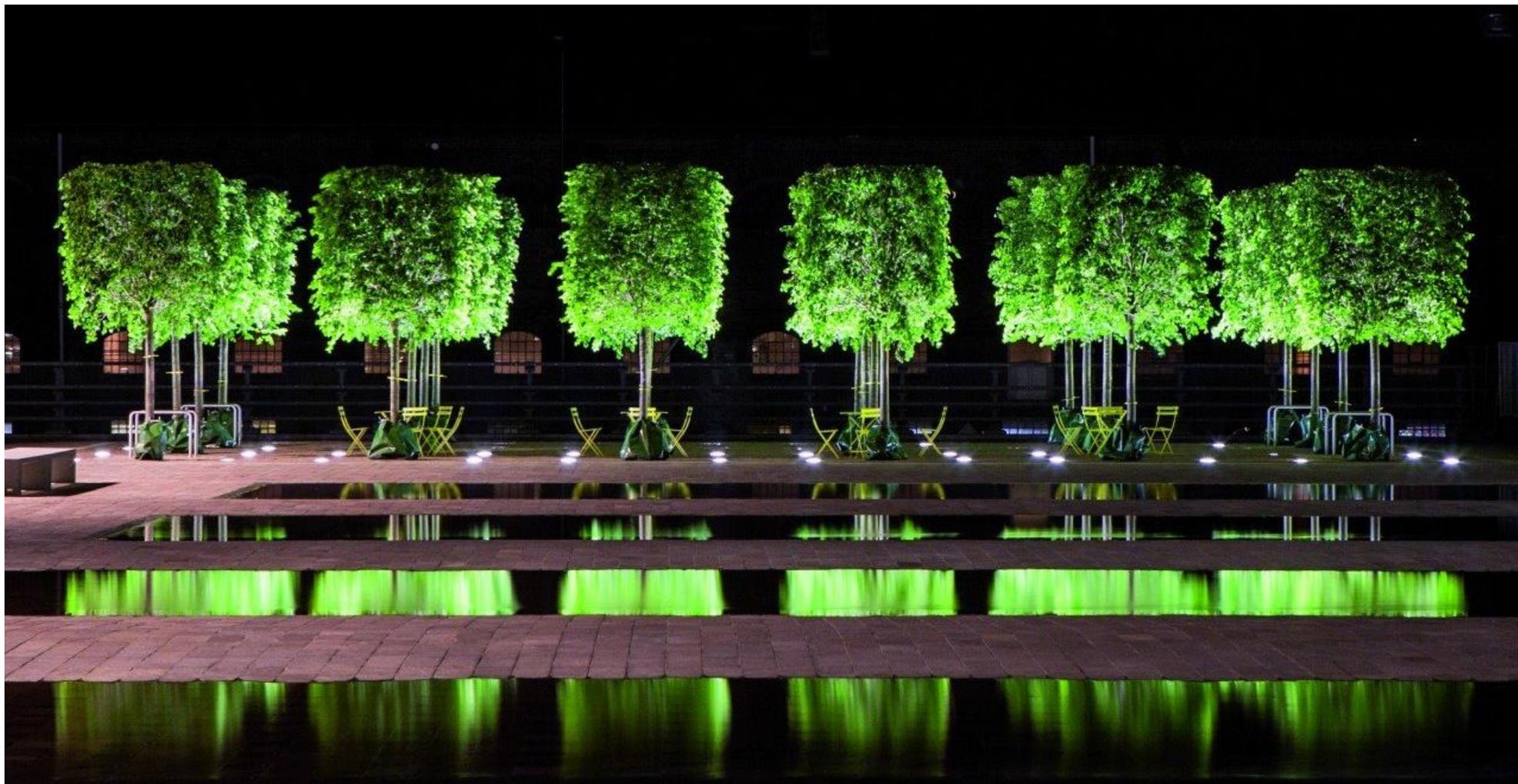
Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Trees illuminated at night

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Introduction of high planters to enclose outdoor dining outside restaurants

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Formal Trees in Gravel provide intimacy and shelter

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Opportunity to dress up trees for events

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



SOFT LANDSCAPING

Raised Lawns with Natural Stone Perimeter Seating indicating Rounded Corners



WATER FEATURE

Water features and fountains adorn many of the worlds finest squares and sit in front of many of the worlds grandest buildings. Much more than that they provide visual, tactile and audible pleasure. Our intention is to provide a stunning water feature in front of a world class building and to enhance Broad Street as a destination throughout the year, during the day and at night. Coloured lights will illuminate the water jets allowing almost infinite options and when synchronised with the floodlighting of Marischal College will be truly stunning. The jets will be flush with the pavement and can be turned off when required.



WATER FEATURE

Jets individually controlled / Lighting changes and can be coordinated with building floodlighting

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



WATER FEATURE

Jets individually controlled / Lighting changes and can be coordinated with building floodlighting

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



WATER FEATURE

Jets can be reduced to low level bubbling

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



WATER FEATURE

Jets can be switched off and pool of still water created

Granary Square, Kings Cross, London



WATER FEATURE

Visual, Audible and Tactile Experience

More London, Tower Bridge, London



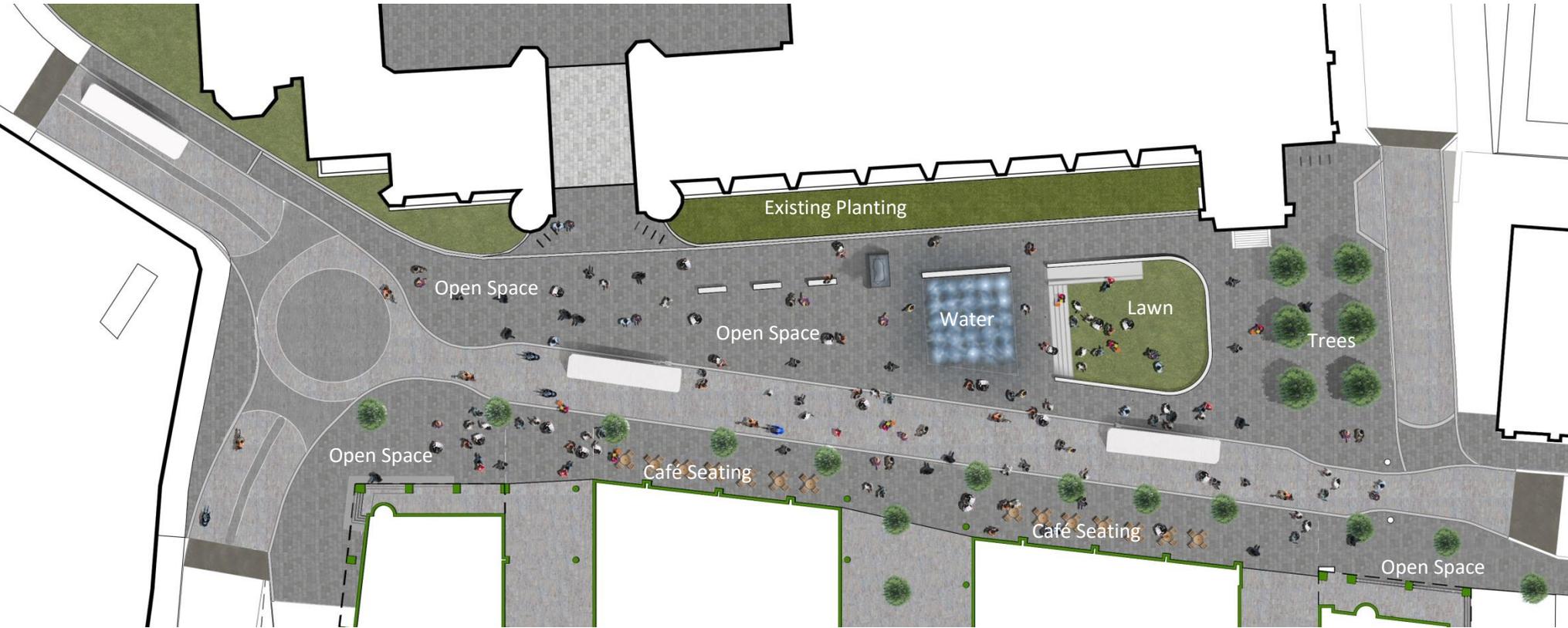
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Visual, Audible and Tactile Experience

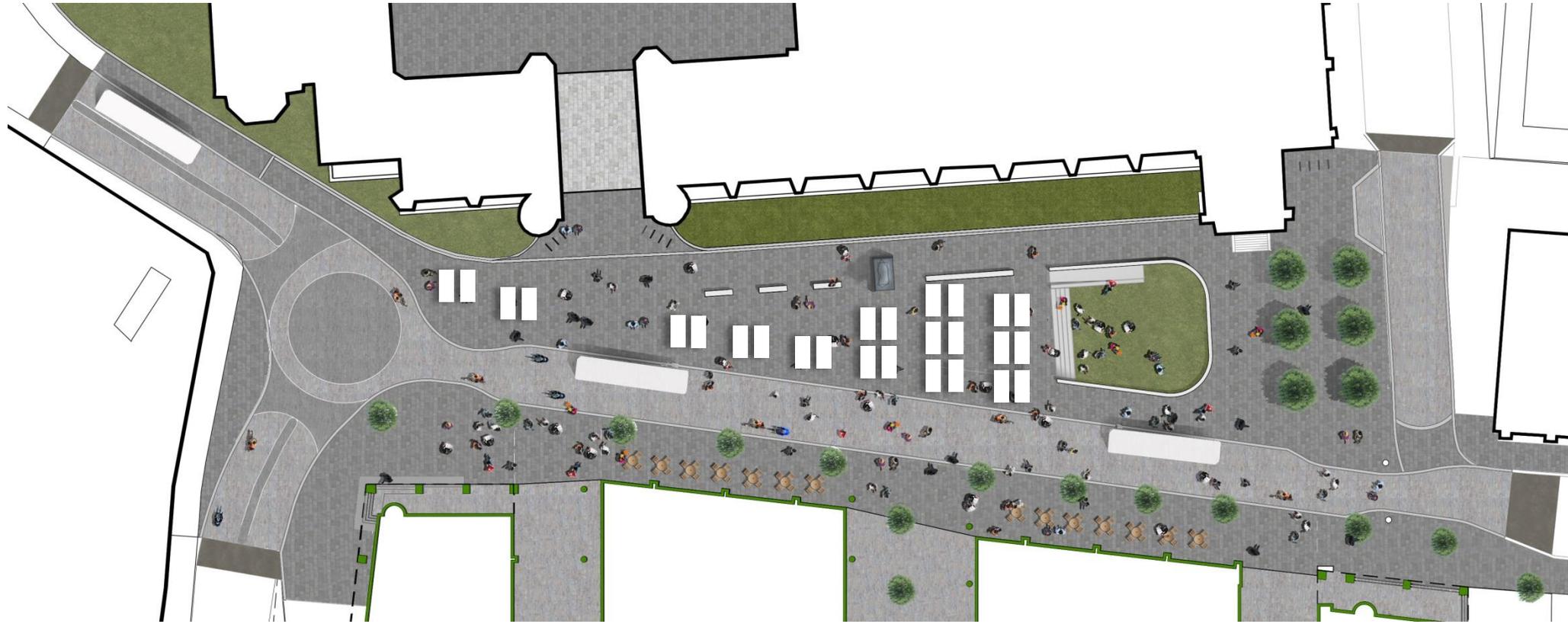
More London, Tower Bridge, London



EVENT SPACE – A NORMAL DAY



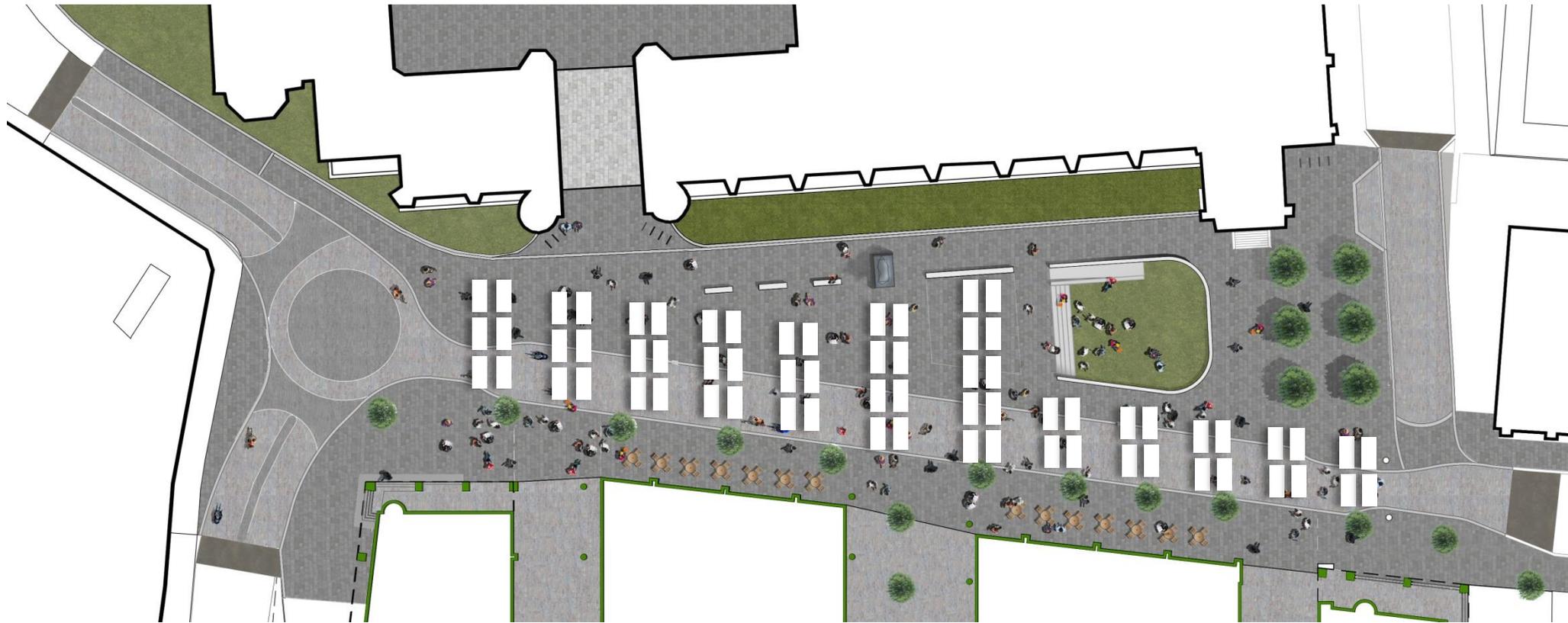
EVENT SPACE – A MARKET / BOOK FAIR / ART EXHIBITION – OPEN TO BUSES AND CYCLISTS



Shown set out with 26 stalls



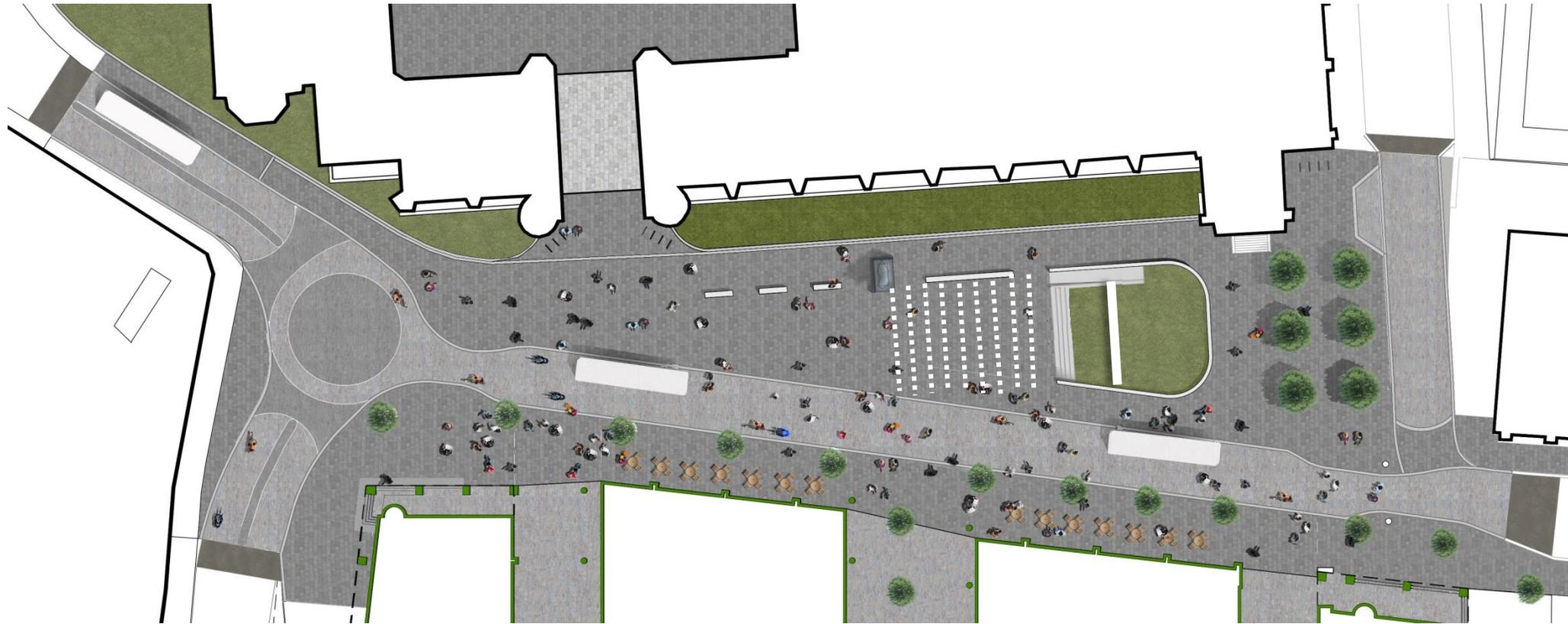
EVENT SPACE – A MARKET / BOOK FAIR / ART EXHIBITION – CLOSED TO BUSES AND CYCLISTS



Shown set out with 68 stalls



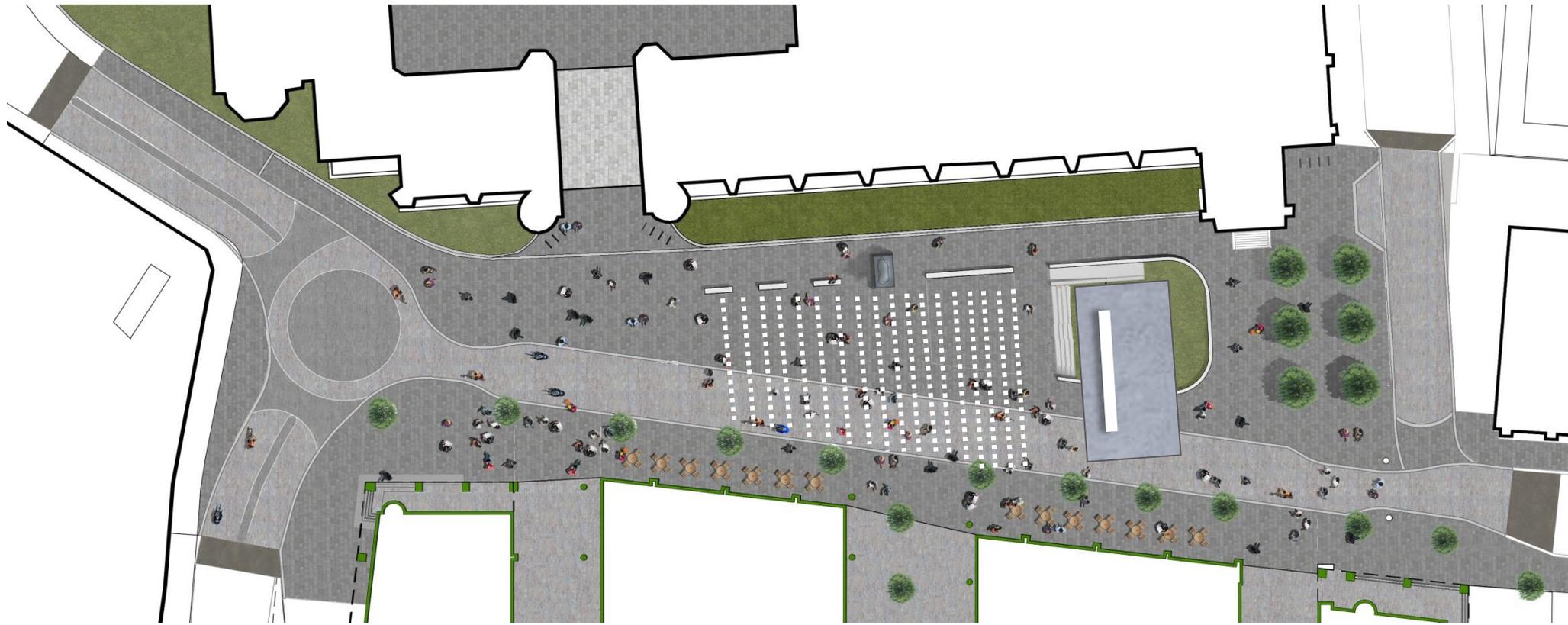
EVENT SPACE – SPORTS EVENT ON BIG SCREEN – OPEN TO BUSES AND CYCLISTS



Shown set out with big screen and approx 150 deck chairs



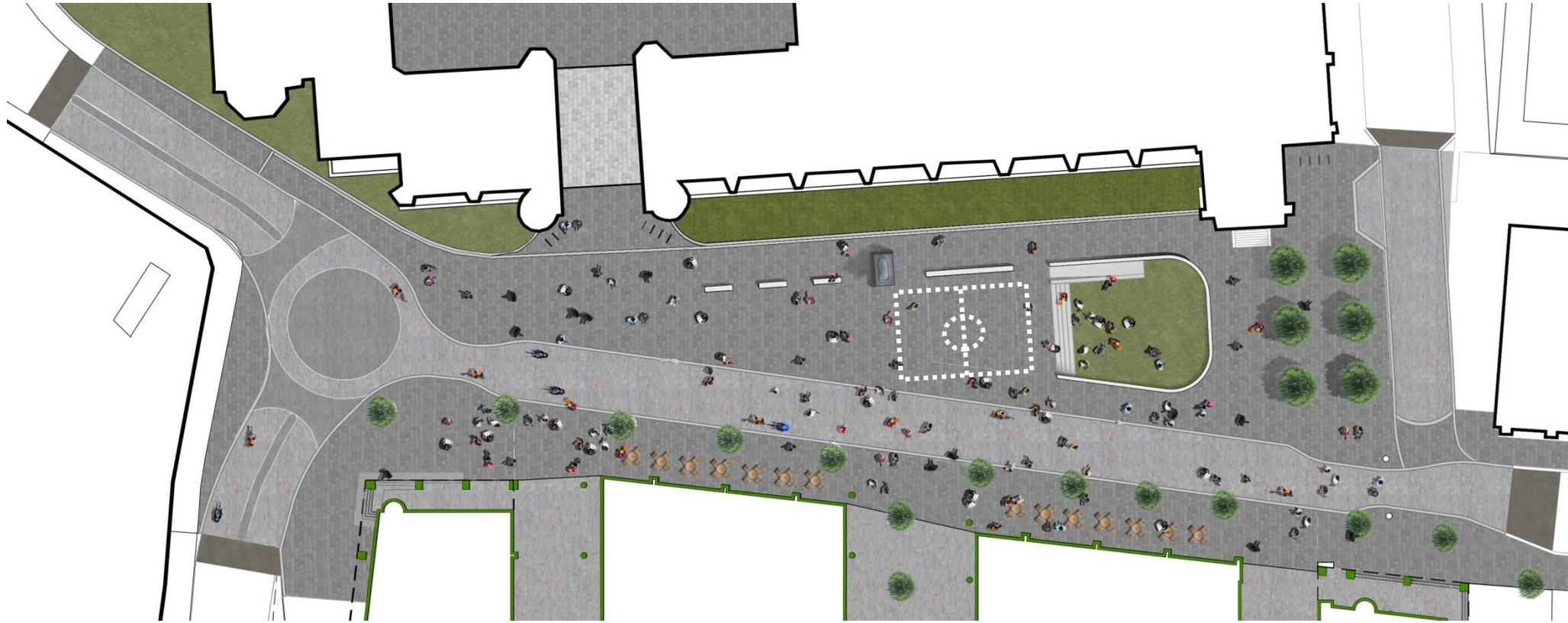
EVENT SPACE – SPORTS / CINEMA EVENT ON BIG SCREEN – CLOSED TO BUSES AND CYCLISTS



Shown set out with stage, big screen and approx 400 chairs



EVENT SPACE – POP UP FOOTBALL PITCH– OPEN TO BUSES AND CYCLISTS



EVENT SPACE – POP UP ICE RINK– OPEN TO BUSES AND CYCLISTS

