

**Initial comments by Bristol Walking Alliance on
St Mary le Port development proposals**



Bristol Walking Alliance (BWA) welcomes the new developments proposed for the centre of Bristol at St Mary le Port. Our initial comments relate to the proposals prior to a planning application being made.

St Mary le Port is the area between High Street, Wine Street and Castle Park in the centre of Bristol (see <http://www.stmaryleport.co.uk/>). The proposals include three major new buildings, the reinstatement of St Mary le Port Street, restoration of St Mary le Port Tower ruins, and extension of Castle Park.

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

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.

We would expect that the developers will work with Bristol City Council to make improvements to the public realm around the site, with appropriate developer contributions to their cost. In particular:

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

We are concerned about making the diagonal path across Castle Park from Bridge Street to Union Street into a route shared by pedestrians and cyclists. Given the reduced traffic along High Street and Wine Street due to the restrictions on Bristol Bridge, we do not see that there is a need for cyclists to use this route, which would be to the detriment of pedestrians. To make this into a segregated route would require path widening and so take green space away from the park.

When the planning application is made, we would like to see:

- a report on the shadowing cast by the buildings at different times of the year,
- a report on the wind effects that might be experienced by pedestrians at ground level,
- a report on the lighting of the public realm,
- assurance of the accessibility of all public spaces.