A MORE VIBRANT CENTRE OF THE CAMPUS

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?
Since the start of the year, the University has consulted with groups of students and staff to develop the initial proposals. These were then refined to the point where they are being presented to the wider University community. Your feedback will help us deliver the improvements that work for the University, now and in the future.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?
PALMER QUAD
It is proposed that both the hard (paved) and soft (planted) landscape of the Palmer Quad are upgraded. Feedback has identified a desire to retain and enhance the green character of this space. Extensive new tree planting will reinforce the parkland feel of the University.

A new space will allow a more flexible pattern of cycle and pedestrian movement while offering the opportunity for events to be held in the space throughout the year.

Areas of grass will be retained for sitting on in the summer and there will be extensive new seating and bench areas for students, staff and visitors to use for sitting and reading a book or for larger groups to sit and dwell. These new spaces and furniture will provide opportunities for collaboration, discussion and learning.

Existing café terraces will be enhanced and extended. Lighting across the space will be enhanced ensuring an attractive and safe night-time environment.

Opportunities will be created for a programme of permanent and temporary public art.

LIBRARY QUAD
A performance space with the necessary infrastructure to support events is proposed for the Library Quad. The space bounded by the Library and the URS building will retain its existing green and verdant character.

A new path will be introduced to allow pedestrians and cyclists to access the relocated entrance to the URS building.

The area outside the refurbished and extended library will be redesigned to provide a café terrace and library garden for reading.

Existing paths will be widened to make more room for pedestrians and cyclists. Lighting across the space will be enhanced to provide an attractive and safe night-time environment.

Opportunities will be provided for the School of Architecture and Department of Typography and Graphic Communication and others to exhibit in this space and use the space for external teaching.

EDITH MORLEY QUAD
A limited number of subtle enhancements are proposed to the Edith Morley Quad, which retain its tranquil character and focus as a place of learning.

The existing lawn within the space will be sculpted to create a space for small scale evening recitals and events. The paths will be resurfaced and some limed tree planting is also proposed. There is the potential to explore the opportunity to give the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology a greater external presence within this space.

Quick links:
Palmer Square a new flexible space at the heart of Whiteknights
RUSU Terrace a welcoming front door to the Students Union
Library
Library reading garden
High-quality pedestrian route linking Palmer Quad to Queen’s Drive
The Palme Stage, a place for performance, displays or just sitting.
Informal seating areas set in soft landscaping.
Existing café terrace and pedestrian access route to URS Quad.
Reformed junction to provide shared space at entrance from Queen’s Drive
Seating edge protecting ‘soft’ areas below trees
Woodland floor planting below trees
Feature lighting columns defining edge of space
New tree planting defining boundary of Edith Morley Quad.
Reformed café terrace and pedestrian access route to URS Quad.

2026: TRANSFORM
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rdg.ac/quads-and-routes