



Bristol - A cascading water feature provides a pleasant setting on the waterfront



Birmingham - High quality paving, a fountain and stone public art features form a new civic square

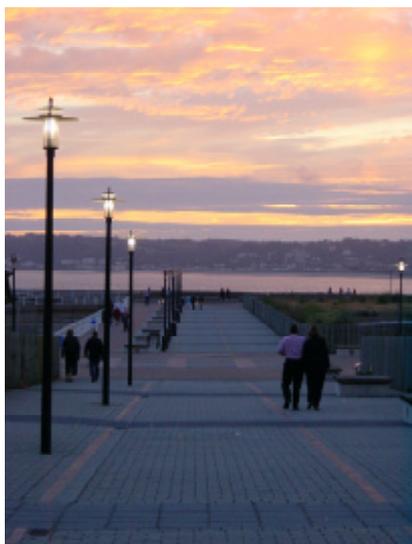


Manchester - A row of trees focus the view on the Town Hall clock tower



Cherbourg - Stylised lamp posts and light features create a bold statement near the docks

St Helier, Jersey - a high quality public realm has been implemented as part of a land reclamation scheme



London - a surface level fountain allows people to interact with the water and provides a real focus to this space at Somerset House





Manchester - Public art provides a feature to a new public space



London - this inclusive space at Paddington Basin allows access for all, the steps provide informal seating

Bournemouth - Stainless steel furniture and high quality paving provide a robust public realm



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What do we mean by 'Streetscape'?

1.1.1 Streets are the life blood of our city, they allow circulation, by pedestrians as well as vehicles, provide a public space for activity, meeting people and street entertainment, and access to buildings and open spaces. They also provide a conduit for above and below ground utilities, and space for parking and the delivery of goods.

1.1.2 The term 'streetscape' refers to the design quality of the street, the visual effect of all of its components; paving and street furniture, set in the context of the built form and landscape that frames it. The streetscape is also known as the 'public realm'; streets and public spaces that should all be accessible to the public and as such have a significant influence on the way we live. The public realm is largely, but not exclusively, within the control of the city council; some is privately owned and managed.

1.1.3 The 'edges' of the public realm are formed by both built form and landscape, which characterise the streetscape, giving it scale, varying degrees of enclosure, levels of natural and artificial light, a varied topography and identity. The function and uses of buildings, and therefore their frontages and signage impact on the perception of quality and overall character of the street or public space.

Bristol - Feature lighting and stainless steel benches frame the edge of a new public space



1.2 Why do we need a Streetscape Manual for the city centre?

1.2.1 Southampton City Council identified 'Improving the Streetscene and the Environment' as one of its five key themes. The city council is the guardian of the public realm; it has the remit to control and manage streets by ensuring an integrated approach to urban design, highway design, street lighting, enforcement, cleansing and city centre management. The street should be considered as a single entity, with a shared understanding of objectives, a means of monitoring progress and a suitable means of control.

1.2.2 To survive a highly competitive global economy and sustain growth and promote regeneration, cities must provide the necessary infrastructure to attract people to invest, live, work and spend their leisure time. An attractive, accessible and safe environment with a distinctive sense of place, contributes significantly to the impression of a place, its streets and public spaces, and what it has to offer.

1.2.3 The city centre is the "shop window" for the rest of the city; a key indication of the health and well being of the city as a whole and therefore must have an environment of the highest quality. It must continue to develop a strong sense of identity, with a rich and varied "offer", a vibrant and lively streetscene and culture that is sustainable through the day into the evening.

1.2.4 The public realm provides the setting for the city's rich heritage of historically and architecturally important buildings, as well as for key development heralding the renaissance of the city in the twenty-first century. It is therefore vital that the quality of the built environment and public realm reflects the city's ambitions to be a successful international city, making people friendly places and reinforcing local distinctiveness.

1.2.5 There are now many examples of high quality and successful public realm improvement projects in the United Kingdom, Europe and the rest of the western world. Birmingham, Bristol, London, Manchester and Newcastle are some of the many cities that have recently seen a renaissance in new and reinvigorated public spaces and connecting streets.

1.2.6 The adoption of public realm design guidance gives local authorities the ability to set minimum standards for a higher quality public realm, and to promote consistency of style, colour and materials. It also opens significant opportunities to make best use of developers' contributions, as clear objectives for the public realm are set out in the public realm design guidance. If design guidance was not available, the quality of the public realm would be determined by the developer and his architect, occasionally in consultation with the city council. In most cases this would lead to a piecemeal approach where the public realm does not integrate with adjacent streetscape styles.



Manchester - A bespoke litter bin decorated with red ribbons on MayDay



London - High quality seating and paving by the waterside

1.3 How was the Streetscape Manual achieved?

1.3.1 The guidance contained in the Streetscape Manual results from research carried out over the last two years; consultants prepared an initial scoping study of the city's public realm and an audit of the city centre streets has been carried out. Best practice in other cities, such as Bristol and Manchester has been researched and photographs of high quality public realm included to provide inspiration and to show how attractive and well designed streetscapes can be achieved.

1.3.2 Recent central government advice and guidelines e.g. 'Paving the Way' (2002) produced by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has also been analysed.

1.3.3 To realise a strategy to enrich the city centre's public realm, it must be supported by a 'kit of parts'; a performance specification for each component that makes up the diverse streetscape. To achieve this, the wide range of components and products that are currently used in the streetscape has been researched and assessed for suitability. Typical cross sections are included to illustrate the relationship between these components.

1.3.4 This manual focuses on the design of pavements and public spaces, not roads and their surfaces. However, the interface between the edges of the pavements, public spaces and roads is an important feature, as if designed inclusively, this will give access to all users of the public realm, including people with mobility impairments and pushchair users.

1.4 Who should use the Streetscape Manual?

1.4.1 The manual's focus is Southampton's city centre, as defined by the plan on page 14, however *the key design principles* (see section 3) are just as applicable to the city's district centres and neighbourhoods. Design guidance for these areas will be produced in the future.

1.4.2 The manual is to be used by all designers of Southampton's city centre streetscape; including architects, landscape architects, civil and transport engineers, planners, urban designers and developers when considering the design of new and refurbished streets and public realm. All city council officers involved in the design, maintenance and management of the streetscape will also use the manual as a guide to implementing their work.

1.5 How to use the Streetscape Manual

1.5.1 To use the manual:

A. Refer to the key design principles in section 3.0 for guidance on the design of the streetscape and designing and specifying products in the streetscape. The key design principles summarise key issues addressed in the supporting text. Refer to each sub-section of section 3.0 for more detailed design guidance.

B. Check where your development lies in relation to the streetscape hierarchy (see section 3.4 for details); is it situated in or adjacent to:

- **level one: a primary public space or the North South Spine**
- or,
- **level two: one of the remaining public spaces or streets.**

C. Refer to the Kit of Parts for the specification of all products in level two of the hierarchy and the specification of some products in level one of the hierarchy. Please note that paving, seating, bins, bollards and street lighting may be specifically designed or specified to suit the role, function(s) and enhance the local distinctiveness of primary public spaces in level one of the hierarchy.

D. Refer to Typical Plans and Cross Sections for dimensional criteria for setting out designs.

E. If the development impacts upon the setting of a listed building or the Central Parks, or a scheduled ancient monument, and/or is in a conservation area, obtain advice from the Development Control service as to whether listed building consent or scheduled ancient monument consent should be sought.

1.6 Decision making

1.6.1 The City Design Team will provide guidance, supporting the decision making process. Public realm improvement schemes will be discussed and agreed by officers in the City Centre Design Team or in project teams set up to deliver specific projects, which will include the City Design Team. Design guidance will also be given through the development control process.

