

United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Summary of Proof of Evidence

On behalf of the UK Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Landscape Design Architect

Donncha O Shea

B.Arch MSc ARB on behalf of Gustafson Porter + Bowman LLP

September 2020

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1. Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Proof of Evidence has been prepared by Donncha O Shea of Gustafson Porter + Bowman LLP for the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF). It is prepared in relation to the proposal to erect the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre (UKHMLC) in Westminster.

1.2 I confirm that the evidence which I have prepared and provide for this call-in reference APP/X5990/V/19/3240661 in this proof of evidence is true, and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

1.3 The UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre has been conceived as a single design concept, intrinsically linked to the surrounding context of Victoria Tower Gardens (VTG). The proposal considers the Memorial and landscape as one element, moving up and over the fins, around and down through the entrance stair. While this landform and entrance landscape modifies the existing park, the design gives back a new experience for the visitor.

1.4 The form of the landscape responds to character and features of Victoria Tower Gardens, respecting key views in and out of the site, and supporting the current activities of local residents and visitors. The gradient has been modelled to allow a route of gentle incline so that all visitors can experience the journey. The location of the landform and Memorial allows the majority of the open lawn area to remain accessible and usable.

1.5 The Memorial Entrance Courtyard has been designed as a contemplative space in front of the Memorial. Access through the Entrance Pavilion controls visitor flow, and ensures a comfortable and safe experience. The courtyard is developed as a gentle, sloped route. A calm and reflective space, the sounds of the city give way as the visitor descends 2m to the Holocaust Memorial.

1.6 The perimeter edge of the Memorial Courtyard is conceived as an extension of the park, densely planted to the outside edge as a border to the wider perimeter path. Internally a palette of planting has been selected appropriate to the character of the courtyard and with consideration to the experience of the space in January for Holocaust Memorial day.



FIG 1.0 VIEW NORTH EAST ACROSS VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS



FIG 1.1 VIEW SOUTH EAST ACROSS VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS

1. Introduction

1.7 Victoria Tower Garden North (2.5ha) is bordered by the River Thames to the east, the Palace of Westminster to the north and Millbank runs the length of its western edge, and is 0.5km from St James Park.

1.8 Located at a point of transition in Westminster, between the central tourist destination, and more residential streets, it provides a place of calm and relaxation for both visitors and residents.

1.9 Continually developed over 150 yrs from industrial wharves, to an open green space. Originally set out in 1879 to the line of Great Peter Street, to provide a clear view of the Palace of Westminster. In 1914 it was extended south to its current extents.

1.10 The current layout, from 1955, maintains a powerful simplicity. The perimeter path creates a circuit around the open lawn, with four exits out to Millbank and one set of steps to the south to Lambeth bridge.

1.11 It is an inward looking park, the two lines of mature Plane trees limiting the visual connections out of the park, and framing the view north towards the Palace of Westminster. Either end of the park is framed by activity, with the Parliamentary Education Centre to the north and the children's playground to the south.



FIG 1.2 VIEW NORTH WEST ACROSS VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS

2. Qualifications and Experience

2.0 Qualifications and Experience

2.1 CV - Donncha O Shea

2.1.1 - I am an Architect and a Partner at Gustafson Porter + Bowman, an international landscape architecture practice based in London. Gustafson Porter + Bowman was established in 1997 as Gustafson Porter, when the acclaimed landscape architect Kathryn Gustafson opened a London office with architect Neil Porter. Mary Bowman joined the practice in 2002, and the company was renamed Gustafson Porter + Bowman in 2017. Kathryn, Neil and Mary, together with the other partners - myself and Sibylla Hartel - are supported by a wider team of landscape architects and architects from around the world.

2.1.2 I have a BA in History of Art & Architecture from Trinity College, Dublin (2001). and a BArch from Dublin School of Architecture, TU Dublin (2008). I have been a qualified architect since 2011, registered with the ARB. I undertook and completed a MSc Environmental Design, Cardiff University, awarded my Masters in 2016. I guest lectured and undertake design reviews at the University of Greenwich, and the Barlett, UCL. I am currently a member of the Landscape Institute PRG for University of Greenwich.

2.1.3 Before joining Gustafson Porter + Bowman, I spent 5 years at FKL Architects in Dublin and a year at Buschow Henley Architects in London.

2.1.4 I joined GP+B in 2008 as a Part II Architect and undertook my Part III while working on the Woolwich Squares project from concept through to construction. I was a project architect for projects such as Marina One, New Ludgate and Citylife Milan and Rathbone Square and Chelsea Barracks. All these projects have considerable complexity and required the coordination of multiple design consultants, as well as the coordination of a landscape with new buildings and basement structures.

2.1.5 I joined as a partner in 2017, the same year the company celebrated its 20th anniversary, and was rebranded Gustafson Porter + Bowman in recognition of Mary Bowman's role as long time partner in the office.

2.1.6 I am now involved in the day to day running of GP+B including the practice management, finance, new business leads and strategy, marketing and project resourcing.

2.1.7 I am currently leading design teams for a number of high profile projects in the UK and Ireland. Together with the UK Holocaust Memorial, I oversee the developed masterplan at Chelsea Barracks, as well as a number of confidential project for the public realm adjacent to protected structures in London and Dublin. I also lead teams on invited design competition bids.

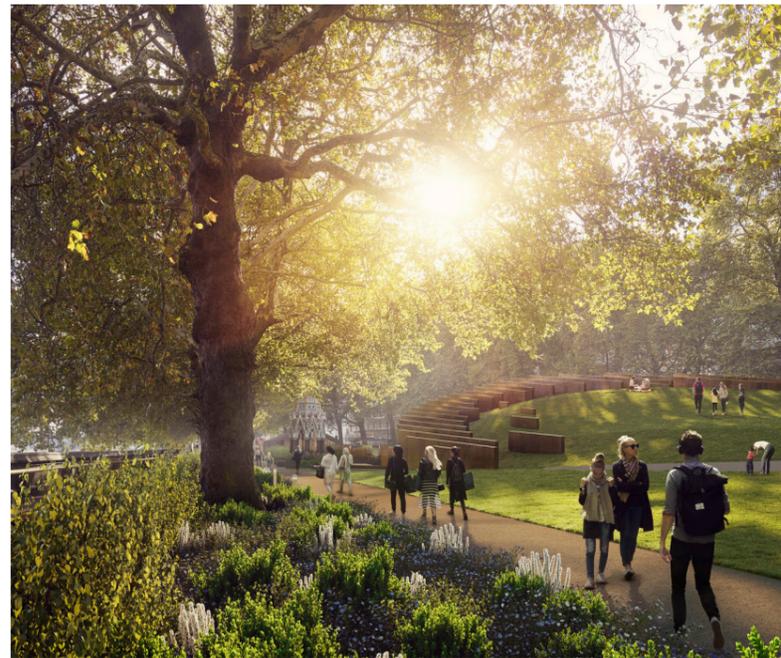


FIG 2.0 UKHMLC LONDON



FIG 2.1 CHELSEA BARRACKS, LONDON



FIG 2.3 NEW LUDGATE, LONDON



FIG 2.2 RATHBONE SQUARE, LONDON

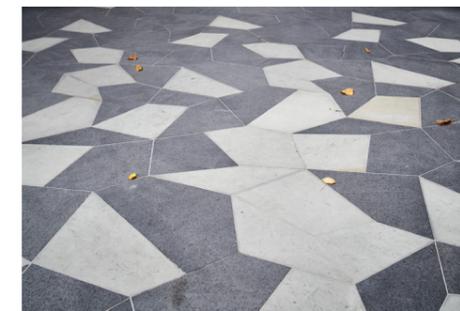


FIG 2.4 NEW LUDGATE, LONDON

2.0 Qualifications and Experience

2.1.8 I also lead GP+B's progressive sustainability strategy. This is an area of strong personal interest, and I undertook a Msc Environmental Building Design to further the role of landscape design in achieving sustainable developments. This applies at both an office and project level. Sustainability is integrated into every aspect of our work. We are always rethinking and updating our approach and policies to reflect new sustainable practices and data. Gustafson Porter + Bowman are founding signatories of the Landscape Climate Emergency Declaration in the UK which clearly demonstrates our commitment.

2.1.9 Universal Design is a key area of design investigation which I have always considered important to the success of landscape design. It places people of all backgrounds, at the heart of a design, and seeks an equality of experience support for all users. I work closely with experts in academia and practice in the development of universal design strategies to promote this approach.

2.1.10 My involvement in New Business & Marketing allows me to engage with new clients on invited competitions, prepare fee proposals and manage internal and external communications with our press team.

2.1.11 I am also a member of EDU, a design partnership who specialise in the education sector and educational typologies. Our multidisciplinary collaboration was founded with a collaborative approach to knowledge sharing and a belief that there is strength in building on established relationships.



FIG 2.5 BUCKINGHAM GREEN, LONDON



FIG 2.6 MARINE ONE, SINGAPORE



FIG 2.7 WOOLICH SQUARES, LONDON

2.0 Qualifications and Experience

2.2 Gustafson Porter + Bowman Practice

2.2.1 Gustafson Porter + Bowman is an award-winning landscape architecture practice which has received public acclaim for creating authentically engaging spaces within a global portfolio.

2.2.2 The development of our design work has continuously pushed the boundaries of what constitutes the field of landscape design and is known for its sensual and sculptural features.

2.2.3 Spanning climate zones, geographical characters, historical and cultural backgrounds, our exciting and varied projects include the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial in Hyde Park (London, 2004), Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek (Amsterdam, 2006), Old Market Square (Nottingham, 2007), Parque Central (Valencia, 2019) and the first ever landscape installation at the 11th Architecture Biennale in Venice (2008).

2.2.4 Gustafson Porter + Bowman was established in 1997 as Gustafson Porter, when the acclaimed landscape architect Kathryn Gustafson opened a London office with architect Neil Porter. Mary Bowman joined the practice in 2002. Kathryn, Neil and Mary, together with partners Sibylla Hartel and Donncha O Shea, are supported by a wider team of landscape architects and architects from around the world.

2.2.5 We believe that landscape architecture is an essential discipline for the creation of healthy environments in the 21st century.



FIG 2.8 GP+B (L-R) DONNCHA O SHEA/ MARY BOWMAN/ KATHRYN GUSTAFSON / SIBYLLA HARTEL/ NEIL PORTER



FIG 2.10 GUSTAFSON PORTER + BOWMAN TEAM



FIG 2.9 WESTERPARKGASFABRIEK, AMSTERDAM



FIG 2.11 EIFFEL TOWER, PARIS

2.0 Qualifications and Experience

2.3 How we work

2.3.1 Gustafson Porter + Bowman is a medium sized Landscape Architecture practice, which enables the five principal partners to have a genuine hands-on approach to the design and direction of each of the projects in the office. Kathryn Gustafson is well known for her conceptual design skills and sensual land forms, and has over 35 years of experience as a landscape designer.

2.3.2 Neil Porter is a talented designer who has worked with many of London's leading architectural practices. He has 20 years of experience in both architecture and landscape design.

2.3.3 Mary Bowman has worked on large scale urban infrastructure projects directing the design team in collaboration with other large consultant teams.

2.3.4 We have developed a reputation for creating innovative and contemporary landscape designs. Our core strength lies in our design skills and the ability to deliver high-quality design on high-profile projects. We believe that the success of our design lies with the collaboration, understanding and integration of other specialised landscape and architectural fields. We often work with firms of architects, engineers and specialists with whom we enjoy good relationships.

2.4 Working in historic contexts

2.4.1 In every project, no matter how big or small, we strive to understand the historic sensitivities of a place and respond to this in the physical design.

2.4.2 Creating a landscape around a proposed building, in historic surroundings requires one to understand the buildings' spatial and conceptual relationships to its surroundings. This begins with a collaborative approach, with the client, stakeholders and other consultants, to understand the necessary approach and particular sensitivities required, whilst also aiming to create a place with a new identity.

2.4.3 Landscapes are inclusive of their immediate and extended surroundings, meaning the old and new become inextricably linked. Interlacing these qualities requires a careful balance and sensitivity, as well as an understanding of the past, present and future of a place.

2.5 Sustainability

2.5.1 We know that the shape of our future depends on the decisions we make today, and that the consequences of making the wrong decisions may be serious.

2.5.2 Sustainability transcends all of our business lines and geographies. It is not a separate service or an "add-on". It is an approach that allows us to create value for our clients and our communities, and to reduce the risks of unintended consequences that may compromise future success.

2.5.3 We always aim to respond to a brief with a holistic design that preserves and enhances the natural environment and promotes positive environmental and social impacts in all our activities and developments and those of our supply chain.

2.5.4 We are committed to:

- Using natural resources efficiently, exceeding minimum code standards and minimising energy & water use.
- Supporting the creation of good quality indoor and outdoor environments for building occupants, workers and their surrounding communities.
- Minimising potential risk to land, water and atmospheric environmental systems and enhancing the local environment by adding value to local ecological systems.
- Being sensitive to transport requirements and providing measures to encourage 'greener' travel.

3. Context, Current Site Conditions, Constraints

3.0 Context, Current site conditions

3.1 Site Survey and Current Condition / Topography

3.1.1 Victoria Tower Gardens are perceived as a predominantly flat open space. This does not mean it is an even surface. It is noted that the current topography of the entrances has steep embankments which need regrading to improve pedestrian access.

3.1.2 A review of the topographical survey, together with on site surveys identify the undulations across the hard and soft surfaces which together with compaction creates ponding of water. This reduces the usability of the lawned spaces by visitors to the driest months.

3.1.3 The garden has been undergoing a series of renovations in parallel and in response to other developments that have happened over the past ten years in the space. The hardscapes are uneven in parts, and constructed with an impermeable asphalt surface.

3.1.4 The central lawn is well used at lunchtimes on sunny days in the summer, but compaction has created areas of ponding. This makes it unusable during the wet periods and the winter months. With the right sub base and lawn specification, it is possible to regrade and improve the condition of the lawn to provide year round support to activity.

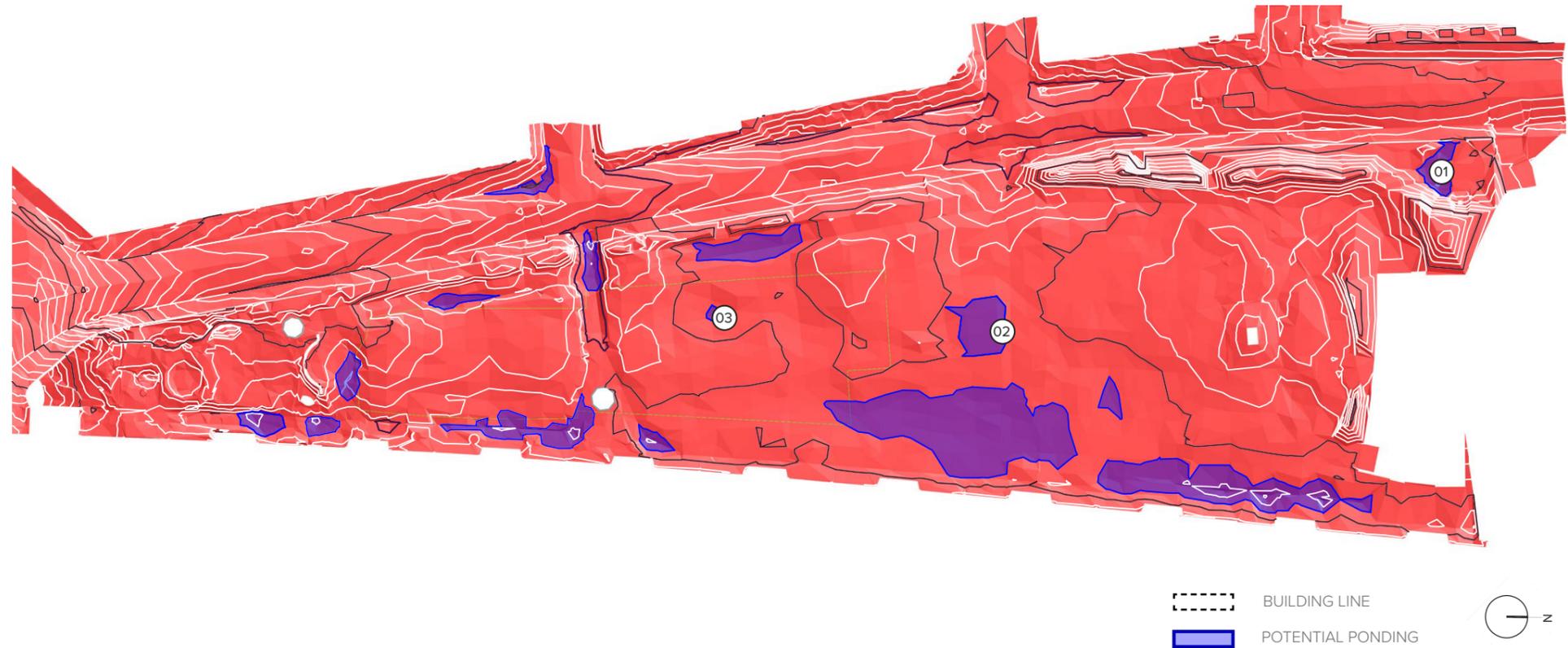


FIG 3.1.1 CURRENT TOPOGRAPHY AND PONDING LOCATIONS



3.0 Context, Current site conditions

3.2 Site Constraints

Daily Activity

3.2.1 Victoria Tower Gardens is well used by a range of visitors from local residents and office workers to tourists visiting nearby attractions. While there is activity at either end of the site, the central area is used predominantly for walking and resting. This daily use requirement is supported by the current simple layout and design.

3.2.2 More occasional visitors, such as office workers and tourists, are observed to use the lawn for sitting when the weather allows, and rarely venture beyond the mid point in the park when approaching from the north. The area of the park is sufficiently large and other than at lunchtimes it is not densely occupied.

3.2.3 The pedestrian link between Lambeth Bridge to the entrance at the Palace of Westminster is well used by commuters as well as joggers. Any proposals for Victoria Tower Gardens will need to maintain access for these users, and ensure continued future use.

3.2.4 The Royal Park's currently has a range of programmed activities throughout the year that it arranges for local residents and visitors. Many are associated with local groups, families or schools and are small in scale, up to 50 person.



FIG 3.2.1 SEATING LAWN



FIG 3.2.2 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND



FIG 3.2.3 SPECTRA, 2014 BY JAPANESE ARTIST RYOJI IKEDA



FIG 3.2.4 MEMORIALS/MONUMENTS - EMMELINE PANKHURST



FIG 3.2.5 WESTMINSTER DOG OF THE YEAR EVENT



FIG 3.2.6 PERIMETER WALKING PATH

3.3 Site Constraints Existing Trees

3.3.1 The primary natural characteristic of Victoria Tower Gardens are the two long lines of plane trees on the east and west side, 51 in total. The trees are mature specimens and a typical choice for a London park. There are also a number of smaller ornamental trees located to the south and north of the site, in particular towards the 2015 Parliamentary Education Centre.

3.3.2 The mature plane trees are located within the Westminster Abbey & Parliament Square Conservation Area (CD 3.1), and are therefore legally protected by the Conservation Area legislation. As a significant asset for internal views around the site, and views towards it from outside the site, it is important that they are respected in any design proposals, and protected during construction development. The London Plane is a particularly hardy species which is why it is used so prevalently in city environments. None of the London Planes in Victoria Tower Gardens are protected with a Tree Preservation Order.

3.3.3 The two rows of existing mature London Plane trees of Victoria Tower Gardens, define the character of the park, and provide a high amenity value for both the immediate and wider context. While the trees appear as a singular avenue on either side, they were planted progressively as Victoria Tower Gardens developed over a number of phases in the 19th and 20th century.

3.3.4 It is noted that the existing trees have previously had their crowns lifted, reducing them in size as well as thinning. It is likely this will need to be undertaken again prior to the commencement of works.

3.3.5 It is noted that development has previously been undertaken in Victoria Tower Gardens, and within the Root Protection Area (RPA) of the existing trees. This includes the Parliamentary Learning Centre (2015), the Horseferry Playground (2014) and various service installations across the park for use by The Royal Parks (TRP) and the Palace of Westminster.

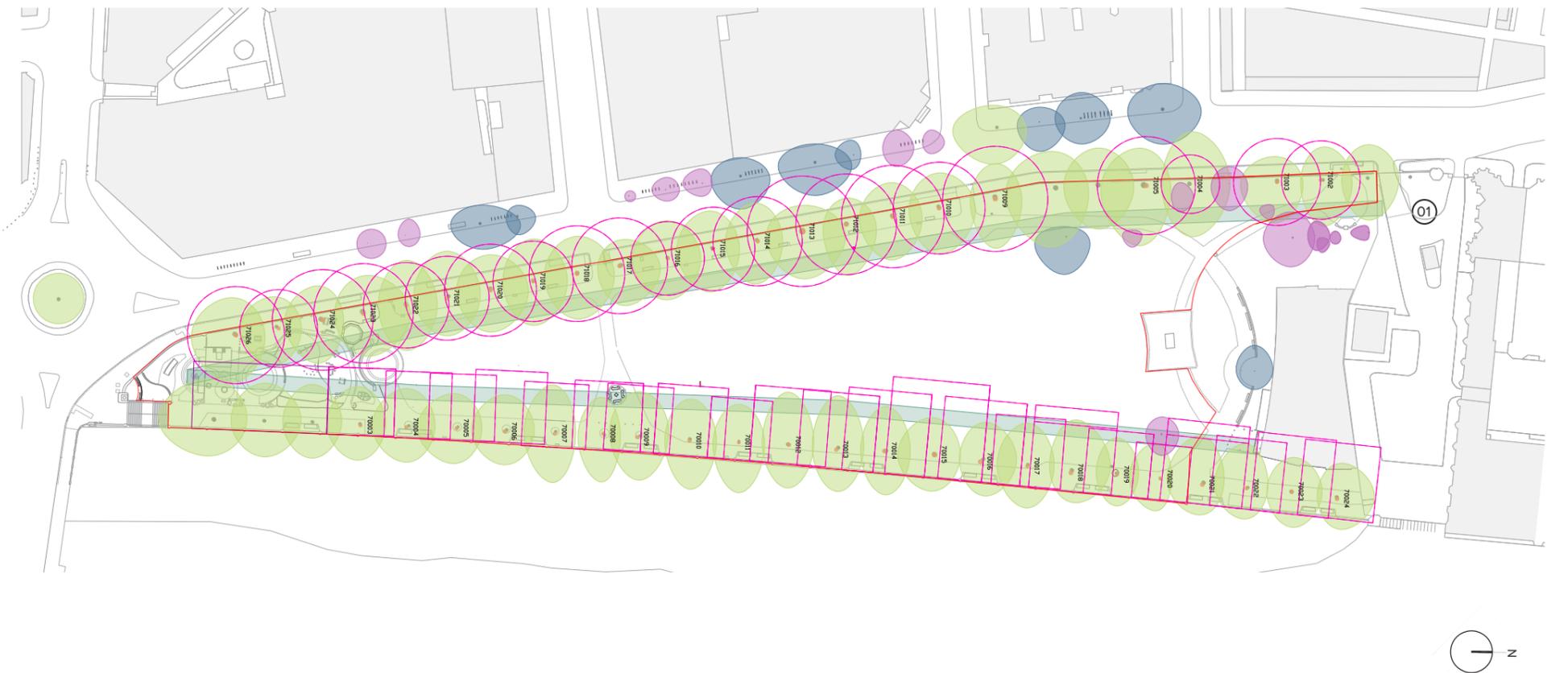


FIG 3.3.1 OVERLAY OF RPA AND COMPLETED SURVEYS

- ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA) IDENTIFIED BY BARTLETT
- 4M AREA FOR RADAR TREE ROOTS SURVEY IDENTIFIED BY GP+B
- PLANE TREES CANOPY AREA IDENTIFIED BY BARTLETT
-
- - - DEVELOPMENT AREA BOUNDARY

3.0 Context, Current site conditions

3.3 Site Constraints Existing Trees

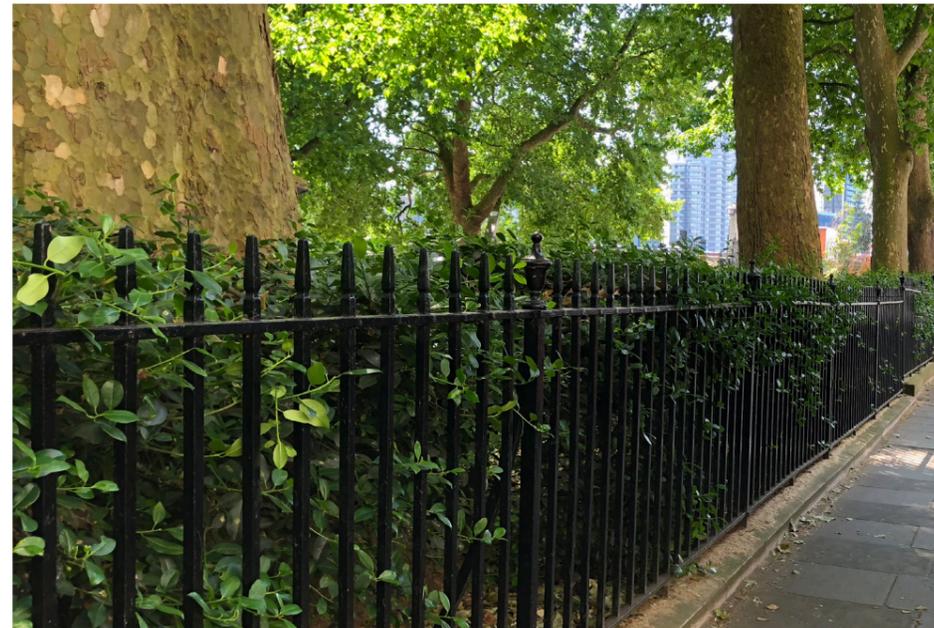
3.3.6 Throughout the design development stage, the team has worked closely with Bartlett Tree Experts (BTE), and other specialists, reviewing the proposals against any potential impact on the health of the trees. A number of key changes have been made to the location and extent of the project since competition stage. The design has been developed to minimise and mitigate any potential impact on the trees' canopies and roots, and to ensure their long term health

3.3.7 Bartlett Tree Experts have completed an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) (CD6.5) and an AIA Addendum (CD 6.22) as part of the planning application. In the documents they evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development and site design on the London Plane trees, using the criteria and guidance set out in the British Standard 5837:2012 (CD4.16), and NJUG Vol. 4 (CD4.15).

3.3.8 The guidelines and principles of the British Standard 5837:2012 (CD4.16), and NJUG Vol. 4 (CD4.15). form the basis of the construction methodology for the project, described through the planning documents and set out in the Construction Management Plan (CMP) (CD 6.30). These proposals will inform the Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) to be prepared by the team with specialist contractor input, in advance of construction works, for submission to Westminster City Council for review and approval.

3.3.9 A detailed tree root radar survey (CD6.35) , canopy radar survey and extensive tree root investigation surveys have all been commissioned for the project to inform the final design with respect to the existing London Plane trees.

3.3.10 Dr. Frank Hope undertook a peer review of the design proposals with respect to the potential impact on the existing London Planes (CD6.36) which supported the assessment and proposals made. He has prepared a separate Proof of Evidence that is dedicated solely to the matter of the development's potential impact on the existing London Plane trees and the project's proposals to mitigate this.



3.3.2 MILLBANK PERIMETER RAILING



3.3.3 WESTSIDE LOOKING SOUTH



3.3.4 VIEW NORTH AT EXISTING PLAYGROUND



3.3.5 VIEW NORTH AT BUXTON MEMORIAL

4. Response to Context



4.0 Response to Context

4.1 Landscape Masterplan Concept Connecting the monuments

4.1.1 Linking the main entrance of Victoria Tower Gardens directly to the entrance of the UK Holocaust Memorial, the new diagonal path opens up the heart of the space, making it fully accessible for the first time. Made of small stone setts, it will curve its sinuous form diagonally through the park towards the dramatic perspective formed by two rows of London Plane trees framing the distant landform that hints at the presence of the National Holocaust Memorial.

4.1.2 The circular arrival point in Victoria Tower Gardens maintains the welcoming curve of the Emmeline Pankhurst Memorial. The stone path leads towards Rodin's Burghurs of Calais, providing visitor's a new perspective as they pass by. As the path moves through the park, its curved form accentuates distance and one detects a subtle shift as the entire grass landform moves up towards the Memorial.

4.1.3 The ornate steeple of the Buxton Memorial remains visible at all times on this journey, on axis with the new path, 200m in the distance from the main entrance, and enlarging with each step closer, it remains the tallest manmade feature in the park. It was located on axis with Dean Stanley Street in 1956, and the view has been respected in the current design. New landscaping and seating places a renewed importance on the Buxton Memoria

4.1.4 The historic connection between the playground and the Spicer Memorial is an important relationship to retain. Its stone bench will provide a welcome seating point at the entrance to the UK Holocaust Memorial.

4.1.5 Linking all memorials and monuments within Victoria Tower Garden, this journey unifies their different characters and defines a new calm and contemplative landscape.

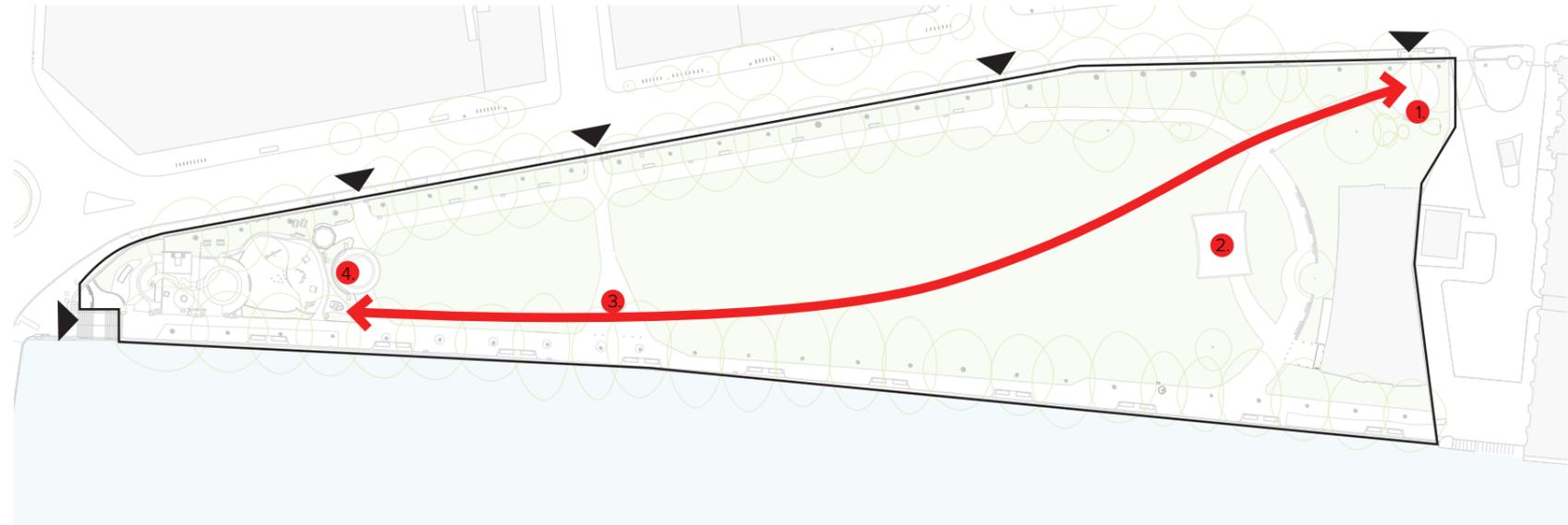


FIG 4.1.1 LINKING THE MONUMENTS

- 1. EMMELINE PANKHURST MEMORIAL
- 2. RODIN'S BURGHURS OF CALAIS
- 3. BUXTON MEMORIAL
- 4. SPICER MEMORIAL



1.



2.



3.



4.

4.0 Response to Context

4.2 Landscape Masterplan Concept Circulation

4.2.1 The park is pedestrianised, with only maintenance and servicing vehicles allowed access during the day. This maintains the calm character of the space, and the heavy planting and mature trees along the western boundary separate it from the traffic of Millbank.

4.2.2 There are five entrances into the park, four from Millbank, and a stepped approach from Lambeth Bridge. The current layout supports a perimeter path route running north-south on either side of the park, that is linked at either end. A single additional cross route exists on axis with the Buxton Memorial.

4.2.3 The pedestrian modelling data, produced by Atkins, in advance of the competition, identifies the most well used routes in and around Victoria Tower Garden. The diagrams illustrate that many users cross the open lawn area which is expected due to the strong NW-SE desire line.

4.2.4 The data also identifies the most intensively used locations, and how these differ through the day or weekend. This pattern reflects a strong degree of commuter movement through the park during the week, as well as lunchtime movement associated with local workers. This drops off considerably at the weekends, with more casual movement in and around the lawn areas.



FIG 4.2.1 IMPROVED SITEWIDE CIRCULATION

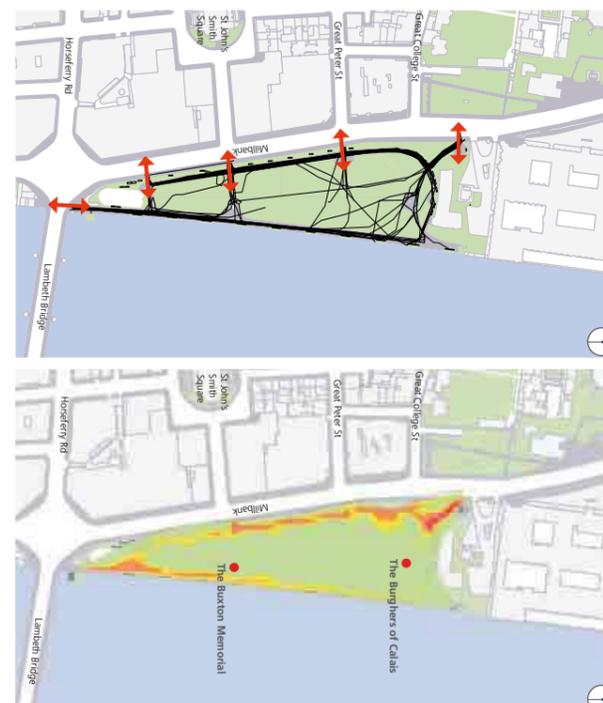
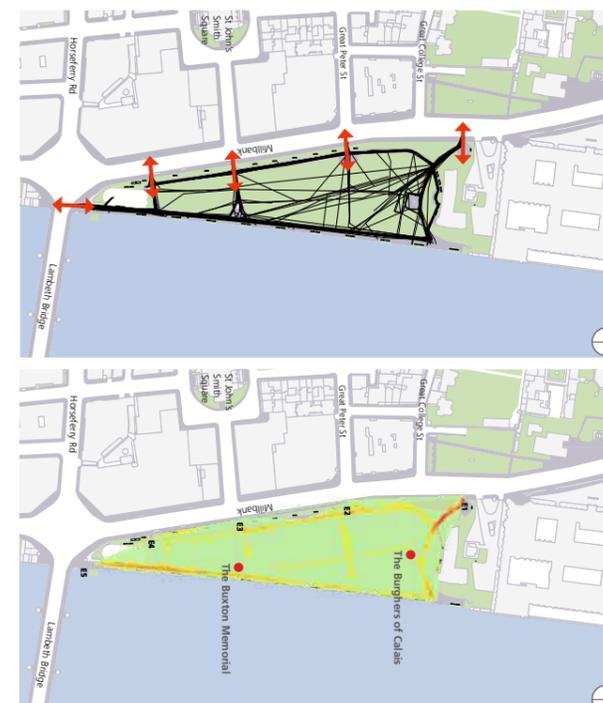
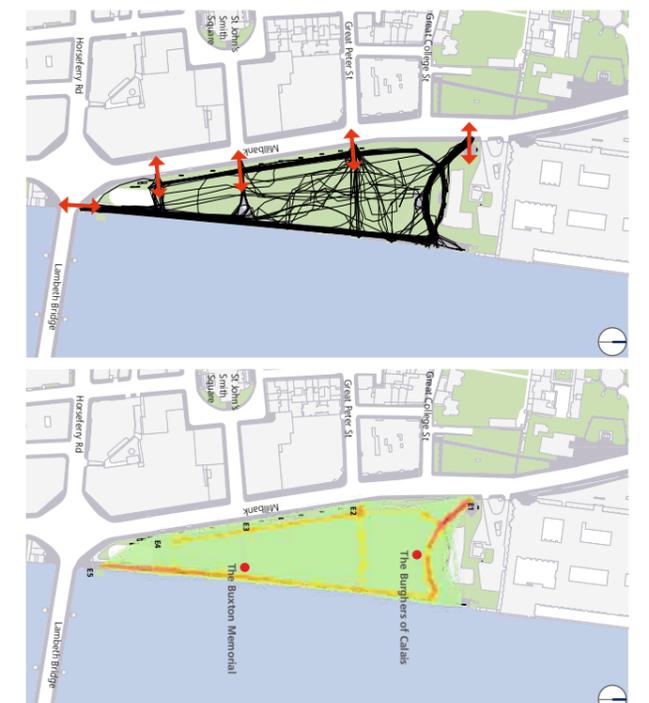


FIG 4.2.2. TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT REPORT BY ATKINS
PATH FOLLOWING SURVEY / WEEKDAY



4.2.3 TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT REPORT BY ATKINS
PATH FOLLOWING SURVEY / WEEKEND



4.2.4 TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT REPORT BY ATKINS
PATH FOLLOWING SURVEY / BANK HOLIDAY

1. CENTRAL PATH
2. RIVERSIDE BOARDWALK

4.3 Landscape Masterplan Concept
Improving the river views Central Path and Boardwalk

4.3.1 One of the primary attractions and characteristics of Victoria Tower Gardens is its proximity to the River Thames. Unfortunately, the current levels of the Embankment Wall do not easily afford views out and over to the river from inside the site.

4.3.2 As with other similar locations along the banks of the river, elevated seating is provided. While they provide better views for some, they do not allow universal enjoyment of this space.

4.3.3 It is proposed to introduce a sloping level change in the lawn area, that will bring the eye line of the average individual above the line of the Embankment Wall. Adjacent to the wall, it is proposed to elevate the entire edge on a boardwalk, with seating that is accessible to everyone, and improves the view out onto the River Thames.

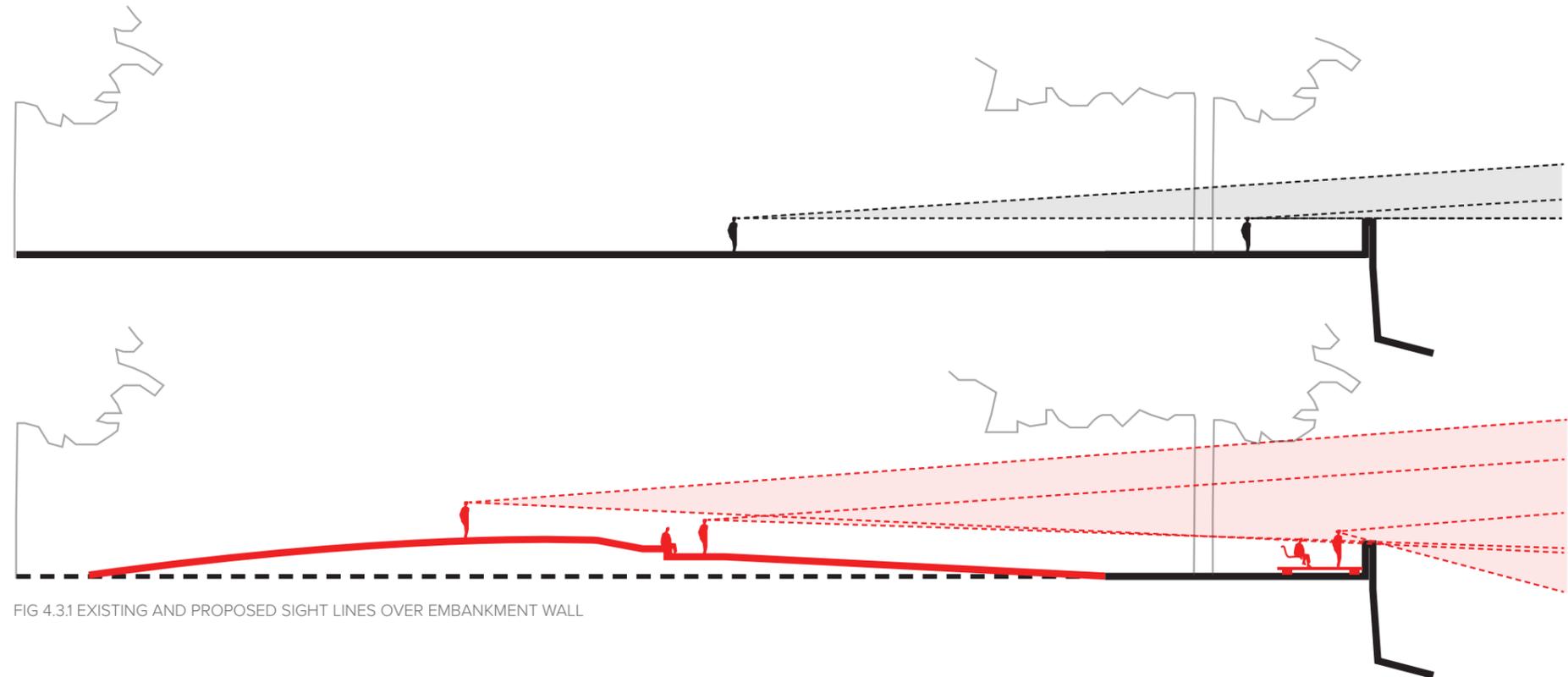


FIG 4.3.1 EXISTING AND PROPOSED SIGHT LINES OVER EMBANKMENT WALL



FIG 4.3.2 EXISTING VIEW OVER EMBANKMENT WALL



FIG 4.3.3 ELEVATED VIEW OVER EMBANKMENT WALL



FIG 4.3.4 NON COMPLIANT RAISED SEATING PLINTHS

4.0 Response to Context

4.4 Landscape Masterplan Concept Landform, views towards the Victoria tower

4.4.1 The concept for the UK Holocaust Memorial hides the view of the Memorial fins from the north, using the landform to envelope them, leaving only the upper sections visible on entering the park. The current expanse of green lawn, is lifted, sloping up to this point to retain a natural view from the entrance or when looking out from the Palace of Westminster.

4.4.2 The landform is proposed as an inhabited space, that can be walked over, sat upon, enjoyed by visitors. The opportunity to interface with the Memorial fins is an important conceptual idea, and is further enhanced by the heightened location. The highest accessible point will bring the eye line of the average individual above the roof of the Parliamentary Learning Centre, and provide new perspectives across Victoria Tower Gardens.

4.4.3 When immediately in front of the UK Holocaust Memorial, you are completely enveloped in its form. Otherwise the majority of the park will retain an unobstructed view south towards Victoria Tower.

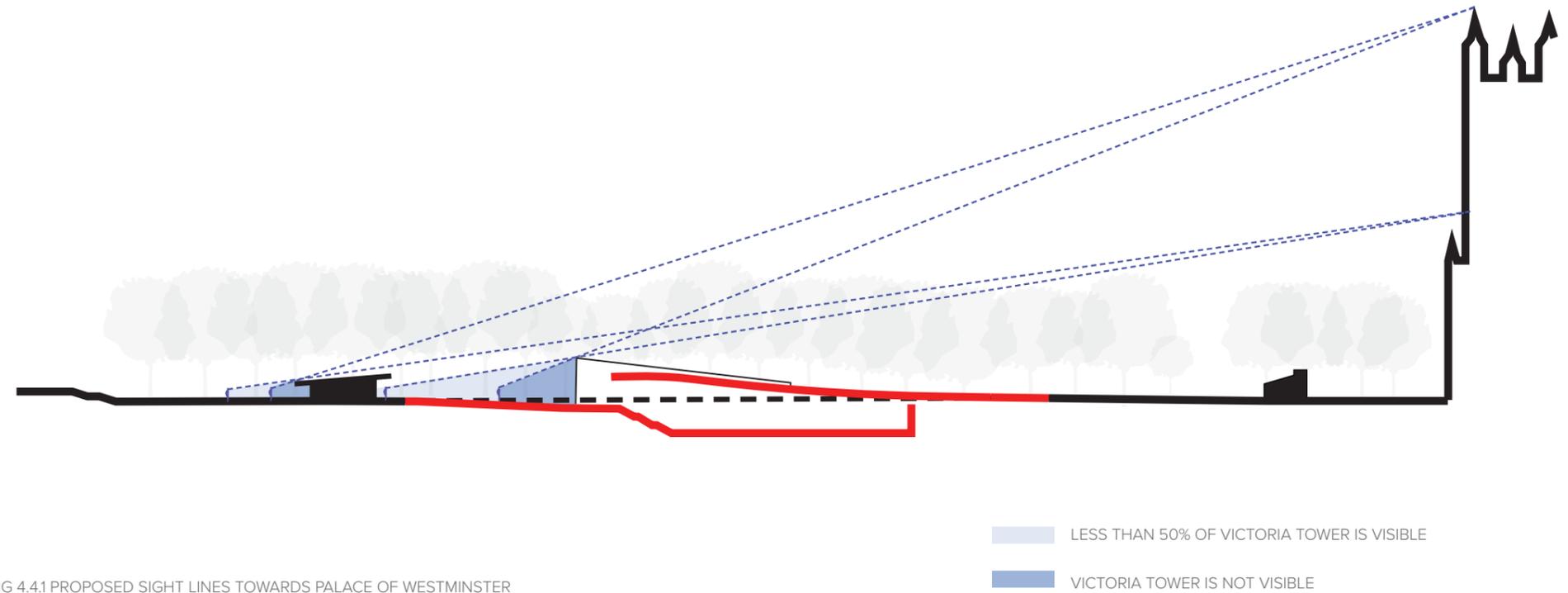


FIG 4.4.1 PROPOSED SIGHT LINES TOWARDS PALACE OF WESTMINSTER



FIG 4.4.2 CURRENT VIEW NORTH TO PALACE OF WESTMINSTER



4.4.3 50% (APPROX) OF VICTORIA TOWER IS NOT VISIBLE FROM 20% (APPROX) OF THE PARK AREA

5.0 Landscape Masterplan/Design Evolution

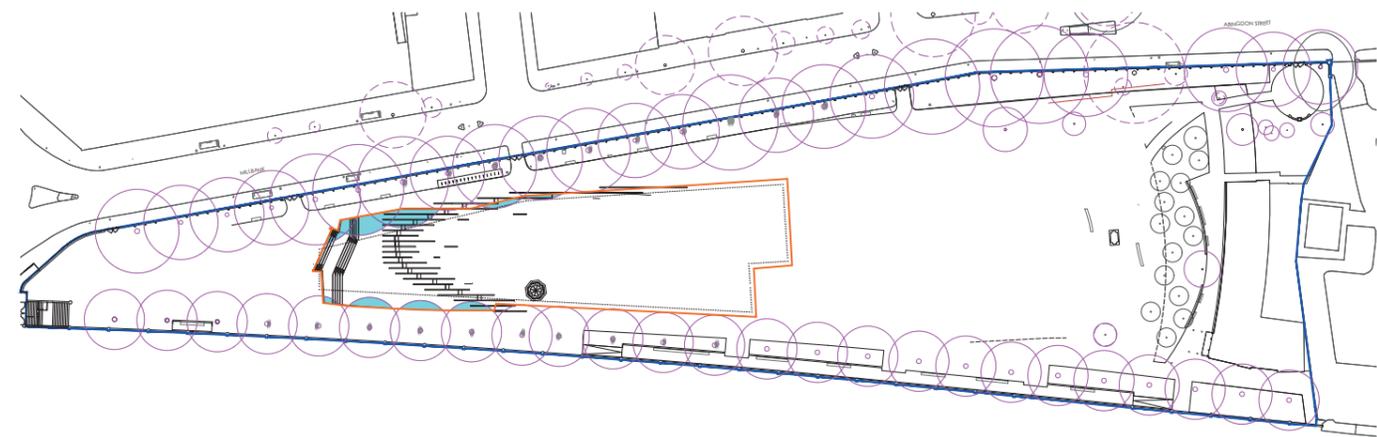
5.1 RPA Overlap Analysis

5.1.1 Throughout the design Stages 1-3, the team has continued to review and refine the design proposals to reduce the development overlap with the existing trees' Root Protection Area (RPA) and mitigate the potential impact on the tree roots below.

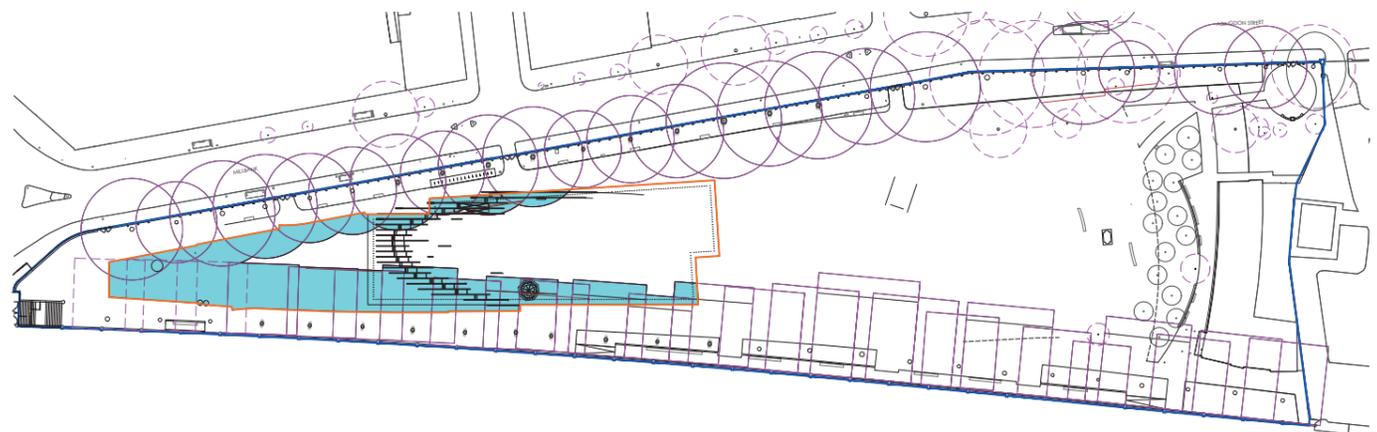
5.1.2 Recognising that the British Standard 5837 (BS 5837) (CD 4.16) is the industry standard, and nationally accepted, document for providing guidance and recommendations in relation to the juxtaposition of trees and buildings, the project engaged Bartlett Tree Experts (BTE) to undertake the necessary tree surveys and prepare a Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) to inform the development of the design. The project understood that although possible to undertake development within the RPA of a tree, this should be minimised to avoid potentially negatively impacting the health of the tree.

5.1.3 The TCP were produced in February 2018 by BTE, and resulted in significant modification of the design, including relocation of the development 40 metres to the north, as well as amending the shape and layout of the UKHMLC.

5.1.4 Due to the constraints of the Embankment wall, BTE utilised polygon RPA along the eastern line of trees, while circles were used along the western line. The use of polygon RPA is accepted by the BS:5837, and it does not state that different shape RPA's cannot be used on the same site.



COMPETITION PROPOSAL



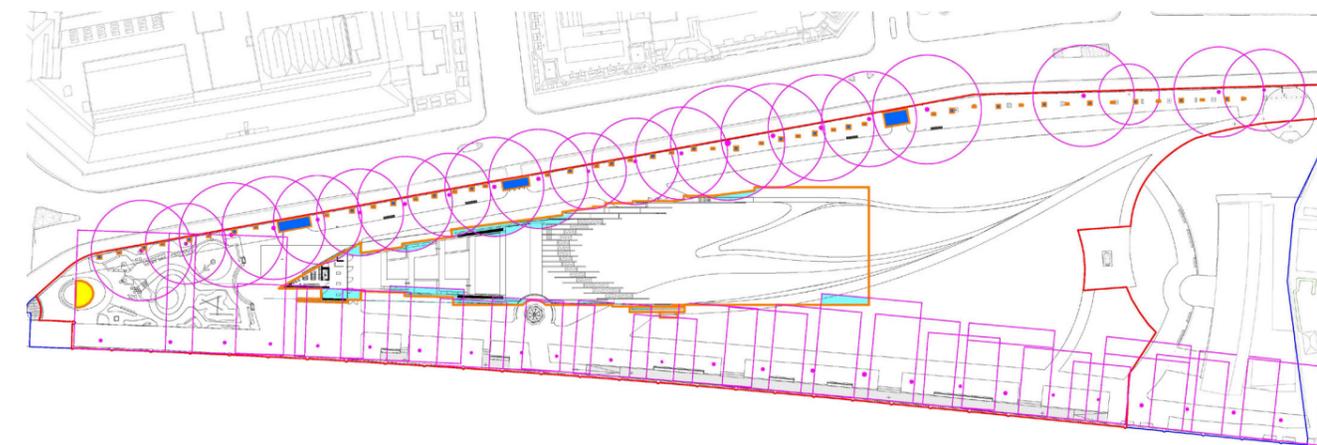
- EXCAVATION OUTLINE
- OVERLAP OF EXCAVATION AREA AND RPA
- ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)

STAGE 2 PROPOSAL - ENTRANCE PAVILION AND ACCURATE TREE ROOT INFORMATION

FIG 5.1.1 COMPARISON OF COMPETITION AND STAGE 2 DEVELOPMENT



RPA OVERLAP/ PLANNING APPLICATION PROPOSAL (DECEMBER 2018)

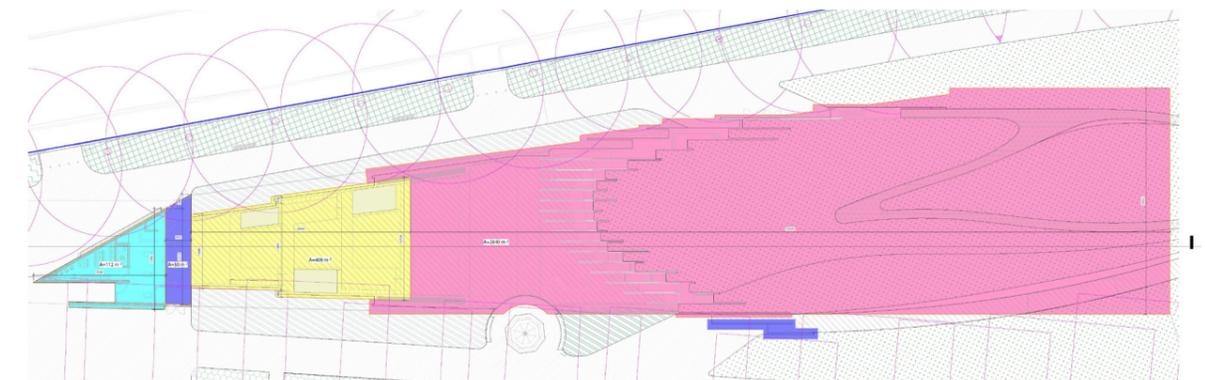


- EXCAVATION OUTLINE
- OVERLAP OF EXCAVATION AREA AND RPA
- ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)

RPA OVERLAP/ REVISED PROPOSAL (APRIL 2019)



EXCAVATIONS / PLANNING APPLICATION PROPOSAL (DECEMBER 2018)



- EXCAVATION 400 MM
- EXCAVATION FROM 400 MM TO 1700MM
- EXCAVATION 12130 MM

EXCAVATIONS / REVISED PROPOSAL (APRIL 2019)

FIG 5.1.2 COMPARISON OF STAGE 3 DEVELOPMENT

5.2 Additional Tree Surveys / Radar

5.2.1 Throughout the design period, the team has been working with arboriculturists and specialists to assist in the understanding of the tree root morphology below ground. It was agreed to stagger the investigations, working from a non-invasive approach towards more focused excavations in the interest of minimum disturbance to the trees as well as the wider park users.

5.2.2 The team engaged Sharon Hosegood Associates to commission a tree root radar study, along both sides of the park. The aim of the investigation was to establish potential location and density of roots growing away from the existing plane trees, towards the proposed site location.

5.2.3 The radar penetrated 2m in depth, and a detailed report was published identifying potential locations for significant roots and clusters of fibrous roots. It was on the review of this data that the project location was revisited and a move 40m north proposed.

5.2.4 The data also allowed the team together with BTE to identify locations of greatest interest for future physical trench investigations which were undertaken by Canopy Consultants in September 2018.

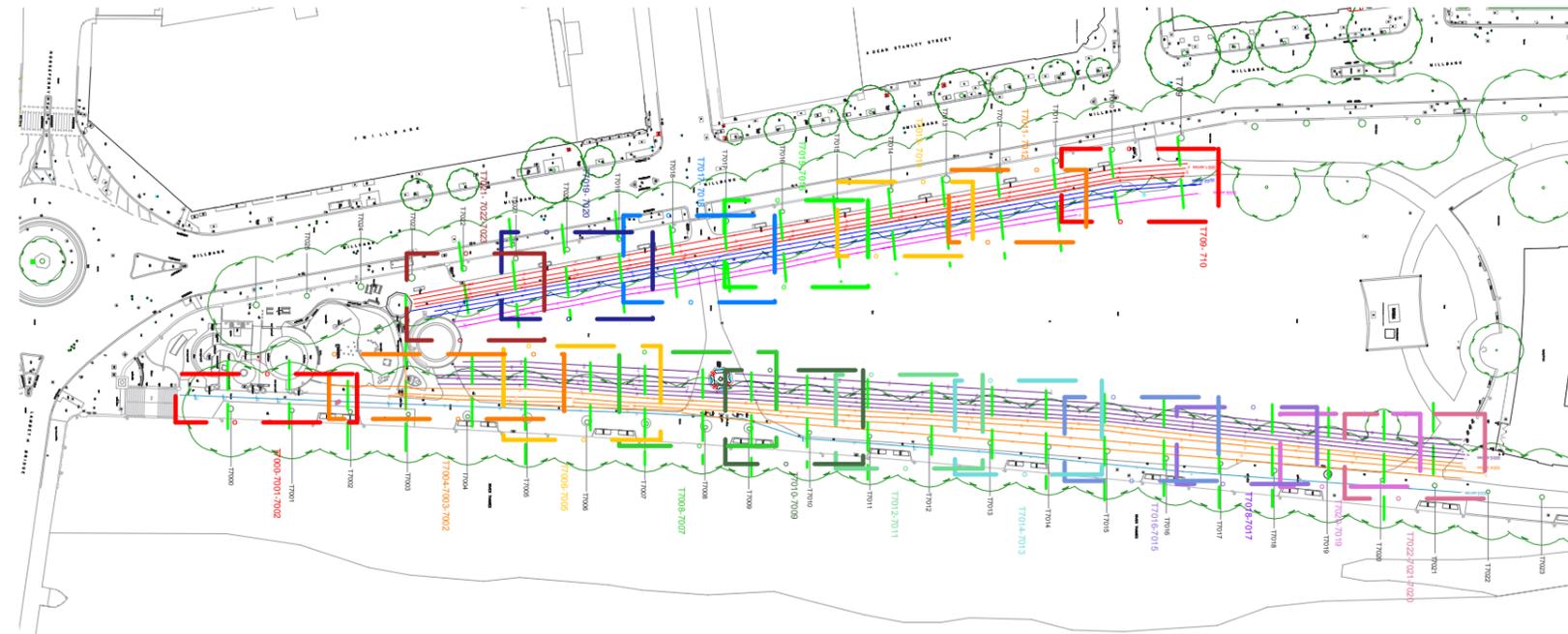


FIG 5.2.1 RADAR SURVEY EXTENTS / SHARON HOSEGOOD

5.3 Additional tree Surveys / 3D scan

5.3.1 The relocation of the UKHMLC further north reduced the potential impact of excavation on the existing tree roots. It was also necessary to investigate if there was any potential 'clash' with the above ground structure of the Holocaust Memorial with adjacent trees on the west side of the site.

5.3.2 Five of the existing Plane trees were identified as potentially clashing, and a laser scan was commissioned from MSA Surveys to generate a 3D model. This was reviewed in the combined 3D model and it was confirmed that there was no need for any pruning at that time.



FIG 5.3.1 CANOPY 3D RADAR SURVEY / MSA

5.4 Additional Tree Surveys
Trench Surveys

5.4.1 Following the series of non invasive investigations, a number of tree root investigation trenches were undertaken by Canopy Consultants Ltd in September 2018. Locations were identified that showed high density of roots in the radar survey, as well as where the site boundary overlapped with the RPA's of the protected trees.

5.4.2 The intention of the trench survey was to identify in the top 1000mm, the location, number and size of any tree roots. This information would be reviewed against the design information to establish whether the root could be retained beneath areas of the development, or if they needed to be pruned professionally before the commencement of construction.

5.4.3 Using the survey information, it was possible to review the roots found against the design parameters, and where possible amend structural depths to accommodate them in the future design.

5.4.4 It was also possible to interpolate the survey information back into the tree root radar data, and produce more accurate identification of roots below the 1m depth. Sharon Hosegood Associates issued a new report (CD6.35), confirming that based on the on site evidence, a lower density of tree roots was identified than originally mapped in the 3D survey. The technical reasons were laid out in their addendum report.

5.4.5 40% of the identified roots were 25mm or less, and defined as not significant as per the BS:5837. Where possible all tree roots will be retained. Together with the professional input of BTE the team has reviewed the locations further to potentially reduce the level of pruning required. It is proposed that the improved permeability and increased softscape areas in and around the courtyard will benefit future tree root growth.



- ▭ UKHMLC EXCAVATION OUTLINE
- ▭ TRENCHES SURVEY . CANOPY CONSULTANCY. SEPTEMBER 2018
- ▭ TRENCHES SURVEY . HVM. CANOPY CONSULTANCY. APRIL 2019
- ▭ TREE ROOT RADAR SURVEY INVESTIGATION ZONE. SHARON HOSEGOOD ASSOCIATES. MARCH 2018

5.3.1 PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION OUTLINE FOR INVESTIGATION / EXISTING LAYOUT



5.3.2 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF TREE ROOT INVESTIGATIONS (REFER TO CANOPY CONSULTANT REPORTS FOR FULL DETAIL)

6.0 Landscape Proposals in Detail

6.1 Landscape Proposal Proposed vs existing

6.1.1 The developed landscape masterplan brings the existing Victoria Tower Gardens landscape and the proposals for the UK Holocaust Memorial together into a coherent single vision for an accessible and enhanced public park.

6.1.2 The primary features of perimeter paths to a lawned area that is flanked by mature Plane trees have been respected, and where appropriate, enhanced for the benefit of the general visitor.

6.1.3 The concept and design of the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre uses the language of the current park to integrate its forms, and embed it into the space. It is a site specific response that supports new experiences in the landscape, appropriate to the context.

6.1.4 The location has been considered with respect to primary and secondary movement routes across VTG. All current movements and activities remain possible for local residents, and where appropriate, new features such as the boardwalk or perimeter planting, enhance the daily experience.

6.1.5 Inclusive design principles have been adopted throughout so that the landscape proposals will be easily used by people of all backgrounds and abilities. This will improve the overall utility and enjoyment of the gardens for everyone.

6.1.6 The environmental importance of the site is recognised, and the proposals build on this, increasing its biodiversity. Additional areas of native planting are proposed, and throughout the ground has become more permeable, improving the habitats in these areas.

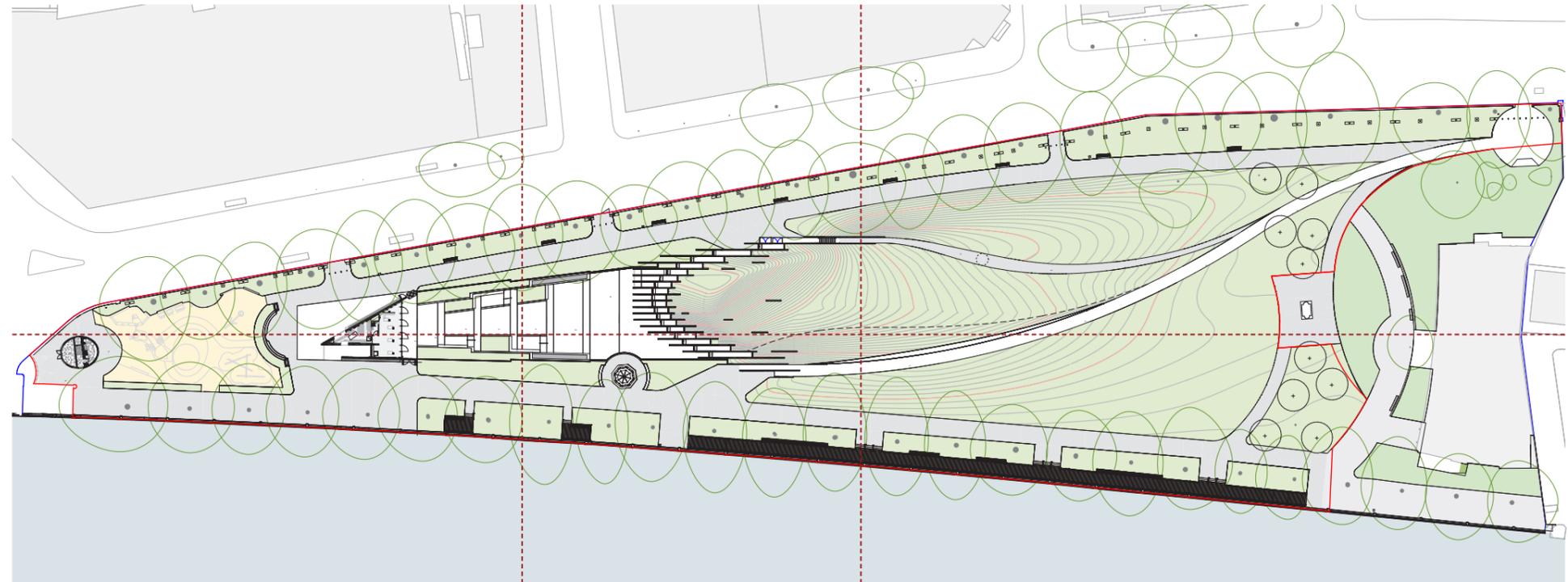


FIG 6.1.1 VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS -PROPOSED TOPOGRAPHICAL PLAN



FIG 6.1.2 VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS -EXISTING TOPOGRAPHICAL PLAN

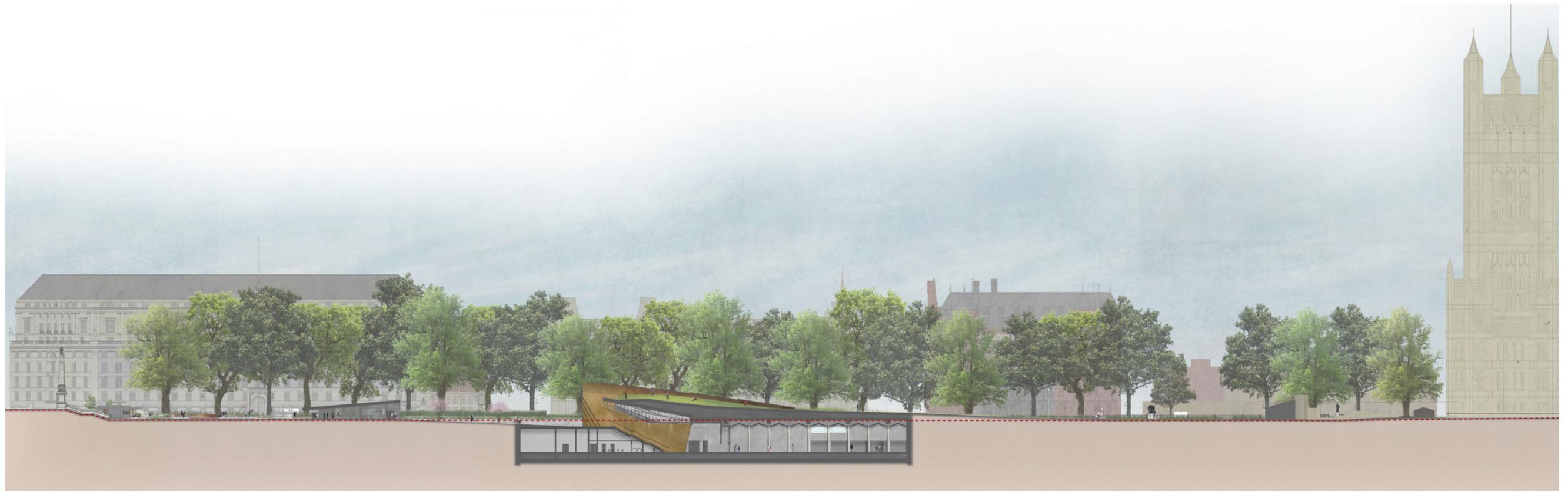
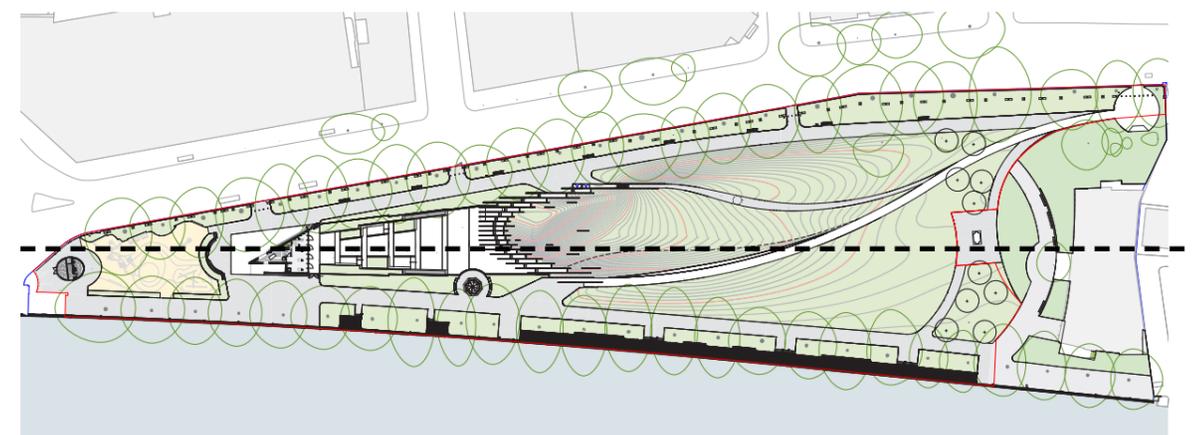


FIG 6.1.3 NORTH -SOUTH SITE SECTION THROUGH MEMORIAL AND LEARNING CENTRE

----- EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY



6.2 Landscape Proposal Proposed vs existing

6.2.1 The concept for the UK Holocaust Memorial introduces a slope in the lawn that gradually leads up to the top of the bronze Memorial fins. The modelling of this landform took into consideration the existing levels of Victoria Tower Garden, as well as the gradients most comfortable for people to walk along for each of the paths.

6.2.2 To allow the ground to slope up on the N-S axis, it was necessary to separate the diagonal path from the landform, and create a bench where the two levels change.

6.2.3 A large section of the lawn remains relatively flat at the north end of the park, and to the east, where it remains sunniest. Where the proposed lawn does slope, this will be gentle enough in the middle section to accommodate normal movement and activity across it. Where the gradient starts to exceed 1:20, it is still perceived as a usable space either for play or sitting.

6.2.4 At the southern end of the site, the Memorial Entrance Courtyard slopes 2m down from the Entrance Pavilion, to the Memorial itself. The change in level is necessary to allow access below ground into the Learning Centre.

6.2.5 The gradual slope of the Courtyard is expressed in layers of planting and stone walls. The lower levels are reveal as strata, with seating and terraces growing out of these walls.

6.2.6 The edge between the courtyard and the perimeter path is heavily planted. This provides a sense of enclosure, while allowing views in and out. Only at the Buxton Memorial, is there a direct connection and awareness of the 2m level difference.

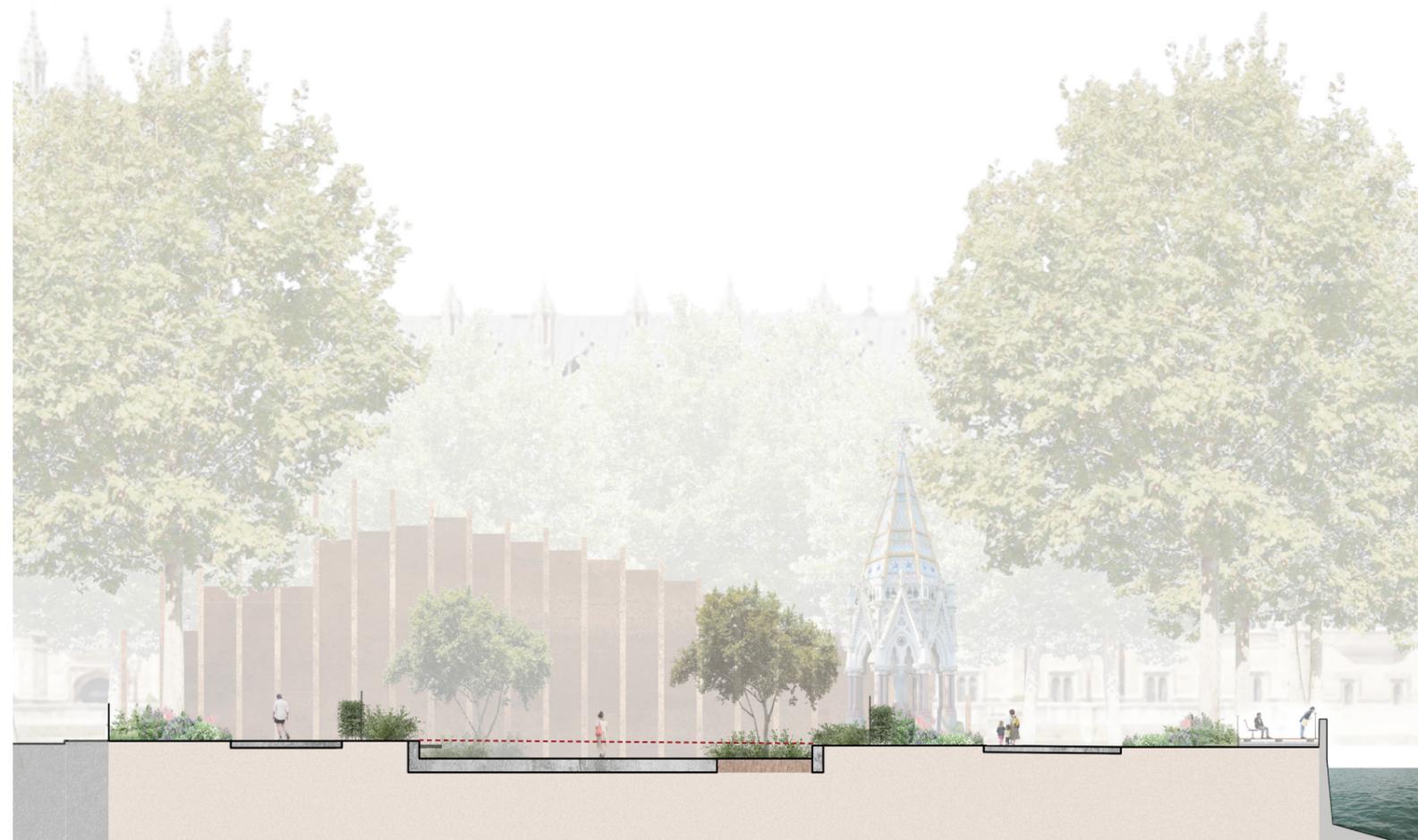
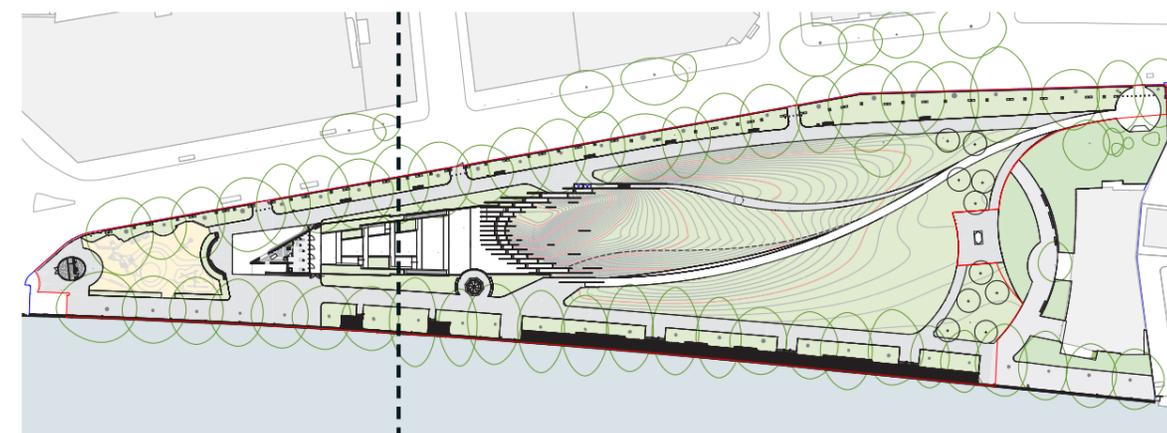


FIG 6.2.1 EAST - WEST CROSS SECTION THROUGH PROPOSED MEMORIAL COURTYARD

----- EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY



6.0 Landscape Proposals in Detail

6.3 Landscape Proposal Landform

6.3.1 As the primary natural landscape feature in the design proposals, a considerable amount of thought and consideration has been given to the landform that forms part of the UK Holocaust Memorial.

6.3.2 The UK Holocaust Memorial entrance has been very purposefully orientated towards the south, leaving the park to remain as a park for local people. To screen the entrance the landform will lift with a shallow slope and at around 145 metres from the the Burgher's of Calais, it will create an amphitheatre view to the Thames and Parliament. On entering the park from the north, the landform will create a distant, simple grass backdrop, that will screen traffic on Lambeth Bridge as it turns on to Millbank

6.3.3 We have chosen a palette of natural materials for the integrated features that have an organic quality, and that are informed by, but do not replicate or mimic, historical references and precedents.

6.3.4 A great part of the UKHMLC's exterior materiality is simply the continuation of the natural materials of the park, ensuring an elegant integration with the landscape. The materials are capable of engaging visitors across all their senses – through colour, tactile experience and all the emotions and associations these provoke.



FIG 6.3.1 DETAIL OF UKHMLC INTEGRATION WITH LANDSCAPE



FIG 6.3.2 LANDFORM



FIG 6.3.3 LAWN PATH DETAIL



FIG 6.3.4 PERMEABLE PERIMETER PATH



FIG 6.3.5 STONE SEATING WALL



FIG 6.3.6 STONE SETT PATH



6.3.7 PERIMETER HEDGE

6.4 Landscape Proposal Memorial Entrance Courtyard

6.4.1 The Courtyard in front of the UK Holocaust Memorial provides a moment of pause and reflection on the purpose of the Memorial and the tragedy it represents.

6.4.2 This is an immediate experience, and the physical separation of the Courtyard from the rest of the park allows the visitor or group, to leave the wider city and environment behind and focus on this moment.

6.4.3 The design proposals recognise the potential for such a space to feel distant from Victoria Tower Gardens, and therefore it has been designed with a dual character. The perimeter has been landscaped with layers of planting to provide a natural screen, and frame the perimeter path which is closest at this point.

6.4.4 A series of gently sloping stone terraces guides the visitor towards the openings between the bronze fins. The Courtyard descends 2m below adjacent ground level.

6.4.5 Internally the planting creates pockets of seating from which to view the Memorial. The landscape softens the railing boundary edge, reducing its visual impact on both the park and the Courtyard.

6.4.6 The geometry of the space is intentionally interrupted to create a circular retaining wall to the Buxton Memorial at park level. The low railing, and omission of planting in this location, creates a strong visual presence in the Courtyard below, retaining the axial view with Dean Stanley Street.



FIG 6.4.1 VIEW LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS PALACE OF WESTMINSTER FROM MEMORIAL COURTYARD

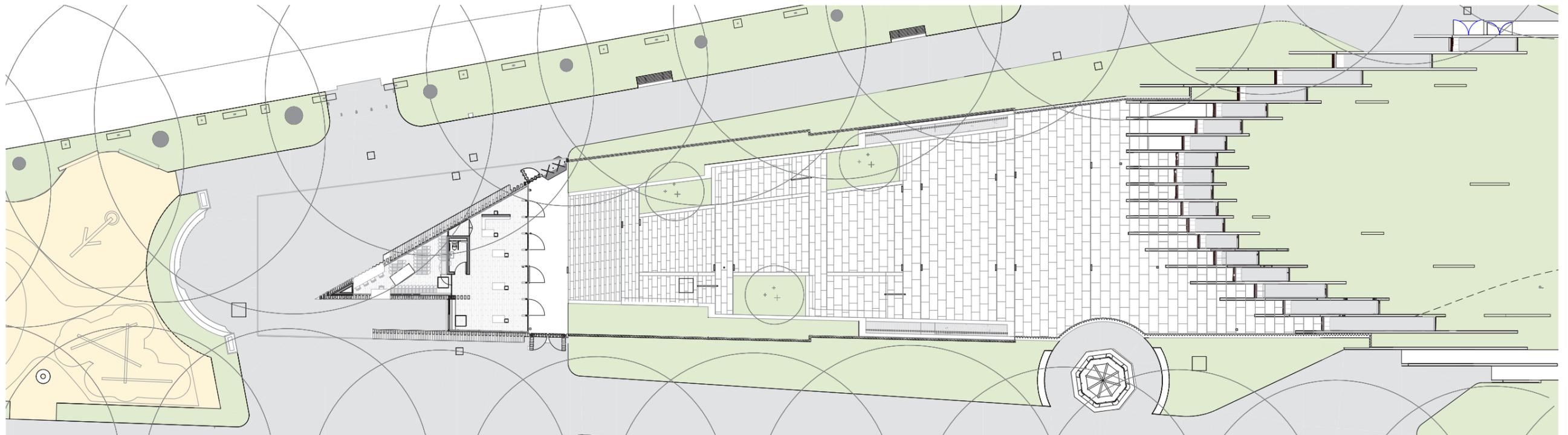


FIG 6.4.2 MEMORIAL COURTYARD PLAN



FIG 6.4.3 MEMORIAL COURTYARD LONG SECTION

6.5 Sitewide/ Permeable Material Details

6.5.1 Currently the hardscape for Victoria Tower Garden is specified to an impermeable asphalt. It is noted that this creates an inhospitable environments for root growth and forms a large area of the majority of RPA's.

6.5.2 The design proposals have always supported the maximisation of permeable surfaces throughout the garden whether as increased planted areas or permeable bound gravel or paving.

6.5.3 Trench surveys have identified that the typical build up for existing hard surfaces is between 400-600mm of compacted material.

6.5.4 The construction of the hard surface for the paths and paving will utilise a cellular confinement system such as Cell Web.

6.5.5 It is proposed to minimise this new permeable path profile which is typically 200mm, and introduce better quality sub soils beneath these. This forms part of the mitigation strategy proposed by Bartlett Tree Experts to improve the growing condition adjacent to the trees.

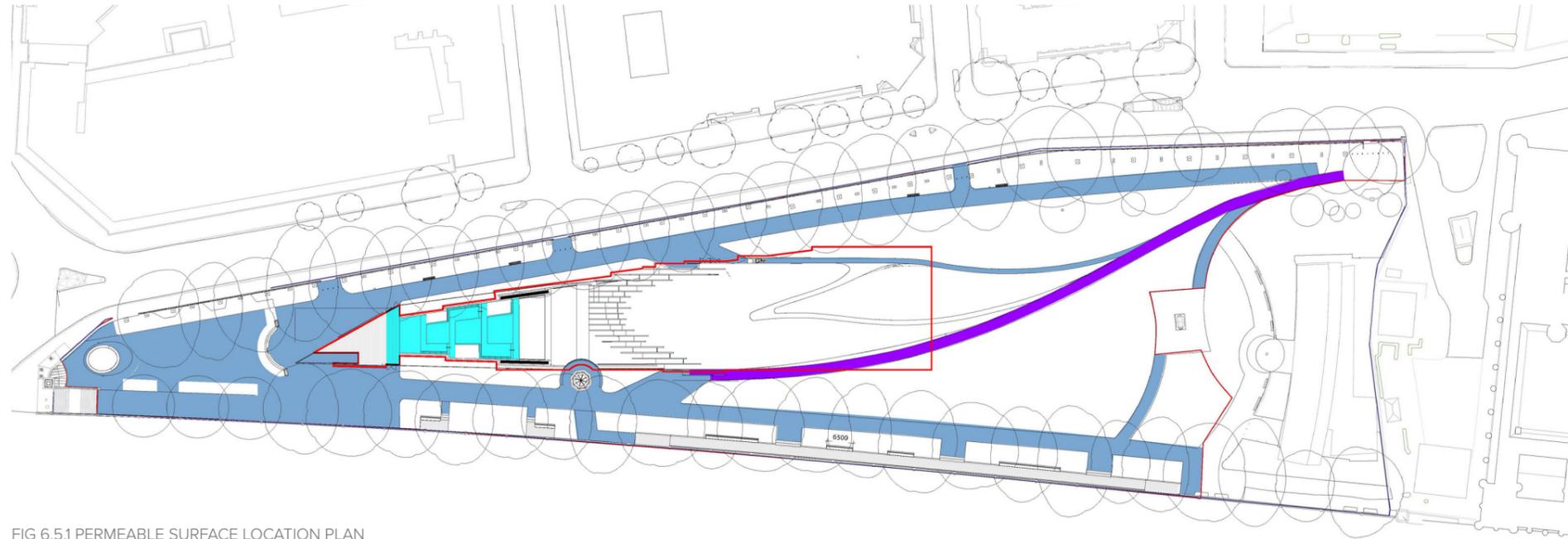


FIG 6.5.1 PERMEABLE SURFACE LOCATION PLAN

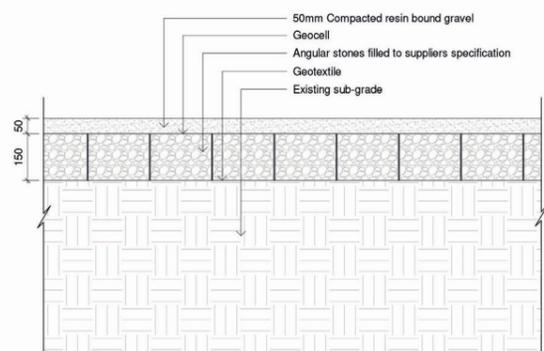


FIG 6.5.2 PERMEABLE PATH TYPICAL DETAIL

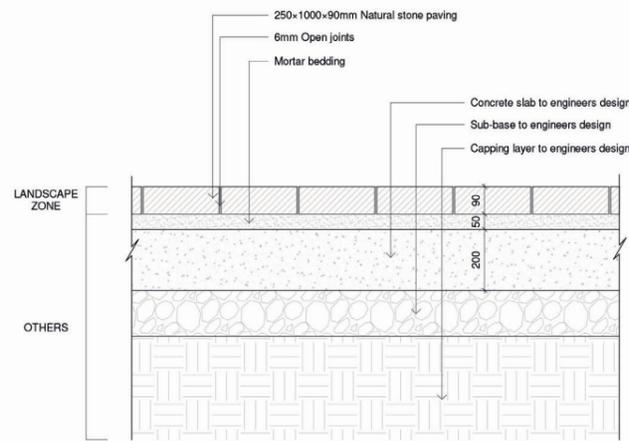


FIG 6.5.3 COURTYARD STONE PAVING TYPICAL DETAIL

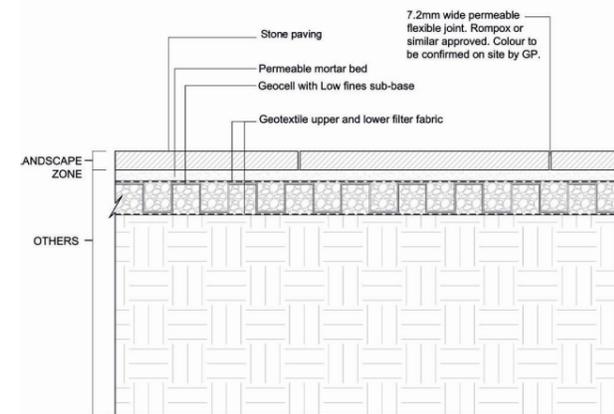


FIG 6.5.4 MAIN PATH STONE PAVING TYPICAL DETAIL

6.0 Landscape Proposals in Detail

6.6 Sitewide Planting

6.6.1 The planting through Victoria Tower Garden is currently a mixture of dense, evergreen shrubs and areas of ornamental flowering plants. As previously described, the environmental conditions across the site vary a lot, and therefore the potential planting palette will also change depending on the location, particularly beneath the existing London Plane trees.

6.6.2 The proposals aim to unify the character and aesthetic of Victoria Tower Garden, and create layers of experience from outside to in, that orientate and enclose the visitor.

6.6.3 It is proposed that new features in the landscape, such as the boardwalk and the Entrance Courtyard, are both screened and open, providing views through but creating moments of intimacy for those needing respite from the busy cityscape outside the park.

6.6.4 Following the submission of the planning application, the team developed the detailed landscape plans. The different character areas were developed, and planting palettes refined.

6.6.5 More detailed work latterly (following the call-in) has led to the conclusion that two trees within the lawn area along west side of VTG would be removed. This is in response to the current condition of the trees and the changes in adjacent ground levels. The larger Wild Cherry (ref:71027) is in particularly poor condition and together with the smaller Crab Apple (ref:71028) is considered to have limited future potential.

6.6.6 The intention is to remove them, and install 13 new trees elsewhere within the scheme. A variety of flowering trees are proposed for the Memorial Entrance Courtyard, and in the wider park landscape. The placement and character of these trees would complement the existing features of the park.

6.6.7 The final detail would of course fall to be approved under a landscaping condition should planning permission be granted; the plan opposite shows the potential locations within the scheme for the replacement trees.



FIG 6.6.2 VIEW LOOKING SOUTH FROM WEST SIDE OF VICTORIA TOWER GARDEN



6.6.3 VIEW LOOKING SOUTH FROM EAST SIDE OF VICTORIA TOWER GARDEN

7.0 Response to reason for refusal

7.0 Response to reasons for refusal

7.1 Response to reasons for refusal

7.1.1 Throughout the design period of the project, the team has undertaken extensive stakeholder consultation to understand any concerns raised by interested parties, but also to communicate the design proposals and the benefits this project will bring to all park users. Between specialist focus groups and wider public consultations, the team has developed a strong understanding of the daily use of Victoria Tower Gardens, and the issues that are most important to the local residents as well as The Royal Parks.

7.1.2 Following the submission of the planning application, many supporters and objectors made formal comments on the proposals (CD 5.11). It was evident that those who objected to the project had a number of reoccurring themes, many of which focused on the potential impact the design proposals would have on Victoria Tower Gardens.

7.1.3 We have collated the primary themes below and addressed the substantive point that each makes:

7.1.4 Objectors states that there are already too many monuments and memorials in Victoria Tower Gardens, and there is no space for another:

7.1.4.1 The total site is 2.5ha in size, almost 4 times the size of nearby Parliament Square, and 6 times the size of nearby St John's Square.

7.1.4.2 The existing four monuments and memorials are well separated spatially, over 200m between both groups located at either end of Victoria Tower Gardens.

7.1.4.3 The landscape design proposals have been conscientious in the setting proposed for each of the existing memorials. The key views to and from each have been retained and the setting enhanced by improved paving, planting and seating.

7.1.4.4 The proposed UK Holocaust Memorial was designed with consideration of the context of the adjacent Buxton Memorial. The scale and massing of the bronze Memorial fins respects this relationship and steps down to the eastern side where it is closest to the Buxton Memorial.

7.1.4.5 The spire of the Buxton remains taller than the UK Holocaust Memorial and remains visible from the main entrance of Victoria Tower Gardens and on axis with Dean Stanley Street.

7.1.5 The steepness of the slope means that the landscape will not be accessible to all or in all circumstances. It will be too steep for the elderly or infirm, or those with buggies, and will be unusable in wet weather.

7.1.5.1 The current park has a circuit pathway, that is uneven and broken in parts.

7.1.5.2 The lawn has compaction issues and outside of the drier months has ponding and draining problems.

7.1.5.3 The landscape design proposal introduces improved accessible pathways, and new routes to allow more universal enjoyment of VTG and in particular the sunny central lawn area which the current layout does not allow.

7.1.5.4 The landform is graded gently from north to south. With reference to Part M Building Regulations, and best practice accessibility guidance, it is possible for all users to comfortably access areas less than 1:20. These sections will sufficiently elevate the visitor above the current lawn areas and provide the same experience of views back across the site and out to the river.

7.1.5.5 The steeper areas of the landform, greater than 1:20, are open to the public, and would be of interest to children for play and others for rest.

7.1.5.6 The natural amphitheatre is intentional to provide a range of spaces for visitors of different abilities. The slopes provide natural viewing areas over the park or during events such as the Luna cinema.

7.1.6 The banked landscape completely destroys the historic flat layout of the gardens.

7.1.6.1 The development of the park had several iterations over 140 years before its current form and layout. For many decades, the current central lawn was planted with shrubbery, embankments and had a large circular feature in the middle of the space.

7.1.6.2 The historic original area of Victoria Tower Gardens (1879) up to the line of Great Peter Street remains open and relatively flat in the current proposal.

7.1.6.3 According to Historic England a large circular feature was present in the centre of the lawn until 1956

7.1.7 VTG is Grade II listed, it's existing status and ambience should be protected. The simple expanse of grass, created to give an uninterrupted view of the Palace of Westminster, will be destroyed by changes in level:

7.0 Response to reasons for refusal

7.1 Response to reasons for refusal

7.1.7.1 Sight lines to the Palace of Westminster are marginally affected only at close proximity to the Entrance Pavilion and the UK Holocaust Memorial.

7.1.7.2 The recent Parliamentary Education Centre is almost as tall as the UK Holocaust Memorial and physically obscures more of the elevation of the Palace of Westminster from more areas of the park than the proposed UK Holocaust Memorial.

7.1.7.3 It will still be possible to view the Palace of Westminster unobstructed from the all areas of the 1879 northern section, and the majority of the southern extension.

7.1.8 It will turn a calm garden space into a cluttered, visually congested, urbanised landscape, especially at the south end. This will put further pressure on the rest of the landscape, currently characterised by its open nature.

7.1.8.1 The proposed landscape masterplan concept maintains the natural character of the park.

7.1.8.2 The area of amenity planting is enlarged and enhanced, and more seating areas are provided adjacent to it, for the enjoyment of all visitors.

7.1.8.3 The landscape design has proposed a limited number of features in the Victoria Tower Gardens to maintain the open appearance and create a de cluttered, legible landscape.

7.1.8.4 The southern end of the site is currently largely hard landscape, following the 2014 redevelopment of the playground, and the landscape proposes to introduce more soft landscape in this location where it is most beneficial.

7.1.8.5 The area of VTG is 2.5ha in total, and currently has a very low density of use compared to adjacent green spaces of central London.

7.1.9 The increased activity and additional visitors and its impact on the character and function of Victoria Tower Gardens:

7.1.9.1 The character of Victoria Tower Gardens is being maintained in the majority of the site, outside of the Memorial Entrance Courtyard and landform. Both have been designed with a view to naturalising the elements as much as possible and integrating with the existing character.

7.1.9.2 The primary functions of the site are walking and sitting with occasional local events, that are held annually within the park. All these functions are retained and uninterrupted by the development.

7.1.9.3 Pedestrian modelling projections have determined that increased visitor numbers as a consequence of the development will not adversely affect the enjoyment of the park or create uncomfortable crowd densities.

7.1.10 The proposed development and associated increased visitor activity would result in the loss of public open space and would harm the function of the Victoria Tower Gardens as an open space for active recreation and relaxation. This would be to the detriment of those who live in, work in, and visit the area

7.1.10.1 The landscape masterplan is developed around the need to support current activity in Victoria Tower Gardens, as well as provide an enhanced environment for recreation and relaxation. The quality of materials proposed, together with increased quantities of seating create a more inclusive, and supportive park environment for residents, workers and visitors.

7.1.11 Areas of hard landscaping increased at the expense of valued grass areas.

7.1.11.1 The areas of lawn omitted are primarily located in the heavily shaded southern section of the site which is less densely used in comparison with the northern open sunnier section.

7.1.11.2 The calculation of loss of lawn area is not recognising that some areas of lawn will be replaced with amenity planting which has a higher biodiversity value than grass, and will provide more year round interest for visitors to VTG.

7.1.12 The loss of open space and the impact on the amount of green space available locally.

7.1.12.1 The landscape design proposals bring more of the 2.5ha park back into activity through careful consideration of paths, planting and seating.

7.1.12.2 Victoria Tower Garden is adjacent to a number of smaller green spaces such as St John's Gardens, VTG South, and College Green. It is also within a short walking distance of Archbishop's Park (across the River Thames) and less than half a kilometre away is St James Park, which is a 6

7.0 Response to reasons for refusal

7.1 Response to reasons for refusal

minute walk from VTG.

7.1.12.3 It is proposed to create a better connection between a cafe/seating area and the playground for the benefit of all users.

7.1.13 Playground will be cut off from the main grass area so parents will not be able to watch their children play in the playground and on the grass at the same time.

7.1.13.1 The current playground is subtly fenced off and the Spicer Memorial separates it from the closest grass area. Therefore the ability to survey both areas at the same time is currently not possible.

7.1.14 The volume of people using the cafe before or after visiting the learning centre may affect playground users.

7.1.14.1 The cafe kiosk has been positioned adjacent to the stepped entrance from Lambeth Bridge, and the public toilets. This separates the general public areas away from the playground.

7.1.14.2 A soft boundary is created alongside the eastern edge of the playground using planting. This will separate all public pedestrian movement from the children's playground.

7.1.15 People are unlikely to want to use the playground in so sombre a place

7.1.15.1 The landscape masterplan has layered the sequence of spaces between the park and the Memorial landscapes, providing subtle degrees of separation, but not omitting or excluding views and experiences between the two.

7.1.15.2 The activities of daily life, including play, is acknowledged and welcomed in the concept of the UK Holocaust Memorial project. The landform is intended to be interacted with and enjoyed by the general public as part of the design narrative.

8.0 Conclusions

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 Conclusions

8.1.1 The United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre has been conceived around the concept of a single and continuous Memorial and landscape that integrates seamlessly into Victoria Tower Gardens. The arrangement of the Memorial bronze fins, designed by Ron Arad Architects is part of the landscape design, and the landscape forms part of the Memorial.

8.1.2 Since its original construction, Victoria Tower Gardens have been changed and remodelled a number of times in response to the placement of new monuments and memorials. I believe the new landscape masterplan builds on that tradition while respecting the character of the park. Our public landscapes need to be able to evolve, and support new experiences which is why I believe the proposals are appropriate in this context.

8.1.3 The landscape concept retains the sweeping green lawn, lifting it to meet the Memorial fins and allowing visitors to engage with it. Looking out from the Palace of Westminster, the view of an expanse of green is maintained. Looking back, the landform supports new views towards the Palace and out onto the River Thames. In this proof we have demonstrated how the scale of the development does not negatively impact on Victoria Tower Gardens or the Palace of Westminster, but does create positive new experiences for people visiting it.

8.1.4 I strongly believe that the project brings considerable benefits to Victoria Tower Gardens and its wide range of users. The design analysis described in this proof has identified the issues associated with the current arrangement of the park. The landscape proposals look to create a more inclusive and supportive landscape for people of all ages and abilities which is fundamental to our design thinking. Both the local resident, and the visitor to the UKHMLC, will benefit from the scheme.

8.1.5 The project recognises the importance of the existing protected London Plane trees, and I believe that the team has been diligent in assessing the development's potential impact on them. Extensive research and survey work was undertaken to identify the location which minimised the overlap with the tree's RPA's. Where work is required within an RPA, we have ensured that the detailed landscape design follows industry guidelines and principles, while proposing measures to improved the environment for the trees in the future.

8.1.6 I believe that the UKHMLC project has achieved a balance in creating a UK Memorial to victims of the Holocaust that is both visually significant and meaningfully engaging. Its presence in Victoria Tower Gardens speaks both to the impact of political decisions made in the Palace of Westminster, and daily life which continues around it in the park landscape. These concepts are realised in the landscape masterplan while providing an improved, supportive park environment for all users.



FIG 8.1.1 VIEW SOUTH ACROSS VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS FROM THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

