

Abbey Quarter Urban Park and Street Project

Kilkenny
July 2020

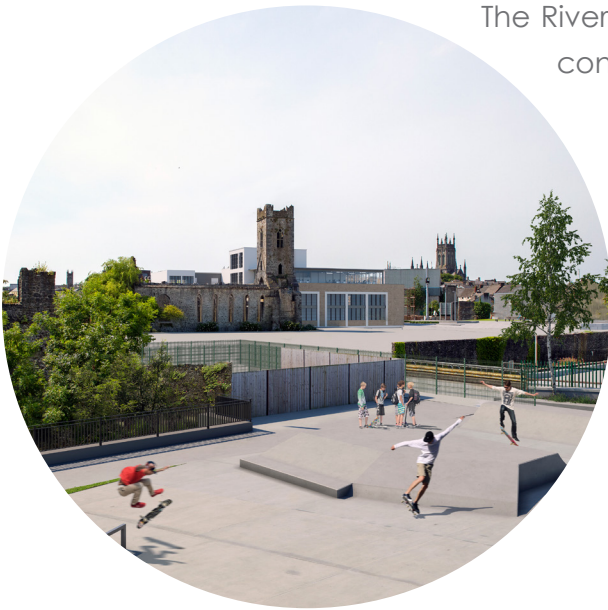


Background information

The Abbey Quarter site is located in the heart of Kilkenny City, at the confluence of the River Nore and the River Breagagh. The site has a rich history centred around the upstanding remains of the 13th century St Francis Abbey and precinct. For over 300 years the site has been home to the Smithwicks Brewery until the decision by Diageo in 2012 to close the brewery.

The former industrial site, known locally as the Abbey Quarter, is now undergoing a transformation in line with the provisions of the Abbey Quarter masterplan. The Abbey Quarter is to be developed as a mixed use development, creating a new, vibrant urban quarter in the heart of the medieval city.

The Riverside Garden including skate park is currently under construction and is due to be completed in October 2020

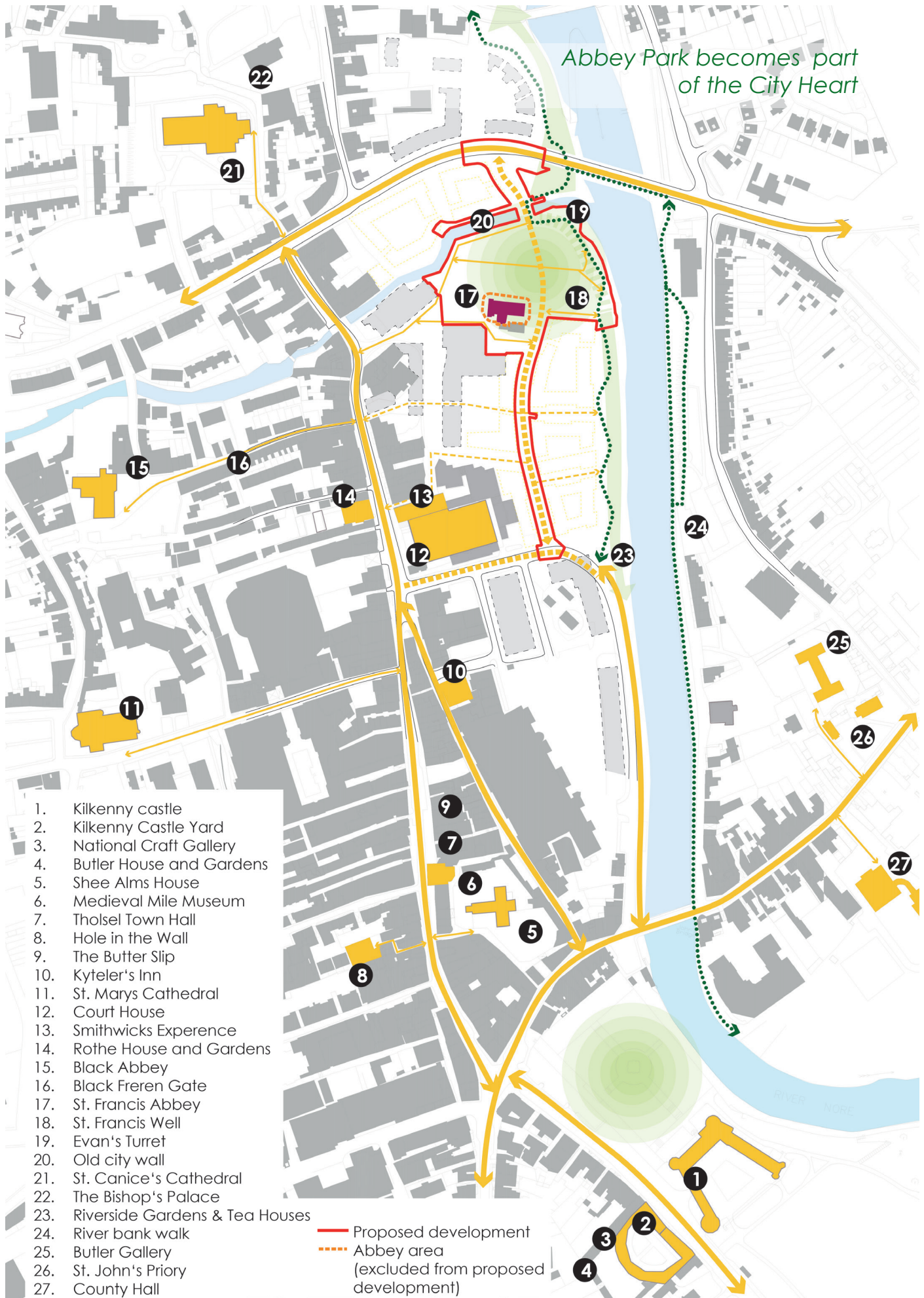


The Brehouse Building is currently being redeveloped for office use and due to be completed in Spring 2021. The project also includes the redevelopment of Horse Barrack Lane and the development of a new landscaped courtyard.



The Mayfair Ballroom to be renovated for use as the new City Library – project to commence in late 2020 (subject to funding)





Abbey Park becomes part of the City Heart

1. Kilkenny castle
2. Kilkenny Castle Yard
3. National Craft Gallery
4. Butler House and Gardens
5. Shee Alms House
6. Medieval Mile Museum
7. Tholsel Town Hall
8. Hole in the Wall
9. The Butter Slip
10. Kyteler's Inn
11. St. Marys Cathedral
12. Court House
13. Smithwicks Experence
14. Rothe House and Gardens
15. Black Abbey
16. Black Freren Gate
17. St. Francis Abbey
18. St. Francis Well
19. Evan's Turret
20. Old city wall
21. St. Canice's Cathedral
22. The Bishop's Palace
23. Riverside Gardens & Tea Houses
24. River bank walk
25. Butler Gallery
26. St. John's Priory
27. County Hall

— Proposed development
 - - - Abbey area (excluded from proposed development)

Project description

The current proposed development will consist of a new urban park, centred around St Francis Abbey and a new pedestrian and cyclist dominated urban street, that will connect Bateman Quay to the south with St Francis Bridge to the north.

The aim of this project is to:



Reconnect the former industrial site with the urban fabric of the city, creating a welcoming pedestrian and cyclist dominated area within the city centre



Create an inclusive city park with amenities and space for events, markets, festivals etc.



Provide visitor access to St Francis Abbey and the City Walls incorporating Evans Turret, both National Monuments; express the hidden archaeological treasures and rich history of the site; and keep visual connections to historical elements

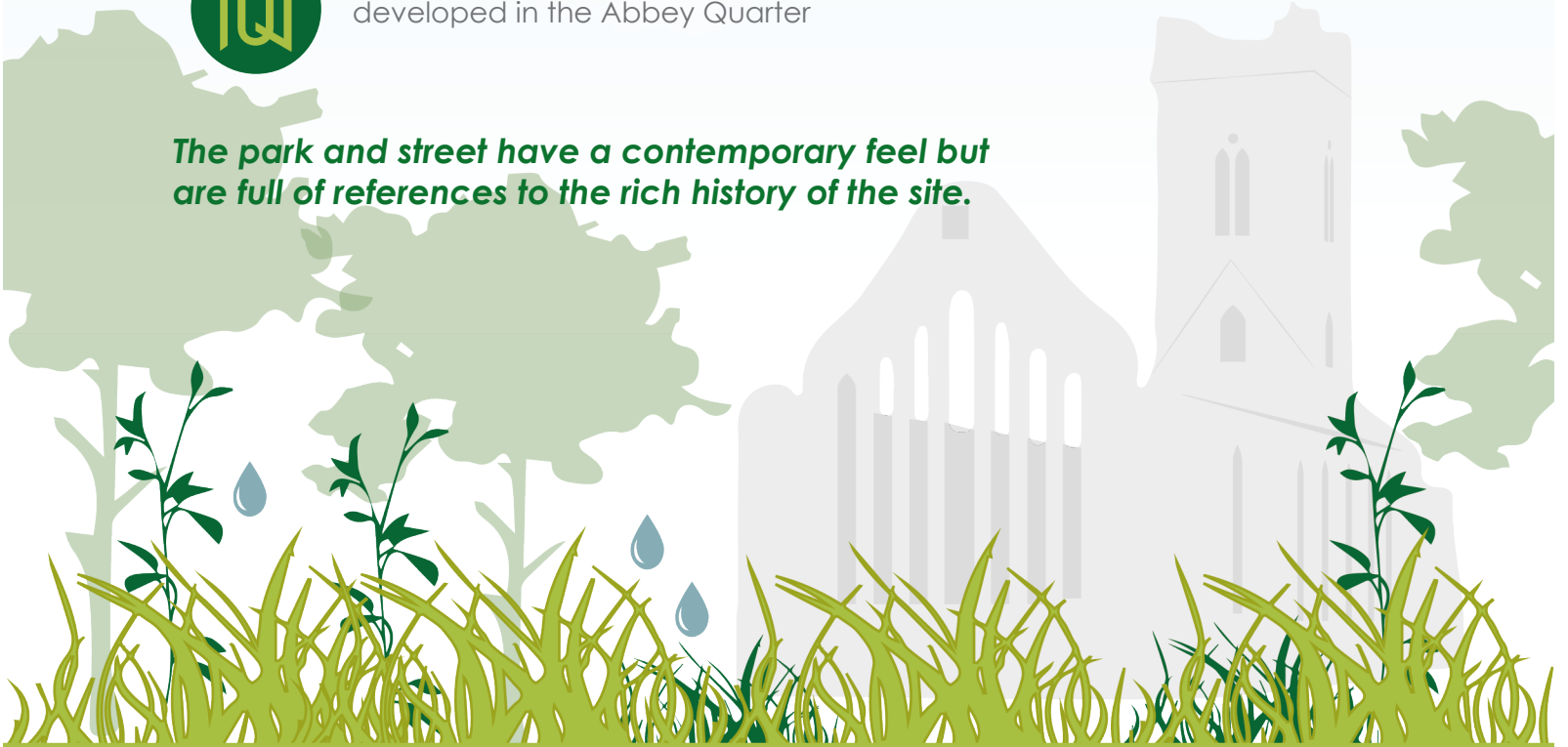


Increase biodiversity



The street will provide access to the future buildings to be developed in the Abbey Quarter

The park and street have a contemporary feel but are full of references to the rich history of the site.



Amenity

1. Abbey layout represented
2. Brewhouse plaza
3. Sunny relaxation lawn
4. Elevated Abbey transept stage
5. Walk along the Breaghagh with a sunny seating band
6. Abbey cemetery reference
7. The orchard of forgotten fruits
8. Ornamental apple orchard with raised planters with medicinal and edible plants, seats
9. Evan's Turret
10. The path a along the Nore connects to the Riverside garden, "wild" planting as a contrast with the organised landscape within around the abbey
11. Fitness
12. Older children natural play
13. Younger children natural play
14. Water mirror - St Francis well reference
15. The abbey main axis to the Eastern Choir window
16. Main event space
17. Urban street

Legend

- Tree existing 
- Tree new 
- Shrub new 
- Granite paving black 
- Granite paving silver & grey 
- Granite paving silver & grey large format 
- Polished concrete 
- Granite cobblestone 
- Clipped hedge 
- Compacted gravel 
- Playground safety surface 
- Riverbank natural bank 
- Perennial/groundcover 
- Grass with bulbs 
- Timber fence along Nore 
- Drainage 
- Lighting 
- Bollards 
- Street seats 



Visible history

Historically the most important structures on the site, are the remains of the St Francis Abbey including the Choir with Bell tower and Sacristy, and the old city wall incorporating Evan's Turret. They form important focal points in the park.



Archaeology & history represented

The archaeology of the site, hidden under the existing thick concrete slab, will be represented on the surface. These details are informed by the archaeological assessments of the site, which have included a review of historic documents and cartographic records, details of previous excavations and extensive archaeological test excavations.

- Abbey layout - represented by a pattern in the pavement, changes in surface materials, and an elevated Transept
- St Francis well - represented by a water mirror feature
- Horse Barracks - layout marked with cobble stones pavement pattern



Three atmospheres

Three elements form the overall atmosphere of the park and are reflected in the detailing, the use of materials and of course, the planting:

- References to the medieval abbey atmosphere such as orchards, medicinal garden, and memorials to the abbey cemetery
- References to the brewing history of the site such as perennials and trees with hop like flowers and the hop pattern of the Brewhouse plaza pavement
- The 'wilder' river area with nature play, and bird and insect friendly dense planting



The Urban Street is designed as a shared surface, allowing easy movement for pedestrians and cyclists through the Abbey Quarter development. Vehicular access will be limited to access for deliveries, service and emergency vehicles.



Abbey with elevated transept, cemetery symbols and orchards



Access to the park and street from the North



Urban street with future Abbey Quarter represented

An architectural rendering of a park or urban street project. The scene features a large, leafy tree in the foreground, with a paved walkway leading through a landscaped area with various plants and flowers. In the background, several people are depicted walking and sitting on benches, suggesting a public space. The sky is clear and blue.

Details of the proposed development will be on public display from Tuesday 4th August 2020 to 29th September 2020 (inclusive of both dates) at the following locations :

- <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/>
- Planning Section of Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John St, Kilkenny by appointment - Contact (056) 7794010 or planning@kilkennycoco.ie to make an appointment.
- Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

Any submissions or observations may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 and received by An Bord Pleanála **not later than 5.30pm on Tuesday 29th September 2020.**



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020

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European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Kilkenny County Council has applied for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) for the development of the proposed Urban Park and Street Project.

The Urban Street project is part funded by the ERDF fund.