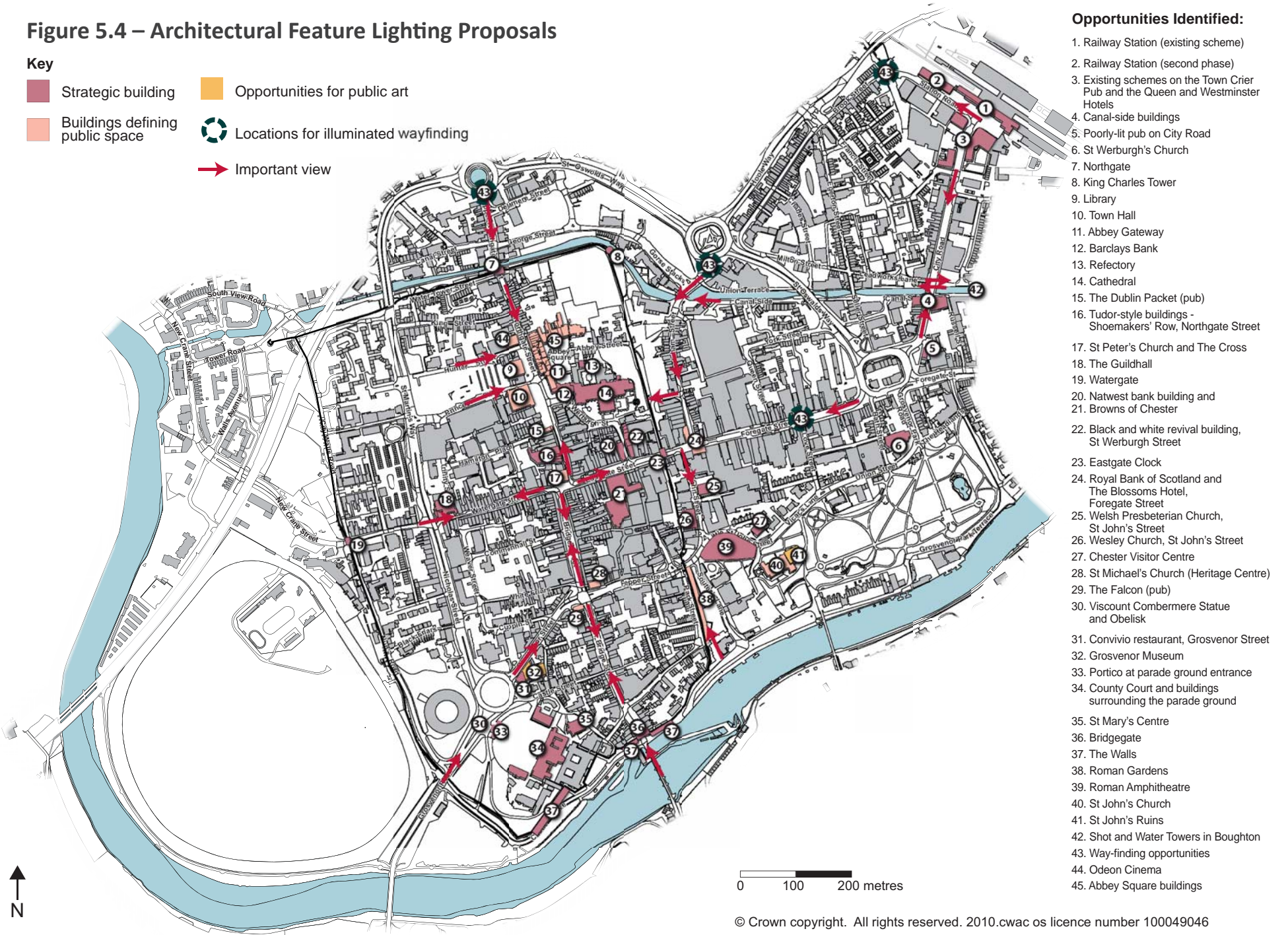


Figure 5.4 – Architectural Feature Lighting Proposals

Key

- Strategic building
- Opportunities for public art
- Buildings defining public space
- Locations for illuminated wayfinding
- Important view



Opportunities Identified:

1. Railway Station (existing scheme)
2. Railway Station (second phase)
3. Existing schemes on the Town Crier Pub and the Queen and Westminster Hotels
4. Canal-side buildings
5. Poorly-lit pub on City Road
6. St Werburgh's Church
7. Northgate
8. King Charles Tower
9. Library
10. Town Hall
11. Abbey Gateway
12. Barclays Bank
13. Refectory
14. Cathedral
15. The Dublin Packet (pub)
16. Tudor-style buildings - Shoemakers' Row, Northgate Street
17. St Peter's Church and The Cross
18. The Guildhall
19. Watergate
20. Natwest bank building and
21. Browns of Chester
22. Black and white revival building, St Werburgh Street
23. Eastgate Clock
24. Royal Bank of Scotland and The Blossoms Hotel, Foregate Street
25. Welsh Presbyterian Church, St John's Street
26. Wesley Church, St John's Street
27. Chester Visitor Centre
28. St Michael's Church (Heritage Centre)
29. The Falcon (pub)
30. Viscount Combermere Statue and Obelisk
31. Convivio restaurant, Grosvenor Street
32. Grosvenor Museum
33. Portico at parade ground entrance
34. County Court and buildings surrounding the parade ground
35. St Mary's Centre
36. Bridgegate
37. The Walls
38. Roman Gardens
39. Roman Amphitheatre
40. St John's Church
41. St John's Ruins
42. Shot and Water Towers in Boughton
43. Way-finding opportunities
44. Odeon Cinema
45. Abbey Square buildings

Lighting Strategy

5.8 ~ Architectural Feature Lighting...

Figure 5.4 identifies key buildings that should be lit to help meet the aims of this strategy. It includes those associated with public spaces / squares and gateways, and also other strategic buildings, monuments and structures.

This list is not exhaustive and the 1996 Lighting Strategy includes other buildings that should be considered, for example; the Blue Coat School, God's Providence House, Booth Mansion and Stanley Palace. The buildings listed below have been chosen for inclusion due to their context within the public realm; they are either highest priority or good examples of buildings that fit the criteria outlined. Some buildings have not been included for practical reasons. The balance of lighting against the impact of mounting luminaires on façades by day has been considered and in some instances buildings have been excluded from the highest priority list as it was felt the visual impact of the installation by day could potentially outweigh the benefits of lighting by night.

The lighting strategy identifies the following criteria for the selection of lit buildings, structures or monuments for architectural feature lighting, in order to ensure a sustainable approach:

- 1) A contribution to the design of a public space by providing vertical illuminance or helping to define a space at night.

- 2) A landmark building aiding legibility and way-finding or forming an important visual focus within a night-time view or vista.
- 3) Of major historic importance.
- 4) Public Art.
- 5) Retail and leisure buildings – these should comply with at least one of the above. However in some circumstances, a small scheme appropriate to the scale of the building, in keeping with the character of the local environment (e.g. The Rows) and complementary to a retail display or the purpose of the building, will be considered when the criteria above do not apply.

The section on Sustainable Design should be consulted for further details of how the criteria must be applied.

Buildings Identified

The following buildings / structures are identified in Figure 5.4 for architectural feature lighting.

- 1) Railway Station – Existing scheme. - A good scheme, however within the context of this document it would be advantageous to review the lighting on the main two towers so that they are more visible from the other end of City Road.
- 2) Railway Station – Second phase - yet to be implemented, this should be undertaken to encourage more people to use the route into the city via Brook Street.
- 3) Existing schemes on the Town Crier pub and the Queen and Westminster Hotels – If possible these schemes should be reviewed and replaced with more appropriate / sensitive lighting.
- 4) Canal side buildings – some bars and restaurants are lit with simple yet successful schemes – this should be encouraged on other canal side buildings to bring dynamism to this area.
- 5) The City Road pub – Although poorly lit, this is a strategically important location and a good building. If this scheme were replaced it would be beneficial for the city and business at the pub.
- 6) St Werburgh's Church – Located so as to be visible from the station. It is an attractive building strategically located.
- 7) Northgate – The existing scheme could be improved.

- 8) King Charles Tower – An important feature both historically and visually on the wall. Subtle lighting could highlight this important feature as well as contributing to the composition of the canal bank public realm.
- 9) The Library – This will contribute to the Town Hall Square public realm.
- 10) The Town Hall – The existing scheme is inadequate for this important building.
- 11) The Abbey Gateway – Inadequate lighting to promote this important route.
- 12) Barclays Bank – Will contribute to the public realm in the Town Hall Square.
- 13) Refectory - Contribution to the composition of Abbey Square lighting.
- 14) The Cathedral – The most significant landmark building in the city is currently undergoing the design of a new lighting scheme. The lighting should highlight this beacon building, contributing to views and the adjacent public realm.
- 15) The Dublin Packet (Pub) – Although architecturally not a good example, this building’s strategic location contributes to the public realm and helps highlight the cut through to Hamilton Place. The existing lighting is poor and should be reviewed as it could be significantly improved. The lighting needs to be undertaken in the context of the better examples of architecture adjacent and elsewhere on the square.
- 16) Tudor Style Buildings Shoemakers’ Row Northgate Street – Architectural details could be lit, such as the carvings.
- 17) St Peter’s Church and the Chester Cross – lighting these important historic and landmark features is important to the night time view up Bridge Street and will also contribute to the public realm.
- 18) The Guildhall – A very visible and attractive landmark which will also aid orientation.
- 19) Watergate – One of the Wall Gateways.
- 20) Nat West Bank and
- 21) Browns of Chester Building - Two prominent buildings that could be lit or better lit than at present. Lighting to buildings in Watergate, Eastgate Northgate and Bridge Streets should be generally encouraged.
- 22) Black & White Revival Building, St Werburgh Street - Carvings could be lit.
- 23) The Eastgate Clock – An iconic landmark that must be well lit.
- 24) Royal Bank of Scotland and The Blossoms Hotel, Foregate Street – Simple lighting to contribute to public realm.
- 25) Welsh Presbyterian Church St.John’s Street and
- 26) Wesley Church – Both these churches contribute to the ambience on St John Street as well as being attractive in their own right.
- 27) Chester Visitor Centre – Currently lit to a low standard and should be improved.
- 28) Heritage Centre - An important historic building and part of the public realm on this important and busy junction.
- 29) The Falcon – This pub is in a strategic location and should be re lit to a higher standard.
- 30) Viscount Combermere Statue and Obelisk – Gateway statements that should be lit.
- 31) Convivio Restaurant, Grosvenor Street – This building marks the pedestrian gateway to the city centre.
- 32) Grosvenor Museum - An important building that should be lit. A possible opportunity for a public art scheme.
- 33) Portico at car park entrance and
- 34) County Court Building, buildings surrounding the square – City gateway features and important Greek Revival architecture.
- 35) St Mary’s Centre – This old church is one of the most visible buildings in the city and assists in orientation, especially for visitors. The existing scheme could be greatly improved as the most important feature, the tower, is currently hardly visible at night.
- 36) Bridgegate - One of the wall gateways.

- 37) The Walls – There are several opportunities where the walls can be lit to contribute to the public realm ambience.
- 38) Roman Gardens – The existing scheme is due for renewal.
- 39) The Amphitheatre – An important city feature both historically and strategically.
- 40) St John’s Church– Can contribute to the public realm at the Amphitheatre and improve permeability between Vicars Lane and the river.
- 41) St John’s Ruins – The existing scheme is in disrepair. The ruins have tremendous opportunity for a dramatic lighting scheme or illuminated public art scheme.
- 42) The Shot Tower and the water tower in Boughton – Although on the periphery on the city centre these landscape features are highly visible and should be lit.
- 43) Way Finding Opportunities – See section 6 on Wayfinding.
- 44) Odeon Cinema
- 45) Abbey Square buildings
The Water Tower, other city wall towers and the

Buildings / Structures Not Included

The Water Tower and other city wall towers are prominent historic features that should also ideally be lit, however at present the actual benefits of lighting these would be limited as the positions in which they are located have limited night time use and longer views are relatively restricted. They have therefore been excluded from the list of highest priority opportunities for lighting for the present time. If work is undertaken to encourage night time access to these or adjacent locations then lighting should be considered a higher priority in conjunction with the public realm lighting in adjacent areas.

The historic and symbolic importance of the Castle is undisputed, however within the context of the public realm it has not been included on this highest priority list. It is a large structure with limited view points from within the city. It will be expensive to light and to maintain and the costs concerned could pay for a number of smaller schemes that would have more immediate impact on the public realm within the city centre. The PRDG does not suggest that the Castle should not be lit, only that within the context of this document it is not the highest priority.

Other buildings identified in the 1996 Lighting Strategy that are not included in this list should also be considered for architectural lighting and assessed using the criteria detailed above.

Guidance regarding the selection and location of luminaires is provided within the specification section (section 5.12).

In general, due to the historic nature of the city, sensitivity and subtlety is required with regard to the design of lighting for buildings.

Discreet Installation

The selection, location and mounting method of both luminaires and the electrical installation must be appropriate and preferably concealed so that the visible impact of a lighting scheme by day does not detract from the view of the building. This approach should apply equally to all historic buildings regardless of listing status. It is also best practice that luminaires are well integrated into the design of new building façades. It is not acceptable to add large floodlights without any reference to the visual design of the façade.

Sometimes the careful integration of luminaires onto a façade will require a compromise in the quality of the lighting. Good lighting design strikes the best balance between the lighting and the visual impact of the installation.

Due to the nature of many of the buildings, close offset lighting will be required in many cases. This has the advantage of showing textures and materials in a dramatic and attractive way, but can also make the design of schemes more difficult. In some cases introducing white light into the street lighting will help here as the spill light will contribute to the lighting of building. This can allow designs that use only subtle accent lighting to be introduced onto the façade of the building.

In some instances it may be appropriate to use period reproduction luminaries. These need to be in keeping with the architectural history of the building and will require listed building consent on listed buildings. Sometimes secondary light sources can be integrated into bespoke period luminaires thereby concealing an additional luminaire that may be used for accent lighting.

Reversible/Removable Fixings

On historic buildings the installation needs to be designed to be reversible or removable without leaving permanent damage or damage that cannot be repaired in a historically appropriate way. Where a building is listed all details of the installation both physical and visual will need to be approved in advance by the local conservation officer or English Heritage by way of a listed building consent application. This must be done before any work can be undertaken. Within a conservation area, regardless of the building's historic status, it is often also necessary to submit a planning application for new lighting schemes and advice should be sought from the local planning officer.

Building Specific Design

The design of the lighting should consider the age and original use of a building, as sometimes the design can either aid or be guided by the interpretation of a building or its environment.

Light sources

In principle lighting to historic buildings or within the context of historic buildings should use a warm white light source with excellent colour rendition (colour temperature 3000K, CRI >90 is generally appropriate). It is important that the materials

used in the construction of historic buildings are reproduced reasonably accurately and the shape and form of the building is not distorted inappropriately.

It is suggested earlier in this strategy that the street lighting within the primary public spaces and on the primary pedestrian and mixed priority streets and routes use warm white sources with a colour temperature of 2700K – 3100K and a CRI > 60. This enables architectural schemes in these areas to integrate well. The light spill from street lighting will wash the façades of buildings without drawing from the impact of architectural schemes and in some instances allow building lighting to concentrate on key features only (as described previously). This will reduce the number of luminaires and in turn the energy used and physical impact on the buildings, offering a more sustainable solution.

In general, a sensitive approach should be used within the city; however, this does not preclude the use of bold colours or more dramatic lighting techniques. In some instances a dramatic approach to lighting may be appropriate if properly considered and executed, for example in illuminating public art or the dramatic interpretation of an historic space.

General Design Principles

In addition to the guidance provided for lighting historic buildings, the following principles should be applied to all feature lighting schemes:

- Good glare control should be used throughout. All luminaires are likely to require some form of glare control unless their location conceals the light source from all passers-by and users of the building.
- All luminaires should be of an appropriate scale for the building. Oversized luminaires will draw the eye and are generally ugly and unnecessary.
- Luminaires should be made of appropriate materials and colour within the context of the building façade materials and construction. For example, black plastic luminaires on a pale sandstone building would be unacceptable. Most good quality manufacturers will provide a range of standard colours and can provide bespoke colours or finishes at minimal extra cost.
- Light sources should be carefully selected and colour temperature consistent or balanced across a design. Lamps supplied with luminaires unless specified are often unlikely to be appropriate, especially when using fluorescent equipment where a wide range of colour temperatures are available.
- Designers must ensure colour temperatures are specified and that this is not left to the contractor or supplier. Cool white light sources are more likely to be supplied if this is the case.

which in the context of Chester is unlikely to be correct. Contractors often do not understand the importance of colour temperature and this may need to be explained.

- The quality of lamps can present similar issues; higher quality lamps will have longer lives and better colour consistency. The use of branded higher quality lamps must be encouraged.

LEDs

LEDs are considered by many as the panacea for lighting, but present many special and unique problems. Whilst an excellent solution for some scenarios they are not the most appropriate for every application and should be used and selected with great care.

- LEDs are NOT always as energy efficient as sometimes claimed. There are often much more efficient light sources available.
- LEDs do not last as long as some of the manufacturers claim. Poor or inadequate luminaire design can shorten the published life of an LED significantly.

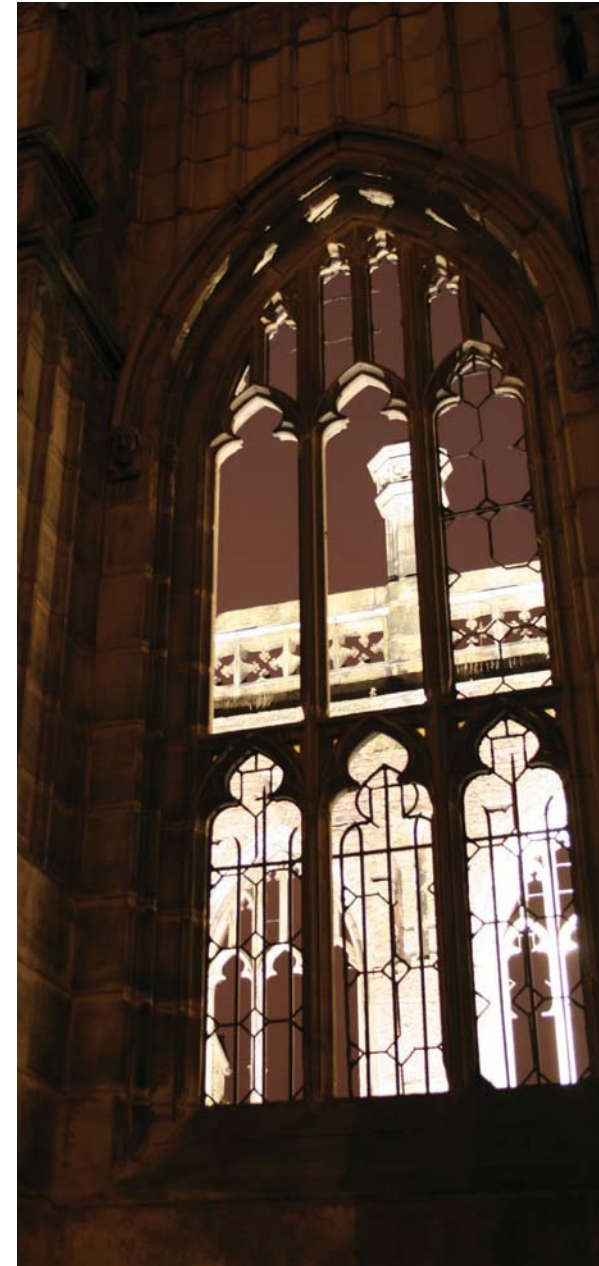
When using LEDs the following must also be considered:

- Due to the nature of this new technology, the long term behaviour of LEDs is not fully understood. Colour and output consistency has been known to degenerate within a year or two, thereby having significant impact on the performance of a scheme less than half way into its design life.

- LED optical performance is very different from conventional light sources and consequently LED retro-fit lamps very rarely perform in the same way the originally specified lamp would have done and almost always will compromise the quality of the scheme in terms of optics, output and colour.
- LED and LED luminaire technology is improving at a very fast rate and undoubtedly they will become a more practical and reliable option within a few years. However, at the time of the writing of this document LEDs should be used with great care. The claims of LED and luminaire manufacturers, suppliers and contractors should be considered with some healthy scepticism and if necessary independent advice should be obtained before substantial use of LEDs within a design.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficient light sources should be used throughout schemes and an appropriate control strategy identified to minimise energy use. See the sections on specification (section 5.12) and sustainability (section 5.11) for further information.



Example of Effective Architectural lighting to St Luke's Church, Liverpool