

**LKIL042.1 - Brewhouse Square & Horse Barrack Lane**

Landscape Part VIII Report

October 2015

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## **2.1 Needs / Functions / Considerations**

The landscape design evolved from a series of practical considerations and needs stemming from the end users and visitors to the development, the day to day management & accessibility while at all times being cognisant of the relevant building regulations.

The development landscape strategy is to design contemporary, stimulating and vibrant spaces supporting a combination of passive and active uses.

Where required mitigation measures have been put in place to create a buffer between the ground floor units and the external communal spaces.

Accessibility throughout the site has to adhere to Part M building regulations and best practice in universal accessibility has been implemented where ever possible. The site has to address both the active and passive needs of the developments users to promote social interaction and in generating a sustainable working community.

## **2.2 Circulation**

The circulation through the Brewhouse square site is based on a primary route transecting the site from Horse Barrack lane to the River Nore on an east west axis. Horse Barrack lane primary circulation runs on an north-south axis and provides vehicular access to the rear of the units facing onto Parliament St. and the western side of the Brewhouse building. The northern end of Horse Barrack lane returns onto Parliament street in the form of a public plaza, providing an easily identifiable gateway to the Abbey Quarter.

### 3.0 The Landscape Strategy

The landscape concept for the Horse Barrack Lane & Brewhouse Square scheme is a coherent, robust, long lasting and inspiring design solution.

Taking a 'site specific' approach the intention is to create an innovative and creative solution that is appropriate for the receiving environment, that caters for the needs of all the end users equally. The target is to create a pedestrian focused campus environment.

#### Aims

- To work with the site's existing landscape character
- To create a sense of place and identity or 'genus loci'
- To create a hierarchy of place and circulation
- To create a range of multifunctional spaces externally that can adapt and change if required
- To create legible and clear pedestrian circulation routes and year round interest through the selection of appropriate planting mixes
- To design inclusive landscape design enabling active engagement with the landscape
- To create informal gathering spaces and more formal seating opportunities

A number of distinct external spaces have been generated by the architectural arrangement, each space considering the adjacent building's use and requirements. The Landscape Architectural proposal aims to create a seamless link between building and landscape while creating a strong and legible sequences of spaces. The external environment has been sub-divided into the following areas;

Gateway Plaza / Public Realm

Horse Barracks Lane / Public Realm

BrewHouse Square / Public Realm







## 4.0 The Landscape Approach

### 4.1 Gateway Plaza

The strategy for the Gateway Plaza shall be simple and pragmatic. Materials shall consist of natural stone to match the colour and finish of the surfacing proposed for similar Mediaeval Mile plazas to ensure a continuity of appearance and character. The natural stone surfacing shall extend from the Building line to the western edge of Parliament Street across the carriageway and connect back into Mayfair plaza and Horse Barrack Lane. This approach clearly identifies this space as a significant gateway into the Abbey Quarter. It informs vehicle users that they are passing through a pedestrianized dominated zone and appropriate speed and care is necessary.

The alignment of the kerbs shall be rationalised, providing a consistent min. carriageway width of 6m and in doing so, it will broaden the existing narrow pavement west of the carriageway. This will improve the experience and safety of the pedestrian user. The pavements shall be clutter free and unobstructed to ensure clear and free movement.



## 4.2 Horse Barrack Lane

The intention of the proposed design for Horse Barrack Lane is to convert a back-of-house lane into a more vibrant linear space, reminiscent of the traditional Kilkenny streetscape vernacular. The Gateway Plaza located on Parliament Street makes the strong visual and physical connection between the city and the most western point of the Abbey Quarter, Horse Barrack Lane.

A triangular shaped lawn with seating edge positioned at the junction where the lane alters direction from an east west axis to run parallel with Parliament Street acts the pivot point drawing people from the existing Parliament Street, to progress through to St. Francis Abbey or south to continue along the lane, accessing the Brewhouse, it's square and the rear of the units facing onto Parliament Street.

This space opens up to create a natural gathering / meeting node. Users will instinctively gravitate towards the lawn seating edge. A specimen tree strategically positioned between the Mayfair building and the Brewhouse frames the view of the Abbey. It also provides a vertical marker directing visitors to the Abbey precinct.

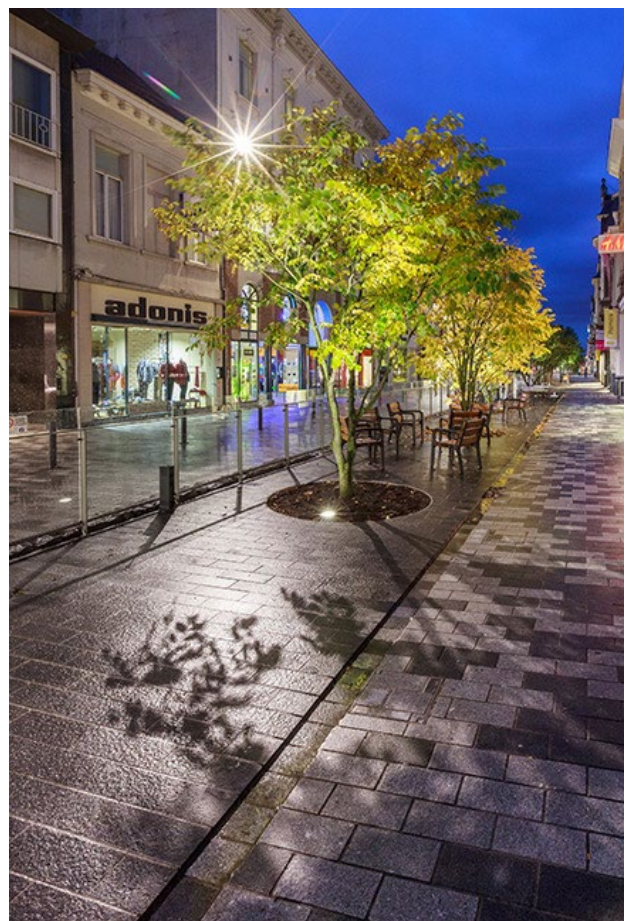
A series of square modules populate the centre of the north-south section of the lane. They stagger slightly in alignment, generating eddies to allow users to dwell. The modules vary between raised planters and simple surface material change from which multi-stem trees emerge. By positioning these elements to the centre of the lane it generates a sense of a space and less of a street environment. Sufficient width has been afforded to the west of the lane to accommodate occasional vehicular movement, however the space is very much a pedestrian and cycle dominated place. There will be no raised kerb lines to delineate dominance to any one user and as such the area will be a true shared surface environment.

A broad 4m wide clear space allows unobstructed access into the Brewhouse and the Brewhouse Square, this also maximises the sunny aspect of this side of the lane.

The southern end of the lane simply extends the existing wheel channel out into the lane to tie both the old and new









### 4.3 Brewhouse Square

The Abbey Quarter masterplan proposes to create a strong linear connection between Parliament Street in an easterly direction to the River Nore. This vital link between the city and the Nore will consist of a sequence of spaces that offer a range of varying experiences and uses. One of these spaces is the Brewhouse Square.

There shall be three archway access points into the square and once inside the space there will be a strong sense of enclosure as all sides will be bounded by overlooking buildings.

The square consists of elevated formal lawns to the east and south with the east west movement carving a route through them. The elevated lawns provide seating edges for informal seating with LED lighting strips beneath the shadow gap to give the impression of floating green platforms.

The Brewhouse Foyer located to the north of the square spills out into a south facing seating area. The surface material to the spill out seating space shall differ from the rest of the square.

A series of linear raised planters with timber seating elements run parallel with the diagonal alignment of the lawn edge. The arrangement of these planters lend themselves to more intimate seating spaces.

A specimen tree and proposed art element shall be located to the south east corner of the square. The intention is to animate this corner and encourage it's use as an outdoor informal meeting room due to its' slight separation from the primary through route.



#### 4.4 Planting

The palette of plant species used shall be based on a range of hardy species, which will reduce, maintenance over-time, and contributes to the early and rapid development of the planted installation. Seasonal interest will be a consideration in the plant mixes through the site. The planting mixes shall be both wind & pollution resistant.

The planting mixes shall consist of a combination of evergreen structural planting, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and selected tree species. The colour scheme shall be simple pastel colours and carry through each space.

Trees will be specified as semi-mature 20-25cmg in terms of standards, and a min. of 3.5-4m high for multi-stem & coniferous species.

#### 4.5 Cycle Parking Provision

Cycle parking facilities shall be high quality stand alone cycle racks. They shall be strategically positioned along Horse Barrack Lane to avoid creating clutter while remaining within highly visible locations to maximise passive supervision.

#### 4.6 Lighting

Adequate lighting shall be provided throughout the site to adhere to the relevant building regulations and to promote the safe and secure passage through and use of all external spaces. The lighting shall take the form of recessed luminaires into seating edges and elevated lawns. Feature lighting elements shall highlight meeting/ collection points. The under-crofts shall be well lit with interesting sculptural lighting installations. The orientation of light spill will be designed to avoid glare and negatively impacting on adjacent units.

Lux levels at building access points and access points into the development shall be increased to highlight their location.

Street lighting along Horse Barrack Lane is being proposed to enhance the sense of security and safety of the street and to create a more pleasing night ambience.





#### 4.7 Way Finding

The use of materials shall be thoughtful and cohesive, to create a simple calming clutter free network of interconnected spaces from which areas of interest and access to buildings can be highlighted without conflict or confusion. This will create an attractive and innovative network of spaces. Where possible signage shall be incorporated within the site furniture or paved / vertical surfaces.

#### 4.8 Materials

Hardworks materials and site furniture have been carefully selected to both be in sympathy with the city vernacular. Materials have been selected with the aims of sustainability, durability and life cycle costing paramount. Proposed materials are as follows:

- Limestone / Granite natural stone
- Resin bound surfacing
- Limestone raised planters and seating edges
- Steel edging
- Metal handrails and balustrades

