

Jubilee Square: From car park to lively piazza

Transport policy in the 1960s had an irrevocable impact on many UK cities. In Leicester, the inner ring road disrupted the pre-existing street pattern and severed communities. The Connecting Leicester programme aims to reverse these impacts and reconnect the heart of the city to its historic assets. A clever choice.

The dramatic transformation of a central, surface-level car park, adjacent to ring road St Nicholas Circle, into a high-quality piece of public realm stems directly from this programme.

LDA Design led this remarkable people-first transformation, creating a new pedestrian-friendly public space, Jubilee Square. The Square makes for a new setting for several historic buildings, including Leicester's best preserved timber-framed medieval house. It also reinforces pedestrian connections and provides a flexible space for a wide variety of events and uses. The Square now plays host to outdoor cinema in the summer months and an annual Christmas market.

This investment has increased footfall to the area, boosting trade for local businesses. It has also stimulated regeneration in this part of the city, with a number of stalled sites on the other side of the ring road having now come forward for development.



Client
Leicester City Council

Location
Leicester

Partners
Sutton Vane Associates, Appleyard and Trew

Services Used
Landscape Architecture, Planning

Area
0.5 ha

¹ Jubilee Square is now used for a host of popular events, including outdoor cinema

^{2,3} The layout of the space picks up connections between the high street, the Cathedral, the University and the Castle Quarter

Image 1 © Ian Davis/LCQPB

Images 2,3 © Robin Forster Photography



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Image 2 © Ian Davis/LCQPB