

# Kilkenny Laneways

## Public Consultation

Kilkenny County Council  
June 2023

Project Team

Design Team Lead, Architects  
**John Mc Laughlin Architects**

Structural and Civil Engineers  
**MPA Consulting Engineers**

Landscape Architects  
**Mitchell + Associates**

Quantity Surveyors  
**Nolan Construction Consultants**

Archeology, Ecology  
**Moore Group**



## Introduction

This project was undertaken by an external design team for Kilkenny County Council and funded by the National Transport Authority.

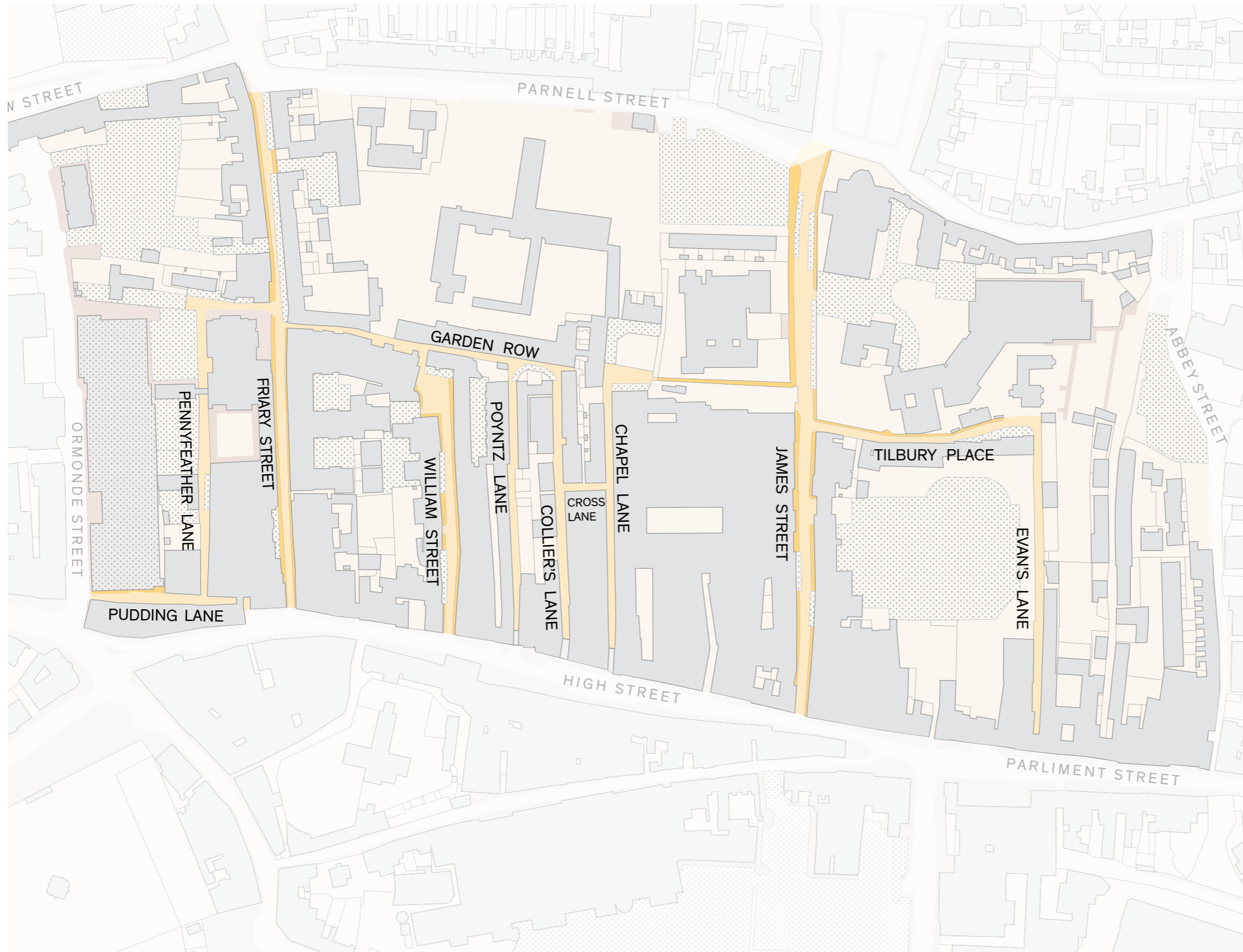
The aim of the project is to develop a masterplan to improve connectivity and active travel on the laneways to the west of Kilkenny city centre, make them attractive for businesses and residents, and to reduce non-essential vehicular traffic on the laneways. Kilkenny County Council intend to use this feasibility study as a masterplan to develop individual projects arising from the study on a phased basis.

John Mc Laughlin Architects have led a full design team which included Martin Peters Associates Consulting Engineers, Mitchell + Associates Landscape Architects, Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Ltd, and Nolan Construction Consultants.

The team have started consulting various stakeholders and landowners who would be directly affected by the project. Further stages of the project will include detailed proposals and a comprehensive consultation with the residents and businesses within the subject area, and citizens of Kilkenny as a whole. Any projects arising from this feasibility study will also follow appropriate planning procedures.



## Scope of Project



The subject site is bounded to the east by High Street and Parliament Street.

The western boundary of the subject area is formed by Garden Row and Tilbury Place. These laneways in the past ran alongside the City Wall, with its only upstanding section remaining to the east of Mother of Fair Love Special School off James's Street.

The northern boundary of the site is formed by Evan's Lane, with the burgage plot of the Rothe House just North.

The southern boundary is formed by Pennyfeather Lane.

Three schools, St Mary's Cathedral and the Blessed Felix House, the seat of the Archdiocese of Ossory, are all located to the western of the subject site.

# Historic Context



Extract from the Map of Kilkenny, 1758, by John Rocque (Trinity College Dublin), reproduced from Irish Historic Towns Atlas

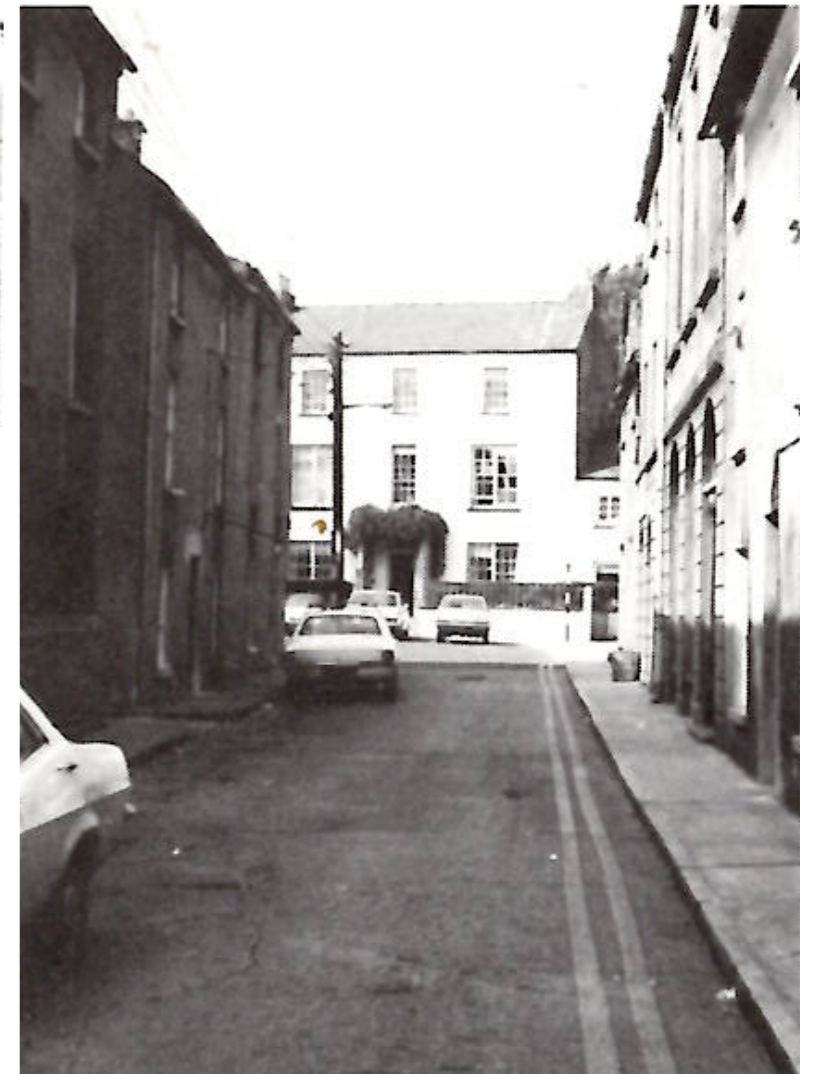
# Historic Photographs



Capucin Friary on Friary Street, from Lawrence Collection photographs, National Library, 1870 - 1914

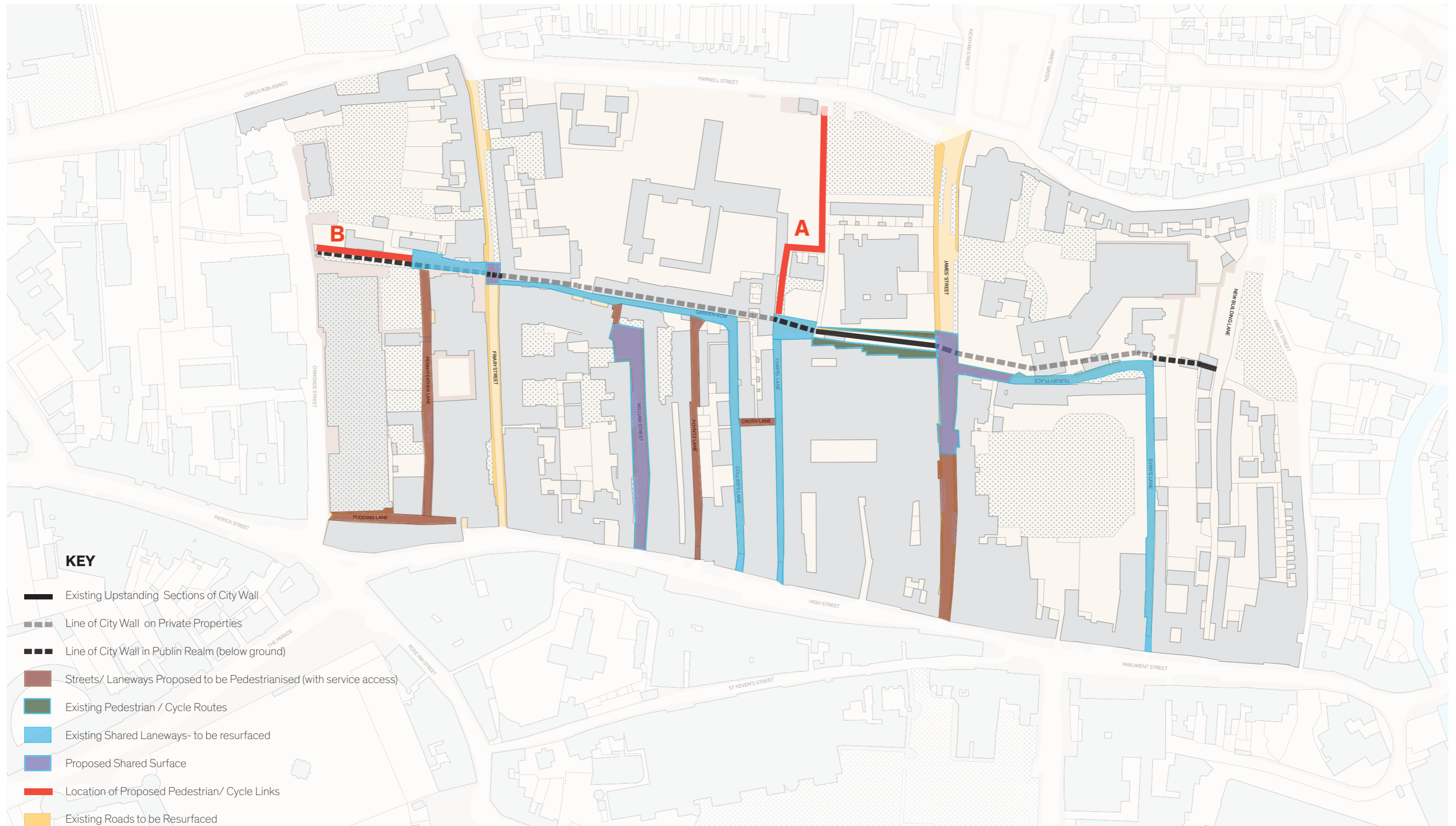


The Malthouse, Tilbury Place, from Kilkenny Its Architecture and History ed. Katherine M Lanigan and Gerald Tyler, 1977












Chapel Lane, from Kilkenny Its Architecture and History ed. Katherine M Lanigan and Gerald Tyler, 1977

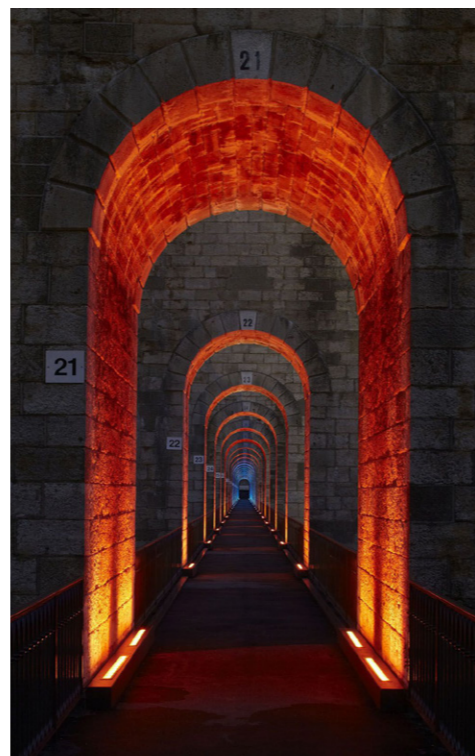
# Public Realm Proposals



## KEY

-  Existing Upstanding Sections of City Wall
-  Line of City Wall on Private Properties
-  Line of City Wall in Public Realm (below ground)
-  Streets/ Laneways Proposed to be Pedestrianised (with service access)
-  Existing Pedestrian / Cycle Routes
-  Existing Shared Laneways- to be resurfaced
-  Proposed Shared Surface
-  Location of Proposed Pedestrian/ Cycle Links
-  Existing Roads to be Resurfaced

# Public Realm Proposals



## Paving

All laneways are proposed to be re-paved in good quality natural stone paving, incorporating river cobbles strips along the building edges, and sections of Kilkenny limestone. Paving scale and materials would relate to the simple and restrained paving seen on the older photographs of the area.

The route of the City Wall is proposed to be expressed through paving markings.

## Lighting

Heritage style pole and wall mounted lighting is proposed along the laneways. Catenary lighting is proposed at the entrance to Pudding Lane and William Street, to enhance security and encourage business in unoccupied commercial premises on the ground level of the car park. Concealed ground uplighting is proposed to the laneway arches.

## Soft Landscaping

The proposed approach incorporates pockets of soft landscaping into the streets and laneways in the form of raingardens and planters around residential areas. Two small city parks are proposed at the City Wall between Wellington Square and James's Street, and at the end of William Street.

## Sustainable Urban Drainage

The design approach aims to significantly reduce surface water run off into existing drainage networks, and route the rainwater into raingardens, bioswales and areas of permeable paving.

## Wayfinding

It is proposed to commission a good quality interpretative signage design telling the story of the City Wall route through ground markings and upstanding and wall mounted signage containing historic maps, narrative and historic photographs.

# Public Realm Proposals

## Tilbury Place





# Public Realm Proposals

## Evan's Lane



# Public Realm Proposals

## Chapel Lane

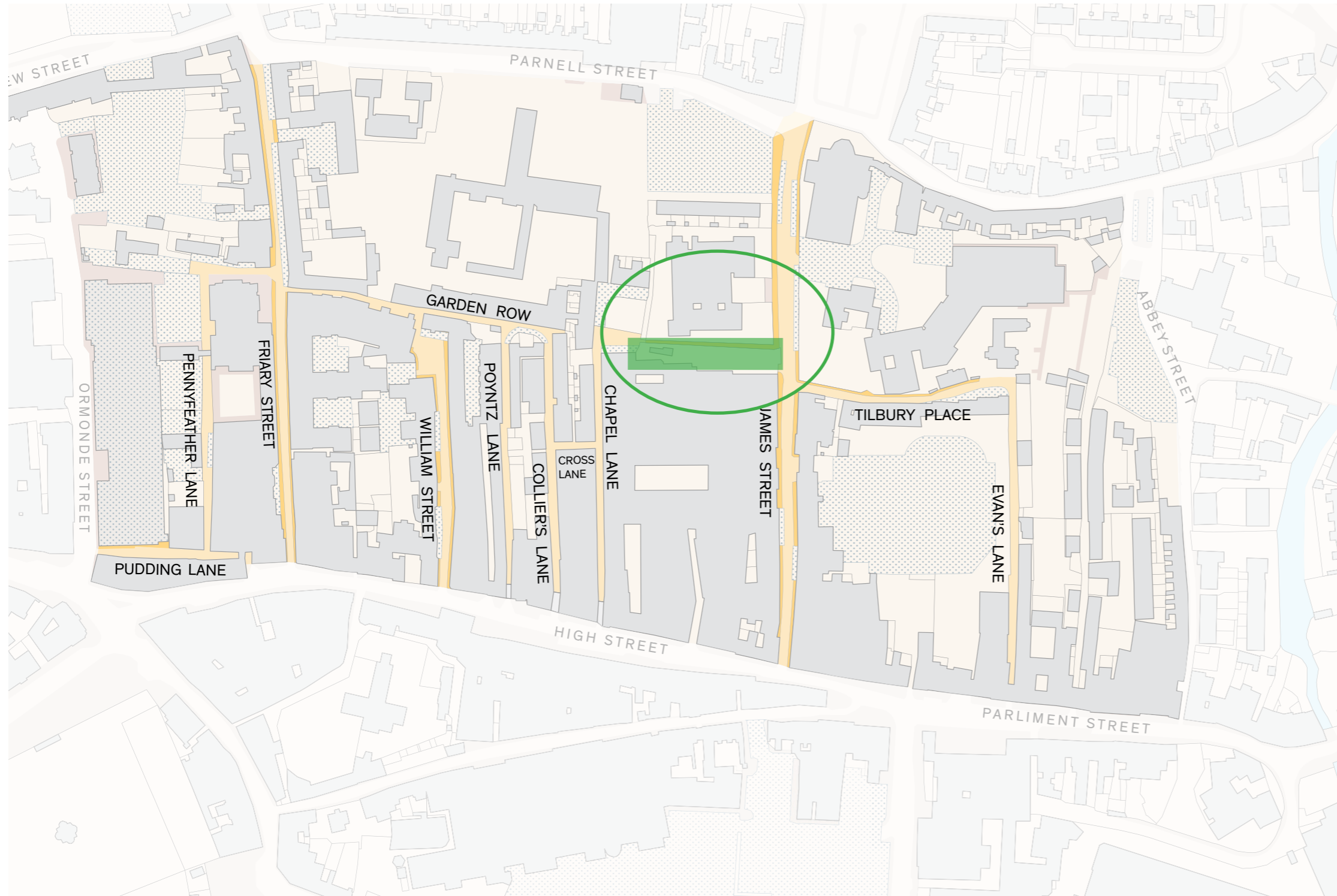


# Public Realm Proposals

## Chapel Lane Archway



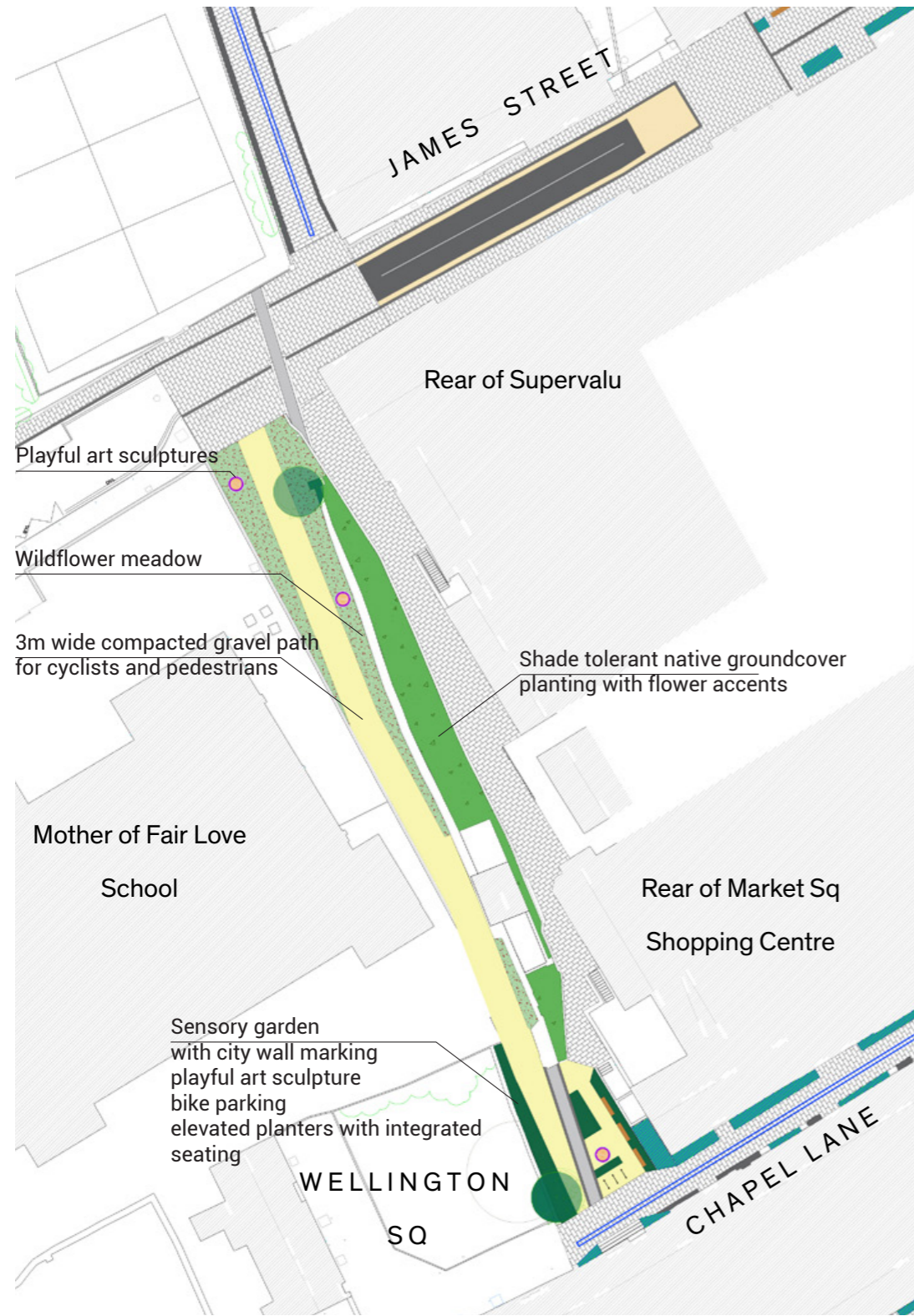
## City Wall Park



A park is proposed around the City Wall to the east of Mother of Fair Love School. The park would provide a much needed green space, to be accessible by persons of all abilities, with places to rest, extensive areas of seasonal planting, and a sensory garden with a connection to the Mother of Fair Love School.

A new sensory garden is proposed to replace six car parking spaces belonging to Kilkenny County Council in the area between Chapel Lane and Wellington Square. The garden could serve as additional outdoor space to the Mother of Fair Love Special School, and it is proposed to collaboratively design the garden with its teachers and students.

The footpath on the east side of the City Wall is in the ownership of Market Square Shopping Centre. It is proposed for KCC to take this footpath in charge to resurface it and improve lighting and security as part of the City Park design.



LKIL056 Kilkenny Laneways Landscape Sketch booklet



Sensory garden to the South end. Elevated planters with seats in the sensory garden have the advantage that the plants are closer for people to touch or smell.



3 no Sheffield type bicycle stands incorporated



Clearing of the city wall with extensive native wildflower meadow to the west side and groundcover native planting of shade tolerant native species with accents of flowering perennials to the east side

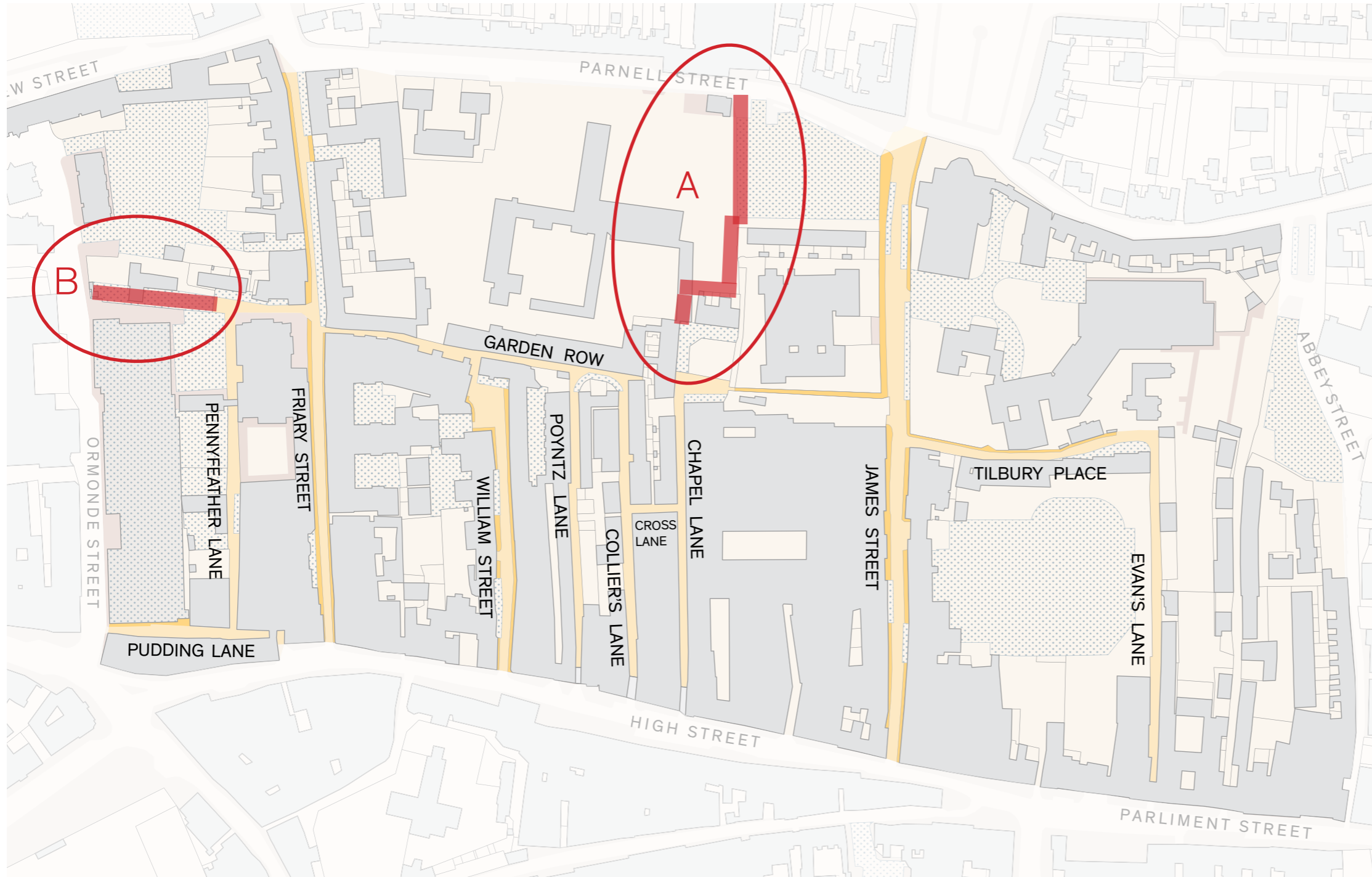
MITCHELL + ASSOCIATES

## Links

As part of the project brief, Kilkenny County Council have asked the design team to explore the feasibility of expanding the Laneway Network to improve connectivity, subject to agreement with landowners.

Link A would connect Chapel Lane to Parnell Street through Wellington Square and Presentation Primary playground.

Link B would connect the laneway network to Ormonde Street and to Patrick Street and the Parade.



## Links

### Link A Garden Row/ Wellington Square to Parnell Street

Wellington Square is a quiet intact Georgian Square containing attractive terraces with double doorways typical to Kilkenny. The stone boundary walls of Wellington Square form part of its enclosure to the north and west.

Presentation Primary School and Presentation Convent are located to the west of Garden Row. Presentation Primary land is owned by the Diocese of Ossory.

Many Presentation Primary students live on the laneways and close to the school, however a lot of them are dropped off to school by car. If accessibility was improved they would be more likely to use active travel.

Presentation Primary school playground adjoining the Cathedral Square carpark is used by older students at recess and for PE games.





## Links

### Link B Pennyfeather Lane to Ormonde Street

One of the routes considered would pass through the site of a single storey 1980's bungalow at the turn of Pennyfeather Lane. The bungalow, though inhabited at present, is anecdotally in poor structural condition and is beyond repair. The new route would include a terrace of new houses replacing the bungalow, and a pocket park.

Below-ground section of the Kilkenny City Wall runs through the bungalow plot. Earlier OS maps show a dead-end laneway in this location with a terrace of modest dwellings on each side of the laneway.