

Helston's Cultural Quarter

Proposals for a new pedestrian route from Market Place to Wendron Street

The driving force for this project is the rejuvenation of Helston's historic central core. Historically, activity has centred on the crossing of the four main streets by the Guildhall. The planned regeneration of the Market Place and the creation of an attractive new route and series of outdoor spaces, linking the Museum of Cornish Life to the CAST building and on to Wendron Street, will define and enhance Helston's Cultural Quarter. The area has great potential, with the close proximity of important buildings and the opportunity to build on the finer grain of the materials, detail and sculptural quality of the streetscape, backed by the wider views over the valley to St Michael's Church and out to the surrounding countryside. It will create attractive places in which to enjoy special events or simply to dwell and experience Helston's exceptional built heritage.

The complexity of the project cannot be overestimated, but this is also what makes it exciting – a chance to enhance public areas and create new access points, visual links and associations between Helston's historic areas and buildings.



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1) Market Place

Paved area to be levelled out and enlarged, re-instating and repairing cobbles and granite. New bench seating. Provide designated disabled parking space.

2) WC

Basement of Bowden's to be used for an accessible WC with a level entrance off Drill Hall Yard a little way behind the entrance screen through a new opening in the wall. A second ambulant disabled cubicle to be alongside.

3) Drill Hall Yard

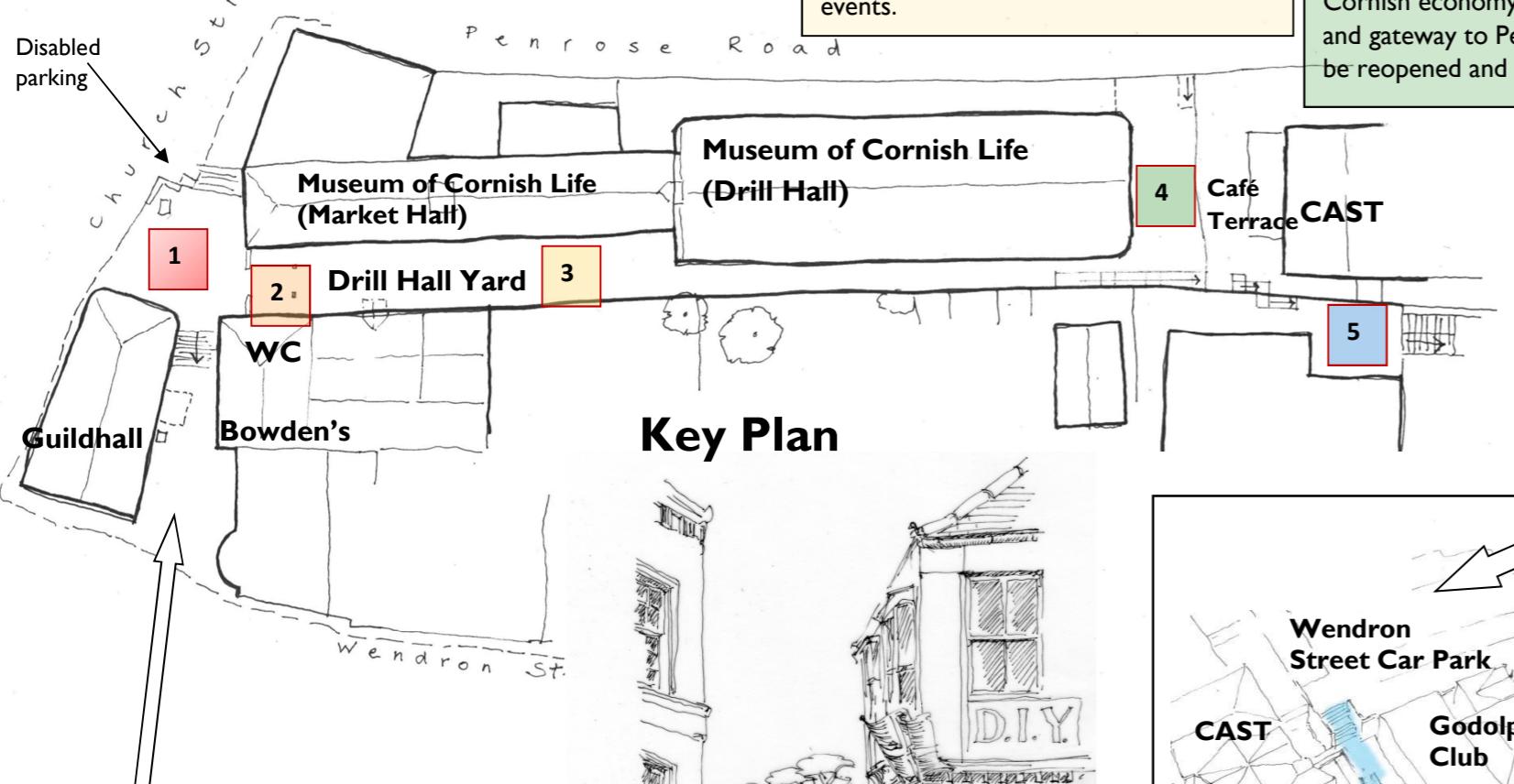
The surfaces of the yard area to be reinstated and repaired to make as accessible as possible, with the gentle slope up the yard area retained for use as a flexible space. Services to be added, including exterior power points and lighting. Fixing points to be provided for shelters/ gazebos etc for temporary events.

4) Linking Embankment

Gently rising access steps to be built against the retaining wall. These could be constructed with each step made from a different sample of the wide range of Cornish building stones found throughout the county and historically so important to the Cornish economy. The old steps and gateway to Penrose road to be reopened and repaired.

5) Wendron Street Car Park

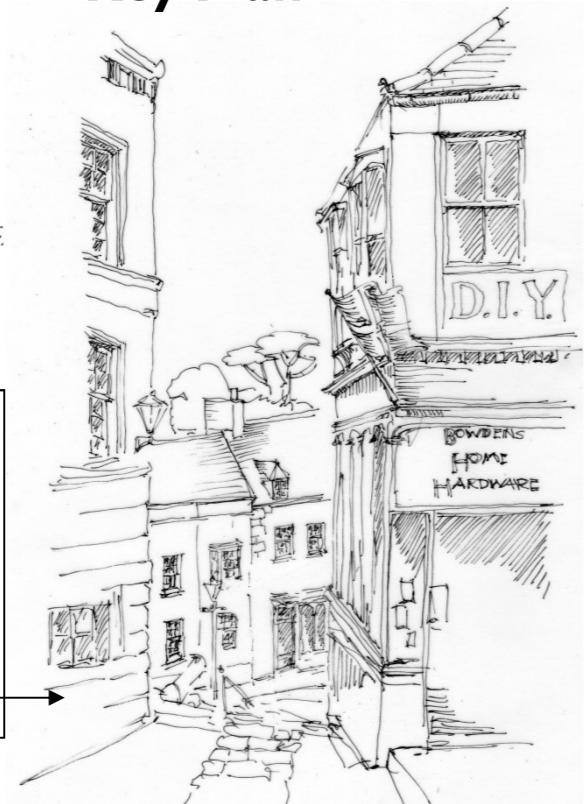
New steps from the CAST Café terrace up to the level of the Godolphin Club terrace, which then links through to the existing car park steps. Steps to be overhauled, with new local granite surfaces and well-designed handrails.



Key Plan

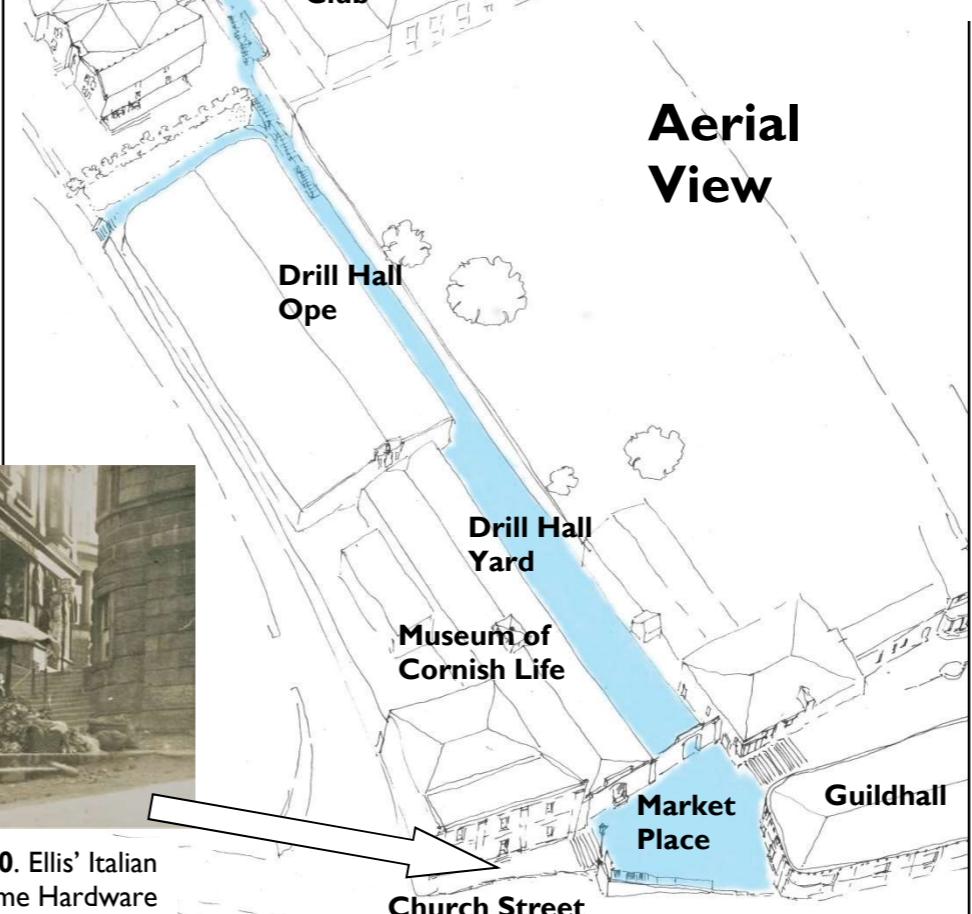
View between Bowden's and the Guildhall:

- Remove unsightly fire escape (provide alternative within the building)
- Find new locations for one or both of the K6 phone boxes
- Repaired historic paving and bench seating will be glimpsed below – which will add interest and tempt pedestrians down the steps.



Stalls at Market House, about 1910. Ellis' Italian Warehouse is now Bowdens Home Hardware (Museum of Cornish Life)

The new Cultural Quarter route, linking historic parts of Helston



Aerial View

