



Temple Bar Square Refurbishment

part 8 proposal



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Dublin City Council

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TEMPLE BAR SQUARE REFURBISHMENT

PART 8 PROPOSAL - part I

Summary

It is almost impossible to imagine a square at this place that could be open, spacious and flexible - a space for the wider public. Yet that is the challenge that the refurbishment of Temple Bar Square now faces as its future is reimagined in the context of a rapidly changing city.

Temple Bar Square is the focal point for the Temple Bar District, one of the country's most popular destinations with an astounding 22 million visits per year (1). Over the past 30 years its popularity and increasing commercial potential has led it to become colonised by restaurants terraces, kiosks and diverse objects which have slowly but surely, diminished its size, simplicity and potency.

The surrounding streets, the Temple Bar and Crown Alley are two of the busiest pedestrian spines in the city. Navigating these narrow spaces is sometimes difficult and treacherous underfoot. The steps of the square, used by tired visitors to rest, in combination with the narrow pavement and streets often serve to create blockages and cause congestion.

The expectation is that with the imminent redevelopment of College Green and the Central Bank areas, will only lead to an increase in

pedestrian traffic in the district, making the need for a new design more relevant.

The timing of this project is not overdue. It offers a fantastic opportunity to reassess the changing needs of the area and deliver better solutions for future use. Importantly the project extends its design thinking to surrounding streets and aims to deliver key principles for a pedestrian friendly public realm. In this sense, it is also a testing ground for the rest of the Temple bar area and the design principles (if successful) can be extended to other streets, as envisaged in the public realm masterplan.

Vision

Our vision seeks the retention of simplicity in a robust design as being key to the Square's ultimate success. It seeks to anticipate and integrate user needs to create playful solutions that reveal the rich history of the site. The recalibration of restaurant terraces and the reconnection of streets are all opportunities that can be successfully integrated without compromising security or traffic design. In our vision, the Temple Bar Square will continue to invite users as a 'podium' to the city, but be better organised and designed to be more

flexible. Our vision sees the potential for a more diverse square, with many potentials, including diverse cultural activities, markets and events that could potentially be organised around an annual cultural calendar.

It is Dublin City Council's ambition that together with the design team and with the help of all stakeholders we can imagine and develop an exemplary square of the highest quality. We hope it sets the conditions for continued success and ensures greater public use and enjoyment.

References:

1. based on a pedestrian survey for Temple Bar Company by Behaviour and Attitudes Ltd, 1999.

Image right: satellite image and project area boundary



1. Introduction

Location

Temple Bar Square is located in the centre of the Temple Bar Cultural District, just west of Dublin's city centre. The project area is roughly 2000m² and includes the existing Temple Bar Square and the adjoining streets of Crown Alley Upper Fownes Street (south of Temple bar) and a section of Temple Bar from Fownes Street to Crowne Alley. The site is part of a wider pedestrianised zone which prohibits traffic during the day from 11 am to late at night. However the site is freely accessible to traffic and is frequently used by (incidental) traffic and parking during the day. This has consequences for pedestrian flows. The site is located at the confluence of two of the major pedestrian flows in the city, east-west along Temple Bar and north-south from Merchant's Arch to the Dame street.

Description

The Temple Bar Square and project area is driven by a vibrant tourist economy. It is home to several markets, performing buskers and large areas of licensed terraces for nearby eateries, which occupy more than half of the square. At the same time the square has always been designated as a cultural space for public use, not to mention the 2000 local residents

of the Temple Bar district itself. The square is raised relative to its surroundings and is not universally accessible for people with disabilities.

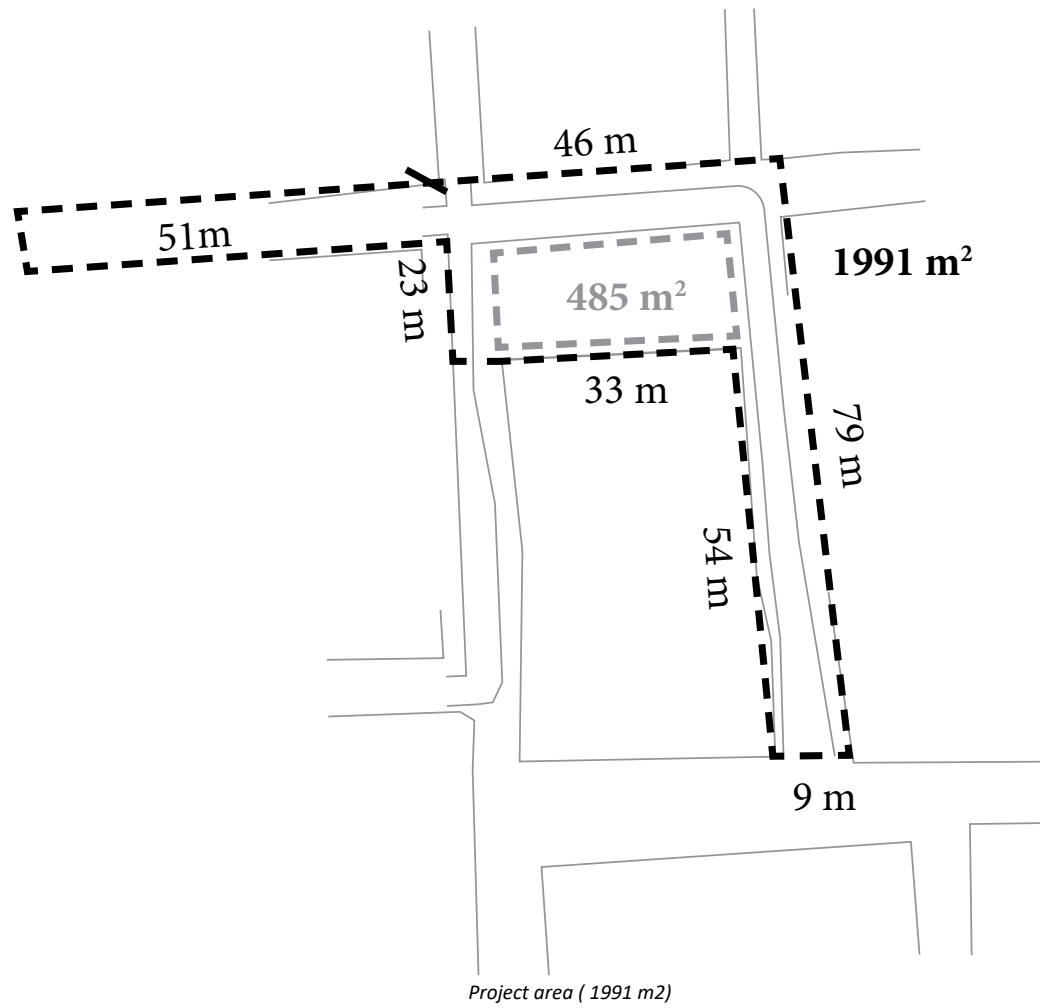
Surrounding streets are designed as traffic areas despite being almost exclusively used by pedestrians. The Dublin setts although cherished for their charm are in fact quite recent to the area. The traditional Dublin setts, form a strong point of contention and are both liked and disliked in equal measure. Despite giving a charming and informal street character they are sometimes difficult to walk on. They are also difficult to maintain and restore properly, often requiring periods up to 7 days to reset properly.

Ambition

The ambition of the Temple Bar Square Refurbishment Plan is to create 'a quality public realm integrated with the wider city'. This ambition is further acknowledged by the Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 which acknowledged the earlier Legible Dublin Study, and highlighted the need to improve accessibility and legibility within the city centre by recasting the public domain in favour of the needs of pedestrians, the mobility impaired and cyclists. The Department of Transport's Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets also affirms this

approach in the design of the public realm. The National Disability Strategy 2004 referred to in the public realm strategy, Your City Your Space Dublin City Public Realm Strategy 2014, shares a vision of the public realm which supports universal access for people with disabilities to live a full life, to the greatest extent possible with their families as part of the local community free from discrimination. The Heart of Dublin; City Centre Public Realm Masterplan 2016 also shares this approach. This stated commitment to transforming the city from a place dominated by traffic to a legible and world class walking city with universal access supported by a high quality public domain is reflected in the policies and objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022.

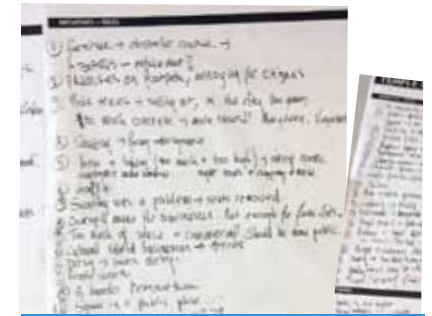
In recognition of the increasing importance of the quality of the urban environment and the public realm, Dublin City Council launched 'Your City Your Space' public realm strategy in 2012. This was followed by the City Centre Public Realm Master plan in 2016. This master plan outlined an ambitious programme for public realm improvements with an objective to greatly improve the quality of the public realm throughout the heart of the city centre. The Temple Bar Public Realm Masterplan, forms part of this masterplan and further describes a set of emerging projects. Temple Bar Square is one of these projects.



The total planning area is approximately. 1991 m2. Temple Bar Square itself is circa 485 m2. The two adjacent streets, Fownes Street Lower and Crown Alley have respectively a length of 70m and 79m.



Brainstorm session Temple Bar Square

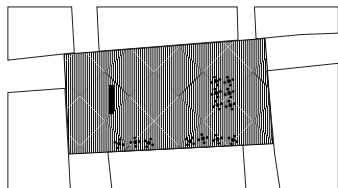


Inspiration

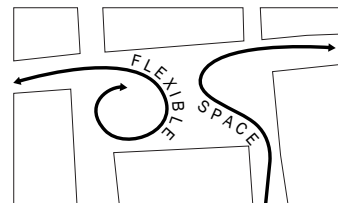


2. Participation

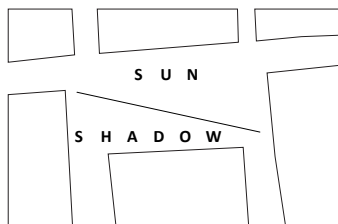
A collaborative approach



Reclaim public space



Increase Flexibility



Optimise sun and deliver a greener square

Dublin City Council began formal consultation on the development of the Temple bar Square refurbishment in January 2017. However, consultation for the square had also been carried out in previous plans since 2014 by Temple bar Company.

The process of consultation and communication undertaken was open and participative, aiming to reach all residents (or resident representatives) and relevant stakeholders such as business owners, cultural groups, and infrastructure providers, sectoral groups and statutory agencies. Key stakeholders represented at the first phase of consultation Temple Bar Company, resident groups and business owners and local traders.

Several workshops and presentations, individual meetings, and a series of collaborative workshops for key moments in the design process were held.

Internally Dublin City Council organised its own communication process: the public realm proposals were presented at managerial and committee level as well as to relevant departments involved with its future delivery. These included departments with responsibility for traffic and transport, roads maintenance, water management, culture, recreation and

amenity, arts and heritage, parks and others. Ongoing consultations with state and semi-state organisations were also held.

Workshops

During workshop 1, residents and business owners keenly expressed a number of key points which were used as starting points for the design.

- **Public character**

A significant lobby maintained the square had lost its public character. There was a strong request to reinstate its public and cultural value as a space. This view was shared by many businesses and residents alike. They indicated that this was part of the original intention of the square as set out in the original master plan, which was a public square aimed at cultural use for the cultural quarter of Temple Bar.

- **Flexibility**

The square needed to be simple, but flexible to allow new activities to take place.

- **Green**

There was a keen desire to have a greener square and deliver a restful setting.

During the second and third workshops the

design was presented. Generally, there was a very positive response to the design at all levels and a willingness from residents and businesses to adapt to the proposed changes. Participants indicated they were prepared and willing to accept change and looked forward to making it happen.

Overall, the design was well received by residents, stakeholders (approximately 30 people) and business groups (approximately 15 people). A business with a terrace on the square indicated concerns about losing their terrace for business reasons, but were pleased about the design of the square overall.

3. Background and Development

The area known as Temple Bar lies to the east of the old medieval city of Dublin and was developed around the late 17th Century. The laying out of Aston Quay in about 1680 encouraged the expansion of the Temple Bar area eastwards. The street pattern of Fownes Street and Crown Alley in the 1720s was later followed by Cope Street. In the mid 19th century a central bus depot was planned and the entire area was earmarked to be razed and redeveloped.

A protest led these plans to be reassessed and instead a regeneration of the area was pursued based on a plan developed by Group 91 in collaboration with Dublin Corporation. Conceived over 30 years ago and delivered in 1996, Temple Bar Square was developed on the site of an existing building (see photo). The small quartzite clad square was intended as a 'carpet for public activity' (1). It expressed a simplicity that felt seamless with its historic surroundings of red brick buildings and glass facades. The square levelled off the site and provided a new site for cultural activity. Although its steps have been yellow lined (reminiscent of parking bays) and its margins have become degraded in parts, it is highly valued and forms one of the few public spaces in this otherwise

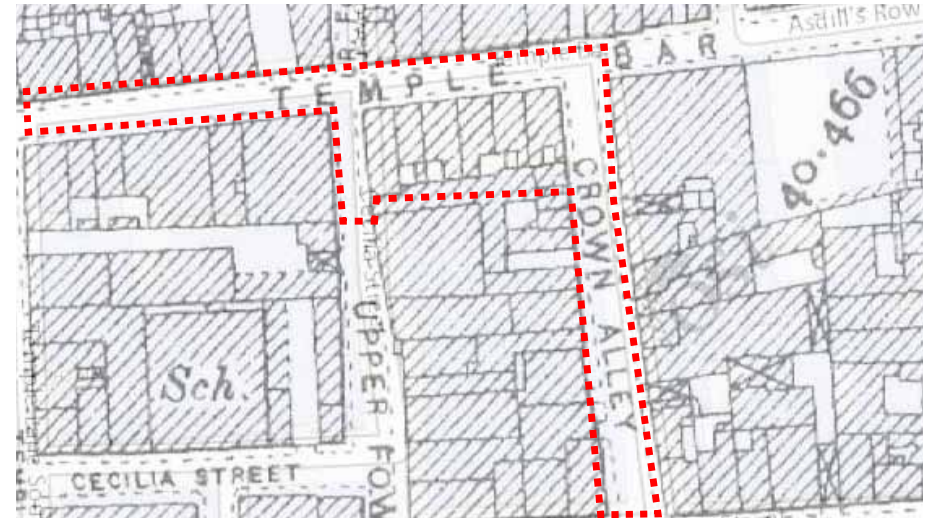
dense urban setting.

The fabric of the public realm includes many heritage materials such as Dublin setts (which have become characteristic of the area) and Leinster granite slabs. The sets as already described are a quite recent addition as are much of the Leinster slabs which were transported from other parts of the city. Although the materials are authentic their origins in this district are less so. Before the period of regeneration, the public realm was characterised by blacktop and poured concrete pavements edged by small narrow granite kerbs. Many of the granite kerbs have in more recent times, been supplemented with Chinese granite, which is considered to have a very flat and grey quality relative to the Leinster granite. The Dublin sett carriageways have become increasingly degraded as small patches have not been properly replaced and refitted. As a result, some sections of the carriageways have loose and dangerous setts. As a solution, increasingly areas of blacktop have been applied to the carriageways, disrupting the quality of the street's image.

References:

1. <http://www.irisharchitectureawards.ie/annual-awards/1996/temple-bar-square>

Layout of site in 1833



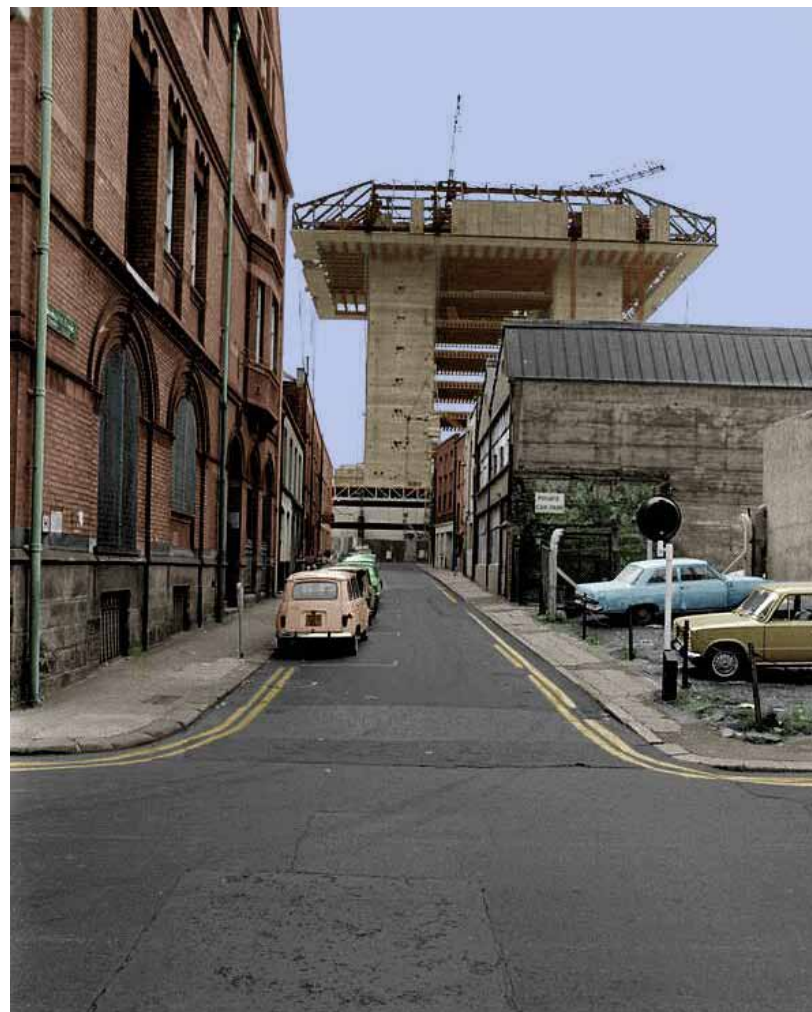
Temple Bar (Square) in the 1970's



Crown Alley (2017)



Crown Alley (1970's)



Temple Bar Square
(Dublin, Ireland)



485 m²

Barnardo Square
(Dublin, Ireland)



820 m²

The Viking Triangle
(Waterford, Ireland)



2 200 m²

Tertre Square
(Montmartre, Paris)



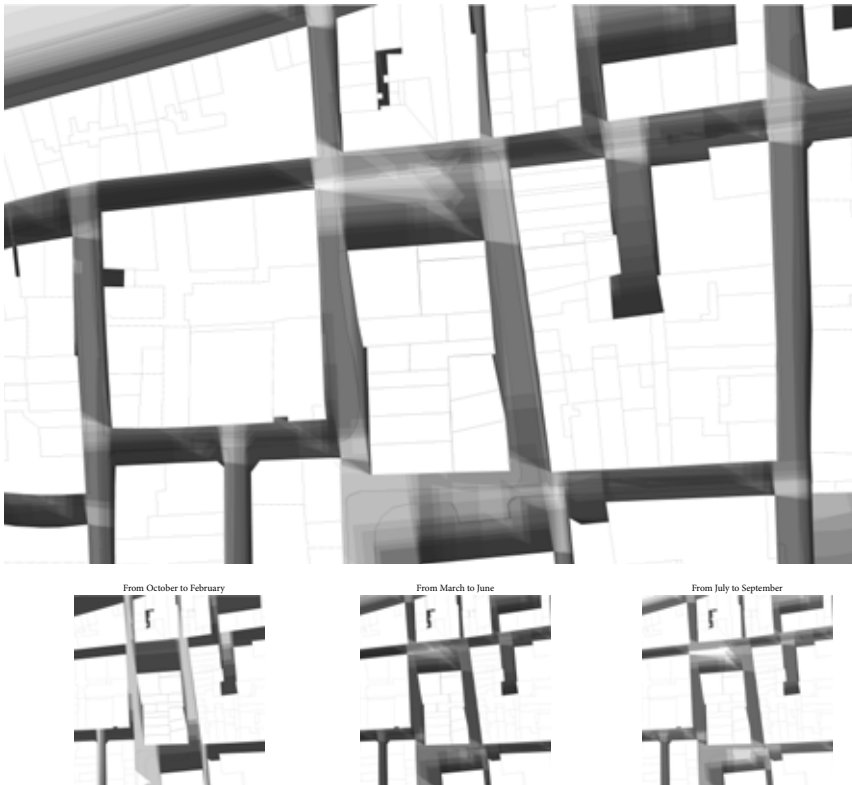
1 250 m²

4. Spatial analysis

A comprehensive spatial analysis of the site was carried out. The size of the square was compared to other local and foreign examples. Temple Bar Square is a relatively small square with a very high level of use. A light analysis was carried out, showing how much of the square was in fact in shadow during the day. A traffic analysis showed that despite extremely high pedestrian use, the surrounding streets were largely prioritised for traffic. It also demonstrated that the sunniest areas were being utilised as traffic zones for vehicles instead of destination areas for pedestrians. It was decided to optimise use of light in the new design and optimise pedestrian comfort and accessibility.

Surveys and assessments

A survey of all underground utilities, including an analysis of cellars was carried out. A GPR and a topographical survey were completed for the site. A series of assessments were also carried out including a conservation and archaeological assessment. See appendices for reports.



Sun and shadow

The North side of the square is sunny. The south side is almost year round in the shadow of the surrounding buildings.

5. Design

5.0 The concept

Our vision wants to reconnect with the simplicity and potency of the space and expand its potential to the surrounding streets of Temple Bar, Crown Alley and Fownes street Lower. The redesign of the square rests on three main ideas.

Decluttering the square

The square is to undergo a major decluttering exercise. Most of the existing features are to be removed including terraces, bins, signage, lighting and steps. The site is to be redrawn to create a gently sloping site that runs at the same level of the adjoining streets. Terraces are to be removed. A new location for seating is designated to the east of the square to offer a reduced flexible seating area under a single license. Consequently, the accessibility of the square will become substantially improved for all users to allow much greater ease of movement.

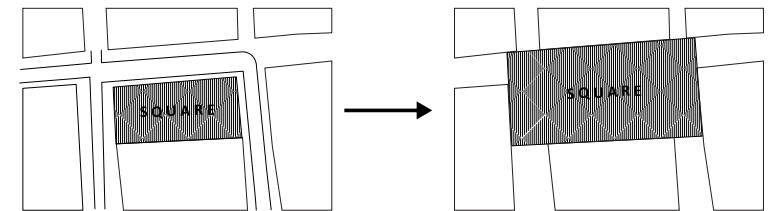
Extending the square

The square is to be extended as a single surface across the adjoining streets of Temple Bar, Crowne Alley and Fownes Street to the adjoining buildings. The buildings, many of historic significance, will be fully integrated

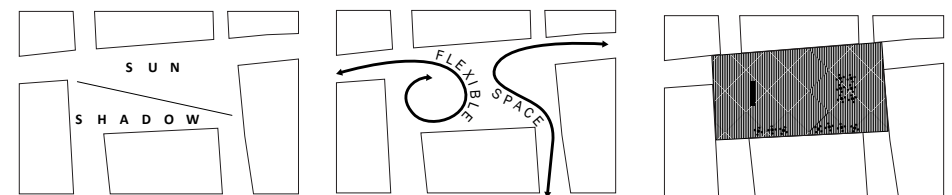
into the public realm as they face directly onto the new public realm. With this alteration, the size of the square will be almost doubled to almost 1000m² allowing it to cater for many more activities and expanding its potential. The parts of Crowne Alley and Temple Bar which have been integrated into the square are to be delineated using surface water drains to recall the location of these streets. We suggest that it may be possible to reinstate a part of Temple Bar on the north east corner of the project site from a granite surfaced to a Dublin sett and granite surface to improve the visibility of Temple bar.

Activating the square

The square is to become the meeting place at the confluence of the streets. The surface will form a smooth walking and flexible surface which can play host to all kinds of new activities. The square has been given a simple composition of some trees and a seating area. Consequently, the new space will become a podium for the city and offer the opportunity for a greater variety of activities to occur.



The square is to be doubled in size



Optimise Sunlight

Increase Flexibility

Reclaim public space



Plan of the new design for the Square

TEMPLE BAR SQUARE REFURBISHMENT

PART 8 PROPOSAL - part II



Visual of the new design as viewed from Crown Alley



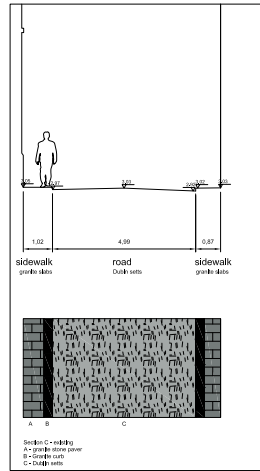
Visual of the Square from Crown Alley towards Merchant's Arch



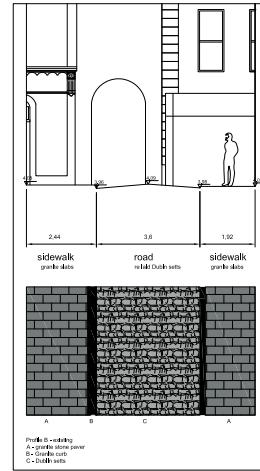
Bird's eye view from north west of square



Section C



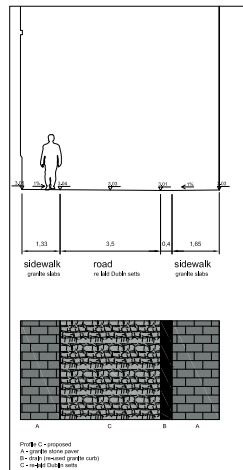
Section B



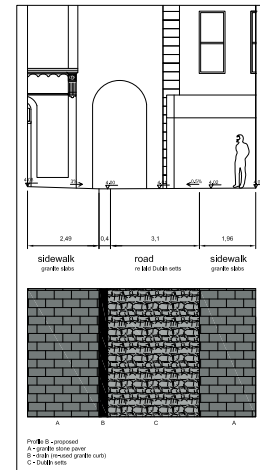
Section A



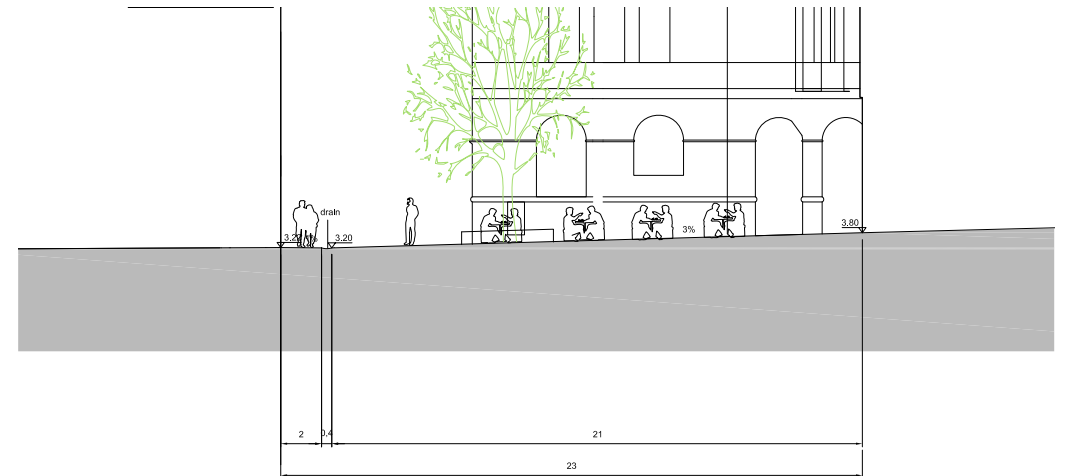
Section C (new)



Section B (new)



Section A (new)



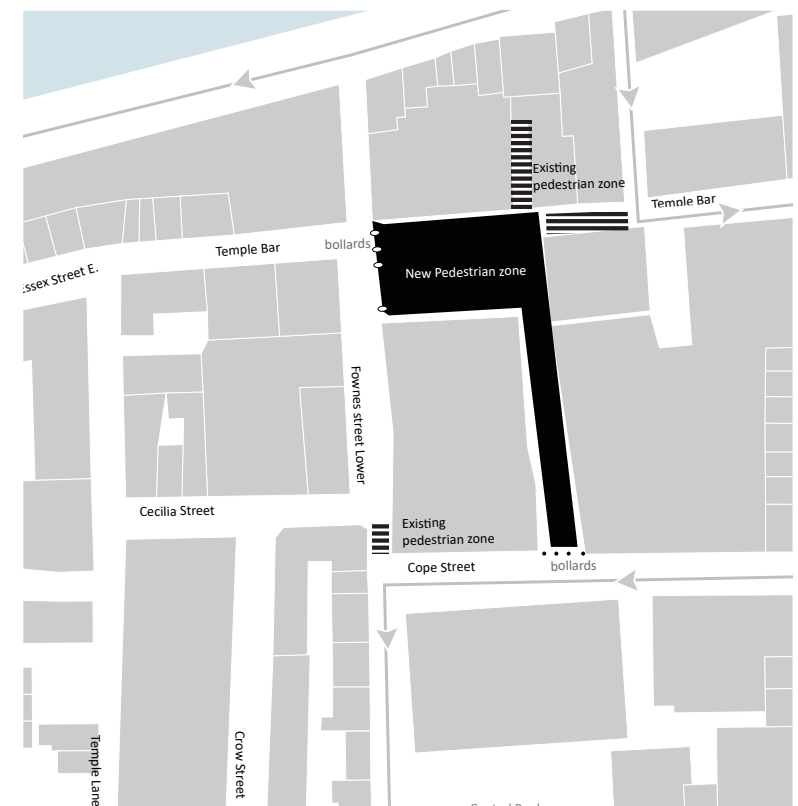
5.1 Pedestrianisation

Temple Bar Square and Crown Alley hosts two of the busiest pedestrian flows in the city from east-west along Temple Bar and north-south from Merchant's arch to the central Bank along Crown Alley. The project area is part of the pedestrianised zone of the Temple Bar Quarter which prohibits traffic at specified hours.

To reflect the unprecedented level of pedestrian use, it is proposed to fully pedestrianise Temple Bar Square and Crown Alley and exclude regular vehicular traffic from these areas. This will be achieved through the application of bollards at Fownes Street Lower and Crown Alley. Different options for the bollards are feasible. Some of the bollards could be retractable to allow vehicular access for emergency services such as ambulances, fire brigades as well as vehicles for special events to be held on the square. Another option is to remove the bollards manually or to use so-called floppy bollards.



Proposed pedestrianised zone for Temple Bar Square



5.2 Vehicular Access

Fownes street will remain accessible for traffic. The existing one-way system along Temple Bar, Fownes Street Lower and Cecilia Street and Temple Lane is to be retained.

A more comprehensive system of hydraulic bollards is proposed for the surrounding area. This could be applied at four points (see adjoining map) and have the added advantage of securitising the area from possible 'vehicle' attacks if fitted as anti-terrorist retractable bollards. (1)

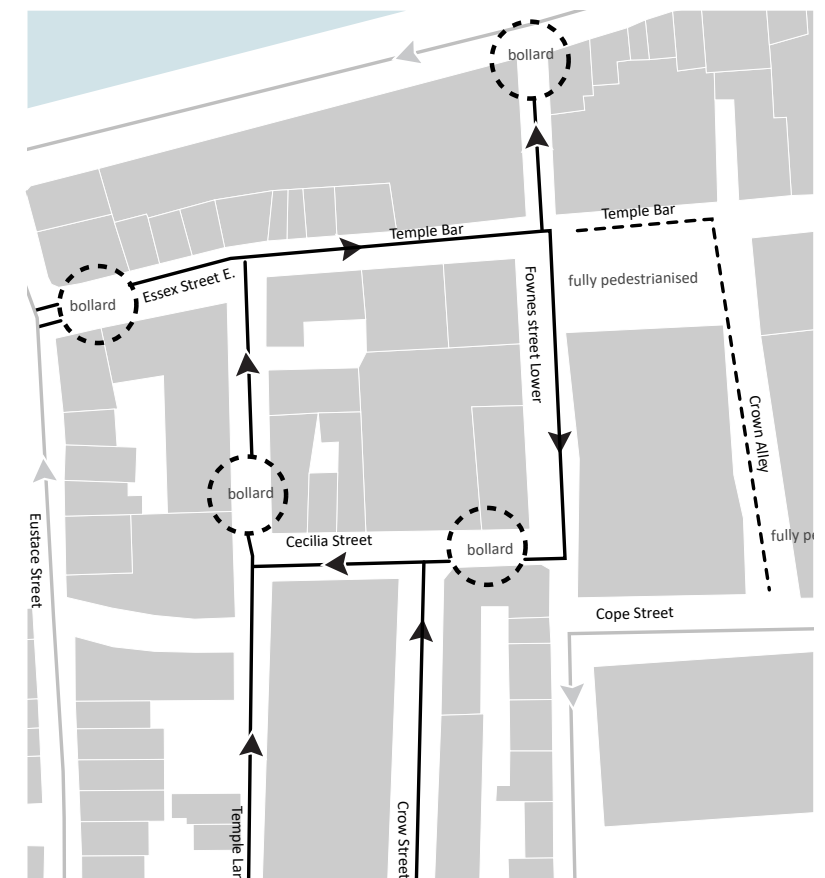
A system of hydraulic bollards is suggested for these points. Although this system has not been successful in the past for DCC, significant advances have been made in the technology since then and they are widely used in other cities. These include good backup systems where an intercom can be used, sos systems for emergency vehicles which automatically allow them to access the area, button code entrance systems, and permission systems (not dissimilar to a private garage) for local businesses and residents. Other systems such as manual bollards and flexible bollards could also be applied

Reference:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQ9778Y-rqU> bollards tested at TRL, stopping a lorry at 80kph, crash tested to PAS68, and ASTM F2656, by Avon Barrier



Proposed traffic and (retractable) bollard structure



5.3 Loading and Docking

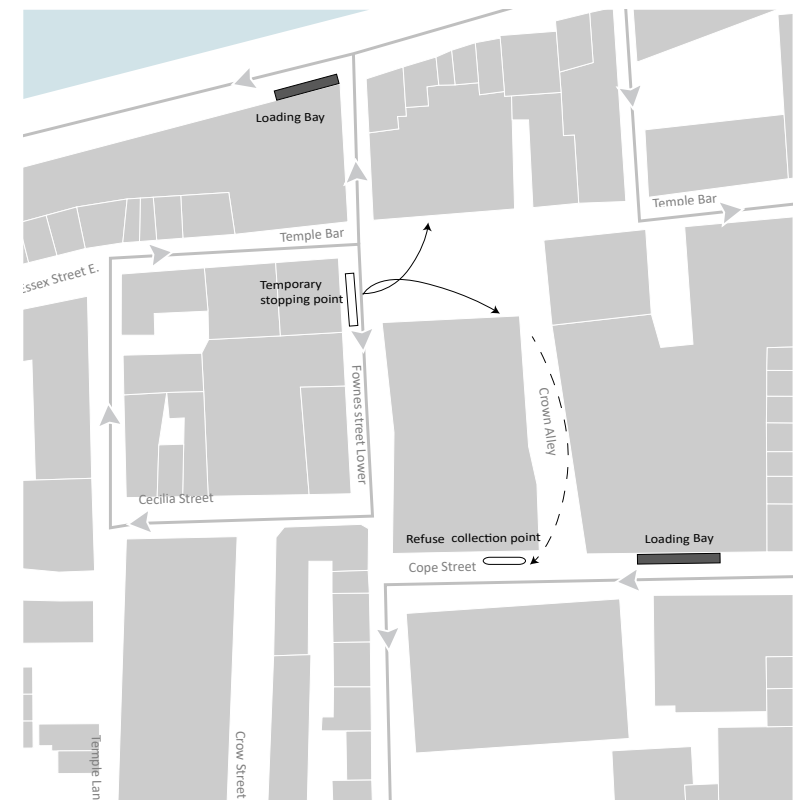
Businesses have indicated themselves willing to accept the proposed pedestrianisation of the square and Crown alley and to use existing loading areas on Cope street and the Quays to service their needs. Surrounding streets allow the movement of emergency vehicles during loading times. Businesses have suggested that the movement of beer kegs and other goods can be arranged internally with smaller service vehicles or electric trolleys.

5.4 Refuse collection points.

The pedestrianisation of the Square and Crown Alley will restrict access for refuse collecting trucks. Currently refuse is parked outside residential and business premises on designated days. Many businesses currently park their refuse outside of the pedestrianised area. Refuse collection shall be no longer possible within the pedestrianised area. Instead a refuse collection point for residents and businesses will be located on Cope street. Businesses and residents indicated they were open to these proposals.



Proposed refuse collection point and existing loading bays to service the area.



5.5 Pavements and carriageways in streets

Temple Bar (the street)

For Temple Bar, the pavement on the north side of the street is to be extended for improved pedestrian use and disability access. The carriageway is to be reduced from 4.5m to 3.5m to reflect the single traffic flow system which is already in place. However, some level changes are proposed. The carriageway is to be raised to become roughly the same level as the pavements. This will allow pedestrians to walk freely across the carriageway. Currently the higher pavement is often seen as a danger to pedestrians who can twist and ankle as they step onto the carriageway from the narrow pavements. A drain (made from a re used curb stone) will collect surface water run off.

Crown Alley

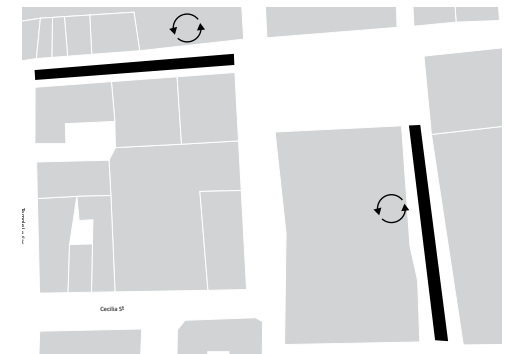
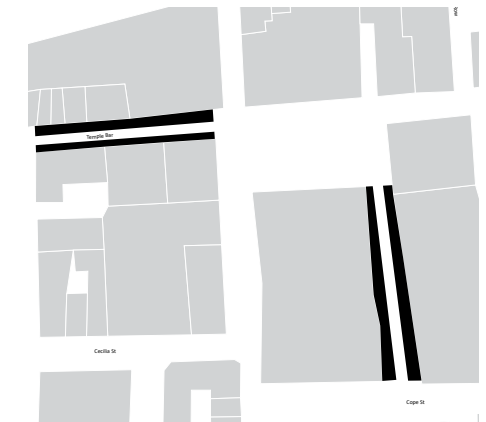
For Crown Alley, the same principle will be applied and the carriageway will be raised to tie in with the pavement level. The configuration of the street is to be altered. The carriageway will be dimensioned to 3.5m in width including the drain to allow incidental one-way traffic. The drain is 0,4m wide. The pavement areas will be increased in width to form an asymmetrical street profile. A single drain will remove surface water from the street and extend into the square.



B: Leinster granite for pavements



A: Re-used Dublin setts for carriageways

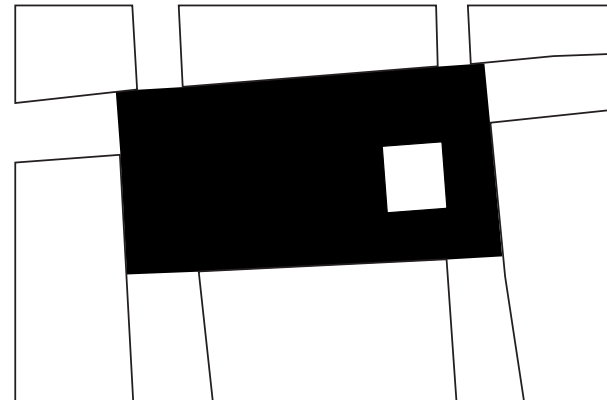


5.6 Pavements and carriageways on Square

Temple Bar Square

For Temple Bar square the area of square will be reconfigured and extended over adjoining streets, to the north on Temple Bar, to the west on Fownes street and to the East on Crown Alley. This will extend the area of the square, essentially doubling its increasing its potential for hosting activities. These areas are to be resurfaced in a multipurpose dolorite stone (similar in origin to the exiting Dublin sett carriageways) but will be carried out in a finish suitable for both pedestrian and traffic movement.

The reconfigured Square is to become a single level surface that moves on the south side from exiting levels to the north side to existing levels. This means the Square will no longer have steps and will form a gentle gradient, sloping approximately 3% on southside the northside. These levels reflect the existing levels of Fownes street and Crown Alley.



*variation 1- large pavers
colour: dark (dolerite) or
light (Leinster granite)*



*variation 2- small pavers
colour: dark (dolerite) or
light (Leinster granite)*

5.7 Designing for disability

In general, the measure taken should lead to a significant improvement in disability access to the project area and support the principle of universal access for all.

Distinction between carriageway and pavement for visually impaired.

For the streets of Temple Bar and Crown Alley there is a clear distinction between pavement and carriageway in terms of texture. The risk brought by levelling the pavement and carriageway (in this pedestrian zone) to the visually impaired is discernible.

Tactile surfaces

Where this is not clear or there is a transition to a potentially more trafficked area (such as between the Square and Fownes Street or between Crown Alley and Cope street, tactile warning surfaces may be required and can be integrated into the design.

Wheelchair and disability access

Pavement widening

The widening of pavement areas along Crown Alley and Temple Bar, should remove pinch points for disability wheelchair access. The

integrations of levels between carriageway and pavement will make movement easier. A recommendation to remove A boards from the project area has been generally accepted by local businesses and though not within the remit of this project is supported by it.

Changes in levels

The removal of steps from Temple Bar Square will ensure the primary aim of universal access to all is to be made applicable to the Square and surrounding streets. The same levelling of carriageways and pavements is to support this principle.

Smoother surfaces

The newly laid surface for the Square will be pedestrian and movement friendly. For the adjoining streets, the re-laid Dublin setts will ensure that these heritage surfaces will become easier to traverse than the current situation. The proposal is subject to a DAC certificate.



Smoother materials and no steps will greatly improve disability access.

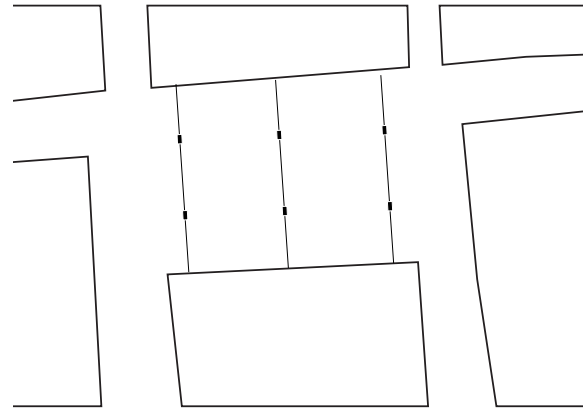
5.8 Lighting

Public lighting

The Square is to be lit with catenary lighting suspended above the square, using energy efficient lamps. The adjoining streets have no extra lighting proposed.

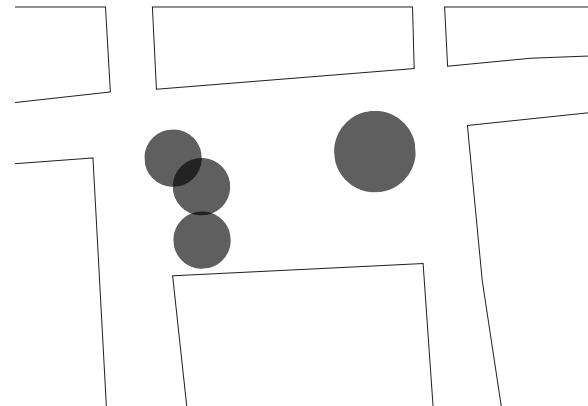
Ornamental lighting

A single spot light is proposed to illuminate the large tree proposed for the Square. The smaller trees are to be lit with string lighting suspended in the crowns of the trees. The seating areas are to have LED strip lighting integrated into their design.



5.9 Trees and planting

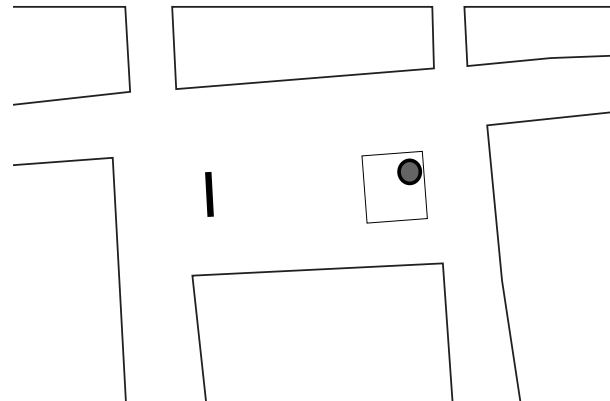
The refurbishment of the square is to include the planting of one large tree and three smaller trees to replace the trees removed. It is recommended that these trees are crowned up and that their trunks are kept clear of branches for at least 4.5m - 5m from ground level. Trees are to be planted in special pits with sufficient substrate for 30 years, to include aeration and drainage system as well as root protection measures for incidental traffic. Currently Gleditsia and a Lime tree (*Tilia tomentosa*) are proposed. The exact species for the trees are to be selected in collaboration with the parks department.



5.10 Seating

A fixed seating across the width of the square is to be located on the west side of the square. This seating is to be made of stone. A tree seat, also of stone is to be placed around the large tree on the east side of the square.

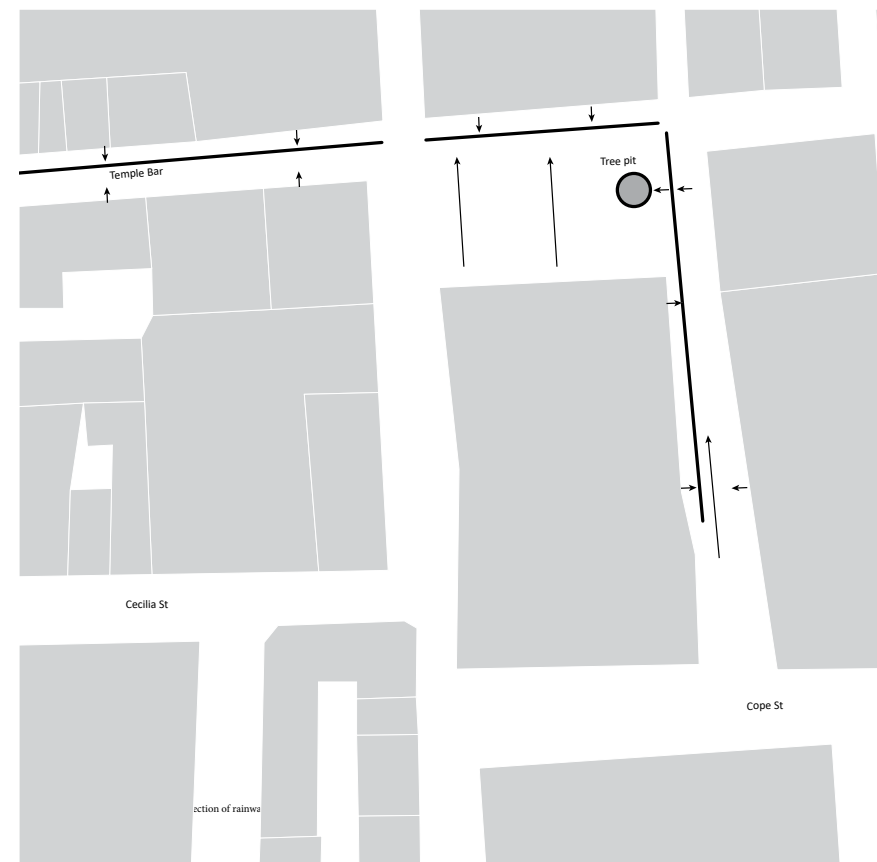
A zone of experiment is to be designated for public (non commercial) use in a large rectangular area on the east side of the square. Activities could be managed and organized and could include temporary seating to be removed daily.



5.11 Drainage and surface water harvesting

Rain water is to be led via a system of surface drains to be collected for harvesting. An underground system of drains can deliver the surface water to a suds storage area. The surface drains are to be made from re-used granite curbs and are to be textured to slow down the movement of water. The drains are to form a feature in the design.

Proposed surface water drainage system and water harvesting (suds).

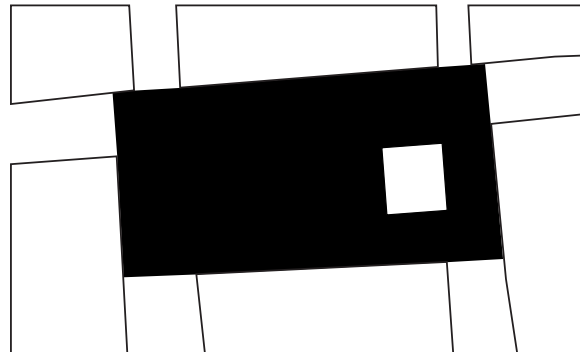


5.12 Arts and Culture

Temple Bar Square was originally intended as a public space specifically for cultural activities. This was to support the overarching concept of Temple Bar as a cultural quarter. Several art pieces are currently located on the square. These are to be decommissioned in consultation with the public arts committee and re located to free up space for new commissions.

A more flexible space will emerge to allow for a new series of cultural activities. The current proposal is to seek participation from local galleries and artists to curate a calendar of new events and activities for the Square.

*Curating a calendar of events.
The magic carpet in Amsterdam, transforming an urban space
into a temporary picnic area.*



5.13 Archaeology and Conservation

Archaeology

The site has a high archaeological potential. Despite this the affected depth of impact is not considered to extend beyond previous projects. The main concern for this project would be the possibility of exposing (and impacting) remnants of the foundations and cellars of the 17-19th C buildings within the existing square footprint, and along Fownes St, which have been shown to survive elsewhere just below the surface. Suggested mitigation would be archaeological monitoring only. These issues are examined in more detail in an archaeological report. See appendix.

Conservation

A number of key concerns are highlighted and addresses in terms of conservation. These include a series of issues from preserving street patterns, curtilage of buildings, heritage street materials, protected structures. These issues are examined in more detail and addressed by the conservation report. See appendix.

Conservation report by GKMP architects.

**Refurbishment of Temple Bar Square for Dublin City Council
Conservation Report | June 2017**

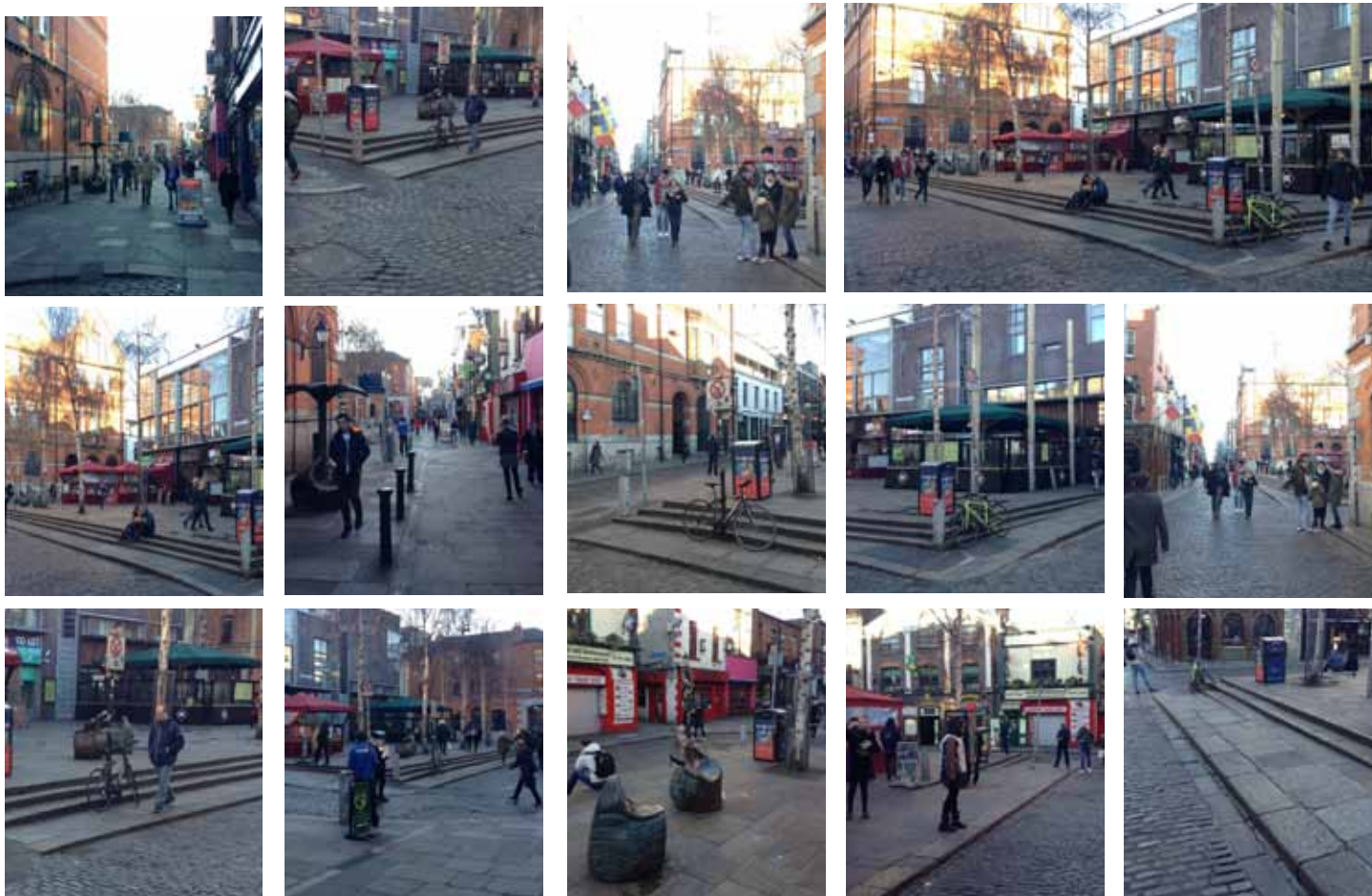


Newsprint's own images: Greenway, 2010 | The National Photographic Collection, 1911

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Bird's eye view from north west of square



Photos of project site, January 2017.

Bibliography

The following documents have been consulted in the preparation of this document

- Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017
- Public Realm Strategy 'Your City Your Space'
- City Centre Public Realm Plan 2016
- Temple Bar Public Realm Plan DRAFT 2016
- Temple Bar Company (Development proposal for Temple Bar Square 2015)
- Temple Bar Urban Framework Plan 2004
- Paving (The Conservation of Historic Ground Surfaces), DCC & Dept AH&G
- Temple Bar Architectural Conservation Area DRAFT

