

5. KEY ENHANCEMENT AREAS

Summary

The Old Town's built environment and public realm will generally be improved, in line with the principles identified in the preceding chapter. However, the Strategy has identified Key Sites within the Old Town that are ripe for development and certain areas of public realm that are in major need of enhancement. Whilst guiding principles for the key sites are outlined in chapter six, this chapter discusses our aspirations for the public realm.

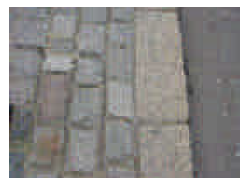
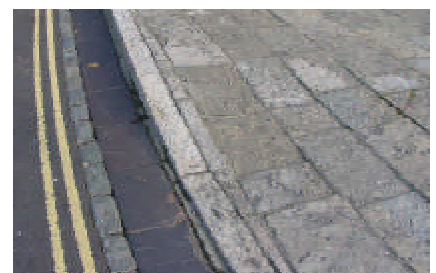
The following is not an exhaustive list of areas requiring attention; these locations have simply been highlighted either due to their current poor quality but important location or in order to build on the quality that already exists. Their detailing illustrates our aspirations towards many of the previously outlined general tasks and principles, as well as relating these to area-specific treatments.

Key Enhancement Areas

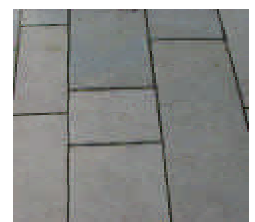
- ***The Bargate***
- ***Holy Rood Place***
- ***The Watergate/Town Quay***
- ***Albion Place***
- ***St Michael's Square***
- ***The Eastern Walls***



Roads as important and as highly-trafficked as Town Quay could at the same time be made much more inviting as illustrated here



Examples of some of the paving materials to be used within the Old Town



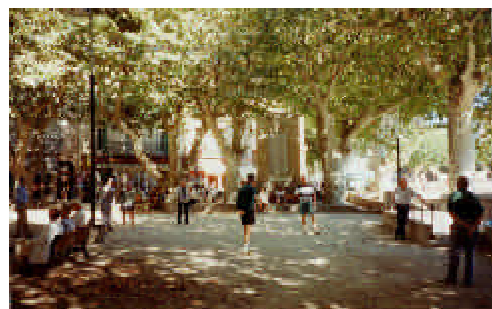
Quality treatment of spaces can lead to a multitude of spin-off benefits, and are equally important as new developments in encouraging patronage of an area, in turn aiding new developments. Methods of maintenance and costs however, need to be resolved prior to their inception, and should be agreed at the planning application stage.

Aspirations for Key Enhancement Areas

Albion Place



The removal of buses and the creation of seating areas and a children's play area, resurfaced with soft landscaping and trees, could all enhance this key entrance to the Old Town from WestQuay Shopping Centre and its views over the proposed City Plaza.



The aspiration to create a continental style town park in Albion Place, similar to this French example, would contribute to all six objectives. The space would highlight the adjacent Town Walls, connect the Old Town with WestQuay and the Above Bar precinct, sit close to the bus stops, should have pedestrian priority, and ultimately provide somewhere for all users to sit and enjoy the Old Town experience.

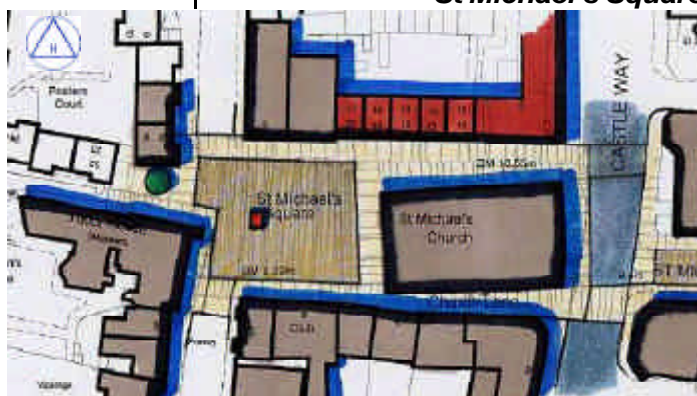
Building out St Michael's Square over to Blue Anchor Lane will enhance pedestrian connections through the Old Town and act as a traffic calming influence along Bugle Street. Granite setts could be used in Bugle Street to aid traffic calming.

Key Enhancement Areas



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St Michael's Square



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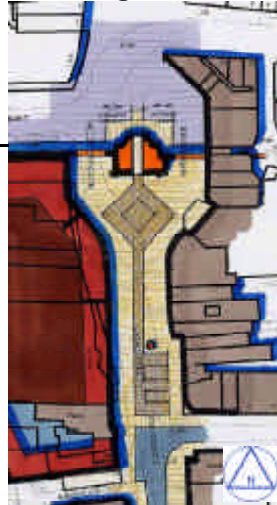
Holy Rood Place



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Holy Rood Place is one of the most underplayed yet significant spaces within the Old Town, sitting at the junction of the North/South Spine and the East/West Spine (Oxford Street through to the Eastern Walls, Holy Rood Place and onto Blue Anchor Lane). The road should be possibly raised by a table crossing at the junction and the pavements built out to facilitate café culture and pavement seating. This will provide the ruins with the setting that they deserve, and they should also be floodlit. St Michael's Street could become pedestrianised.

The Bargate



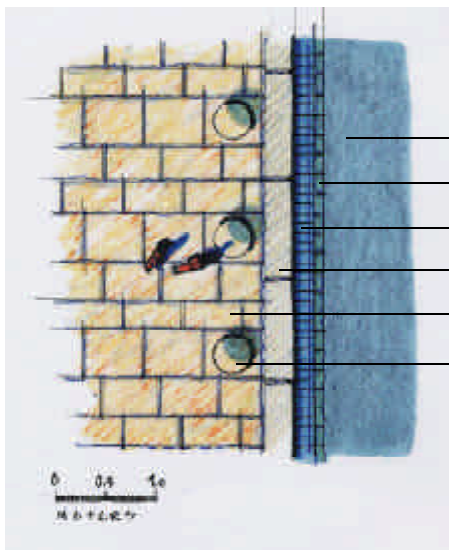
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The Bargate and Watergate are the Old Town's two entry points along the North/South Spine, and require considerable traffic calming and hard and soft landscaping improvements, along with strengthening the perception of entering the once walled town. A high-level walkway could, for example, reconnect the Walls across to The Bargate from either side. At the Watergate, to the south, traffic calming, the re-use of the Watergate, and proposals within the Royal Pier Waterfront Development Brief, will help connect the Old Town with its waterfront.

The Watergate/ Town Quay



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- Resurfaced Macadam
- Granite Setts
- Blue Brick Channel
- Granite Kerbing
- Scabbled Purbeck (various dimensions)
- Purbeck Stone Spherical Bollard

A bird's eye illustration of the proposed paving scheme for the Old Town along High Street

[Aspirational sketches taken from SCC's North South Spine Strategy]

The Eastern Walls



The Eastern Walls and the feeling of transition should, as with the other Town Walls, be enhanced where existing, and redefined where lost. This can be through various forms: either the built form integral in the building's design, such as by using arches or materials; architectural detailing to define gateways; public art in the landscape; or buildings which themselves recreate the ambience of a walled city by, for example, masonry predominating over voids. There should be activity along this route.

