

Great Harbour maritime mile

maritime
mile
irvine

What's happening?

The Maritime Mile will develop Irvine Harbourside and Beach Park as an attractive destination for visitors and the local community, and is part of the Great Harbour Programme to regenerate the area as a great place to live, work, play and visit. Proposals for the programme, which is funded by £14M investment through the Ayrshire Growth Deal, were first shared with the local community in 2023.

There are three main phases of works, as set out in the Great Harbour Masterplan. With construction already underway on the Coastal Hub at the Beach Park, which includes a new play park called Sea Monster Park, North Ayrshire Council is now seeking feedback on proposals for the second phase of work along the Harbourside.

Phase 2 will improve the layout and appearance of Harbour Street and Montgomery Street and connections between Irvine Railway Station and the Beach Park. Activity hubs and spaces will also be created providing new opportunities to enjoy the Harbourside area.

Project objectives



Have your say

Please read the information on the following boards and let us know your thoughts. Our online survey is open until 12th October 2025.



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/VxP7v3sZHW>

'Meet the designers' events

In person event dates and locations will be released on the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership website.

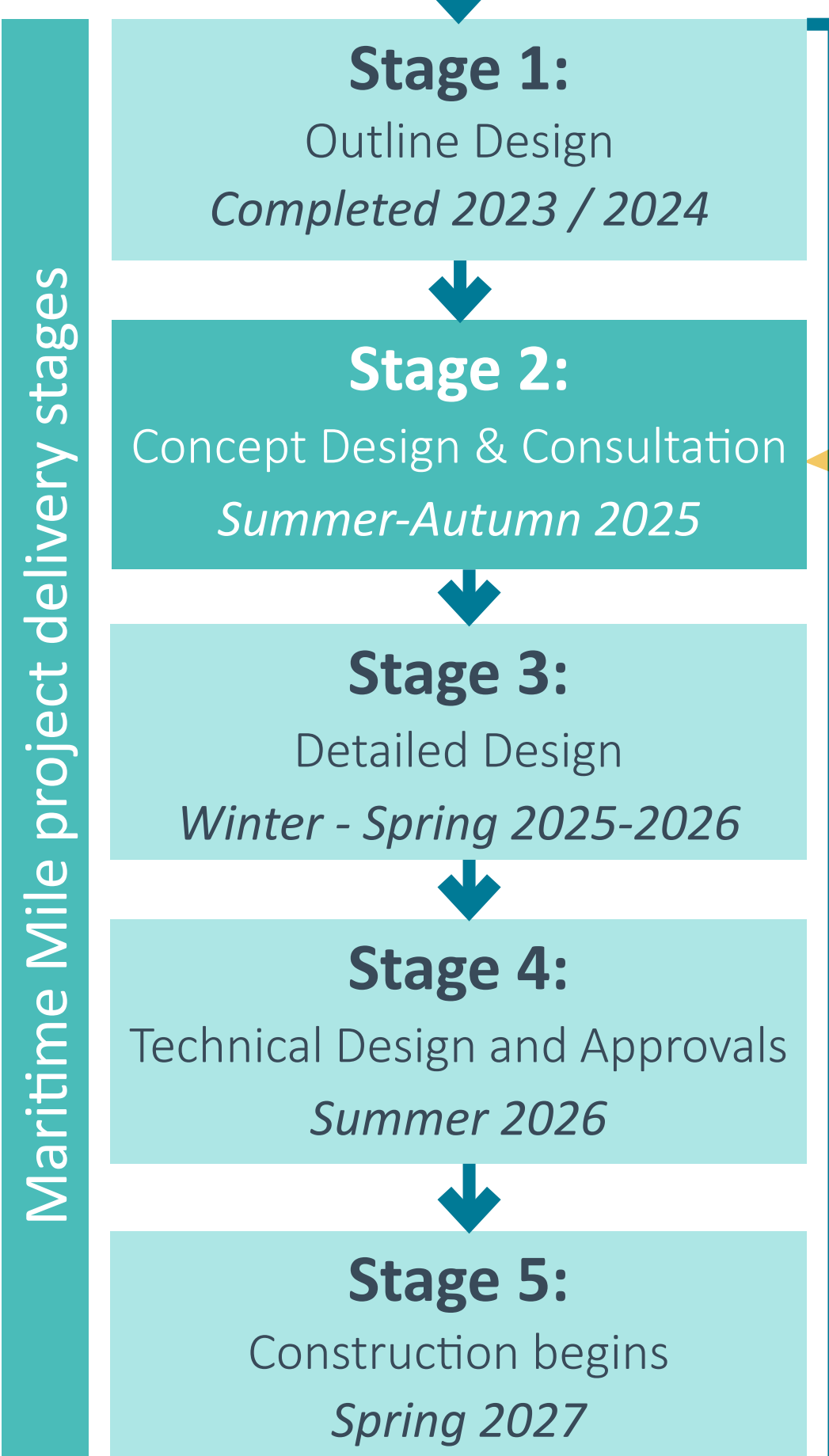
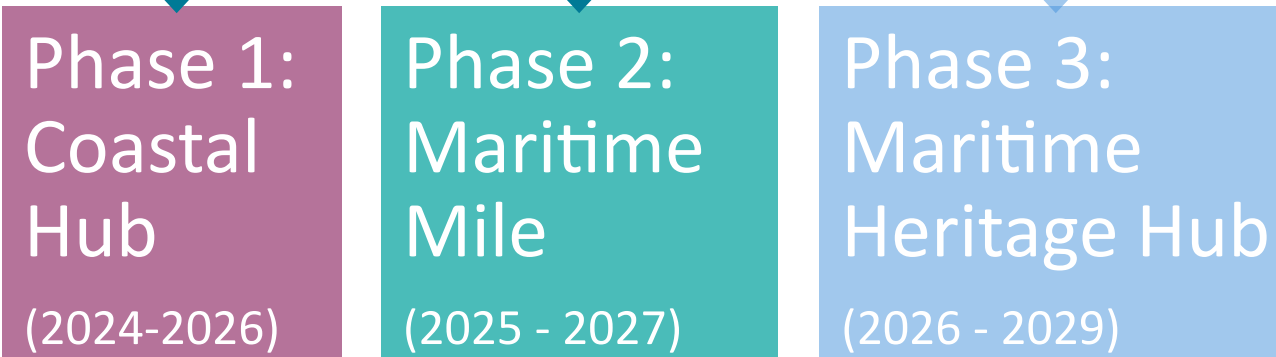


<https://northayrshire.community/consultation/maritime-mile-irvine/>

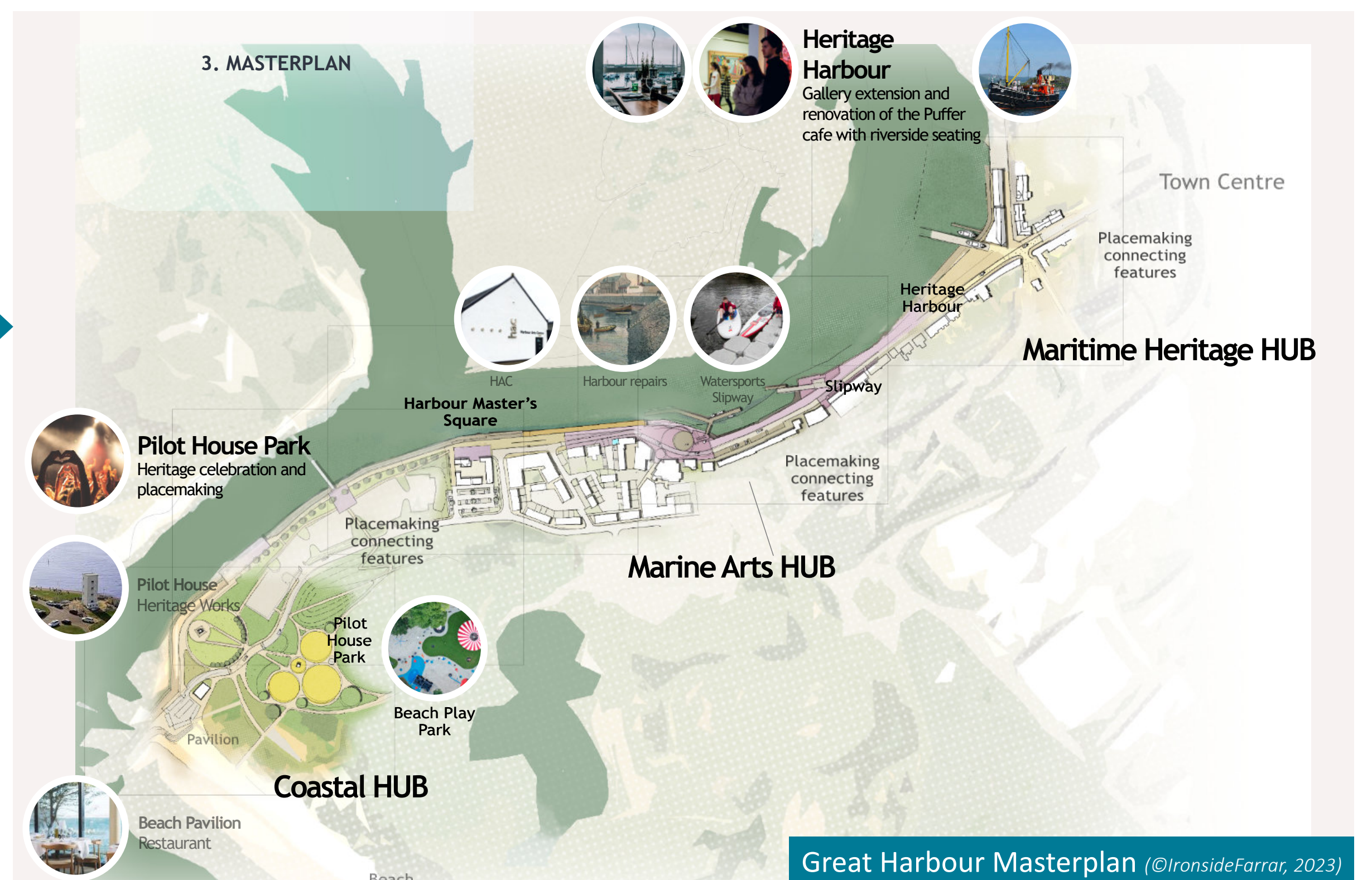
Project Map and Timeline

Great Harbour Programme

Great Harbour Masterplan



We are here!



Great Harbour Masterplan (©Ironsides Farrar, 2023)



Phase 2 Maritime Mile Project Location Aerial plan (©Google Earth, 2025)

Connectivity and Access Improvements

Wider area assessment and proposals

Building on feedback from the previous extensive consultations, the updated designs look to improve access for all: providing wider, clear walking and cycling routes, upgrades to crossings, better integrations with seating and wayfinding to guide users around the area.

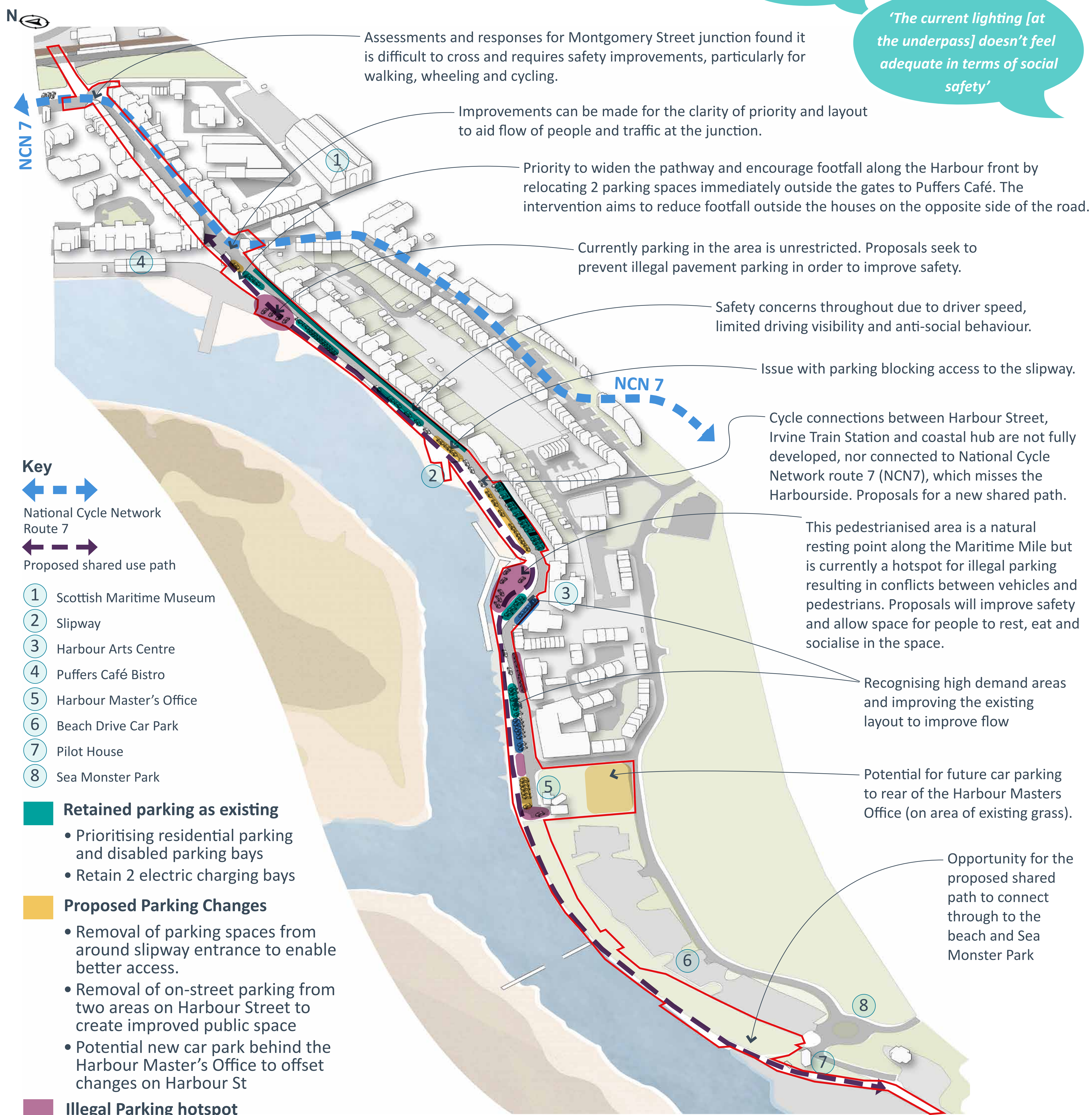
Key responses identified in the 2023 Consultations and 2025 Women's Safety Audit and Accessibility Inspections relating to general site wide challenges are represented in the speech bubbles (right) on the following area specific boards.

'Really difficult to get across the road [at montgomery street]. Traffic appearing from 3 directions with poor visibility'

Provision of adequate traffic management and recognising access needs of vehicles towing watercraft

Improve safety for non-vehicle users

'The current lighting [at the underpass] doesn't feel adequate in terms of social safety'

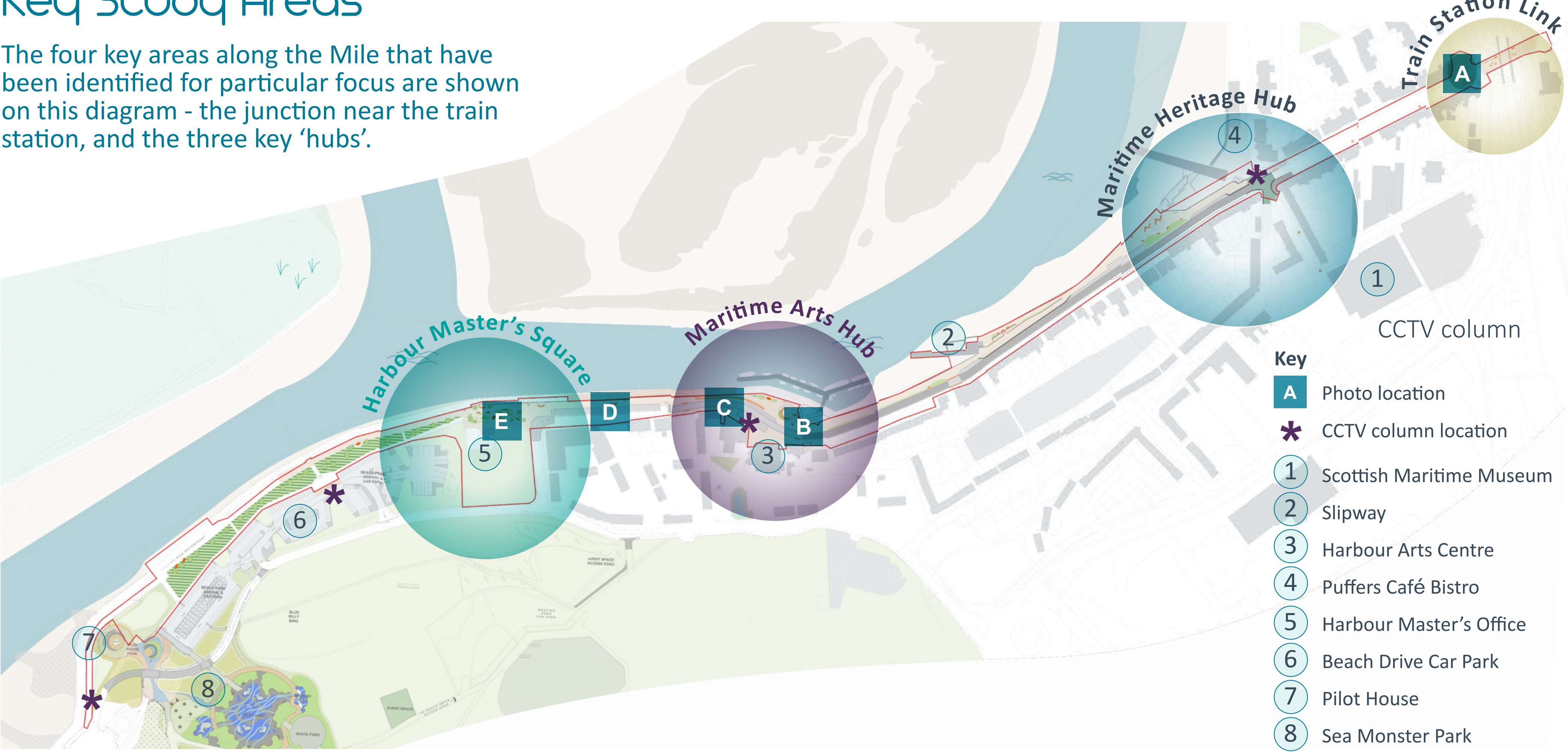


maritime mile

Public Space Improvements

Key Study Areas

The four key areas along the Mile that have been identified for particular focus are shown on this diagram - the junction near the train station, and the three key 'hubs'.



Design Objectives

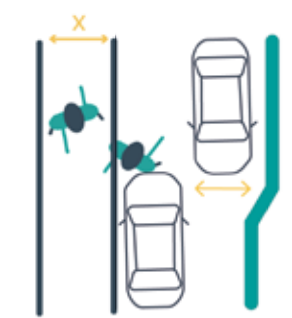
Building on feedback from the previous extensive consultations, the design detail will focus on....



Reducing car dominance, improve sightlines for road crossings and enhance waterfront views



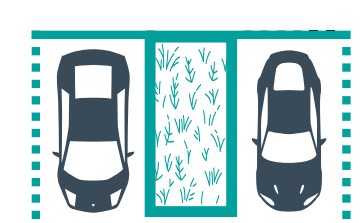
Introducing inclusive design and promote greater road safety for pedestrians.



Realigning the existing carriageway and footways to slow traffic and create new public realm spaces



Supporting economic growth of local business through creation of additional outdoor spaces to attract visitors

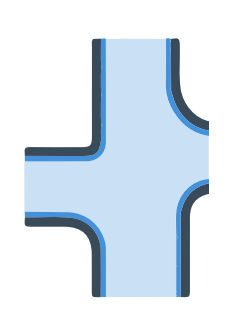


Optimising parking in areas where demand is highest (images B, C and D) and potential for new parking

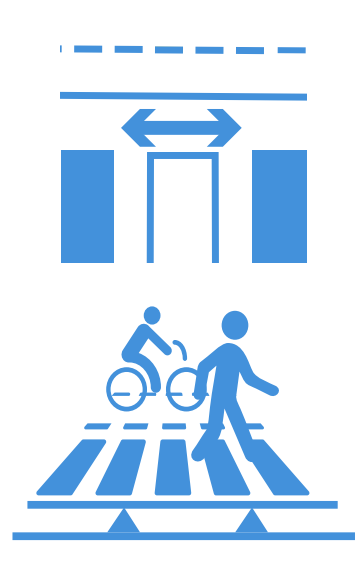


Creating a high-quality walking, wheeling and cycling route which can improve the link from the station to the beach.

Potential Design Features



Junction improvements at the Montgomery Street Junction (image A) to improve safety and walking / wheeling connectivity to the railway station and town centre



Continuous crossings across minor accesses in line and raised crossings at key points along the Maritime Mile to improve crossing safety along Montgomery St and Harbour St and increase connectivity between the north and south sides of Harbour St



Pavement widening in high demand areas outside Puffers Café and between The Ship and Gro (image C)



Introducing nature-based solutions in strategic areas to provide a visual barrier between the footway and carriageway, protecting pedestrian areas and preventing illegal parking (image B)



A cohesive signage strategy that aids wayfinding and interpretation along the Maritime Mile



Opportunities to enhance harbourside features and interpretive elements along the Maritime Mile

maritime mile

Maritime Heritage Hub

Design proposals

The proposals for the Maritime Heritage Hub aim to celebrate the industrial harbourside, including enhancing the museum-to-waterfront connection, and creating a space to reflect on Irvine's heritage.

The design creates a welcoming, attractive point of arrival for walking and wheeling to and through the Hub by realigning the current boundary fence, footway and parking to create a comfortable width for a shared use route and road crossing.

The design offers solutions to the current barriers to accessibility: narrow footpaths and pinch points combined with illegal vehicular use of the footway all erode the sense of place and ability to access.

Overcoming constraints (diagram to the right) through simple layout changes will improve the space for movement, resting and dwelling in Irvine's new Maritime Heritage Hub.



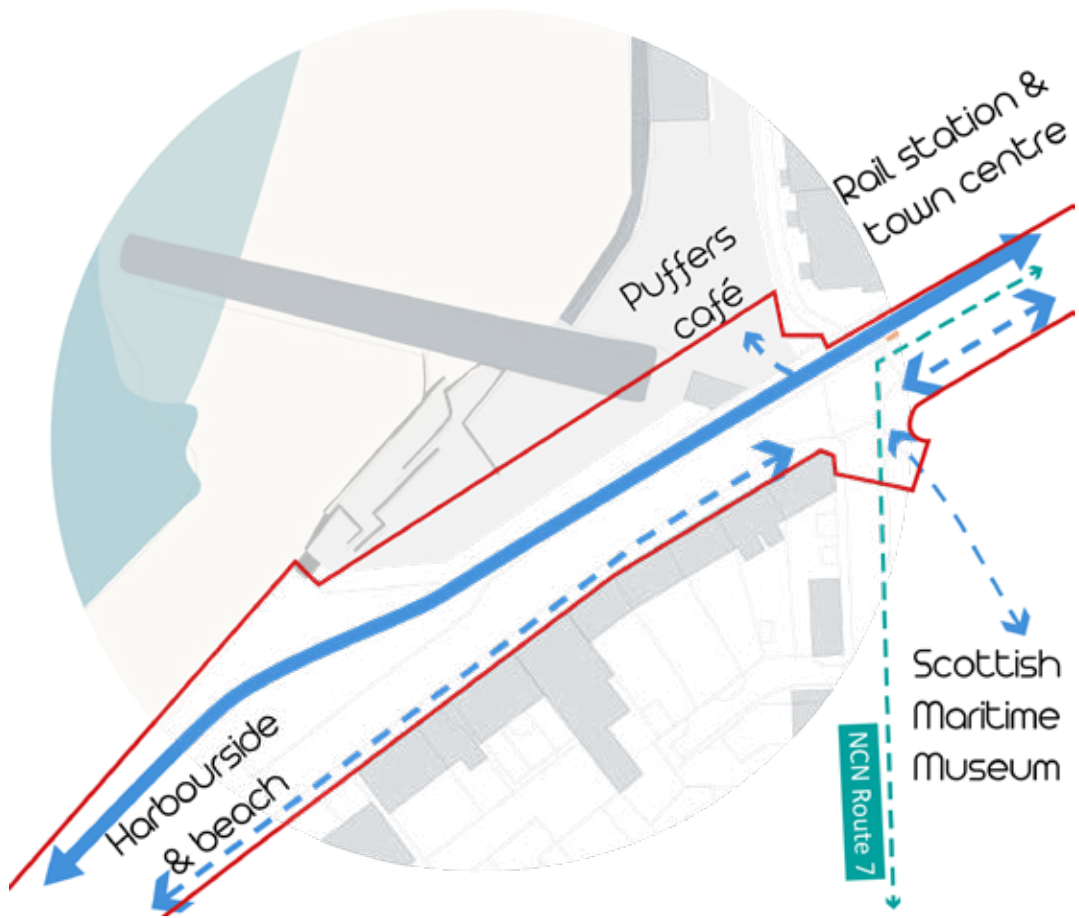
'Look-o-terie'



Protection of place assets,
including heritage and
cultural assets

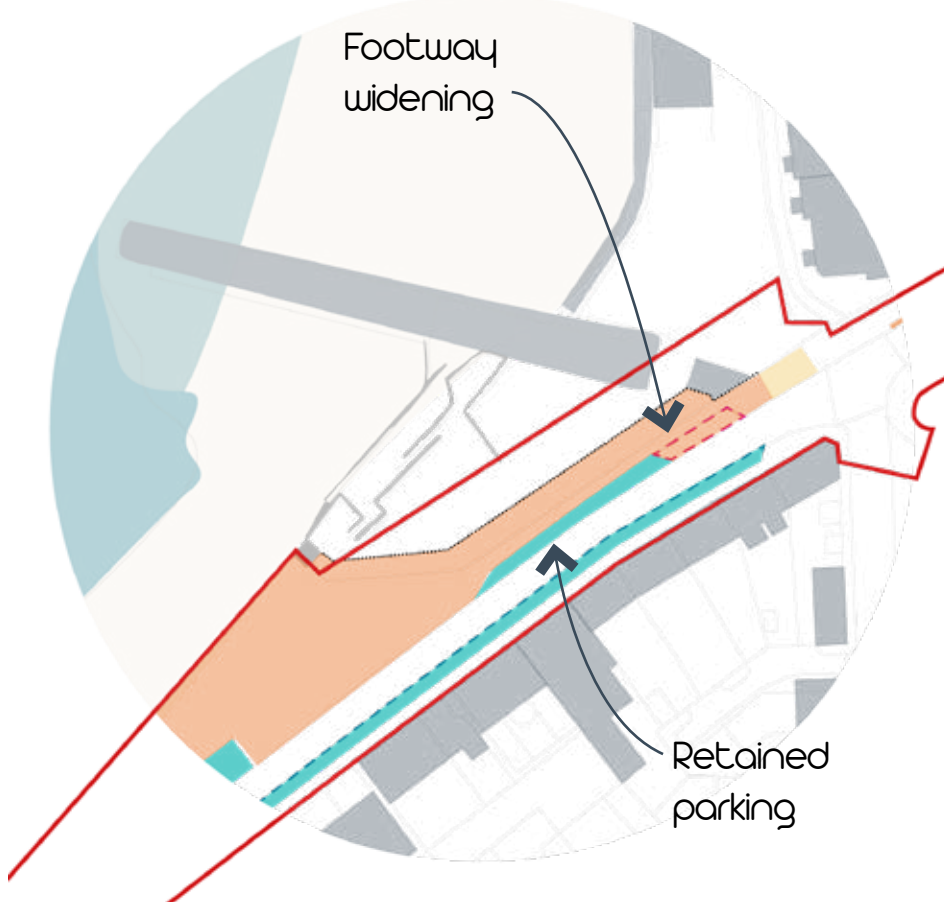
Improve safety for
non-vehicle users

Design objectives



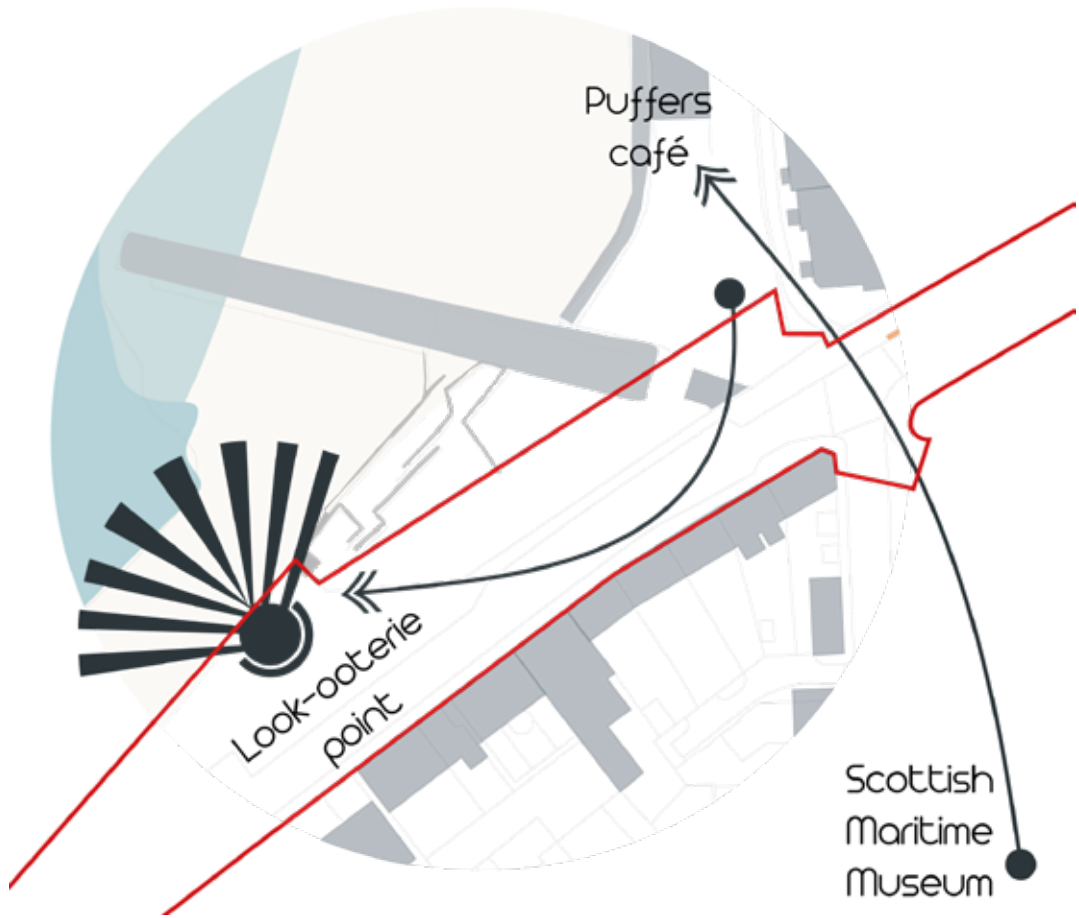
Access and connectivity goals

Enhancing links and accessibility improvements create a welcoming transition to the harbour front.



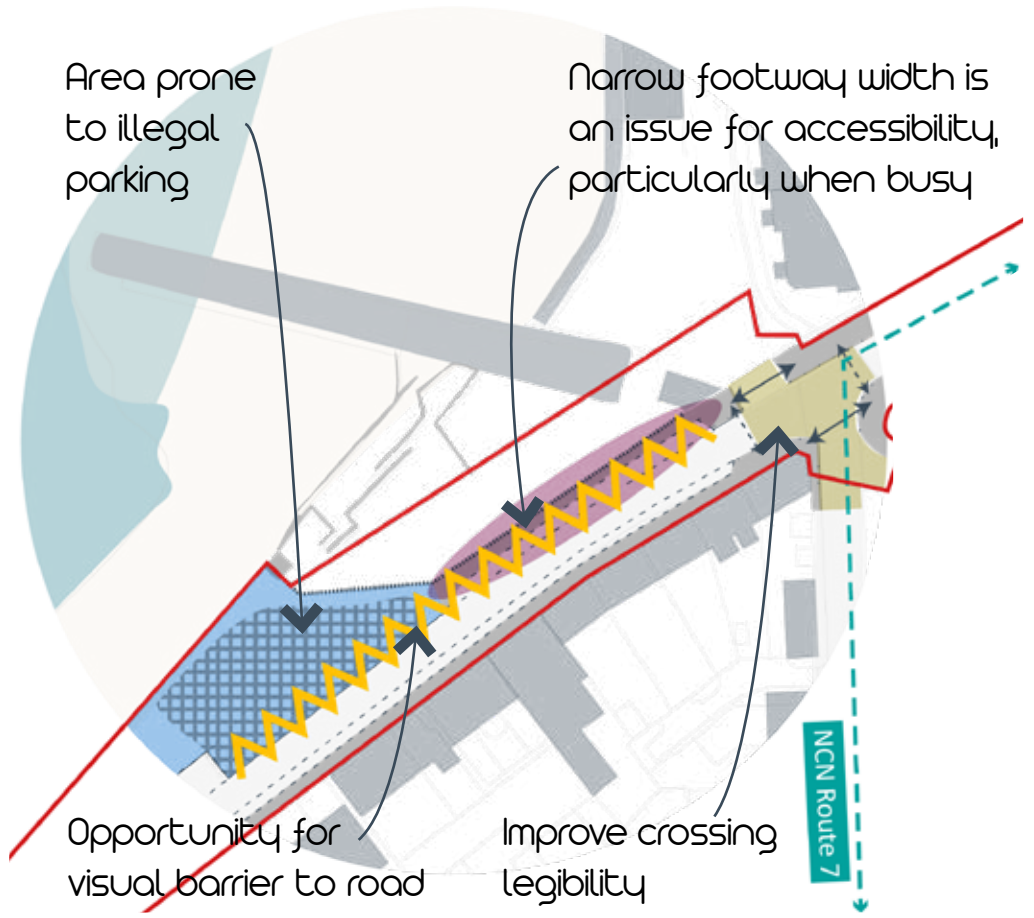
Layout Improvements

Footway and carriageway realignments will rebalance the layout of the area improving safety and comfort



Cultural Connections and Views

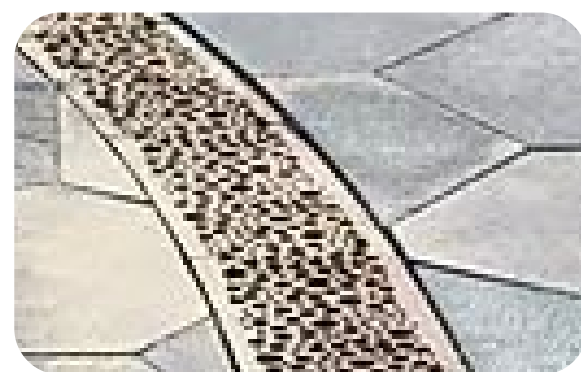
Cultural connections to the Maritime Museum and Café, and to the new Look-o-terie spot for admiring Irvine's maritime views



Current safety issues

Opportunity to introduce visual separation from road traffic and prevent conflicts of users at crossings and along the front

Identity & local inspiration



Example street furniture & paving detail



maritime mile

Marine Arts Hub

Design proposals

The Marine Arts Hub proposals aim to be a new heart of the Maritime Mile. The space will take advantage of the high footfall and natural congregation point midway along the Mile and turn the space into a vibrant, multi-functional hive of activity, where art and culture can take centre stage. Whether that's just to pause for an ice cream, picnic or pint, to visit the studios or enjoy the maritime views, the new Marine Arts Hub will be a focal point of local culture celebration.

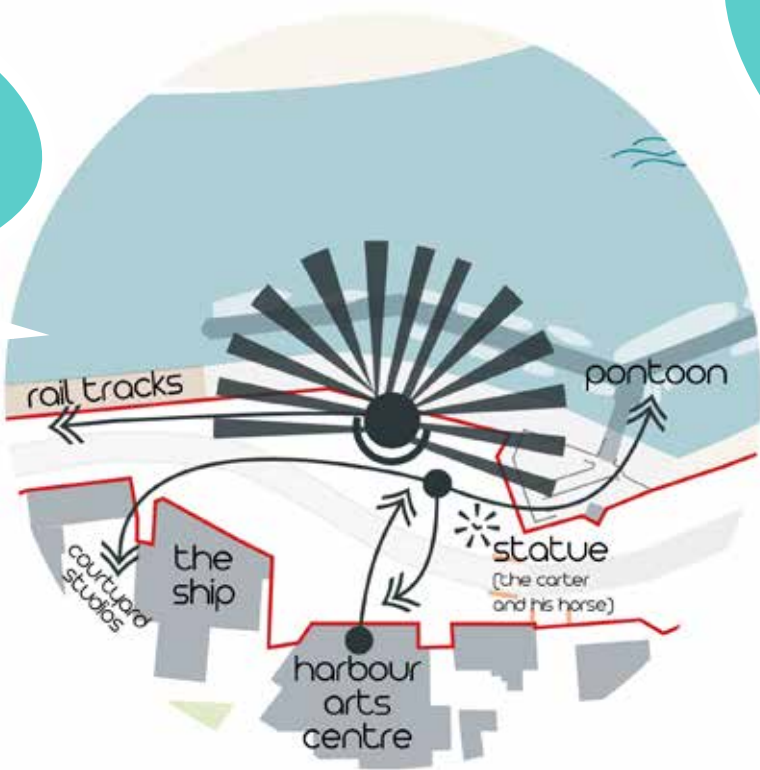
The space will use details in the design to highlight the pontoon and slipway; enhance the setting of 'The Carter and his Horse' statue and the inset rail track, which link directly to the history and people of Irvine; and also refining street furniture such as bollards.



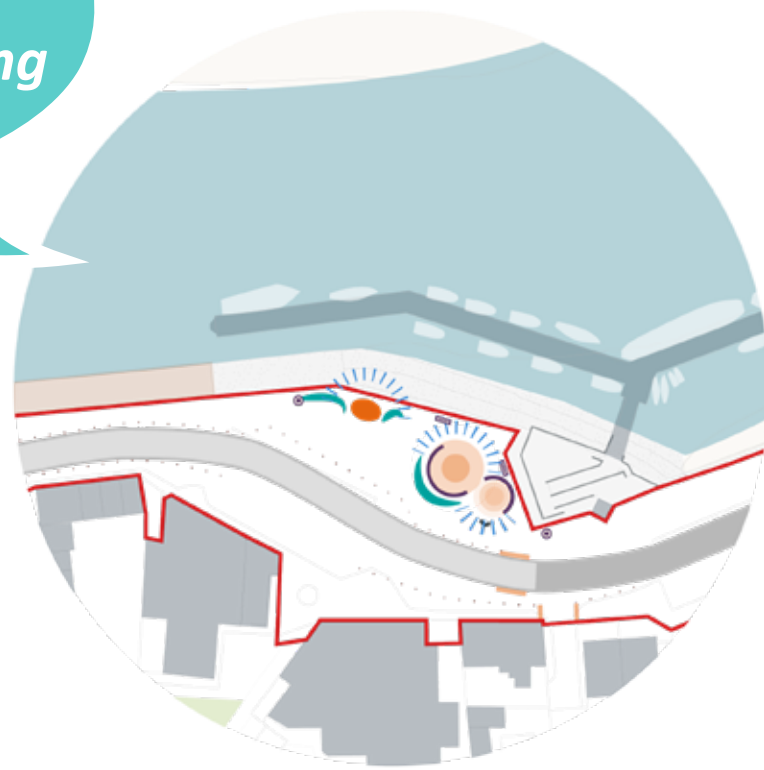
Design objectives



'More art works please!'



'Pedestrian crossing is used as informal entrance to illegal parking on north side'



Layout Improvements

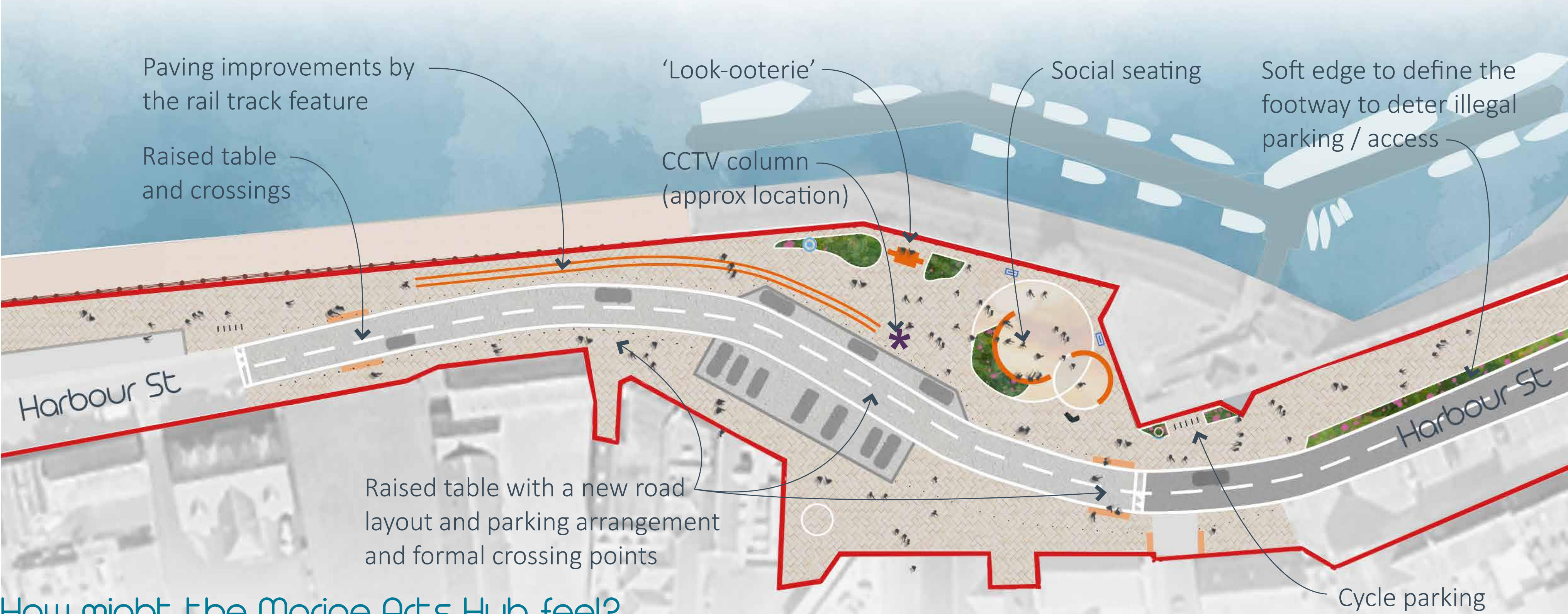
Raised table with realigned carriageway, parking provision and widening of footway areas for a car-free Arts Hub

Cultural Connections and Views

Enhancing links between the HAC and harbour front; to the courtyard studios; and between the cultural elements of the space

Placemaking

Creating a space for people and to support a range of activities and community / arts events



How might the Marine Arts Hub feel?



maritime mile

Harbour Master's Square

Design proposals

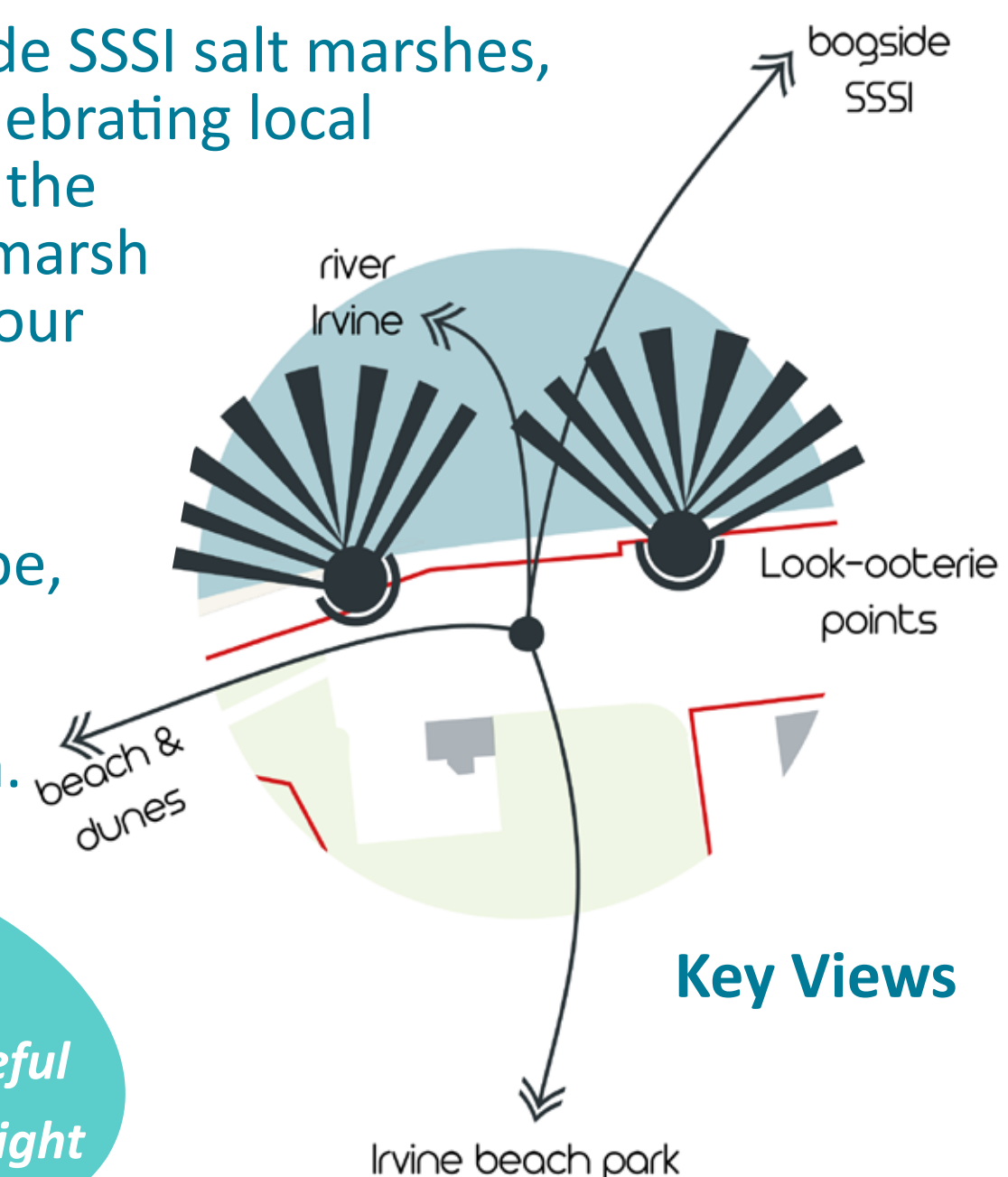
A new Harbour Master's Square



The new Harbour Master's Square aims to provide a new public space rooted in nature. The re-imagined space opens up a new area in front of the Harbour Master's Office, bridging the historic quayside with the expansive views toward the salt marsh and green views on the walk to Irvine Beach and dunes.

Inspired by the organic forms of Bogside SSSI salt marshes, the proposals provide a calm space celebrating local landscape and biodiversity by echoing the naturalistic forms and textures of the marsh reflecting a soft aesthetic for the Harbour Master's Square.

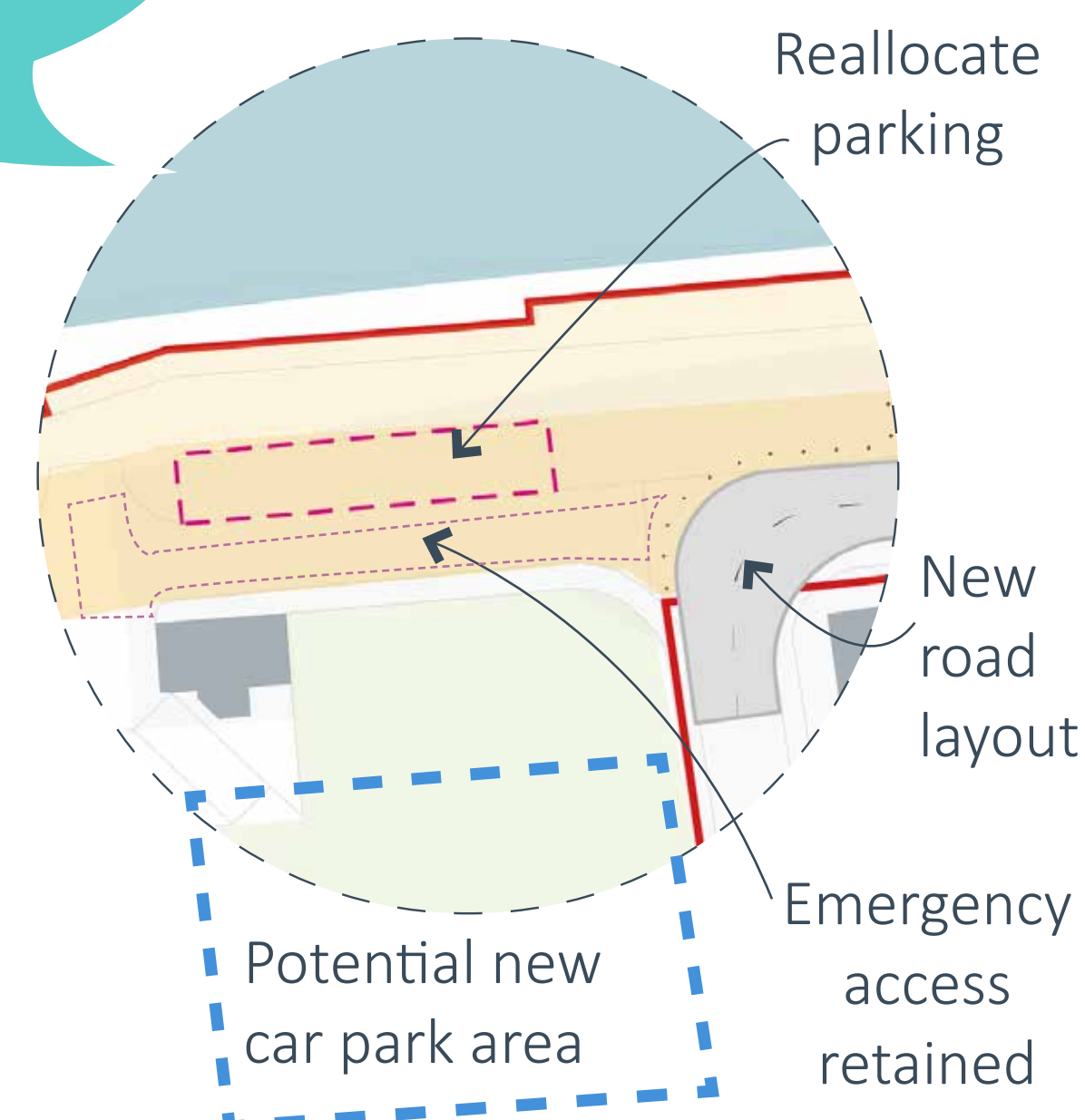
New "Look-ooterie" points connect visitors to the river and wider landscape, offering elevated views and moments of reflection and education about the unique ecology and history of the area.



Key Views

'The path is nice and wide but a cycle lane would be good to avoid conflict and keep users safe'

'It's strange because in the daylight it felt tranquil and peaceful with no one else around but at night it could feel a bit eerie.'



Layout Improvements

Reconfiguration of Harbour Street - Beach Drive junction, reallocation of parking (including to a future potential new car park to the rear) and creation of a new, safer and quieter public realm.

The design aims to provide a high quality public space that transitions from the Mile to the beach and dunes along Irvine's coast. Planting softens the aesthetic and choices will draw from local, climate-appropriate flora for colour and texture to enhance the space for people and wildlife.

Inspiration for form and feel

