

Bristol Walking Alliance (BWA) welcomes the public realm aspects of the developments proposed for the centre of Bristol at St Mary le Port.

BWA welcomes these proposals which will provide significant improvements to the pedestrian environment, with active frontages at ground level, better access to Castle Park and better links to the Old City.

Within the development area

We support the introduction of:

- Mary le Port Street, as a pedestrian-only street with independent retailers, cafes, and restaurants, linking St Nicholas Market to Castle Park,
- Cheese Market and Adam and Eve Lane, similarly linking Wine Street to Mary le Port Street,
- Buttermarket Passage, linking Mary le Port Street to Bridge Street,
- a new area of open space and landscape, with a new seating area to the south of the St Mary le Port Tower and terracing down to the Floating Harbour,
- landscaping of the pavements along High Street and Wine Street,
- lighting and security to make the area a safe environment at all times,
- public toilets available 24-hours-a-day,
- new trees, low level planting and seating in the public realm.

Given the sloping nature of the site, we understand from the proposals that appropriate measures will be taken to make all areas meet accessibility guidelines, in particular providing nearby ramps whenever steps might be an obstacle and limiting the length of ramps with intermediate level areas.

We do not express an opinion on the proposed buildings.

High Street/Wine Street

The development should contribute funding to improve the public realm in High Street/Wine Street. We would have liked to have seen proposals for High Street/Wine Street at the same time as the St Mary le Port development proposal, and would ask that the Council and the developer work together to develop plans that make the place work well.

These roads are important spaces for pedestrians. There are strong pedestrian desire lines between the Old City area and the new development, and along both High Street and Wine Street.

With the recent closure of Bristol Bridge to most private vehicles and associated road access changes, High Street and Wine Street will be dominated less by motor traffic. Given the pedestrian flows may be expected to be higher than other modes, crossings should give pedestrians priority (e.g. zebra crossings). In particular crossings will be needed:

- across High Street linking St Mary le Port Street to St Nicholas Market and linking Bridge Street to St Nicholas Street,
- across the junction of High Street, Wine Street and Broad Street,
- across Wine Street, aligned with Cheese Market and Adam and Eve Lane.

The allocation of road space should also reflect the high volumes of pedestrians. Pavements should be widened where possible, and the space for motor vehicles tightened

Castle Park

The proposals include a diagonal path across Castle Park from Bridge Street to Union Street as a segregated route for pedestrians and cyclists. This is strong desire line for pedestrians and we will want to assess the Council's detailed designs to check that they fairly take into account the interests and needs of pedestrians.

Bristol Walking Alliance

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