

# Bristol City Centre Development & Delivery Plan



## PART B

November 2023



# Contents

Refer to Part A (separate document)

Foreword	2	<b>Green Infrastructure and Nature</b>	<b>66</b>	Glossary	91
Project Team	3	Background	67	<b>PART B</b>	<b>92</b>
Glossary	5	Objectives	69	Part B	93
<b>PART A</b>	<b>6</b>	Approach	70	<b>BROADMEAD PLACEMAKING PLAN</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Land Use &amp; Development</b>	<b>74</b>	Introduction	95
Introduction	8	Background	75	Greening the Grey	96
Stakeholder Engagement	15	Objectives	76	1. Linear Street Garden	98
<b>VISION FOR CHANGE</b>	<b>18</b>	Approach	77	2. Lanes & Courts	101
Vision	20	<b>DELIVERY STRATEGIES</b>	<b>82</b>	3. Civic Avenue	103
Six Strategies	21	Integrated Plan	83	4. Garden Street	106
Vision for Change	22	Making it Happen	84	5. Active Corridor	108
<b>STRATEGIES TO DELIVER TRANSFORMATION</b>	<b>24</b>			6. Park Edge	110
Strategies	25			7. Bond Street	112
Embedding Sustainability	26			Evening Economy	113
Illustrative Plan	28			After Dark Experience	114
<b>Destination &amp; Identity</b>	<b>29</b>			<b>CASTLE PARK MASTERPLAN</b>	<b>115</b>
Background	30			Castle Park Today	116
Objectives	31			Heritage Assets & Memorials	119
Approach	32			Previous Studies	121
<b>People, Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>35</b>			Opportunities	123
Background	36			Vision	124
Community & Culture	37			Concept	125
Objectives	38			Castle Park Masterplan	126
Approach	39			<b>Strategies</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Movement &amp; Connectivity</b>	<b>44</b>			Key Strategies	129
Background	45			Heritage Re-use	130
Objectives	47			Park Gateways	132
Approach	48			Movement	134
<b>Public Realm &amp; Open Space</b>	<b>54</b>			Movement	136
Background	55			Lighting and Safety	138
Objectives	57			Green Infrastructure	139
Objectives	58			Play	140
Approach	62			Facilities and Events	141
				<b>Key Projects</b>	<b>142</b>
				Recommendations & Next Steps for Castle Park	153
				List of Figures	154

# Glossary

<b>Active travel</b>	Walking and cycling.	<b>Green infrastructure</b>	A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, that can deliver a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for people, nature, and climate	<b>Phytoremediation</b>	Use of plants to help clean up the environment and remove pollutants.
<b>Blue badge parking</b>	Parking for users with a blue badge, which helps people who are disabled park, closer to their destination.	<b>Last mile delivery</b>	System which aims to reduce the number of larger vehicles accessing the city centre. Deliveries would be made to a location outside the city centre and then taken into the city centre via smaller vehicles or cargo bike.	<b>Play (or playable spaces)</b>	Bristol has a reputation as a playful city; a ‘Playable City’ since 2012. Play can include formal and informal activity such as sports and leisure, playful, active ways of exploring a city, and formal provision for children, family and young people’s needs. In the context of the city centre physical provision can include space or facilities to encourage or facilitate play, for all age groups. This may range from provision of play areas and equipment, to public realm design which encourages interaction and informal playful behaviour for all ages
<b>Blue infrastructure</b>	A network of natural and semi natural water features to deal with urban water, to bring benefits to people and the environment. These natural water features include items such as ponds, rivers, swales and other sustainable urban drainage features (SuDS).	<b>Legibility</b>	How easy it is to understand and navigate the city centre. This is influenced by landmarks, views, information signs and lighting.	<b>Public realm (or public spaces)</b>	The spaces between the buildings, including the streets and squares. These areas are usually owned by the City Council.
<b>City Centre</b>	The term city centre means different things to different people, but for this plan the term refers to a specific study area which is shown on Fig. 01 on page 8. This represents an area around Broadmead, where there is particular opportunity for regeneration.	<b>Mass transit</b>	An ambitious, fast new public transport system which is being developed for Bristol to move lots of people across the city and neighbouring regions. This could include different types of vehicle and runs separately to other traffic.	<b>Raingarden</b>	An area that receives rain water/run off from roads, roofs or other surfaces which are planted with plants that like water. The plants help deal with heavy rain and also help filter and clean the water.
<b>City Centre Framework</b>	A document prepared by Bristol City Council in 2020 setting out proposals to improve movement, public realm and the approach to regeneration and development in Bristol City Centre. See “City Centre Framework” on page 14	<b>Material consideration</b>	A document becomes a material consideration in the planning process if it has been endorsed by Bristol City Council’s Cabinet. It then has status within the planning system and has to be taken into account when deciding on a planning application or commenting on regeneration proposals.	<b>Riparian habitat</b>	Habitat at the interface of land and a river or stream.
<b>Climate resilient</b>	Ability to cope with changing environment, including increasing temperatures and increasing flood risk.	<b>Mobility hub</b>	A space providing blue badge parking, taxi rank, pick up/drop off spaces and e-scooter and cycle parking.	<b>Servicing access</b>	Access for delivery vehicles delivering to shops and businesses in the city centre
<b>Community</b>	The diverse range of citizens who live in, work in, use or visit the city centre.	<b>Net Zero</b>	The UK Green Building Council defines net zero carbon – operational energy as being ‘when the amount of carbon emissions associated with the building’s operational energy on an annual basis is zero or negative. A net zero carbon building is highly energy efficient and powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources, with any remaining carbon balance offset.	<b>Stakeholder engagement</b>	Conversations with key organisations, interested parties and members of the public about their views of the city centre and their aspirations for the future.
<b>Culture</b>	In a regeneration context, culture relates to how we move through, use and connect with places as individuals and communities. Culture helps to bring communities together – opening up new perspectives, encouraging participation in civic life. It covers music, art, history, heritage, and events (and experiences) where Bristol’s diverse citizens can share, celebrate or learn.	<b>Pedestrian priority spaces</b>	Spaces where through traffic is removed through additional restrictions and the space is redesigned to be more attractive for pedestrians. These spaces might contain access for cyclists and service vehicles. Refer to Movement & Connectivity chapter for further detail.	<b>Super Crossing</b>	High quality, wide crossings, providing safe points for pedestrians to cross busy roads on key routes. These are sometimes shared with cyclists.
<b>Frontages (or active frontages)</b>	The ground floor space within buildings which fronts the street. Active frontages refers to ground floor users which make the street feel lively and vibrant, such as entrances, shop fronts, doors and windows.	<b>Permeability</b>	How easy it is for people to move around or through the city centre safely, conveniently and pleasantly.	<b>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</b>	Physical features that produce benefits from rainfall, such as reducing flooding, cleaning the water and improving biodiversity. This can include green roofs, pervious pavements and trees.
<b>Gateways</b>	Entrances or points of arrival. The Development Plan discusses the gateways to Castle Park - these are the main entrances to the park.			<b>Vertical greening</b>	Planting on walls to create vertical areas of greenery and habitat.
				<b>Wayfinding</b>	Provision of signs and information that help people move around the city centre.

# PART B

# Part B

## Areas of Focus

As identified in Part A of this document, two parts of the city centre have the greatest need for changes; these are Broadmead and Castle Park. These two areas have been considered in greater detail to reimagine what is possible and to inform planning applications being brought forward by developer partners.

1. Revitalise **Broadmead** as a thriving retail hub and cultural neighbourhood. Give people a reason to visit, work and live there.
2. Rejuvenate Bristol's historic **Castle Park** as a more accessible, inclusive space for all. It will be more connected with the city and the river, and more welcoming for wildlife and biodiversity.

Castle Park is a key area within the ownership and control of Bristol City Council where they can directly lead transformative change. The Broadmead area has more mixed ownership and control, and therefore the focus is on the streets and public realm, ground floor uses, and specific community needs such as social infrastructure.

This Part B of the Bristol City Centre Development and Delivery Plan will set out the proposals for the two areas of focus in more detail.

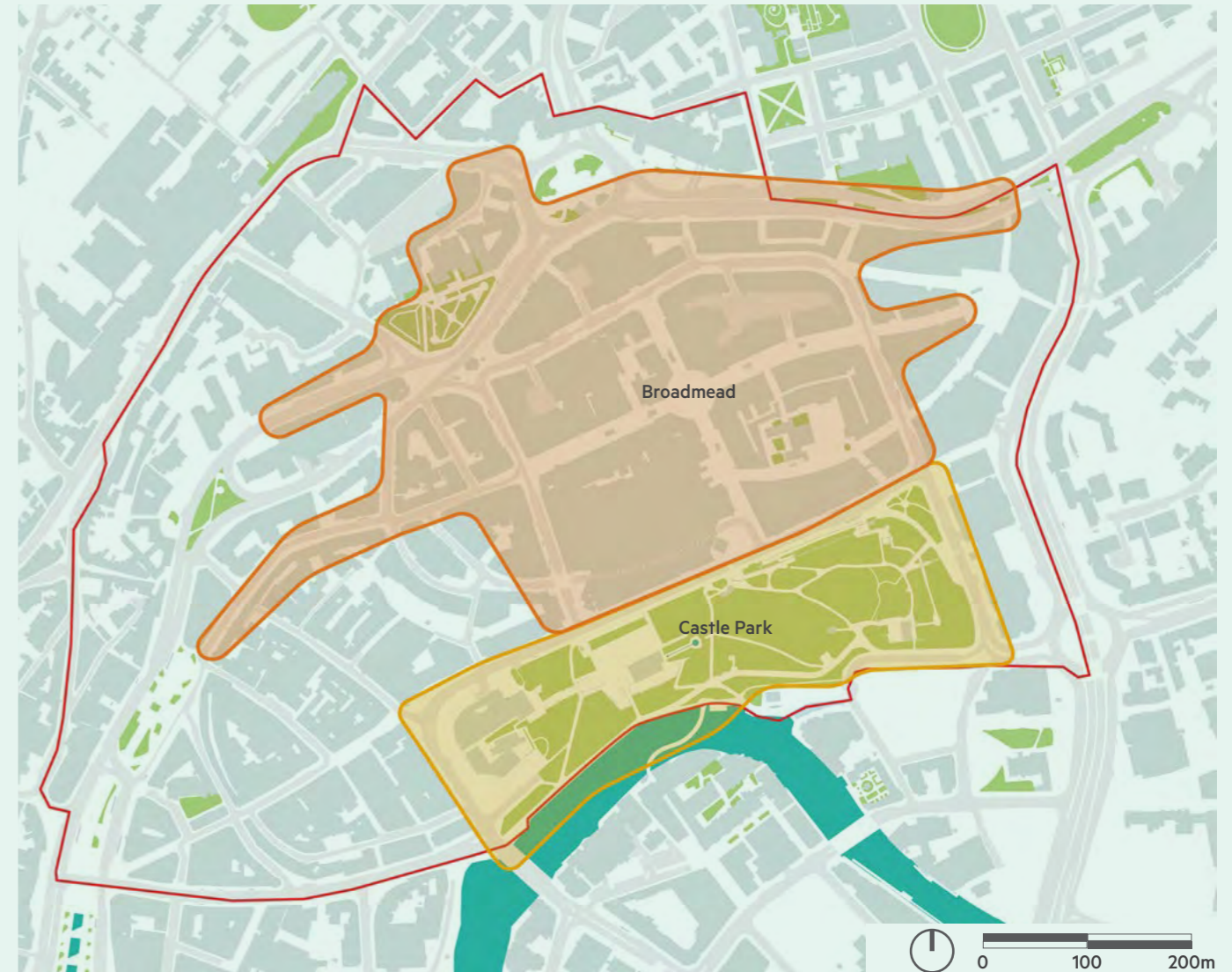


Fig. 62 Key Areas of Focus



Castle Park



Broadmead

# Chapter 5

# BROADMEAD PLACEMAKING PLAN

This section presents a Placemaking Plan for Broadmead. The level of detail has been developed in response to the strategies outlined in Part A.

Broadmead is an area in which the council has great influence and ambition to change the quality and experience of the public realm. This Placemaking Plan presents new concepts for the future key streets, their character and relationship with land uses. This is expected to be delivered in phases, but with an overarching vision and structure to achieve coherent outcomes.

# Introduction

The public realm in Bristol makes an important contribution to the city's sense of place, helping to establish, through the combination of surface, activity, enclosure, materiality, furniture, trees and lighting, an emotional connection between people and place.

Currently, the Broadmead area lacks a distinct identity as a single place or destination within Bristol and the urban realm is generally inconsistent in quality. The internal layout of Broadmead with its wide streets and coarser street grain has resulted in a lack of permeability between these internal streets, particularly north - south. Much of the Broadmead areas has limited trees and planting, however, trees are an important feature of particular spaces within central Bristol, and along the waterfront.

In many potentially attractive places, noise, congestion and poor layout result in underuse. Some prominent locations are cluttered with street furniture, or dominated by vehicles, leading to congested walking routes and a poor-quality pedestrian experience. In addition, there is inconsistency in the use of paving materials and street furniture, and throughout Broadmead and the DDP, the appearance of paving and the street as a whole is undermined by patchy repairs and reinstatement of variable quality.

Connections between Broadmead and the Old City do not facilitate easy movement as pedestrians must navigate indirect routes and connections; poor park gateway entrances; poor quality pathways and changes in level.

The settings of the historic buildings are compromised or in certain cases, they are not celebrated. These include the Lower Arcade; Broadmead Baptist Chapel; New Room, and Merchant Taylor's Almshouse.

Bristol is a city with a rich cultural life, but the streets around Broadmead seem empty and uninviting after dark. Public realm activity decreases markedly after shops close.

The public realm in Broadmead and the city centre is a vitally important asset for the city with the potential to help it compete for visitors, new businesses, residents and investment. Innovations found in other parts of Bristol and cities in the UK and overseas show that there is considerable potential for improvements to make Bristol's public realm suitable for the requirements of a modern, progressive, climate-resilient and liveable city.

## Engagement Feedback

- Currently the area is seen as grey, tired, outdated
- Make the area more vibrant by providing a wider range of activities, beyond shopping
- Provide facilities and activities for children and families, including play
- Encourage a wider retail offer, including more department stores, more affordable stores and independent/unique/local stores
- Provide everyday and culturally appropriate facilities for residents including food shopping and community spaces
- Make the whole area greener and more attractive
- Ensure the area is clean and safe and tackle anti social behaviour
- Create more pedestrian friendly spaces/spaces less dominated by cars (but recognise some people still require access by car)

## Leavygreave Road Sheffield

### Case Study for The Horsefair

The masterplan for the University of Sheffield is underpinned by a landscape led approach to create a legible and coherent public realm. On Leavygreave Road, a series of bespoke planter tables were created to provide an innovative green infrastructure solution that would otherwise be unachievable due to the high volume of underground services running along the street.



## Trudo Vertical Forest - Eindhoven

### Case Study for Private Development

Trudo Vertical Forest in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, is a social housing scheme that incorporates biodiverse vertical greening through planted terraces. This case study shows how vertical greening can be applied cost-effectively with consideration for long term maintenance of the planting. The vertical forest brings much needed habitat value and biophilic qualities to this post-industrial part of Eindhoven. Similar principles should be applied to vertical greening interventions identified in the DDP.



## Rue Garibaldi - Lyon

### Case Study for Bond Street

Rue Garibaldi in Lyon has been transformed from a 1960s urban motorway to a high quality green infrastructure corridor. The 2.6km long project re-allocated road space to pedestrian, cyclists and buses. Extensive tree planting and vegetation provide significant improvements in microclimate and are supported by rain water harvesting systems. These principles should be applied along the perimeter A-roads to ensure the city centre is resilient to a changing climate.



# Greening the Grey

## Illustrative Approach

Currently Broadmead has a generous offer of pedestrianised streets however it lacks a sense of identity and hierarchy of streets particularly connecting from north-south.

The strategy aims to increase the extent of pedestrianisation of the City Centre and create a hierarchy to its streets. This will establish a wider extent of city centre for people to inhabit and move around with ease.

1. The current pedestrianised routes are linear in nature and lack points of interest or punctuation. The strategy aims to break up the linear routes with nodes of interest and key public spaces as well as extensive new greening
2. An increase in the finer urban grain that relates to the historical street patterns adds a layer of interest and variety of routes and spaces and encourages more diverse uses
3. New Super Crossings (new or significantly improved high quality and wide crossings that prioritise pedestrians and cyclists) are to be located at key points identified to reconnect areas severed by vehicle movement. They will give priority to pedestrians and cyclists and make crossing easier

The following pages will set out principles and interventions to enhance Broadmead, building on the strategies set out in Part A of this document. This Broadmead Placemaking Plan is a first step towards transforming this part of the city centre. Further design stages will need to take place to take into consideration requirements such as accessibility, servicing, waste, maintenance and other operational requirements. These future design stages will be supported by engagement with occupiers and businesses.

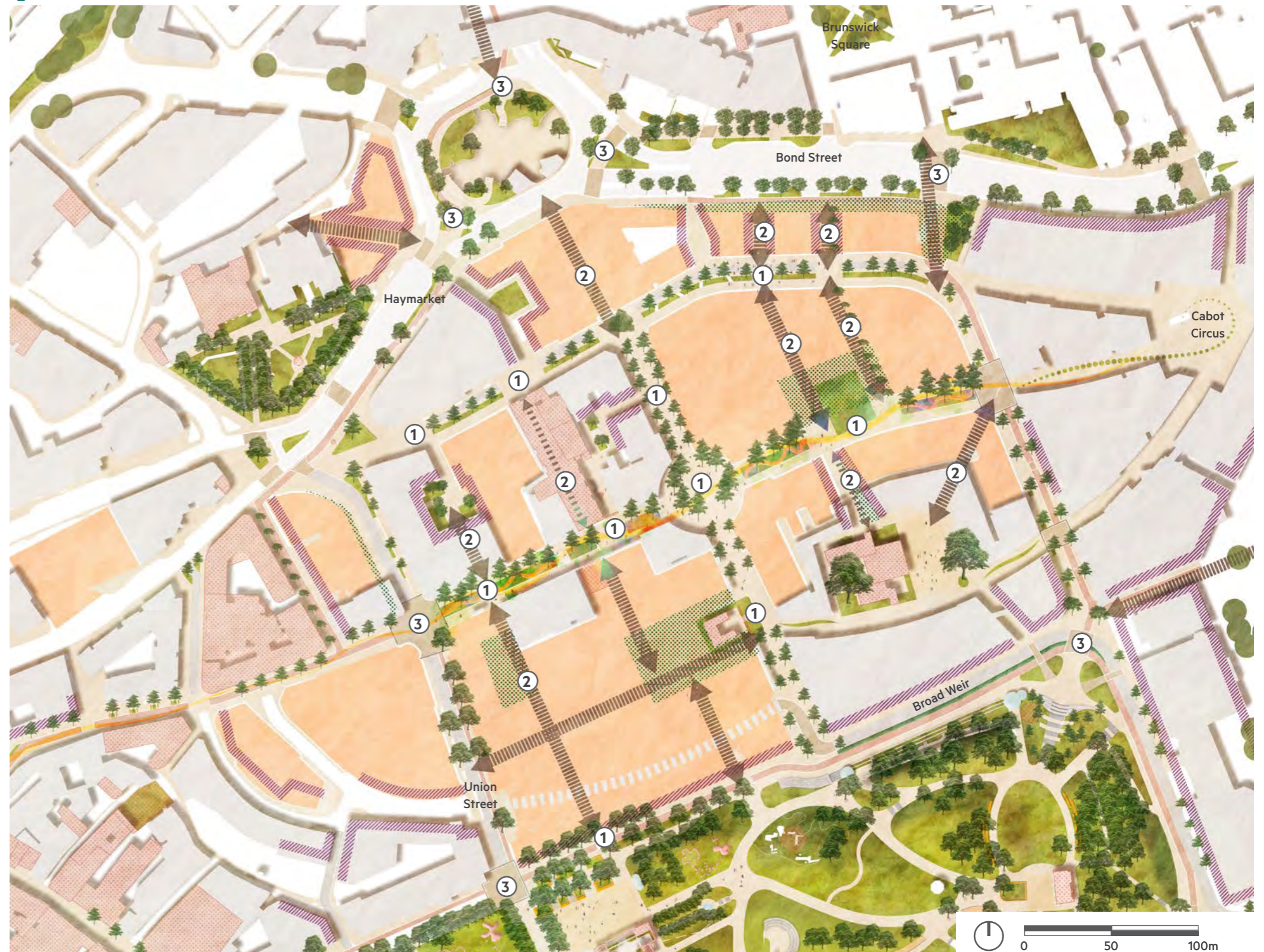


Fig. 63 Study Area - Illustrative Plan

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# Greening the Grey

## Enhancing the Streetscapes

The streets and spaces of Broadmead each have different scales, senses, interests, behaviour and sounds, culture, and engagement with their surroundings. This strategy aims to build on these qualities, offering great potential to renew a series of experiences and places to reinforce a sense of place.

The approach is to build on these hidden ingredients and to help renew and transform these streets so that they are more responsive to connecting people with place and nature.

The following pages set out the key principles to deliver this approach. These opportunities for public realm enhancement throughout the Broadmead area have the potential to offer meaningful benefits in terms of:

- Climate mitigation
- Ecological enhancement
- Equality of access to green space
- Pedestrian and cycle connectivity and safety
- Conservation/adaptation of historic spaces and
- Landscapes and quality of the public realm experience
- Creating a public realm that is accessible to all people

### Legend

- 1. Linear street garden - with play gardens
- 2. Lanes and Courts
- 3. Civic Avenue
- 4. Garden Street
- 5. Active Corridor
- 6. Park Edge
- Gateways
- Old City Streetscape Improvements
- Parks and Public Open Space - Refer to relevant chapter
- Lighting up the Old City walls

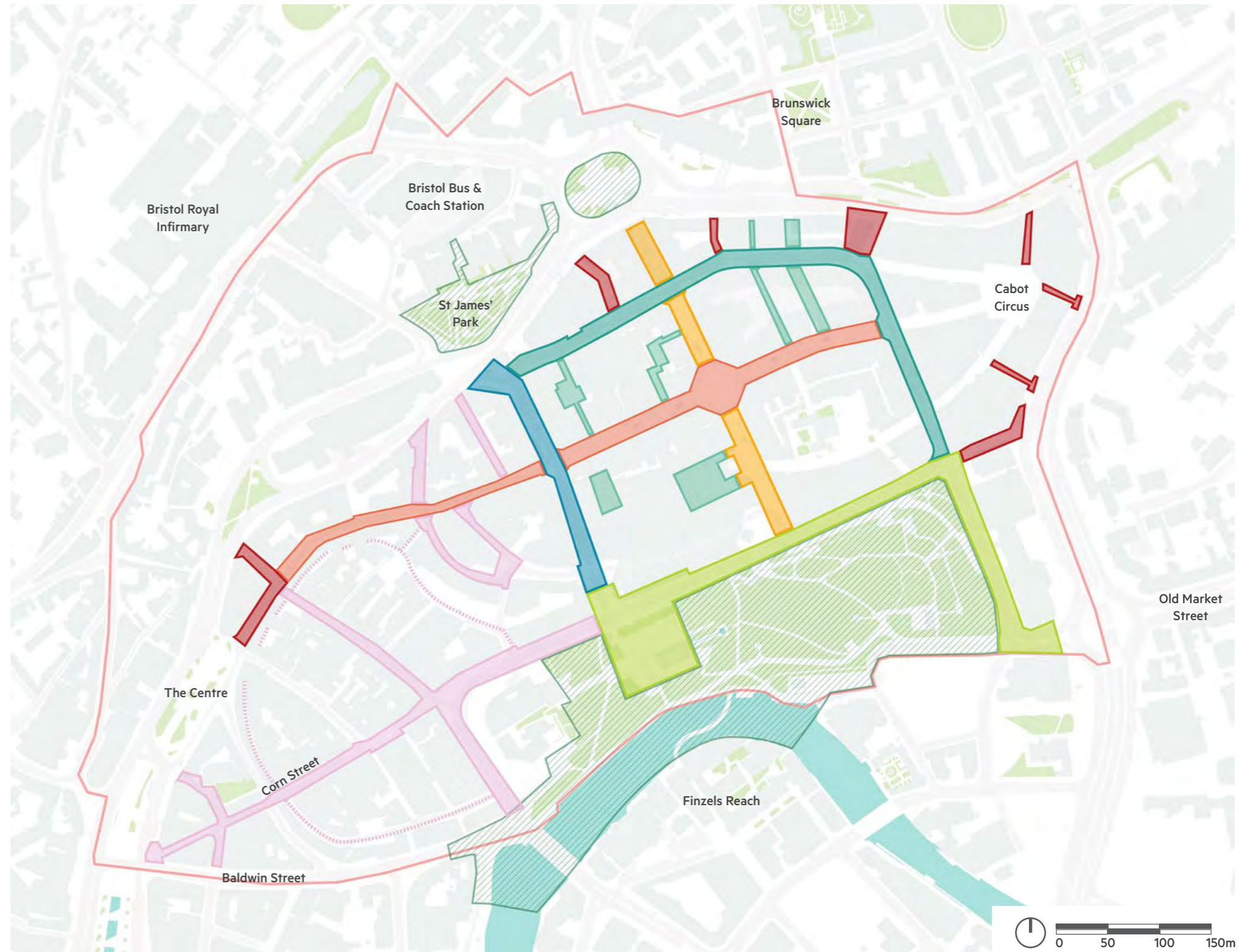


Fig. 64 Public Realm & Open Space Strategy

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# 1. Linear Street Garden

## Connecting Quay Street – Nelson Street – Broadmead – Cabot Circus

### Existing Situation

- Very limited planting and trees along the route particularly along Nelson and Quay Street
- Visual clutter along the route, especially the kiosk structures, though it is recognised these are thriving business
- Lack of diversity of ground floor use such as cafés to encourage street life
- Lack of seating and places to dwell
- Car and buses on Nelson Street and Quay Street squeeze pedestrians on to very narrow pavements
- Conflict with vehicular movement at the crossings for pedestrians and cyclists across Union Street and Penn Street which diminishes the shopping experience

### Aims

The Quay Street - Nelson Street - Broadmead - Cabot Circus axis will be transformed into a lively and distinctive green east-west axis through the study area. A high-quality public realm treatment including incidental play; additional seating, new lighting and generous areas of planting and rain gardens, will bring texture, seasonal interest and biodiversity into the streetscape.

The enhancements to the public realm will be supported by a varied mix of ground floor uses. From the micro-culture corridor along Quay Street and Nelson Street to the retail core, the varied ground floor uses will provide varied interest, outdoor dining and character along the route.



Fig. 65 Proposed Extent of Linear Street Garden Character

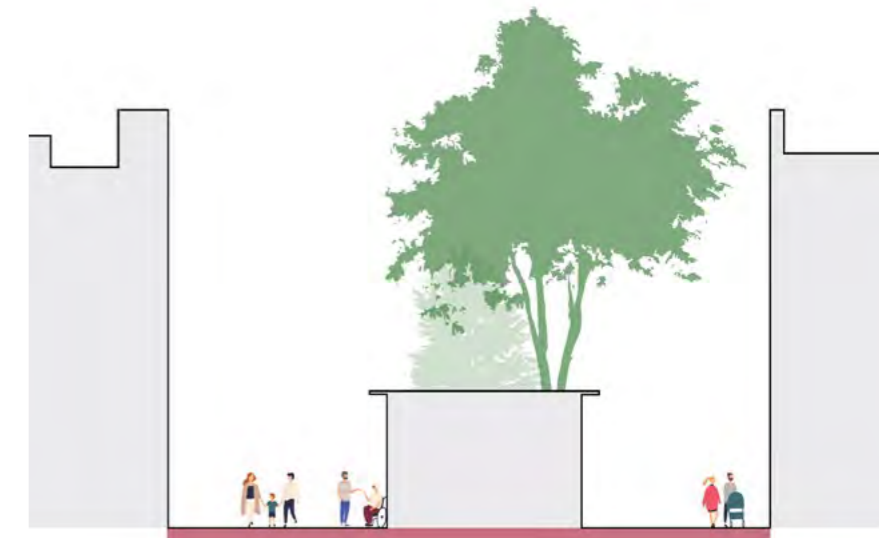


Fig. 66 Existing Typical Section Broadmead



1. Event at Broadmead Podium. 2. Broadmead. 3. Broadmead. 4. Ground floor uses at the Broadmead Podium offer limited activation of public realm

### Precedent images



Precedents images showing how Broadmead can be transformed into a green Street Garden with increased planting and seating

# 1. Linear Street Garden

## Proposed Character from Nelson St to Cabot Circus

Creation of an enhanced public realm experience which connects Cabot Circus to Quay Street as a primary route. A clear change in character and urban form between Broadmead and Nelson Street creates a varied pedestrian experience. Along the entire route, pedestrian movement zones are defined and a central spine of climate resilient planting with a focus on textures and colours provides multifunctional benefits.

The relocation of buses and the introduction of restrictions of other vehicle access in some parts of this area allows for the creation of a primary pedestrian priority east-west public realm corridor connection. The different character of spaces and uses along the Nelson Street to Broadmead corridor will be promoted to reinforce a sense of place.

A consistent public realm treatment and language, supporting pedestrian priority and additional greening, will provide legibility along this key axis.



- Legend**
- Pedestrian Priority Zone
  - - - Enhanced pedestrian environment
  - Vehicle and servicing access
  - Bus corridor
  - - - Cycle Route
  - Public transport priority corridor
  - - - Micro-culture corridor
  - Retail focus
  - - - Cultural/Retail focus
  - - - Independent Lane/Retail Focus
  - - - Gateway



Fig. 67 Movement, Public Realm and Ground Floor use around Nelson Street, Broadmead and Cabot Circus












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# 1. Linear Street Garden

## Proposed - Broadmead Example

This page illustrates how the six strategies set out in Part A of this document combine to deliver public realm enhancements across the Linear Street Garden typology to create a colourful, active Street Garden, forming a primary east-west route through the study area. The illustrative concept visual adjacent shows how the below interventions can be applied to a typical section of Broadmead.

### Interventions

-  Establish Broadmead as a local, regional and national destination for sustainable shopping and associated activity
-  Diversifying the Shopping Quarter from an area of consumption to a place of broader experience and exchange
-  A central planted spine of textured and colourful planting with a rain garden function to manage storm water run-off and increase urban biodiversity
-  Incorporate existing trees as well as new tree planting along Broadmead into the design improvements
-  Increased sensory and seasonal delight through the planting palette
-  Transform the full spine from Nelson Street to Cabot Circus into a pedestrian priority area, establishing this as a key route and primary street within the study area by removing private vehicle and bus access where possible
-  Create a consistent public realm language along this spine to link Broadmead retail area from Cabot Circus to the Floating Harbour
-  Increased seating in strategic locations
-  Over time, look at options to relocate existing kiosk businesses into the street facing ground floor units in buildings, to reduce the visual clutter
-  Increased cycle parking in strategic locations
-  Create opportunities for public art
-  Transform the Podium into a focal public open space with potential to accommodate events by enhancing the public realm and activating ground floor uses while retaining urban form
-  A lighting strategy to create ambience and delight, encouraging seasonal and evening use
-  Create a more mixed use on the ground floor as set out in the ground floor use strategy. Ground floor uses that activate the public realm, such as cafés, are encouraged
-  Incorporate playful elements and interventions for families and young at heart

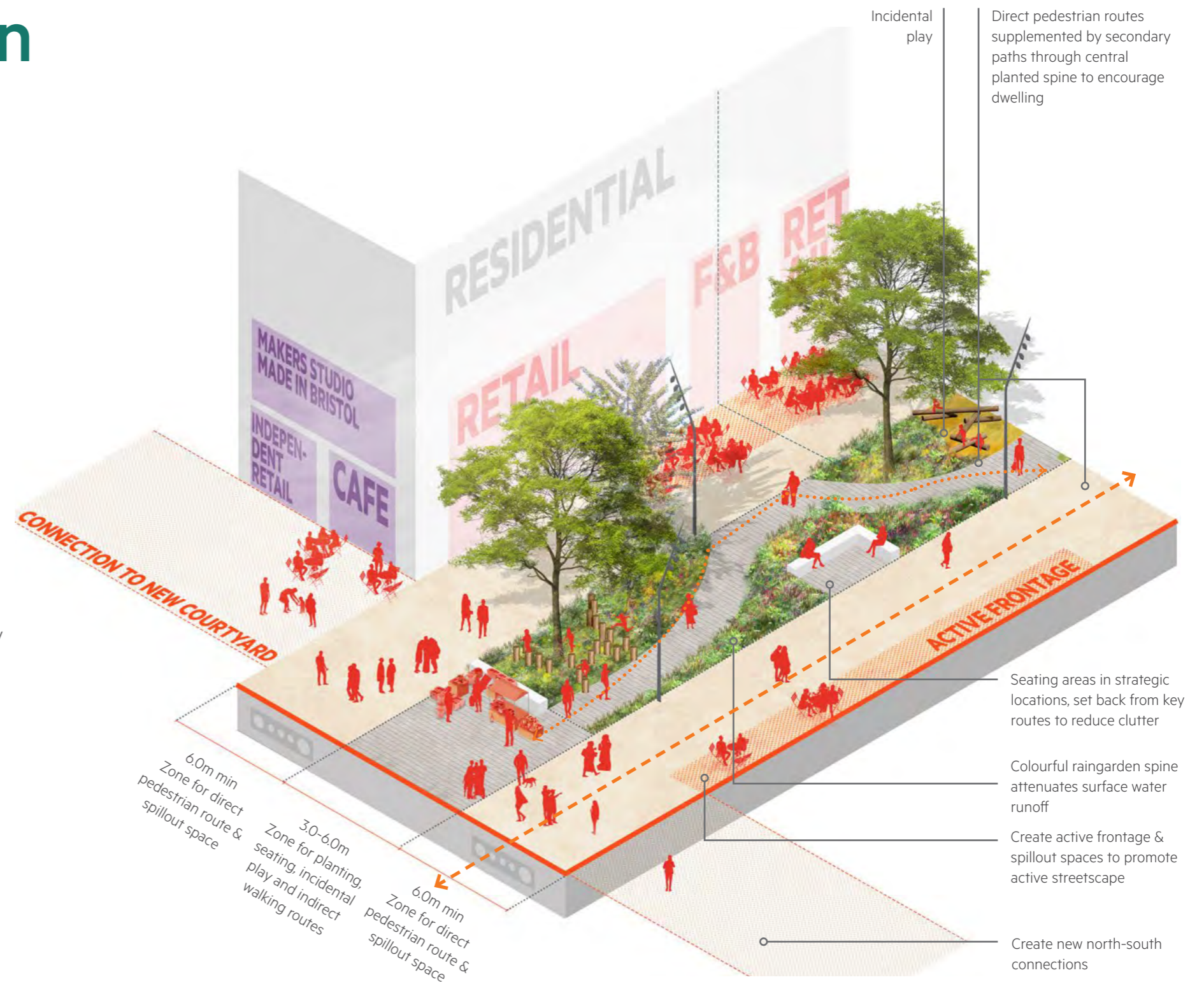


Fig. 68 Concept Visual of Broadmead

# 2. Lanes & Courts

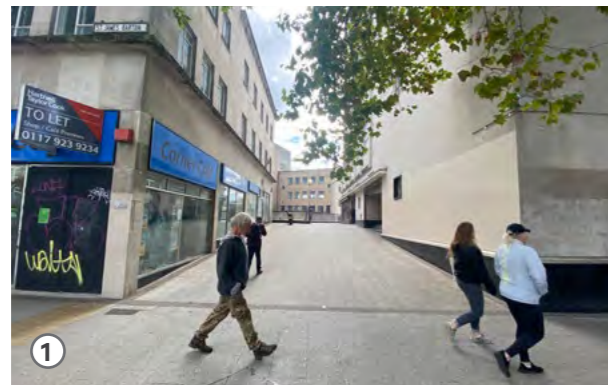
## Existing

### Existing Situation

- The Broadmead area is characterised by large urban blocks which has resulted in a lack of permeability between the internal streets particularly north - south
- The urban blocks to the north of Broadmead contain internal courtyards that are currently underutilised. These spaces form an opportunity to create additional public open spaces and pedestrian connections
- Traces of the historic finer urban grain still exist today. E.g. The Arcade, courtyard to John Wesley's New Room, arcade to the Greyhound Hotel

### Aims

The DDP aims to enhance the network of finer urban grain in Broadmead of arcades, lanes and courts to create more diversity of public space, reinforce the artisan character and more north-south permeability through the city centre



1. Existing connection between St James Barton and The Horsefair. 2. Existing courtyard to John Wesley's New Room. 3. Existing Old King Street Court

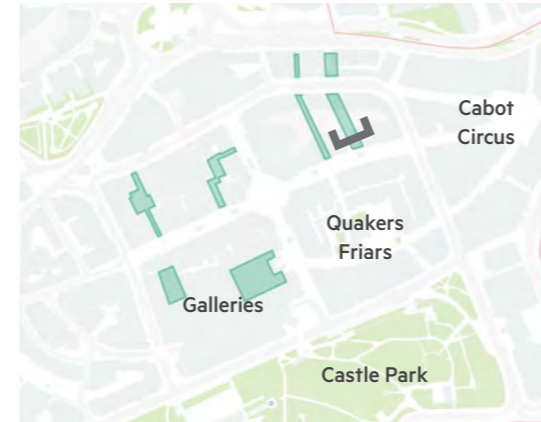


Fig. 70 Proposed Extent of Lanes and Courts Character

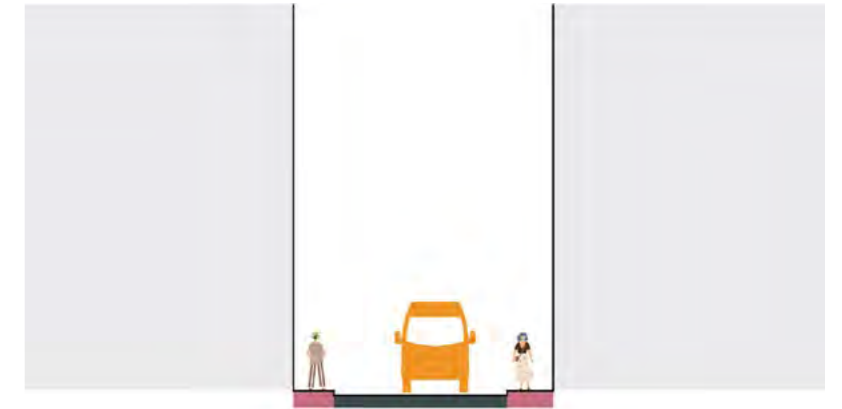


Fig. 69 Existing Section Entrance to Callowhill Court

### Precedent images



Precedents for creating new connections by creating a network of lanes and courtyards of varying character

# 2. Lanes & Courts

## Proposed

The DDP Strategies propose the creation of new and enhanced public open spaces through a series of lanes and courtyards in the Broadmead area. These open spaces will either be converted from existing, underutilised spaces, or newly created. They will provide a unique offer, in terms of both public open space and retail experience as set out in the opportunities below. The illustrative concept visual on this page provides an example of how the interventions below are to be applied to create the lanes and courtyards.

### Interventions



- The lanes and courts will become a destination for independent makers and businesses, capturing the unique and independent 'Made in Bristol' spirit, building on and complementing other areas of the city such as St Nicholas' Market



- Planting typologies that increase urban biodiversity e.g. Vertical planting, feature trees, planters



- Creation of lanes and courtyards throughout the Broadmead area will create finer grain of public realm, enhancing permeability for pedestrians whilst allowing access for servicing and waste collection.



- Create contrasting spaces to the busier retail boulevard-quieter places to sit and recharge

- Spaces to hold smaller scale outdoor events within courtyards

- Create ambience and character through interesting lighting scheme

- Design for a safe and active public realm by providing active ground floor uses and ensuring upper floors provide passive surveillance into the courtyards



- Create a finer grain of retail experience

- Opportunity for smaller scale independent, micro-business, specialist, and artisan retail



- Public artists and creative specialists involvement in the design

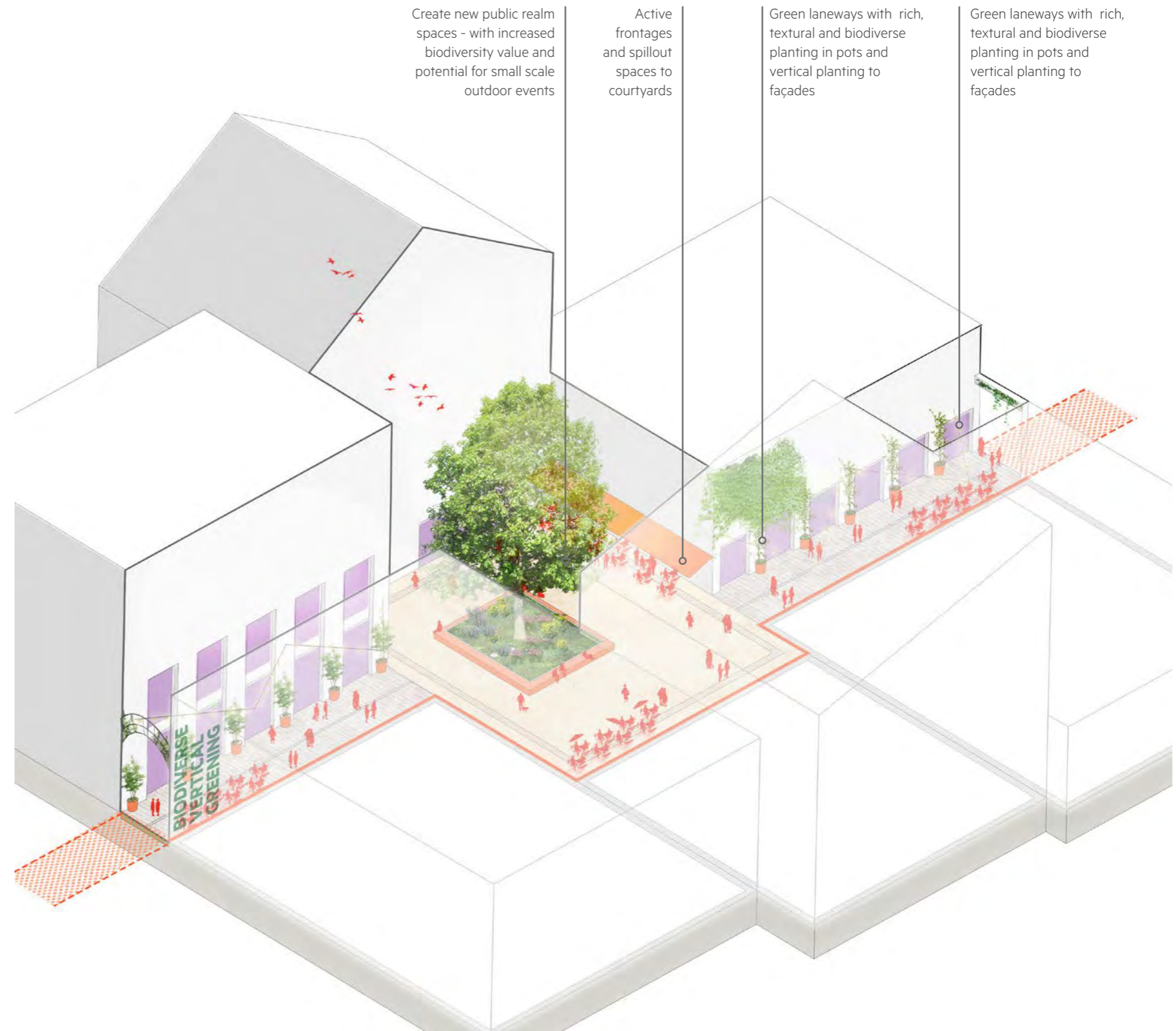


Fig.71 Concept Visual of Typical Courtyard

# 3. Civic Avenue

## Merchant Street

### Existing Situation

- Lack of pedestrian connection to Castle Park – facing high walls of the park and poor access
- Merchant Street is a generous and wide pedestrianised street; however, it is all hard paved with no tree planting, creating an exposed and hard street environment that lacks character
- The street has lost its sense of being one continuous space with interrupted views to Castle Park and the former Debenhams building. The existing pedestrianised area also ends abruptly where vehicles

- are allowed to travel on Fairfax Street and the Horsefair. This results in a fragmented street design that lacks coherence and prominence
- Limited streetscape activity such as cafés, cultural or community uses that enliven the street
- The Grade II listed Merchant Taylor’s Almshouse (one of Bristol’s earliest brick buildings) is lost amongst the current Galleries development and is being used as a retail unit
- Large kiosks in the centre of the street block visual axis north- south

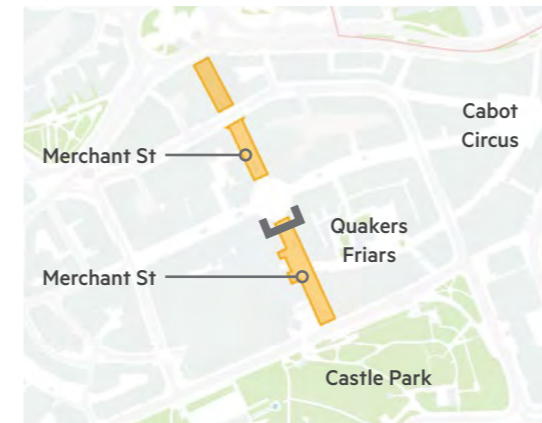


Fig. 73 Proposed Extent of Civic Avenue Character

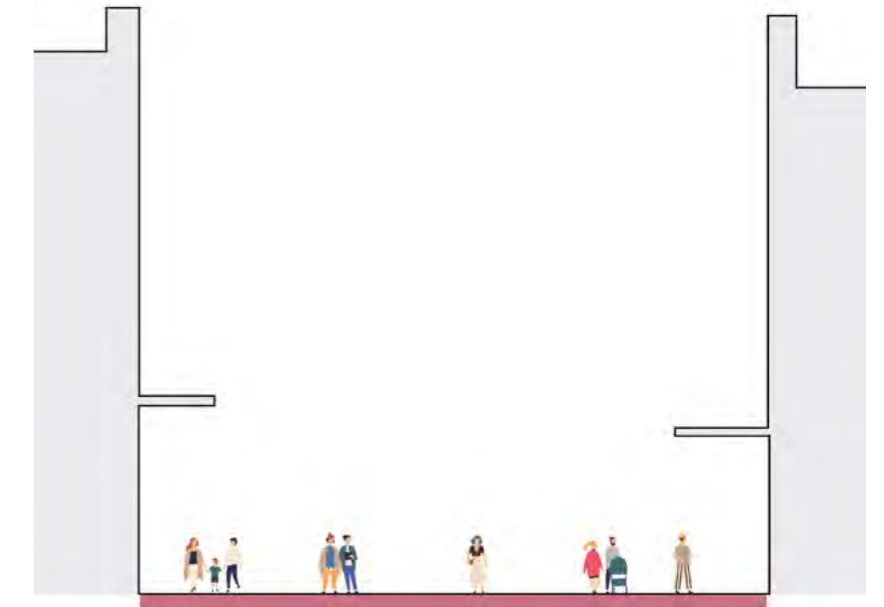


Fig. 72 Existing Section Merchant Street



1. View from Broadmead Podium towards former Debenhams store  
 2. View from Merchant Street towards Castle Park. Views into park obscured by tall walls. 3. Views over Castle Park walls looking along Merchant Street

### Precedent images



Precedent images for transforming Merchant Street into a Civic Avenue with avenue tree planting

# 3. Civic Avenue

## Existing Heritage Assets

### Aims

Connect Broadmead to Castle Park by bringing a sense of park through the streetscape by the planting a double avenue of trees and increased seating opportunities whilst retaining flexibility for seasonal cultural events. Punctuate the street experience by celebrating the heritage features which sit along it or connect to it as shown in the images below.

In addition to these placemaking principles, the below key moves will transform Merchant Street into a primary north-south route through Broadmead:

- Creating a pedestrian priority Super Crossing to the junction of Broad Weir, Newgate and Merchant Street, linking to the proposed Castle Park gateway
- Landscape design as one primary, civic route with the potential for a double line of legacy street trees
- Linking and promoting the existing and new cultural anchors
- Enhanced node and orientation at junction with the pedestrianisation of The Horsefair as shown in “4. Garden Street” on page 107
- Opening up a public pedestrian route through the Debenhams site to provide a visual and accessible connection between St James Barton and Castle Park



Fig. 74 Merchant Taylor's Almshouse



Fig. 75 Castle Keep



Fig. 76 Arcade



Fig. 77 John Wesley's New Room Courtyard

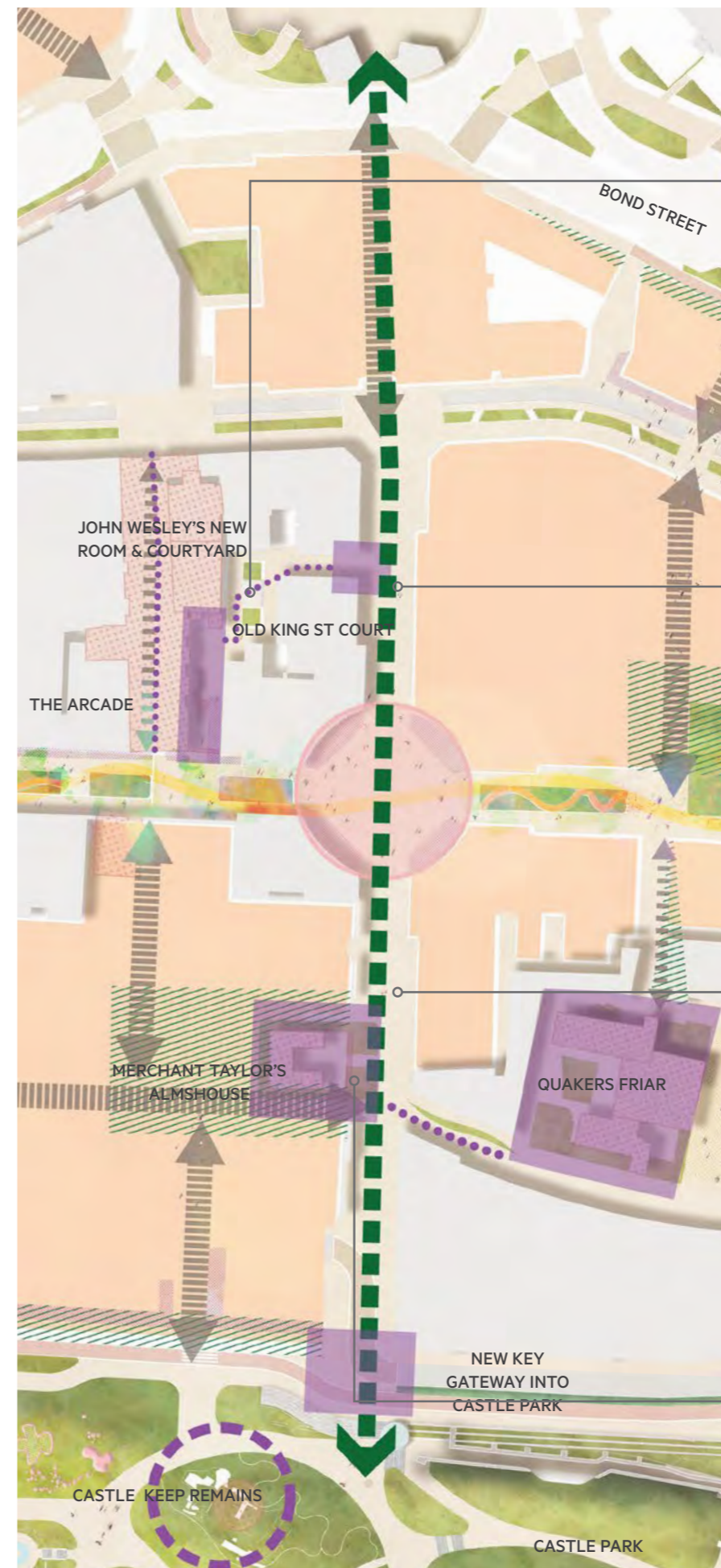


Fig. 78 Heritage Assets & Key Moves

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Precedent for green courtyard off Merchant St and Broadmead



Precedent for avenue tree planting



Precedent for avenue tree planting



Precedent for greening to Almshouse



# 3. Civic Avenue

## Proposed - Merchant Street

The Civic Avenue character will transform Merchant Street into a primary north-south route through Broadmead. The illustrative visual shows a typical example of how the public realm interventions are applied to transform Merchant Street into a Civic Avenue, integrating and celebrating existing heritage features.

### Interventions



- Establish Merchant Street as a civic cultural avenue, with community/culture use in the Almshouse



- Introduce large specimen tree planting to create a double avenue of trees to provide an improved micro-climate and green infrastructure benefits. The avenue will create coherency and consistency to the route and marks it as a primary route north-south pedestrian route. Tree planting locations are subject to existing underground services.
- Create a garden around the Almshouse to attract use and as a focal point on the street



- Connect the street physically and visually to Castle Park across Broadweir with a new pedestrian super crossing and generous new gateway into the park
- Create an enhanced interface with Fairfax Street, which is to be carefully designed as a bus and active travel corridor



- Celebrate the heritage and architecture building of the Merchant Taylor's Almshouse. Provide a garden setting, give space around the edges with the new development set back and stepping down to the scale of the Almshouse

- A new lighting scheme that adds to the streetscape character and ambience and invites evening use.
- Over time, look at options to relocate existing kiosk businesses into the street facing ground floor units in buildings, to reduce the visual clutter
- Transform the Podium into a focal public open space with potential to accommodate events by enhancing the public realm and activating ground floor uses while retaining urban form



- Encourage new mix of ground floor uses to activate the streetscape with a focus on community and cultural uses where suitable to serve existing and new residential population
- Public realm to be designed in a flexible way to support events such as the Christmas Market



- Change the use of the Almshouse from retail to alternative activity anchor, with community/culture use, activating the garden and street and serving existing and new residential communities

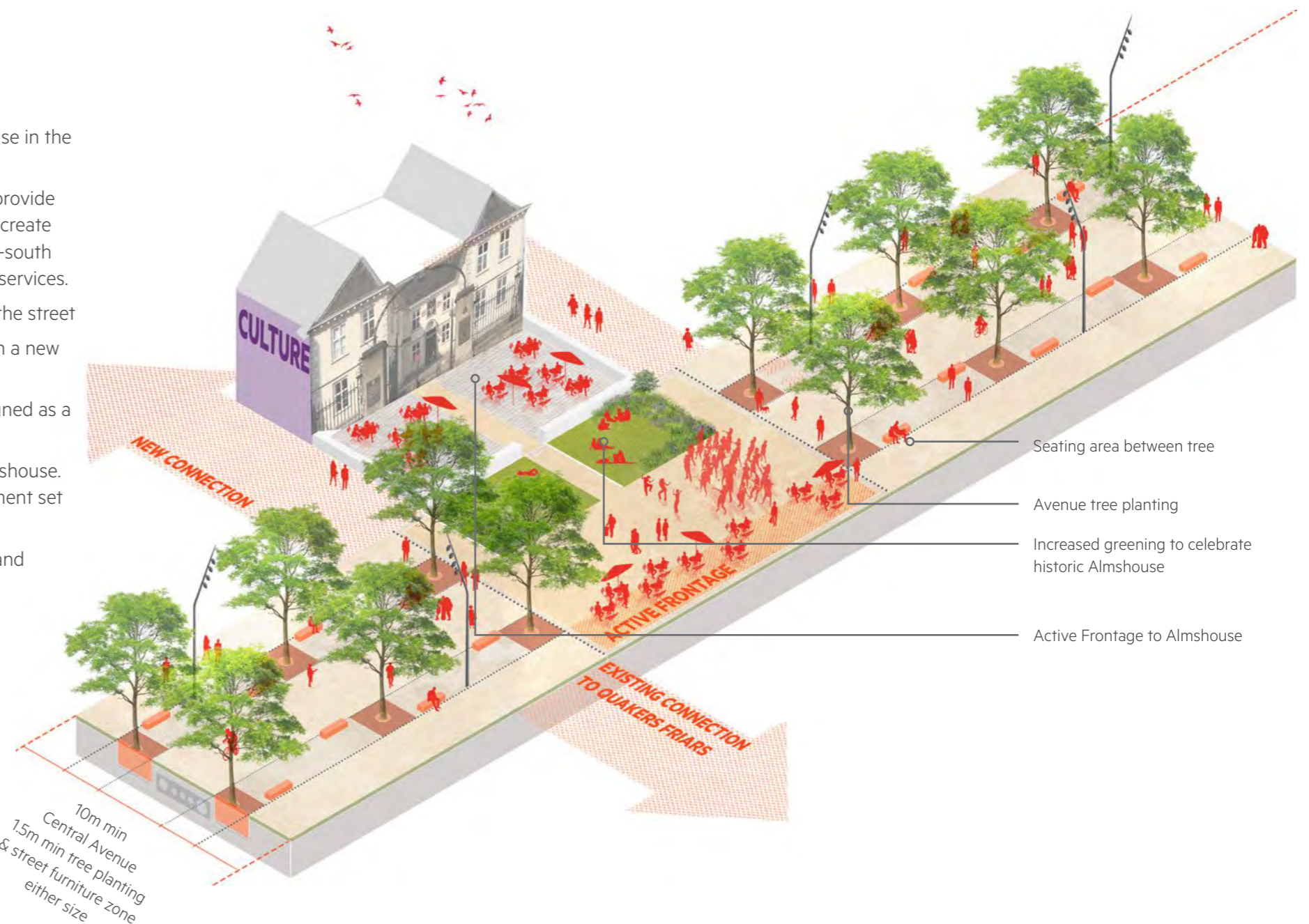


Fig. 79 Concept Visual Merchant Street

# 4. Garden Street

## The Horsefair & Penn Street

### Existing Situation

- The street is dominated by the carriageway and cars and bus movement. In addition bus stops, taxi ranks and loading bays widen the carriage way in many areas
- There is very little in terms of public realm quality or any space to dwell
- There are some existing pedestrian connections to the north and south but they are poorly sign posted and uninviting
- The pedestrian crossings from Broadmead to Cabot Circus have a high footfall yet they are not clearly defined and prioritise vehicles over pedestrians

- Limited existing street trees and no other vegetation
- There is a historical arcade and architecturally interesting buildings but these are quite lost in the mix

### Aims

The removal of vehicles and buses and will help transform the Horsefair and Penn Street into a series of pedestrian-priority Garden Streets with a strong focus on community uses and nature. Linear, planted raingardens with trees and seasonal planting will substantially increase the green and blue infrastructure and support spaces for outdoor seating to provide a verdant setting for everyday life.

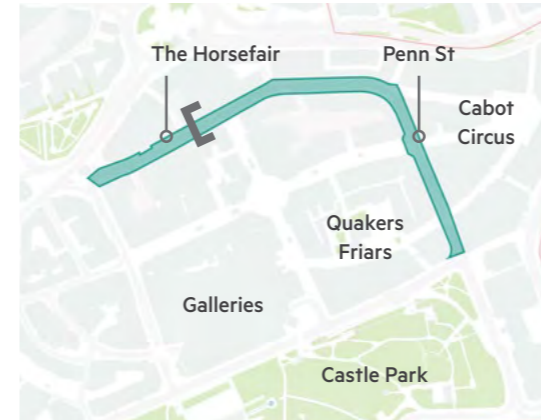
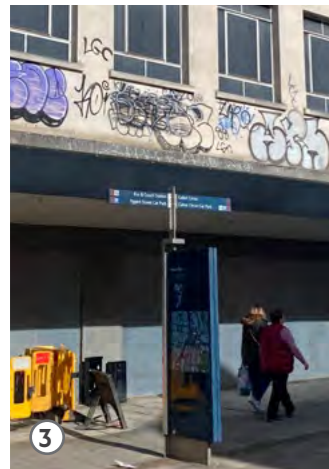


Fig. 81 Proposed Extent of Garden Street Character



Fig. 80 Existing Section The Horsefair



1. View down The Horsefair showing streetscape dominated by transport and servicing 2&3. Frontages lack active edges 4. Significantly more open space dedicated to transport over pedestrian movement 5. Existing servicing courtyard. Route to St James Barton unclear

### Precedent images



Precedent images to transform The Horsefair and Penn Street into a pedestrian priority area with enhanced public realm through significant urban greening

# 4. Garden Street

## Proposed - The Horsefair

This page sets out interventions to transform The Horsefair and Penn Street into a new pedestrian priority street with cycle access, that provides a setting for community high street retail and facilities. This is shown illustratively in the adjacent concept visual of The Horsefair.

### Interventions



- Establish The Horsefair as a destination for local communities, as well as communities to North and East of the Study Area and for the future community. Reinforced by moves to reduce severance along Bond Street and Temple Way



- Create a strong green infrastructure connection through the city centre



- Remove general traffic and buses from this area and prioritise pedestrian and active travel movement



- Transform the public realm with a coherent treatment into an attractive, green and inviting street with places to sit, meet and shop

- Celebrate the historical buildings with more sensitive and creative reuse



- Combined, these streets form a wrap around the city centre retail area and contain extensive retail street frontage



- Establish more uses to support a community high street setting, to increase footfall into this part of Broadmead

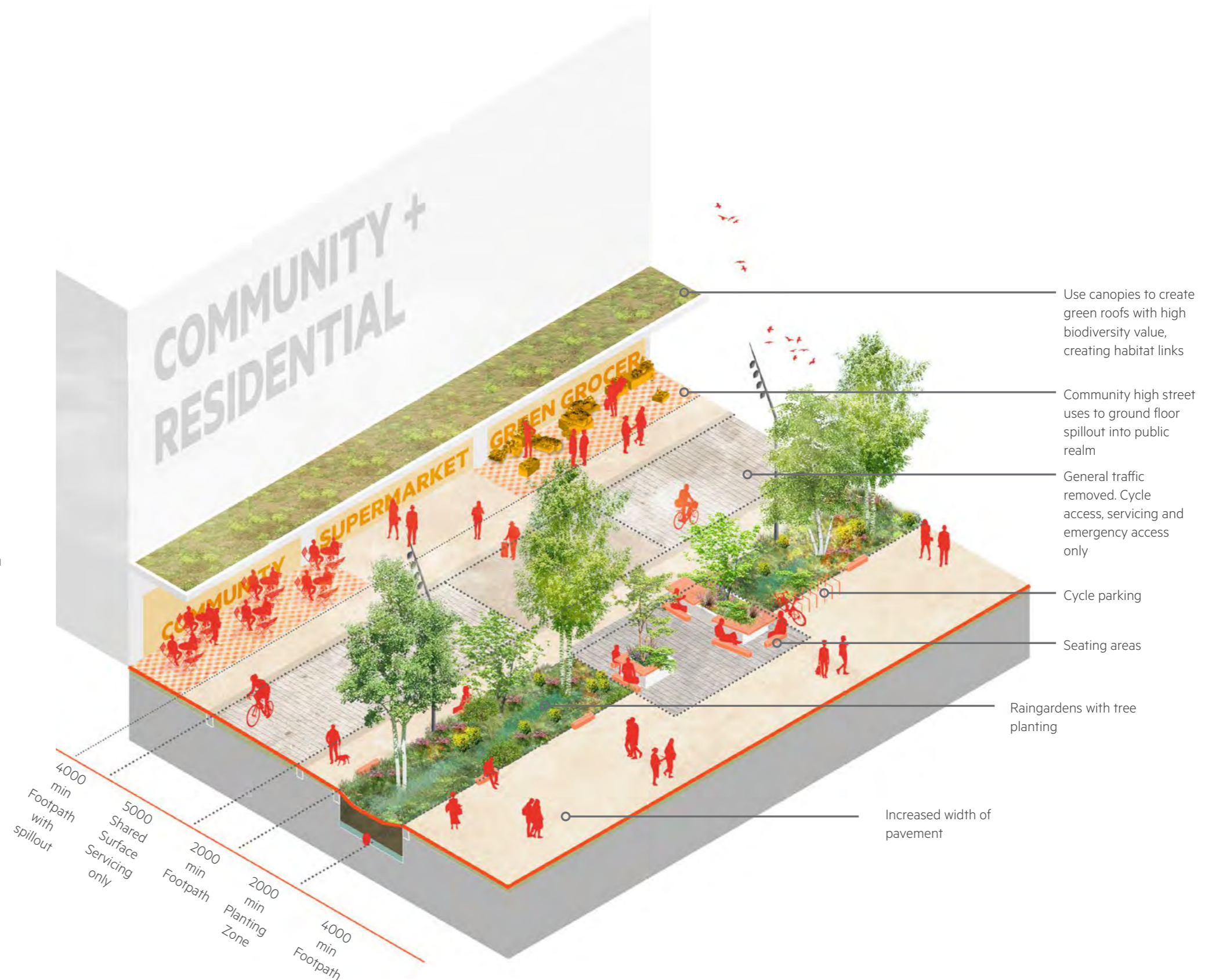


Fig. 82 Concept Visual of The Horsefair

# 5. Active Corridor

## Existing

### Existing Situation

- The street is a key pedestrian thoroughfare from Castle Park to Broadmead and northwards. However, the street currently feels traffic dominated due to the number of buses, cars, taxi ranks and loading bays
- The pavement is relatively narrow for a key pedestrian route
- The pedestrian connection to Castle Park is not celebrated. The carriageway is dominant and causes the severance

- The corner of the Galleries is dominated by levels changes in steps and raised planters and there is little public realm for use
- The existing trees are large and their crown has become compromised by the space available. Their base is also enclosed by paving and infilled with tarmac

### Aims

Union Street will be closed to general traffic, transforming this street into an active travel and public transport corridor. The public realm will be enhanced for pedestrians. Additional resting points will be provided to enhance accessibility along the route.



Fig. 84 Proposed Extent of Active Corridor Character



Fig. 83 Existing Section Union Street



### Precedent images



# 5. Active Corridor

## Proposed - Union Street

The interventions set out on this page set out how Union Street will be transformed into a high-quality north-south movement route. De-cluttering of this corridor will allow easier movement for pedestrians and cyclists, improve the visual character of the streetscape and enable resting points to be created along the sloped route to improve accessibility of the route.

### Interventions



- Existing trees to be surveyed and accessed for best management and setting



- The proposed transport improvements transform the street to a bus mass transit corridor only, removing private cars and taxis

- Due to the limited width available, provide a segregated cycle lane for uphill movement, downhill cyclists move with buses



- Increase pavement widths and remove any unnecessary streetscape clutter
- Create an enhanced public space at the corner of the redeveloped Galleries site that connects with Castle Park. The vehicle movement on Newgate is reduced, achieved by the wider strategy and pedestrian movement from the Galleries site to Castle Park is emphasised by the design of the public realm
- To enhance accessibility along steep gradient street - provide resting points in between street tree planting

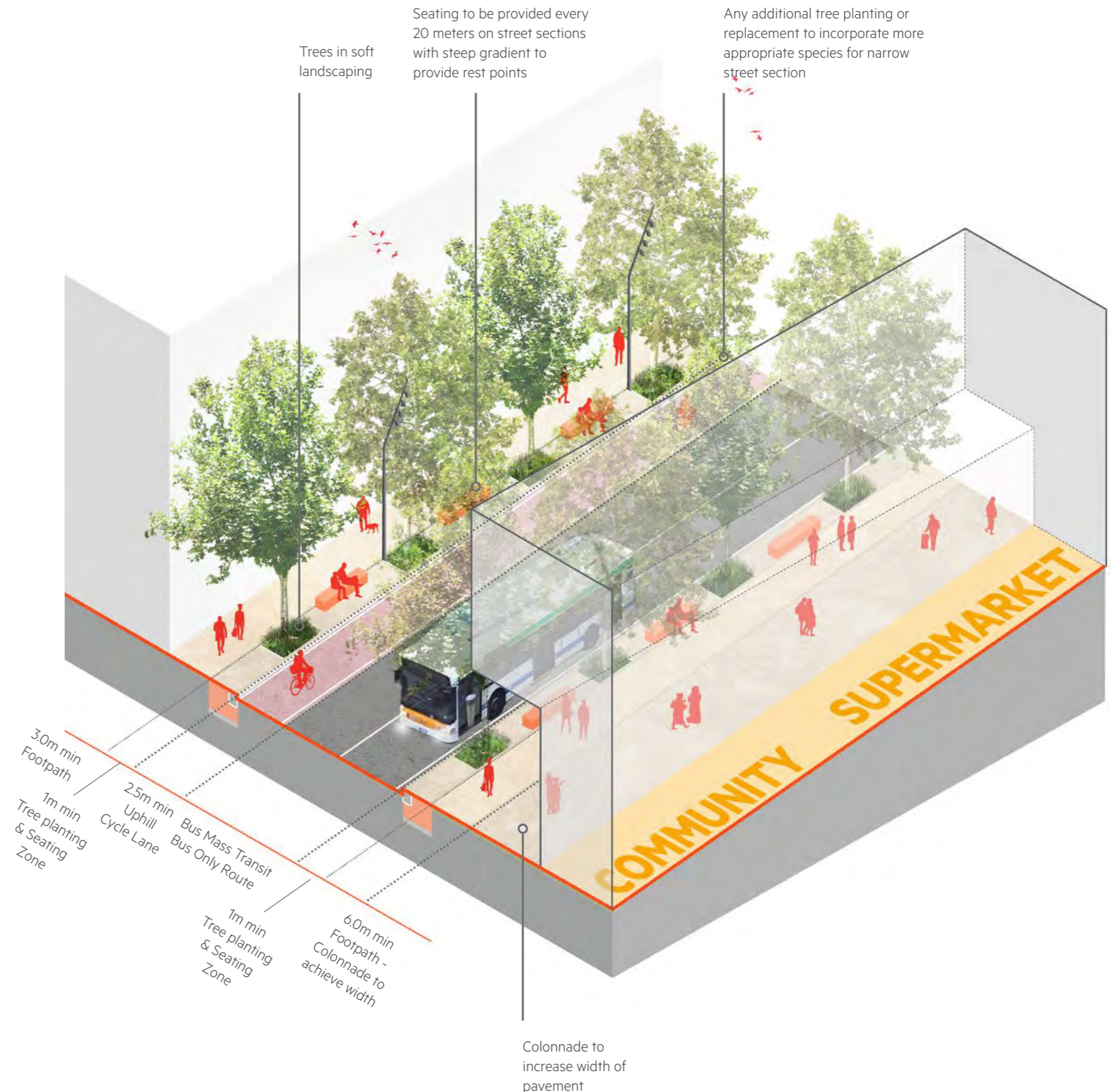


Fig.85 Concept Visual Union Street

# 6. Park Edge

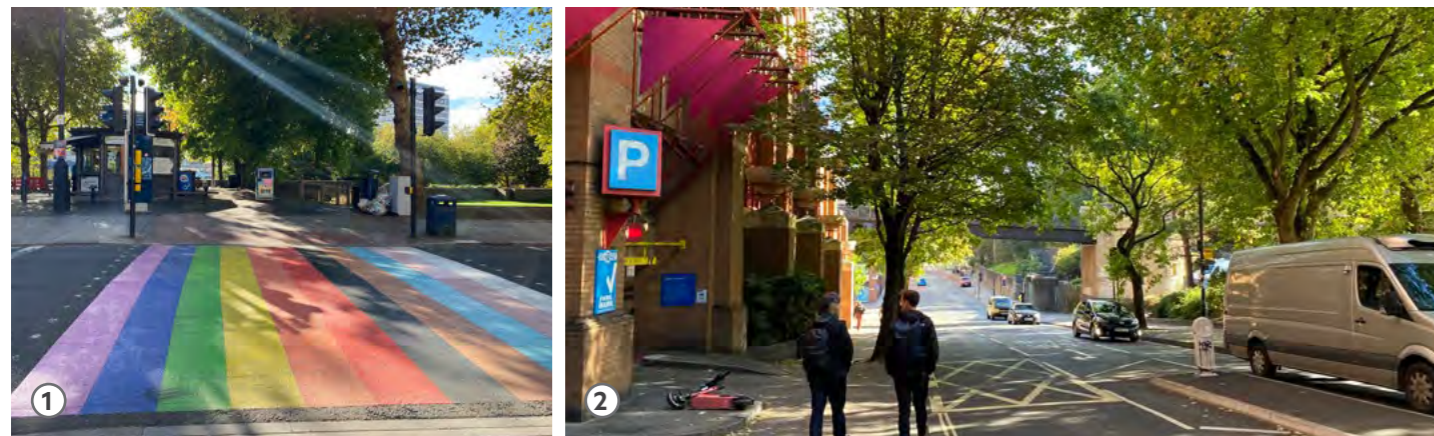
## Wine Street, Newgate, Broadweir

### Existing Situation

- High traffic volume and wide carriageway along this road sever the connection of Castle Park with the Broadmead Area
- Along Newgate the ground floor use is car parking and along Broadweir no active ground floor uses so there is currently little street life
- Limited pedestrian crossing points across the roads
- Limited gateways into Castle Park
- Existing mature street trees
- No segregated cycle route

### Aims

Reduced vehicular traffic and a focus on pedestrian and active travel to transform this road into a park edge boulevard with new active ground floor frontages that respond to the park context. A new public space will be created around St. Peters that locks Castle Park to Broadmead and becomes a focal point for community events.



1. View from Union Street across Newgate into Castle Park 2. View along Newgate towards Broadweir 3. View along Newgate to the bridge to the Galleries



Fig. 87 Proposed Extent of Park Edge Character

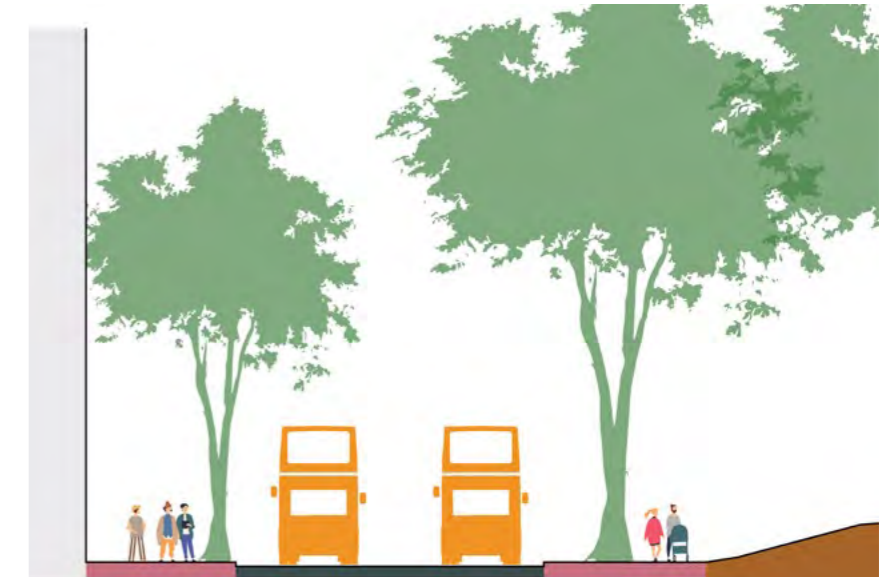
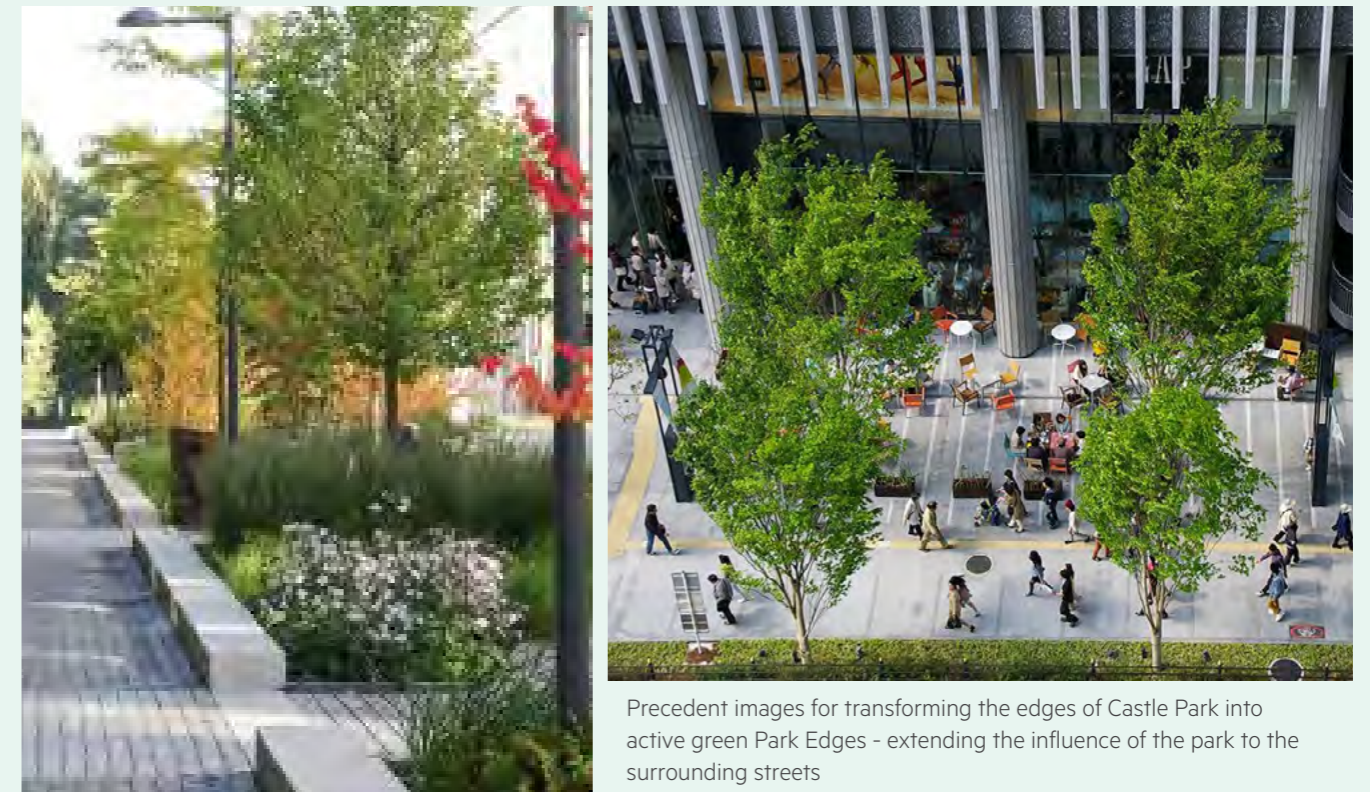


Fig. 86 Existing Section Newgate

### Precedent images



Precedent images for transforming the edges of Castle Park into active green Park Edges - extending the influence of the park to the surrounding streets

# 6. Park Edge

## Wine Street, Newgate, Broadweir

The illustrative concept visual adjacent shows how the below opportunities will transform Newgate into a vibrant Park Edge and how a new public open space will be created North of St Peter's Church across Newgate.

### Interventions



- Public realm enhancements are implemented to elevate the current paved area north of St. Peter's Church. The expansion of this space includes the integration of Newgate and connection to the upper part of Union Street. Strategically, these improvements establish a central focal point for Castle Park, offering a high quality gateway experience that extends into both Castle Park and Broadmead.



- Celebrate existing tree planting to Newgate and introduce biodiverse, shade tolerant understory planting



- Remove the general traffic and buses from the street through strategic vehicle movement strategy – refer "Movement & Connectivity" strategy
- Create a pedestrian priority space along Wine Street, Newgate and Broadweir
- New pedestrian super crossings associated with new gateways into Castle Park to encourage movement and use of the park
- A segregated primary cycle route to ease pressure on the cycle route along Castle Park waterfront



- A public realm focus on Newgate and connection from Castle Park to Union Street
- Creation of a new public square, using the existing hard-standing over the Medieval Vaults, framed by St Peter's Church, the proposed development at the Galleries and a proposed park pavilion to include a cafe and toilets. The new public square is to be a key space for community and cultural events
- Celebrate memorial function of St Peter's Church with water-features to the square in front of church tower



- Active ground floor uses to along the Galleries redevelopment and where possible along Broadweir to activate the street



- Activate edges to the square with park amenities (e.g. cafe pavilions)
- Establish enhanced public open space community event space

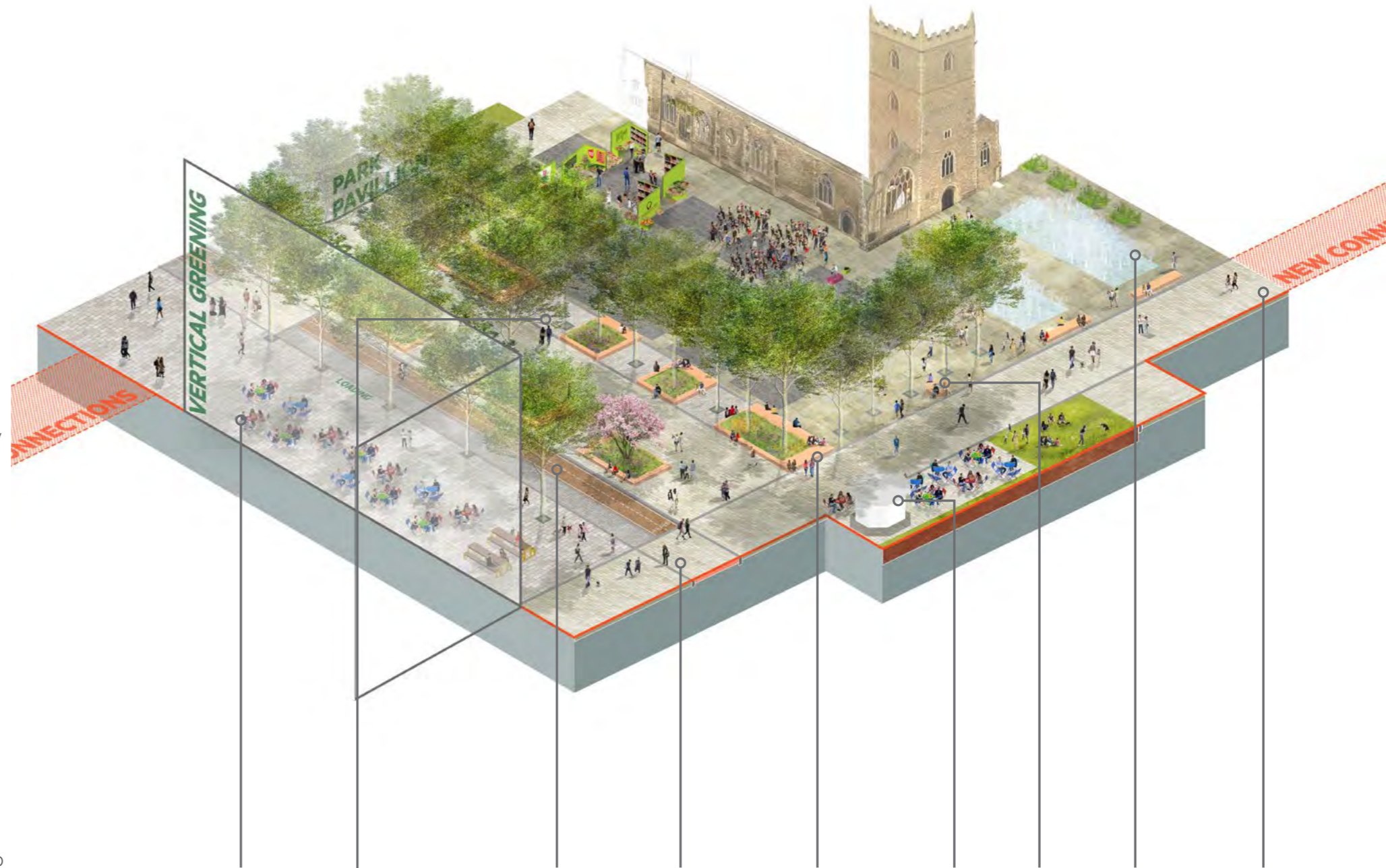


Fig. 88 Concept Visual Newgate and square north of St Peter's

Active frontage to Newgate

Connection on approximate alignment former Church Lane

Primary Commuter Cycle Link

Super Crossing linking Union Street to Castle Park

Podium Seats with biodiverse shade tolerant under-planting framing existing trees

Celebrate Existing Park Amenities

Celebrate Heritage Features including St Edith's Well

Water feature

Path realigned with Union St and to follow approximate alignment of former Dolphin Street

# 7. Bond Street

## Community Connector & Greener Gateway

Bond Street currently provides an uninviting edge to Broadmead and severs the study area from the communities to the north. Additional pedestrian and cycle crossings, as proposed in the Movement and Connectivity strategy set out in Part A, will enhance the physical connectivity across this A Road. Facilities for bus and coach drop offs will be improved.

Additional greening and tree planting will enhance the micro-climate, improve air quality and provide ecological benefits. Raingarden edges and tree planting to the south of the street will buffer the public realm from the road and provide a more inviting street-scape.

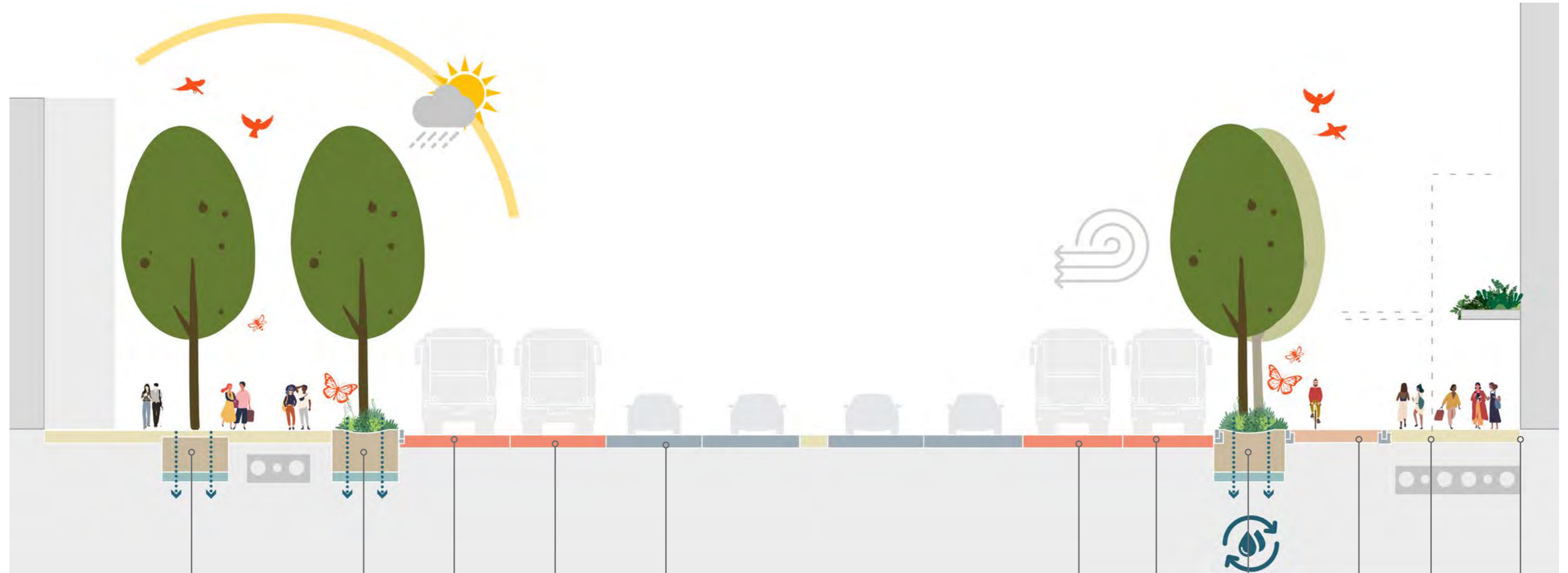


Fig. 89 Illustrative Section Bond St

- Trees in tree pit system  
Provide shade, shelter, water management and improved air quality
- Alternating bus shelters and raingarden edge to Bond Street
- Bus Stop/ Coach Drop off
- Proposed Bus Lane
- Carriageway
- Proposed Bus Lane
- Bus Stop/ Coach Drop off
- Alternating bus shelters and raingarden edge to Bond Street
- Segregated Cycle Lane
- Increased Public Realm
- Biodiverse greening to building edge



# Evening Economy

## Extend and Diversify the Offer; Lengthen the Day and Animate the Year

City neighbourhoods that are successful at night offer a wide choice of leisure and entertainment, and a rich mix of private and public attractions for a diversity of ages, lifestyles and cultures, including families. The engagement feedback would like Broadmead to support a diverse and exciting evening economy with extended retail opening; events and activities for people of all ages and interests – they don't want a city that is unsafe or shuts down as soon as the sun goes down.

The after dark experience and the evening economy are opportunities to reimagine Broadmead and Castle Park and how these areas can be used more safely. The aim is to create a balance of evening initiatives that blend with the daytime uses and is attractive and safe, and where night time activities are varied and well managed.

### Evening Economy Strategy

The development of a specific Broadmead and Castle Park strategy and action plan for the evening economy is recommended to be undertaken. This strategy should include the following objectives:

- Promote Broadmead and Castle Park as places of respect, equality and inclusivity around the clock and throughout the year
- To promote a larger variety of retailers and community / cultural attractions to stay open late and broaden people's choices of things to do in the evening throughout Broadmead, Castle Park and the Old City
- Offer more diversity of activities for all ages, including good-quality late-night food, shopping and extended community and cultural facilities

- Promote an outdoor dining policy throughout the Broadmead area which balances an expansion of outdoor dining opportunities
- Enable and promote live music, cinema, food trucks and other forms of temporary programming in public spaces of Broadmead and Castle Park to complement existing events such as St Nick's Night Market. Opportunities exist to work with local music schools and colleges, e.g. BIMM Bristol, to enable low-scale live music in appropriate public spaces
- Implement new public amenity facilities such as improved and creative lighting; more toilets and more public recycling bins in high volume evening locations
- A review of Broadmead's evening bus services and night-time taxi rank locations, design and operations, to promote connectivity within the city
- Implement additional Legible Bristol directional signage to transport infrastructure
- Set up a Broadmead Evening Safety Charter to encourage all organisations that operate after 6pm to commit to training to promote safety and to spot and stop intimidation and harassment



Fig. 90 Precedent images for evening economy

# After Dark Experience

## Inviting, Inclusive and Safe

High-quality, well-serviced and active public spaces and parks are fundamental to a thriving evening economy. The quality of Broadmead's public spaces at night is dependent on the right balance of public infrastructure, active street frontages, lighting and space management.

### Lighting Strategy

A new lighting strategy for Broadmead and Castle Park is recommended to provide a plan for improved functional, sustainable and aesthetic illumination of the streets and public spaces. This strategy should include the following objectives:

- Improve the lighting of the public realm working together with the new diversity of uses to extend the day and create a welcoming Broadmead in the evening
- Develop a lighting strategy that creates a safer environment for those living and working in Broadmead and surrounding communities that walk through Broadmead and Castle Park
- Review street and Castle Park lighting levels in key areas and primary routes, streets and new laneways. Improve and extend lighting hours to improve level of usage in the evening for park access and other low-level activities
- Undertake workshops with property owners to develop creative lighting displays on building façades

- Celebrate the heritage assets within Broadmead and Castle Park with creative illumination and lighting e.g. St Peter's Church; Merchant Taylor's Almshouse; Quakers Friars etc. There are opportunities to bring the history of the area to life and to reveal some of the cultural narratives, stories and character through interpretation, art and light
- Development of an evening events strategy with enhanced lighting and provision of public amenities including flexible power infrastructure
- Build on the success, creativity and imagination of the Bristol Light Festival to incorporate and design public art for the night
- Utilise smart and efficient lighting strategy that harnesses latest technology to reduce energy use
- A lighting strategy that is adaptable and can be changed to suit the season and cultural events

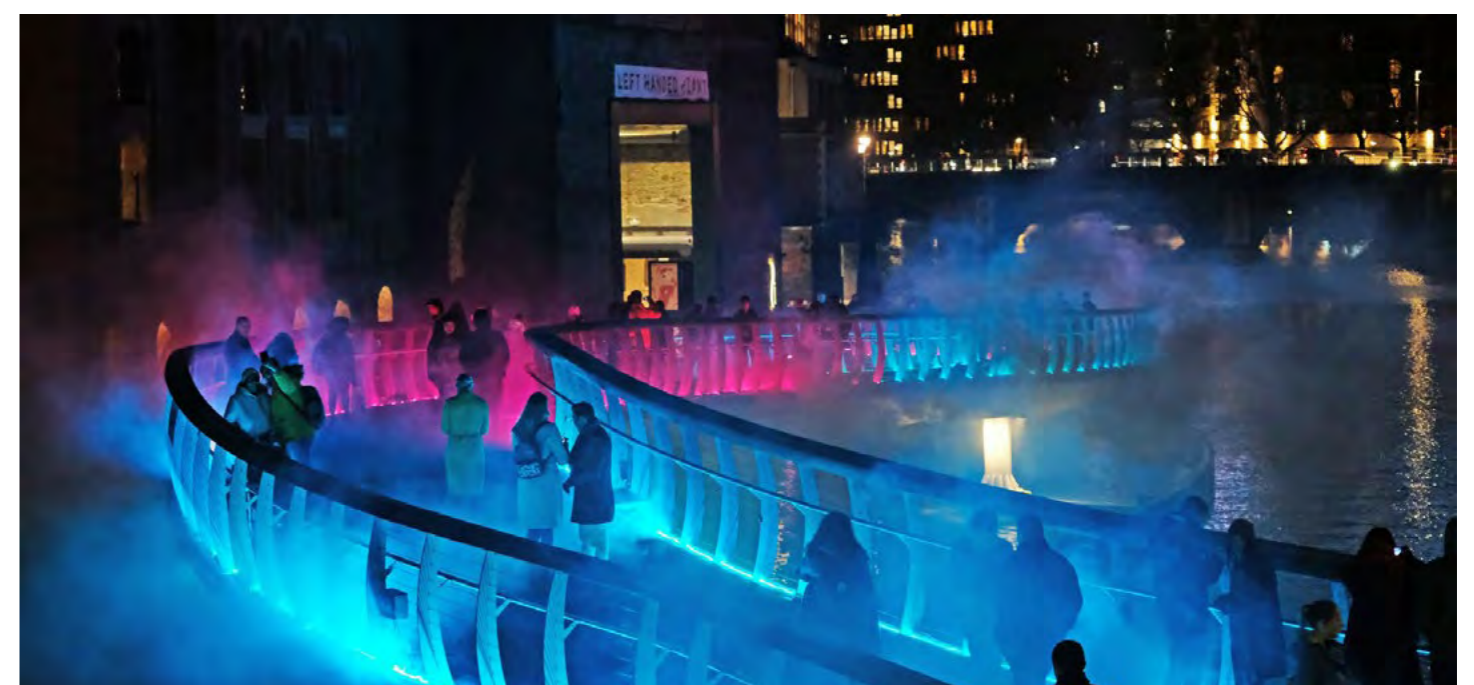


Fig. 91 Precedent images for lighting and after dark experience

# Chapter 6

# CASTLE PARK MASTERPLAN

This section presents a masterplan for Castle Park, reinforcing this key public open space as a high-quality city centre park for Bristol. The level of detail has been developed in response to the strategies outlined in Part A.

Castle Park is an area in which the council has great influence to change the quality and experience of the public realm and park.

This Masterplan presents a new vision for its future which has been developed through extensive stakeholder engagement.

This is subject to further design and engagement and will continue to evolve. In practice, this may be delivered through a series of incremental phases to achieve benefits in stages.

# Castle Park Today

Castle Park is an important part of Bristol's heritage and culture, it plays an important role connecting the city centre, linking the Old City, the Floating Harbour, Broadmead and the east. The park is a popular place for rest and recreation for a range of people, from local residents to people working in the vicinity. It also continues to host a number of important outdoor events for Bristol.

At almost 6 hectares in area, Castle Park is the largest green open space within Bristol's city centre. Although it is now a very valuable natural asset, it currently only exists due to the destruction of the area during the blitz in 1940. Bristolians inherently value Castle Park for its unique location and south facing position on the waterfront; its heritage setting with the churches of St Peters, St Mary le Port and the site of the former Bristol Castle and its interest of historic fragments of the castle in the park today. It has become a highly valued and important public space at the heart of the city.

The amenities in Castle Park and on the Floating Harbour are accessible on foot, bike or using the local ferry service and the park is well connected to the local bus network that serves the wider study area. As well as a range of amenities it has a number of important biodiversity corridors running through the park.

However, the park is facing a number of challenges and needs enhanced amenities and new solutions to remain a safe and valued city asset. These challenges include;

- Areas of the park losing their purpose and becoming unsafe, particularly at night
- The condition and diversity of planting
- The deterioration of the path network
- Limited relationship to the floating harbour

The threats to Castle Park will increase particularly with climate change and potential pest and disease risk to trees. The surrounding urban context of the Park also continues to change. The population growth from potential developments within the city centre will significantly increase pressure on the park spaces, the ecosystem and the general upkeep of materials, planting and management of the park.



# Castle Park Today

## Stakeholder Engagement Process & Summary

Castle Park is a much-loved part of the city. Through the engagement activities undertaken to date, it has been clear that many people are enthusiastic about the opportunities for enhancement and are keen to see existing problems and issues resolved.

Castle Park has been a particular focus for engagement for the DDP because, being under the ownership and control of the council, it is a key area of the city centre where the council can directly lead change. There is therefore a genuine opportunity for stakeholders and the community to help shape park masterplan.

A number of engagement activities have been specifically focussed on Castle Park. These have included:

- An initial workshop in May 2022 with a group of stakeholders from various groups which sought views on the team's interpretation of the problems, issues and opportunities and asked feedback on the initial direction of the park masterplan
- A follow up workshop in December 2022 with the stakeholder group, which sought feedback on emerging proposals for the park gateways and for the central 'heart' of the park, around St. Peters
- Engagement, including a walking tour of the park, with members of the public who put themselves forward as volunteers to help shape the masterplan
- The spring 2022 online survey asked specific questions about the park and ideas for enhancement were put forward via the interactive map. The website survey generated over 300 responses about

Castle Park. People commented on the aspects of the park that they love – the green and open space, trees, flowers, rich history, waterfront location and proximity to the city centre were all frequently mentioned as key positive attributes. A wider range of suggestions for improvement were also made and these were summarised into the 'engagement feedback' which aims to capture the essence of the feedback received in a short, concise format

- A range of one-to-one meetings have been held including with Historic England and Sustrans
- Engagement with West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL) and completion of an accessibility audit which assessed the accessibility of current park layout and opportunities for enhancement

## Engagement Feedback

- Tackle personal security and anti social behaviour to create a park where people feel safe and comfortable
- Enhance and extend the planting and greenery
- Celebrate the heritage and history of the park and better connect the park to the waterfront
- Encourage and provide spaces for events, markets, activities and art which draw people to the park
- Provide spaces, equipment and facilities for children to play
- Ensure the park is fully accessible and inclusive
- Improve entrances and gateways to the park and extend the influence of the park into surrounding streets
- Improve routes through the park and reduce conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists
- Address other concerns including, lack of public toilets and need for more seating
- Ensure improvements can be maintained in the long term
- Ensure the park is resilient to climate change



# Castle Park Today

## Historic Importance

Castle Park has a unique historical and archaeological heritage being the site of the original Saxon settlement of Bristol; the site of Bristol Castle and the centre of 17th-19th century trade and retail in the city. It contains a number of important historic listed buildings and structures, (St Peter's Church being the most prominent), and considerable archaeological remains, the majority of which have not been excavated.

Castle Park is on the site of the original Saxon Settlement of Bristol built C10 and the slightly later, very grand, C11 Bristol Castle, demolished by Oliver Cromwell after an Act of Parliament in 1656. That created an opportunity to expand the city's medieval commercial quarter with many churches, multi-storey warehouses and shops with residential premises above with many fronting onto the waterfront. Much of this city retail district remained untouched for centuries until the blitz of November 1940 during which the entire district was razed to the ground.

The ruins of the churches of St Peter and St Mary le Port are monuments to this destruction and a memorial to those who died in the bombings. The ruins lay untended save for the toppling of unsafe structures. The 1940s entailed the export of large volumes of Bristol's demolition rubble to New York as

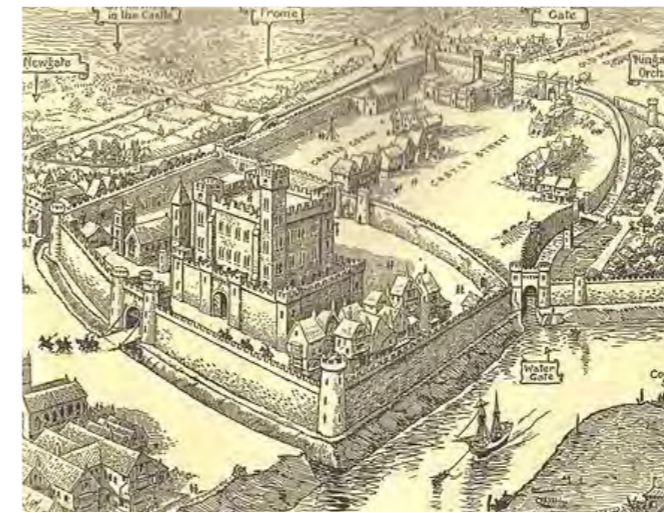
ballast in ships. In the 1950s further consolidation of the ground was undertaken to allow the formation of car parks and was suggested as the location of a new Museum and Art Gallery, which never got built, whilst the archaeological remains were poorly preserved.

The area was laid out as a park in the 1970s and opened in 1978. The park contains the excavated remains of the Norman Castle keep and significant public art installations, memorial trees and gardens and an informal events area. The derelict buildings on the western end of the park (the St Mary le Port site) form a discordant and negative boundary line cutting off High Street from the park to its east and present a number of public safety issues.

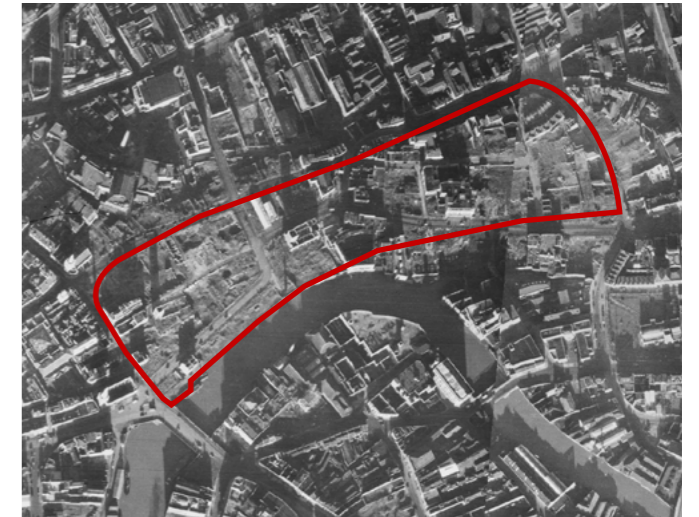
At the north east end of the park there are a few remains of the keep and curtain wall of the C11 Bristol Castle. These features have been preserved and identified with informal site markers. The harbour and its wall to the south falls within the curtilage of the central conservation area. The high rubble walls containing the north side of the harbour are probably 18th or early 19th century, perhaps with some earlier fabric embedded.

### Castle Park Evolution

Castle Park opened in 1978. The creation of the Galleries shopping centre in the 1980s led to additional funding for the park and the chance to provide a purpose-built car park to enable the whole area to be given over to a park landscape. Bristol City Museum archaeologists undertook further investigation of the Castle Keep to form part of the landscape and the new enlarged Castle Park was re-opened in 1991 together with the bandstand and new 'mock castle' toilets. During the re-landscape works of the park in the early 1990s, 20 artists were commissioned to create environmental artwork for



1480 - Bristol Castle



1940 - Destroyed in the blitz



1850 - A dense city centre



Castle Park 1960

Castle Park. This was the largest public landscape and art commissioning project in the southwest. As a result artists designed benches, railings, wooden play equipment (now removed) and waste bins as well as the more noticeable works such as; 'Beside the Still Waters' by Peter Randall- Page located to the east of St Peter's, 'Throne' by Rachel Fenner close to the Randall-Page work, 'Line From Within' by Ann Christopher a tall cast bronze sculpture facing the top of Union Street, 'Drinking Fountain' by Kate Malone close to the Sally Port and 'Only the Dead Fish Go With the Flow' by Victor Moreton towards the northeast/Cabot Circus corner of the park.

As well as a popular city centre park for leisure uses particularly as a lunchtime venue in the summer months or a space for events like Bristol Pride,

Castle Park has taken on a semi-formal wartime remembrance role. The ruined St Peter's Church has become an important city memorial for the victims of the Bristol Blitz and commemorative plaques have been added to the church wall. World War I memorials have also been set to the paved area in front of the church and a memorial to the Bristol citizens who lost their lives as volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. Elsewhere in the park there are memorial trees including 5 D-Day Birch trees, one for each of the Allied beaches, planted above the ferry landing stage. There is also a Sikh memorial garden planted close to St Peter's to commemorate members of that community who lost their lives fighting for Britain in the 20th century conflicts.

# Heritage Assets & Memorials

## Designated Archaeological Remains and Historic Buildings

Castle Park contains heritage assets of varying importance, designated as Scheduled Monuments or as Listed Buildings. Others are not designated but still nationally important, and some of more local importance and interest. The need to manage these assets for their protection and enhancement should reflect their known or potential level of importance, but will also depend on the vulnerabilities, issues and pressures which affect them.

The masterplan has been informed by the Conservation Plan for Castle Park, prepared in 2008, to inform the future management of Castle Park. The Plan should be updated in line with the design proposals and next stages of Masterplan design work.

Parts of the park which are not protected by scheduling or listing have been identified as having High Archaeological Potential.

The historic street pattern is currently not interpreted on site and there is an opportunity to capture the traces of the layout in the masterplan, particularly to the western side of the park.

The scheduled sites within Castle Park and immediate vicinity are shown in the adjacent diagram and comprise:

- The Vaulted Chambers (SAM No. 116)
- Vaults to the north of St Peter's Church (SAM No. 163)
- St. Mary-le-Port Church Tower (SAM No. 104)
- Medieval Vaults in High Street (SAM No. 136)

The listed buildings in Castle Park, as highlighted in the diagram adjacent, comprise:

- St Peter's Church – Grade II\*
- The Vaulted Chamber – Grade II
- Remains of Bristol Castle Keep – Grade II
- St Mary le Port – Grade II

The proposals on the following pages are subject to further consultation and engagement with Historic England and subject to archaeological and topographical surveys at future design stages.





### Memorial Gardens

In addition to the heritage assets, Castle Park contains a rich variety of memorials and memorial gardens. These include:

- Sikh Memorial Garden
- Normandy Garden of Peace
- The memorial to the victims of the Bristol Blitz at St Peter's Church

Future designs should sensitively respond to these existing features and should ensure views to and from the memorial are maintained or enhanced. Additionally, future design stages should consider how a dedicated remembrance memorial can be created within Castle Park.

### Legend

-  Scheduled Monument - Partial remains of Bristol Castle,
-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Listed Heritage Features
-  Other Heritage Features

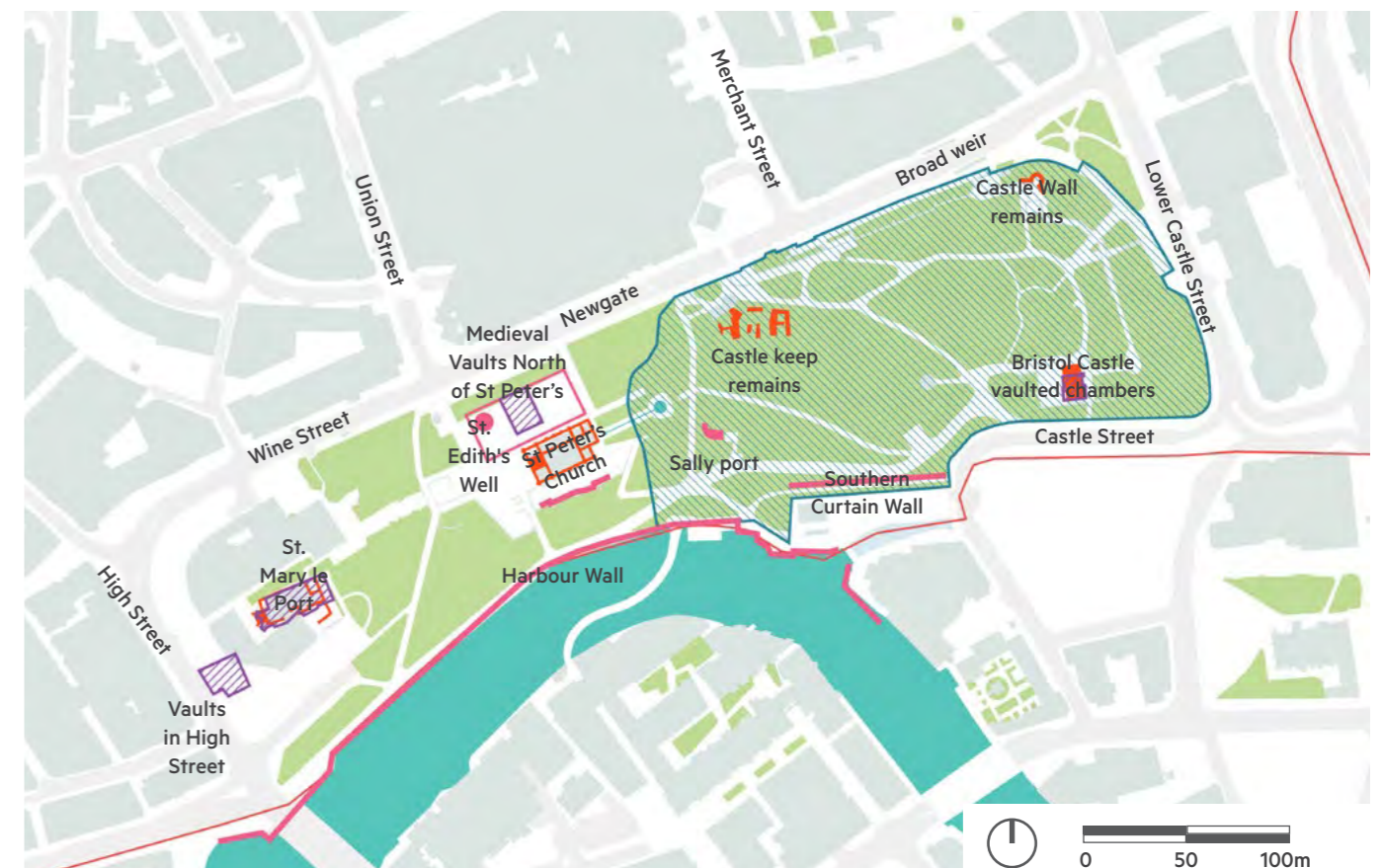


Fig. 92 Castle Park Heritage Features and Proposed Scheduled Ancient Monument

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# Heritage Assets & Memorials

## Designated Archaeological Remains and Historic Buildings

As set out on the previous page, Castle Park contains numerous heritage assets. The below sets out various heritage assets the masterplan aims to reveal and celebrate.

### Remains of the Former Wall to St Peter's Hospital, now embedded in the Wall to St Peter's Churchyard

Not scheduled or listed. This wall was consolidated in the early 1990s as part of the scheme to improve the park as a whole. It constitutes the only above ground remains of the medieval Hospital. Conservation repairs are needed and an opportunity to improve the setting and interpretation.

### Remains of Sally Port

Not scheduled or listed. The remains of the Sally Port are not open to the public, but have been accessible in the past. There is an opportunity to improve the setting and interpretation.

### Harbour Wall

The late 18th century harbour side wall was built as part of the wider redevelopment of this part of Bristol including Bristol Bridge and the adjoining Bridge Street development. Bristol Bridge is a grade II listed building and the wall should be considered to form part of its setting. As a structure, largely intact, dating from before 1840 and representing an important stage in the 18th century development of the city, the wall could be regarded as a special structure and of national historic importance and that statutory listing should be considered.

### The Vaulted Chambers

The Vaulted Chambers is the only part of the castle to still survive above ground and is thought to have originally been the entrance to the castle's great hall. The Vaulted Chambers has recently been converted

into a popular café and there is an opportunity to improve the external space and open up the site to Castle Street to provide an enhanced gateway to the park.

### Castle Keep

The Castle Keep is in urgent need of sensitive conservation repair and an improved landscape / public realm setting and interpretation. The site is currently not safe for visitors, particularly the disabled, and the setting and interpretation are poor.

### Simon Oliver's House

The scheduled remains of Simon Oliver's house (cellars only) lie under the paved area north of St Peter's and may be in poor condition. Further cellars may exist but have not been excavated. There is an opportunity to improve the interpretation.

### St Peter's Church

The church has recently undergone repairs. There is currently no use or visitor access or night time lighting to celebrate the structure, and more interpretation is needed.

### St Peter's Pump and St Edith's Well

The earliest documentary reference to the well dates to 1391, when it was known as St Peter's Pump or St Edith's Well. The reference to St Edith suggests that it may have been Anglo-Saxon. There is an opportunity to further reveal and celebrate the well, including enhanced lighting and interpretation.

### Underground Spaces and Vaulted Chambers

There are several underground spaces and vaulted chambers within the boundaries of Castle Park. Future design stages should sensitively respond to these heritage assets and should explore opportunities for improved use and interpretation.



Fig. 93 Historic Harbour Wall



Fig. 94 Existing walls within Castle Park



Fig. 95 Castle Keep remains



Fig. 96 Sally Port



Fig. 97 St Peter's Church & Physics Garden



# Previous Studies

This Masterplan is not starting from afresh and there has been a lot of work undertaken previously. Listed below are several of the previous key studies below which have been used as a starting point to inform the requirements and the design approach.

The following documents have been produced within a framework of existing legislation and planning documents and policies and some will have been superseded. It is not intended to repeat any of the guidance set out in these previous studies or external documents.

## The Castle Park Improvement Plan 2005-2015

The Castle Park Improvement Plan 2005-2015 produced by Bristol Parks set out a 10-year vision and proposals for the improvement of Castle Park. The detail of these improvement strategies has been reviewed and the relevant recommendations included in the Castle Park Masterplan.

## Castle Park, Conservation Management Plan, September 2008

The conservation plan was prepared in 2008 for Bristol City Council to inform the future management of Castle Park, taking the importance of the park's heritage assets into account and the desirability of providing a satisfactory level of conservation.

The historic development of the park is described in detail for each of the individual character areas and heritage assets. This report therefore only provides a brief description of the history of the area covered by the park, and its effect on the historic landscape.

## Castle Park: Improvement Project consultation – Feedback Report June 2016

This report identified themes from the comments received during the Castle Park consultation process in November 2015. The report set out recommendations and for future phases of improvement work as and when funding becomes available.

In addition to the above there are several recent studies and plans which build on the above. These include:

- The City Centre Framework: Castle Park Sub area 2018
- The City Centre Framework 2020
- Bristol Parks Forum Vision 2019
- Bristol Legible City 2.0 October 2019 appraisal
- Friends of Castle Park Members Analysis 2021



Fig. 98 Historic Photograph of Castle Park



Fig. 99 Front Cover of City Centre Framework

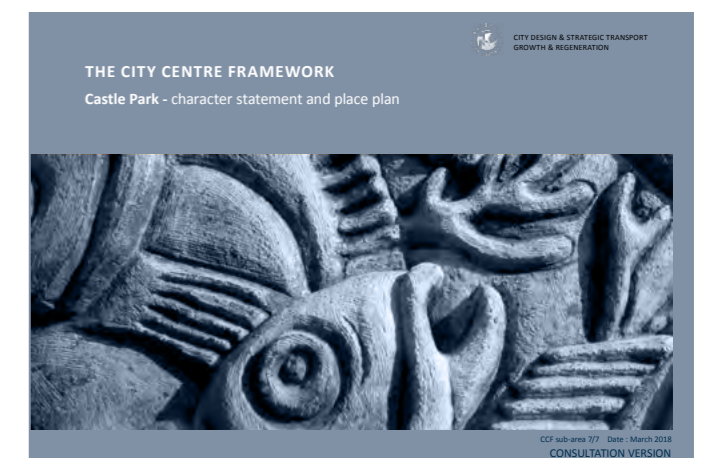


Fig. 100 Front Cover of City Centre Framework Castle Park Place Plan

# Castle Park Today

## Summary of Design Considerations

The following plan captures the various existing natural and physical assets of the park. Each layer is an important design consideration to guide and inform the design of different areas of the park, as presented and verified by stakeholders during the engagement. These include the following:

### Gateways and entry points are unclear and uninviting

Many of the current entry points seem unplanned and a result of the uses changing around the park. The most used entry points lack a sense of arrival with poor wayfinding. They are often busy and pedestrians clash with cyclists and highways. The less used entry points are in dark corners, provide convoluted and unclear routes and often create wasted space, contributing to high levels of anti-social behaviour. Carefully redesigning and improving these entry points and increasing the number of entrances into the park will make it more permeable and transparent and help create a sense of identity and safety to the park.

### Topography and walls

The landform and existing walls are a key part of the character of the park and help with the local microclimate and ecology. However, they do present significant challenges in terms of access, inclusivity and public safety. There is an opportunity to sensitively remove a number of the 1970s walls to open up the park to improve accessibility and visibility into the park to create an inclusive environment.

The simplified contours on the adjacent plan illustrate the significant changes in level the masterplan needs to work with, including from 13m along the waterfront – to 19m along the ridgeline of St Peters Church. Similarly in the north east corner there is 7-8m change in level to overcome between Penn Street /Broadweir and the park.

### Existing tree structure

There is a wide range of tree species within Castle Park that create seasonal interest, habitat and shelter throughout the park and are an important asset. There is a need to retain as many trees of value as possible. However, there is also a need to plan for the future:

- Consider the future succession of the planting and adaptation to climate change;
- Potential options to increase the species diversity of planting for the local ecology
- Consider long term management of the trees and identify areas of planting that would benefit from thinning or lifting of their canopies to promote improved visibility and light within parts of the park

In order to fully inform the next stage of the design process and to assess the park trees health and condition it is recommended an arboricultural assessment of all trees within Castle Park is undertaken, in accordance with BS5837, prior to the next stage of design development work.

### Enhancing biodiversity

To maximise usable space the park is managed with mown lawns with limited habitat for nature. More could be done to enhance the environment for wildlife and engaging local people to participate in looking after the spaces.

### After dark experience and public safety

An important design consideration is understanding how the park functions at night. In order to address public safety concerns, there is a need to improve the lighting of the park in key areas to ensure there are safe primary routes around or through the park for all users regardless of age, gender or ability, whilst also ensuring a balance of the needs of the nocturnal wildlife. Improving CCTV, passive surveillance, blind spots and the lighting strategy would help create a safer environment.

### Heritage assets going into disrepair

Castle Park has many heritage assets which make it unique and add to its list of attractions but over time these ruins have become worn and at risk. This is a great opportunity to make use of these assets creating a new offering to central Bristol.

### Links to Floating Harbour

The Floating Harbour is a key asset and the stretch of water in front of Castle Park is a missed opportunity. There is real opportunity for the Floating Harbour to make more accessible and opened up to allow people to get closer to the waterfront as well as become an important ecological corridor for wildlife.

### Legend








-  Highway edge
  -  Existing cycle route
  -  Urban edge
  -  High walls
  -  Entry points:
  -  Perceived unsafe areas
  -  Heritage assets and Scheduled ancient monuments
1. Bristol Bridge - Traffic dominated and awkward.
  2. Union Street - Traffic dominated leading to St Peters square.
  3. Castle Bridge - Arrive at lower level. Pedestrian / cyclist conflict.
  4. The Galleries - Faced with large walls and poor legibility.
  5. Castle Street - Pedestrian / cycle conflict. Poor arrival experience.
  6. Cabot Circus - Faced with large walls, tunnels and dark corners. Potential to be main entrance.



Fig. 101 Design Considerations Castle Park

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# Opportunities

## Opportunities

The diagram starts to set out potential opportunity areas, design considerations and constraints that will need to be addressed to help define an agreed future vision for Castle Park. This vision will be used to apply for funding to deliver the proposals set out in this masterplan. In order for Castle Park to continue to be a focus for civic pride, identity and quality to the city centre Castle Park needs investment and must work harder. The Park needs to be compelling, legible, welcoming to all and offer rich and memorable experiences, where people and investment gravitate. It should be a place where people want to meet, communicate, entertain, play, be amazed and enjoy. It must be a destination that is diverse, dynamic, vibrant and inviting to all neighbouring communities and visitors.



Fig. 102 Castle Park Opportunities

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# Vision

For Castle Park

**INCLUSIVE,  
CONNECTED,  
RESPECTED,  
CELEBRATED,  
STRENGTHENED**

The Engagement Feedback sets out a clear set of objectives for a revitalised Castle Park and in summary the community wants the park to be:

- A safe, accessible and welcoming place for everyone with a range of facilities and night time uses
- A key part of the identity of the city centre and waterfront and an important leisure destination for all people of Bristol
- A place which marries the park's dynamic past to an exciting future
- Provides a unique experience for play, activity and events for all people
- Responds to the climate emergency and plays its part in enhancing biodiversity



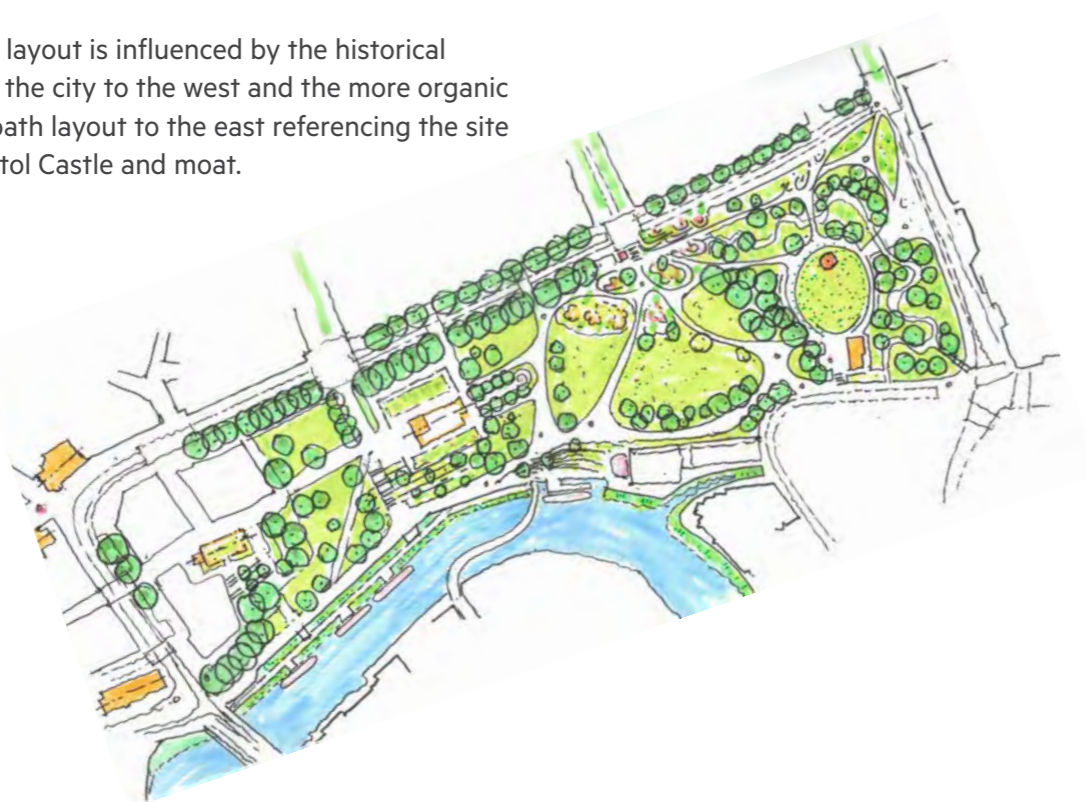
# Concept

## For Castle Park

At the heart of the concept of the landscape framework is to reveal and marry the park's dynamic past to an exciting future. It needs to be a destination that is inclusive, dynamic, biodiverse and inviting to all neighbouring communities and visitors. It must establish a place which is respectful and sensitive to the heritage and create a place where people want to meet, communicate, entertain, play, be amazed and enjoy.



The park concept layout is influenced by the historical street patterns of the city to the west and the more organic topography and path layout to the east referencing the site of the former Bristol Castle and moat.



The concept establishes a series of thematic centres across the park each drawing on the influence of the existing heritage and uses. These themes are used to reinforce the identity of the areas across the park and to extend their character outside of the park and to reinforce the connections with the city.



At the heart of the park is the transformation of St Peter's Church remaining walls and garden, with an enhanced civic space that provides a focus for the park and enables an enhanced public realm to extend across Newgate. This will create a new park gateway and connection with the Galleries redevelopment.

# Castle Park Masterplan

## Proposed Interventions

The Illustrative Masterplan in Fig. 103 indicatively shows the interventions proposed for Castle Park. This masterplan sets out the vision for the park, which is to be developed further at future design stages:

1. Explore sensitive transformation and reuse of St Peter's Church, celebrating its function as a memorial and protecting the historic fabric of the church. Use to be determined at detailed design stage following engagement with stakeholders, operators and management teams
2. Improved public realm space in front of St Peter's Church tower, with water-feature (subject to detailed surveys)
3. Improved stepped and terraced connection to waterfront on axis of former alignment of Dolphin Street and as extension to Union Street
4. Improved public realm space to the north of St Peter's Church with; additional pedestrian access entry points from Newgate to complement adjacent ground floor uses, enhanced setting to historic assets such as St Edith's Well and new café facility to complement existing cafe (Edna's Kitchen) with free and accessible WCs
5. Extend the park across Newgate and provide an enhanced urban Gateway from Union Street and shared space treatment to Broadweir
6. Physics Garden extended and new garden spaces created around St Peter's Church
7. New Play Area - focussed 0-4 year old
8. New natural / sensory play garden
9. New footpath connection to connect with Castle Street on axis of former street
10. New pedestrian Gateway to Merchant Street comprising steps and landscape terraces and potential for external lift access pavilion with active ground floor use e.g. cycle hub/ cafe
11. Enhanced landscape setting and access to Castle Keep with interpretation
12. New cycle route around Castle Park, linking Baldwin Street cycle lane, proposed Union Street cycle lane to Frome Gateway cycle lane and Old Market Street roundabout
13. Enhanced landscape terraces to the northern edge of the park with walls rationalised and parapets replaced with balustrades and enhanced, biodiverse planting
14. New pedestrian Gateway to Broadweir and Lower Castle Street, linking Castle Park to Penn Street – comprising steps and landscape terraces with potential for external lift access pavilion with active ground floor use e.g. cycle hub/cafe (subject to detailed archaeological / tree surveys)
15. Castle Park extended and new landscape space created and alignment of the culverted River Frome celebrated / represented through extensive biodiverse rain gardens
16. New Events Meadow - utilising existing slopes to adjacent planted areas to integrate informal seating
17. Existing woodland thinned and canopy raised to improve visibility in/out of the park
18. Setting to Vaulted Chambers Café enhanced with improved gateway to park and garden terrace
19. New stepped entrance and ridgeline tree walk
20. Celebrate Sally Port and create south-facing seating terraces using existing slopes (subject to archaeological survey)
21. New accessible route to Castle Bridge landing level and south-facing seating landscape terraces (subject to detailed topographical and arboricultural survey)
22. Enhanced cycle path along waterfront with defined pedestrian crossing points and cycle route to mitigate potential conflict
23. Floating boardwalk and floating reedbed between the ferry landings of Bristol Bridge with Castle Bridge
24. New viewing balconies created at key points along the waterfront promenade
25. Path realigned on axis of St Peter's Church tower
26. Existing causeway to be removed to open up views across park
27. New pedestrian connection from St Nicholas Market to St Peter's Church on axis of former Mary le Port street
28. New urban garden space and reuse of the former St Mary le Port Church
29. Enhanced gateway from Baldwin Street and Castle Bridge
30. Increase biodiversity value of the park by introducing more diverse planting palette throughout the park
31. Enhanced access to the bandstand
32. Potential for floating reedbed habitats and floating boardwalks with seating and spillout spaces



Fig. 103 Illustrative Masterplan

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Fig. 104 Illustrative Concept Visual of Castle Park Masterplan

NOTE: Concept visual - subject to detailed design at future design stages. Subject to topographical, arboricultural and archaeological surveys and further engagement.

# Castle Park Strategies



Fig. 105 Site photograph of Castle Park



# Key Strategies

## For Castle Park

The Castle Park Masterplan provides a vision for future projects and initiatives and to guide funding and expenditure. The Masterplan has been developed in response to the Engagement Feedback and site, and overlays a series of landscape strategies to shape and enrich the future of the Park. The Masterplan

is an integrated vision to guide strategic future use, organisation and management of the Park and to provide a framework for future projects and initiatives while aiming for economic and environmental sustainability.

The “Strategy” and “Key Projects” identified in this masterplan are high level proposals that set out the scope and direction of future work stages and studies. These proposals are the first step towards a concept design and are not a proposal for the design of specific interventions. Detailed testing against site surveys and

feasibility of proposals for individual initiatives will be developed in the future as funding and opportunities arise.

The park strategies set out below are described in more detail in the following section.

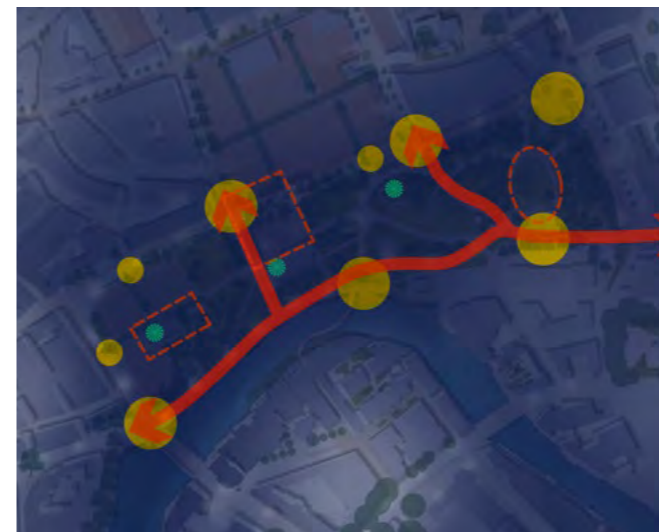
### Heritage Re- Use



### Park Gateways



### Lighting and Safety



### Play



### Movement - Pedestrian



### Movement - Cycle



### Facilities & Events



### Green Infrastructure



# Heritage Re-use

## Strategy

Castle Park has many heritage assets and memorials that are important to Bristol and as reported in the Engagement Feedback. The continued understanding of the history and significance of these assets is an important process when considering any alterations to areas of the park. All heritage assets will require further surveys and assessments to be undertaken to test the feasibility of the proposals

An important strategy in the masterplan is to make use of these assets creating a new offering to the Park and central Bristol. The following are three important heritage features which need particular consideration.

### St Peter’s Church

St Peter’s Church is a ruined church in the centre of Castle Park which was bombed during World War II and is now preserved as a memorial. The former Church has been designated by Historic England as a grade II\* listed building and is of enormous heritage value and needs further refurbishment and bringing into public use.

The church ruin is a special place, particularly given its central location and rich history, but is currently inaccessible by the public. Conservation and refurbishment work has recently been undertaken to the structure to meet public safety requirements. There is an opportunity to continue this conservation work with a new landscape intervention and enhanced setting with sensitive lighting and improved interpretation to create a focus to the park, as well as a place for contemplation and remembrance.

It is an area severed by walls and levels and the routes don’t feel generous and the spaces are currently underutilised can feel quite unsafe to walk through. The masterplan addresses this by creating a more legible and usable space in front of the church tower, celebrating the church’s function as a memorial space. The ambition is to celebrate the church, creating a quiet contemplative space within the park. Future design stages should consider the use and function of St Peter’s church in relation to the other ruined churches in central Bristol (St Mary le Port and Temple Church) to ensure the three churches complement each other. In addition, engagement with key stakeholders, including community groups, will be important in establishing the future use of St Peter’s Church.

### St Mary le Port

The consented development plan for St Mary le Port includes a new public space and garden within the church ruin. An additional key move for this scheme is connecting the Mary le Port Street from St Nicks Market and there is the opportunity to extend and connect with St Peter’s Church. There is a proposal to remove the causeway – which is made up of walls from the 1970s – which form a visual and physical block between Wine Street and the waterfront. By removing the causeway there is a larger lawn space which could be better utilised.

### Castle Keep

The Castle Keep needs urgent and sensitive conservation repair and the site is not safe for visitors and both the setting and the interpretation is poor. There is an opportunity to create an improved landscape setting and public garden space for the former keep as an integral part of the new park gateway with Merchant Street. The potential removal of the Galleries footbridge and associated ramp would significantly open up this space to Newgate and Broadmead.

### Heritage Trail

The Bristol Blitz from November 1940 – April 1941 destroyed 3 churches in central Bristol – St Mary le Port Church; St Peter’s Church and Temple Church. Each church is of enormous heritage value but is in need of fabric protection and refurbishment while increasing their potential use as a community asset.

Together with the proposed repair of St Mary le Port Tower and the creation of a new public space around the ruins, as part of the St Mary le Port development, there is an opportunity to link these 3 transformed church spaces which have the potential to contribute as a collective to the social and cultural value of the city.

There is an opportunity to extend the Old City heritage trail, which includes St Nicholas Market, and extend it into the park from the historic city loop. The concept sketch explores the potential of extending the trail / walk beyond the park and connecting with St Mary le Port, St Peter’s Church and Temple Church. With a new landscape intervention for each church, and each space developed with a different theme but inked by an overarching narrative to significantly increase their combined value as both tourist and community assets. There is an opportunity to combine this strategy for both day and night community uses.



Fig. 106 Heritage Trail Concept Proposal



Fig. 107 St Mary le Port Precedent



Fig. 108 St Peter's Church Precedent



Fig. 109 Temple Church Precedent

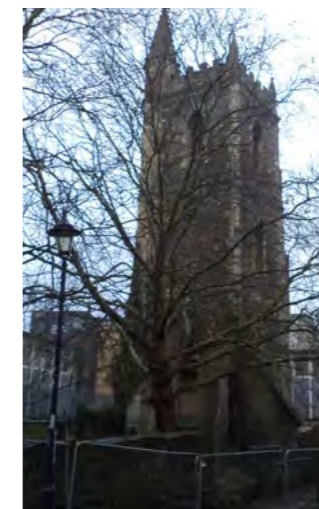


Fig. 110 St Mary le Port



Fig. 111 St Peter's Church

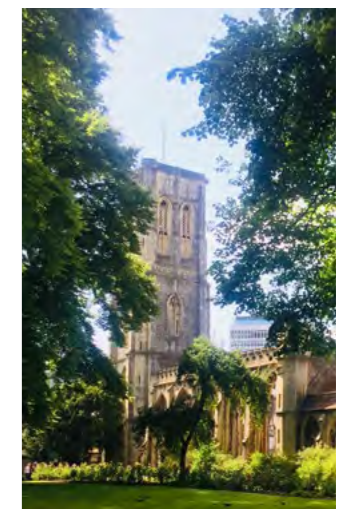


Fig. 112 Temple Church

# Heritage Re-use

## Heritage Interpretation

There are opportunities to create heritage trails through Castle Park that link together both the built and natural heritage assets and tell stories about the layers of history of the site. In addition, there is the potential for extending the heritage trail from the old city and connecting with each of the ruined churches in central Bristol including St Mary le Port Church; St Peter's Church and Temple Church. Each former church could be themed to deliver a new community and cultural asset for the city.

Artistic interventions and events using the medium of light can make valuable contributions to the interpretation of Castle Park after dark - acting as attractors, enriching the experience of the public

realm and presenting additional layers of meaning and interpretation of the park history.

Experiential and interactive public art can be the most publicly accessible art form and the use of lighting and animated projections can play a key role in animating and bringing a sense of historic interpretation and experiential theatre to public spaces. As lighting is ephemeral, there is no physical impact on historic buildings and landmarks and can also provide a different perspective on well-known and well-loved spaces, giving a sense of how they could reinvent themselves as part of an experiential approach to Bristol city centre as a destination.

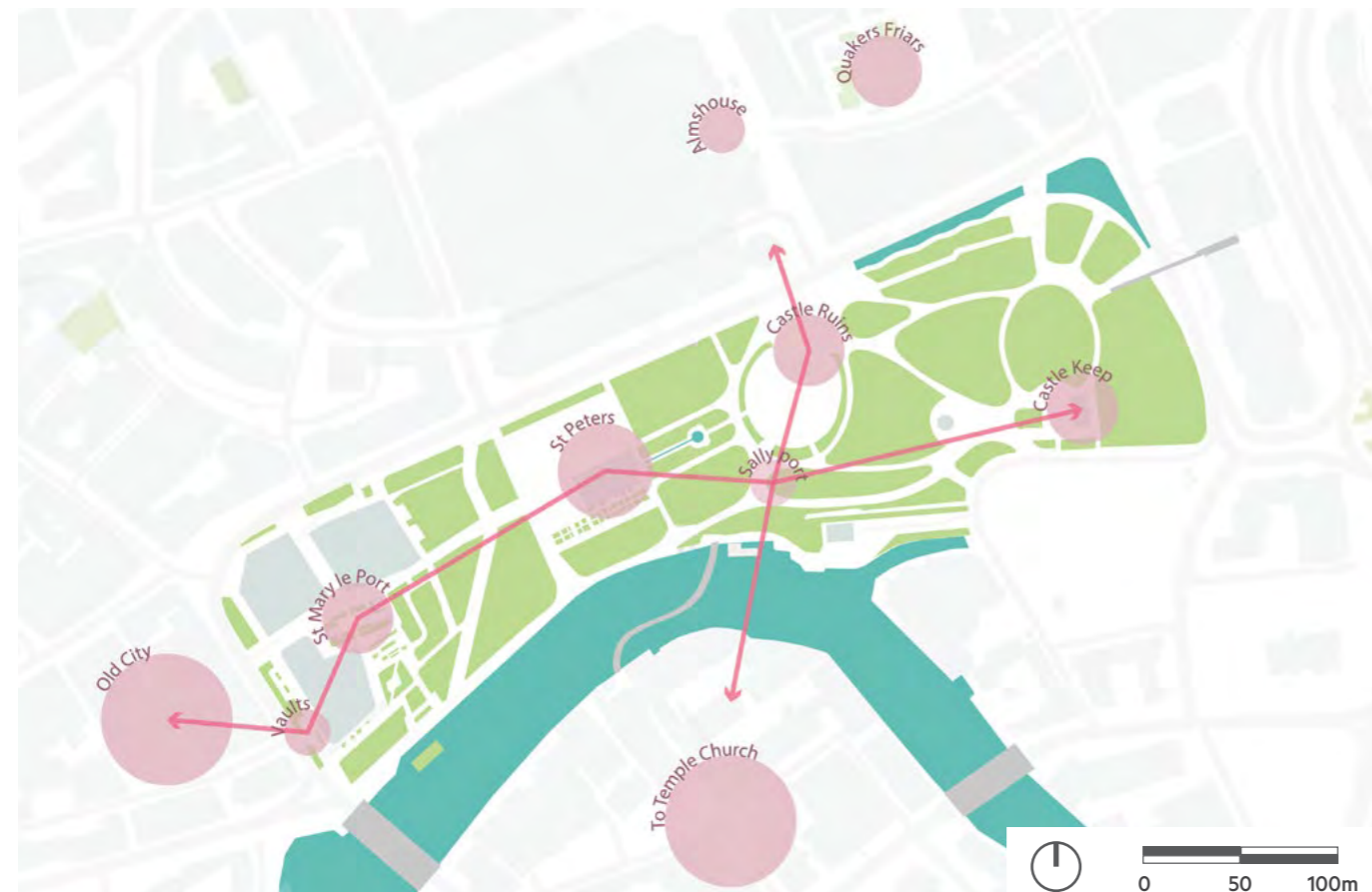


Fig. 113 Heritage Trail Strategy Diagram

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Case Study of sensory garden in historic building - Lowther Castle



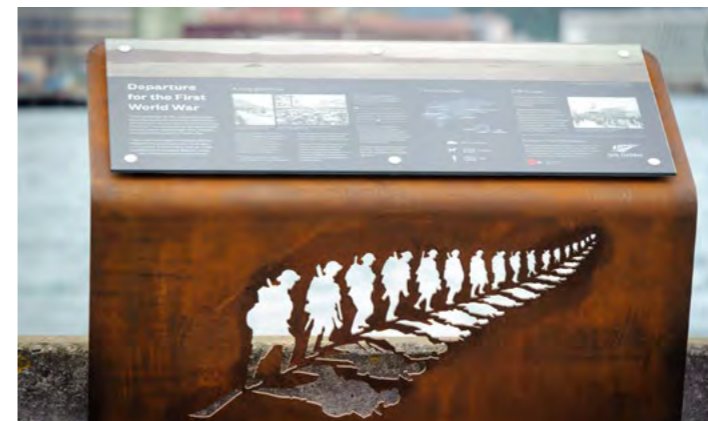
Case Study of historic church building as event space - Liverpool



Case Study of lighting art in historic context - Lyon



Case Study of historic building in modern development - London Wall Place



Case Study of heritage interpretation sign



Case Study of interpretation- Wayfinding in Barcelona

# Park Gateways

## Existing Gateways

A key finding from the stakeholder engagement and site analysis is the uninviting entry points to the park and the lack of access particularly in the north east. The combination of high walls, dense tree planting and narrow hidden routes render the north and eastern edge of the park disconnected, unsafe and uninviting to the surrounding community and visitors to Broadmead.

Furthermore, Castle Park is severed from Broadmead and surrounding communities by the traffic dominated road around three of its edges. There are limited designated pedestrian crossing points to connect the park entrances with the wider city centre. Existing entrances are narrow and lack any sense of arrival. They are often busy and pedestrians clash with cyclists and highway.

### Legend





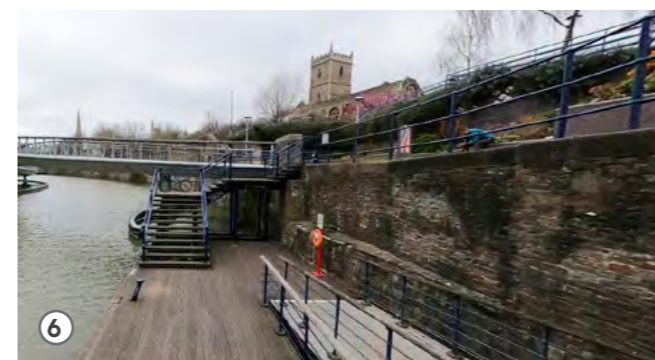
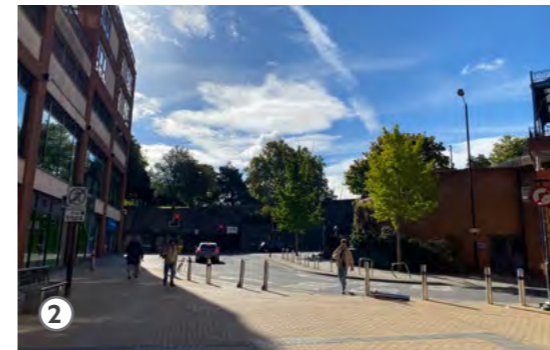
-  Existing Primary Gateway
-  Existing Primary Gateway - Lost Visual Connection
-  Existing Secondary Entrance
-  Existing Secondary Entrance - Lost Visual Connection



Fig. 114 Existing Park Entrances and Gateway

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1. View from junction of Bridge Street and High Street 2. View from Merchant Street towards Castle Park 3. View from Castle Park towards Lower Castle Street 4. Steps from Castle Park to Broad Weir 5. View from Union Street towards Castle Park 6. Castle Park Ferry Landing

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# Park Gateways

## Enhanced & Proposed Gateways

The masterplan sets out the following recommendations:

- Establish a hierarchy of entry points and enhance the existing primary and secondary gateways into Castle Park by making them more visible; resolving level changes to promote accessible routes where achievable; increasing the width of pedestrian footpaths and improve park-wide wayfinding
- Create new gateways in locations identified to provide real opportunities to connect the park with the surrounding context and communities. The new

gateways are to encourage better use of the park and open up areas which are currently isolated due to lack of clear access and legible routes

- Enhance the edges of the park to make them more usable and safer for people E.g. integrated seating and planting terraces; amenity uses such as cafés or a cycle hub; and reduce barriers to allow more visual permeability into and out of the park
- Improve accessibility of the gateways in a sensitive way, taking into consideration site constraints such as heritage assets and existing trees

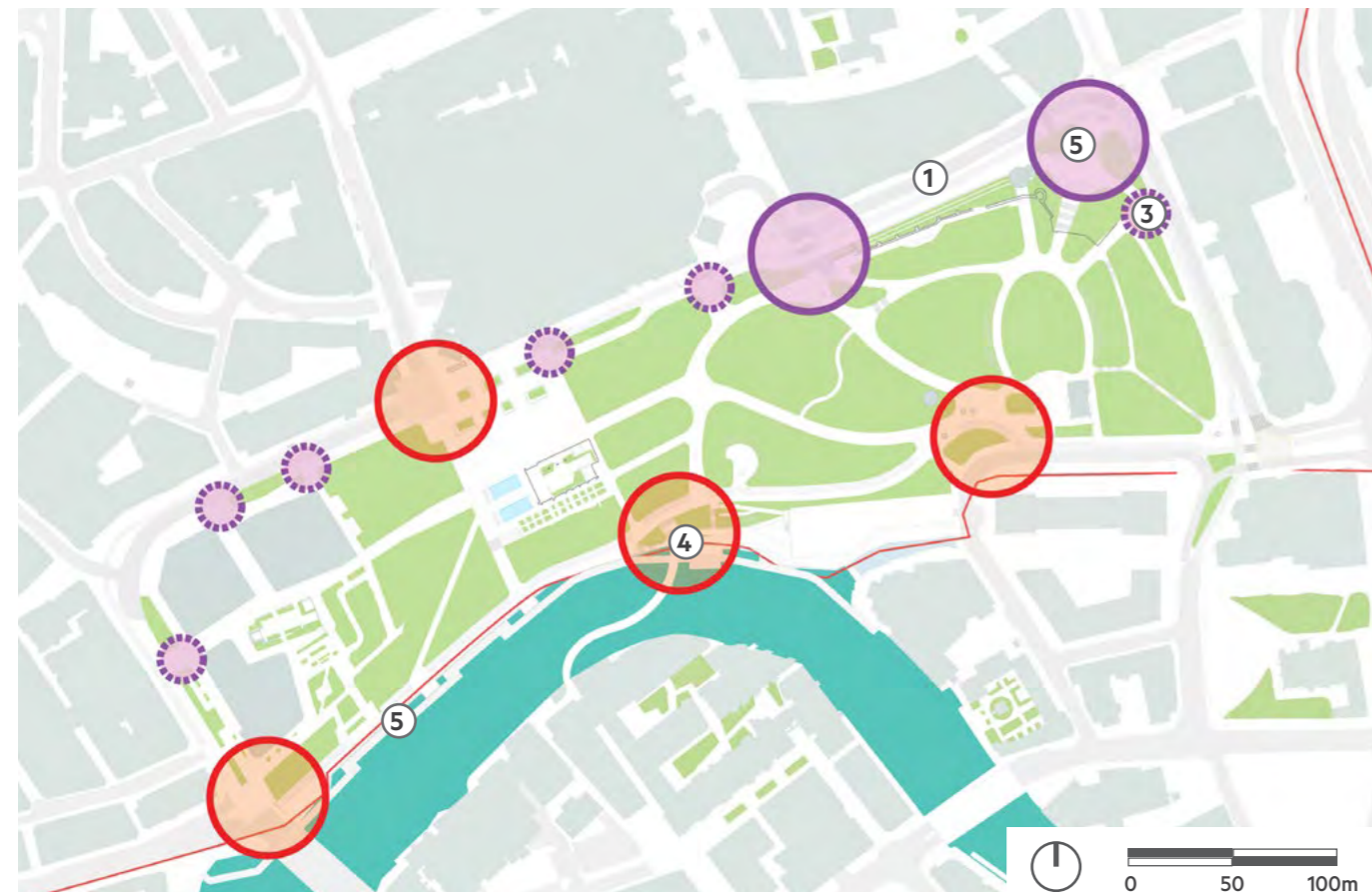


Fig. 115 Entrances and Gateways Strategy

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### Legend

- Enhanced Existing Primary Gateway
- Proposed Primary Gateway
- Proposed Secondary Gateway

### Precedent images

1. Green Seating Terraces - Taichung, Taiwan
2. Alternative step free route - Minneapolis
3. Steps through urban woodland edge that maintain visibility through movement corridor - Denmark
4. South facing Seating Terraces - Chicago
5. Balconies overlooking waterfront - Chicago
6. Stepped access - Beijing

# Movement

## Existing Pedestrian and Cycle Movement

Castle Park is at a strategic site in the city and is both a destination and a space to walk and cycle through to connect to other parts of the city.

There are multiple shared paths connecting north-south but the east-west paths are limited to the waterfront route. This waterfront route is relatively narrow and at times can be congested, causing conflict to occur between cyclist and pedestrians particularly at entry points or path connection points.

The park is disconnected with the city centre by the surrounding road network, the walled nature of the park and the limited number of pedestrian crossings.

Gateways into the park and wayfinding are unclear and inconsistent.



Fig. 116 Existing Active Travel Network



Fig. 117 Site Photo - Existing cycle path to Floating Harbour. The adjacent footpath is narrow and there is a lack of delineation between the routes.



Fig. 118 Site Photo - Existing cycle path to Floating Harbour with benches facing onto the cycle path. The adjacent footpath is narrow and there is a lack of delineation between the routes.

# Movement

## Pedestrian Movement

### Pedestrian circulation

The strategy is to establish an improved network and hierarchy of pathways and routes across the park, better connecting the existing gateways and new entry points and responding to desire lines. A clearer hierarchy of footpaths, paving and path types with seating and rest points are recommended, together with the removal of certain pathways and the reinstatement of some of the paths on the alignment of historic streets. The plan includes the following realigned and new primary paths:

1. A primary pedestrian path on axis with Union Street to the waterfront combined with steps and terraces. Combined with a realigned diagonal secondary path from the waterfront to St Peter's Church
2. A primary pedestrian connection from St Mary le Port on axis with St Peter's Church and with the removal of the current causeway. The footpath continues from the north of the St Peter's Church and connects with Lower Castle Street
3. A new and realigned footpath link between Merchant Street and the waterfront
4. A widened and better defined pedestrian route along waterfront promenade to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists
5. New 'super crossings' to Castle Park perimeter to improve pedestrian connection from the Old City and Broadmead

The path network should reinforce the identity of the Park through new paving materials and introduce new secondary level pavement treatments as well as special treatments through garden beds and entry points. Proposed tertiary routes are less formal and use various materials (e.g. consolidated gravel/spay and chip) to improve the overall connectivity and spatial quality of the park.

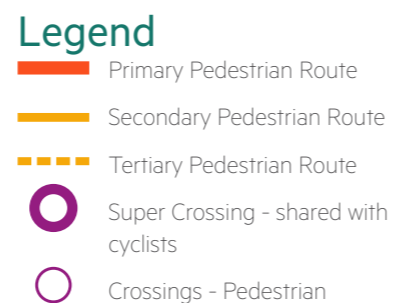


Fig. 119 Proposed Pedestrian Circulation

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# Movement

## Accessibility

Due to the natural landscape, walls and underground heritage, the topography of the park varies hugely and makes inclusive access challenging.

In order to meet the aim of promoting inclusivity throughout the park the following recommendations are to be tested in the next stages of design development against detailed topographical and arboricultural survey and an understanding of existing features:

- Provide a range of step-free and accessible routes, to accessible gradients (1:21 where possible) within the context of the topography of the park
- Where gradient is steeper than 1:21 due to existing site constraints, provide sufficient resting points to comply with best practice guidance
- For the new pedestrian gateways from Merchant Street and Broadweir there is the potential to provide external lift access to overcome the significant changes in level. An external lift should be associated with park amenities, such as café/bike hub, to ensure surveillance, ownership and maintenance is safeguarded. The feasibility of these proposals is to be tested at future design stages
- Incorporate recommendations from WECIL (West of England Centre for Inclusive Living) audit. This includes:
  - There is a need to provide colour contrast and raised indicators to delineate different uses along the share pedestrian/cycle route and provide crossing points for pedestrians
  - Changes in level should be gradual from a level start
  - In the Northeast entrance area, several paths are too steep at present. This could be improved by a more open area incorporating a cafe which could be used to house an internal lift. Alternatively, a ramped access point with several intermediate landings and resting points could be provided.
  - Better wayfinding is required, this could include a QR code to allow visually impaired people to follow the map using assistive technology
  - The path leading to the bridge to Finzels Reach needs a more gradual gradient with landings, tactile indicators and handrail to the stepped access, better wayfinding and railing near the waters edge for safety
  - There is a need for a public toilet, to include a changing place for disabled people
  - Better lighting is needed in several areas of the park
  - Benches and seating areas need improving. Benches should look like benches and should have back and hand rests. Space for wheelchair users should be considered.

### Legend

- Step-free access
- ☀ Potential for lift to overcome significant level difference
- ⋯ Alternative routes avoiding lift access
- Super Crossing - shared with cyclists
- Super Crossing - Pedestrian
- Ⓣ Option for new taxi rank location (to be reviewed with trade and key stakeholders as part of future detail design)
- Ⓟ Opportunity for additional bus and coach drop off to be considered as part of future detailed design



Fig. 120 Proposed Pedestrian Circulation

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# Movement

## Proposed Cycle Movement - Reducing conflict between uses

Castle Park is an important link in Bristol's cycle movement network with National Cycle Network Route 4 running through the park. However, this route, along the waterfront, causes conflict between pedestrians and cyclists. The DDP movement strategy proposes wider active travel network improvements that will help relieve pressure on NCN4 through the park. Combined with enhanced demarcation of the cycle route through the park and the removal of the City Centre Framework proposal for a primary diagonal route through the park, this will help mitigate conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

The strategy for promoting active travel includes the following:

1. Increased demarcation and pedestrian crossing points along the waterfront cycle route to help reduce the conflict between

pedestrian and cyclists on this popular east – west route

2. Demarcation of the footpath junctions where they meet the cycle route to slow cyclists down to reduce conflict
3. A proposed additional cycle route along High Street, Wine Street, Newgate, Broad Weir connecting to Penn Street, Lower Castle Street and eastwards to ease the pressure/number of cyclists through Castle Park and along the waterfront
4. A number of crossings and Super Crossings (to include crossings for cyclist and pedestrians) at the key gateways into Castle Park
5. Supported cycling infrastructure such as a increased cycle parking and a cycle hub pavilion (to include additional facilities , e.g. cafe and workshop) at the entry points



Fig. 121 Cycling and Active Travel Strategy

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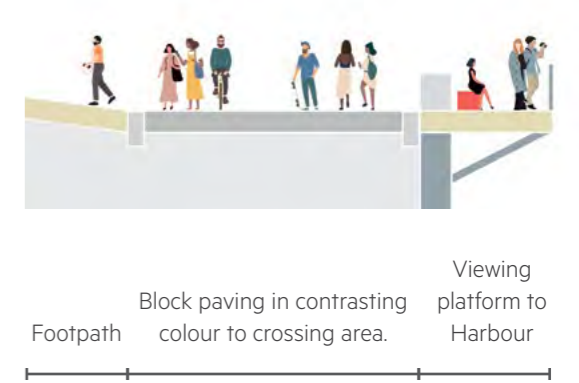
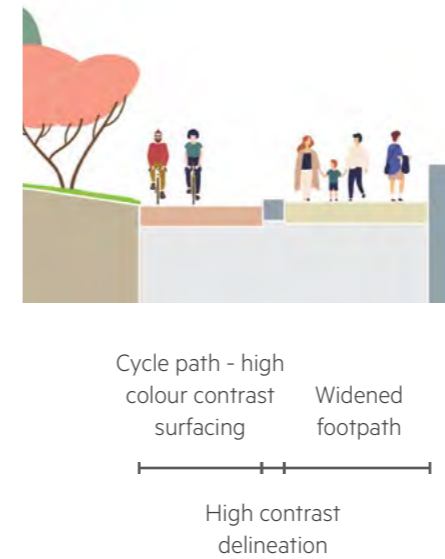


Fig. 122 Typical Proposed Plan & Section of Floating Harbour Cycle Path



Fig. 123 Typical Proposed Plan & Section of Floating Harbour Path - Crossing

# Lighting and Safety

## After Dark Strategy

The current lighting to the park is not meeting the needs of users, addressing public safety concerns or unlocking the full potential for the night-time experience of the park.





Within this framework, lighting needs to provide several roles. The lighting of the park needs to provide safety and security by providing sensitive lighting of key footpaths and facilities and primary routes. However, it should also create a distinct and unique destination by enhancing the setting, illuminating landscape features and providing art features and installations that activate the park in the evening.

In addition to addressing the public safety requirements, Castle Park has the potential to have an alternative life after dark, either throughout the year and seasons or associated with local or regional events and activities. The park has the potential to be a focus for Bristol's annual light festival to showcase the park and Bristol at their best and incorporate local heritage and popular culture into a festival.

The following recommendations should be addressed in the next design stages:

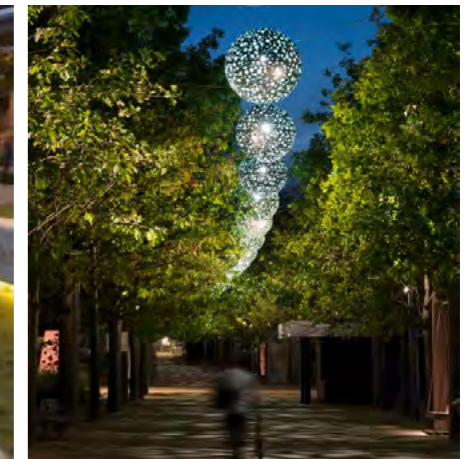
- To undertake a Lighting Masterplan for Castle Park and to review the associated infrastructure and service requirements to support the lighting framework. The Lighting Masterplan should be integrated with the approach to wayfinding
- The Lighting Masterplan must meet the objectives of:
  - Creating a night-time environment that feels safe and attractive to the users
  - Creating a lighting masterplan with input from an ecologist, to help identify important wildlife corridors, and ensure the night time environment is ecologically sensitive
  - Meet high standards of energy efficiency
  - Set out a framework for a number of projects that are aimed at redefining the night time identity of the Park and heritage assets such as St Peter's Church

### Legend

-  Key routes - sensitive lighting to create safe access through the park
-  Key gateways - sensitive lighting to ensure active park edges at all times
-  Key Park spaces - sensitive lighting subject to detailed lighting plan
-  Opportunities for lighting of heritage features



Lighting Precedent - Lighting of seating terraces - Brisbane



Lighting Precedent - Playful lighting - London



Precedent - Art installation to activate public realm in evening



Lighting Precedent - Art installation to activate public realm in evening Bristol

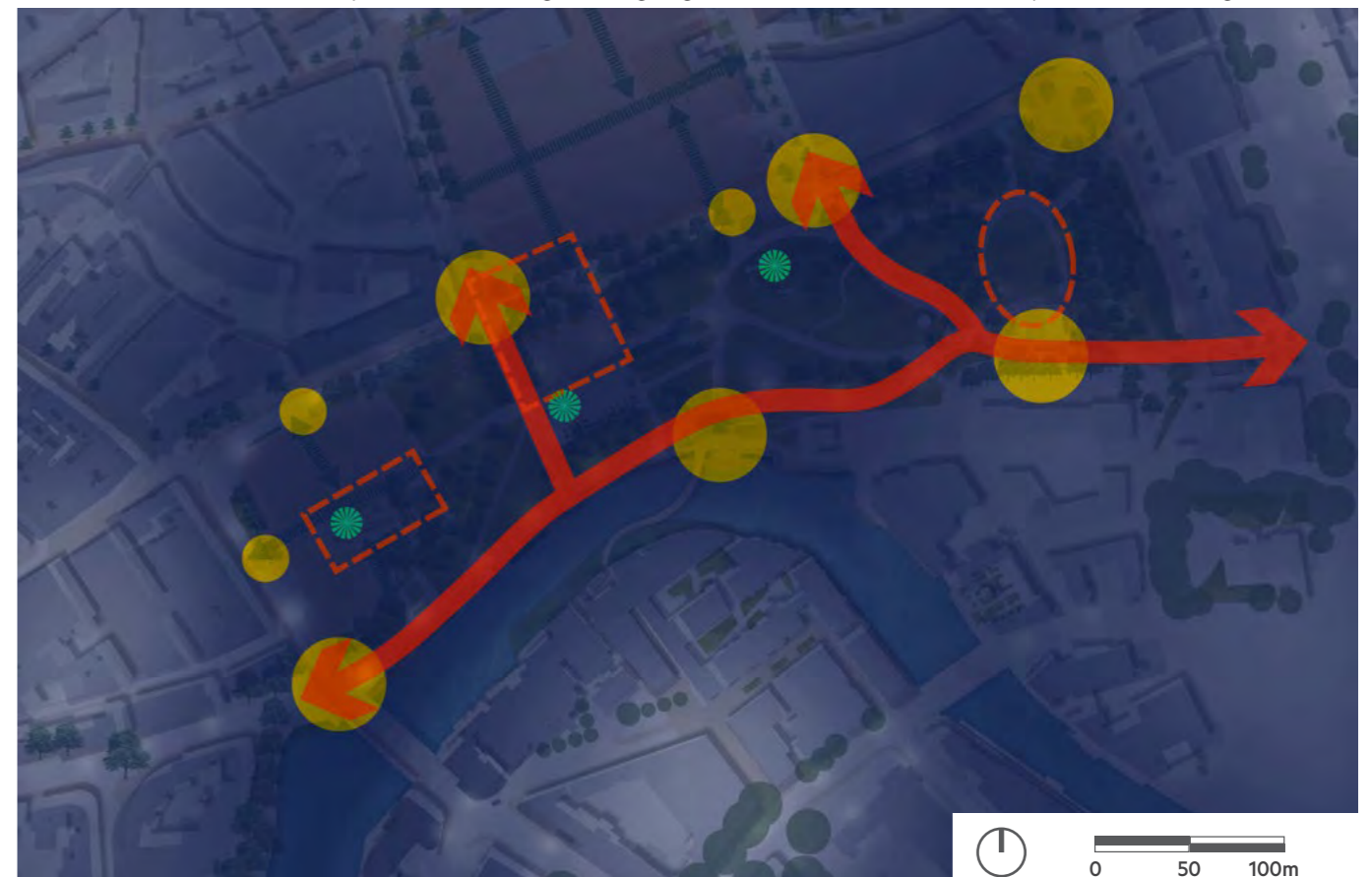


Fig. 126 Lighting, Night Time and Evening Strategy

# Green Infrastructure

## Extending Influence of Castle Park and Increasing Biodiversity

The green infrastructure strategy aims to extend the influence of Castle Park and increase the biodiversity value by:

- Increase influence of Castle Park along perimeter streets by extending the park character, including the greening, across surrounding streets
- Green frontages to be created to the edges facing onto the park through biodiverse vertical greening
- Wider range of habitats to be introduced throughout the park, including increased pollinator and berry rich habitats
- Create larger community connection with the park, including opportunities for community gardening and food growing
- New planting to future proof park for climate change and biosecurity
- Positively manage the existing tree canopy by retaining trees and protecting their root protection areas where possible, informed by arboricultural assessment
- Create an integrated SUDS system to capture and treat surface water runoff and increase the biodiversity value of the park

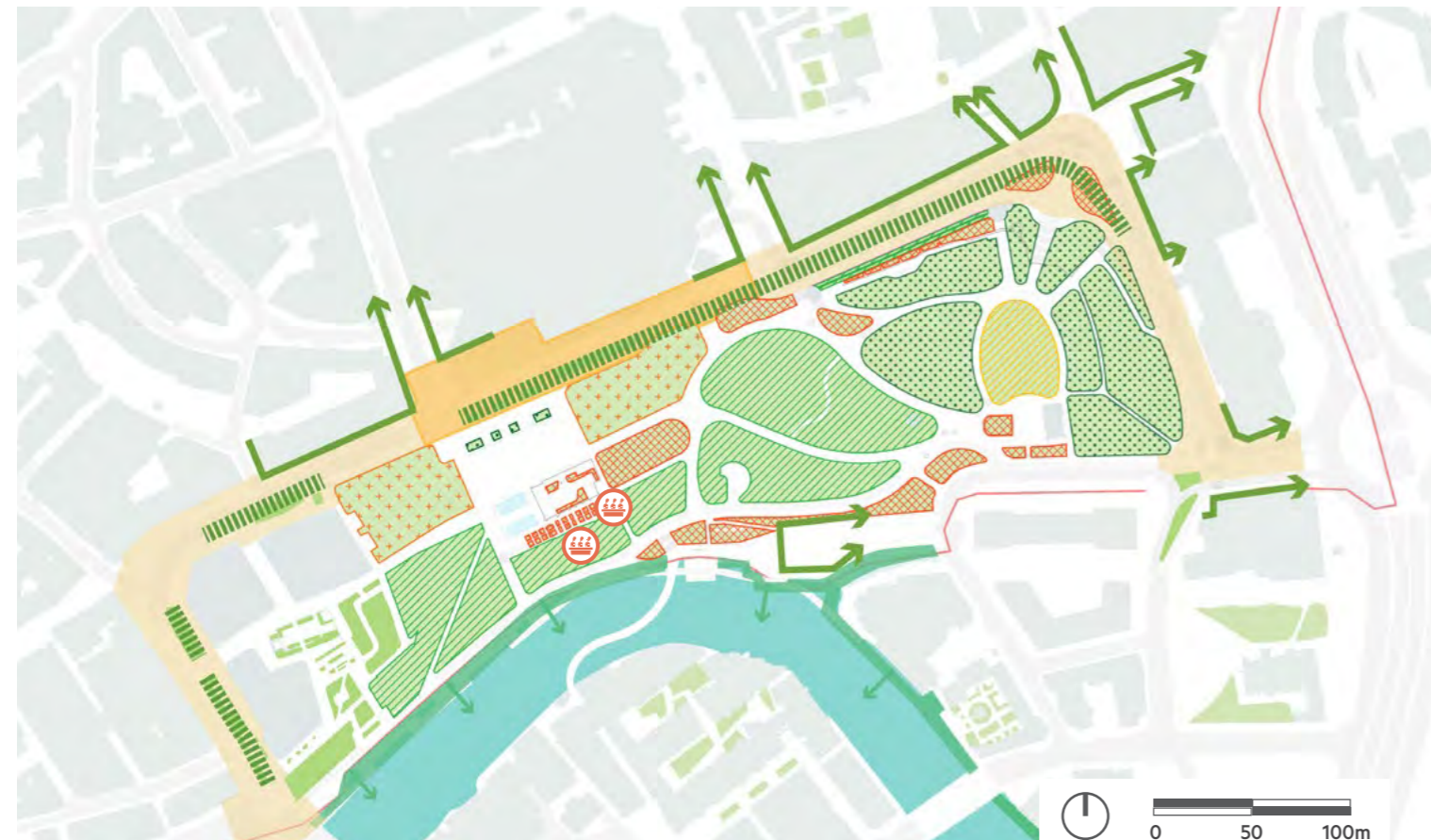


Fig. 127 Green Infrastructure Strategy

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Floating reedbeds to Floating Harbour



Frontage to Castle Park - Biodiverse Vertical Greening



Community food growing



Extend Physic Garden



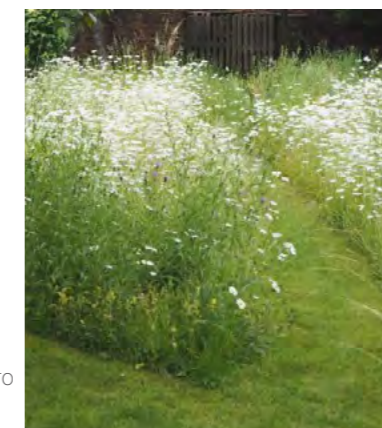
Low height, biodiverse shade tolerant understory planting



Sensory planting to play areas

### Legend

- Green frontage to Castle Park
- Extended greening
- Extended public realm
- Amenity Grassland
- Sensory play
- Biodiverse, low maintenance perennial
- Shade tolerant understory
- Floating reedbed
- Park extended across Newgate. Refer to Fig. 131 on page 144
- Community Growing Assets



Wildflower verges to flexible lawn spaces



Mixed Perennial planting to provide seasonal interest

# Play Strategy

Play is a vital part of the masterplan for Castle Park and to provide play facilities for existing and new communities. There is currently an under-provision of play within the City Centre and the importance of play has been emphasised by community representatives and stakeholders through the engagement process. Castle Park should therefore provide play spaces for existing and future communities by applying the following principles:

- Play spaces will be provided near to the Heart of the Park where there will be seating and surrounding active edges to overlook the play space
- Play will be provided for different age ranges. A focus will be on natural play and sensory play
- Play spaces should be inclusive and accessible to all. Specifically, play spaces should be inclusive and accessible to girls, woman and disabled people.

- The new play facilities will be developed to best practice of inclusive and accessible play. Making Space for Girls are a stakeholder in the design process. The design of the play incorporating swings and benches to encourage groups to meet and chat is some of the feedback received so far and will be incorporated
- Incidental play, play trails and opportunities for outdoor fitness for teenage and adults will be provided through the park to encourage movement and fitness
- Within the heart of the park in front of St Peter's Church, a grid of water fountains is proposed to activate the space both day and night. Water is used both as playable element and a calming and reflective element



Fig. 128 Play Strategy Diagram

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Precedent Image - Play Structures



Precedent Image - Landform Play



Precedent Image - Playable Space



Precedent Image - Play Equipment



Precedent Image - Multi-generational play



Precedent Image - Multi-generational play

## Legend

- Play Area - Play Garden
- Play Area - Equipped Pay Focused Ages 0-4
- Incidental & Multi-generational Play

# Facilities and Events

## Strategy

Castle Park has the opportunity to host diverse facilities and events, as set out below, but the needs of the community and wider city need to be carefully balanced.

- A range of activities are proposed to activate different parts of the park in suitable locations
- Build on the existing Incredible Edible Garden and other community growing assets by increasing areas and opportunities for community growing to encourage this to be part of local communities' lives and bring wider social benefits
- Create a community event space with enhanced public realm to the north of St Peter's Church
- Create a flexible lawn space and increased seating to provide for increased use of the park. The City Events Lawn will support suitable scale events to be determined at future design stage, such as outdoor cinema events, scout events and outdoor yoga and exercise classes.
- WCs are proposed to be located near the heart of the park, with options for potential locations explored within surrounding new developments so that maintenance of these is the responsibility of the building management company. The WCs are to be free to use, fully accessible and gender and culturally appropriate
- Provide new park amenities, such as cafés, that activate the park and complement existing park cafés and facilities such as Edna's Falafel Kitchen and Vaulted Chambers Cafe.
- Explore appropriate and sensitive opportunities to generate revenue streams which can be re-invested in the upkeep of the park.

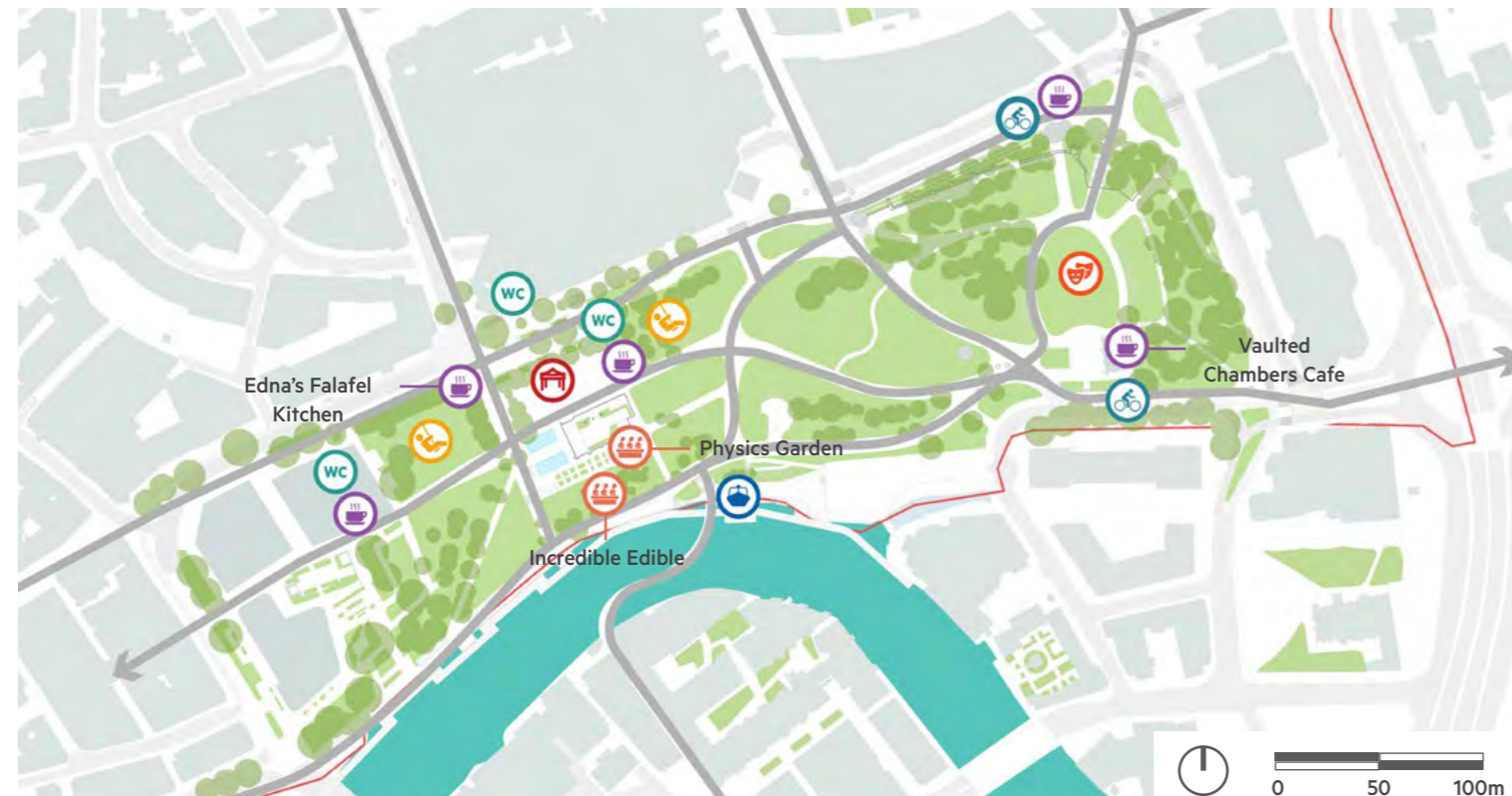


Fig. 129 Activities & Park Facilities Strategy

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Precedent Image - Bike Hub



Precedent Image - City Events Lawn



Precedent Image - Community Event Space



Precedent Image - Active Water's Edge

### Legend

- Play Area
- Community Event Space
- Community Growing Assets
- F&B
- Bike Hub
- City Event Lawn
- Ferry Landing & Active Water's Edge
- Public Bathroom



Precedent Image - F&B, Park Cafe



Precedent Image - Community Growing

# Castle Park Key Projects



# Key Projects

## For Castle Park

As part of the Castle Park masterplan, 3 key projects have been identified that will bring about the most significant transformation.

1. A New Heart to Castle Park
2. Eastern Gateways and Event Meadow
3. The Floating Waterfront Edge

These key projects bring together the strategies and interventions presented on previous pages. This chapter will show how these strategies and interventions combine to bring about transformation for the park and for the existing and future community.



Fig. 130 Key Projects for Castle Park



# Key Projects

## 1. A New Heart to Castle Park

This key project proposes to create a new heart to Castle Park. The new public open space is set to become a community destination, with St Peter's Church as focal point.

- Removal of through traffic from Newgate and the creation of an extended public space from Castle Park between the corner of Union Street, Merchant Street and the Galleries development connecting the park to Broadmead and welcome people in
- Create a more permeable edge to Newgate and activate the hard paved area around St. Peters Church by providing active edges to be a more useful, multi-functional space for a range of uses for the City Centre. These active and permeable edges, with enhanced seating opportunities will ensure the space is better used throughout the day, even when no events are happening
- Provide enhanced park facilities including increased seating areas and a new park pavilion with a cafe and WCs
- This area becomes a focal point for community events including opportunity for weekly and seasonal events such as markets and outdoor performances
- Removal of walls in this area to create more visual connection to the waterfront
- Creatively celebrate the heritage of the area e.g. Reuse of St. Peters Church, St Edith's Well, Vaults
- A sequence of gardens, artworks and play area located around the heart to provide a focus of activity and delight
- Reinforce the role of St Peter's church as a contemplative memorial space. Opportunity to provide a dedicated memorial space and a quiet sensory garden space within or adjacent to the church and make it accessible to the community and public. Final use to be established at next stage with engagement with stakeholders

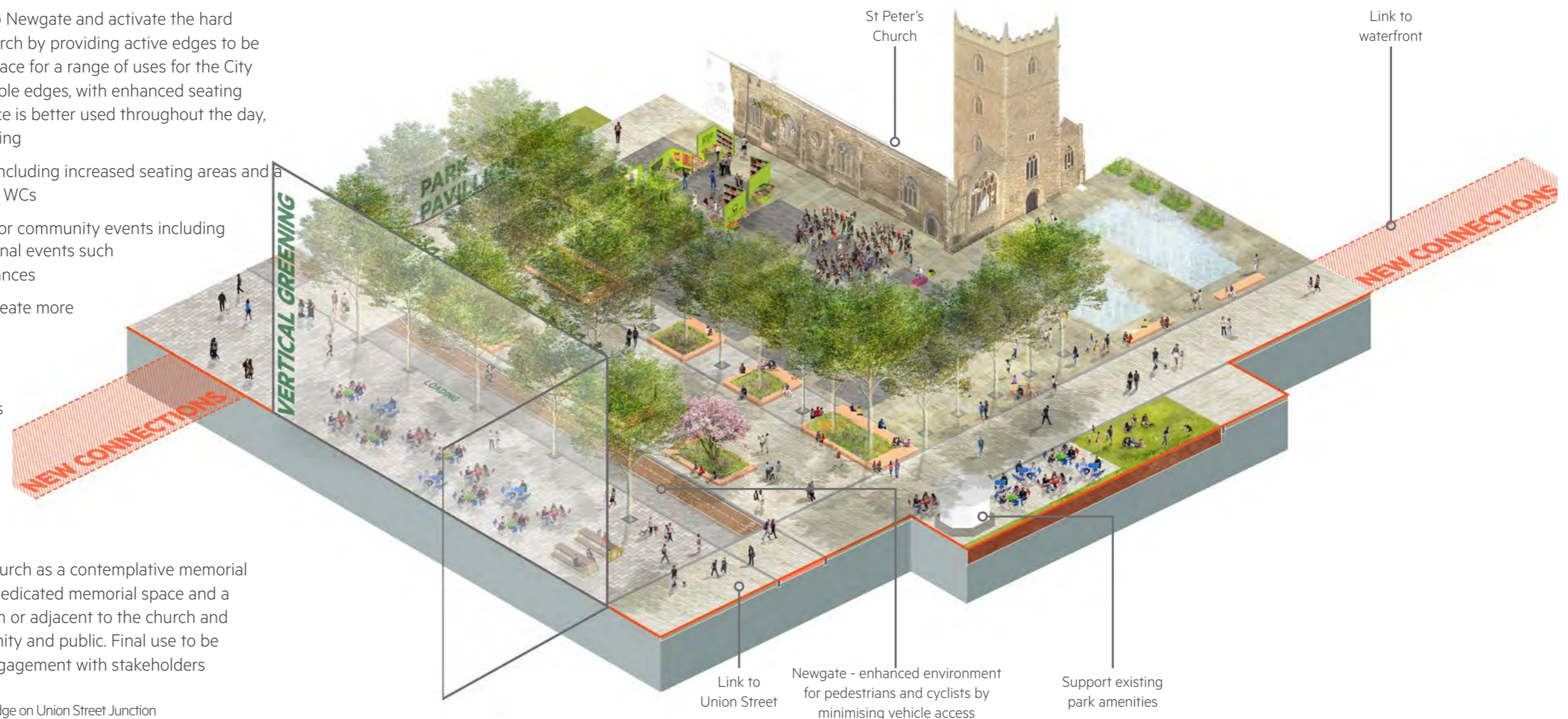


Fig. 131 Concept Visual of Enhances Park Edge on Union Street Junction



# Key Projects

## 1. A New Heart to Castle Park

To create the new Heart to Castle Park, the proposal is to establish a more direct visual and physical connection to the waterfront as shown in the diagrams below. The axis from Union Street will be extended along former Dolphin

Street to create a new space in front of the tower of St Peter's Church and to allow for consolidation of the existing walls.



Fig. 132 Existing Circulation – indirect and hidden connection with the waterfront © Crown copyright and database rights 2022 OS 100023406



Fig. 133 Existing route towards the waterfront



Fig. 134 Existing route towards Union Street

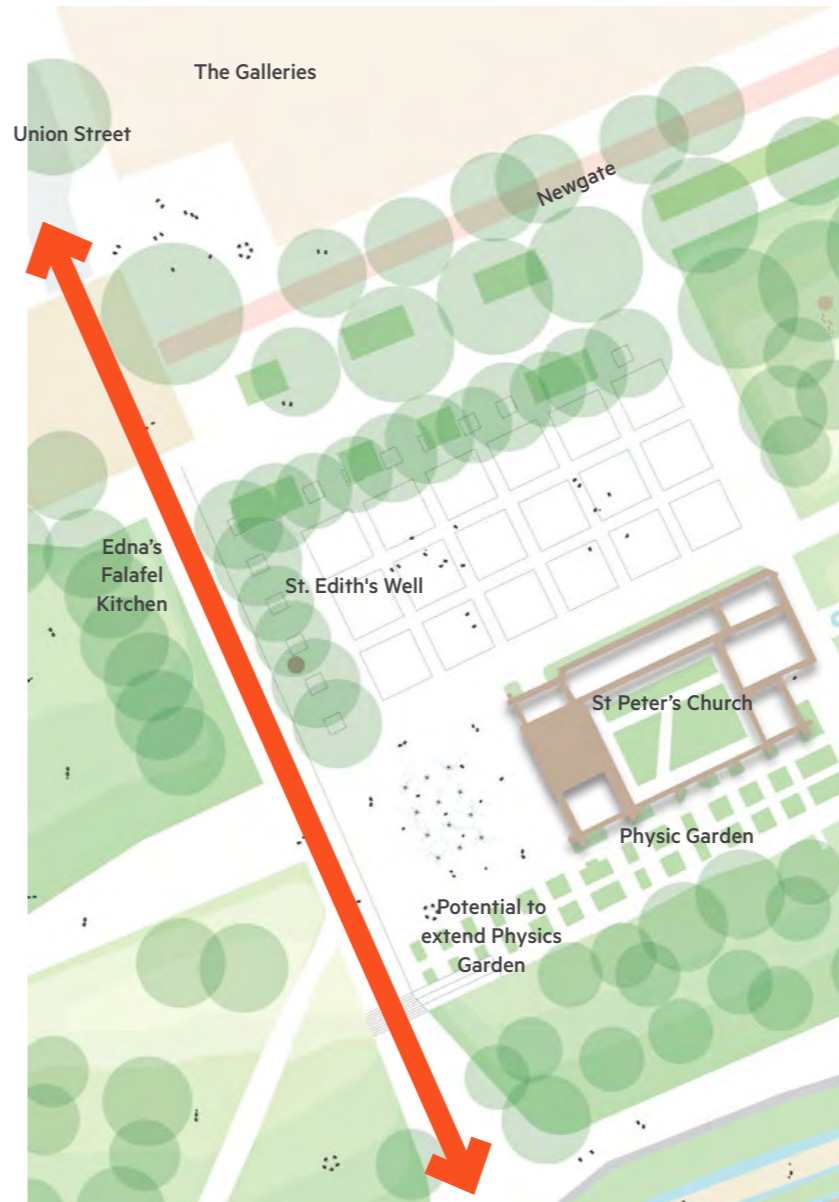


Fig. 135 Proposed Circulation – a new direct and generous connection with the waterfront on axis with Union Street © Crown copyright and database rights 2022 OS 100023406



Fig. 136 Case Study - San Francisco



Fig. 137 Case Study

# Key Projects

## 2. Eastern Gateways & Events Meadow

The eastern part of the park is currently underutilised as it suffers from a lack of legibility and clear routes in and out of the space which in turn makes it quite an uninviting route. However, on hot, sunny days and when events are on, this lawn areas does have a high use.

The overall objective of this key project is to open up each of the gateways to reconnect and invite the surrounding communities to use the park. These changes also pose an opportunity to make the park as accessible and inclusive as possible to allow it to be a part of peoples daily lives. The enhanced visibility to and from the park will contribute to better passive surveillance and is a crucial step in improving the safety of this part of the park.

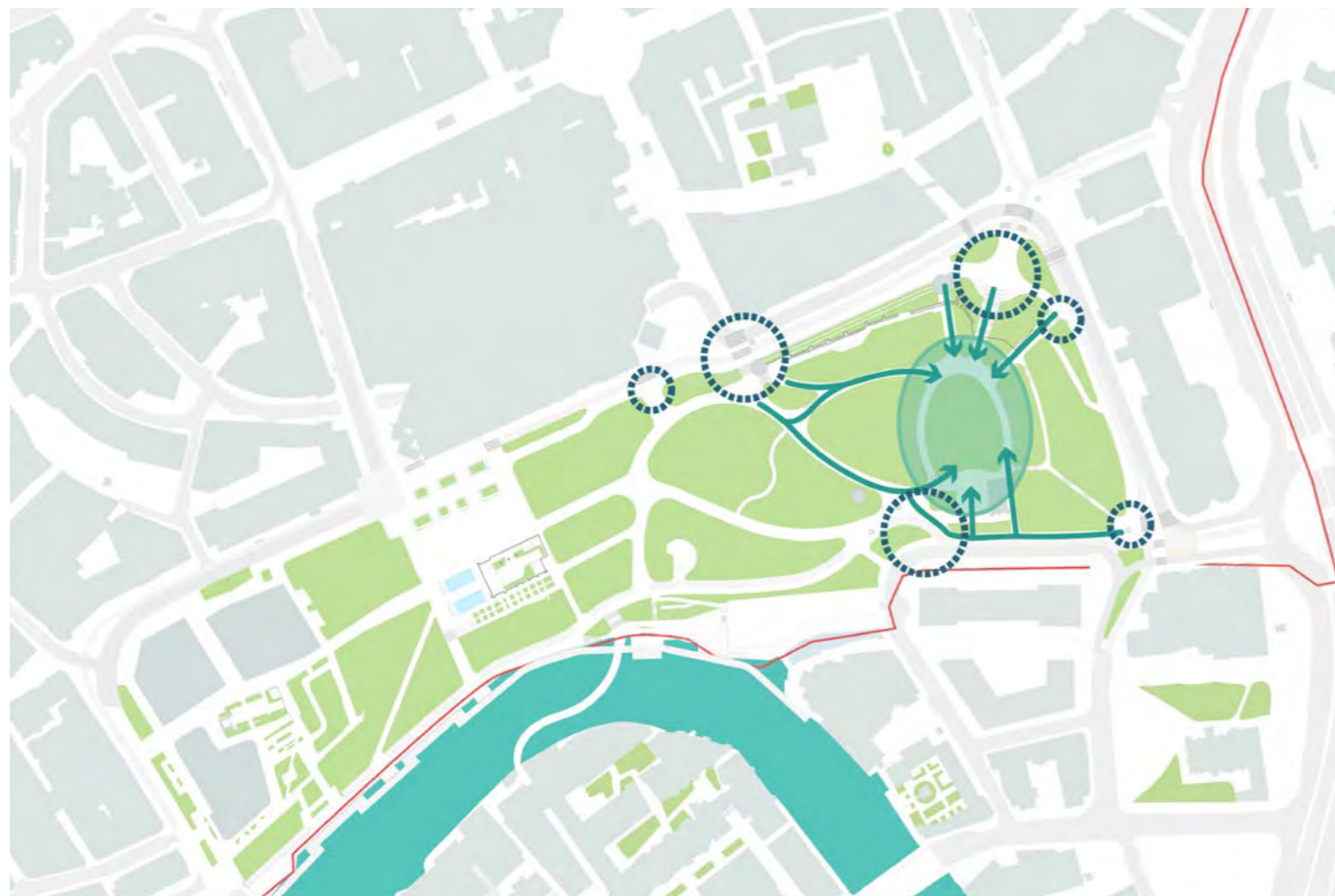


Fig.140 Eastern Gateway



Fig.139 Site Photo - Entrance to Broad Weir



Fig.138 Site Photo - Eastern Park of Castle Park

# Key Projects

## 2. Eastern Gateways & Events Meadow Penn Street Gateway

The existing access route into Castle Park from Broad Weir and Penn Street is unclear and convoluted, providing limited visibility into the park. The project proposes to address this by:

- Opening up a direct link from the corner of Penn Street, Broad Weir and Lower Castle Street into Castle Park to connect the park to Cabot Circus, Broadmead and the east of the city and encourage movement between these areas
- Creating a generous public open space at the junction of these streets to allow a place to pause
- Removing part of the 1970's wall along Broad Weir to open up this edge with seating terraces to activate this edge of the park. Subject to detailed archaeological and arboricultural surveys at future design stage
- Maintain the existing, step-free access route (to lower Castle Street). Potential to supplement this with a lift, providing more direct accessible access to Penn Street.



Fig. 141 Penn Street Gateway - Proposed Plan

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Fig. 142 Site Photo from Penn Street and Broad Weir to Castle Park



Fig. 143 Precedent image



Fig. 144 Penn Street Gateway - Concept Visual

NOTE: Tree location shown indicatively only. Subject to detailed tree survey

# Key Projects

## 2. Eastern Gateways & Events Meadow Castle Street Gateway

The Eastern Gateways on Castle Street are important connections from Old Market Street and the east of Bristol. However, along Castle Street, much of the park is hidden behind tall walls. The project proposes to address this through:

- Removal of the high walls to enhance relationship between Lower Castle Street, the park and the Vaults Café. Create lower walls as a seating edge to activate the space
- Increase north- south permeability with two sets of steps as highlighted in the below diagram
- Extend the terrace area of the Vaults Café which connects to a lawn Events Meadow
- Selective thinning of the trees and vegetation around the café to make the space less enclosed and to reduce potential for anti-social behaviour. (Subject to detailed Arboricultural Survey)
- Pedestrian and cycle movement to be prioritised along Castle Street, potentially by limiting vehicle movement to access only (to be considered further at the next stage)



Fig. 145 Castle Street Gateway - Proposed Plan

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Fig. 147 Site Photo looking from Castle Street to Castle Park



Fig. 148 Precedent image



Fig. 146 Castle Street Gateway - Concept Visual

# Key Projects

## 2. Eastern Gateways & Events Meadow Merchant Street Gateway

Although the tree canopy of Castle Park is visible from Merchant Street, the relationship and connection between the street and the park is poor due to the tall retaining walls and change in levels. The project proposes to create a more seamless connection between the two areas by applying the following principles:

- Open up a more generous and accessible entrance into the Castle Park to align with Merchant Street, as per the historical entrance, to create a strong visual and movement connection between Broadmead and the Park

- Removal of the overhead bridge connection to the Galleries, the associated ramps and 1970's walls to allow this to be possible
- Re-design of the Merchant Street, Fairfax Street, Broad Weir junction to prioritise pedestrian movement
- Step free route to be provided on Newgate, subject to topographical, arboricultural and archaeological surveys at future design stage
- Opportunity to update and redesign the park depot to be more outward facing and to include community facilities such as; free and accessible WCs, cafe kiosks or a plant shop



Fig. 149 Merchant Street Gateway - Proposed Plan

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Fig. 150 Merchant Street - Existing View to Castle Park



Fig. 151 Merchant Street Gateway - Reference Image



Fig. 152 Merchant Street Gateway - Concept Visual

# Key Projects

## 3. Floating Waterfront Edge









Castle Park's location along the Floating Harbour is one of its key assets. However, its waterfront setting is currently under-utilised. This key project therefore proposes to extend the influence of Castle Park towards the floating harbour by creating:

1. Primary upper-level harbourside walkway - to be enhanced to mitigate pedestrian-cyclist conflict - refer to "Proposed Cycle Movement - Reducing conflict between uses" on page 137
2. Secondary harbourside walkway at water level - floating pontoon or similar
3. Viewing platforms with seating at key locations along primary harbourside walkway

4. Potential for harbourside greening - e.g. through floating reedbed systems
5. Potential for enhanced interaction with water edge by enhancing views to the Floating Harbour and allowing people to get closer to the water edge. The potential to explore opportunities for active waterfront uses such as paddle-boarding and kayaking should be explored.

The safety of the secondary harbourside walkway should be a primary consideration for future design stages. The route should be well overlooked, connect to other routes, and should benefit from passive surveillance.

### Legend

-  1. Primary upper-level harbourside walkway
-  2. Secondary harbourside walkway at water level
-  3. Viewing platforms
-  4. Harbourside greening (e.g. floating reedbeds)
-  5. Active Waterfront Edge
-  6. Indicative extent navigation channel
-  7. Harbour wall
-  8. Stepped access between walkways

NOTE: All proposals are shown indicatively

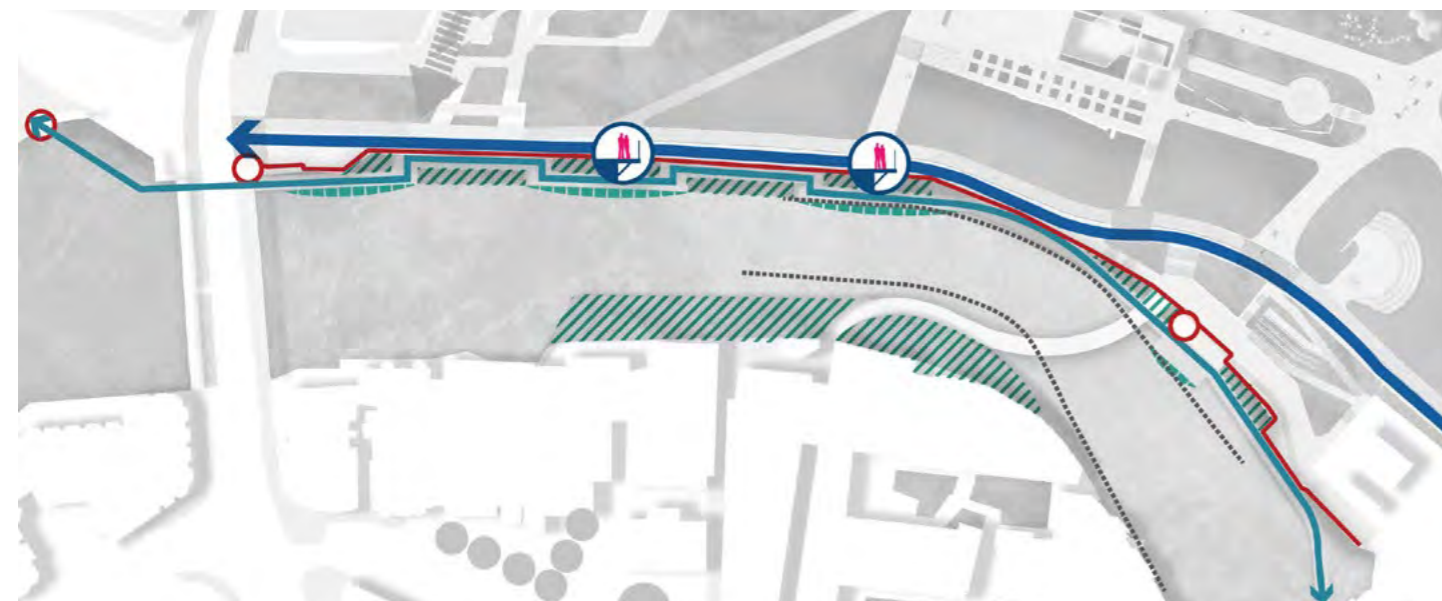


Fig. 153 Strategy for enhancing interaction with Floating Harbour

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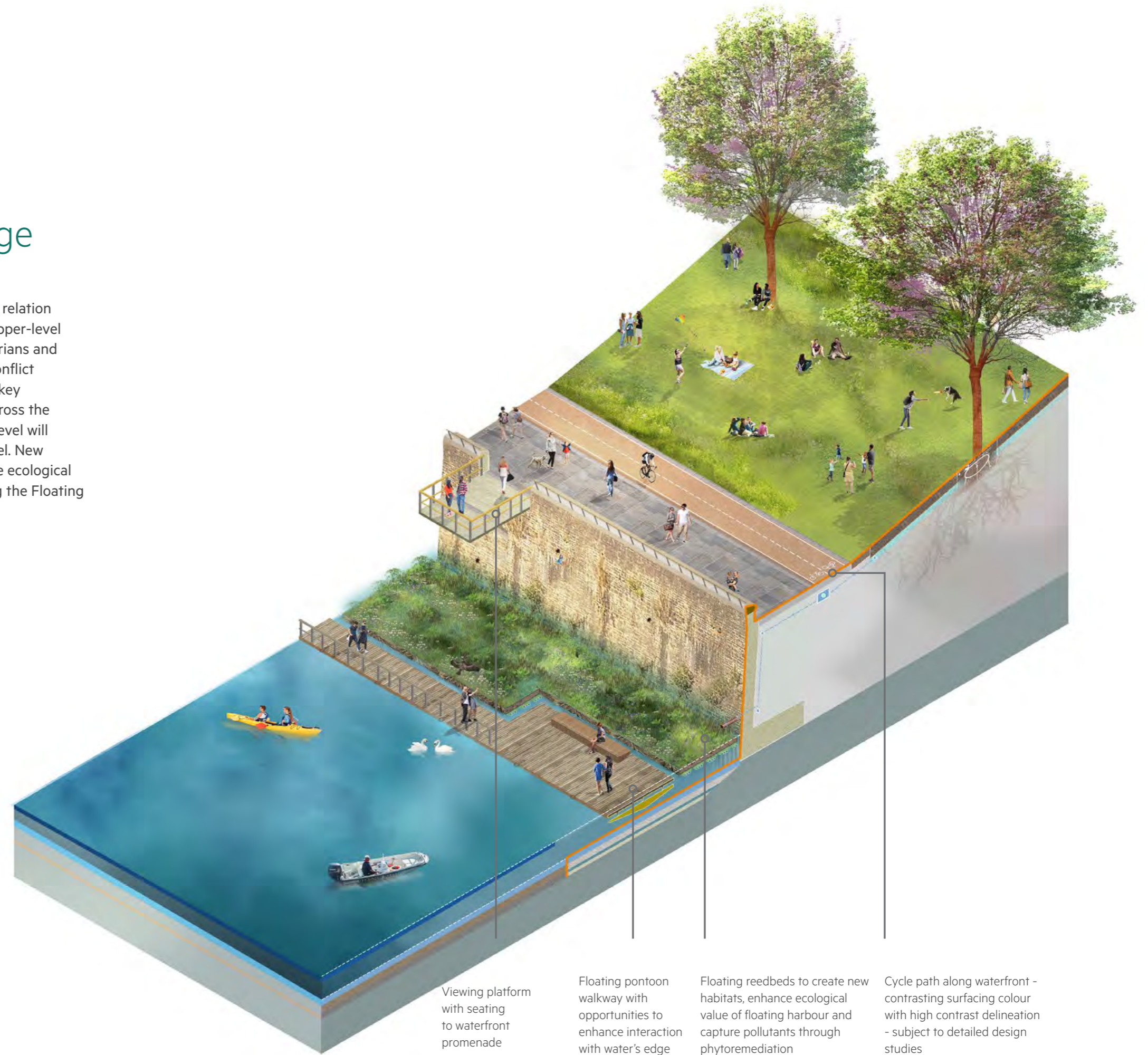
### Precedent images



# Key Projects

## 3. Floating Waterfront Edge

The adjacent view shows illustrative proposals to enhance the relation between Castle Park and the Floating Harbour. The primary upper-level walkway will be enhanced to mitigate conflict between pedestrians and cyclists as set out in “Proposed Cycle Movement - Reducing conflict between uses” on page 137. Cantilevered viewing platforms in key locations will provide opportunities for seating and viewing across the harbour. A secondary harbourside, floating walkway at water level will provide opportunities for people to get closer to the water level. New wetland habitats will be created where possible to enhance the ecological value and connectivity with other habitats being created along the Floating Harbour.



Viewing platform with seating to waterfront promenade

Floating pontoon walkway with opportunities to enhance interaction with water's edge

Floating reedbeds to create new habitats, enhance ecological value of floating harbour and capture pollutants through phytoremediation

Cycle path along waterfront - contrasting surfacing colour with high contrast delineation - subject to detailed design studies

# Creating an inviting and safe Castle Park

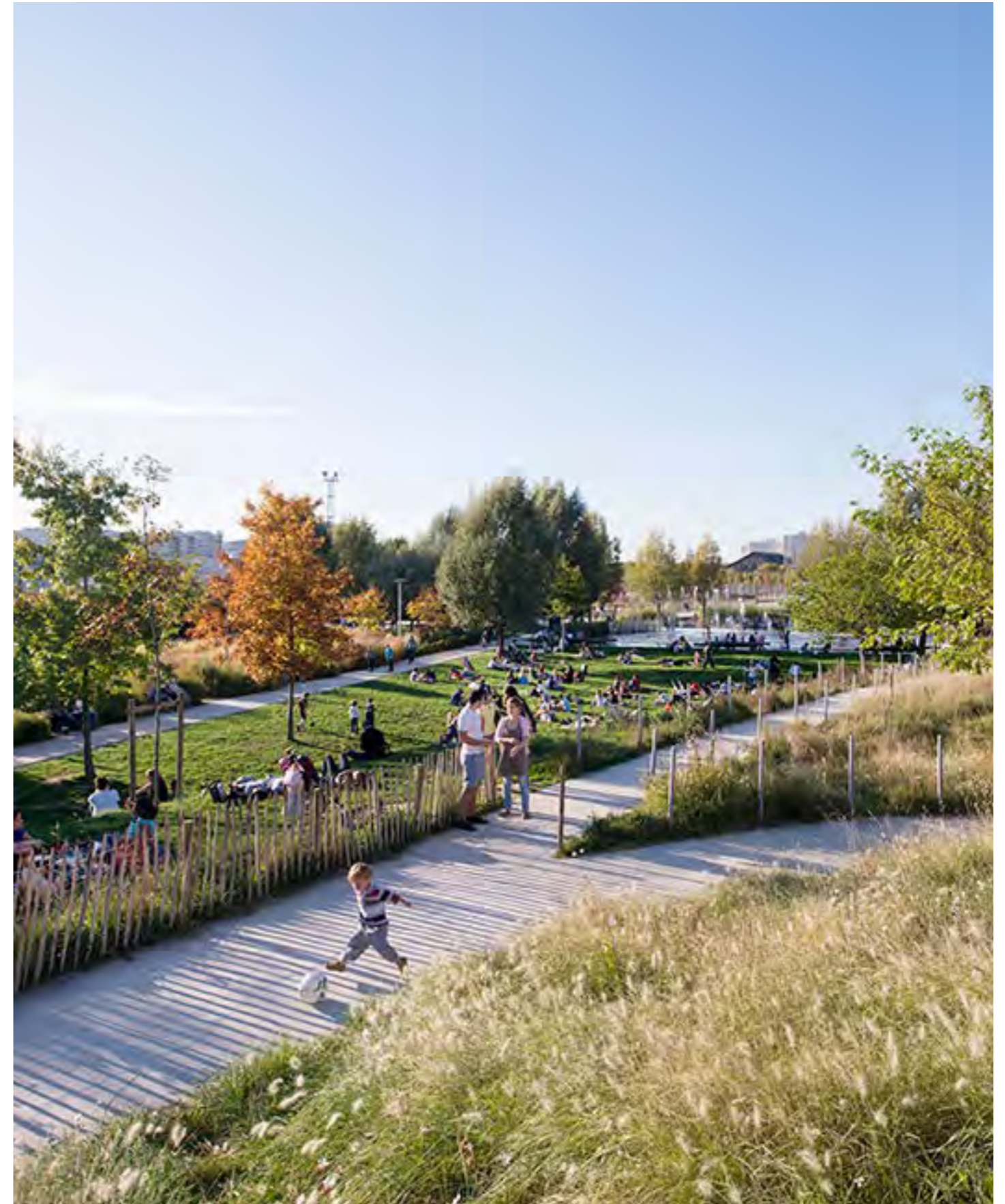
The engagement feedback on Castle Park clearly sets out as a priority, the need to address public safety within Castle Park, particularly after dark. People currently feel ill-at-ease, endangered or inconvenienced by avoiding certain areas of the park. There is currently an under-provision of basic facilities that makes all areas of the park truly accessible including inadequate lighting, amenity and activities, play spaces; limited comfortable and sheltered rest spots, accessible routes, clear sight lines etc. Addressing the issue of safety in Castle Park and city public spaces is a complex task and the problem cannot be solved by design alone. What is required to create and maintain safer park spaces is an integrative strategy involving improved design and accessibility, clear sightlines, lighting and programming, maintenance and community involvement.

The implementation of a creative and functional lighting strategy for Castle Park is a key requirement to be developed, to help improve the after dark experience and ensure that all users feel safe and secure, and can continue to use the facilities of the park as natural light fades. All key routes, gateways, and open spaces should be appropriately lit for safety and sense of security, whilst adding highlights to reveal the heritage of the former churches and castle elements as well as some fun and creative effects to promote well-being and generate a unique sense of place.

## A resilient Castle Park

To ensure Castle Park is an inviting and safe park, and the long term quality and usability of this important inner city greenspace is maintained, a comprehensive management and maintenance plan should be prepared as part of the next design stage. This plan should take into consideration the following:

- Maintenance of green and blue infrastructure assets
- Maintenance of community gardening spaces and community food growing spaces, including appropriate horticultural supervision
- Maintenance of heritage assets
- Creation of revenue and funding streams to pay for the management and maintenance of the park and to ensure the safeguarding of Castle Park as an accessible inner city greenspace for all people





# Recommendations & Next Steps for Castle Park

This Chapter has presented a vision and masterplan for Castle Park. To deliver this vision, enhancing Castle Park as the city centre's main green open space, further design work needs to be undertaken. To enable this to take place, the following next steps will be required:

## Additional Surveys and Studies Required:

- A detailed topographical survey in accordance with needs to be undertaken to develop the design to the next stage and resolve accessibility, with the next stage of design also making reference to the accessibility audit recently undertaken by WECIL
- In order to fully inform the design process and to assess their health and condition it is recommended an arboricultural assessment of all trees within Castle Park is undertaken, in accordance with BS5837, prior to the next stage of design development work
- A detailed Ecological Survey needs to be undertaken and an ecological consultant appointed to support the design team to develop ways to introduce more biodiversity into the park
- To inform the next stage of design, Archaeological studies need to be carried out in discussion with Historic England. This should include a desk-top study bringing together all existing knowledge- such as original 1970's plans for the park and previous excavation reports. Trial trenching may be required if any potential hotspots are identified. If remain fabric is located, the approach would be to retain these features in situ. A brief for this work would be developed by the BCC Historic Officer
- Loading information for any underground vault areas within the park need to be provided to inform the next stage of design
- A lighting masterplan should be undertaken for the park
- A public art audit should be undertaken to inform a coordinated public art strategy, tying into any strategies for surrounding areas
- A heritage interpretation audit should be undertaken to inform a coordinated interpretation strategy, tying into any strategies for surrounding areas

## Engagement:

- It will be important for the further development of the Castle Park masterplan to be underpinned by ongoing engagement, both with professional stakeholder and community groups and also with the volunteer group. The stakeholders have shown much enthusiasm for being involved and their local knowledge will be essential to the next stage
- Continue to engage with Historic England through the next design stages to develop the proposals to reveal the sites heritage

## Assessment:

- Undertake a Building with Nature assessment on Castle Park at the next design stage

## Consideration for future design stages:

- Maintenance of the park, including consideration of maintenance of community garden spaces and horticultural supervision. This will also need to consider the funding of maintenance of the park
- Opportunity to update the park depot to be more outward facing. Opportunity to redesign the parks depot to include community facilities such as free and accessible WCs, cafe kiosks or a plant shop should be considered

# List of Figures

<b>Contents</b>	
Fig. 62 Key Areas of Focus	93
Fig. 63 Study Area - Illustrative Plan	96
Fig. 64 Public Realm & Open Space Strategy	97
Fig. 65 Proposed Extent of Linear Street Garden Character	98
Fig. 66 Existing Typical Section Broadmead	98
Fig. 67 Movement, Public Realm and Ground Floor use around Nelson Street, Broadmead and Cabot Circus	99
Fig. 68 Concept Visual of Broadmead	100
Fig. 70 Proposed Extent of Lanes and Courts Character	101
Fig. 69 Existing Section Entrance to Callowhill Court	101
Fig. 71 Concept Visual of Typical Courtyard	102
Fig. 73 Proposed Extent of Civic Avenue Character	103
Fig. 72 Existing Section Merchant Street	103
Fig. 74 Merchant Taylor's Almshouse	104
Fig. 76 Arcade	104
Fig. 75 Castle Keep	104
Fig. 77 John Wesley's New Room Courtyard	104
Fig. 78 Heritage Assets & Key Moves	104
Fig. 79 Concept Visual Merchant Street	105
Fig. 81 Proposed Extent of Garden Street Character	106
Fig. 80 Existing Section The Horsefair	106
Fig. 82 Concept Visual of The Horsefair	107
Fig. 84 Proposed Extent of Active Corridor Character	108
Fig. 83 Existing Section Union Street	108
Fig. 85 Concept Visual Union Street	109
Fig. 87 Proposed Extent of Park Edge Character	110
Fig. 86 Existing Section Newgate	110
Fig. 88 Concept Visual Newgate and square north of St Peter's	111
Fig. 89 Illustrative Section Bond St	112
Fig. 90 Precedent images for evening economy	113
Fig. 91 Precedent images for lighting and after dark experience	114
Fig. 92 Castle Park Heritage Features and Proposed Scheduled Ancient Monument	119
Fig. 93 Historic Harbour Wall	120
Fig. 94 Existing walls within Castle Park	120
Fig. 96 Sally Port	120
Fig. 95 Castle Keep remains	120
Fig. 97 St Peter's Church & Physics Garden	120
Fig. 98 Historic Photograph of Castle Park	121
Fig. 99 Front Cover of City Centre Framework	121
Fig. 100 Front Cover of City Centre Framework Castle Park Place Plan	121
Fig. 101 Design Considerations Castle Park	122
Fig. 102 Castle Park Opportunities	123
Fig. 103 Illustrative Masterplan	126
Fig. 104 Illustrative Concept Visual of Castle Park Masterplan	127
Fig. 105 Site photograph of Castle Park	128
Fig. 106 Heritage Trail Concept Proposal	130
Fig. 107 St Mary le Port Precedent	130
Fig. 110 St Mary le Port	130
Fig. 108 St Peter's Church Precedent	130
Fig. 111 St Peter's Church	130
Fig. 109 Temple Church Precedent	130
Fig. 112 Temple Church	130
Fig. 113 Heritage Trail Strategy Diagram	131
Fig. 114 Existing Park Entrances and Gateway	132
Fig. 115 Entrances and Gateways Strategy	133
Fig. 116 Existing Active Travel Network	134
Fig. 117 Site Photo - Existing cycle path to Floating Harbour. The adjacent footpath is narrow and there is a lack of delineation between the routes.	134
Fig. 118 Site Photo - Existing cycle path to Floating Harbour with benches facing onto the cycle path. The adjacent footpath is narrow and there is a lack of delineation between the routes.	134
Fig. 119 Proposed Pedestrian Circulation	135
Fig. 120 Proposed Pedestrian Circulation	136
Fig. 121 Cycling and Active Travel Strategy	137
Fig. 122 Typical Proposed Plan & Section of Floating Harbour Cycle Path	137
Fig. 123 Typical Proposed Plan & Section of Floating Harbour Path - Crossing	137
Fig. 126 Lighting, Night Time and Evening Strategy	138
Fig. 127 Green Infrastructure Strategy	139
Fig. 128 Play Strategy Diagram	140
Fig. 129 Activities & Park Facilities Strategy	141
Fig. 130 Key Projects for Castle Park	143
Fig. 131 Concept Visual of Enhances Park Edge on Union Street Junction	144
Fig. 132 Existing Circulation – indirect and hidden connection with the waterfront	145
Fig. 133 Existing route towards the waterfront	145
Fig. 134 Existing route towards Union Street	145
Fig. 135 Proposed Circulation – a new direct and generous connection with the waterfront on axis with Union Street	145
Fig. 136 Case Study - San Francisco	145
Fig. 137 Case Study	145
Fig. 140 Eastern Gateway	146
Fig. 139 Site Photo - Entrance to Broad Weir	146
Fig. 138 Site Photo - Eastern Park of Castle Park	146
Fig. 141 Penn Street Gateway - Proposed Plan	147
Fig. 142 Site Photo from Penn Street and Broad Weir to Castle Park	147
Fig. 144 Penn Street Gateway - Concept Visual	147
Fig. 143 Precedent image	147
Fig. 145 Castle Street Gateway - Proposed Plan	148
Fig. 147 Site Photo looking from Castle Street to Castle Park	148
Fig. 146 Castle Street Gateway - Concept Visual	148
Fig. 148 Precedent image	148
Fig. 149 Merchant Street Gateway - Proposed Plan	149
Fig. 150 Merchant Street - Existing View to Castle Park	149
Fig. 152 Merchant Street Gateway - Concept Visual	149
Fig. 151 Merchant Street Gateway - Reference Image	149
Fig. 153 Strategy for enhancing interaction with Floating Harbour	150

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