



SITE PLAN GLOBAL ACADEMY UTC

06.3 EXTERNAL SPACE

An area of external space has been allocated to the UTC on the south-west corner of the building. The external space faces two key areas of public realm in the Vinyl Square to the west and The Groove to the south. The design of the external area is driven by three key principles.

- Continue the design approach developed at a masterplan level.
- Encourage a relationship between the external space and the surrounding public realm
- Maximise the use of the external space for students

The external area also needs to provide bicycle parking, car and coach drop off, area for sitting and gathering and a location for a sub-station.

The UTC external area aims to provide a secure enclosed space for students to sit and gather. The boundary aims to be soft in nature and visually permeable, so as not to cut off any interaction between the public realm and the external space. The use of planting to distinguish the boundary will also have a positive impact upon Vinyl Square and the surrounding public space.

The boundary is composed of a series of hedgerows at different heights and lengths, reflecting the sound-wave language of The Groove. The changes of hedgerow height allow various levels of screening to be used for different circumstances with high hedges used to screen the substation and low hedges used to allow interaction with Vinyl Square.

Integrated within the hedge rows a 1.8m high continuous steel mesh fence will be used to create a completely secure boundary. Entrance through this boundary will be controlled by mesh gated entrances to the north and east of the external area. The use of a steel mesh fence relates to the expanded mesh cladding used on the building and helps create a secure boundary that is also light and unobtrusive in nature. Design (materiality & products used) of this feature to be confirmed. Fence posts supporting the steel mesh fence will be located between hedges so as not to damage or compromise the root-ball of the hedge itself.

The majority of seating is located to the west of the external area as this will be the most active frontage due to Vinyl Square. Low planting beds correspond to the location of permanent benches. The beds soften the character of the space and will provide a variety of colours, smells and textures throughout the year. Five specimen trees are planted within the external area. The tree canopy will help provide screening and shade in the summer, while the selection of species will help integrate the external area with the character of Vinyl Square and The Groove. Specification and planting species to be confirmed,

Bike parking is located to the south east as it is close to the main entrance and The Groove. The bike parking is separated from the main pedestrian route by a series of plant beds that reflect the pattern of The Groove. A group of benches is located to the west of the main entrance as this is a key location where students are likely to gather and enter the building or external space. New benches will also be placed along Blyth Road.

Accessible parking is provided adjacent to the external area while an area for drop off is provided to the north east of the site. The fact the drop off area is integrated within a shared surface and a generous foot-way is designated adjacent to Blyth Road gives pedestrians a clear priority along this edge. A row of trees - Purple Cherry trees currently proposed, specification of these to be confirmed - separate Blyth Road from the pedestrian footpaths and clearly demarcate the edge of the Old Vinyl Factory site.

LANDSCAPING CONCEPT IMAGES

