Oxford is changing and much of this new focus hinges around the new station and its environment. Stations are important civic buildings and should be destinations in their own right and in turn successful pieces of a city. The Oxford station area has significant potential for a much improved interchange and wider improvements to an attractive, green and historically significant part of the city.

Our proposal creates a sensitive yet impactful mixed use development around a new station and new city square. The station creates a new focal point at the head of the Frideswide Square whilst also establishing routes west and north. Spaces and streets are defined by new place-making buildings including the station entrances, a new hotel and thirteen other new buildings.

The new south-facing public space has a tapering form, orientated to the south and leading to routes to the north. The station entrance is located at the southern tip denoted by a clock tower and combines a new civic building with active ground floor uses such as cafés and restaurants.

In tandem with framing a new square the existing connection to the Botley Road underpass has been widened to achieve a pleasant, active and safe environment under the railway bridge and connecting the west of the city to the centre.

To the south, a new and enlivened Becket Street will provide the vehicular component of the interchange and is further enriched with commercial and small retail units. The buildings provide an improved setting for St. Thomas the Martyr. Beyond Becket Street extends and connects to the Thames, Osney and south Oxford reinforcing a complete ‘green’ route through this edge of the city.

Views in this part of Oxford are important and the proposals are carefully configured to be visible from St. Frideswide and Botley Road whilst being invisible from close views including the Thames and Botley Road.

A NEW OXFORD STATION
A NEW CITY SQUARE FOR OXFORD

- Market stalls
- Water feature
- Retail spills out onto public square
- Paving design leads towards station entrance
- Improved connections to Frideswide Square
- Pedestrian link to Botley underpass
- Improved north link

Plan showing public realm design with greenery and soft landscape.

Gateway buildings close down vista to west side of Frideswide square and tapering of civic frontage draws people to new public square and station entrance combining civic spaces.

Improved setting of existing civic buildings.
The scheme aims to simplify a complex engineering challenge into an elegant set of city buildings and structures that contribute to this part of Oxford. Our solution has been developed with a multi-disciplinary team—our aim being to create an inspiring and innovative scheme that is both functional and flexible for the future.

The station is organised by a new elegant bridge spanning the tracks, connecting the new platforms with a concourse on both the east and west sides. On the west side, cascading escalators rise to the railway bridge deck and concourse, offering views across Oxford, both City and new square, on arrival in the city. We have simplified the organisation of the station so that routes are obvious and visitors can intuitively use the station and orientate themselves towards the centre of Oxford.

The main station entrance and buildings on the east side have a civic quality, and form a sequence of connected spaces north to south, while the station deck and western secondary entrance have an architectural treatment that incorporates railways engineering traditionally in iron and steel.

The five new platforms are generously proportioned and completely covered by elegant glazed canopies. Shelter and seating is provided along the length of each platform within a new cloister structure. To the south, our plan is to see a seamless connection to the associated efficient interchanges with buses, cars and taxis provided for in a covered and sheltered route. The Becket Street development is further enriched with new mixed use spaces for commercial space and start-up units for SMEs, graduates and small business who can take advantage of the excellent location.
Our proposals aim to create the station as a new urban centre for Oxford and an important gateway into and out of the centre. A truly mixed use square of station entrance, shops, cafés, hotels, residential, and varied uses will be created, both above and below ground. It is a great tradition in Oxford buildings to define open spaces and landscapes and an important here where new buildings should create high quality public realm as well as vastly improve the entrance for rail visitors to the city.

The approach is holistic and aims to join up development for an overall improvement to this area of Oxford. New order, squares and enforced streets will connect to our proposals. Station and office blocks, roads, and open spaces are all linked by new elements to define routes and frame spaces.

Taken together the developments and variety of routes will extend the city centre west – focused around the square and the station gateway.