

## LANDSCAPE & STREETSCAPE APPRAISAL

Natural and man-made landscapes are important factors in defining the key characteristics of a conservation area. Located in the river valley, the proposed extension is an area of contrasts; featuring a mix of hard urban grain and soft, verdant landscape.

Crown Square, Bakewell Road and Bank Road are very hard spaces, characterised by the built form that encloses them. Nevertheless elements of streetscape are equally important in holding together the sum of parts and the quality and nature of these features contributes to the overall character of the area.

### Street Furniture

Street furniture within the street environment is, for the most part, fairly basic and functional, featuring large down-lighters, standard-type pedestrian safety barriers, highway-standard street lamps, and the occasional planter and faux Victorian style litter bin. These largely detract from the character of the area although the seating area at Park Head directly abutting the bridge where new seating and hard landscape works have recently been carried out is an exception to this, unlike the seating on Bank Road outside the Post Office which is functional in its context but lacks anything to set it aside from the rest of the street.



*Intrusive railings and poor quality surfaces*



*Cluttered signs and street furniture*

The recent restoration of Hall Leys Park has seen a marked improvement in the quality and appropriateness of street furniture within the park but this process has not extended beyond the bounds of the park.

### Surfaces

Throughout the area around Crown Square, tarmac prevails as a road and pavement surface treatment. The pavements in particular are patchy in appearance following work by utilities companies. Alternative surfaces include concrete paving. Both types detract from the character of the area. With the sole exception of a former stable yard on Bakewell Road, there are no instances of historic surface treatments such as stone setts, within the public realm of the street-spaces.



*Yard with stone setts*

Within Hall Leys Park the floor surfaces have been entirely replaced and upgraded to provide a high quality environment befitting the park's historic character and modern uses.

### Trees and planting

Soft landscape within the area itself is focussed along the river valley and encompasses the rears of Bakewell Road, Causeway Lane / Hall Leys Park, and the car park south of the river. The river valley itself is heavily wooded with significant deciduous tree coverage. There are no significant areas of planting or trees within the area around Crown Square. In contrast, Hall Leys Park features extensive areas of formal planting around the former tram stop and planted avenues linking the Causeway Lane entrance with the Broad Walk. The planting and tree cover is a major aspect of the Park's character and interest.