

GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

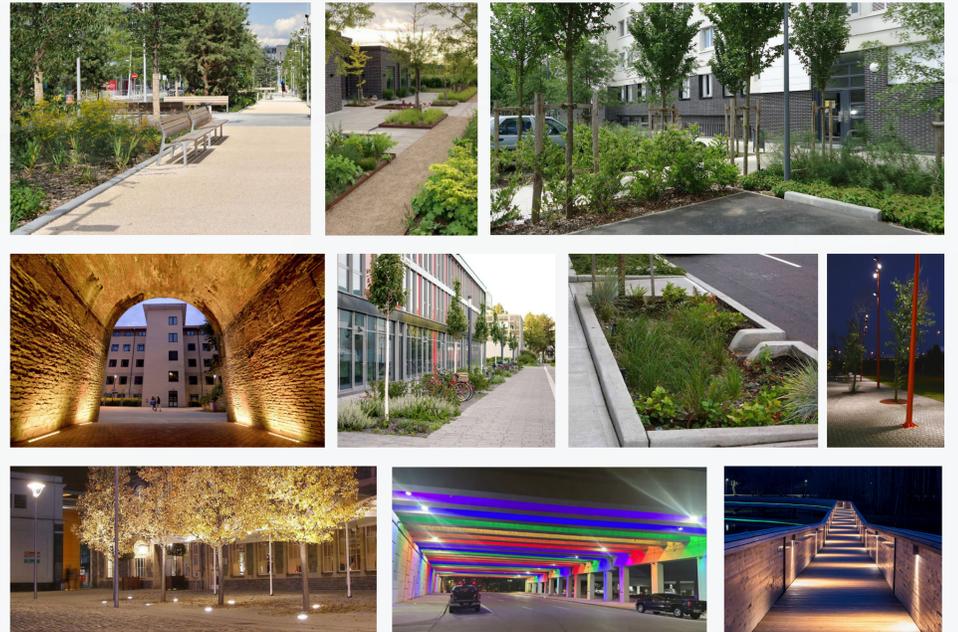
PROJECT BRIEF

In 2023, a **Town Centre First Strategy** was developed for Longford Town. Despite the positive growth and service ability of the town, the public consultation carried out to inform the development of the strategy identified that many of the residents and visitors to the town did not feel safe and comfortable using some of the town due to poor connectivity and sense of place. This in particular relates to a number of car park areas and their connections with the Main Street. The Town Centre First Strategy identified that there were opportunities to improve the attractiveness and permeability of the pedestrian routes from car parks located within the backlands of the town to the town centre, and in tandem to encourage better utilisation of car parking provision in these areas.

One area identified for improvement is **Garvey's Yard and the Annaly car park area**. Garvey's Yard is a laneway leading from Main Street to Annaly car park and housing area. There has been a history of anti-social behaviour in this area, leaving people feeling unsafe using the laneway. Recent improvements in the area include the renovation of a number of vacant houses as artists studios, accommodating 6 no. artists studios and an art sculpture to draw the eye from the Main Street along the laneway, encouraging greater movement between the areas. However, the laneway and car park area remain underused and unappealing to many.

Weaver's Hall is the entrance to the car park at Ballymahon Street and currently prioritises the car over the pedestrian. The dark, narrow access for pedestrians with retaining walls presents a negative perception to the pedestrian and is not encouraging as an entrance to a primary car park area in the town. This area also serves as an access to residential units overhead.

In October 2025 a steering group comprising of Longford County Council Architects, Engineers, and Regeneration Officers have appointed Cunnane Stratton Reynolds Landscape Architects to develop a **strategy for rejuvenation** of the areas in question. Following consultations with the stakeholders and Longford County Council a proposed enhancement scheme had been formulated, which we are delighted to present to you on these boards and we look forward to receiving your feedback and comments.



• Potential Landscape / Public Realm enhancement treatments

SITE CONTEXT, ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

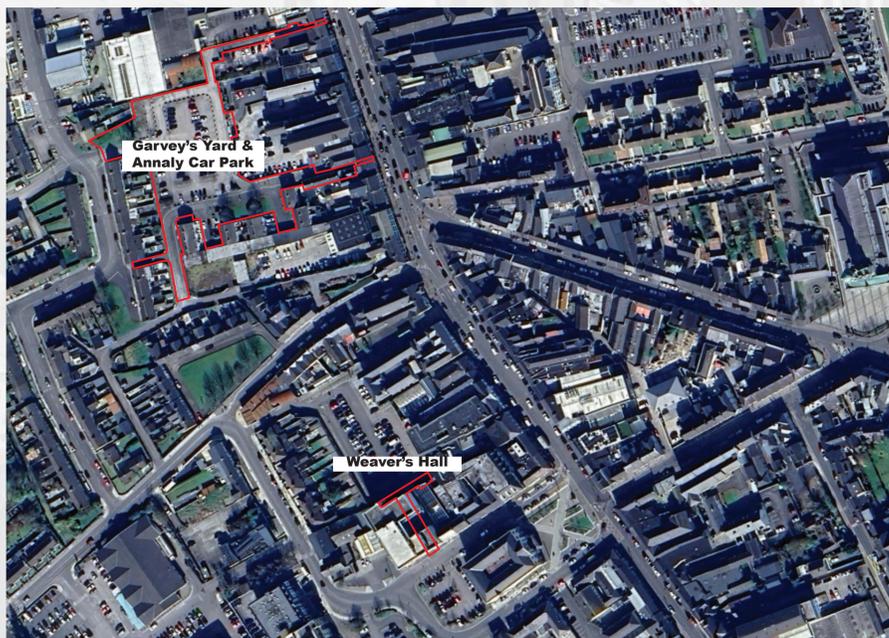
The project comprises of two individual sites namely **Garvey's Yard / Annaly Car Park** (Site A) and **Weaver's Hall** Apartments entrance (Site B), both located in Longford Town Centre. Site A, of circa 0.7 ha, comprises of lands located between Main Street and Annaly Park, namely Garvey's Close, Annaly Park, Townparks, Longford and Site B, of circa 0.039 ha, is located at Bog Lane Car Park, Townparks, Longford. Both sites lie in close proximity to each other and are centrally located within Longford Town Centre.

Annaly Car Park / Garvey's Yard offers great opportunity for car parking just off Main Street, with easy access to Longford's town retail offering, however due to impaired sense of safety and continuous anti social behaviour in the area this car parking facility is often underused and avoided by visitors. Proposed improvements will aim to address this problem and transform the area into a safe and visually attractive place. The following are the key Public Realm areas identified for enhancement:

- re-alignment and improvements to existing car park;
- upgrades to footpaths, laneways, underpasses, cladding to walls;
- public lighting & decorative lighting,
- tree and shrub planting,
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) features,
- bicycle parking,
- public art
- and all associated site and infrastructural works.

Weaver's Hall underpass currently suffers from similar problems i.e. impaired sense of safety, lack of visual and material quality, deficient lighting. The proposed public realm and carriageway improvements will aim to enhance the area by implementation of the following:

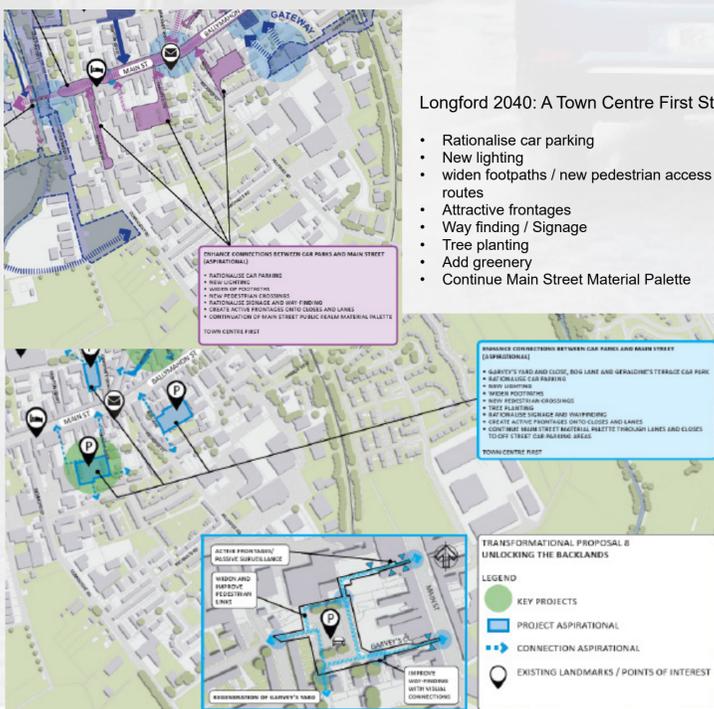
- carriageway narrowing to one lane, one way road;
- widening and upgrades to footpaths;
- upgrades to pedestrian crossings;
- public lighting and decorative lighting;
- decorative cladding to soffit and walls,
- public art
- and all associated site and infrastructural works.



• Project site locations in the context of Longford Town Centre (aerial image source Google Maps)

POLICY DOCUMENTS

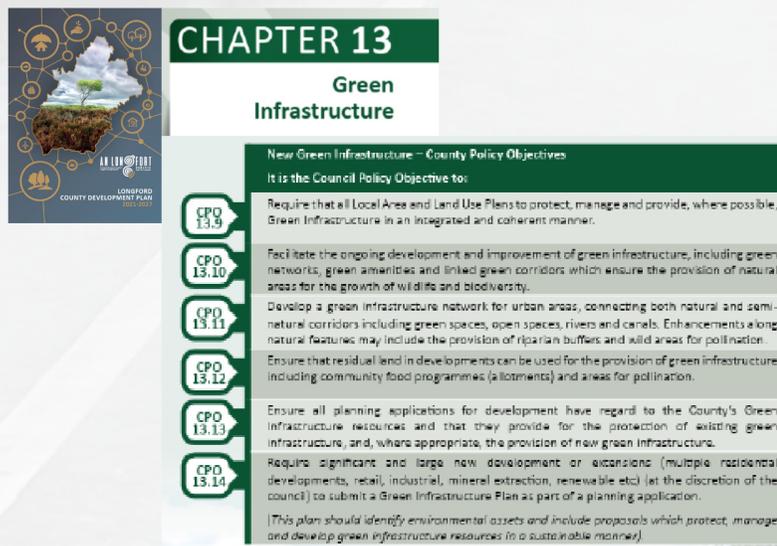
The following are some of the policy documents that have been reviewed and form a basis for the proposed improvements.



Longford 2040: A Town Centre First Strategy

- Rationalise car parking
- New lighting
- widen footpaths / new pedestrian access routes
- Attractive frontages
- Way finding / Signage
- Tree planting
- Add greenery
- Continue Main Street Material Palette

Longford County development Plan 2021 - 2027



URB SECURITY - Longford Integrated Area Plan



- Town Appearance**
- Address Dereliction and Vacancy
 - Install Landscaping
 - Improve lighting
 - Implement Urban Realm Improvements

- Safe Mobility**
- Remove Barriers
 - Implement Active Travel Initiatives
 - Reduce access for Heavy Goods Vehicles to Town Centre
 - Reduce numbers of HGV's through centre
 - Prevent inappropriate use of Vehicles on Footpaths
 - Prevent Inappropriate Footpath Use

- Utilise Urban Assets**
- Enhance Links between focal areas
 - Investigate Regeneration of Strategic sites



GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



SITE CHALLENGES

- The users feel unsafe when accessing the car park
- There is no passive surveillance looking onto the car park
- Disconnection between car park and Main Street
- Not an attractive space to be in
- Anti social behavior occurs within the site
- Surfacing in poor condition
- Unattractive concrete kelly blocks
- Standing water issues when raining
- Dark and unsafe alley ways
- The site and car park aren't used its full potential



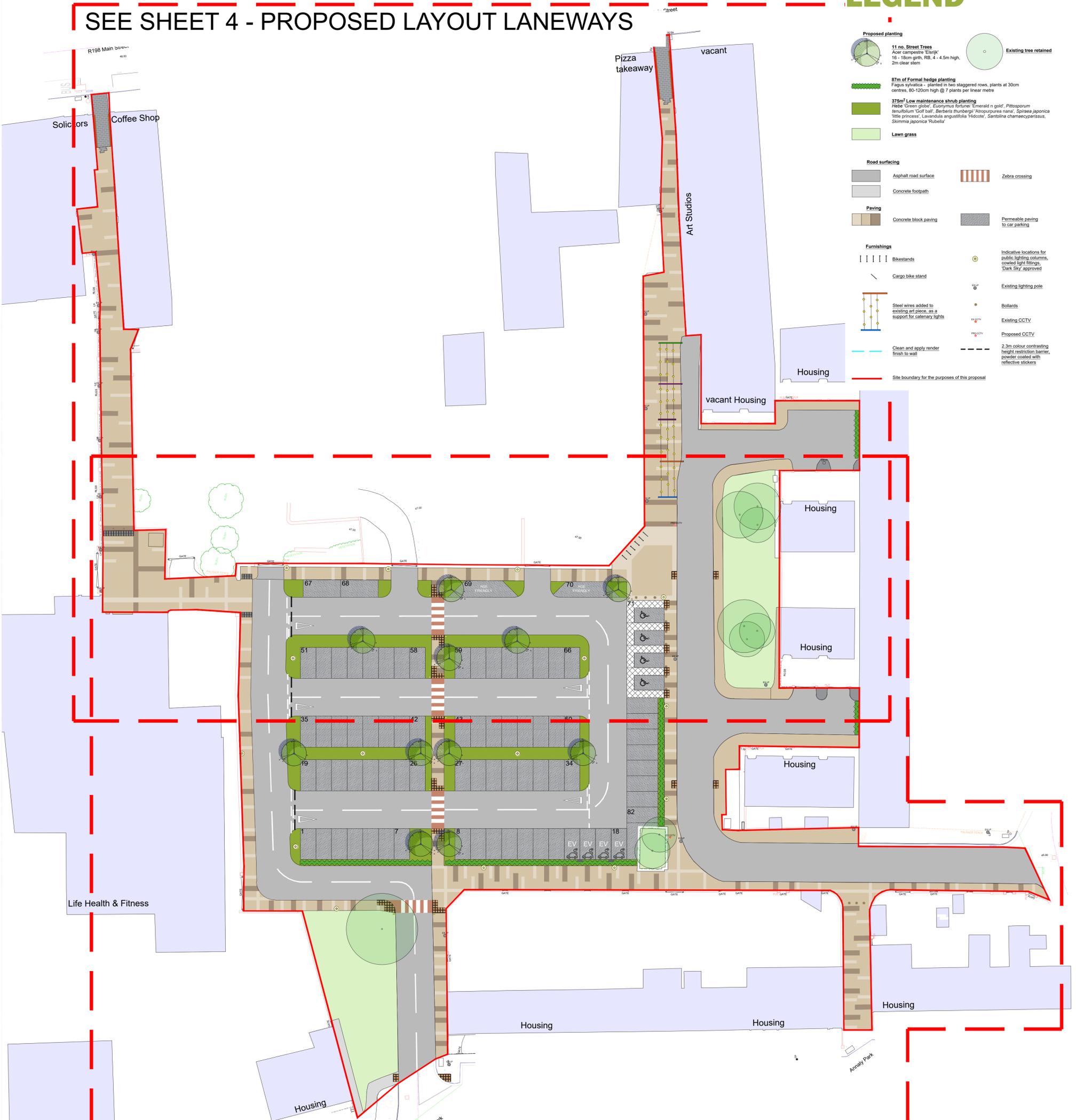
GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK PROPOSED LAYOUT - KEY PLAN

SEE SHEET 4 - PROPOSED LAYOUT LANEWAYS

LEGEND

- Proposed planting**
 - 11 no. Street Trees
Acer campestre 'Eclairik'
16 - 18cm girth, RB, 4 - 4.5m high, 2m clear stem
 - 87m of Formal hedge planting
Fagus sylvatica - planted in two staggered rows, plants at 30cm centres, 80-120cm high @ 7 plants per linear metre
 - 376m² Low maintenance shrub planting
Hedera 'Green globe', *Euonymus fortunei 'Emerald n gold'*, *Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Gold ball'*, *Berberis thunbergii*, *Atropurpurea nana*, *Spiraea japonica 'Little princess'*, *Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'*, *Santolina chamaecyparissus*, *Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'*
 - Lawn grass
- Existing tree retained**
- Road surfacing**
 - Asphalt road surface
 - Concrete footpath
- Paving**
 - Concrete block paving
 - Permeable paving to car parking
- Furnishings**
 - Bikestands
 - Cargo bike stand
 - Steel wires added to existing rail poles, as a support for catenary lights
 - Clean and apply render finish to wall
- Zebra crossing
- Indicative locations for public lighting columns, cowled light fittings, Tank Sky approved
- Existing lighting pole
- Bollards
- Existing CCTV
- Proposed CCTV
- 2.3m colour contrasting height restriction barrier, powder coated with reflective stickers
- Site boundary for the purposes of this proposal



SEE SHEET 5 - PROPOSED LAYOUT ANNALY CAR PARK

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SHEET 3 | GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK - PROPOSED LAYOUT KEY PLAN

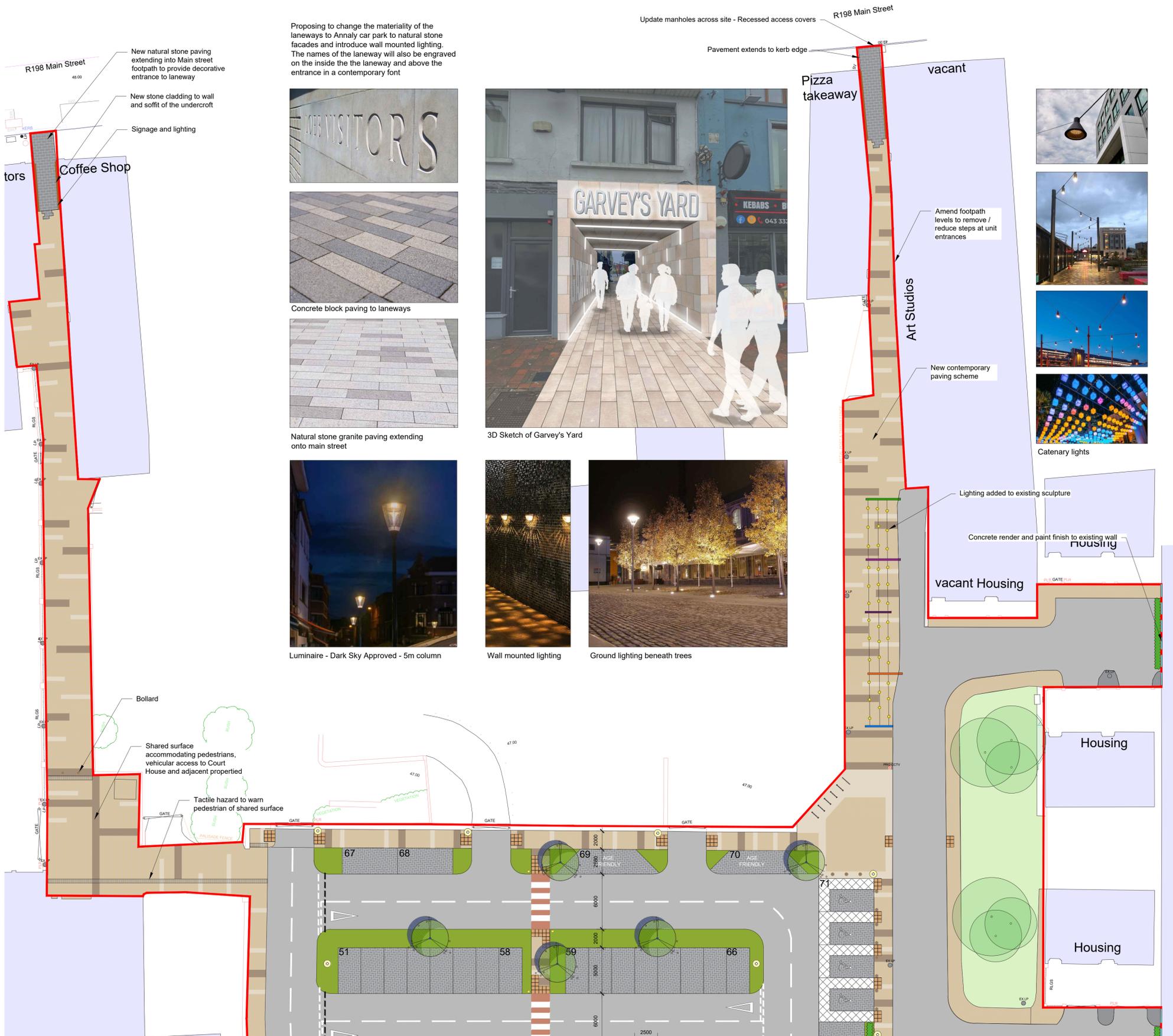


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GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK PROPOSED LAYOUT - LANEWAYS



LEGEND

Proposed planting

11 no. Street Trees
Acer campestre 'Elsrijk'
 16 - 18cm girth, RB, 4 - 4.5m high, 2m clear stem

87m of Formal hedge planting
Fagus sylvatica - planted in two staggered rows, plants at 30cm centres, 80-120cm high @ 7 plants per linear metre

375m² Low maintenance shrub planting
Hebe 'Green globe', *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald n gold', *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Golf ball', *Berberis thunbergii* 'Atropurpurea nana', *Spiraea japonica* 'little princess', *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote', *Santolina chamaecyparissus*, *Skimmia japonica* 'Rubella'

Lawn grass

Road surfacing

Asphalt road surface

Concrete footpath

Zebra crossing

Paving

Concrete block paving

Permeable paving to car parking

Furnishings

Bikestands

Cargo bike stand

Steel wires added to existing art piece, as a support for catenary lights

Clean and apply render finish to wall

Site boundary for the purposes of this proposal

Indicative locations for public lighting columns, cowled light fittings, 'Dark Sky' approved

Existing lighting pole

Bollards

Existing CCTV

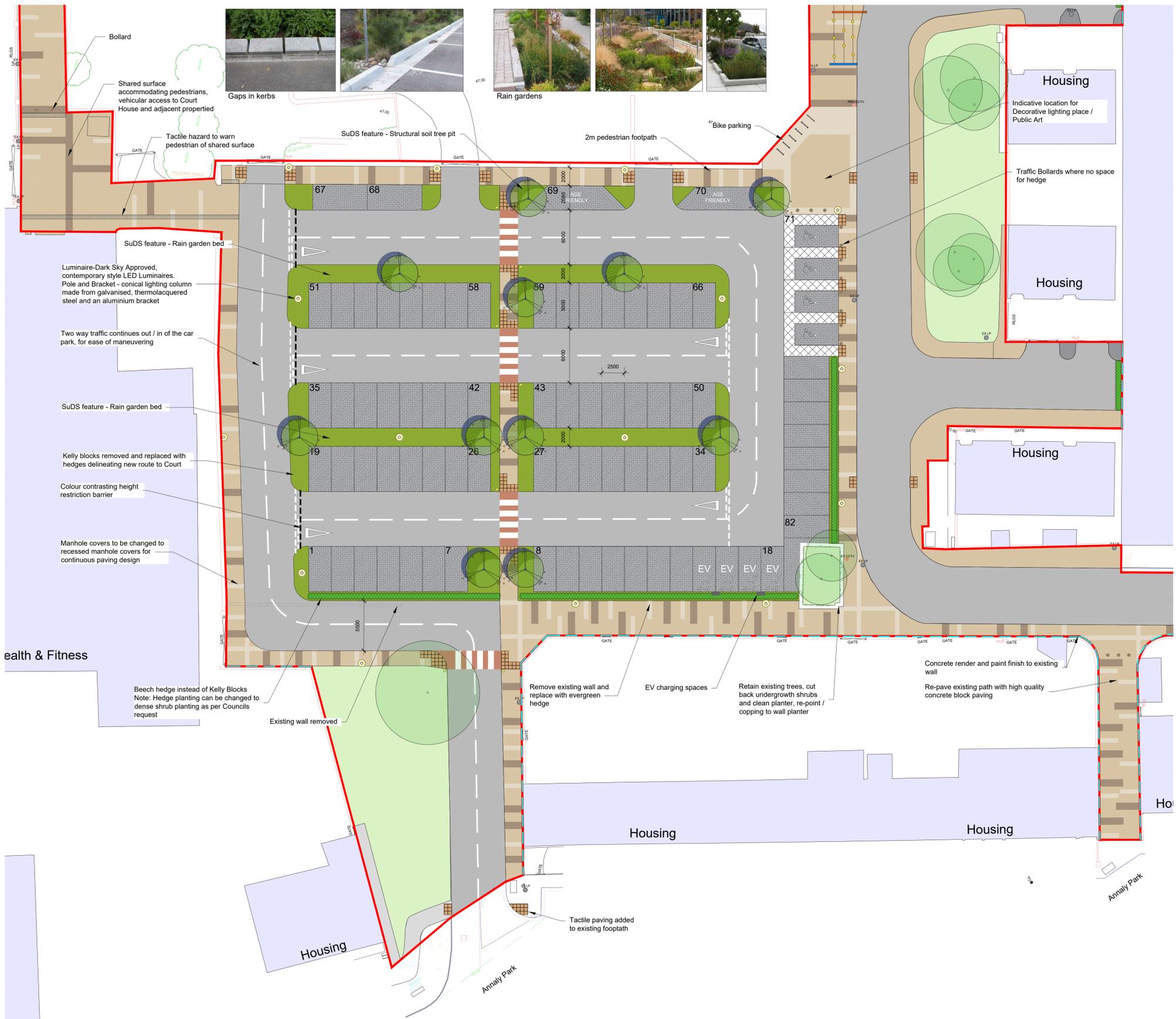
Proposed CCTV

2.3m colour contrasting height restriction barrier, powder coated with reflective stickers



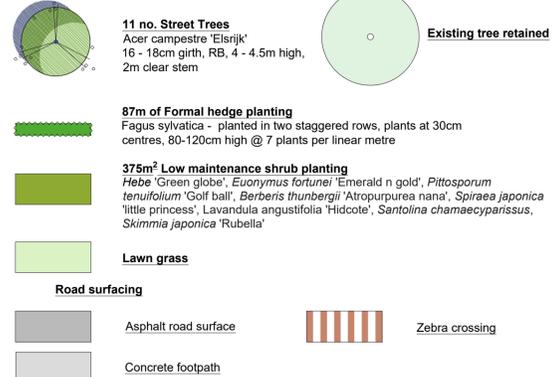
GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK PROPOSED LAYOUT - ANNALY CAR PARK



LEGEND

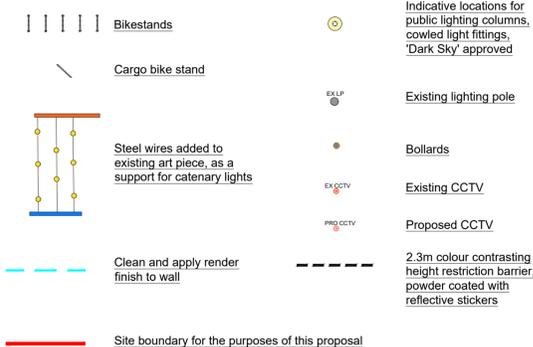
Proposed planting



Paving



Furnishings



- Existing car park has currently 88 usable parking spaces (104 spaces in the car park but 16 blocked by Kelly blocks)
- Proposed Layout shows 82 car parking spaces inclusive of 4 accessible car parking spaces and 4 EV charging spaces

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**SHEET 5 | GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK
- PROPOSED LAYOUT ANNALY CAR PARK**

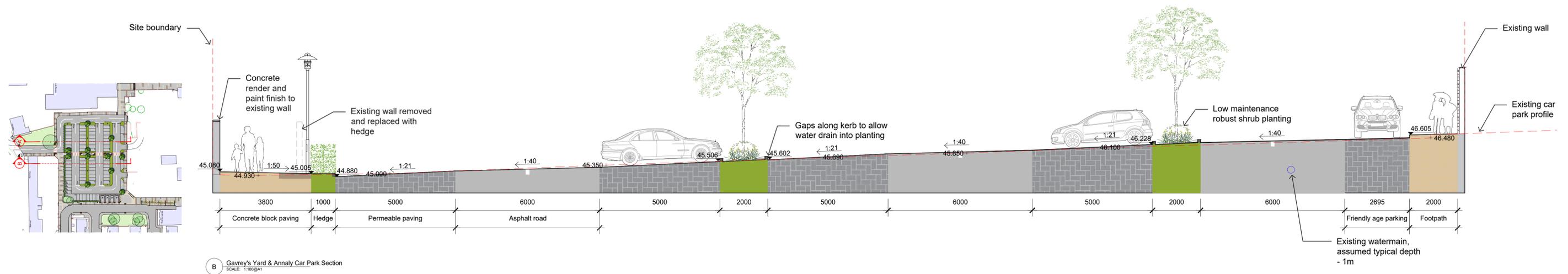
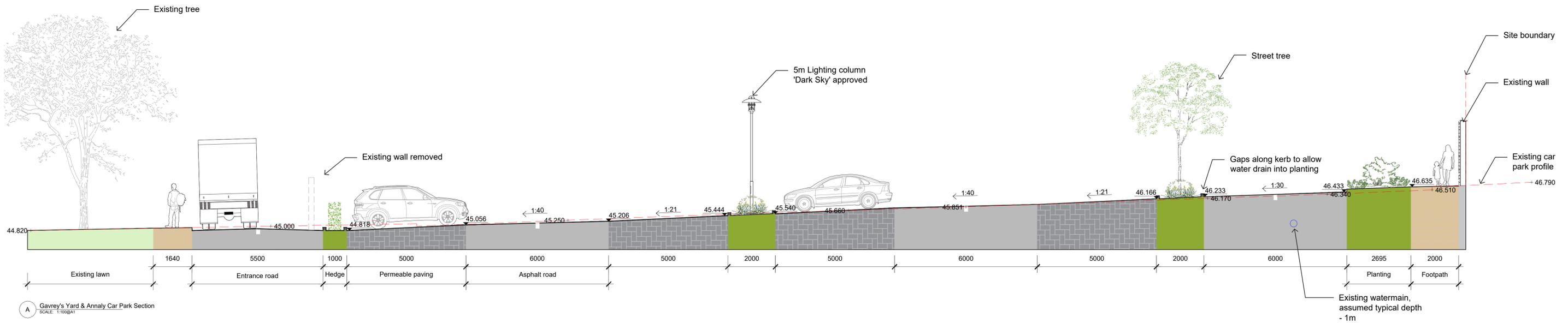


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GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

GARVEY'S YARD / ANNALY CAR PARK PROPOSED SITE SECTIONS



GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

BEFORE AND AFTER - PHOTOSKETCHES



GARVEY'S YARD ENTRANCE - EXISTING CONDITIONS



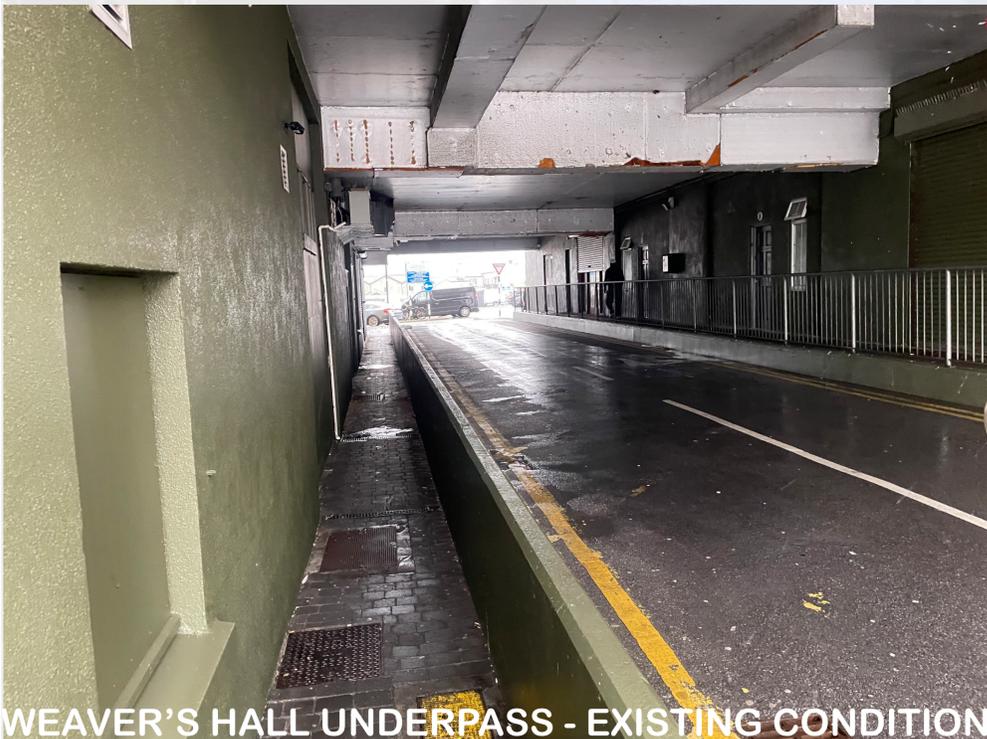
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - PHOTO SKETCH



WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - PHOTO SKETCH



WEAVER'S HALL UNDERPASS - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - PHOTO SKETCH

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SHEET 7 | BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOSKETCHES

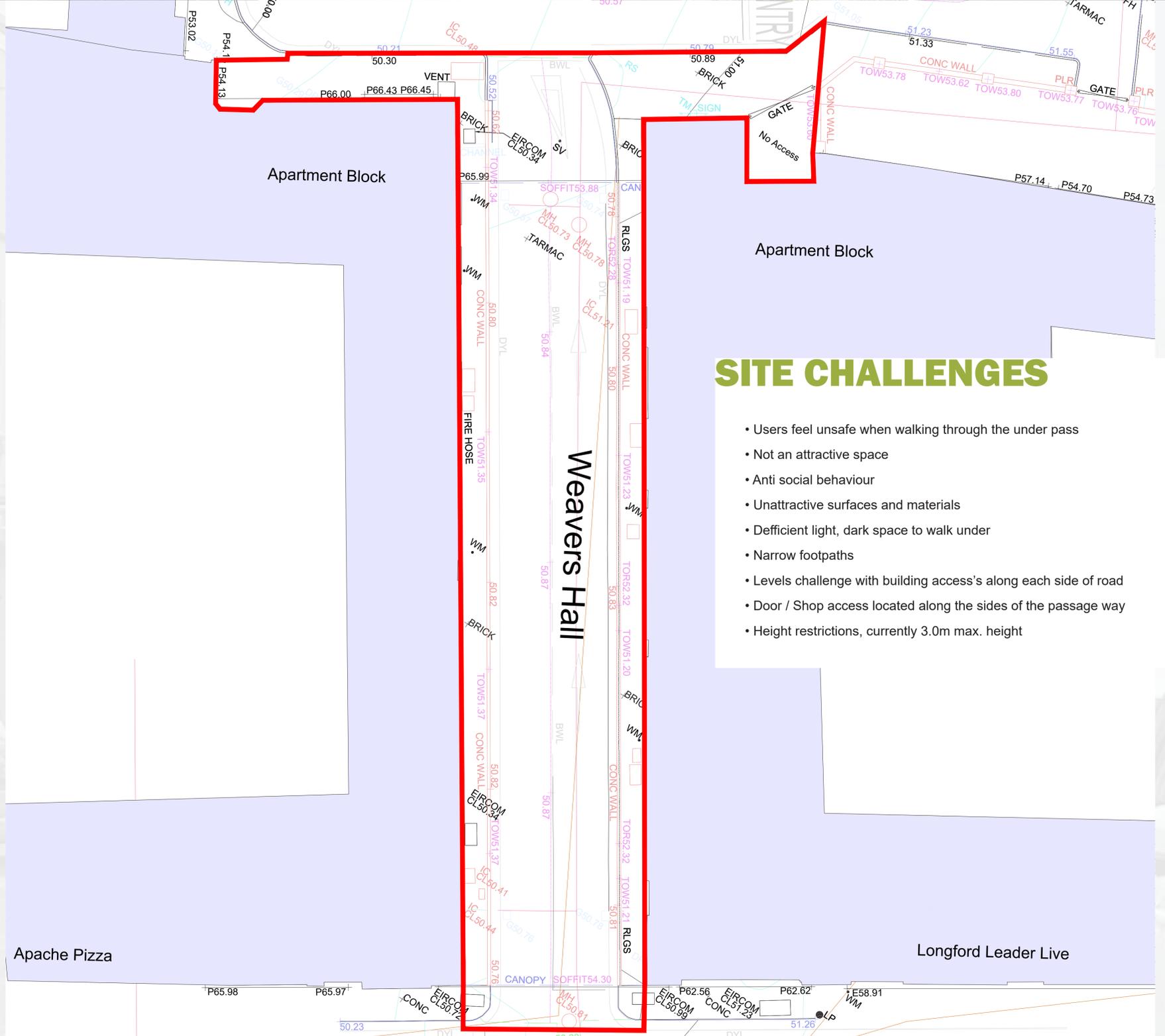


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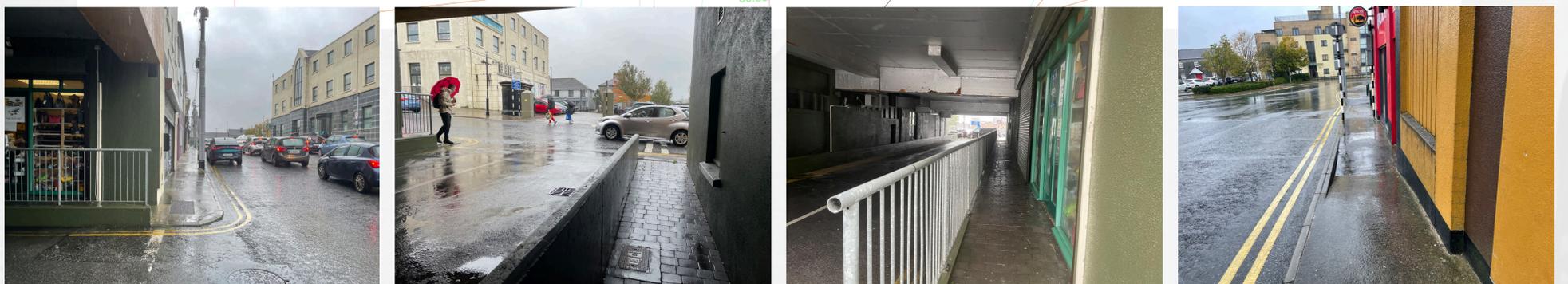
GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE EXISTING CONDITIONS



SITE CHALLENGES

- Users feel unsafe when walking through the under pass
- Not an attractive space
- Anti social behaviour
- Unattractive surfaces and materials
- Deficient light, dark space to walk under
- Narrow footpaths
- Levels challenge with building access's along each side of road
- Door / Shop access located along the sides of the passage way
- Height restrictions, currently 3.0m max. height



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SHEET 8 | WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE EXISTING CONDITIONS

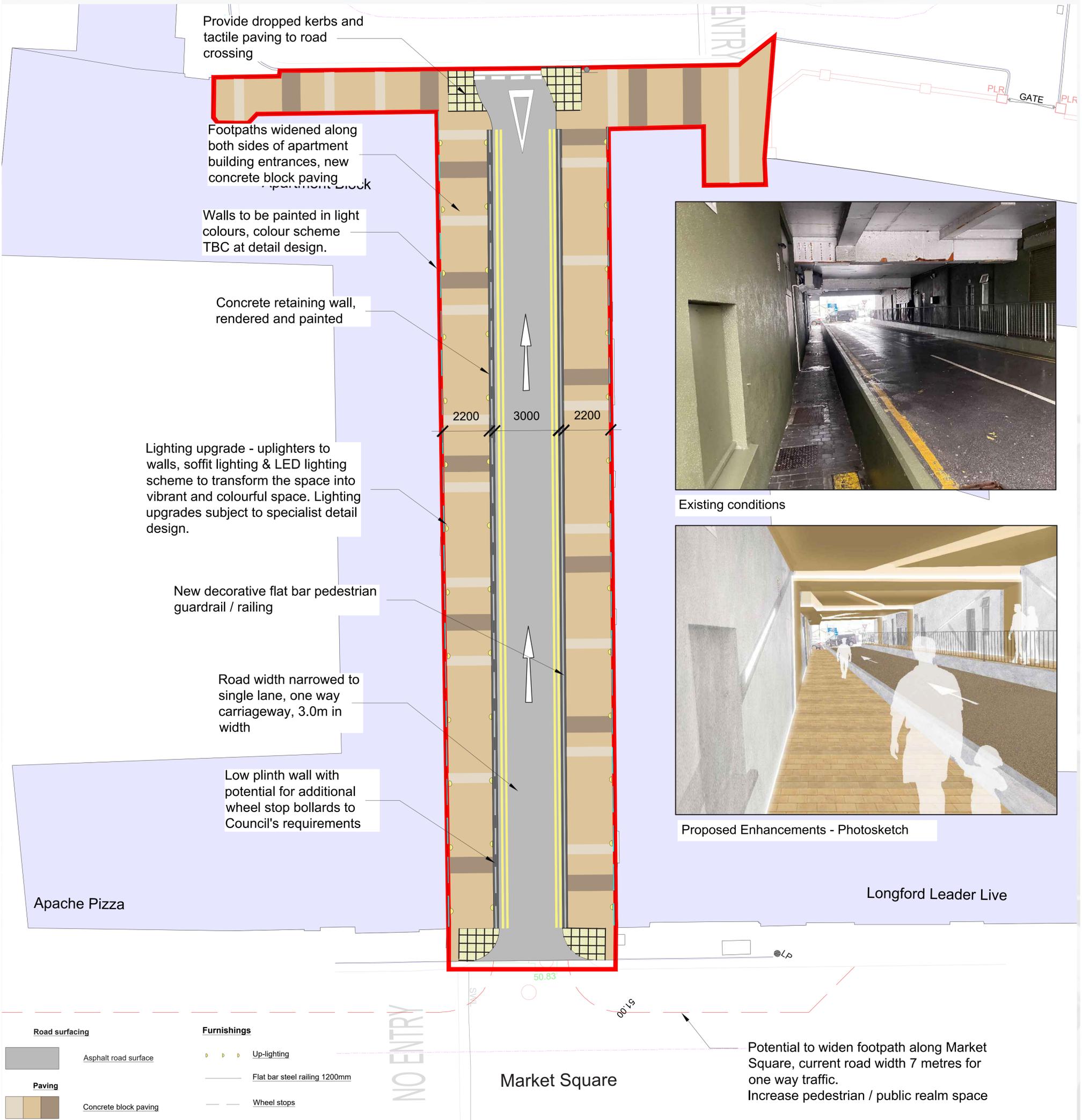


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WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE PROPOSED LAYOUT



Indicative types of decorative lighting

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SHEET 9 | WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE PROPOSED LAYOUT

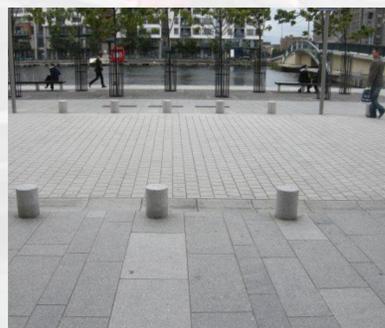
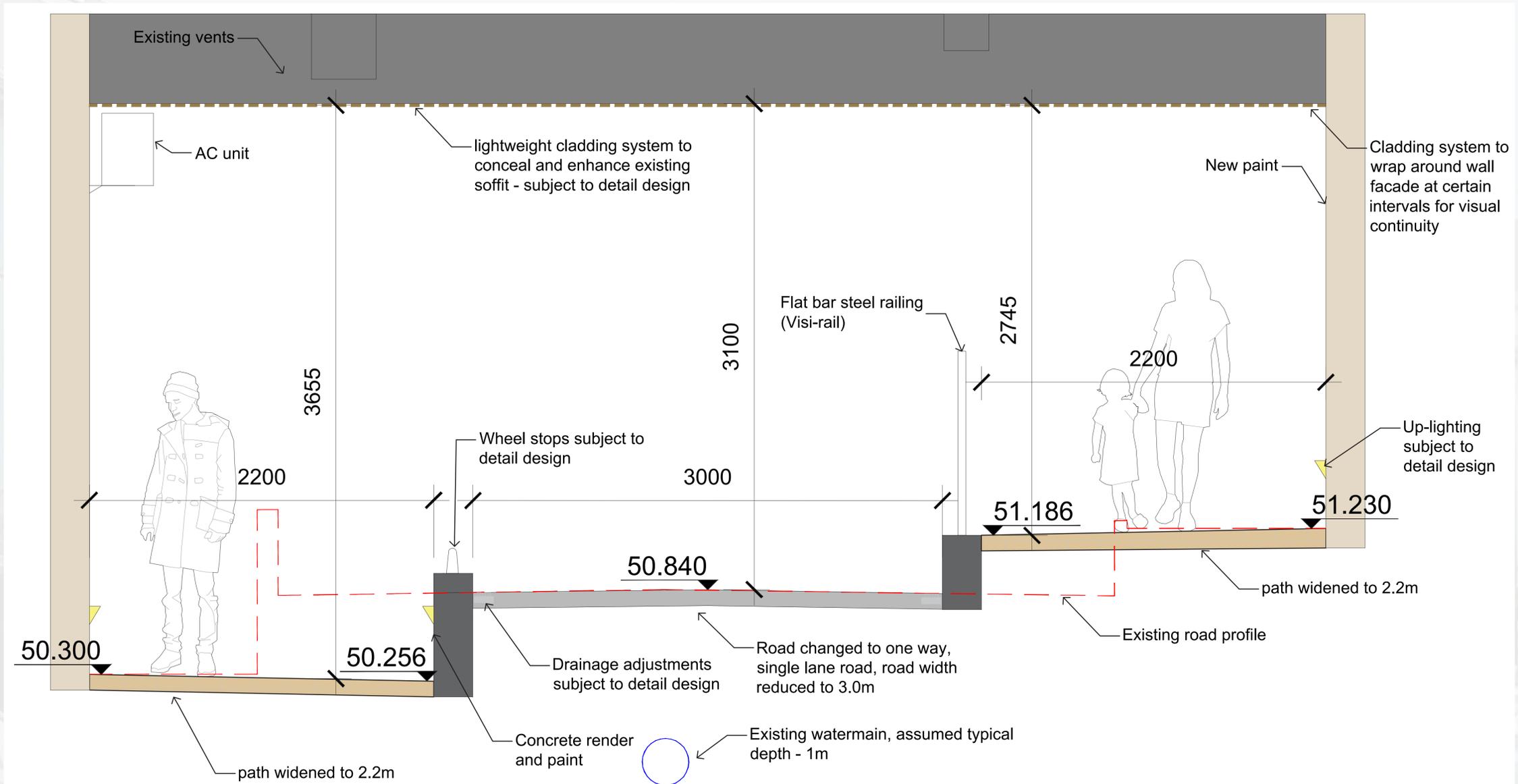


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GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PROPOSED SECTION



Potential options for edge restraint / bollards to carriageway edge

GARVEY'S YARD, ANNALY CAR PARK AND WEAVER'S HALL ENTRANCE - PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

MATERIALS PALETTE

SURFACE FINISHES - All materials will be of high quality, be robust and withstand a long life, as well as meet the CE standard.

Palette of Materials

PAVING



Garvey's Yard - High Quality Concrete block paving to majority of the public footpaths



Swatches of concrete block paving and natural stone flags



Natural Stone Paving in light colours to accentuate most important nodes / junctions

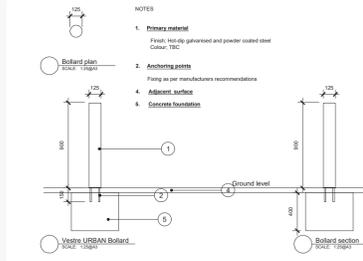
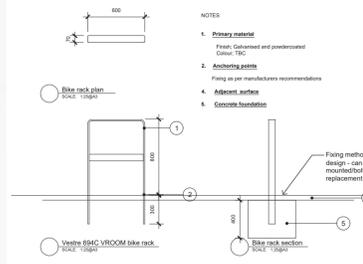


Annaly Car Park - Permeable concrete block paving to car parking spaces, asphalt to road, tree and shrub planting to planting areas.



Permeable concrete block paving to car parking spaces

FURNISHINGS



Colourfull bike racks



Colourfull bollards

LIGHTING - Street lighting will be cowled to reduce light pollution, will be robust and vandal resistant.

Palette of Materials

LIGHTING



Public lighting to be LED contemporary style columns and luminaires (subject to detailed design)



Visirail - range of panels and posts to improve visibility and safety of pedestrians

SuDS Features for Car Park

Decorative Lighting



PLANTING - All tree planting will be with 2m high clear stem, all shrub planting will be robust and low maintenance

TREE PLANTING



Tree planting will comprise of urban street trees, low maintenance and hardy, specially selected to perform well in urban / car park environment. Species to include *Acer campestre* 'Elsrijk' and *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire'. Trees will be of 2m high clear stem to ensure intervisibility and easy circulation.

HEDGE PLANTING



Hedge planting will perform an important role in the design of Annaly Car Park as it is proposed to replace the currently installed Kelly concrete blocks. The hedges would be planted in two staggered rows to ensure dense division, visual and physical barrier for cars entering the car park. The proposed hedge is *Fagus sylvatica* which retains leaves during the winter time.

SHRUB PLANTING

A mixture of low maintenance evergreen and deciduous shrubs and perennials, including ornamental grasses, species to include:

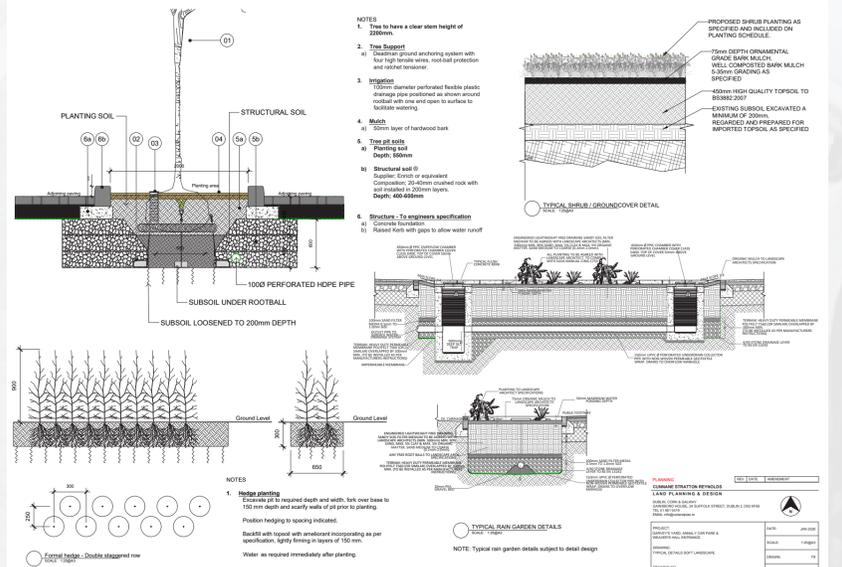
- Potentilla
- Erica
- Viburnum davidii
- Lavandula angustifolia
- Carex evergold
- Stipa tenuissima
- Spirea japonica
- Euonymus fortunei
- Berberis thunbergii 'Atropurpurea'
- Skimmia japonica



Contemporary uplighting scheme to walls and soffits of Garvey's Yard laneways and Weaver's Hall underpass (decorative uplighting scheme subject to detailed design)



PLANTING DETAILS



SuDS feature planting between car parking spaces

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SHEET 11 | MATERIALS PALETTE



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YOUR FEEDBACK

What do you like about the proposals seen on display?

What do you not like about the proposals seen on display?

What have we missed / what would you like to be added to the improvement strategy for the subject sites?

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FEEDBACK



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CSR
Land Planning & Design

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YOUR FEEDBACK

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