

Churchill Hotel Pods – LANDSCAPE STATEMENT

Existing Landscape

The pods are proposed within the front curtilage of the Churchill Hotel, York. The existing frontage is a combination of car parking and a garden space that is used for alfresco dining. A paved terrace with seating is located immediately adjacent to the building and a circular footpath circles the central lawn area. The circular path gives access to temporary pods in place at the time of the site visit.

The boundary to the garden comprises of a low stone wall, stone piers and a cast iron railing. The railing is generally in good condition, but a small number of finials do require repairing. The wall and piers would benefit from a clean. Internal to the wall, several mature trees including Sycamore, Beech and Holly are present, with ornamental planting beneath the trees. The planting and trees can be seen from the site frontage and aid screening of the temporary pods.

A number of raised planters and plant pots with specimen plants help break up the seating/dining and garden areas.

Landscape Proposals

The pods are proposed so that both hotel residents and visitors can reserve a space to enjoy comfortable private dining and socialising. The landscape proposals aim to provide an attractive setting for the pods, integrating the pods into the garden setting whilst providing screening from the street scene. The pods are proposed adjacent to the existing trees and as such the pods are located on temporary pads resulting in non-invasive construction with minimal impact on the rooting activity of the existing trees. Access to the pods ties into the existing circulation path.

A poor individual conifer tree adjacent to the Grovenor Terrace boundary is proposed for removal, the conifer has poor form and is growing through the railing. All other trees will be retained.

Additional planting is proposed in the form of low evergreen hedging and sensory planting immediately adjacent to the pods and evergreen hedgerows and shade tolerant planting to strengthen the planting and screening function of the plants beneath the existing trees. An additional raised planter and hedgerow to be located immediately behind the wall and railing adjacent to the car park entrance is also proposed. The function is it provide planting to soften and screen some of the view of the car park from the street.

The low evergreen hedgerows provide a formal edge to the sensory planting with additional specimen plants as focal interest. Two additional trees are proposed adjacent to the car park boundary between the proposed pods to aid shading and provide structure.

The existing terrace, seating, plant pots and raised planters will be retained.