

90: The Wills Memorial Island. The paving and footway widening has helped to reduce vehicle speeds and provided a safer and pleasanter area for pedestrians.  
(Photo: Devon County Council)

## TOTNES - THE PLAINS

### CONTEXT

The Plains is an important focal point of Totnes, lying to the west of the River Dart on one of the major approaches to this historic town. The eastern side of The Plains consists of a number of warehouses and other listed buildings which had fallen into disrepair, while the western side contains several listed buildings mainly in commercial use. The whole area was dominated by an excessive amount of carriageway space, largely devoted to parking and bus services. Pedestrians were afforded little space in this important part of the town.



### OBJECTIVES

In order to improve the quality of the environment in The Plains it was recognised that a substantial change of emphasis was required to reduce the domination of vehicles.

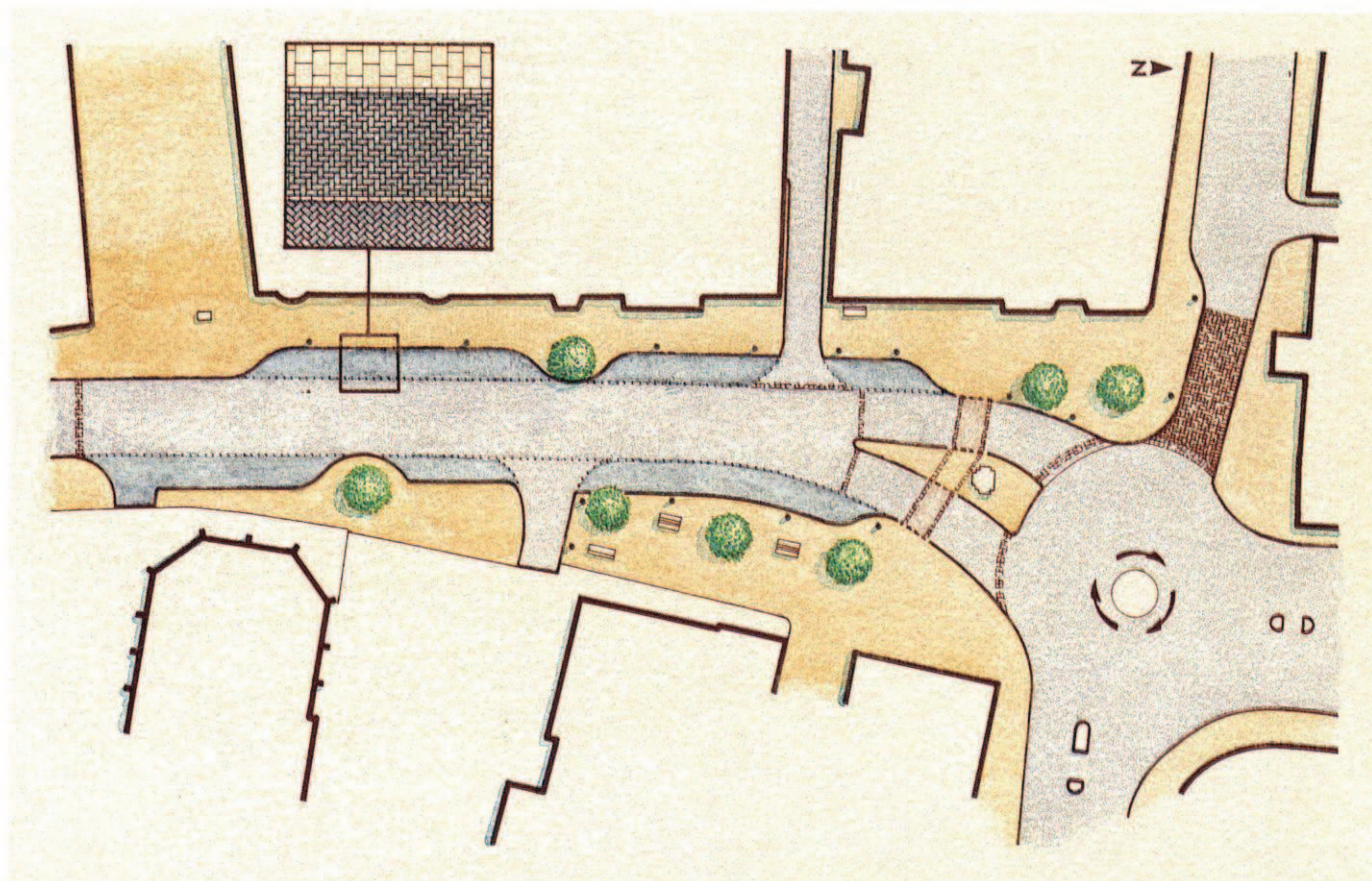
### DESCRIPTION

Work was undertaken in two phases. Phase I involved the enhancement of Dartmouth Inn Square. This small square off the western side of The Plains was cluttered by some 22 car parking spaces. Measures included removing all the on-street parking and providing a pleasantly landscaped area where people can sit and relax or enjoy a drink from the recently refurbished Dartmouth Inn which gives the square its name.

Phase II constituted the major part of the enhancement works which involved the removal of the majority of the on-street parking, the relocation of the buses into extended bus lay-bys in nearby Coronation Road and the narrowing of the carriageway. The widened footways give considerably more space for safe pedestrian activity,



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seating and signs, while the Wills Memorial island provides a much safer pedestrian route for people entering the town. The whole of The Plains area has also been the subject of a comprehensive lighting scheme increasing pedestrian safety and visibility.

#### COST

The cost of the refurbishment works was approximately £250,000.

#### ASSESSMENT

The scheme has achieved the objectives of helping to reduce vehicle speeds and providing larger safe areas for pedestrians. In addition, by removing much of the on-street parking and reducing the widths of the carriageway, pedestrian movements have been made considerably easier and safer. The environment has been greatly enhanced.