

## Temple Circus



The Temple Circus improvement scheme is a key highway infrastructure development in the ongoing Temple Quarter regeneration area of Bristol city centre. The scheme is predominantly a public realm enhancement which prioritises sustainable modes of transport, enhances transport connectivity in and round the Temple Meads Railway Station, including the Bristol MetroBus, and is considered a catalyst for further regeneration.

- **Date of completion: Jan 2020**
- **Cost: £10.8m**
- **Location: Bristol**

### Challenges and solutions

The construction was extremely challenging given the complex needs of the area, including extensive service diversions using 3D mapping, traffic and pedestrian/cyclist management, protection of archaeological features and listed buildings, facilitation of advance works for follow-on developments, all of which required a collaborative approach from all parties, flexible programming and cooperative project management.

Key features of the project were the replacement of a hazardous gyratory road system with a simpler four-way crossing, providing enhanced connectivity for pedestrians/cyclists, better use of urban space including the extension of the Bristol Mile and enhanced public spaces, and inclusion of appropriate landscaping environmental features, such as rain gardens.

In addition, known and unknown underground features had to be dealt with, such as the historic Bristol City Port Wall and redundant cellars; whilst the Grade 2 Listed former 'George and Railway' hotel and Grade 1 Listed Temple Meads station had to be duly respected. The removal of the existing gyratory system brought its own challenges particularly in respect of the traffic signals.



## Benefits and achievements

The improvement of public space coupled with increased transport connectivity in and around the Temple Meads Railway Station is the primary purpose of the scheme. Extensive public consultation was undertaken including stakeholder meetings, public exhibitions, extensive leaflet drops to local residents and businesses, the creation of engagement websites, and the use of social media to stimulate interest from the passing public, with many of the responses received being incorporated in the project.

User experience, predominately for pedestrians and cyclists, has been significantly enhanced by providing better, safer and more direct routes, without significant detriment to road traffic. The Bristol Mile, a key segregated footway/cycleway to the historic centre of Bristol, has been significantly extended with the feel of a linear park, with an improved link to the Bristol to Bath cycleway. Modern 21st Century bus stops have been included, and public spaces provided away from road traffic constructed using sympathetic natural materials such as granite benches with enhanced landscaping and trees.



## Fascinating facts

- ❑ Historic underground features were unearthed during the works including the Bristol City Port Wall, Victorian cellars, and foundations from the 1970s flyover.
- ❑ The complexity of the service and utility works was significant, amounting to a quarter of the total construction cost, and were undertaken without significant impact to traffic.
- ❑ The project is one further piece in the 'jigsaw' that is the ongoing Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone regeneration, an area of 70 hectares with a 25-year development programme.

## People who made it happen:

- Client: Bristol City Council
- Designer and Project Manager: Jacobs
- Contractor: Eurovia
- Cost Consultant: Currie & Brown

**More about this project:** [www.bristoltemplequarter.com/portfolio-items/temple-gate/](http://www.bristoltemplequarter.com/portfolio-items/temple-gate/)