

Athlone Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement Design Report

March 2021

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open

optimised environments

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1. THE SITE

The plan opposite shows the project area and red line boundary. The red line boundary includes Sean Costello Street, Dublin Gate Street, Mardyke Street, St Mary's Place and the junctions with St Mary's Square and Irishtown. This is to allow enhanced junctions and pedestrian connections across to St Mary's Square and Irishtown.

The red line also considers the 'tie in' with Church Street, ensuring there is sufficient overlap to resolve any levels and interfaces between the two projects.



1.1 SITE PHOTOS

These photographs were taken during a visit during which the team reviewed the project area and the wider Athlone Town Centre context.



Space outside Dunnes Store



Existing balustrade



Marist Brothers Monument



Church Street



View towards River Shannon



Facade on Sean Costello Street



View towards Sweeney's Corner



Public realm improvements in Church Street



Bespoke seating along Church Street



Flannery Pub

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

A key objective is to ‘seamlessly extend’ the previously implemented public realm on Church Street along Dublin Gate Street, continuing onto Mardyke Street and Sean Costello Street to form a gateway that defines the Town Centre core and creates a gateway marking arrival into the Town Centre. Alongside this key project objective is the requirement to unlock the currently derelict site located at this prominent gateway into the Town Centre. As well as marking this gateway into the Town centre, the scheme must also promote important connections between the traditional retail core / street network with the two shopping centres, namely Athlone Town Centre and Golden Island Shopping Centre.

“Connect the two shopping centres, Golden Island and Athlone Town Centre with the historic town centre and create a gateway.”

“Increase footfall within the town centre.”

“Set a catalyst for change for the public realm of Athlone.”

2.1 KEY PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

WAYFINDING

The implementation of a distinctive streetscape that facilitates intuitive wayfinding and orientation through highlighting existing urban features and introduces new complementary elements that enhance the sense of place.

LAYOUT

Street layout and selection of materials is to consider and follow the principles of ‘Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets’ avoiding clutter, complicated layouts and over design. The objective is a ‘de-cluttered’ streetscape that reduces street furniture and signage and promotes a simplified and legible environment;

SUSTAINABILITY

Proposals that show a move towards a low carbon, climate resilient sustainable environment, considering and complying with the Westmeath County Council Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 – 2024;

PEDESTRIANS / INCLUSIVE

The creation of a legible environment that is accessible and appealing for all and applies the guidance of documents such as ‘Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach’. The design approach must place the pedestrian at the highest level of consideration with essential vehicle movements being layered in around the requirements of people. This approach is consistent with the ‘de-cluttering’ of streets, providing legible pedestrian environments further enhanced through improved crossings, junctions and public lighting;

DETAILS AND MATERIALS

Specific objectives in the use and implementation of materials and detailing have been defined for the project, including the height and materiality of kerbs; the requirement for high quality, aesthetically appropriate and robust surfacing; and consideration of durability, life-cycle cost and sustainable maintenance of proposed materials. The palette and detailing will continue from Church Street where appropriate, with complementary materials introduced to enhance the scheme in localised areas.

SOFT LANDSCAPE

The consideration of soft landscape including tree planting. Placement of these should consider climate, durability, sightlines and space within the streets. Any tree planting is to be semi-mature, and placement of individual trees is to be considered as they form points of interest within the streetscape. The Biodiversity Action Plan will be used as a guidance when specifying species mixes.

LIGHTING

Lighting is to be used to provide visual interest but must not detract from the fabric of Athlone’s Town Centre. LED luminaires are to be used and reduction of clutter is to be supported through the use of building mounted luminaires wherever feasible. Feature lighting is to be carefully considered, including the lighting of key buildings, artwork or monuments.

STREET FURNITURE

The approach to street furniture is to integrate wherever possible, and to coordinate with the rest of the proposals. Issues such as durability and maintenance are to be fully considered, and locations within the public realm must not impede pedestrian flow.

3. SITE ANALYSIS

This chapter is a collation of information relating to the site that has been considered important to guiding the development of public realm proposals. This includes site familiarisation and studies that review what can enhance the feeling of comfort within the project area including sun path analysis and existing ground floor uses.

3.1 GROUND FLOOR USES

The diagrams below provide a record of existing ground floor uses within the project area. As can be seen, the majority of units are retail but there are also bars and other hospitality businesses that bring activity through a more extended period and into the evening. It is worth noting that the derelict site can also bring additional active uses into the project area further enhancing the pattern of uses at ground floor.



fig. 1: Daytime ground floor uses



fig. 2: Ground floor units active during the evening

- Retail
- Bank
- Betting Shop
- Derelict Site
- Health
- Business
- Hospitality

3.2 URBAN CHARACTER

The project area is generally defined by a simple urban character of two / three storey buildings with pitched roofs. These define the street edges along Sean Costello Street and Mardyke Street. The entrance into 'Athlone Town Centre' introduces a more contemporary frontage on Dublin Gate Street.

One of the key characters within the project area is the positioning of gables that terminate views and provide framed points of interest as you move the urban realm. Two key gables are located at either end of Dublin Gate Street where they sit centrally with the street.



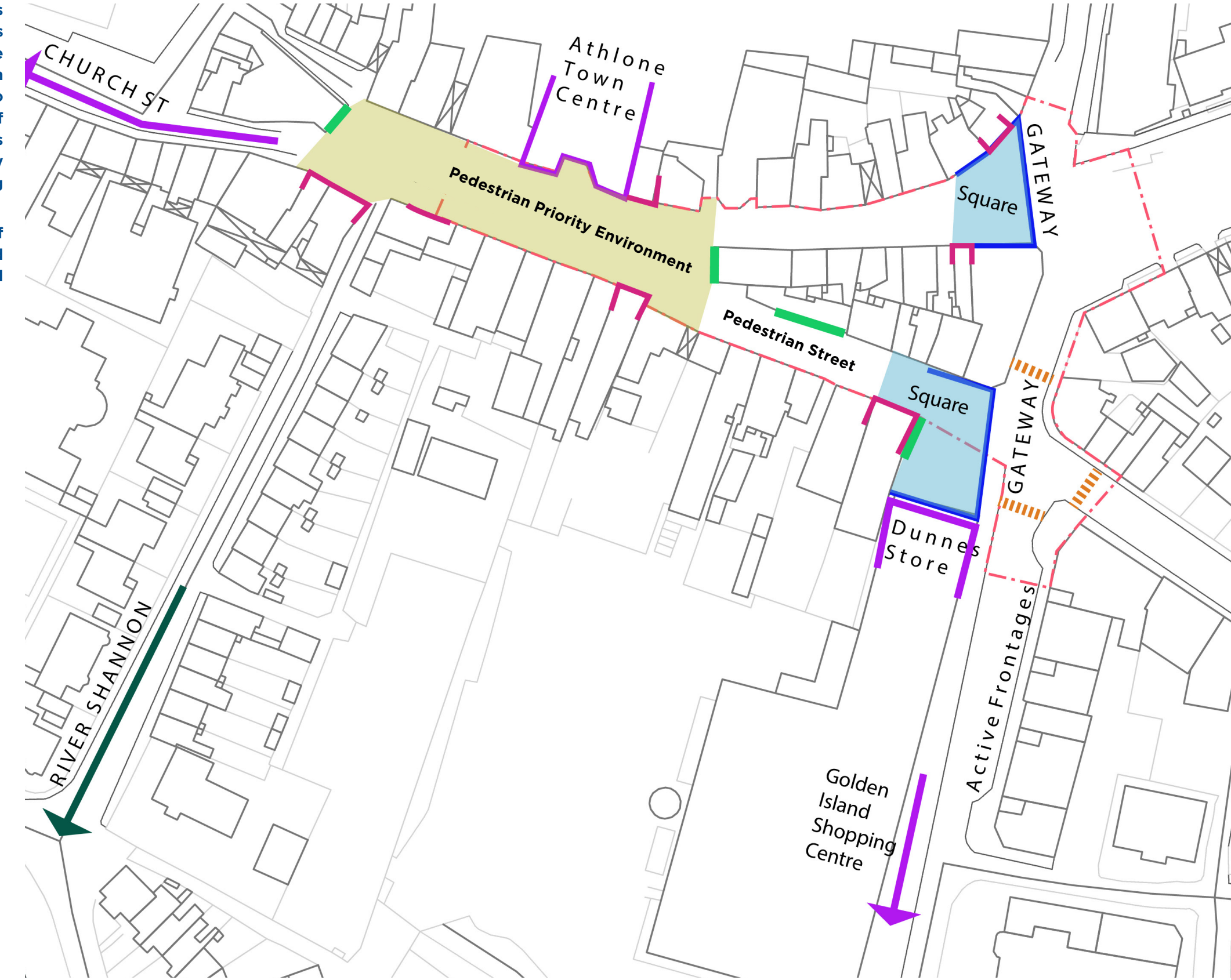
fig. 3: Existing views and key gables and facades

3.3 CONNECTIONS AND ADJACENCIES

The project area provides a key linkage between various areas of Athlone including Church Street, Gleeson Street, St Mary's Square, Irishtown and John Broderick Street. While there are important associations with the 'civic' character of Church Street, it could be argued that the project area should also recognise the character of the areas that sit on the edges of the town centre suggesting a less formal approach. This is important in keeping Church Street at the top of the hierarchy while allowing the project area to fulfil a key role in providing important connections.

The diagram opposite shows the associations with the edges of the project area and how the character of this could blend and connect. It also highlights critical connections such as the retail at Golden Island Shopping Centre and Athlone Town Centre.

- Feature gables and facade
- Active ground floor - spill out spaces
- - - - Pedestrian crossing points



3.4 CHURCH STREET PUBLIC REALM

The work recently completed on Church Street has clearly transformed the look and feel of the town centre through the use of a carefully considered and robustly detailed palette of materials. The wide and clear footways and areas of flush carriageway demonstrate a pedestrian priority and reinforce a 'civic' character. It is the intention that the proposals for the project area will coordinate with the materiality and detailing ensuring a unified approach for the town centre. However, with the specific character and location of the project area there is an opportunity to provide a site specific response that could include a softer approach. This could be similar to the planting that exists to the west end of Church Street where planters and planting provide a transition as you move towards the river.



Raised tables.



Reduced width carriageways.



Change in materials and use of bollards to delineate road edges.



Wide pedestrian footway with concrete and timber top benches and street lighting.



Public space with street furniture; raised planters, seating edges and bike stands.



Raised timber planters with multi-stems



Small sett sizes with inset pavers and grey colour palette



Larger paver sizes with wide kerb edges

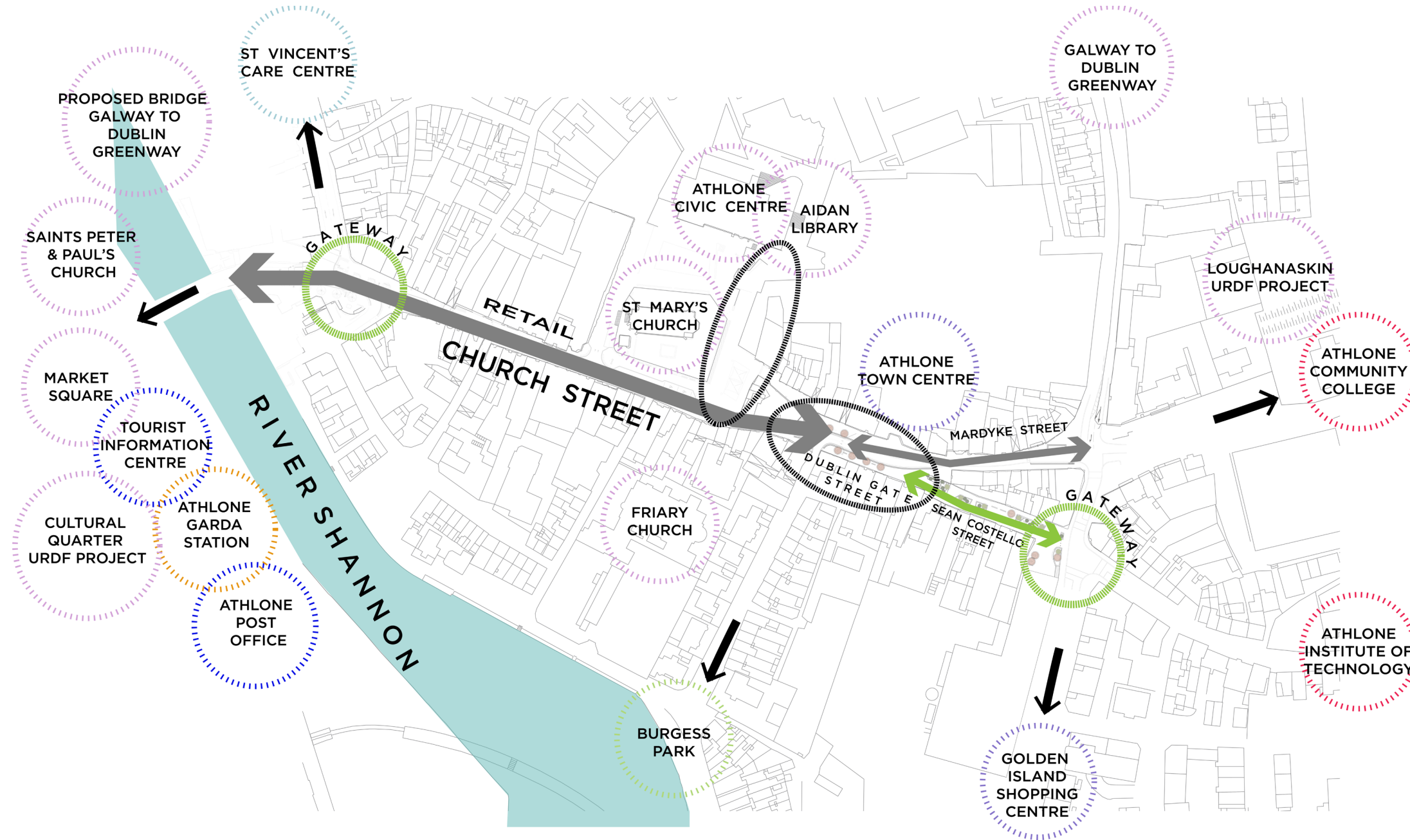
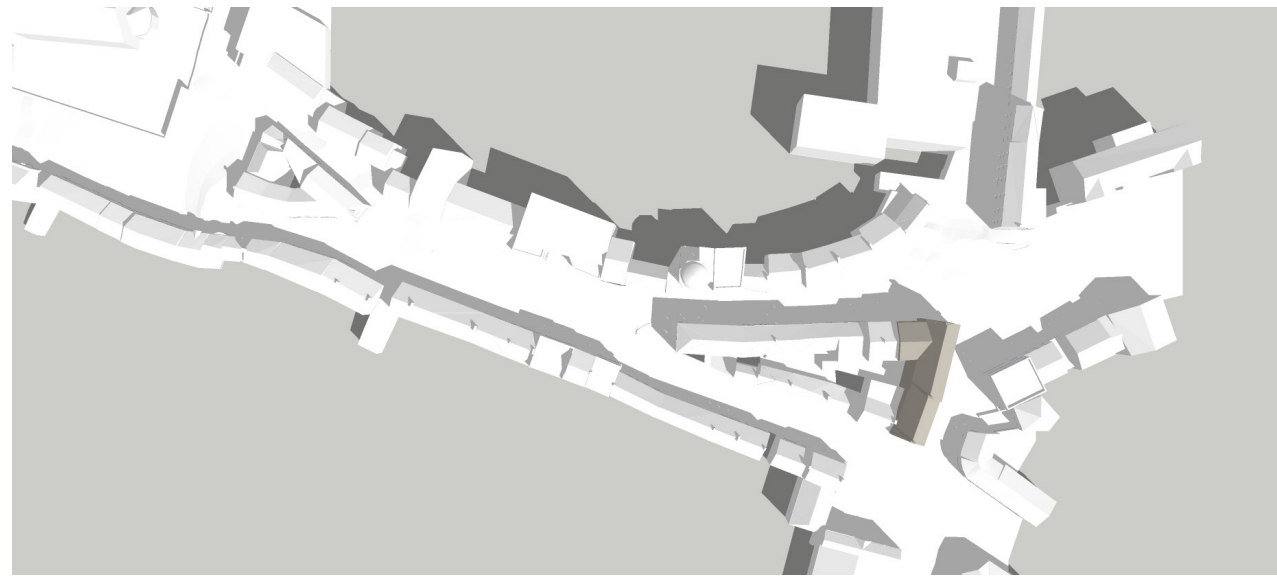


fig. 4: This shows the project area in a wider context including Church Street and key destinations. The project area will continue Church Street while also providing a softer environment along Sean Costello Street promoting pedestrian connections.

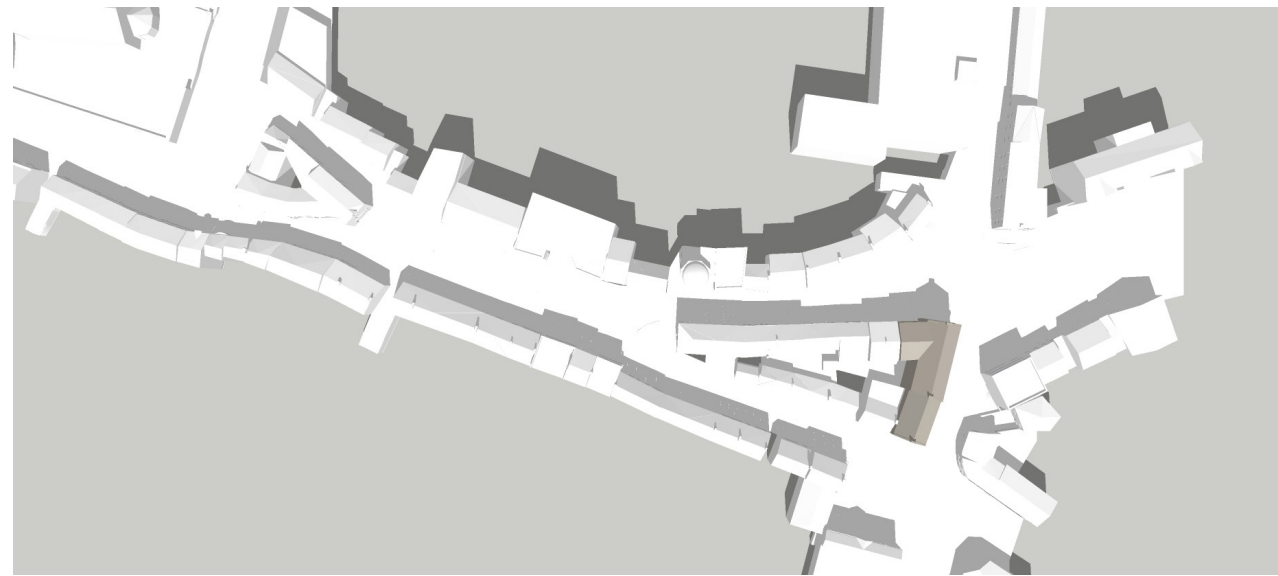
3.5 SUN PATH ANALYSIS

These diagrams illustrate the sun path during the day for each of the four seasons. With a generally east - west orientation the project area enjoys a good level of sunlight throughout the day with perhaps greater areas in direct sunlight during the morning.

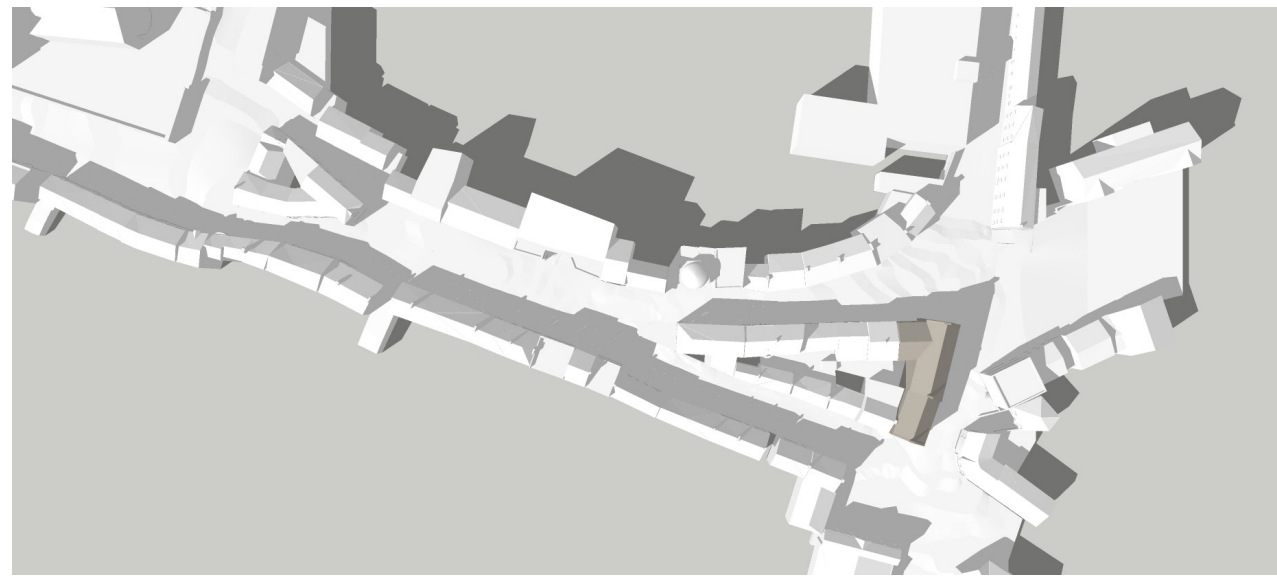
SPRING



10:00



12:00



15:00

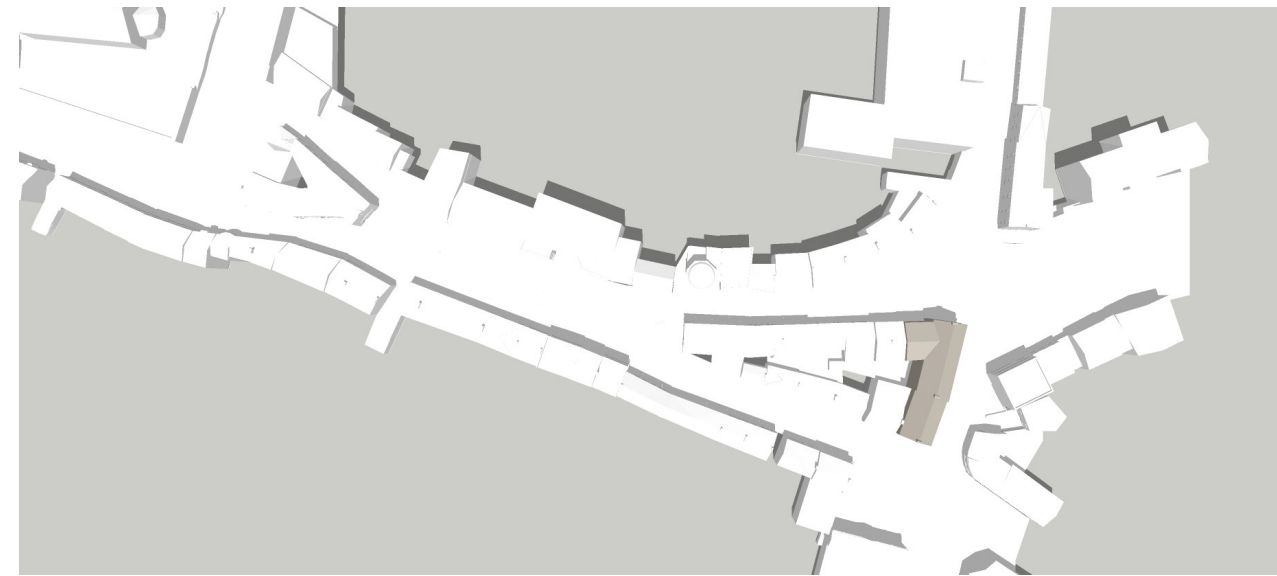


17:00

SUMMER



10:00



12:00

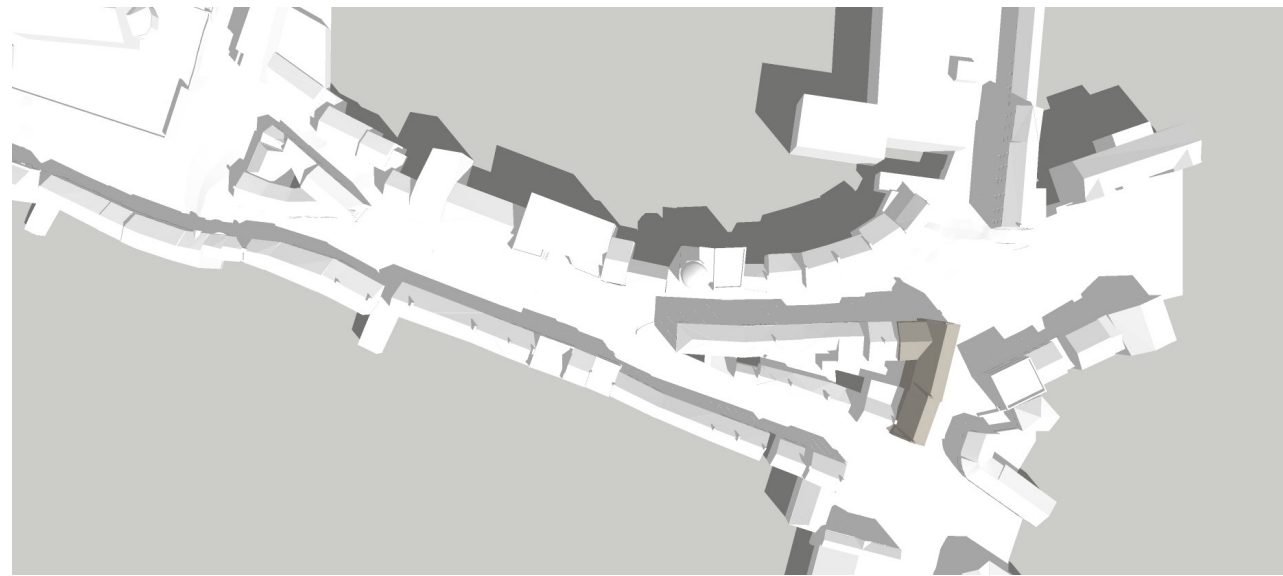


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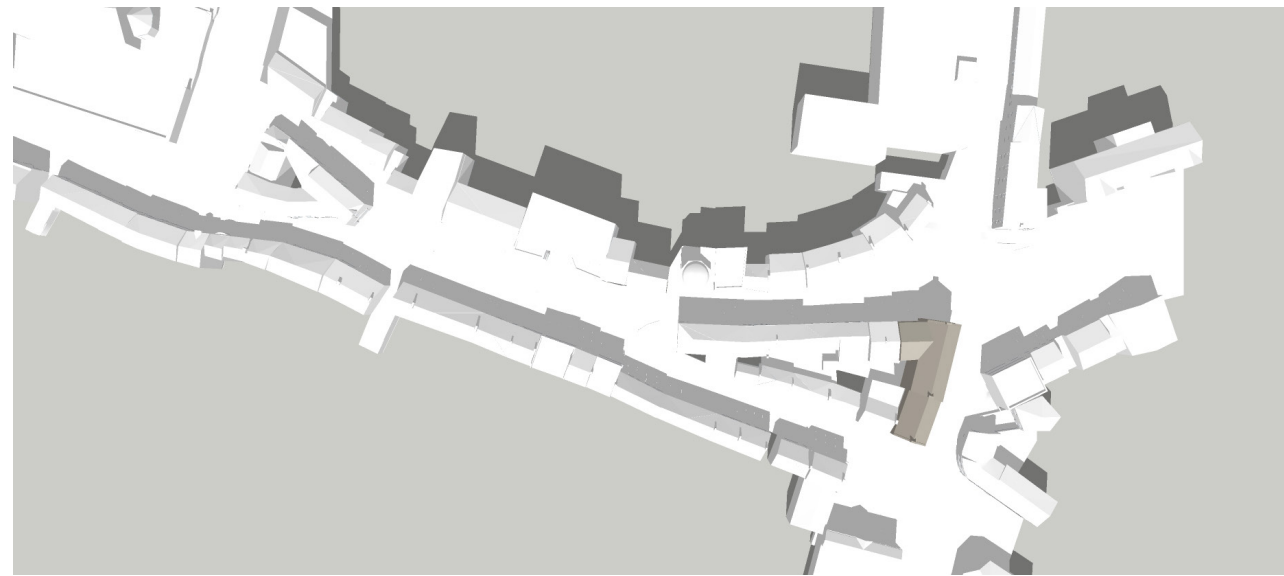


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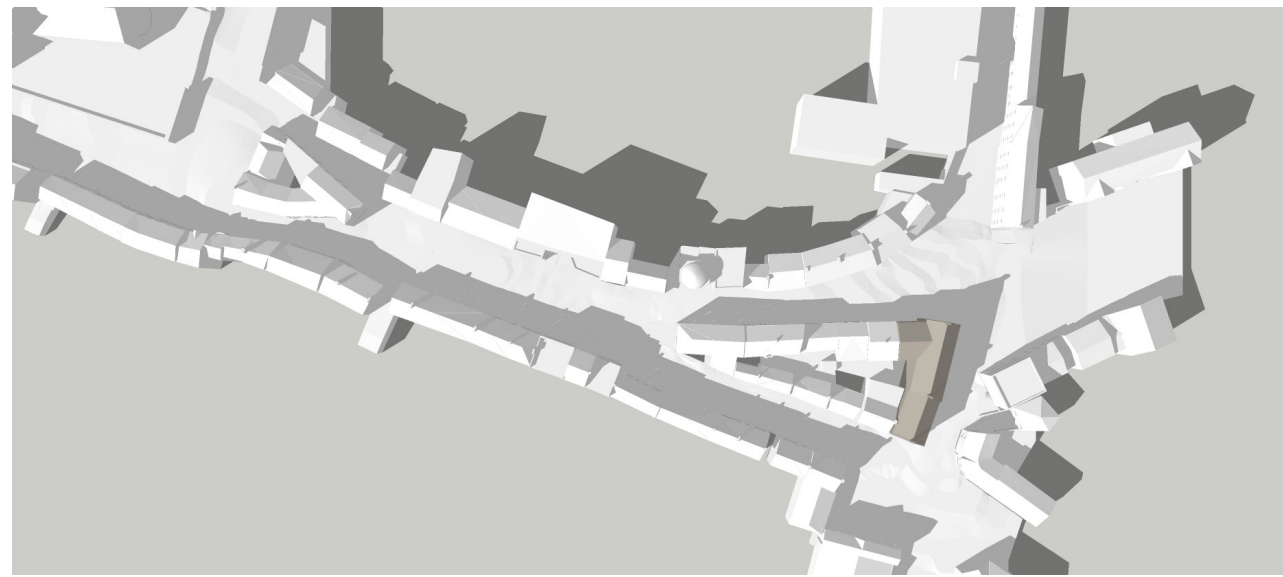
AUTUMN



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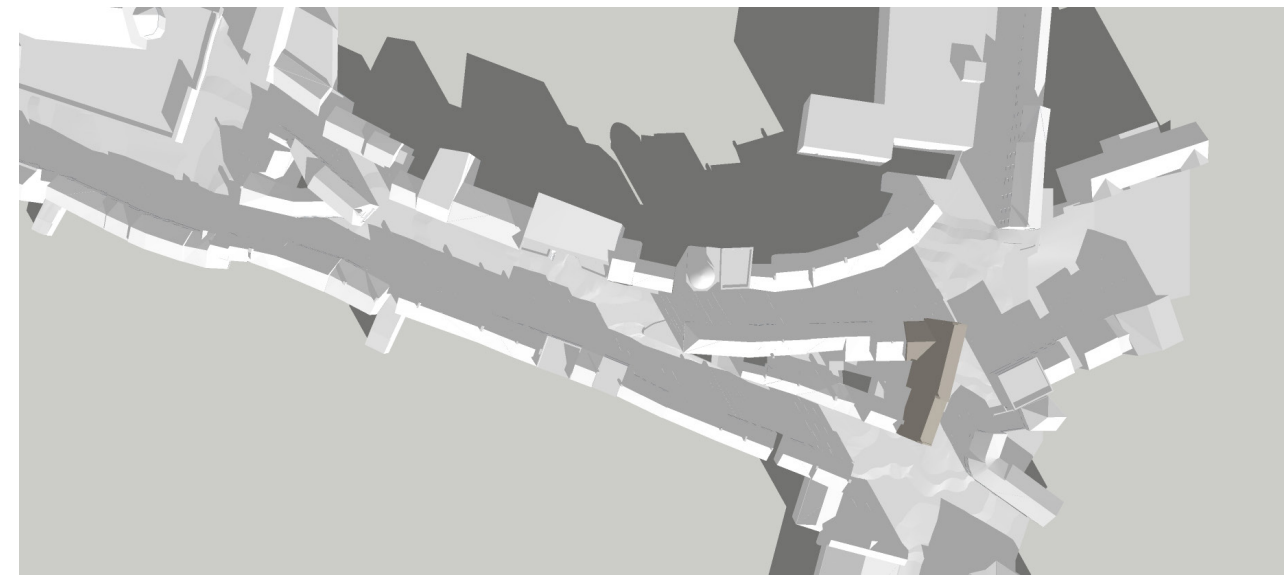


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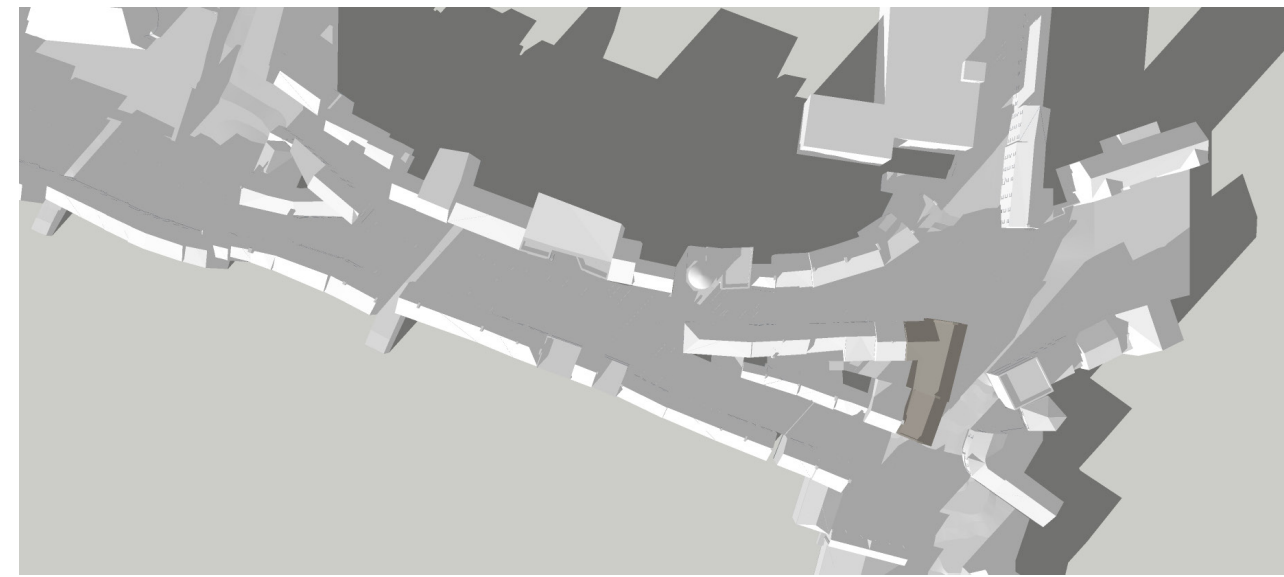
WINTER



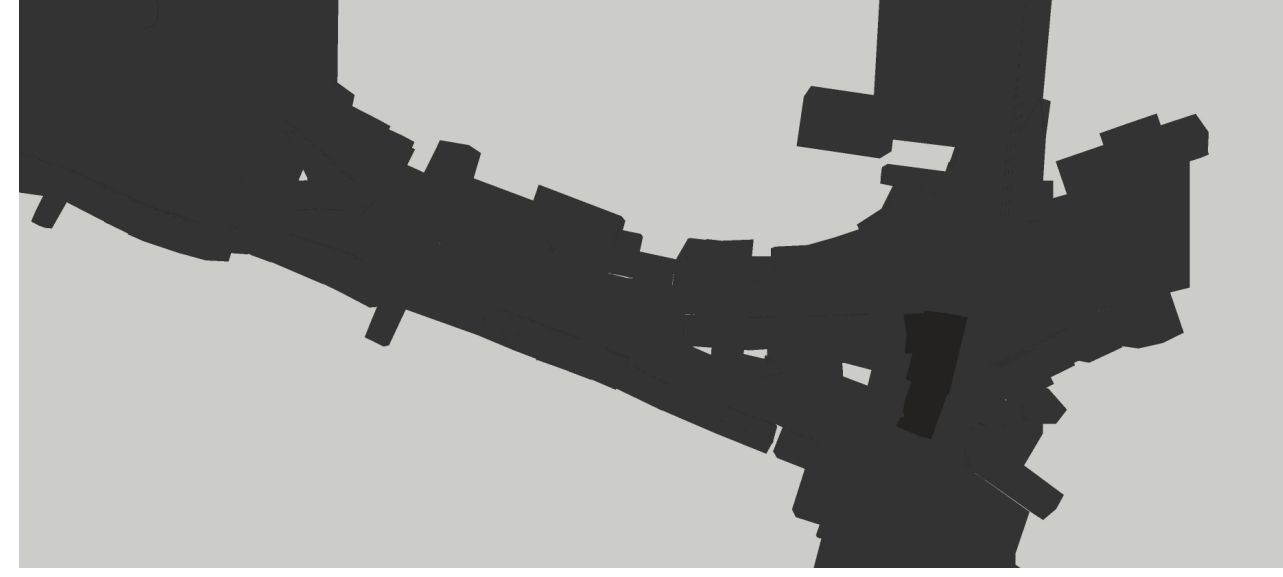
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3.6 PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT ANALYSIS

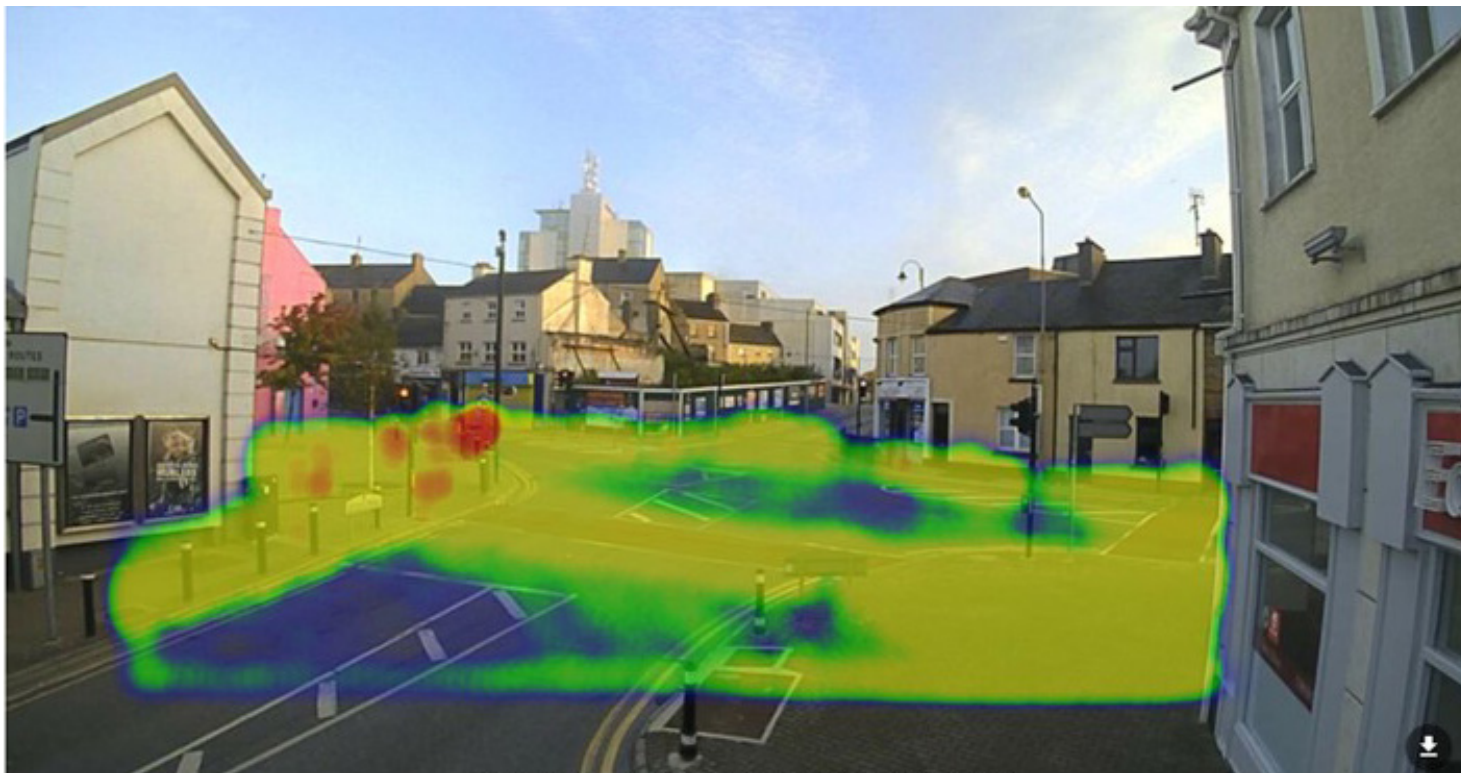
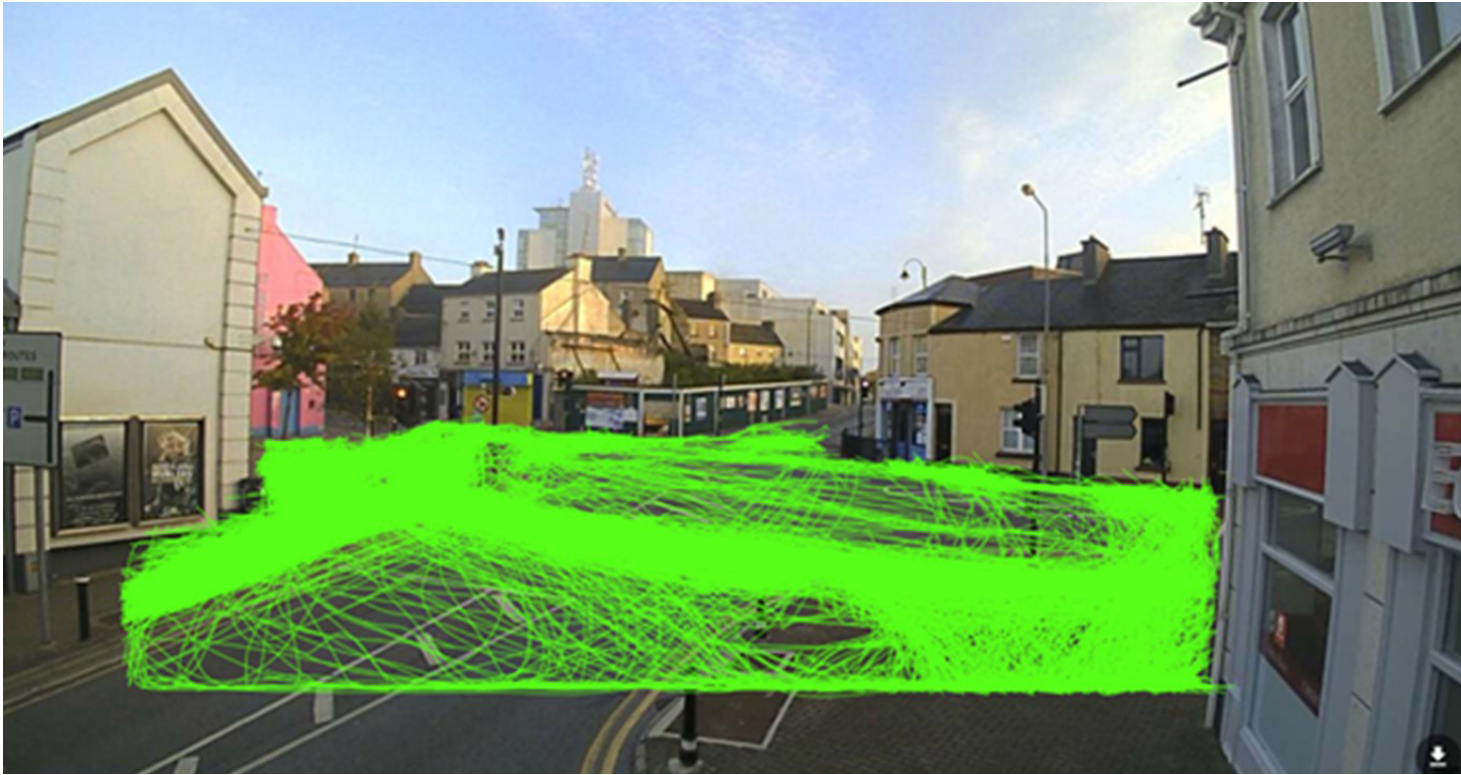
These images are a graphic representation of pedestrian flows at:

- The junction of Sean Costello Street, John Broderick Street, Irishtown and St Mary's Place.
- From St Mary's Square looking along Mardyke Street.
- From Church Street towards Mardyke Street and Sean Costello Street.

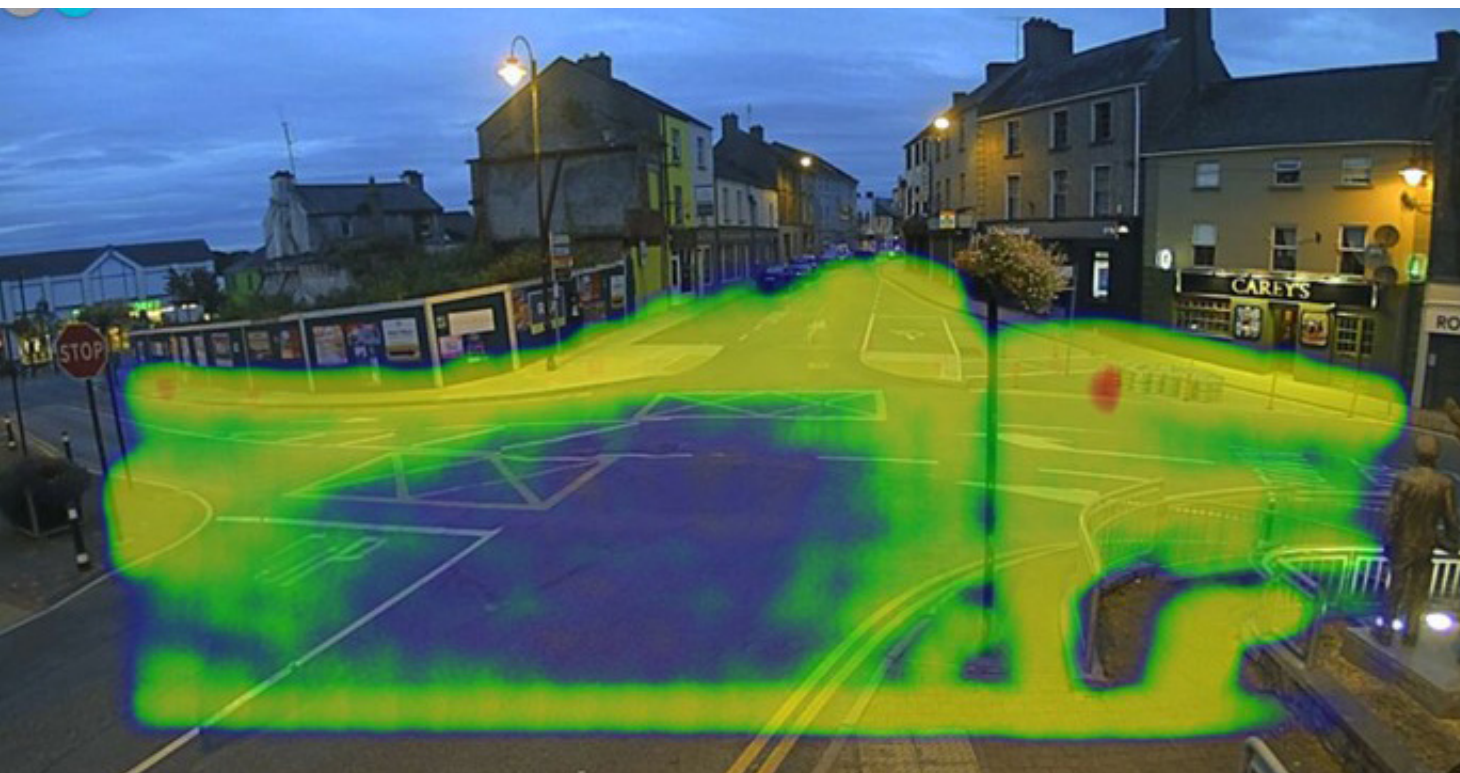
These demonstrate a flow of people using Sean Costello Street as a walking route and connection between Church Street and the wider connections to Irishtown and towards the retail centre of the Golden Island Shopping Centre. From these images the movement along Sean Costello Street appears to be greater than along Mardyke Street.

While these visual representations are a useful tool to help understand pedestrian movement the full movement surveys should be referred to in order to understand the current movement patterns.

Looking north from John Broderick Street with Sean Costello Street to the left of the photograph.



Looking east along Mardyke Street from St Mary's Square.



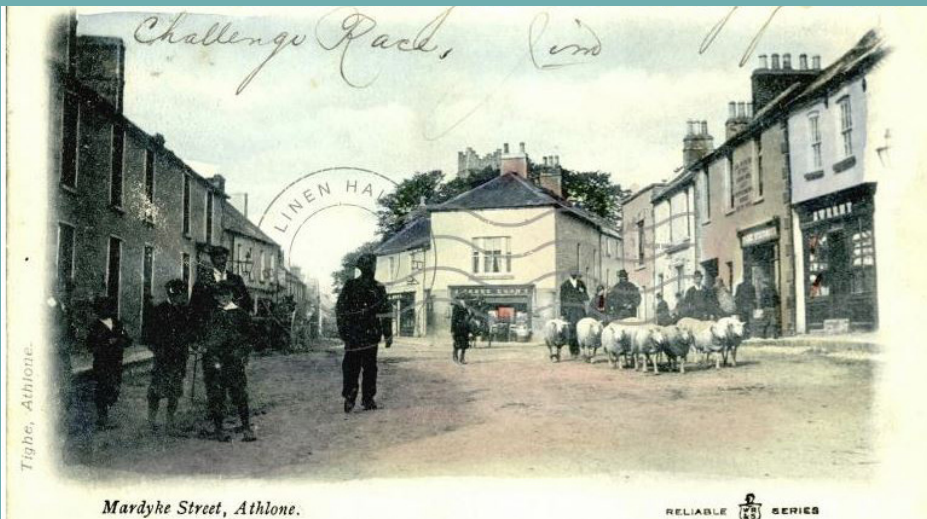
View from Sean Costello Street towards Church Street.



4. HISTORY AND PLACE MAKING



Image showing the Woollen Mills of Athlone



Historic Mardyke Street



Athlone Felt Hat

4.1 WEAVING



The images on these pages are included as a summary of Athlone's industrial heritage as a place for weaving and hat making. While there is a strong palette and approach to the project area established through Church Street there may be opportunities for including elements or details that reference Athlone's heritage through possible integration into streetscape elements.



4.2 PUBLIC ART



5. PUBLIC REALM PROPOSAL

The following chapter focuses on the proposals for the public realm enhancements, including changes to existing vehicular routes, layout, character and materials.

The Development of Public Realm Enhancement Works, encompassing approximately 0.6HA at Mardyke St, Pump Lane and Sean Costello St, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, including the following public realm improvements:

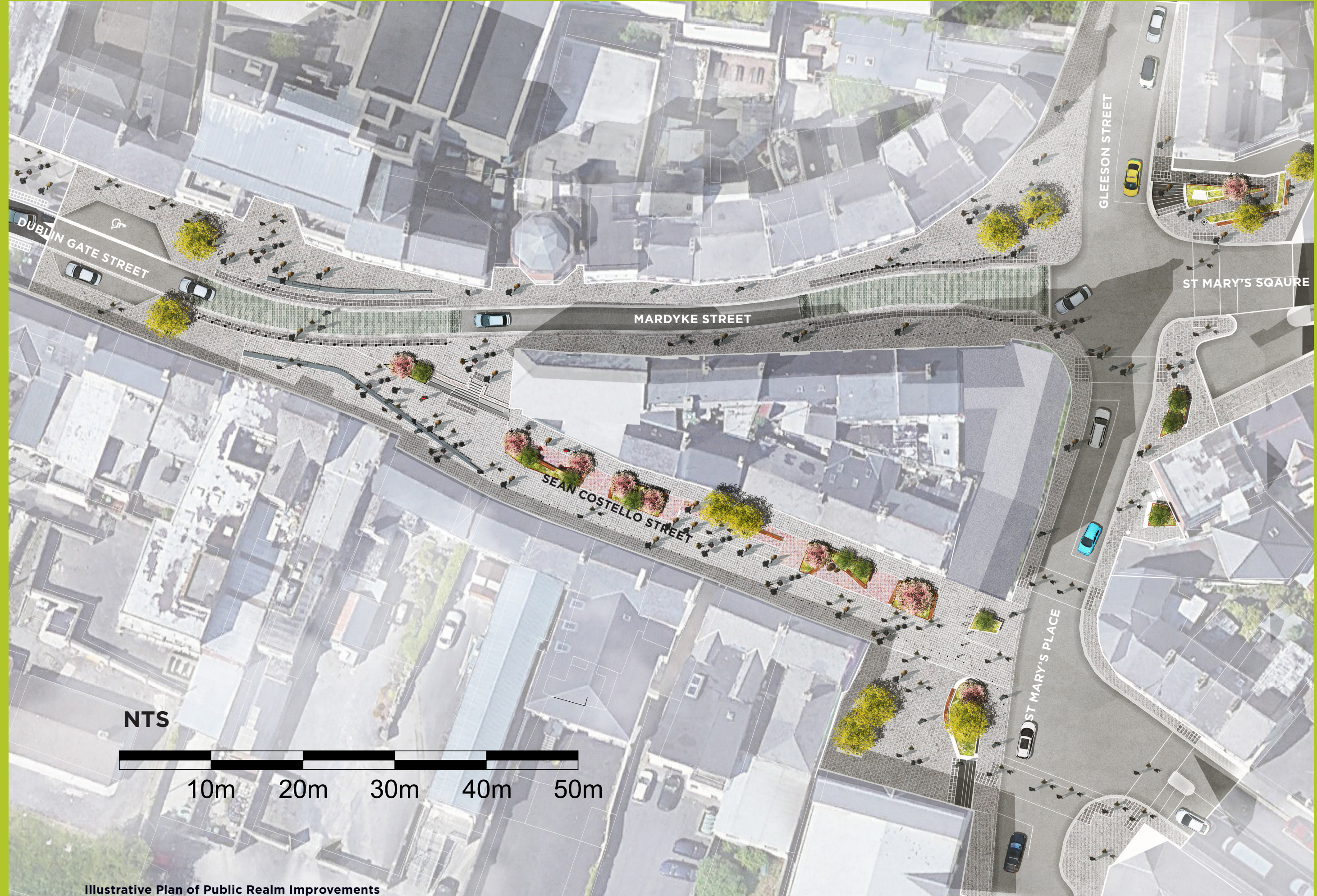
- Provision of upgraded footpaths and realignment of existing carriage way along Mardyke Street, including 120m of a shared and pedestrianisation of 90m of Sean Costello Street, from its junction with Pump Lane to the junction with Mardyke Street, account of the access needs of pedestrians, mobility impaired persons and service vehicles.
- Provision of an enhanced public realm and landscape improvements, including street furniture, incidental play equipment, cycle parking, trees, and soft landscaping to enhance biodiversity.
- Provision of a priority signalised junction, including enhanced pedestrian facilities, at the junction of Mardyke Street, Gleeson Street, Pump Lane, and St Mary's Square.
- Upgrade to public lighting, including focal lighting to Sean Costello Street.
- And all necessary accommodation works, including

utility provision, drainage, signage, and other ancillary works.

The proposals along Dublin Gate Street and Mardyke Street have been set within the framework of details and materials established by Church Street. Whilst Sean Costello Street explores the use of further texture, material types and soft landscape that defines this area as having a less 'civic' character.

This proposal addresses the objectives of the project through the creation of a space that provides connections, looks to increase footfall and becomes a catalyst for public realm change through the introduction of a bold new environment that will encourage people to engage and complements the completed enhancements on Church Street.

Principles of Inclusive Design have influenced the public realm proposals to enable the widest range of people to access the town centre regardless of age or disability. This will be an ongoing consideration through to construction detailing and implementation, to ensure the improvements enhance and facilitate the movement of mobility-impaired people. Location of street furniture, pedestrian crossing points with tactile paving, lighting and appropriate paving material and detailing will continue to be carefully considered.



5.1 MARDYKE STREET AND DUBLIN GATE STREET

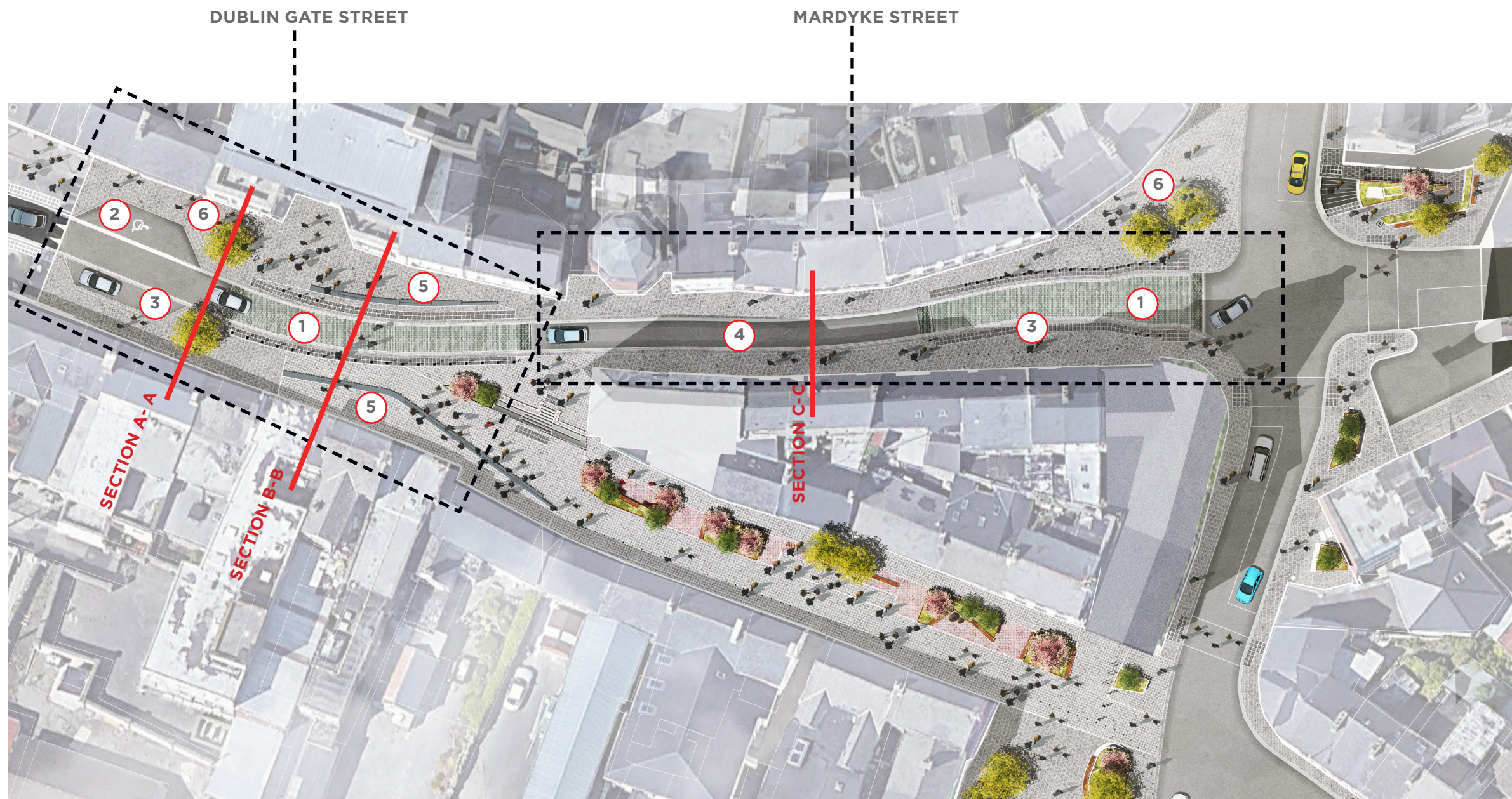
The carriageway along Mardyke Street has been narrowed to allow the enhancement of the footways including the removal of parking. The loss of parking on Mardyke Street will be mitigated by implementing an improved crossing over St Mary's Place facilitating more direct access to the parking in St Mary's Square. The reduced road width and raised table at the Mardyke Street / Gleeson Street / St Mary's Square junction will signal to drivers that they are entering a pedestrian priority area. A loading bay will be included at the eastern end of Mardyke Street to service the businesses located along Mardyke Street.

Dublin Gate Street carriageway will be flush with the footways with a paved surface continuing across as has been delivered in areas of Church Street. This reinforces the feeling that this is a pedestrian priority environment while still providing definition between the carriageway and footways using tactile paving. A disabled bay and loading bay have been incorporated at the western end of Dublin Gate Street. This is also the 'tie in' point with Church Street where there will be a seamless flow between the existing and the proposed public realm. Feature steps and bench blocks are proposed either side of the raised table to deal with level changes around Sweeney's Corner. Whilst they serve a practical purpose they also animate the space and direct pedestrians towards Church Street whilst offering spaces for people to stop and sit. The

existing concrete benches adjacent to the Church on Church Street are well used and it is envisaged that the Dublin Gate Street benches and steps will be of a similar character.

Sweeney's Corner is a focal point with a key facade that bookends Dublin Gate Street. Here the proposals look to retain and refurbish the existing stone wall and include large platform benches on the southern side to take advantage of the level change. Here there is opportunity for informal uses such as market stalls and street music.

Where possible and where underground services allow, we are seeking to incorporate street trees within the hard landscape. Two pairs of trees are located at the entrance to Mardyke Street and in the central space on Dublin Gate Street. While bollards are being integrated in to the design to help control vehicle movements street furniture has also been placed strategically. The material palette and street furniture along Mardyke Street and Dublin Gate Street have been influenced by Church Street to ensure a cohesive transition.



Plan of Dublin Gate Street and Mardyke Street

- ① Raised tables with flush kerbs, tactile paving and integrated bollards
- ② Disabled Parking Bay
- ③ Loading Bays
- ④ 3.5m width vehicular route
- ⑤ Integrated steps and seating at level changes
- ⑥ Street trees located in areas of hard paving with street furniture such as benches and bike stands



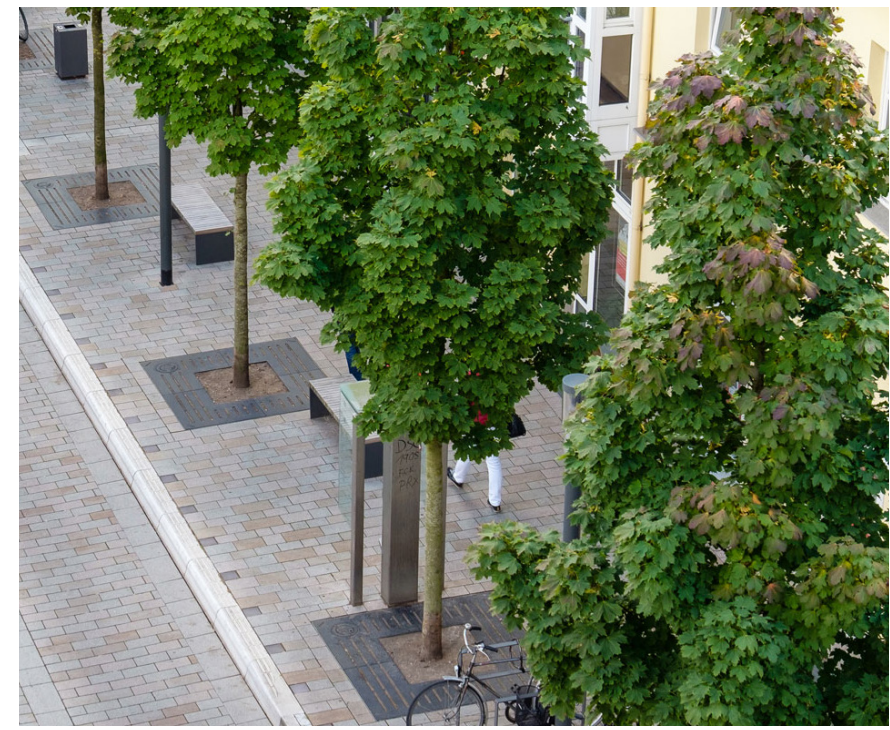
Section A-A through Dublin Gate Street

Section C-C through Mardyke Street

The following pages are a collection of precedent images to demonstrate the more 'civic' character of Dublin Gate Street and Mardyke Street. Natural stone paving is proposed with robust timber and steel street furniture with concrete feature seating similar in character to that which was used on Church Street.



Fixed bollards on Church Street



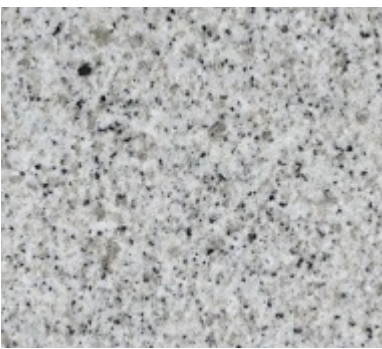
Street trees in hard with benches



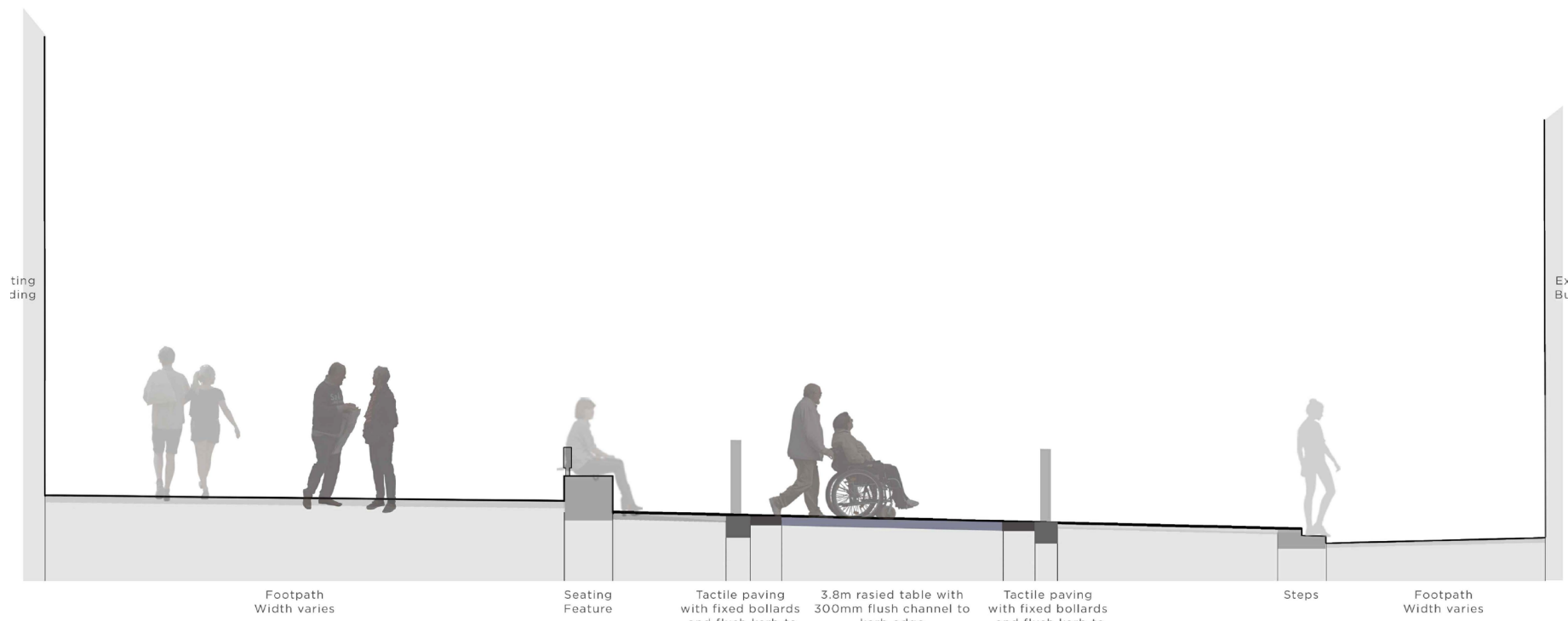
Feature steps



Solid block benches with integrated timber tops



Mid grey natural stone



Section B-B through Dublin Gate Street Raised Table



Granite paving and tactiles on Church Street



Tree grilles



Steel and timber benches



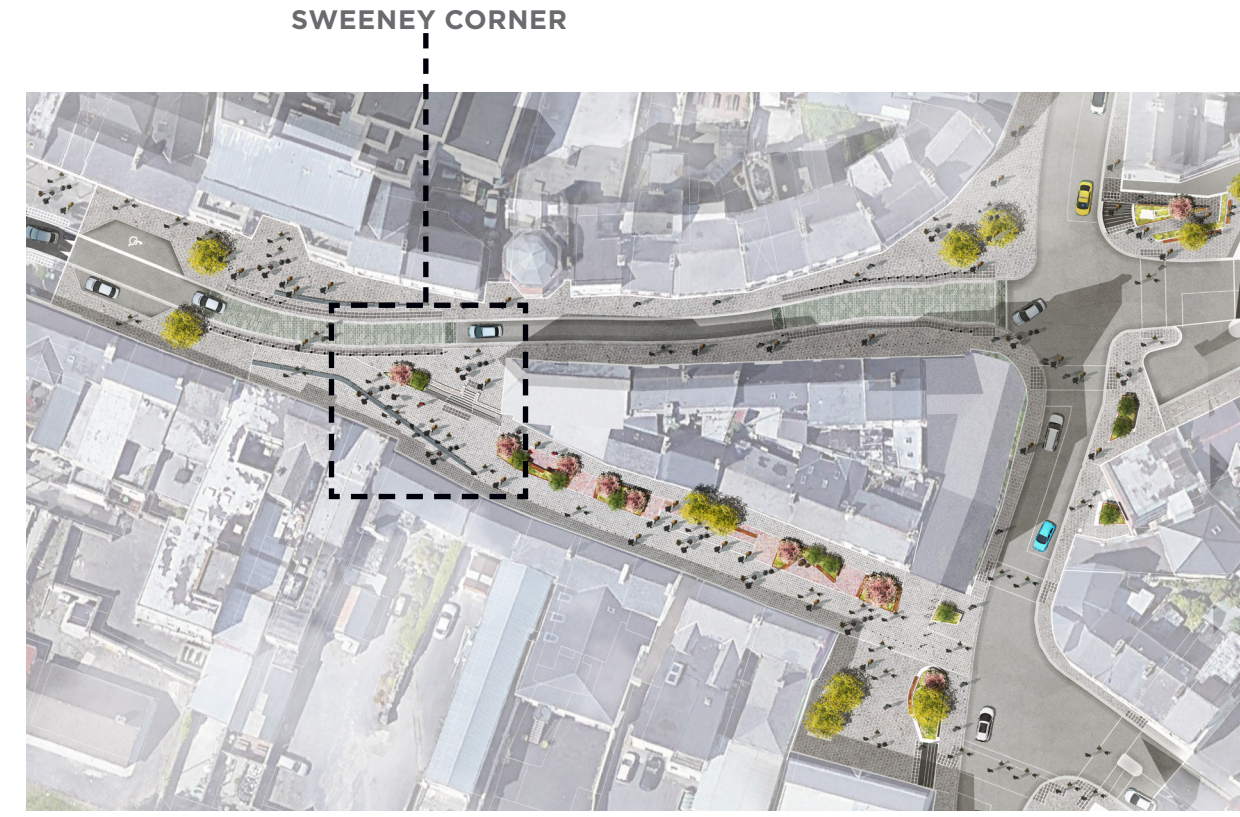
Concrete and timber benches on Church Street



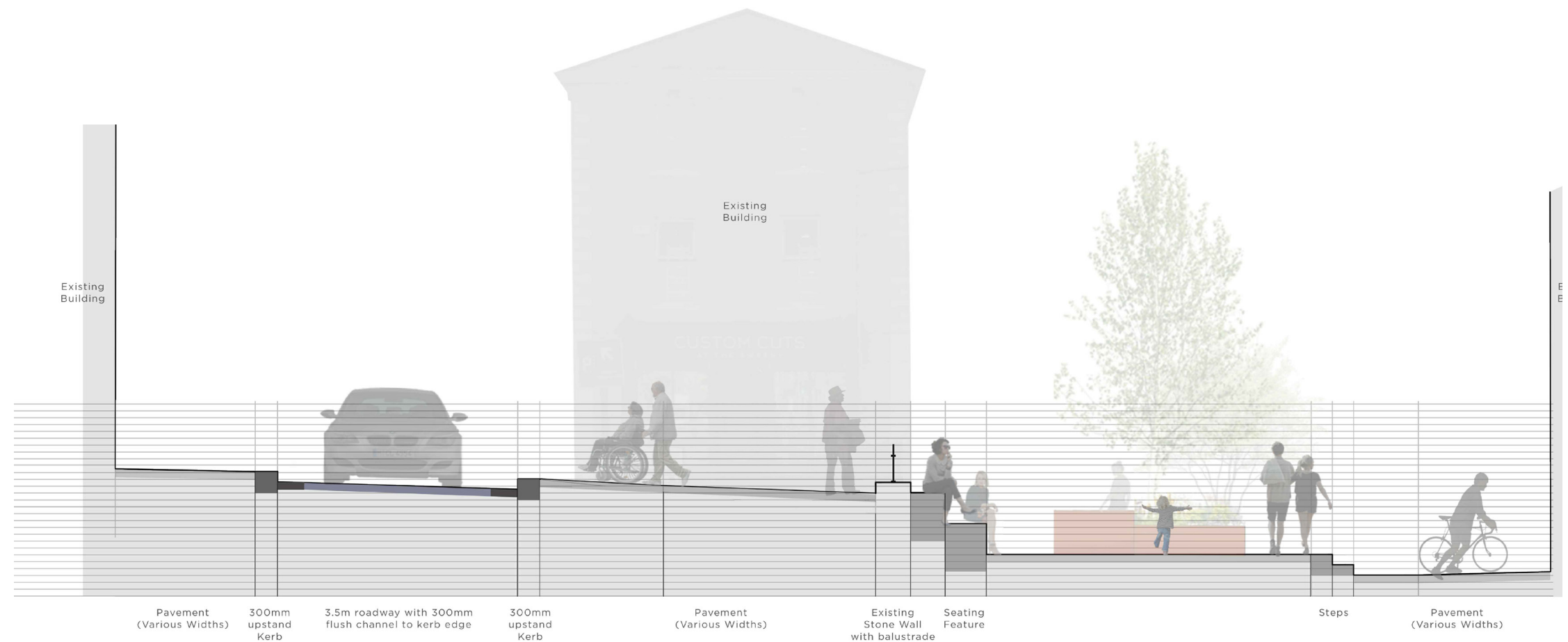
Granite paving and feature band on Church Street

5.2 SWEENEY'S CORNER

Sweeney's Corner sits at a central point within the proposed site, with Dublin Gate Street, Mardyke Street and Sean Costello Street all connecting at this junction, therefore it was integral to the design of the public realm that Sweeney's Corner functions as a permeable space, encouraging the flow of footfall to Athonne Town Centre and along to Church Street. The existing levels have provided an opportunity to create edges for people to sit along and populate the space and the proposed response has produced a dynamic space with feature steps and integrated seating. The two areas to the north and south of the existing stone wall lend themselves as gathering or performance spaces. The proposals for Sweeney's Corner retain the existing stone wall whilst altering the steps to create a more generous splayed entrance. Large platform benches sit against the stone wall and benefit from being south facing. The single raised planter at the corner of Sweeney Corner terminates the pedestrian ribbon that runs the length of Sean Costello Street.



Plan of Sweeney Corner



Section A-A through Sweeney Corner

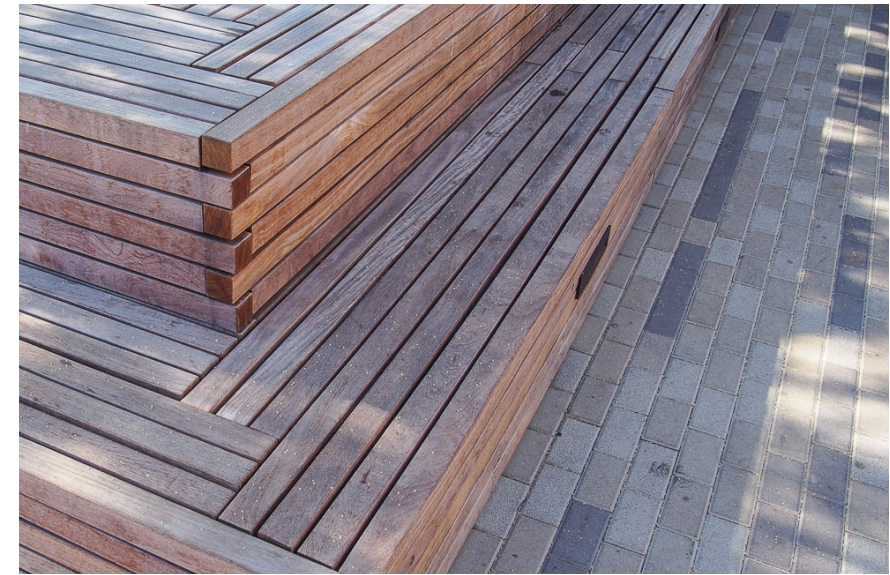
- 1 Existing stone wall to be refurbished
- 2 Proposed steps to be widened and respond to adjacent spaces
- 3 Platform style south facing seating
- 4 Raised metal planter



Raised metal planter

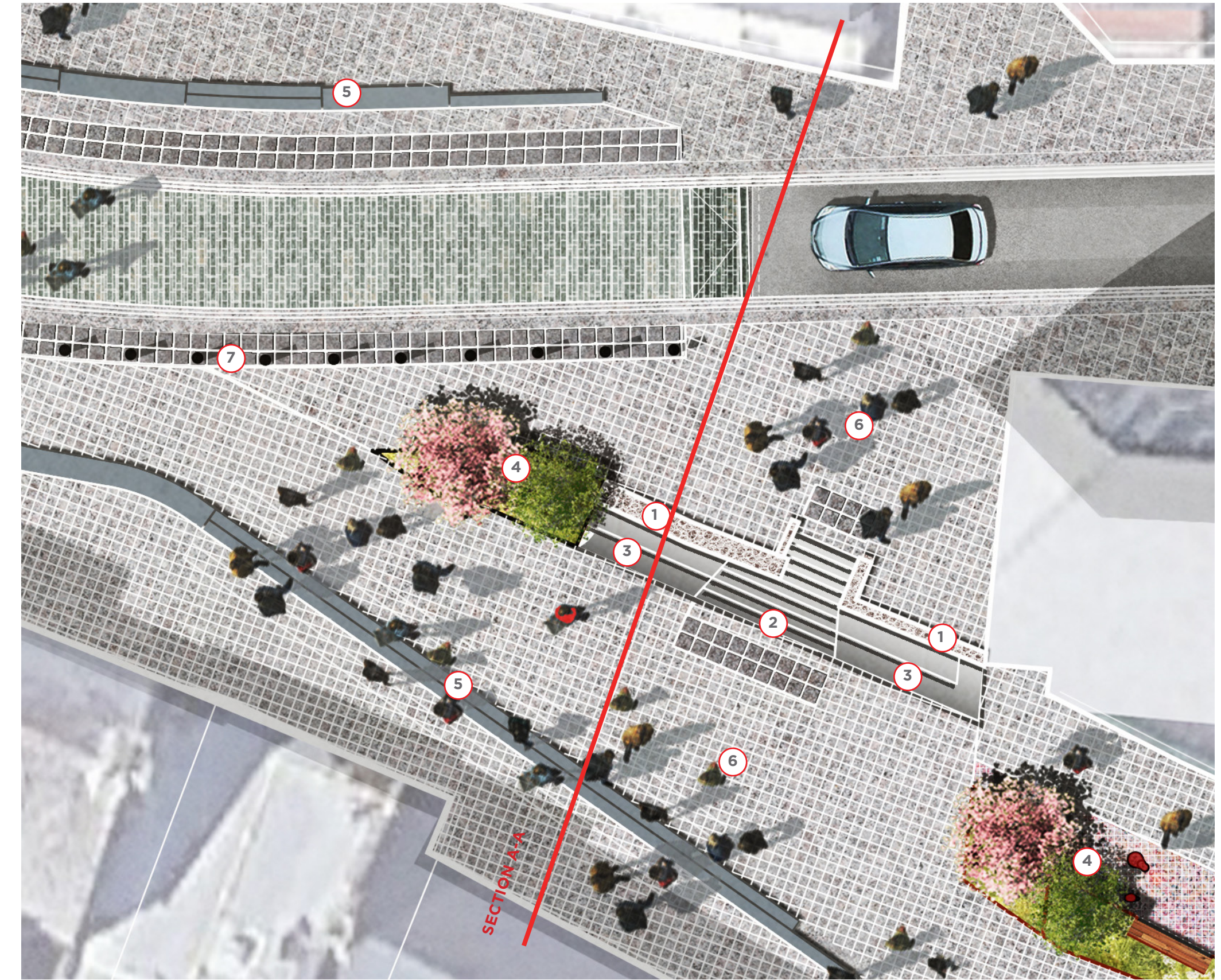


Feature steps deal with level changes and animate the space



Chunky timber platform seating to respond to Sweeney Corner level change

- 5 Feature steps to respond to street levels with seating
- 6 Informal spaces for public activities such as music or stalls
- 7 Access controlled bollards



Detailed plan view of Sweeney Corner and adjacent level changes

The adjacent image is looking along Sean Costello Street past Sweeney's corner from Dublin Gate Street. It depicts the level changes at Sweeney's Corner which create a dynamic and animated space. The introduction of planters will increase biodiversity alongside the planting within Sean Costello Street and space for seating will encourage the public to stop and enjoy the improved public realm.



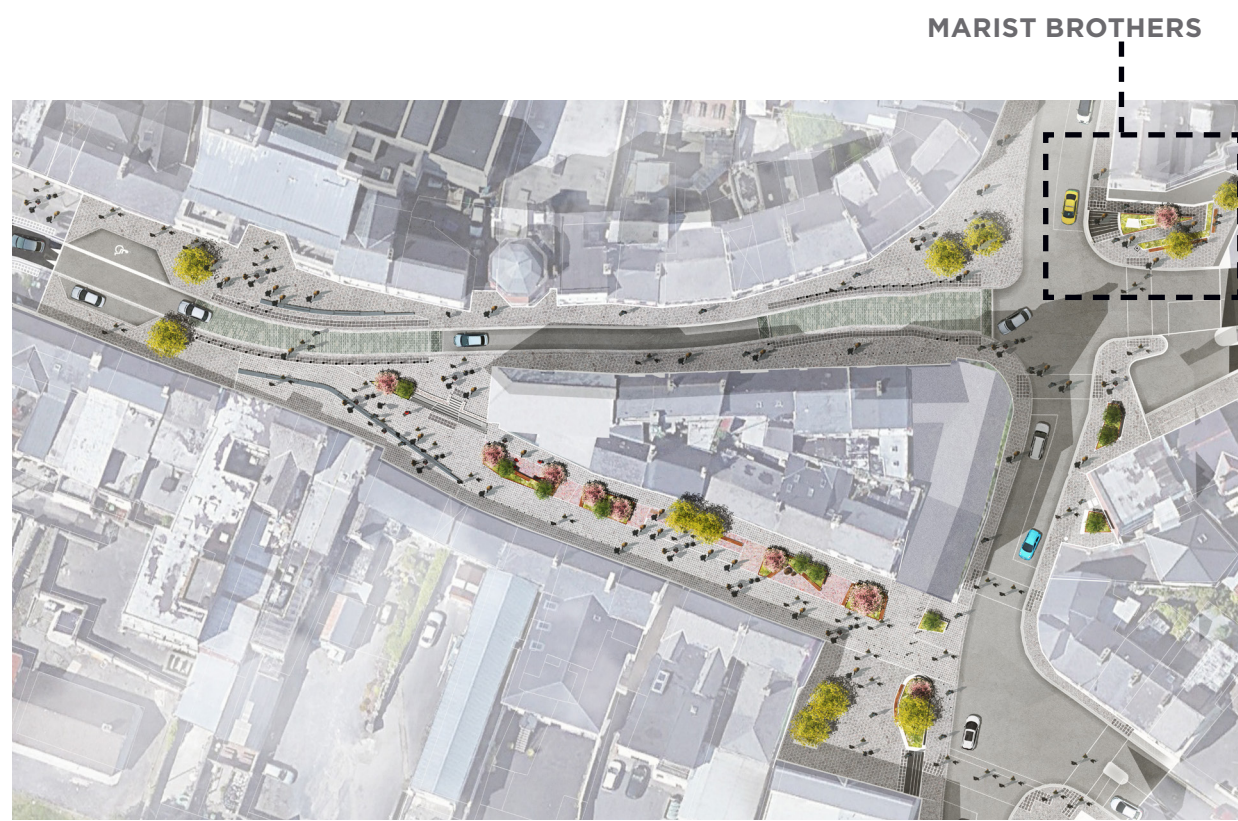
5.3 MARIST BROTHERS

The public realm improvement works include the area on St Mary's Place where the existing Marist Brothers monument is located. As part of the works the proposal has sought to reduce street clutter and reposition the monument so that it is in a more prominent position. Therefore, the proposals are to remove the majority of railings and balustrades by using planted areas to take up the level changes, keeping them below 600mm and therefore not requiring a protection from fall. The need for steps and ramps remains but the proposed levels have achieved a now compliant ramp and the steps will be reconstructed to ensure they are compliant and wider so as to respond to the width of footway top and bottom. The overall character is now much softer than existing and compliments the soft approach to the works on Sean Costello Street. A mixed species palette of low level shrub and herbaceous plants will ensure there are clear site lines across the ramp. And there is now opportunity to have south facing benches with a planted backdrop and street trees. It is proposed the the Marist Brothers Monument will sit within one of the planted areas and face out to the south.



Section A-A through corner with Marist Brothers Monument

- ① Solid granite steps to replace existing steps with up stand and fixed balustrade and handrail
- ② Proposed repositioning of Marist Brothers Monument
- ② Existing retaining wall to be retained
- ④ Shrub and herbaceous planting mix to be low level to ensure clear sight lines. Sloped planting beds to deal with level changes, to be less than 600mm to avoid need for balustrades
- ⑤ Area of hard landscape with south facing benches and street trees located in hard where services allow
- ⑥ Existing ramp to be re-built to compliant 1:13 gradient



Plan of Marist Brother Monument



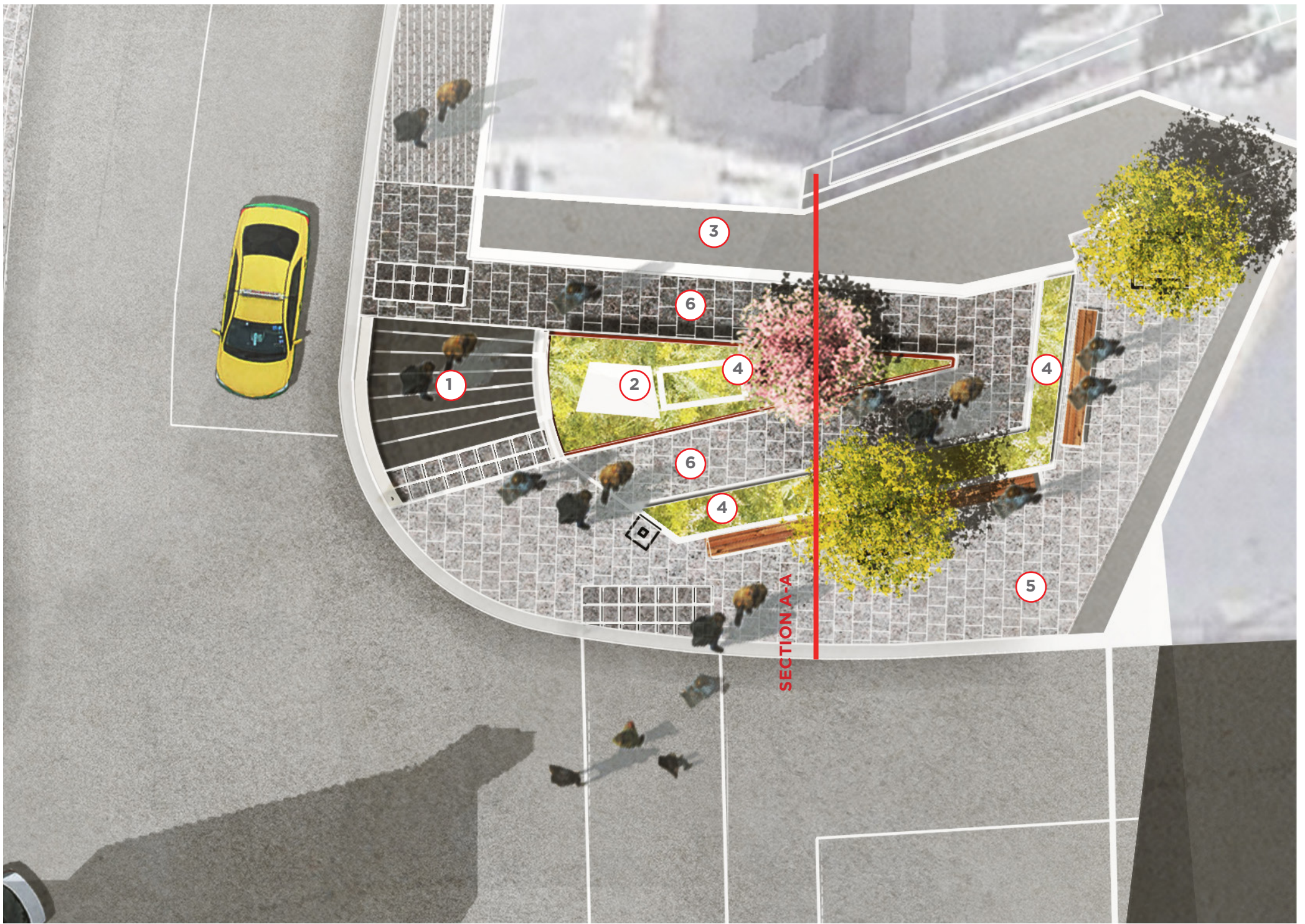
Timber and Steel benches



Benches with planting



Existing Marist Brother Monument to be relocated



Detail plan of Marist Brother Monument

5.4 SEAN COSTELLO STREET

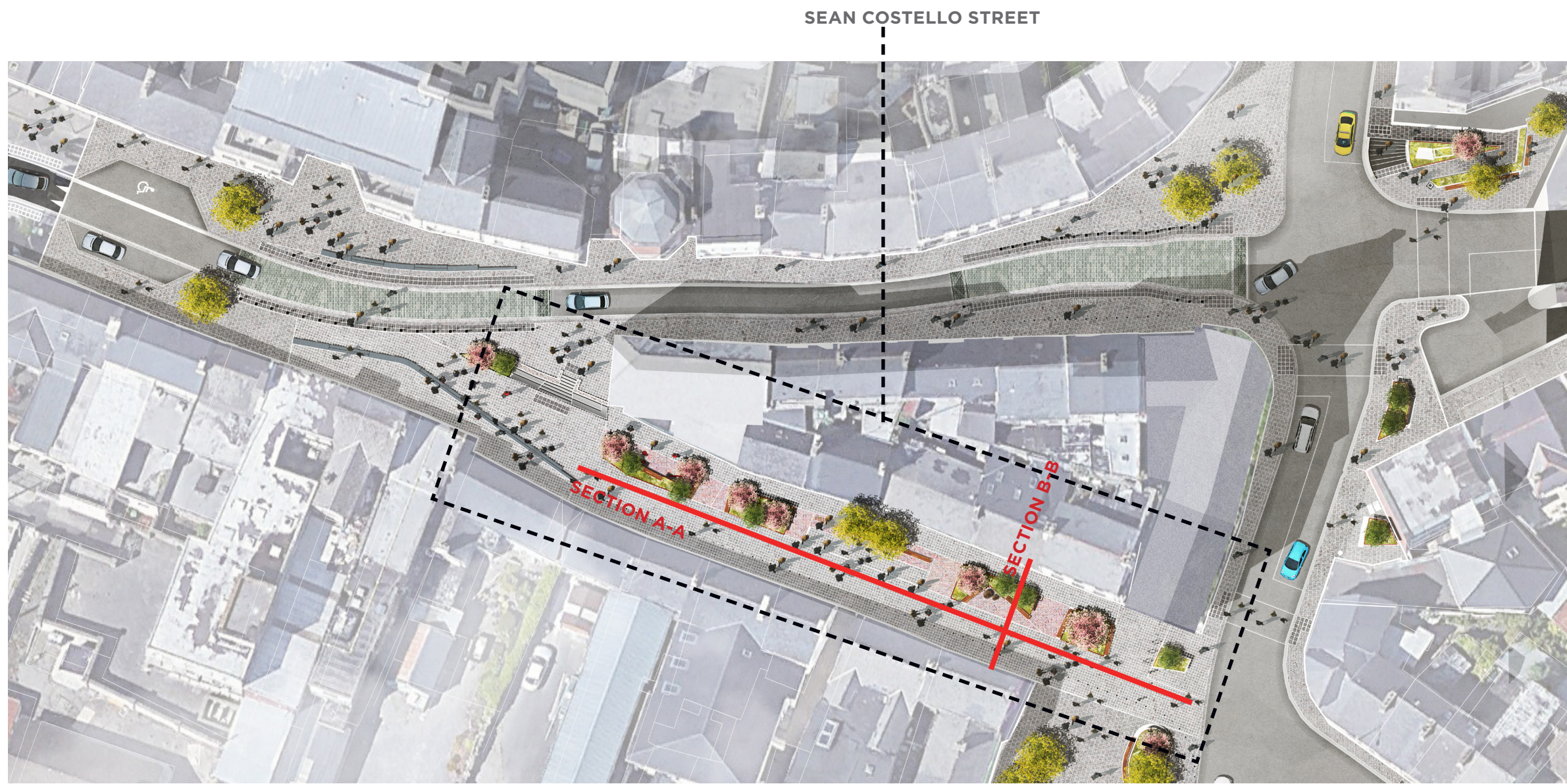
The character of Sean Costello Street has developed from a softer approach with raised planters and trees combining to provide a people friendly environment that compliments the civic nature of Church Street rather than competing with it. It is enhanced with elements of play to encourage families to engage with the town centre. A range of seating types have been incorporated for people to stop and enjoy this dedicated pedestrian environment. The planting also provides opportunity to enhance biodiversity within Athlone's Town Centre and to put people in touch with nature. This could include interpretation and information about the plant species and how they contribute to supporting other species.

From a functional point of view the pedestrianised Sean Costello Street includes access for service and emergency vehicles and also a loading / service bay that doubles as hard space for temporary kiosks or market stalls. Vehicular access will be time restricted and controlled through removable bollards at both ends of Sean Costello Street.

Safety and the perception of safety will be enhanced through:

- The delivery of a high quality environment that can be managed and maintained effectively.
- Ensuring line of site is uninterrupted along the length of the street. This includes using low planting and trees with high level canopies.
- Implementing a lighting scheme that enhances the feeling of safety through the provision of an appropriate level and uniformity of light. Consideration of feature lighting can animate a space during the hours of darkness, enhancing the quality of the environment.
- Designing to ensure there are no opportunities for people to be concealed.
- Design to encourage active uses to engage with the street. This is relevant for the existing uses, but a new environment could encourage a different range of uses.

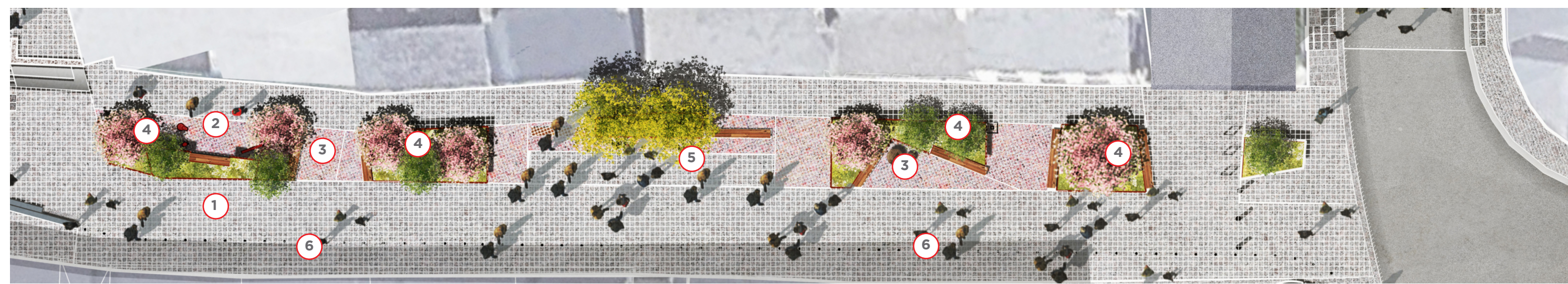
- ① Pedestrian route with controlled access for emergency and service vehicles
- ② Doorstep play surrounded by raised metal planters
- ③ Integrated seating for gathering spaces
- ④ Raised metal planters with biodiversity rich species
- ⑤ Informal area for controlled loading
- ⑥ Road studs to delineate a 1.5 offset from building facade during vehicle access times



Plan of Sean Costello Street



Elevation A-A along Sean Costello Street



Detail plan of Sean Costello Street

The following pages are a collection of precedent images to demonstrate the 'softer' character of Sean Costello Street with examples of planters, seating and doorstep play. The below section depicts the design intent for the raised planters and integrated seating.



Section B-B through raised planter with seating



Detail plan of raised planter with seating



Opportunity for small timber pieces



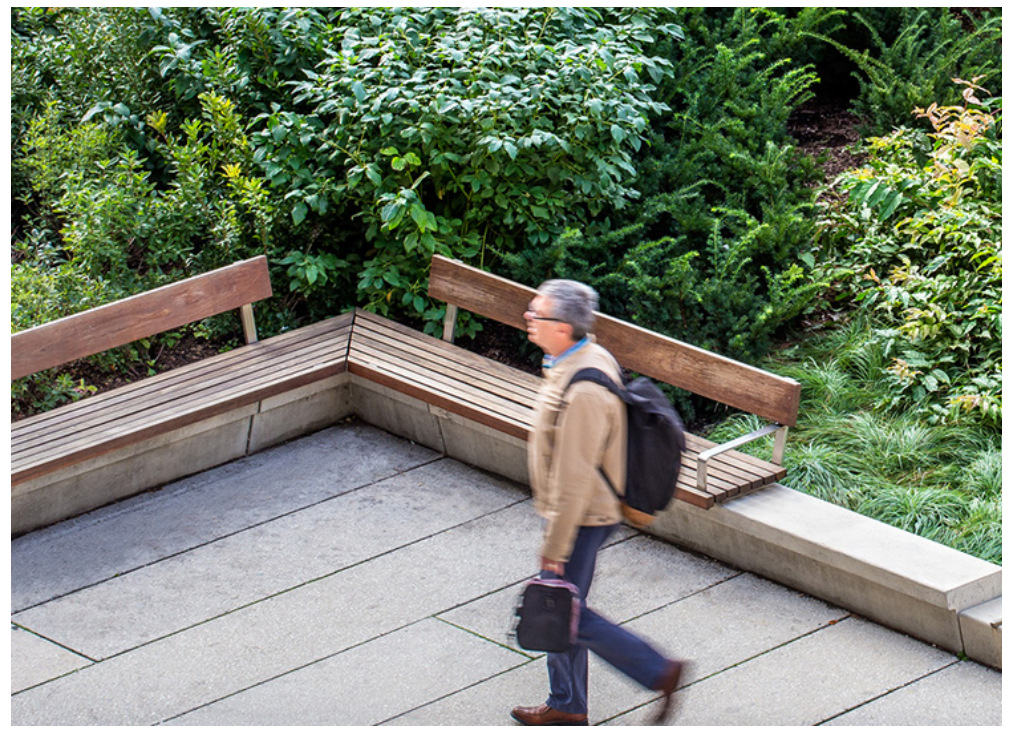
Informal natural play



Integrated timber top benches



Boulders for informal natural play



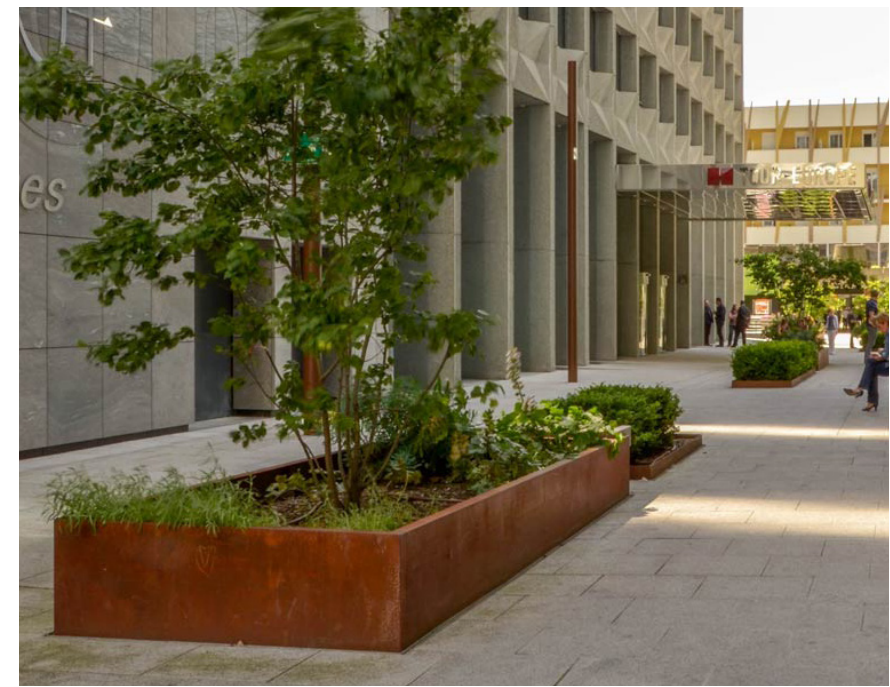
Seating flanked by planting in nodes for informal gathering



Low pieces of play not requiring safety surface



Inclusive play pieces



Raised metal planters



Softer mix of cream and pink natural stones



Colourful and bio-diverse planting mixes

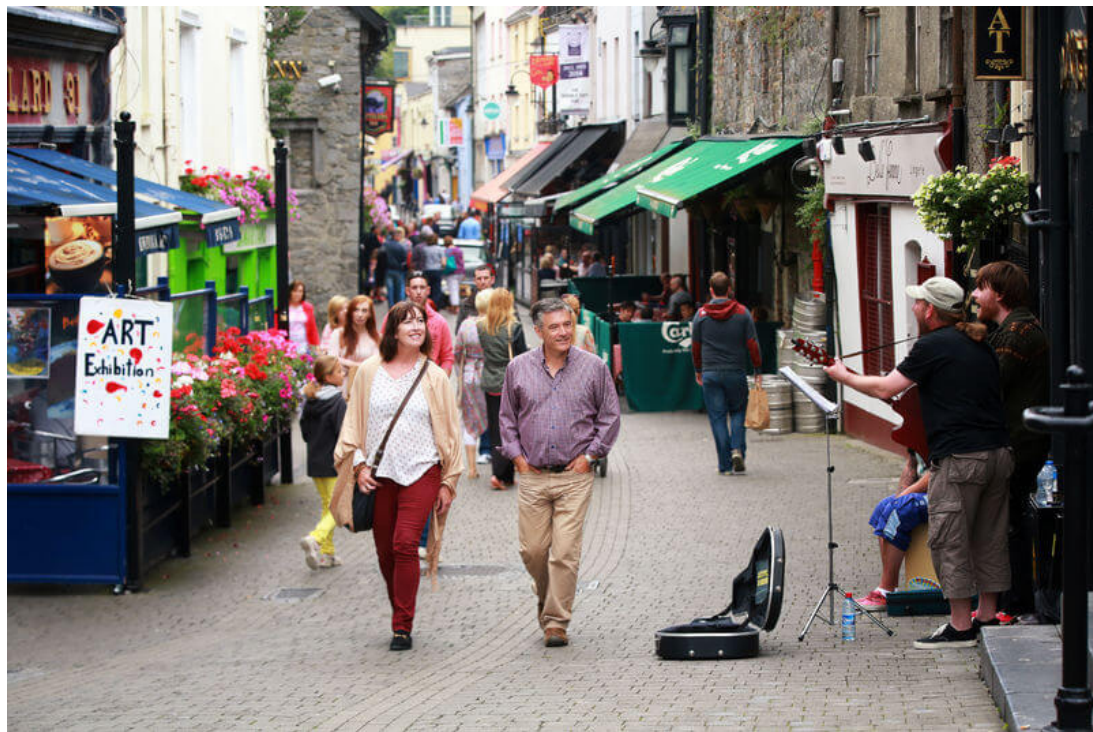
5.5 PRECEDENTS OF PEDESTRIANISED STREETS

These studies are examples of other towns that have undertaken pedestrianisation of streets and areas within their centres. None of these are intended to represent Athlone exactly, but there are elements of each which have felt to be relevant. Some schemes are recently installed but others were implemented longer ago with lessons to learn from each.

BOW STREET - LISBURN



SAINT KIERAN'S STREET - KILKENNY



ST MICHAEL'S STREET / BROAD STREET - WATERFORD



SHAWS ROAD - ALTRINGHAM



5.6 HARD LANDSCAPE

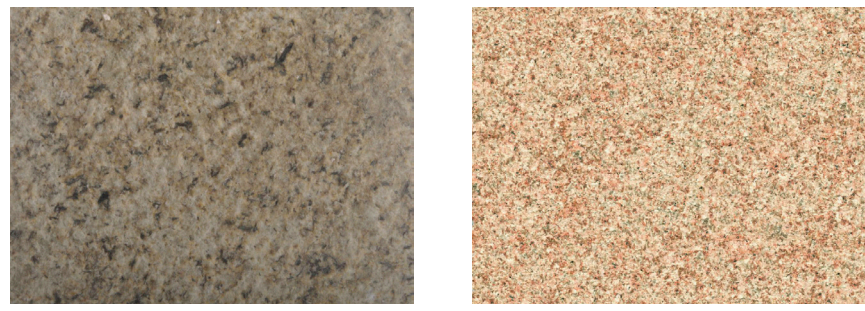
The below are a selection of precedent images for Athlone public realm improvements. Primarily along Dublin Gate Street and Mardyke Street the palette has been influenced by Church Street with proposals including, light grey natural stone for footways and raised tables and asphalt roads. There is the opportunity to incorporate a softer cream and pink within Sean Costello Street with smaller sett sizes. It is envisaged that the sett sizes and colours will be blended so that there is a smooth transition between Dublin Gate Street and Sean Costello Street. Further detail design will explore sett sizes which are suitable for vehicular use and pedestrian.



Opportunity for varied textures and sizes



Natural stone setts for pedestrian use



Natural stone mix of warmer colours



Church Street natural stone palette



Church Street granite setts and feature banding



Diagram depicting hard material palette

5.7 STREET FURNITURE

All of the proposed street furniture has been specified based on its aesthetics, longevity and low maintenance. Some of the proposed street furniture along Dublin Gate Street and Mardyke Street has been specified based on Church Street, such as, cycle stands, bollards and refuse bin and benches proposed are from the same range of furniture ensuring a cohesive transition. A variety of benches are proposed throughout to suit the varying locations and character of spaces. The metal planters will have integrated timber seating in response to the softer pedestrian nature of Sean Costello Street while block concrete benches are proposed at the level changed on Dublin Gate Street to suit the more civic character.



Church Street bike stands



Church Street bollards



Feature steps



Church Street refuse bins



Raised metal planters with integrated timber seating



Stand alone timber and steel benches



Tree Grille

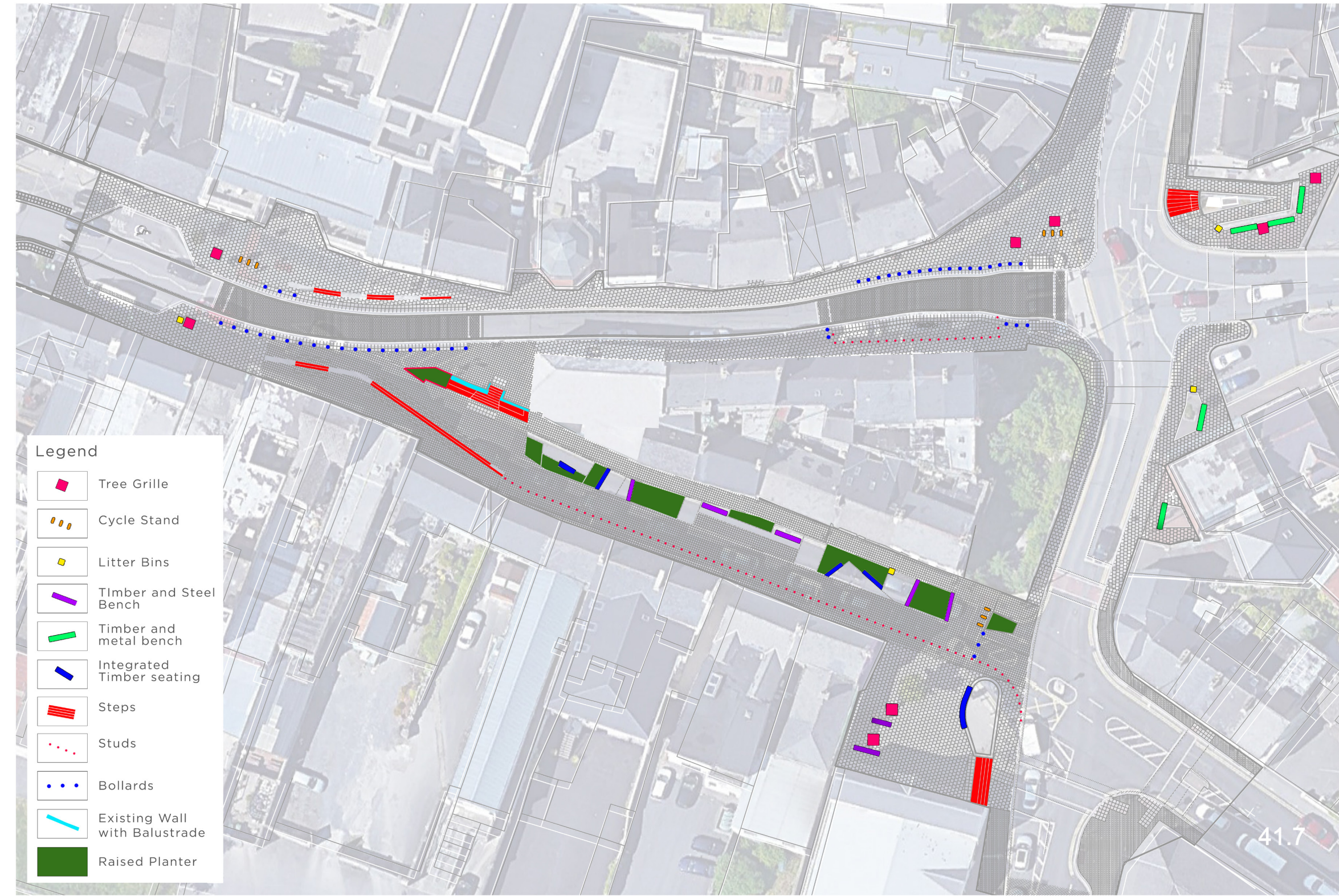


Diagram depicting location of street furniture

5.8 BIODIVERSITY AND PLANTING

5.9 Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan 2014 - 2020

Within the Biodiversity Action Plan there is reference to the importance of biodiversity within urban areas and how nature within cities can support birds, mammals and invertebrates by incorporation of bee friendly flowers, fruiting shrubs and also through the maintenance of landscaped areas by reducing the use of pesticides. There is a particular focus on encouraging bees and butterflies, many of which are under threat, therefore, a planting mix can be compiled which support both whilst also being aesthetic and providing interest along the street. Certain flora has also been highlighted and whilst most suit a more 'wild' landscape, species such as *Salvia verbenaca* and *Stachys officinali* could be incorporated within the proposed planting mix.

There are two actions within the biodiversity plan relating to Athlone, which demonstrate an already existing drive to enhance and increase biodiversity within the town, they are:

'Seek to extend the Shannon Callows Breeding Waders Project to Athlone, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.'

'Develop Town Biodiversity Plans for Mullingar and Athlone.'

Whilst the Shannon Callows landscape consists of grassland floodplain meadows there are characteristics which we could look to adopt within our planting, such as groups of grasses, using species such as *Carex*, also present in Shannon Callows. 'Species-rich Floodplain Meadow in the Shannon Callows' documents which species are present or should be for a healthy landscape and although the majority of flowering perennials are wildflowers and perhaps not suitable to an urban environment, there are some species (or cultivated varieties for parks and gardens) which could be incorporated such as:

- *Iris pseudacorus*
- *Achillea millefolium*
- *Mentha*
- *Lysimachia punctata*
- *Potentilla erecta*



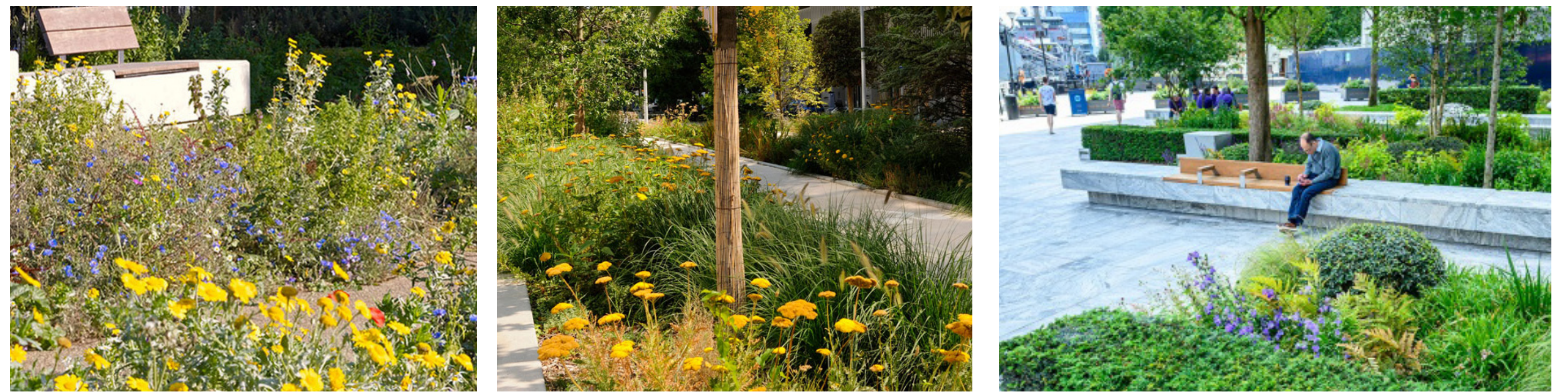
Salvia verbenaca Stachys officinali







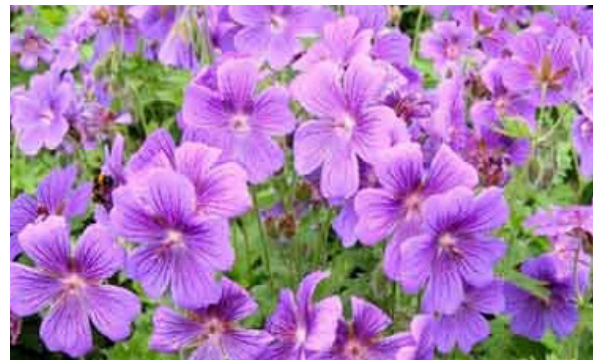




Shannon Callows



Stachys officinali Achillea millefolium Mentha Potentilla erecta Lysimachia punctata - the garden variety of lysimachia vulgaris



<p>WINTER</p>  <p>Winter seed heads</p>  <p>Evergreen grasses</p>	<p>SPRING</p>  <p>Spring flowering bulbs - Irises</p>  <p>Winter bulbs - Cyclamen</p>  <p>Spring blossoming shrubs - Viburnum</p>	<p>SUMMER</p>  <p>Achillea millefolium 'Terracotta'</p>  <p>Summer flowering geraniums - block planting</p>	<p>AUTUMN</p>  <p>Autumn leaves and seeds - <i>Euonymus alatus</i> 'Compactus'</p>  <p>Structure and colour with autumn grasses - <i>Miscanthus</i></p>
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5.10 PLANTING AND TREES

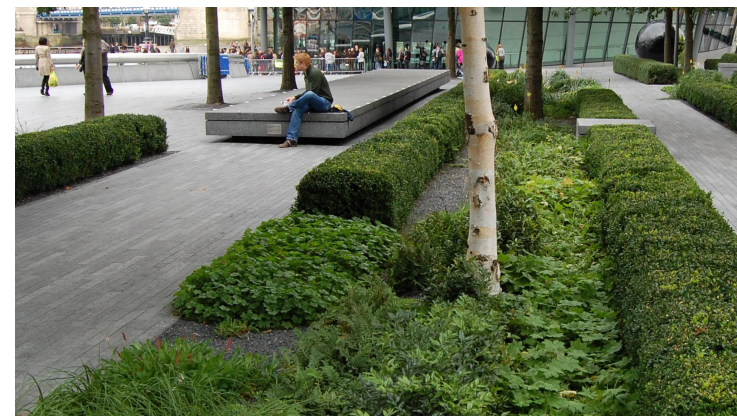
There are two proposed planting mixes, one on Sean Costello Street and one within the Marist Brothers Monument area. Here the palette will be predominately shrub planting and ground cover herbaceous species to ensure there is seasonal interest but low maintenance and low level planting. Along Sean Costello Street the planting mixes will be more diverse in response to the biodiversity plan. However, whilst the planting palette will look to incorporate the guidance in the biodiversity plan it will also seek to provide an aesthetic backdrop to the street, through bold block colours and varying textures, heights and fragrances. Seasonal interest will also be carefully considered so that there is interest throughout the year with, spring and winter bulbs, spring blossom, winter seed heads and evergreen perennials. Where possible native species, and butterfly and bee friendly species have been chosen.

Native trees have been chosen where they are suitable for use such as, *Betula pendula*, *Corylus avellana* and *Prunus avium*. Where necessary some non-native trees have been selected such as *Prunus avium* 'Plena', still within the same family of *Prunus avium* and native to Europe but unlike *Prunus avium* it does not drop fruit and is therefore more appropriate for use as a street tree. Seasonal interest has also been a consideration with berrying trees such as *Sorbus* and autumn colour form species such as *Amelanchier lamarckii*. Multi-stems are to be confined to the raised planters along Sean Costello Street and clear stem trees used elsewhere which are suitable for street use and allow clear sight lines.

TEXTURE



SHRUB AND MULTI-STEM FRAMEWORK



Corylus avellana



Sorbus aucuparia



Prunus avium



Diagram depicting planting mixes and tree locations

Edinburgh Office

Quartermile Two | Level 2 | 2 Lister Square | Edinburgh | EH3 9GL

t 0131 221 5920

London Office

Unit 6 | 36-42 New Inn Yard | Shoreditch | London | EC2A 3EY

t 0203 984 4022

Manchester Office

13 Swan Street | Manchester | M4 5JJ

t 0161 696 7550

w optimisedenvironments.com

Optimised Environments Ltd. Registered in Scotland SC359690.

**Registered address: Quartermile Two, Level 2, 2 Lister Square,
Edinburgh, EH3 9GL**



**Optimised Environments Limited
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