



Highgate School Science Project

LONDON N6

Landscape report

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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HIGHGATE SCIENCE BUILDING AERIAL VIEW



01 Landscape design strategy

INTRODUCTION

This Landscape Strategy supports a full planning application for the refurbishment, alteration and extension of the Science building for Highgate School, located on Southwood Lane in Highgate, London N6.

Across the whole estate there is an ambition to create an identity for the School ‘campus’ by using a common palette of materials and a strong framework of tree and shrub planting that will unify the various spaces. The proposals have been developed in accordance with the overarching guiding principles:

- To use tree planting to frame views, create spatial structure and shady places to sit.
- Use a diverse range of trees to safeguard planting for the future and create a mixed age structure.
- To ensure all planting is suitably low maintenance and robust.
- To relate planting palettes to the intended uses of the spaces.
- To design planting that creates interest throughout the year, relating to the school calendar and curriculum.
- To maximise opportunities for external areas to be used in the course of the school day, through the introduction of seating and shelter.
- To improve the quality of surfacing and furniture in order to create improved settings for the historic buildings.
- To significantly improve the visual qualities of the main quads which are the public-facing front of the School.
- To consider biodiversity and wildlife habitat in the design of the planting, and create opportunities for children to engage in gardening.

The scheme includes the re-casting of two key spaces: the Science Quad, which is a busy space for students moving through the campus, and the Garner Quad which is a quieter destination.

The new, improved landscape areas will provide a number of benefits for both the School and the surrounding neighbourhood by:

- o Creating high quality external areas with seating for gathering, and a layout that assists wayfinding through the site;
- o Creating an appropriate setting for the buildings;
- o Accommodating changes in levels and connecting the entrances to the new buildings through accessible routes;
- o Enhancing the streetscape with new trees on the Southwood Lane frontage;
- o Providing visual amenity for both the school and the public, as many of the planted areas will be viewed from the street.





02 Landscape Masterplan

WIDER CONTEXT PLAN

— BOUNDARY LINE



SCALE NTS



03 Science Quad

OVERVIEW

Science Quad lies between Central Hall and the Science Block, where a small new extension is proposed. This is a busy thoroughfare, but the Quad has the character of a vehicular space with a tarmacadam road arranged around a central planter, and few places to sit in comfort.

This proposal envisages a much more heavily planted space, catering for 'desire lines' but with more places to sit among the plants - a pedestrian space, rather than a roundabout. From Southwood Lane, an avenue of small trees will frame the entrance into the courtyard and soften the entrance to the tunnel beneath the road. Generous plant beds will surround the quad, including textured layers of evergreen perennials and shrubs for year-round interest. The planting adjacent to the new tunnel link building will function as a 'rain garden', collecting water from the roof. Plant selection could reflect the science curriculum, including medicinal plants. Timber seats will be set into the planting to provide much-needed places to pause or study. A new central specimen tree will create a focal point and a vertical accent, and will provide shade and views of foliage from the building.

Existing space softened with new textural planting and places to sit... a pedestrian space, rather than a roundabout.



Sketch view of Science Quad approach



Sketch view of Science Quad looking towards the science block





03 Science Quad

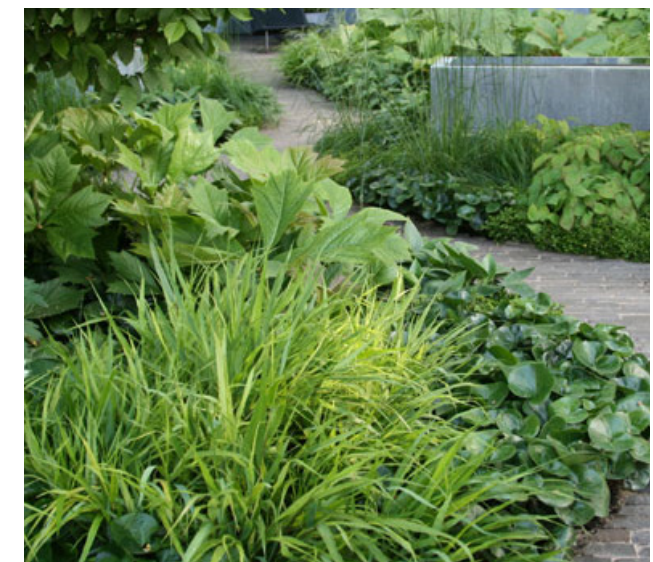
LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN



North
SCALE 1:200 @A3



Evergreen planting for year-round interest

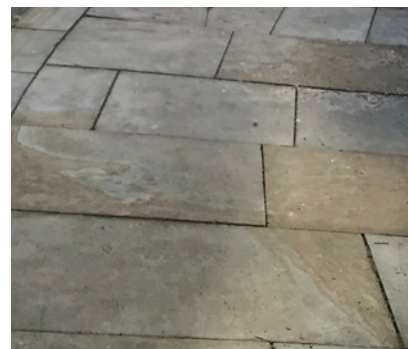


Textured layers of perennials and shrubs

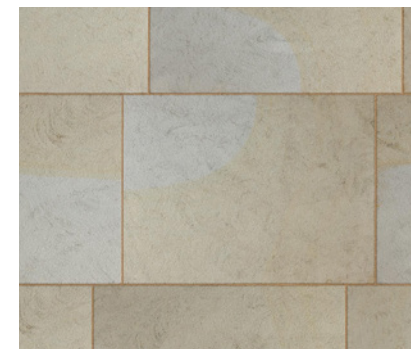
03 Science Quad

HARD LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

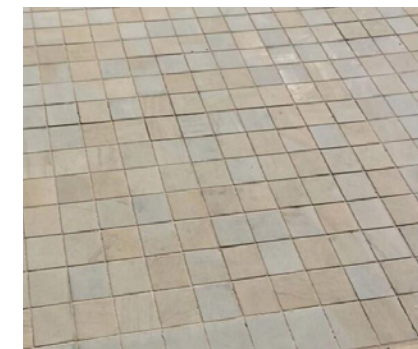
A simple palette of robust but elegant materials is proposed for the quad, that will be visually compatible with both the existing and new buildings. This will include York stone and granite, using the different materials and sizes in accordance with use and to assist wayfinding. Where possible the existing York stone slabs will be reused.



Existing Yorkstone slabs



Yorkstone slabs



Yorkstone setts



Granite setts



LEGEND:

- Existing Yorkstone paving to be lifted, cleaned and re-laid, subbase for pedestrian loadings.
- New textured Yorkstone trapezoid paving slabs, colour buff, subbase for vehicular loadings.
- New textured Yorkstone paving setts, colour buff, subbase for vehicular loadings.
- New cropped granite setts, colour buff, subbase for vehicular loadings.
- New textured solid Yorkstone steps including visibility strip on tread and tactile paving at top & bottom of the steps in contrasting colour.
- New granite kerb, colour mid grey, installed flush in relation to adjacent paving levels.
- New granite bull-nosed kerb, colour mid grey, installed with 75mm upstand.
- New granite splayed kerb, colour mid grey, installed with 75mm upstand.

