

Re-imagining Helston's High Streets

“Helston is Founded on Granite, Water and Tin”

Helston was founded at the important crossing of the River Cober, with many springs along the hillside producing water which fed the growing town - growth fuelled by tin streaming and mining to the north produced wealth which was invested in Helston's fine granite buildings. Nothing exemplifies this better than Helston's kennels. Water flowed through the streets, supplied by leats built with the expertise of the tin

miners, edged in high quality granite. Less than a quarter of Helston's original leats and kennels are visible today. Water has ceased to flow in much of the remaining network, which has been patched with modern asphalt and render; our heritage left to decline and collect weeds and dirt.

MATERIALS

- We want to:
- Reinforce local distinctiveness with careful choice of paving materials and detailing, using original paving as an inspiration.
 - Minimise visual clutter with a limited range of paving materials and colours, complementing but not copying original paving.
 - Use good quality materials, laid well, with careful attention to detail helping to ensure longevity of the scheme.



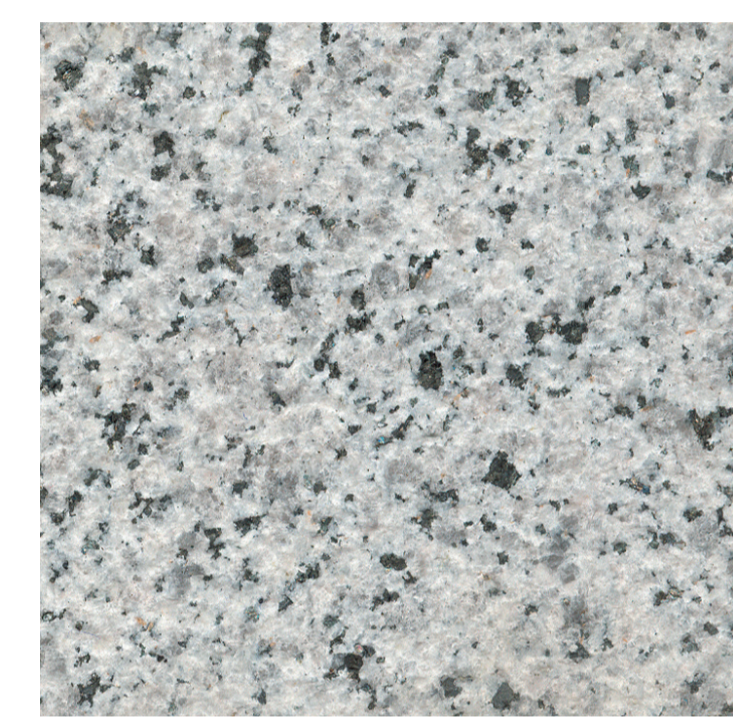
PAVING

Granite to be used in key spaces and streets in Helston, due to its local relevance and superior life span. Original paving widths are to be measured and recorded. Slate is appropriate material for detailing e.g. for ope-way thresholds. Quality black tarmac suitable for vehicular traffic areas, with higher-quality resin bonded granitic gravel in pedestrian use areas.



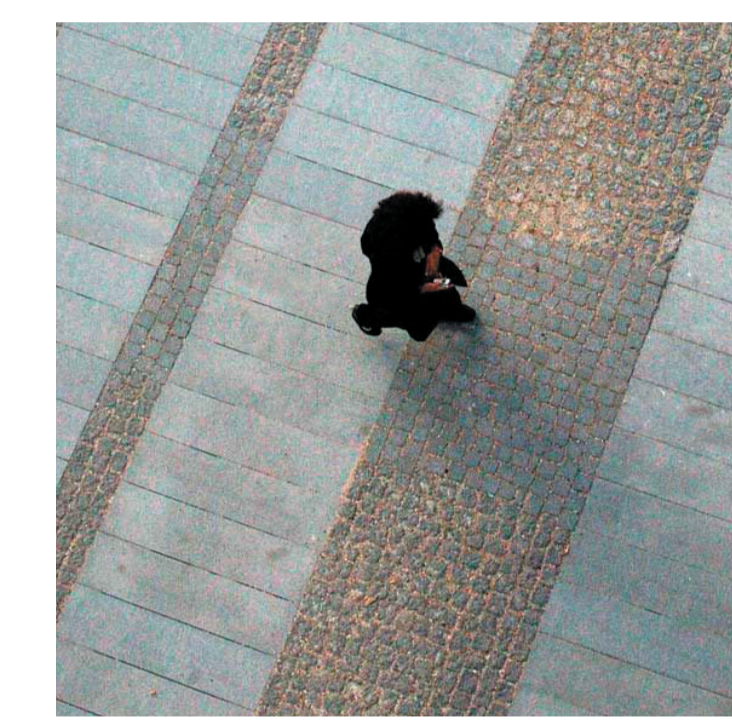
COBBLES

Existing cobbled areas are to be retained. In places cobbles may be re-laid to give accessible and even grades.



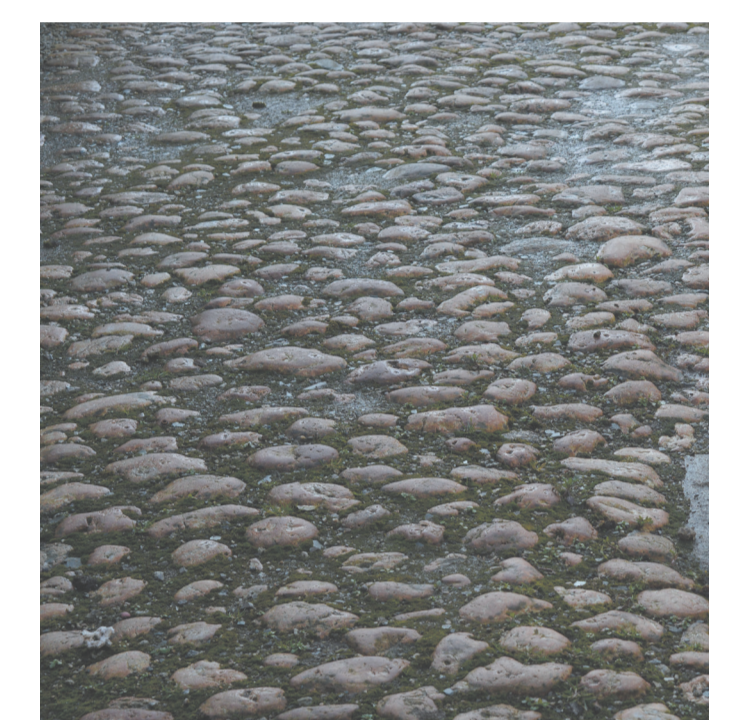
KERBS

Celebrate existing kennels and granite kerbs. Repair and reinstate granite kerb details where appropriate. When flowing, the kennels create sound and movement which bring the streets to life. There is an opportunity to re-expose and reinstate kennels where they have been filled or covered over, (e.g) in Meneage Street.



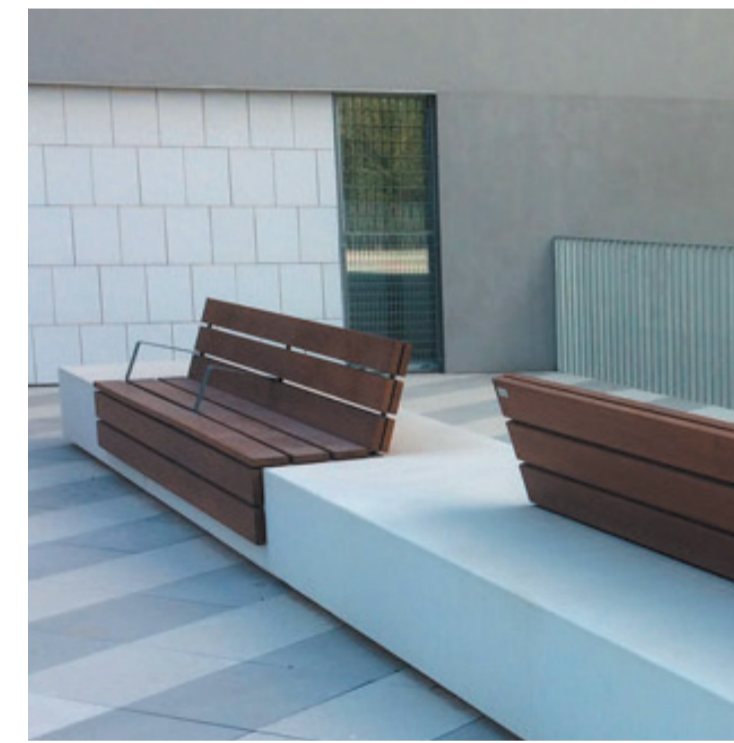
FEATURES

Celebrating the granite heritage of Helston with inlaid street and ope names, seating and bollards in granite and stone.



SEATING

Granite block seating references Helston's quality, heritage and architecture. Timber tops, seat backs and arm-rests to be provided for comfort and accessibility.



PLANTERS

Removable planters associated with seating will add greenery and improve air quality throughout the town.



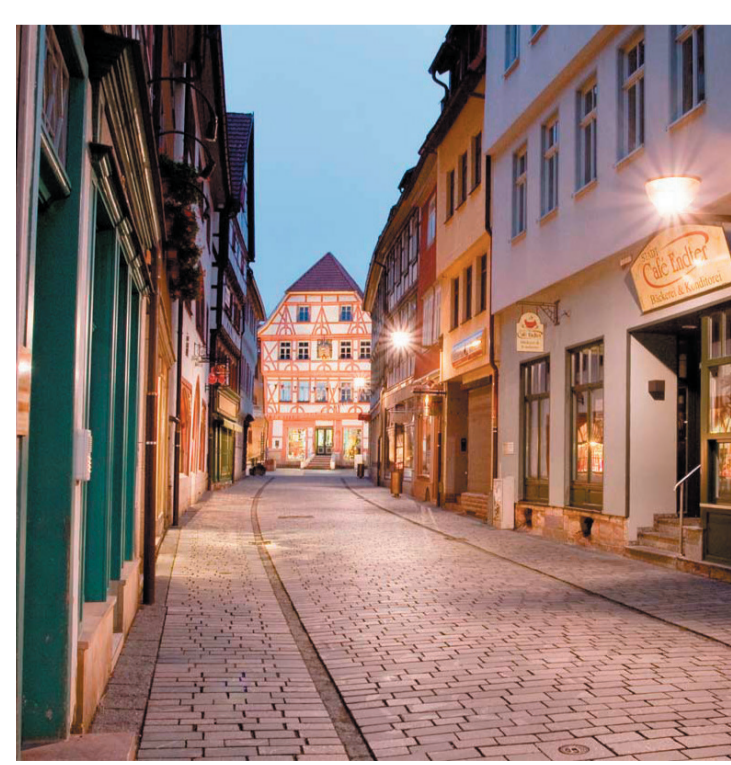
SIGNAGE AND WAY-FINDING

Rationalisation and de-cluttering of existing signage and furniture is key to good navigation and way finding. Excessive, incorrect or inconsistent information causes confusion and frustration. Rationalisation could include a selection of simplified signs, including monoliths with maps, 'way markers' and interpretation panels.



LIGHTING

Lighting creates a purposeful, welcoming and safe space within a public space. The installations at Horse and Jockey Lane and the new public spaces create an atmosphere of warmth and celebration.



“Quality in the design and construction of foot-ways and street surfaces is vital to the character of an area by providing a context within which the buildings are seen. Damaged or inappropriate paving can have an adverse effect in the entire street-scape”

English Heritage (2000) Streets for All.