

Seven

Materials and Specification

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Summary and Guide to Part 7:

Part 7 offers detailed design guidance, for designers and specifiers of the public realm, on surfacing, drainage, street furniture, the use of CCTV cameras, accessibility standards, trees and ornamental planting and management and maintenance.

Section 7.1 - Surfacing

Provides guidance on the specification of surfacing materials to streets based on the street types set out in Part 3. Similar information is also provided for surfacing materials to open spaces. Section 7.1 also includes a series of paving construction options, followed by design guidance on the use of surface sealers, paving layout and cutting, access covers and road markings.

Section 7.2 - Drainage

Provides design guidance and outline specifications for drainage. This includes general design principles and guidance on methods for draining footways using traditional kerbs and point drainage for the majority of streets and linear drainage systems for pedestrianised streets and paved spaces. Brief consideration is given to the scope to include sustainable urban drainage in the city centre.

Section 7.3 - Street Furniture

Presents the concept of street furniture palettes for use in the city centre core, wider city centre, riverside and canalside locations, as well as consideration of opportunities for bespoke street furniture. This is followed by general guidance on the specifications and siting of street furniture (with particular reference to the use of lighting banners, temporary café seating, A-frame boards and feeder pillars). Section 7.3 is then divided into a series of sub-sections that set out parameters for the specification, siting and fixing of the following street furniture elements. This includes palettes of products recommended for use in particular locations/contexts within the city centre.

- Seating
- Bollards and access bollards
- Cycle stands and secure cycle storage
- Litter and recycling bins
- Tree grilles
- Planters
- Railings, gates and handrails

Section 7.4 - CCTV Cameras

Provides outline guidance on CCTV cameras. This includes information on design and operational requirements, siting, mounting and fixing and legislation.

Section 7.5 - Accessibility

Although other parts of the PRDG consider accessibility requirements, Section 7.5 sets out detailed guidance on access and compliance with the Disability and Discrimination Act (DDA), 2005. This includes information on designated parking bays, the width of access routes, the removal of barriers, hazards and clutter, seating, surfacing, level changes, ramps, steps, handrails and use of tactile paving. The section concludes with consideration of the need for DDA audits and maintenance as well as current references to further guidance.

Section 7.6 - Trees and Ornamental Planting

Sets out proposals for the use of trees and ornamental planting within the public realm and the section begins by highlighting the importance of the appropriate use of planting in the public realm.

The section continues by providing a brief strategy in relation to existing trees in the city centre followed by a future aspirational plan for new tree planting, along with general design principles related to the siting of trees and species selection. Building upon the aspirational strategy for street tree planting, species lists are provided for tree avenues to strategic approaches and routes, street trees to key links, ornamental trees to spaces and gateways and tree planting to surface car parks and internal side streets. The guidance on use of trees concludes with details of tree pit design and specification.

Guidance on ornamental shrub and perennial planting follows, which considers suitable opportunities for such planting, general recommendations on siting, planting design, species, plant sizes, densities and plant defect periods. Finally, Section 7.6 contains general recommendations on the use of annual bedding displays and grass in public realm schemes.

Section 7.7 - Management and Maintenance

The final section in Part 7 considers the implications of the PRDG on future management and maintenance of the public realm including the need for increased maintenance budgets in order that the council are able to maintain and sustain the finish and quality of newly implemented public realm schemes. Section 7.7 outlines existing maintenance responsibilities and makes recommendations on ways to improve existing arrangements and raise standards in order to meet the aspirations for the public realm.

As has been previously identified, it is important to note that strategies and design guides by their very nature offer broad principles and often bold approaches, which cannot address the subtleties of design required for every specific location. Part of Chester's appeal is its distinctive character and idiosyncrasies, which vary on a street-by-street/space-by-space basis and should be celebrated. It is not the intention that this design guide stifles site specific design solutions which respond to the history and character of place. Rather, the aim is to provide initial parameters and guidance, which set a high quality standard and future aspiration for Chester's public realm which should form the basis for the preparation of more detailed designs.