

Abbey Quarter Urban Park and Street, Kilkenny

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT

July 2020



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LANDSCAPE DESIGN OBJECTIVES

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 main aims of the project are to:

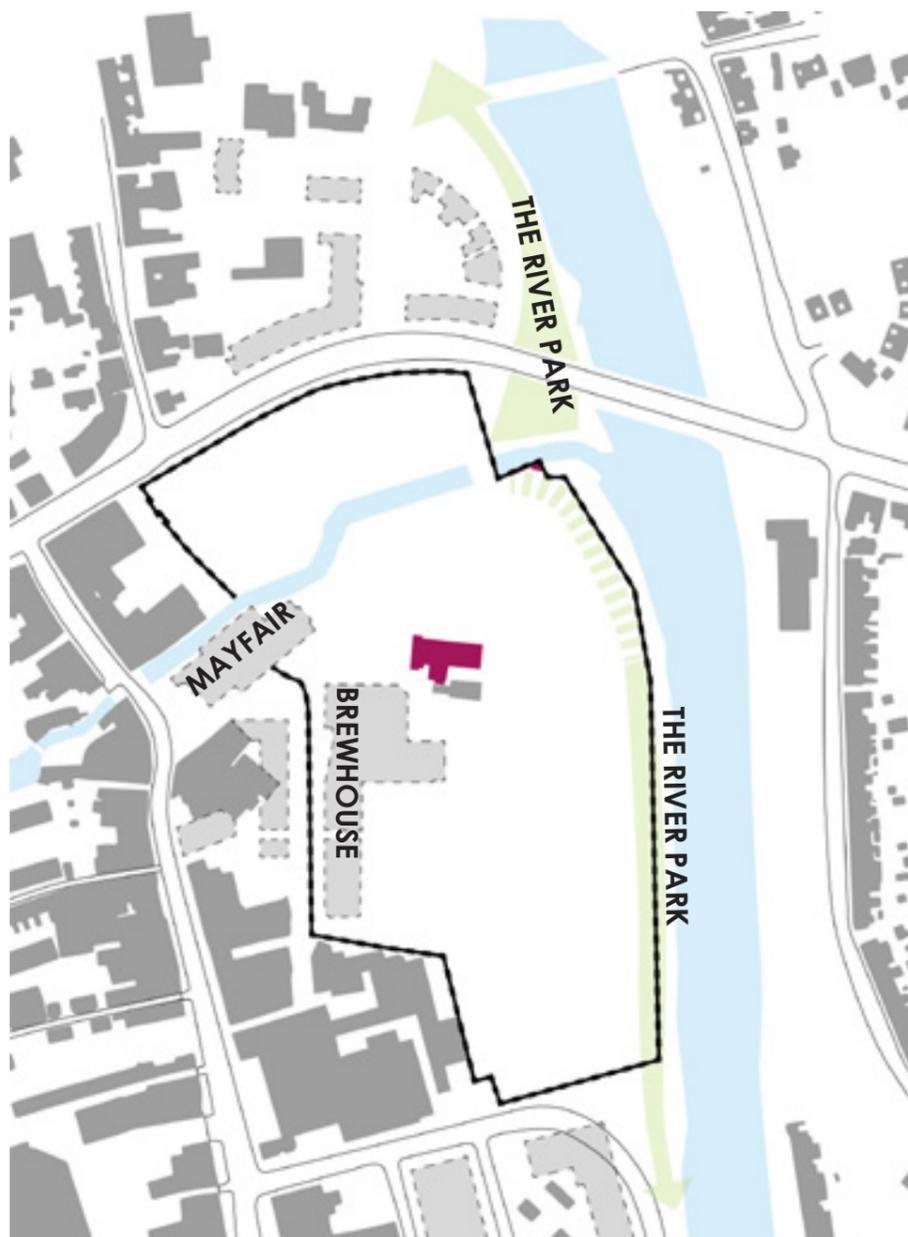
-  • Create an inclusive Urban Park for Kilkenny City
-  • Appropriately express the archaeological elements and past activities carried out in the space
-  • Refer to the Brewery use of the site and provide visitor access to St Francis Abbey and the City Walls incorporating Evan's Turret, both National Monuments
-  • Create space grading from proposed Finished Floor Level +45.40m AOD down to existing levels around St. Francis Abbey
-  • 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 a park acts as the meeting point between individual projects; Riverside Garden, Horse Barrack Lane and Brewhouse, and Mayfair
-  • Provide space to accommodate outdoor events e.g. a Spiegel tent seasonal markets , festivals etc.
-  • The street will provide access to the future buildings to be developed in the Abbey Quarter
-  • Increase biodiversity



CONCEPT WITHIN THE URBAN STRUCTURE

CONCEPT WITHIN THE URBAN STRUCTURE

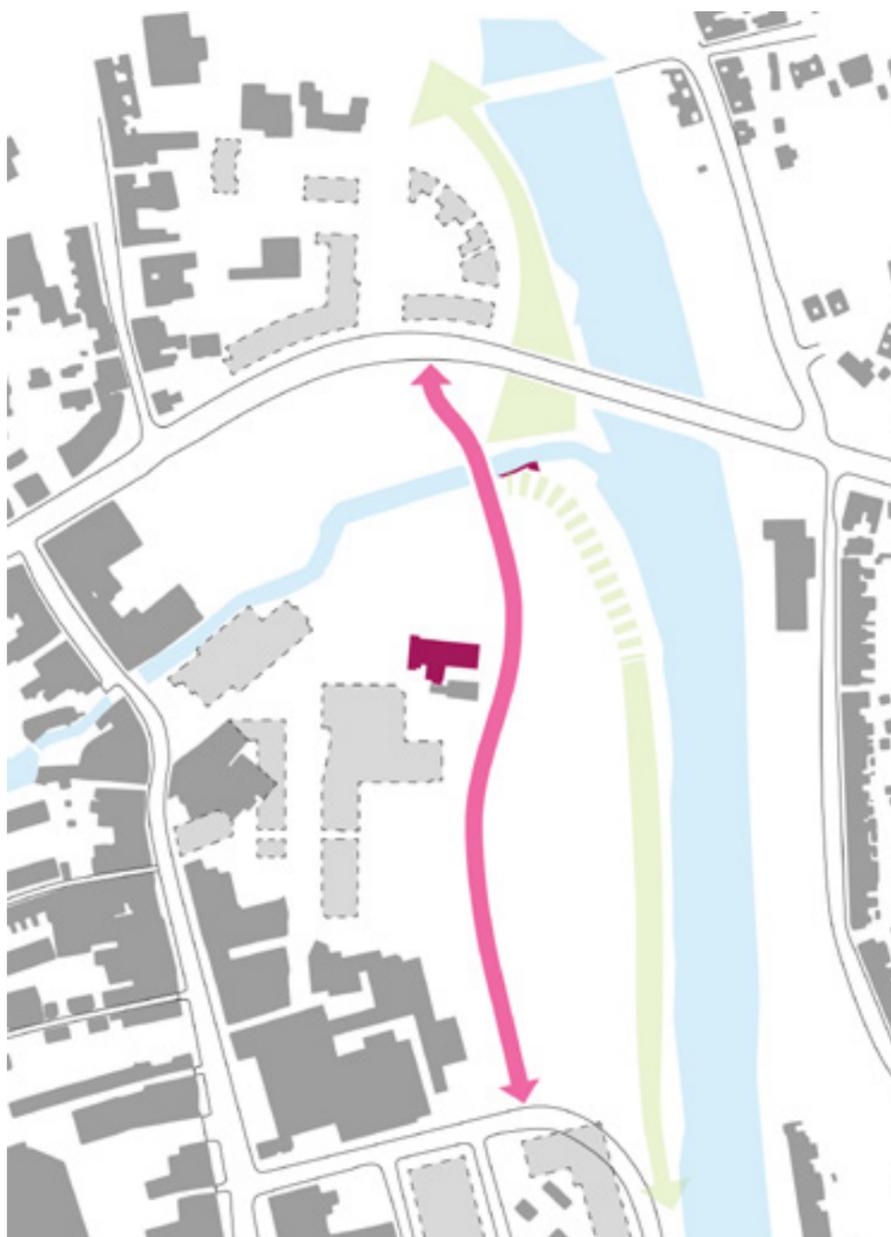
EXISTING CONDITIONS



The area has been in recent history an industrial brewery site enclosed and inaccessible to public. At the moment, industrial buildings have been demolished and several projects are being realised that bring back life to the long hidden site, or at least to its peripheries:

- The Riverside Garden including skate park are being developed along the Nore,
- The Brewhouse with Horse barracks Lane is being renewed and re-purposed for new uses
- The Mayfair building is to be developed as new Kilkenny City Library

RE-CONNECT TO THE URBAN FABRIC



To bring back life to the heart of the site, a new urban street is to be provided through the whole length of the site, connecting to the city fabric on both the Southern and the Northern end.

The design intent of the street aims to create a living social space. It forms an integral part of the Abbey Quarter redevelopment, acting as the final piece of the jig-saw to Kilkenny city centre. The street is designed as a continuous flush surface that provides free movement, predominantly for pedestrian and bicycle traffic and limited vehicular traffic. It becomes in itself an important and lively public space with furniture and trees provided on the Western side of the street.

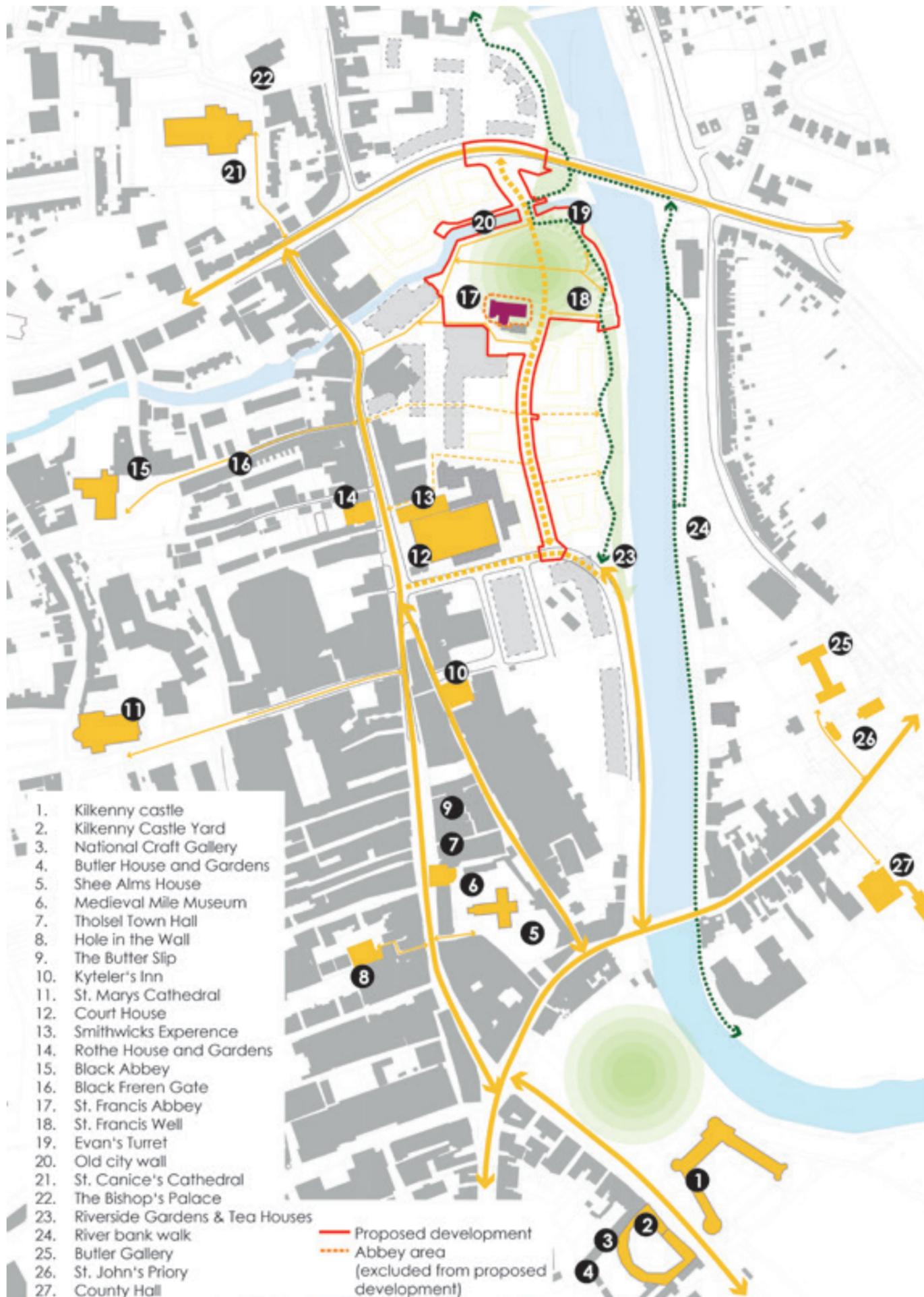
ABBAY PARK AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT



With the new connection to the city, a central park is to be developed around the relics of St Francis Abbey, connected to the city both through the street and through the Riverside Garden linear park currently under construction.

This realisation of the street and park amenity will be the catalyst to entice new investment into the city and form a contemporary street within an historic setting. The Abbey Quarter redevelopment will in turn ensure the site is brought back to life and truly reconnected to the city of Kilkenny.

CITY CONTEXT



LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

	TREE PLANTING EXISTING		COMPACTED GRAVEL SURFACING		AUTOMATED RETRACTABLE BOLLARDS
	TREE PLANTING NEW		PLAYGROUND SAFETY SURFACING		STREET SEATS
	SHRUB PLANTING NEW		RIVERSIDE NATURAL PLANTING - TIE IN EXISTING PLANTING		MOVABLE SCULPTURAL SEATS
	GRANITE PAVING COLOR - BLACK		PERENNIAL GROUNDCOVER PLANTING MINIMUM 450MM TOPSOIL DEPTH		BICYCLE STANDS
	GRANITE PAVING 300 X 100 mm COLOR SILVER AND MID GRAY		GRASS SEEDING WITH BULBS MINIMUM 200MM TOPSOIL DEPTH		BINS
	GRANITE PAVING 600 X 200 X 100 mm COLOR SILVER AND MID GRAY		TIMBER FENCE ALONG RIVER MERE		PROPOSED PLANNING AREA
	CONCRETE SURFACING WITH EXPOSED AGGREGATE TO TIE IN RIVER GARDENS PARK		LINEAR DRAIN		AREA OF THE ABBEY CHOR EXCLUDED FROM PLANNING
	GRANITE COBBLE STONE		FILTER DRAIN		
	CLIPPED HEDGE PLANTING OF LONICERA FLEATA		CIRCULAR DRAIN SLOT		
			EXISTING LEVELS		
			NEW LEVELS		
			LIGHTING POLE VEELEITE VISTA BM, BOLLARD LIGHTING FEATURE LIGHTING ESCOFET PUL		



THE URBAN STREET

- RECONNECTION TO THE URBAN FABRIC

Arrangement / Order

The street has been arranged to avoid clutter and generate a subtle order to the space. A 2.4m wide strip on the western edge of the street identifies the space allocated to street tree planting, site furniture, lighting columns, signage and loading bays. By creating this dedicated strip for necessary street elements it frees up the rest of the street for unobstructed circulation.

Circulation

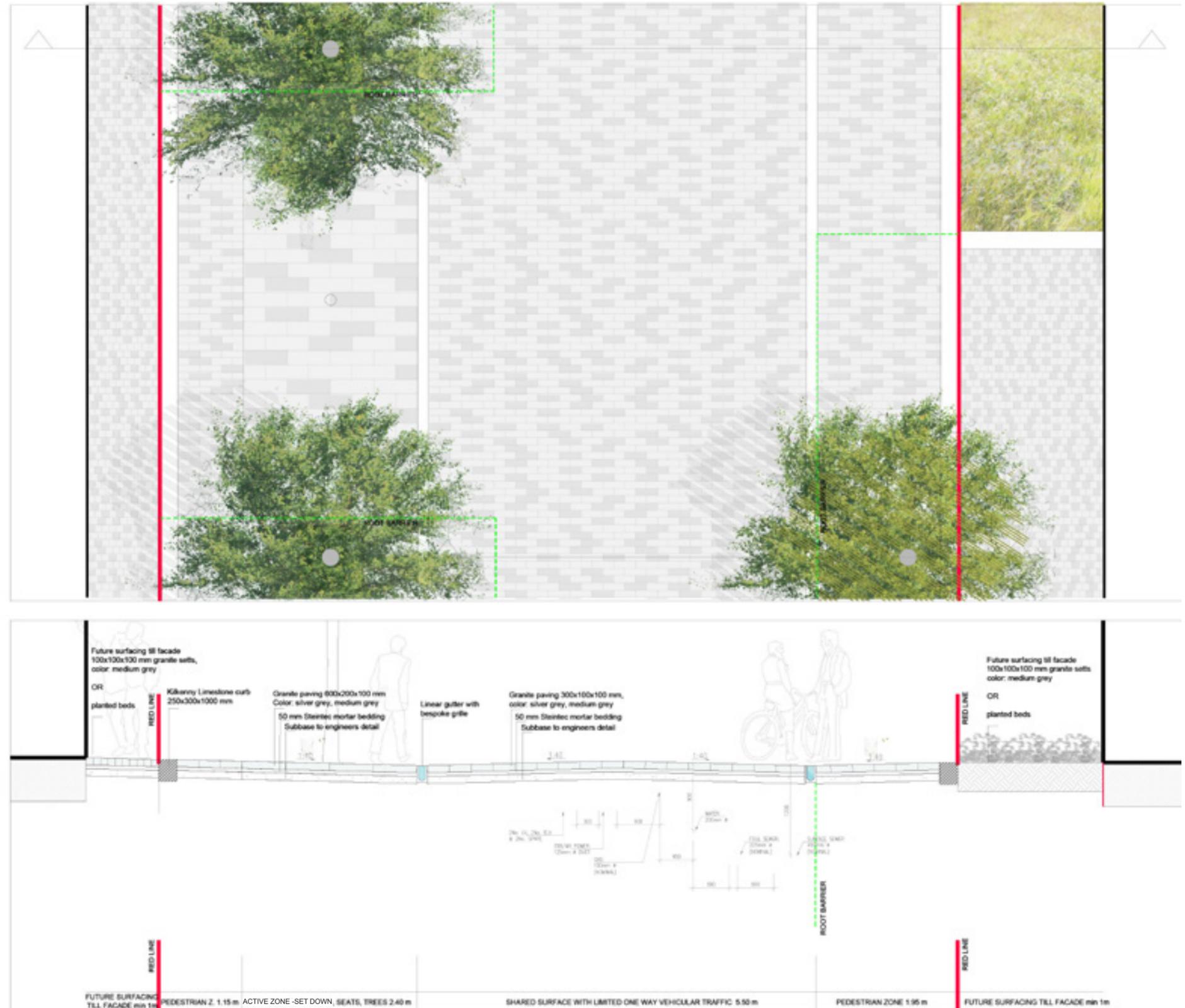
The street has been designed to allow for free movement, primarily on a north-south axis but also cross-street movement. A robust granite paving material laid flush from building edge to building edge will ensure a strong continuity along the street, this will lend itself to the intended free movement. The direction for the limited one direction vehicular movement is indicated in a subtle way by linear drains running along both sides of a 5.5 m wide strip. For the 2.4 m wide strip of tree planting, street furniture and lighting columns, the same granite paving material is used in larger paving slabs 600 x 200 x 100 mm variation. Further to the North where the street is passing through the park the same paving size is used on the outer edges of the street, while the 300 x 100 x 100 mm paving slabs are maintained through the middle section in between the linear drains.

A space to pause

Although the primary function of a street is to facilitate journeys for both pedestrians and cyclists, a secondary but fundamental aspect of the street must be to generate a space that allows the public to pause and spend time within it. This will encourage diverse, vibrant and social outlets to locate along the street, which will, in turn, entice a greater volume of footfall, with an aim of establishing a successful and marketable destination.

High quality surface finish and detailing

Creating a genius loci involves the combination of many aspects and can prove a difficult thing to get right. One ingredient within this mix is the detailing and materials used. Bespoke elements converting necessary functions into pleasing and attractive forms is one way of building up a unique experience to an area / development.



THE URBAN STREET - PRECEDENTS





CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT ABBEY PARK



INITIAL CONCEPT DESIGN 2015



INITIAL CONCEPT DESIGN CHANGES BASED - REWORKED LEVELS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

- levels adjusted to allow for continuity of spaces
- pleached trees around transept removed as could be perceived as misleading (could be perceived as cloister garden which was located elsewhere)
- different approach (surfacing, elevation) given to different abbey spaces to differentiate them in the layout as spaces that used to have different functions
- more focus on the St Francis well - orchard moved further away from the well and the abbey
- reference to the brewery history - hop pergola
- planting along the city wall in order to enhance its visual amenity



CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

- hard surfacing increased in order to accommodate bigger events
- removal of some orchard trees in order to create visual connection to the historical structures.
- removal of wild meadow strips in the park and replacement by recreational lawn
- reference to the abbey cemetery
- hop pergola replaced by hop pattern in paving



FINAL CONCEPT

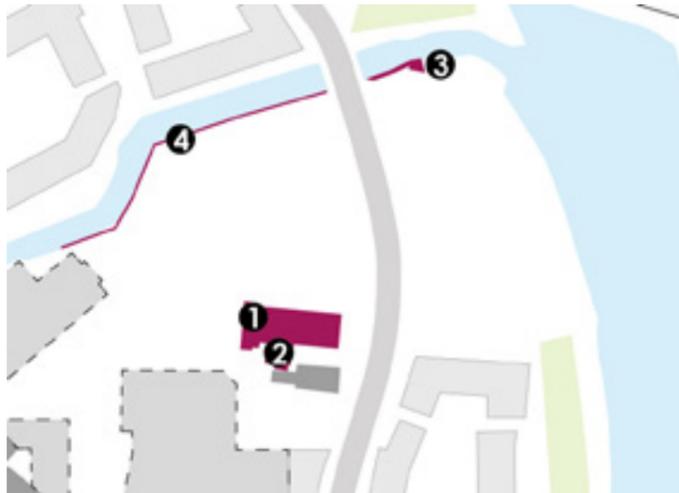
- the area of the nave kept at current level with potential to lower it to the choir level in the future
- the southern seating edge defining the space of the transept temporarily moved further away from the choir to allow for pedestrian movement
- intention of new pedestrian bridge over the river Breagh removed
- levels around the abbey to tie in with existing levels



CONCEPT ABBEY PARK

CONCEPT - ABBEY PARK

VISIBLE HISTORICAL HERITAGE



Historically the most important object on the site, are the remains of the St Francis abbey Choir and Bell tower (1) and Sacristy (2), and Evan's Turret (3) and the old city wall (4).

Although the Abbey remains are outside the red line, it is the most important dominant of the park. The general approach in the design is to reveal more historical imprints connected to the abbey and to create visual connections to the Bell Tower and East facing window not only from different important places in the park but also from the other side of the Nore river.

St Evan's Turret has been stabilised and is positioned on a pivot point at the confluence of the River Breaghagh with the River Nore. It is not suggested to impact upon this structure. As with the Abbey visual connections to the tower are provided.

It is also suggested that this element along with all other medieval elements in the park could be artistically illuminated with feature lighting emphasizing particular elements which would extend the visitor experience of Kilkenny City into the evening and night.

As advised, it is suggested to improve the visual identity of the old city wall. Therefore, planting is suggested to the base of the wall.

ARCHAEOLOGY REPRESENTED



Next step is to reveal the archaeological footprints hidden under the thick concrete, not by uncovering them but by reflecting the hidden archaeology on the surface.

After careful study of the study, archaeological survey, study of historical maps, and consultations with the archaeologist the following hidden archaeology was decided to be reflected:

- The footprint of St Francis Abbey is consisting except of the still standing Choir, Bell Tower, of a number of connected yet distinct spaces including; Transept (1), North Aisle (2), Nave(3), West claustral range (4), Cloister (5), and East claustral range (6)
- An other important part of the Abbey hidden under the concrete slab is St Francis Well (7) to the East of the Choir.
- Some remains of a precinct wall (8) running around the Abbey as a protection has been discovered during archaeological excavations. Although we do not have a precise location of the Abbey precinct wall from the excavation, a symbolic division line based on historical maps study is proposed between the protected and rational abbey space surrounding the Choir and Bell Tower, and the "wild natural" space of the river Nore.
- Another structure revealed by archaeological excavations was the footprint of the Horse Barracks (9)

THE 3 IDENTITY INGREDIENTS



The parks identity reflects on three important ingredients.

The historical layer of the Abbey and its atmosphere brought back not only by the revelation of the hidden archaeology, but also by recreating to some extent the atmosphere of the orchard which used to surround the Abbey and which was also used as a cemetery, and by introducing medicinal and symbolic plants which were typically grown in medieval abbey garden.

But the medieval abbey is not the only historical layer to reflect here. The design also aims to reference the Brewery use of the site by choice of detailing, materials, or plant selection.

The third ingredient is of course the river Nore, not only present before any abbey or brewery were founded.

Although the park refers in its design to several historical layers (such as the medieval abbey or industrial site of the brewery), the aim is to create a contemporary park in the heart of the contemporary Abbey Quarter, by using contemporary forms and materials, such as corten or concrete exposed aggregate, alongside historical and local high quality materials such as Killkenny limestone.

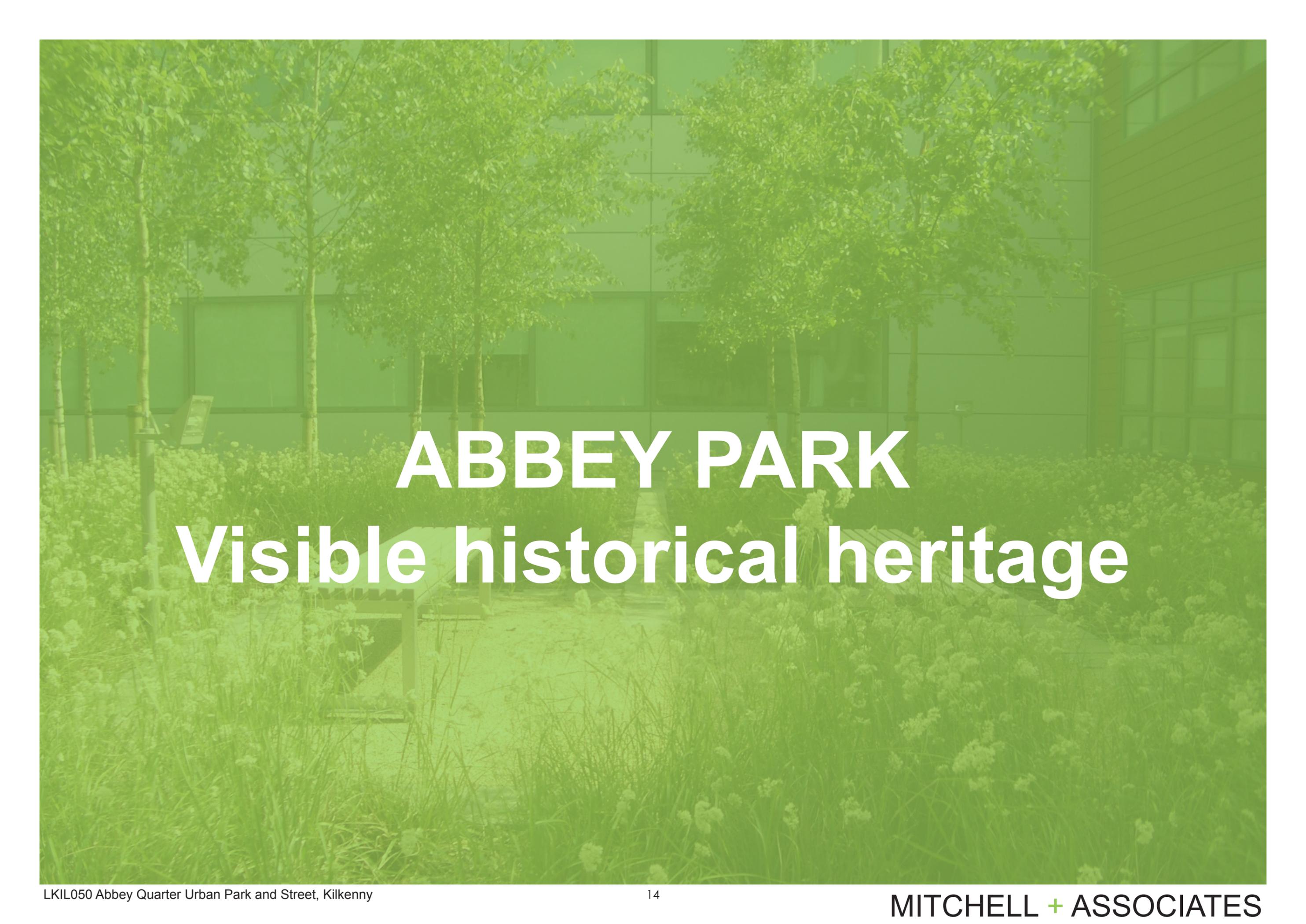
INCLUSIVE AMENITY



And of course last but not least, probably the most important aim of the design is to create an inclusive urban park for Kilkenny city.

- A park where people can
- come in contact with nature,
 - play and exercise in close contact with nature,
 - meet and gather,
 - relax, sit and observe, or lay on the grass lawn,
 - or learn about the history of this part of the city, or about plants

A park where, small events can be organized during the week or year, such as markets, art exhibitions, etc.



ABBEY PARK

Visible historical heritage

VISIBLE HISTORICAL HERITAGE - EXISTING



2 pictures on the left - St Francis Abbey Bell tower

St Francis Abbey Choir

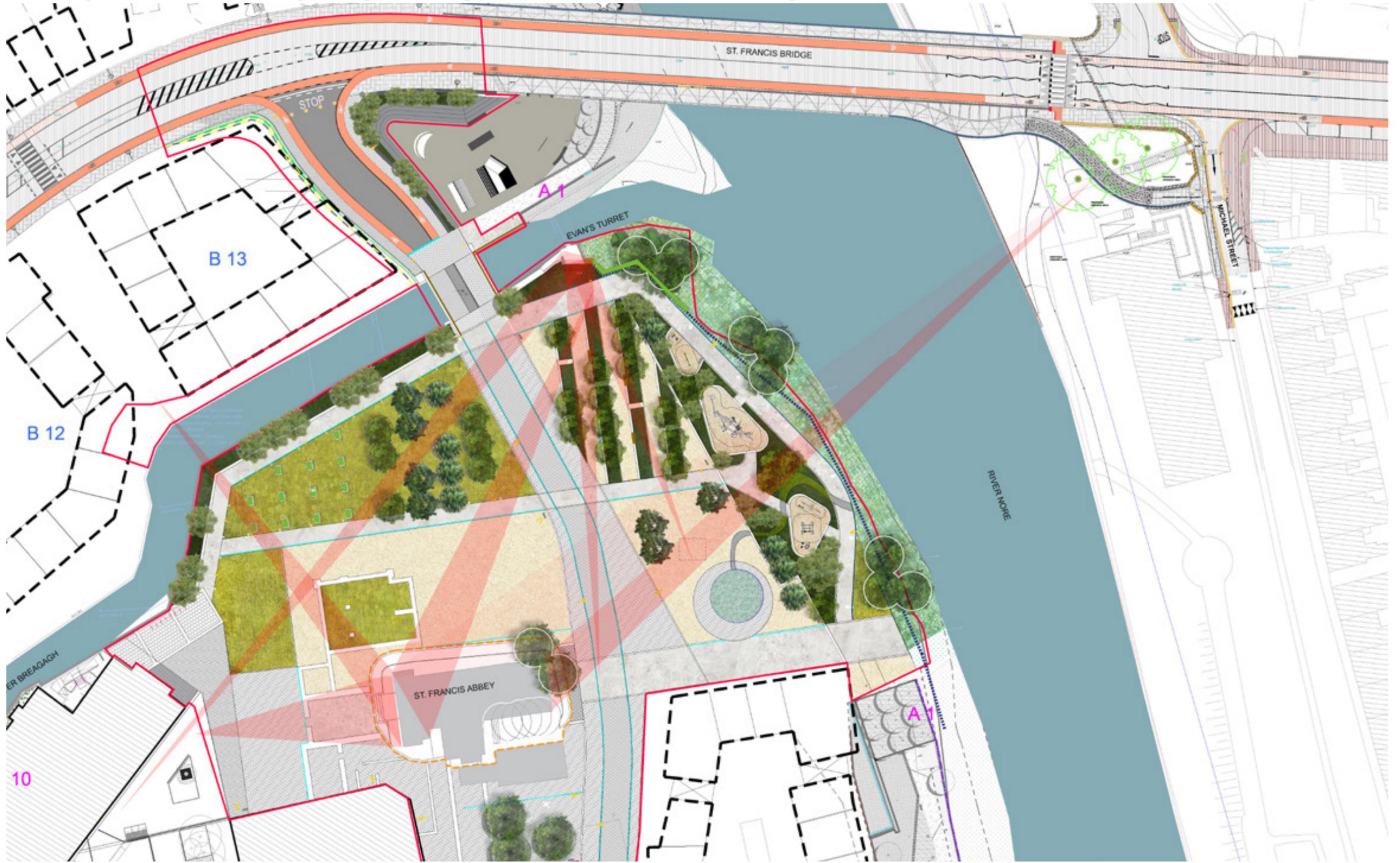


St Francis Abbey Sacristy



2 pictures on the left - Evan's Turret
Evan's Turret will be temporarily fenced off until the Conservation plan is prepared and implemented.

VISIBLE HISTORICAL HERITAGE - FRAMED VIEWS





ABBEY PARK

Archaeology represented

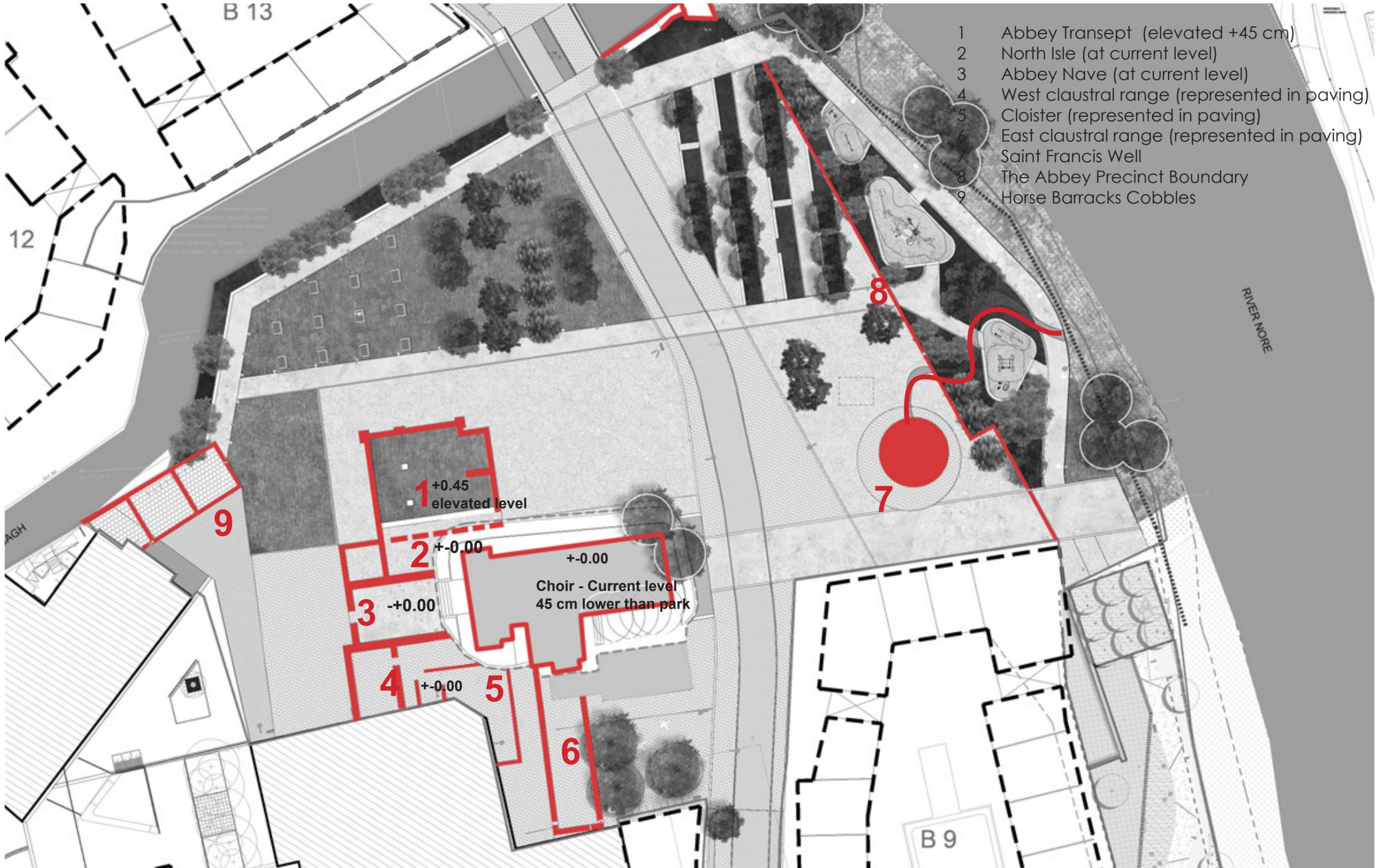
ARCHAEOLOGY - ANALYSIS

id	Descr
1	Choir, extended in 1321 Upstanding
2	Nave, demolished in the 19th century
3	Crossing Tower
4	Sarcristy, part of East range, containing the Great Slate House, chapter house on ground floor, dormitory on second floor
5	North Aisle
6	Transept (with chapels)
7	Ambulatory, surrounding the cloister garth
8	Cloister Garth
9	East range, containing the Great Slate House, chapter house on ground floor, dormitory on second floor
10	West claustral range (Kitchen ground floor, storage in cellars and Refectory first floor)
11	South range, which usually contained the refectory (dining hall), possibly also guest rooms and kitchens Sole historical mention of a 'void room' in this location
12	St Francis' Well
13	Additional buildings associated with St Francis' Abbey, possibly including a 'little cloister'
14	Former site of barns, grain stores, kilns Includes 16th century property of Piers Roth
15	Grey Freren Gate Entrance to St Francis' Abbey precinct
16	Grey Freren Mill
17	Enclosed "Little Cemetery" to the north of the Abbey buildings, crossed by a path Probably the older of the two cemeteries
18	Enclosed Large Friary Cemetery, with a central cross, crossed by a path
19	Medieval millrace, AKA Jenkins Mill Stream
20	Grey Freren Street or Jenkyn's Lane, providing access to St Francis' Abbey precinct from the south through Grey Freren Gate Now part of The Ring
21	Bridge for Grey Freren Street over the mill race?
22	Francis' Street; path leading from the town to the western door of the nave
23	Path through the enclosed Large Friary Cemetery, towards the western door of the Nave
24	Path towards St Francis' Well
25	Path through the Little Cemetery towards St Francis' Well
25	Path towards St Francis' Well
26	Lane to Cotteral's Bridge
27	Garden of the late little cloister
28	Park, incorporating St Francis' Well Probably gardens/ orchards for St Francis' Abbey
29	Gardens with a garret building in the NE corner, beside a path to St Francis' Abbey
30	Gardens for St Francis' Abbey - possibly also associated with the Infirmary
31	Riverside area
32	Burgage associated with Grace's Castle



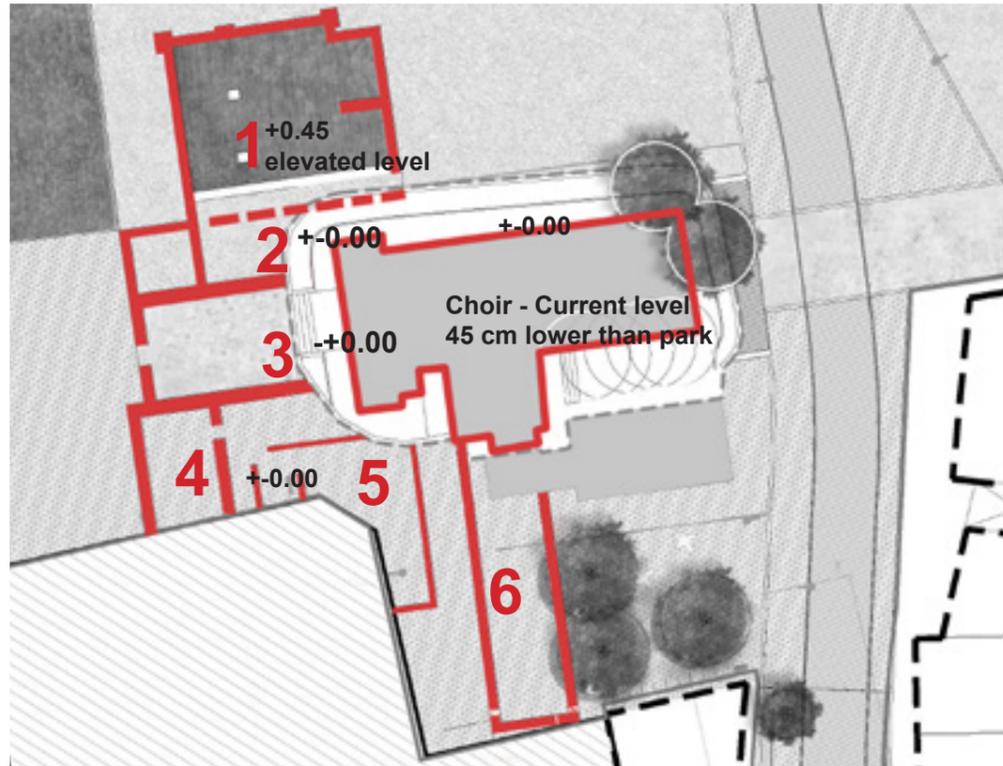
Based on O'Keeffe, Gerry. 2016. "St Francis Abbey 1230 – 1630: A History and Archaeology of Kilkenny's Conventual Franciscans." Old Kilkenny Review 68: 5–56.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS REPRESENTED



ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS / The Abbey

SUGGESTED EXPRESSION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS



Level differences with delineating seating edge.

St Francis Abbey consists of a number of connected yet distinct spaces including; Transept, North Aisle, Nave, Choir, Bell Tower, Sacristy, Cloister. The design proposes to represent these elements as one by utilizing the same material and design language with slight variation between each space to signal the hierarchy different social classes using each of the individual spaces.

It is suggested to express the perimeter footprint of each space using a broad Kilkenny limestone paving flag band/450 mm raised edge. To the north of the Nave, the finished level of the North Aisle would be the same level as the proposed surrounding park. The Transept space is suggested to be elevated by 450 mm, that would be a safe change in level for the public and will also act as informal seating edge.

This change in level aims to distinguish the space and act as the transition to the Transept which would have been utilized by a more elevated member of society.

To further differentiate the individual spaces, yet comfortably connect all spaces coherently, it is suggested to finish the surface of the Nave in polished concrete exposed aggregate finish as a contrasting material to the granite paving around, the North Aisle in a compacted gravel finish, and incorporate a grass lawn to the surface of the elevated Transept. Each staggered section aims to be engaging and populated in a playful way to animate the space and refocus the area as a community structure.



Opportunity to animate the space with lighting projection.



Pavement banding with explanatory text expressing past footprint to abbey extent.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS / St Francis Well

SUGGESTED EXPRESSION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS



St Francis Abbey consists of a number of connected yet distinct spaces. It is proposed to express both St. Francis Well and the meandering rill that connected the well with the River Nore.

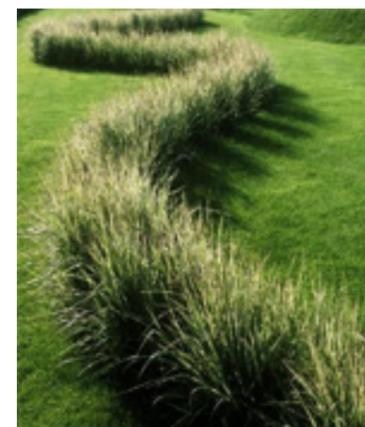
The well is proposed to be represented as a very shallow film of water (between 5-10mm deep) continuously recycling over the surface of a paved circle mirroring the footprint of the known site. The surrounding paving is finished flush so there is no associated trip hazard. This water feature is a safe playful element that can be drained at any time to enable the hardstanding space to be utilized as the potential location for small events. As the water is so shallow the area will dry quickly and can be utilized immediately. The paving proposed to the footprint of the chamber would visually contrast with the surrounding compacted gravel to highlight the element when wet or dry.



The well area is represented by a water mirror of a thin layer of water on pavement.



Information about the history implemented in the pavement around the water mirror.



The old stream that used to run from the well to the river can be represented as a ribbon of steel and grasses.



Water mirror edge detail.



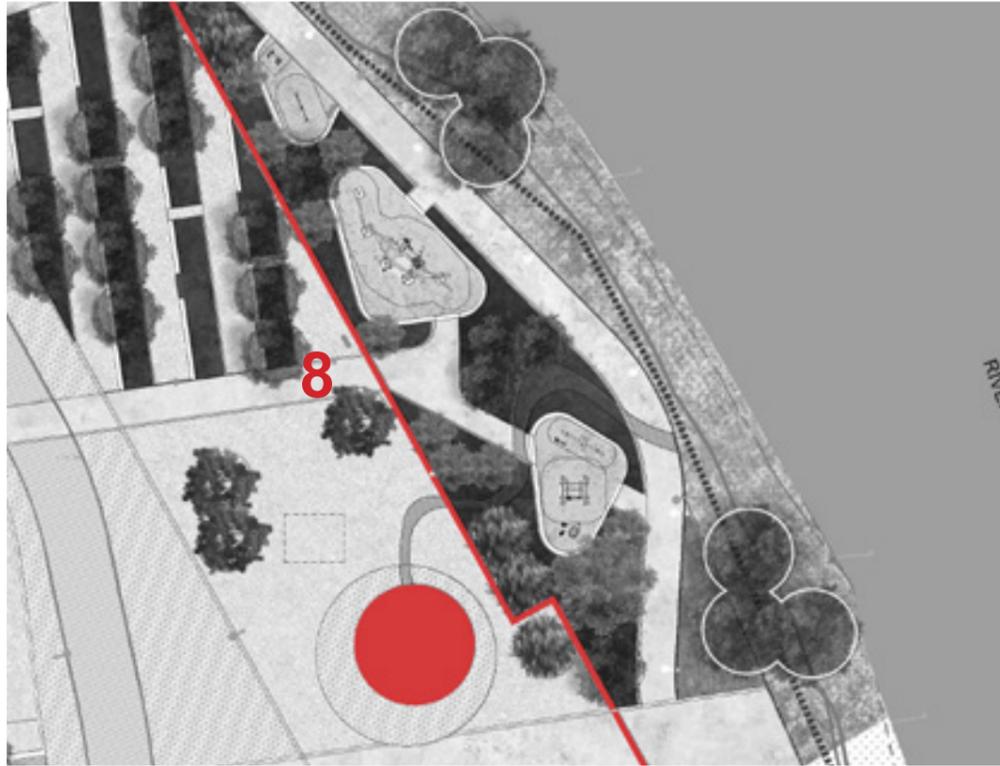
Water as playful element, Lyric Square, London.



Flexible use: with and without water.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS / Boundary

SUGGESTED EXPRESSION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS

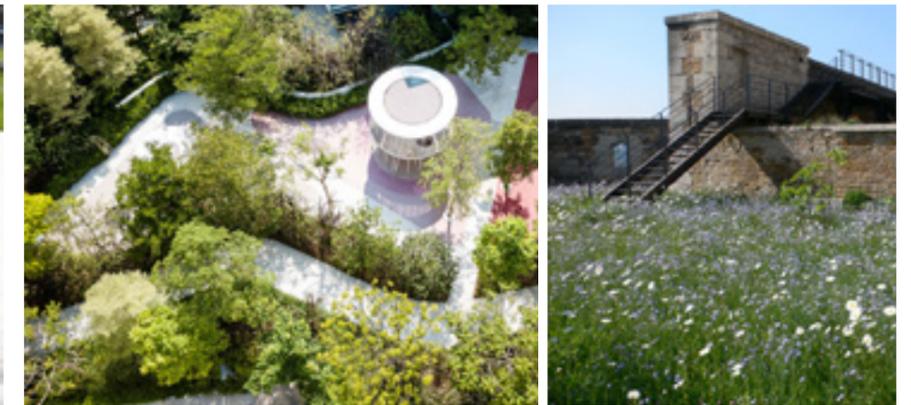


The suggested presence of a boundary seen on Rocque Maps (1758) and the discovery of oak fencing below ground south of St. Francis' Well is proposed to be expressed as a Kilkenny limestone lit raised band / paving band with flush lighting strip. This would extend from the south east corner of the proposed park where the space meets the future buildings and continue northwards towards St. Evan's Turret. The line would suggest a crisp visual transition between the more natural 'wild' landscape outside of the Abbey precinct and the more tamed, structured and maintained landscape within the Abbey environment.

The planting to the east of this line would be randomly spaced with no obvious pattern and species selected would be more naturalised in form. To the west of this line planting would become more structured arranged in deliberate rows that fragment as one moves westwards. These species are proposed to be a variety of orchard tree species reflecting the use and type of activities carried out in the Abbey Precinct. Orchard trees are also generally low growing tree species so this planting should not obstruct long distance views from the CAS to the Abbey remains.



"Managed" landscape within abbey precinct with trees in lines, geometrical organization of space.



"Unmanaged" organic wildly planted river area with niches of play. (The planting still requires knowledgeable management)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS

SUGGESTED EXPRESSION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS



The cobbled surface of the Horse Barracks that was evident when archaeological excavations took place is proposed to be re-interpreted and expressed in the finished paved surface of the park. The cobbles would be too rough to be directly reused, however, a sett paving unit in natural stone orientated on a contrasting alignment to that of the surrounding paving is proposed to highlight the buried paving below.



The horse barracks are brought back by a material change in the pavement and change of paving orientation. (The image is a representation of the approach not representative of materials used.)



ABBEY PARK

The three identity ingredients

URBAN PARK - Abbey atmosphere key elements



Except the already mentioned representation of archaeological elements of the abbey, such as the abbey layout at the plaza in front of the Bell Tower (4), the elevated grassy stage element of the transept(5), or the water plaza with the water mirror element representing the well (6, we can represent more of the old abbey character in the park.

3 more elements of the abbey are brought here to help create the special identity of the Abbey park"

1 - the reference to the abbey's cemetery

2 - the orchard of forgotten fruits

3 - the ornamental crab apple orchard

Abbey atmosphere / Cemetery precedents



The North and West side of the Abbey grounds used to serve as a cemetery. To bring back this memory a grid of clipped low hedges is suggested in the lawn.



Precedent of Leinefelde Graveyard with a grid of planters.



A Veterans cemetery with its simple grid of white stones as reference.



Clipped hedges reference to be placed in a grid in the lawn.

Abbey atmosphere / Orchard of forgotten fruits



Mespilus germanica (medlar) tree fruits



Mespilus germanica (medlar) trees

The tree planting in the abbey park refers to the historic orchards of the abbey. There are two large tree groves in the park:

- An ornamental crab apple tree orchard on the eastern side, in planters with incorporated seats, blooming at one moment, creating an impressive snow cloud of white and pink flowers.
- An orchard of forgotten fruits including small scale trees of old forgotten fruits as well as new hybrids from them, adding interest for visitors (*Mespilus germanica*, *Cydonia oblonga*, *Sorbocrategus Ivan's Belle*)

A Flowering fruit trees, tree planting is bird and pollinator friendly.



Sorbocrataegus Ivan's Belle(Granatnaya), hybrid of Sorbus aucuparia - mountain ash and Crataegus sanguinea - hawthorn)



Cydonia oblonga - quince tree



Granatnaya and Cydonia fruits

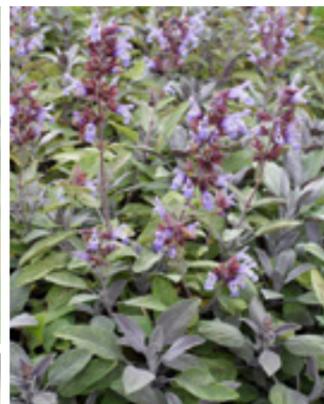


Art objects may be displayed in the orchard and may serve equally as small play elements.

Abbey atmosphere / Crab apple orchard



Crab apple trees



Integrated seating bands with timber seats and backrest for inclusive seating opportunities



The orchard theme: crab apple trees organized in formal lines with seating opportunities with bands of hard surface in between the tree line.

Plants grown in abbey gardens and plants symbolic for Christianity used in the perennial planting under the apple trees.

The tree planting in the abbey park refers to the historic orchards of the abbey. There are two large tree groves in the park:

- An ornamental crab apple tree orchard on the eastern side, in planters with incorporated seats, blooming at one moment, creating an impressive snow cloud of white and pink flowers. To increase diversity, three different varieties are suggested: Malus 'Evereste', Malus ' Coralburst' and Malus 'Snowcloud'
- An orchard of forgotten fruits including small scale trees of old forgotten fruits as well as new hybrids from them, adding interest for visitors.

The tree planting is pollinator friendly, as most of the trees are flowering fruit trees.

The Ornamental crab apples are planted in elevated flowerbeds with perennial planting. Symbolic plants for the church, edibles and medicinals form the plant selection of perennials for the abbey area:

The plant selection includes a big diversity of pollinator friendly plants (marked with *).

- Alchemilla mollis (symb. Cthe cloak of Virgin Mary)
- Artemisia officinalis
- Echinacea purpurea*
- Foeniculum vulgare*
- Fragaria vesca* (symb. fruit of virgin Mary, the Holy Trinity)
- Lavandula officinalis*
- Matricaria reticulata
- Origanum 'Rosenkuppel'*
- Pulmonaria officinalis* (symb. tears of Virgin Mary)
- Salvia officinalis*
- Sanguisorba officinalis
- Valeriana officinalis

URBAN PARK - Industrial brewery atmosphere



Except the medieval historic layer, the industrial history of the site's brewery is also something that definitely merits to be reflected in the overall image of the park. Except the renovation of the Brewery house directly adjoining the site (3), this reference is done in a subtle way on a detail level, mostly through material, and plant selection and detailing, such as:

- creating a hop pattern surface treatment of the granite paving at the plaza by the Brewhouse (1)
- selection of plants that refer to beer production by reminding hop and barley are added in the perennial mixes in the park (2)
- furthermore corten steel is used through the site (on the Bridge over the river Breagagh or on the elevated planters for the Crab apple orchard) that evokes back the industrial history of the site. Similarly a contemporary light is selected for the Abbey street and the park - a simple but strict geometric form, black coated, will keep the contemporary feel while being elegant in its simplicity and at the same time referring to the industrial character of the brewery site.

Industrial brewery atmosphere



Simple geometric lighting selection - modern and elegant, but also referring to the industrial history



Material selection - Corten steel evoking industrial past
 - Crab apple orchard planters with stone edge only from one side, all other 3 sides of the planter are corten steel
 - corten steel sheets for the bridge sides



Reference for pavement pattern for the Brewhouse plaza - using bushhammered finish of the pattern in the flamed granite paving. Hop plant pattern to be used



To refer to the brewery which was part of the abbey, plants referring to the cultivation of hop and barely for the production of beer are included here:
Stipa tenuissima 'Pony Tails'*
Origanum rotundifolium 'Kent beauty'
 Hop hornbeam trees (*Ostrya carpinifolia*)

URBAN PARK - River atmosphere



The space outside of the abbey precinct, that is the area along the river Nore creates a contrast to this organised forms and planting of the abbey.

The river side area is planted in more natural wavy forms with a diversity of both perennials, shrubs and trees of a more nature-like character, creating a lush and almost wild green space. Little niches with play and fitness equipment are located within this lush planting enabling exercising and playing in close contact with the natural environment.

River “wild nature” atmosphere



“Unmanaged” organic wildly planted river area with niches of play. (The planting still requires knowledgeable management) Precedent picture.

The play and fitness equipment is made from natural materials, mostly timber, and have a rather natural, wild character.



The selection of the plants in the river side area creates a lush green almost natural vegetation, while still keeping seasonal interest throughout the year and including pollinator friendly and bird friendly species.

The selection of the plants in the river side area creates a lush green almost natural vegetation, while still keeping seasonal interest throughout the year and including a big diversity of pollinator friendly plants





ABBEY PARK

Inclusive amenity

URBAN PARK - Inclusive amenity



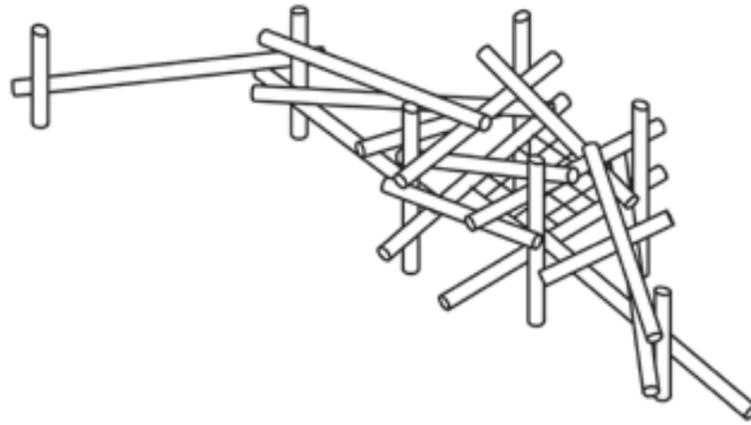
1. The Abbey plaza is the main arrival area to the Bell Tower from the city. The free space (approximately 812 m²) gives the historical monument enough space to be admired and allows for gathering. The abbey layout is referenced in the paving.
2. The Brewery Plaza (c. 625m²) is proposed to be adjacent to the former St Francis Abbey Brewery Tasting Rooms which has the potential to accommodate a range of uses. The plaza is populated with seating units hop hornbeam trees. A subtle hop pattern is introduced here for the surface treatment of the granite paving of the plaza to refer to the brewery as part of the history of the site.
3. Sunny relaxation lawn for picnicking, exercising or just relaxing on the sun (294,2m²).
4. Elevated transept (247.9 m²) with a lit limestone seating edge around refers to the abbey history but at the same time serves as spontaneous stage.
5. The walk along the river Breagagh (73m length) allows for views back to the Abbey and to the Tower, and links to the Riverside Garden park. A south facing sunny seating edge is provided all along the walk to relax and enjoy the views on the park.
6. The cemetery reference provides with another recreational lawn with a little more intimate feeling with the planted hedges (383,3 m²).
7. The orchard of forgotten fruits (647,2 m²) provides a shady space to enjoy the park lawns and at the same time serves as a point of interest to explore "forgotten" fruit species.
8. The ornamental crab apple orchard (726,8 m²) provides half shady comfortable seating for all, with its seating edges with timber seats and backrests running along the planted beds under the tree branches. The medicinal and symbolic plants under the trees provide another point of interest and sensory experience, as they are often aromatic.
9. A larger space is left open in front of Even's turret to give visitors the space to admire another historic structure of the park. The turret itself is set in background of perennial planting.
10. The path along the river (105m length) connects to the Riverside Garden park both on the North and the South end and provides views both to the river and the other bank, and to the abbey.
11. Fitness equipment zone (36.4 m²)
12. Older children natural play area (111,6 m²)
13. Younger children natural play area (70,7 m²)
14. Water mirror (St Francis well reference) plaza (700 m² plaza, 78m² mirror) provides another point of interest for history lovers, but also a place for spontaneous water play in summer or small events.
15. The Abbey axis - main connection of the park to the Riverside garden park on the South and the and visual axis to the Eastern Choir window
16. Main North South axis of the park - the Urban street of Abbey Quarter reconnects the whole site to the urban fabric of the city (320m length).
17. Main event space / multifunctional plaza (658,7 m²)

Play and fitness equipment

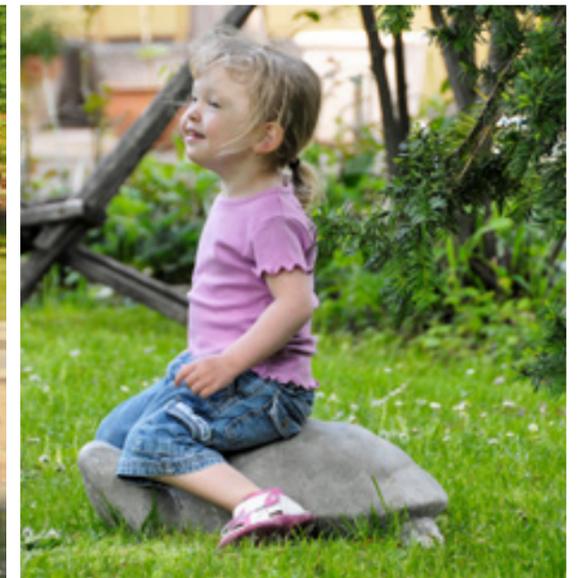
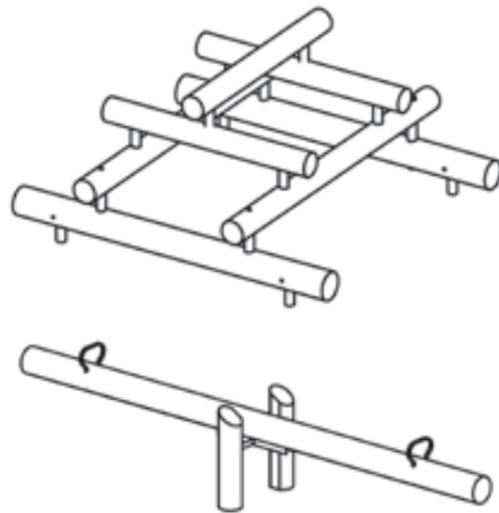
In the "wild" area of the riverside, out of the abbey precinct, three semi-hidden niches provide play and fitness amenity for visitors. The equipment is made from natural materials, mostly timber, and have a rather natural, wild character. Climbing equipment for smaller and bigger children from wood logs is selected along with simple timber see saw and playful animal art figures of natural stone and/or sand colour to facilitate role play.

Each niche provides a different type of equipment - one offers play equipment for smaller children, another a timber climbing structure for older children, and the last fitness equipment for older children and adults.

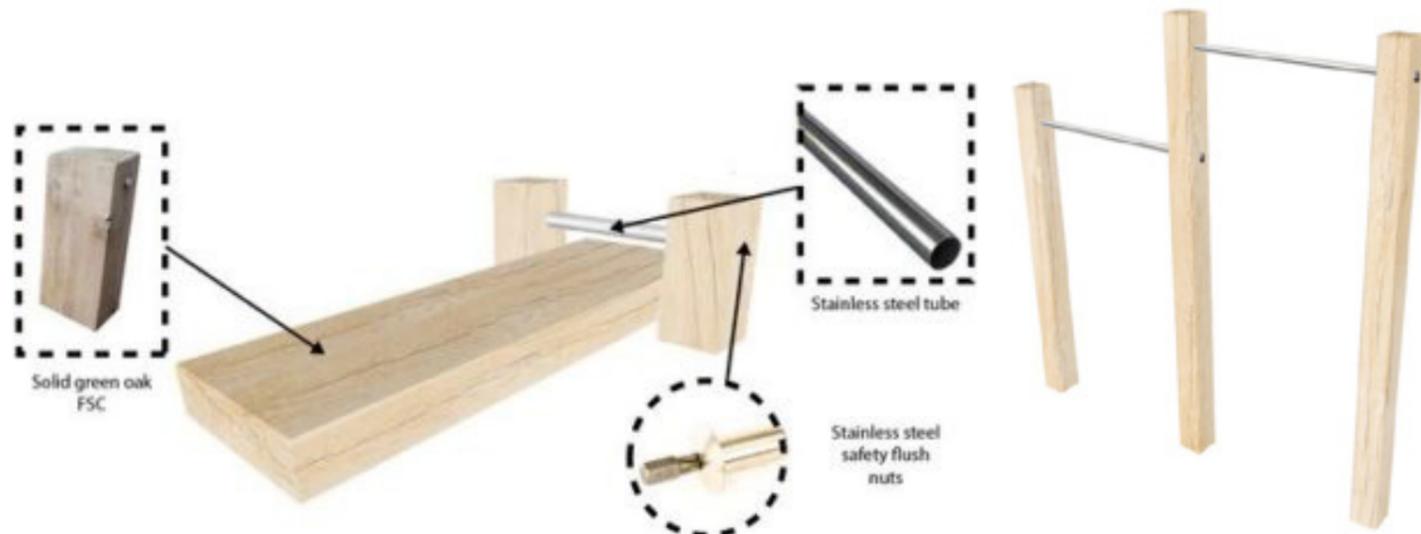
Except these designated areas for play and exercise, art installation can be placed in the abbey park that can serve as accidental play elements.



Play equipment older children - natural wooden climbing structure (Richter Spielgerate, climbing structure 18 or similar character)



Play equipment younger children - small natural wooden climbing pyramid, see saw and stone stroking turtles (Richter Spielgerate, or similar character)

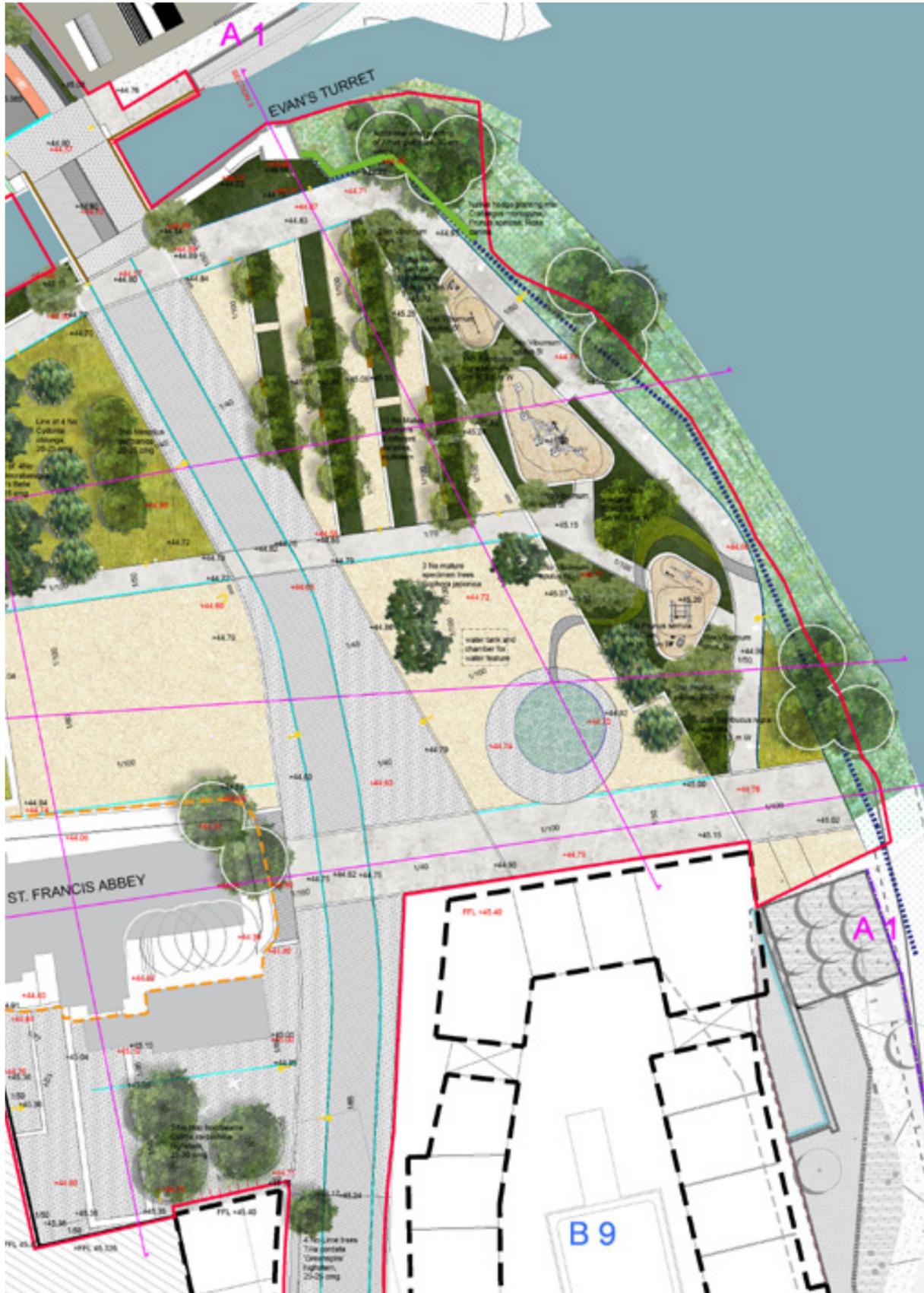


Timber fitness equipment: Outdoor Pull up station and sit up bench by playequip.com or similar



Art installations in the abbey park as accidental play elements.

Event possibilities



Mirror pool drained to facilitate multifunctional use of space.

A playful water element year round, an event place, market stalls, outdoor cinema or ice skating rink in winter.









