

Cascade Terraces

Design

The Cascade Terraces form a fundamental component of the north–south pedestrian route linking the Train Station with Spring Gardens High Street. The significant level change between these two key spaces necessitates a considered sequence of terraces and steps to bridge the gradient while maintaining a coherent and accessible journey through the site.

Beyond its functional role, the Cascade Terraces have been designed as an activity focussed and sociable landscape. A series of small terraces provide opportunities for rest, play, and informal gathering. Pockets of seating have been integrated into the stepped structure, with a ramped approach providing access to the landing, balancing planting with means of access.

Natural stone boulders, incidental play items and climbing features are interspersed throughout this space, with the natural elements drawing inspiration from the rocky escarpments of the Peak District and reinforcing a strong connection between the town’s civic core and its wider landscape setting.

- Key**
- 1. Lift Core
 - 2. Incidental Seating
 - 3. Spill-out & entrance
 - 4. Steps
 - 5. Incidental Routes and Play
 - 6. Landing
 - 7. Ramped access
 - 8. Seating Nooks



Cascade Terraces Detail Plan



Cascade Terraces

Accessibility

Inclusive access has been integral to the design approach.

A compliant ramped route connects the Civic Square to the Landing level, ensuring accessibility for all users.

From the landing, a lift—as part of the architectural proposal—provides a direct connection down to The Parade and onwards to Spring Gardens High Street.

Together, these elements create a clear and inclusive movement network that integrates seamlessly with the surrounding public realm.

Key

Stepped access

Inclusive access

Building entrance commercial

Building entrance residential

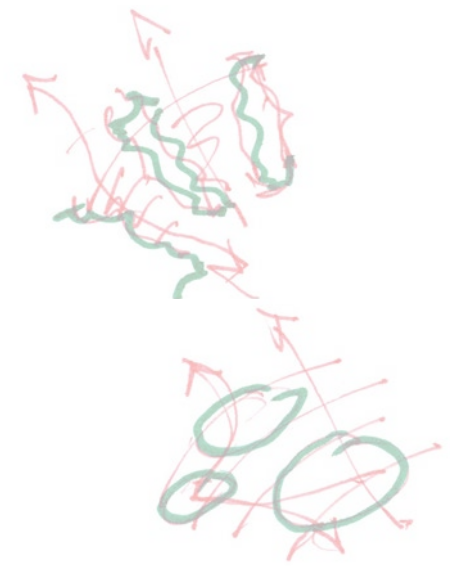
Lift access

Cascade Access Plan

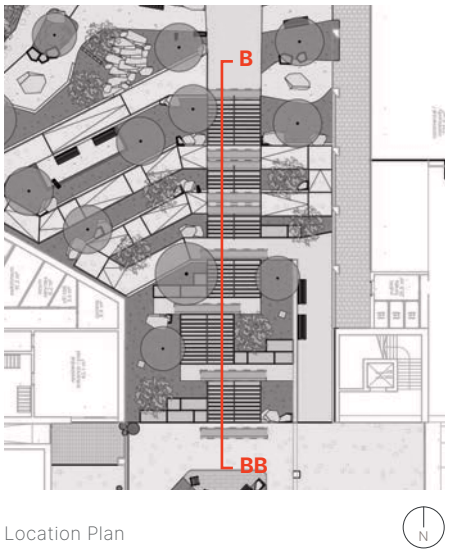
Cascade Terraces

Sections

The section illustrates the considerable level change between the key spaces, highlighting the importance of ensuring that the Cascade Terraces function as more than just a transitional route. The design seeks to make these terraces feel like purposeful and engaging spaces in their own right, with areas for rest, play, and interaction interspersed between the stepped and ramped access routes. This approach ensures that movement through the site remains both accessible and enjoyable, transforming a challenging level change into a vibrant and usable part of the public realm.



Cascade terraces concept sketches



Location Plan

Cascade Terraces

Look and Feel



Landings to break up stepped route



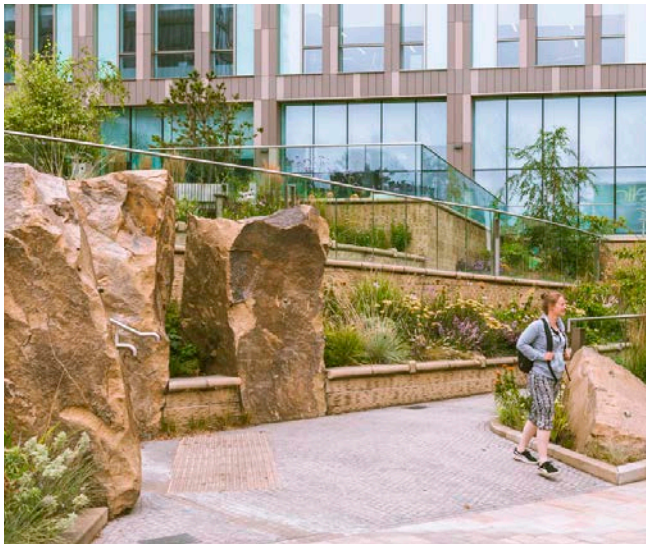
Terrace Seating Features



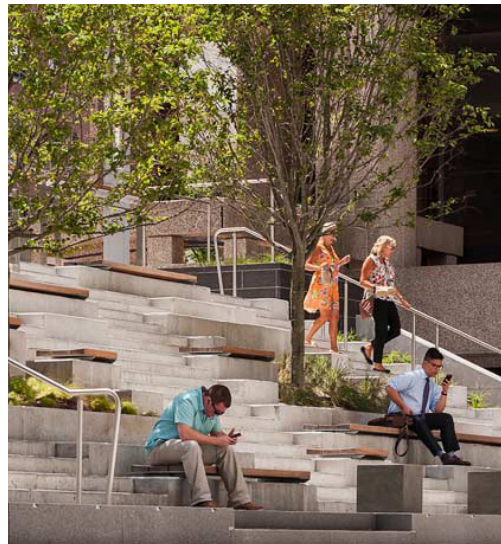
Multistem trees arch over steps



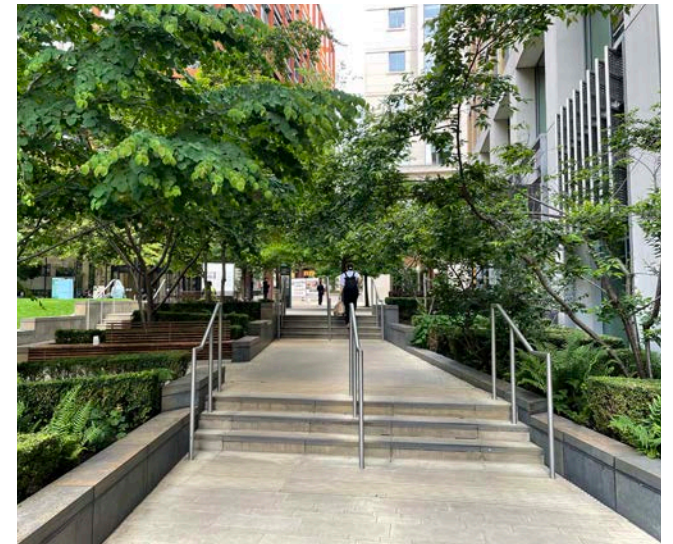
Spaces for play



Bold, rugged materiality



Dwell opportunities



Level changes throughout green landscape

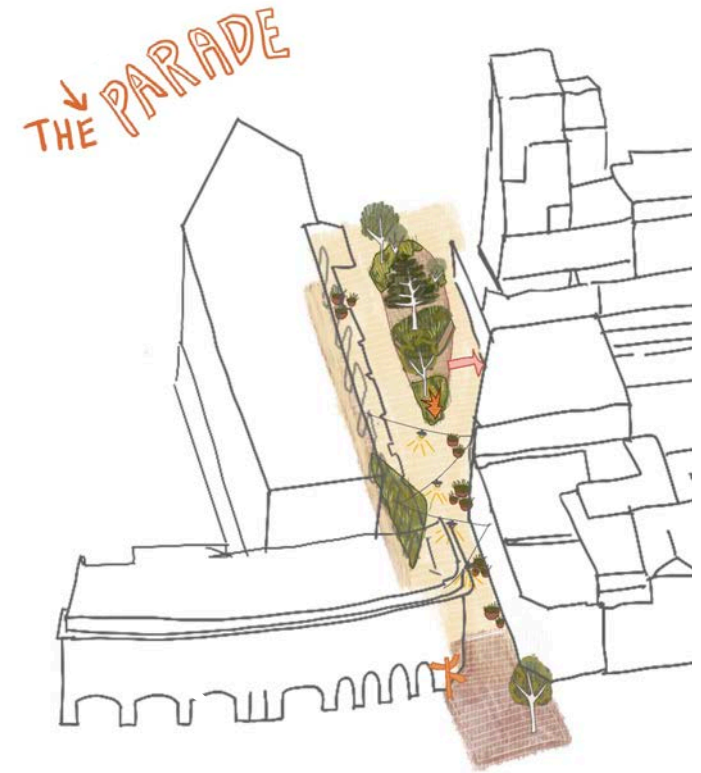
The Parade

Inspiration and Character

The Parade takes its inspiration from the moorlands of the Dark Peak. This is a linear space framed by buildings. The ground plane is kept clear and legible, allowing movement while providing strong visual accents. Sculptural planters punctuate the route, introducing planting in a controlled yet expressive manner.

The atmosphere is conceived as though a fragment of the Peak District has been lifted into the site: a grand pine, underplanted with grasses and wildflowers, creates a sensory connection throughout.

In the scheme, this translates into a distinctive open-air route defined by its simplicity and framed enclosure. Overhead, catenary lighting provides both animation and a sense of intimacy within the space, while elements on wires are suspended between the buildings offer opportunities for seasonal change and community programming, ensuring The Parade is both functional and dynamic throughout the year.



Community opportunity to animate seasonally as part of the catenary lighting system

The Parade

Design

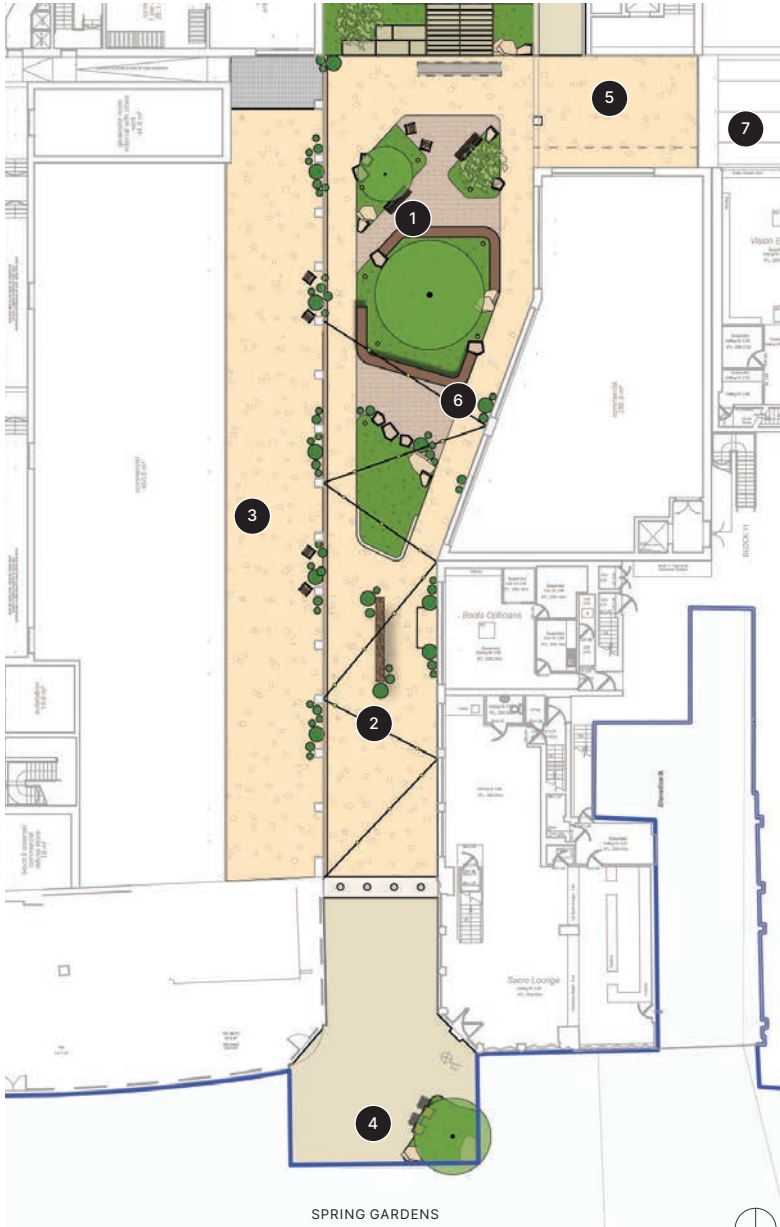
The Parade serves as a vital pedestrian link connecting Spring Gardens to the Cascade Terraces and beyond to Buxton Train Station, forming an inviting commercial corridor between the High Street and reconnecting with the existing Spring Gardens Shopping Centre.

The Parade offers well-considered opportunities for dwell and social interaction at its heart. A colonnade provides sheltered commercial spill-out space, enhancing the shopping experience with an inviting, weather-protected environment. Rain gardens and planted pots soften the streetscape, adding natural texture and visual interest year round.

A central raised planter with a feature tree creates a strong focal point and wayfinding marker, helping to orientate users through the space.

Careful attention has been given to ensure unobstructed access for fire safety and maintenance, with clear compliant routes provided from Spring Gardens Shopping Centre and the High Street.

- Key**
- 1. Central Space & Seating
 - 2. Lighting Animation
 - 3. Colonnade Seating
 - 4. High Street Entrance
 - 5. Accessible Lift Entrance
 - 6. Feature Planter Seat With Feature Tree
 - 7. Spring Gardens Shopping Centre



The Parade Detail Plan

The Parade *Accessibility*

The Parade has been designed to align with the existing levels of the Springs Shopping Centre, ensuring a cohesive interface between the new public realm and the established retail environment. Access throughout this space is maintained as level and flush, providing step-free routes to commercial frontages, entrances to the shopping centre, and the adjoining Waitrose. This approach ensures full inclusivity and ease of movement, supporting both pedestrian comfort and commercial activity.

A lift positioned within the architectural proposals establishes a direct vertical link between The Parade and the landing. From this point, ramped access continues through The Cascade Terraces, connecting upwards to the Civic Square and onwards towards the Train Station. Collectively, these interventions create a continuous and accessible north-south route, uniting key civic and commercial spaces across the site while reinforcing a legible and inclusive public realm.

Key

-  Stepped access
-  Inclusive access
-  Building entrance commercial
-  Building entrance residential
-  Lift



The Parade

Look and Feel



Soft landscaped retail space



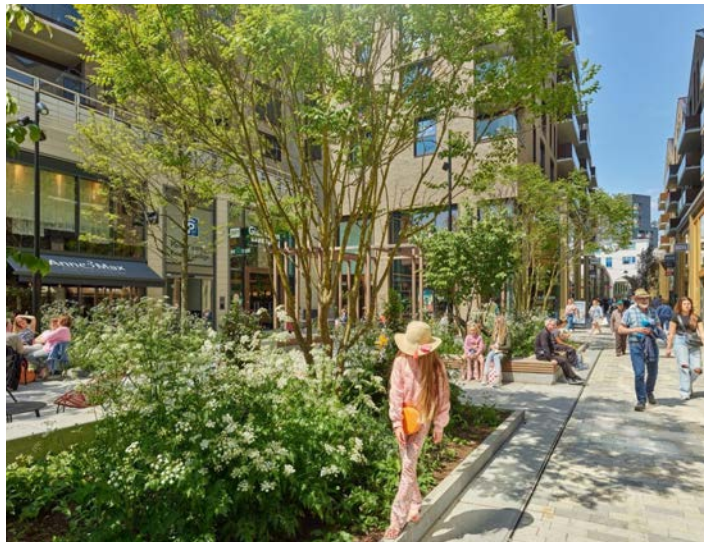
Animated space



Planters define edges



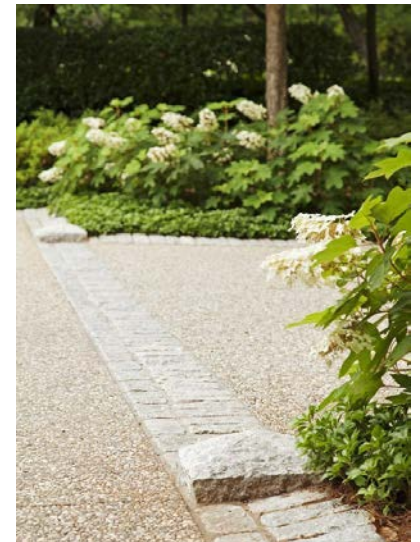
Catenery lighting



Spaces for relaxation and exploration



Feature Seat with Pine tree

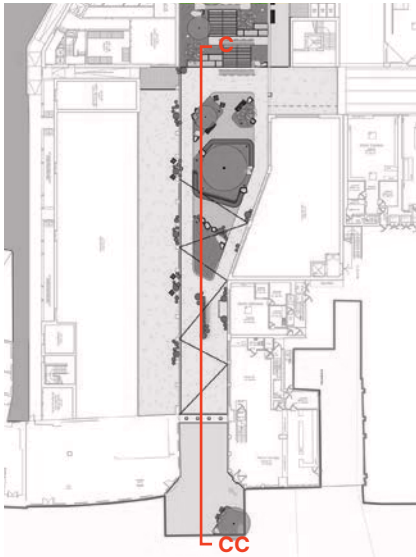


Resin bound gravel and setts

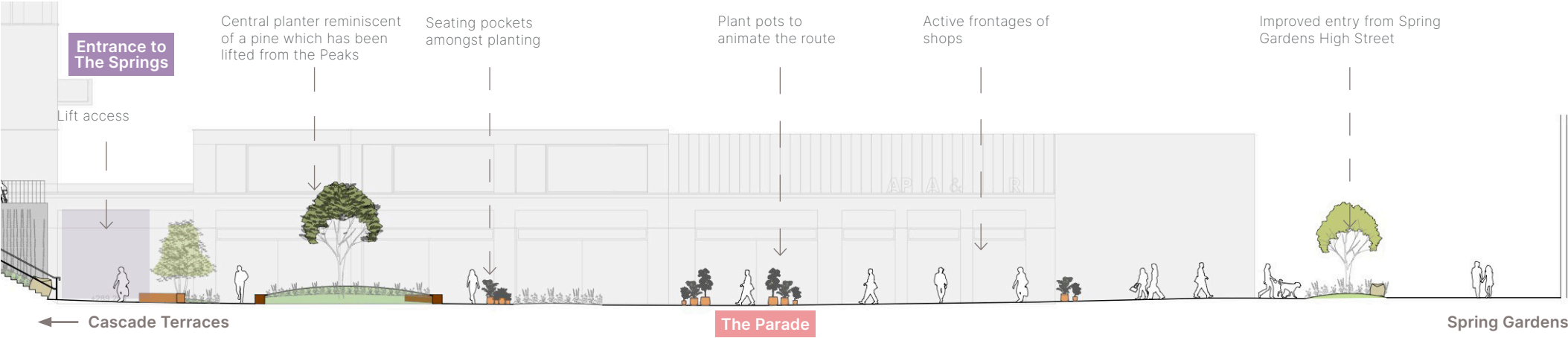
Parade Sections

The section through The Parade illustrates the flush and consistent nature of the levels along this key route. Planting areas are introduced at intervals to punctuate the linear composition, providing moments of visual interest and softening the hard landscape. These landscape elements act as focal points along the journey, helping to break up views and create a more engaging pedestrian experience.

The Parade has been designed to foster an intimate and welcoming shopping environment, carefully integrated with the existing commercial units. The combination of level access, active frontages, and pockets of planting ensures a comfortable and visually rich setting that encourages movement, social interaction, and dwell time within the heart of the retail area.



Location Plan



Section C-CC

Eastern Gateway

