

I am delighted to present this second newsletter to update you on the latest progress being made with the Queen Square Enhancement Scheme.

Christopher Heath
Project Manager
Bristol City Council

Phase 1 begins

Since November 1998 when I last wrote to you, the Queen Square design team have been working to complete the detailed design of the scheme. This involves regular monthly meetings with the National Heritage Memorial Funds Project Monitoring Officer William Wheeler of Landscape Design Associates.

Williams role is to ensure that the designs are of high quality for grant aid.

The design process is now complete and the project was put out to tender on the 14th of June. Following approval at the Planning, Transport and Development Committee, a contract will be let in August.

Work is expected to start on phase I of the project at the end of August. This will be the most dramatic part of the project as it includes digging up the obsolete dual carriageway which was con-

structed across the Square in 1936.

It is anticipated that this first phase should be completed for opening in May 2000 next year, just over 300 years after work to lay out the square first began. The plan overleaf on page 1 illustrates the phases of the work and what will be involved.



How the statue will look at night with recent design revisions which include special surface-mounted uplighters (see page 6). Computer model image created by Bristol City Council, Visual Technology Unit.

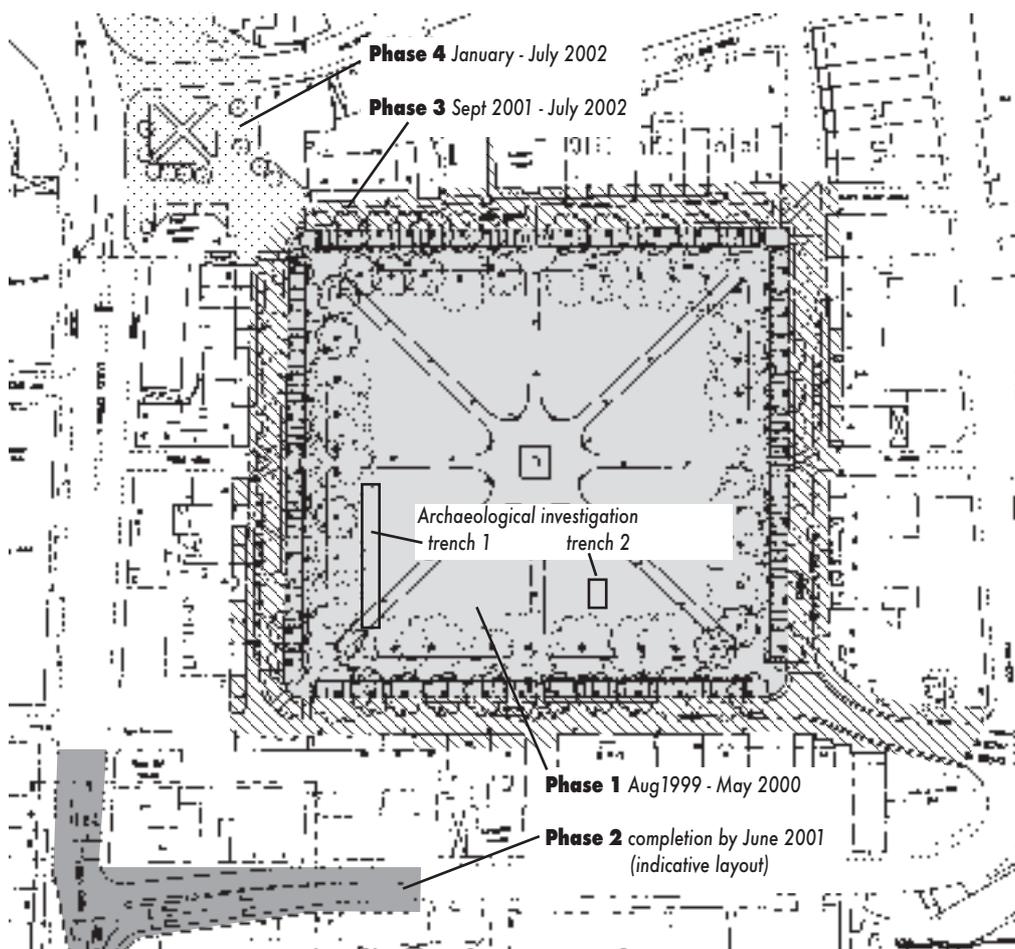
Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



Main Construction Works Timescales see plan below

Stage	Works	Construction Period
I	Central Landscaped area Archaeological evaluation (Completed); removal of statue and its restoration (scheduled 2 August 1999); main works scheduled to commence end of August 1999 to include removal of the dual carriageway; removal of trees around the statue; re-landscaping of the central area adding gravel radiating and perimeter paths; addition of post and rail wooden fence to back edge of perimeter parking bays; addition of refurbished historic lighting columns; addition of semi-mature trees to NW and SW corners; prune and shape existing trees; re-form perimeter parking bays to wider spacing around trees, resurfacing in stone setts; re-turf grass area; new co-ordinated signage; replace statue to face Custom House with new lighting.	August 1999 - May 2000
II	Improvements to Prince Street/Grove Junction enabling diversion of buses from the square	Completion by June 2001
III	Perimeter carriageway improvements Displacement of forecourt parking onto designated spaces around the square; restoration of forecourt boundary walls/railings/gates; addition of flood lighting and resurfacing forecourt in pennant stone; widen pavements on north and south sides of square; resurface all pavements in pennant stone; expose existing/resurface carriageway in stone setts	Sept 2001 - July 2002
IV	Remove Prince Street Roundabout creating new linking space to the city centre Remove existing trees to centre of roundabout and create new layout	Jan 2002 - July 2002

Phases of the Project



Project works already completed

Statue restoration

Work on the restoration of the statue of King William III project has already started. A scaffold was erected around the statue in March and April to enable Professor Geoffrey Allen of the Bristol University Interface Analysis Centre to take seven small samples of surface deposits, coatings and corrosion.

The results of the survey are being used to determine the best ways to undertake the final conservation of the bronze statue and its stone plinth.

English Heritage have also completed a photogrammetry survey to make a very exact record of the sculpture as it stands today.

Rupert Harris has been selected from three specialist conservators who tendered for the work to complete the full conservation. Rupert Harris has previous experience on other nationally important projects such as restoration of the bronze gates at Marble Arch in London and survey work for Hampton Court Palace. He is an advisor for the National Trust & English Heritage. The Cliveden Conservation Workshop Ltd will carry out work on the stone plinth.



The statue will be leaving Queen Square in August

The statue will be dismantled and removed from site on Monday 2nd August this year. It will be taken to the conservation studio at the Bristol Industrial Museum where the work will be carried out in full public view. Conservation is expected to take around five weeks. When complete it is hoped that the statue will remain on public display until its return to Queen Square in around March 2000, although a location for this has yet to be found.

Revisions to statue setting

The image (front cover) shows how the statue will look at night following restoration and return to the centre of the square. Recent design changes to improve its setting have included the replacement of four previously proposed lighting columns marking the position of the former surrounding railings, with special surface-mounted up-lighters.

Lighting tests around the statue in March this year showed that these up-lighters could successfully illuminate the statue without dazzling passers by with the glaring spotlights included in the original design. The new layout offers a much less cluttered space with clearer views of the statue.

Above: The statue survived the Bristol riots which started in Queen square 30th October 1831. Detail from engraving by J.B.Pyne, courtesy of Bristol Reference Library (BRL Portfolio 2B 23076)

Below: Construction of Redcliffe Way in 1936 for which the railings and lamps surrounding the statue were removed and the statue turned parallel to the new road. Custom House [Bristol Evening Post Sept 16th 1936]



Under phase 1 of the enhancement scheme the statue will be conserved and the missing bridle replaced. It will be returned to its original alignment facing The Custom House (North). So as to continue to allow the public to walk up to the statue, it is not currently proposed to replace the original heavy railings. New lighting will be added to highlight this focal point to the square at night as shown (front page).

For further information on works to the statue please contact Gary Reeder, Senior Building Surveyor, Bristol City Council, Corporate Resources, PO Box 550, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS99 2AR. Tel: (0117) 9037549

Right: photo of statue being removed Evening Post March 24th 1937

Archaeological investigations

In December 1998 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services completed an investigation on the south west corner of Queen Square. The purpose was to find out more about the original gravel paths that crossed the square, the type of gravel used, its colour, how the edges were made and how the drainage worked. The evidence collected was to inform the final design for the new gravel paths which are to be recreated around the edge of and radiating across the square. The investigation also sought evidence of the original bowling green which predated the construction of Queen Square, thought to be located underneath its SW corner.

70 clay pipes were found dating from 1669 - 1750 and various other pottery finds including part of a dish made at Nether Stowey.

Approximately 2 metres of fill were discovered underlying the earliest path. This is thought to cover approximately 100,000 square metres of the former marsh, representing the dumping of about 250,000 tons of waste placed there in the late 17thC prior to the construction of Queen Square. This was a large amount of material to be moved by horse and cart!

Miller's 1670 map showing location of bowling green (right).



What was found?

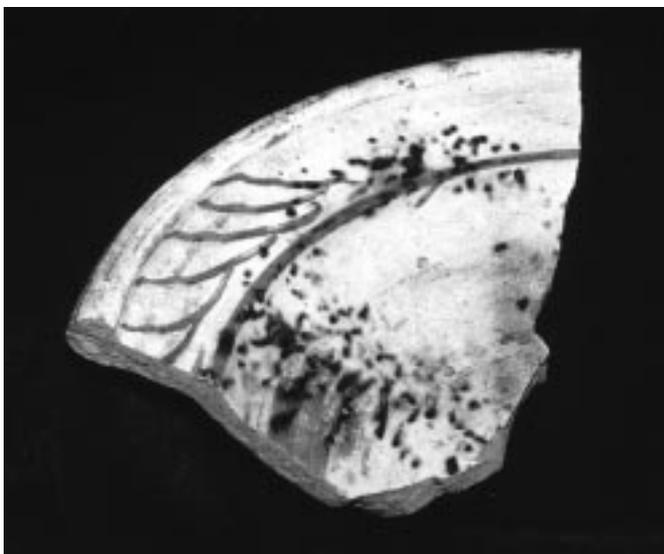
The investigation found evidence of the original gravel paths. But major disturbances such as later landscaping and the construction of air-raid shelters had removed the majority of evidence of the garden layout and earlier bowling green.

Analysis has shown that the gravel found was probably transported from the river Avon around Saltford. No recognisable edge restraint or drainage was identified pre-dating that of the 20th century.



Below left: Fragment of Nether Stowey dish found in trench 1.

Below right: 17thC clay pipes found in trench 1.



Photographs of finds reproduced by kind permission of Bristol Regional Archaeological Services. Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

Left: fragments of Westerwald pottery found in trench 2 from a vessel similar to that below.

Below: An example of a Westerwald mug, of late 17thC date, made in Germany with roundel medallion moulded with a portrait of King William III (1689 - 1702).



A second investigation took place in January on the mid-south half of the Square unaffected by air raid shelters (trench 2 see plan page 1).

No additional evidence of paths was found, but analysis of the fill material showed that it is of industrial origin, mostly cinders deriving from the cleaning out of industrial furnaces, probably those of glass houses in the area. Although the presence of a large number of clay tobacco pipes manufactured in Shropshire & Wiltshire does suggest that some of the material was transported considerable distances by river.

This phase of dumping represents the transition of the former marsh as public open space to private space with the creation of the square which was started in 1699. It is a period when Bristol was pioneering the development of manufacturing processes which were later to become an integral part of the industrial revolution, such as glass-making and brass production.

It seems likely that the deposit of this material probably in the winter of 1699 - 1700 represents the initial ground

works for the layout of the square. As the development involved reclaiming a marsh, albeit one which was relatively stable, the ground surface needed to be raised else the cellars to the buildings would have flooded.

A full copy of the archaeological report can be inspected at the Bristol City Council Planning Offices at Brunel House, St George's Road, Bristol, BS1 5UY.

In the course of historic research John Brett, Archaeological Officer (SMR) Bristol City Council, discovered this poem written in 1712 by a Mr William Goldwin, master of Bristol Grammar School entitled 'A poetical Description of Bristol'. In it he describes how the square grew from 'heaps of rubbish'... (right).

Right: The Marsh from 'Brightstone' - George Hoefnagle 1640 - here the marsh is shown prior to development. The old city wall can be seen which ran along the North side of King Street.

Below: 'The City of Bristol' - prospect of Bristol by James Millerd 1673. The Bowling Green is shown here marked (d).

*"...What can't Inventress Art and Labour do?
This handsome Square from heaps of Rubbish grew;
And tho' past Years the marshy Bottom saw
Thick drizzling Fogs from steaming Nature draw,
No vap'rish Humours left, but only those
Which Ladies sickly Fancies discompose:
Where level-walks delightful Lanes display,
There wat'ry Mud in deep Confusion lay.
So, when Appelles drew his master frame,
From jumbled Paint the pretty Venus came.
So Holland's Province built on boggy Lands
Consummate Neatness, and a Beauty stands:
Thus (since the Objects Smililies provoke)
The whole Creation from a Chaos broke..."*

Published London: Joseph Penn, 1712, p 17-18



History of the statue

'King Williams 265th Birthday!'

This year sees the 265th birthday of the statue of King William III on horseback, the focal point to Queen Square. It is one of the square's most precious assets - a grade I listed structure of national importance, and one of the finest equestrian statues in the country.

The design for the statue was originally commissioned in 1733 under public subscription. A competition was held, and a scheme by the sculptor Michael Rysbrack selected.

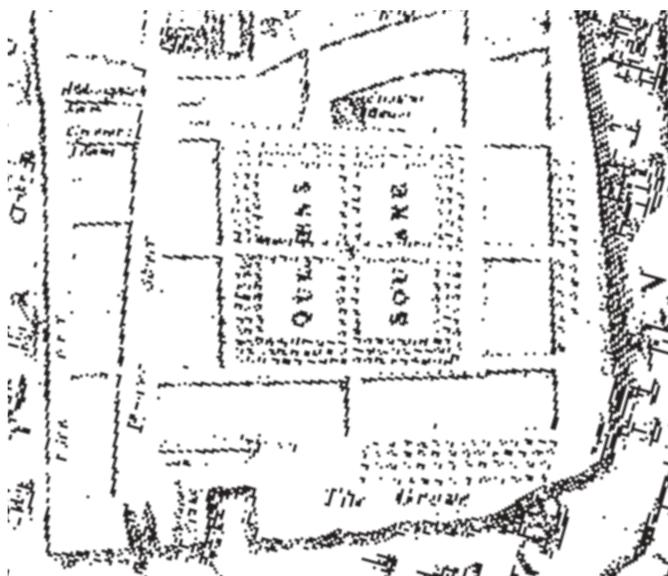
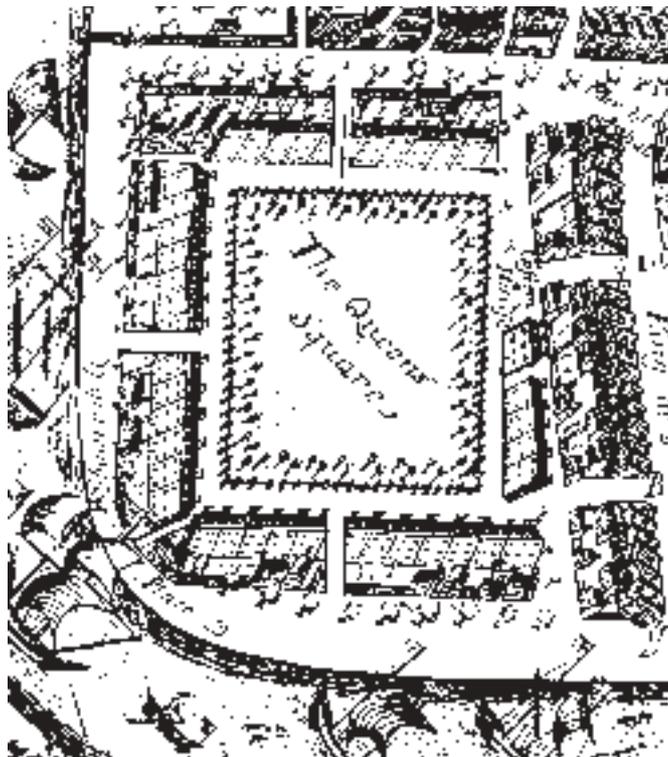
The Bronze statue was cast in 1734 in London, transported to Bristol by sea and finally set up on its plinth in September 1736. The statue formed the focal point of Queen Square and prompted much additional landscaping within the square to enhance its setting.

Remarkably the statue survived the Bristol riots of 1831 which destroyed the majority of original buildings to the North and West sides of the Square. It remained unchanged for over 200 years until 1937 when the 'Redcliffe Way' was constructed. This removed the surrounding railings and lamps, and resulted in the re-orientation of the statue parallel to the road as it now stands.

Top: Miller's map 1710 showing the Square almost completed prior to erection of the statue in 1736

Middle: The first map recording the presence of the statue erected 1736 and facing The Custom House to the North. Additional paths and trees were added to the square to enhance the statues setting

Bottom: The statue in 1936 surrounded by railings and 4 lamps [Photograph by Winstone, F. Reece, Bristol As It Was in the 1934-36, no 54]



In the early nineteenth century a Mr Henry Jones wrote a poem called 'Clifton' in which he described the creation of Bristol's Squares including Queen Square and the statue,

*"...What grand magnificence on virtue grows,
 What Squares, what palaces have late arose!
 How wealthy, how taste in every pile appear,
 With still improving grace from year to year;
 Lo Queen's, enriched by Rysbrack's Roman Hand,
 See William's finish'd form majestic stand;
 His martial form expresse'd with Attic force,
 Erect, like Antonine's, his warlike horse,
 With lofty elegance, and Grecian Air,
 to feast the classic eye, and fill the square..."*

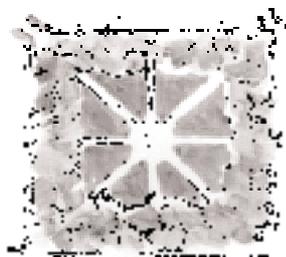
Other visitors to the city in around 1750 such as Pope, a poet, were not impressed with Bristol, finding it cramped and overcrowded. They did however mention Queen Square with appreciation,

"...Nothing is fine in it but the square, which is larger than Grosvenor Square and well builded, with a very fine brass statue in the middle of K. William on Horseback; and the Key which is full of shops and goes half round this Square..."

Queen Square Association aims for £50,000

The Queen Square Association has been formed with the aim of raising £50,000 towards the enhancement scheme - part of the matched funding required for the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Stephen Lipfriend of Lipfriend Dawson is chairing a committee of people who work in the Square, who have been meeting monthly at solicitors Metcalfes offices to plan fundraising activities and approaches to people who have an interest in the Square and its future.



The legal framework for the rules of the association have been drawn up and charitable status applied for. A Bank account has been set up by the Bank of Ireland (itself located in the Square) to receive donations.

So far approaching £15,000 has been raised through pledges and links are being established with owners of properties around the Square and those who live and work in the Square.

Said Stephen Lipfriend,

"We are looking at a variety of ideas to raise money over the coming year including a link with STL networks (see right) and a proposed Safari supper evening, details of which will follow shortly. We also hope soon to commission a water-colour of the square, limited edition prints of which will be offered on a priority basis to residents and owners in the Square.

We have already establishing links with some commercial ventures who are giving special offers and hope to organise some further fun fund-raising events in the future. Although we are only

required to raise £50,000, we aim to raise at least £100,000 to help fund additional works in and around the Square."

Save money on your telephone bill and donate money to Queen Square

The Queen Square Association has joined forces with STL network to offer discounted telephone services to Bristol businesses. Most modern telephone systems can be easily programmed to access the STL network which provides quality calls over standard BT lines. Most customers see savings in the region of 20-30% and the minimum call costs of 1p alone can save businesses £100's in the course of a year.

STL provides integrated telecoms solutions, including Voice, Data, Least Cost Routing and CTI

Systems that give businesses the opportunity to provide cost efficient communications to clients and customers - all with the comfort of quality back-up and a 24-hour help line.

So why not save money and help raise funds for the Queen Square Association? For a free telephone survey or further information please call Anthony Smith on (0117) 9453050

STL network

End of the road for Queen Square

As contractors are appointed to move into Queen Square later this year and begin tearing up the road, which has bisected one of Europe's finest Georgian Squares since 1936, an appeal has gone out for anyone who remembers the road being built.

The road was closed in November 1993 but a lack of funding and resources has prevented completion of plans to enhance the Square.

Now, following a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the road will be torn up and the square re-instated by Bristol City Council to the grandeur its original designers planned.

The Queen Square Association, who are raising £50,000 towards the enhancement scheme are keen to hear from anyone who remembers the road being constructed in 1936.

Association chairman, Stephen Lipfriend said: "It was quite an event in 1936 when Bristol Corporation constructed the dual carriageway across the Square demolishing the buildings at the North West and South East corners.

"We are looking for people with special memories of the event. Maybe someone helped to lay the road as a young worker or was involved in demolishing the buildings - or maybe someone can remember standing in the Square and watching the work being carried out as a fascinated child.

"The person with the best story to tell will be invited to take part in a special event to mark the fact that the road is being torn up at last.

"The former dual carriageway is being removed and the original gravel paths that crossed the Square will be re-

laid to give the area the atmosphere it was originally designed to have."

People with memories of the road being built across Queen Square are invited to

write to Stephen Lipfriend, chairman of the Queen Square Association, 16 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4NT.

COMPANIES ALREADY HAVING DONATED FUNDS

Ad Art Design
Hardy Associates
Merchant Navy Pension Fund
Lipfriend Dawson
Design Activity
Nat West Ventures
Clark Willmott & Clarke
Osmond Tricks
Bank of Ireland
The Post Office
Jarvis Projects
Metcalfes

The Association is delighted to acknowledge the support of the above/following companies who have generously donated to the funding of the restoration works which is now approaching £15,000.

Many further pledges have been received according to committee chairman Stephen Lipfriend who describes the response thus far as "superb" - but adds - "please send us the money!"

Rebuilding the South East corner of Queen Square

In March the Planning, Transport and Development committee supported the principle of a proposal from Nat West Property Group to rebuild the south eastern corner of Queen Square. This would be subject to an acceptable design being developed which had the support of historic advisors English Heritage.

Nat West have a former consent for an office development at 22 - 4 Queen Square shown below but would like to extend the scope of the scheme. Although no plans have yet been submitted it is understood that the new pro-

posal would extend the development across part of Redcliffe Way, following the original footprint of the former terrace which was demolished when the road divided the square.

To proceed the buses would first have had to of been diverted out of the Square along Prince Street and The Grove and that junction modified with new traffic signals and a pedestrian crossing added from Farris Lane to Royal Oak Avenue. Subject to the support of the bus companies it is possible that this may lead to the buses being diverted out of the square in

advance of the current programme, before June 2001.

If an acceptable design can be agreed the re-enclosure would permanently repair the missing corner of the square. The pinch point created at the junction of Brunel Mile, the pedestrian and cycle route linking Bristol Temple meads through Harbourside to the ss Great Britain, would create a very dramatic pedestrian entrance into Queen Square and the City centre from Temple Meads station.

Imagine for a moment, if completed approaching from Redcliffe bridge, the view across the south side of the

Square to Pero's bridge would suddenly open, to reveal the vastness of Queen square, its relative quietness would be apparent as against The Grove (following diversion of the buses), its lush greenness with its surrounding mature Plane trees, radiating gravel paths and well maintained green lawns would be wonderful. Queen square would truly become a quiet green Jewel at the heart of the city. Let us hope that an appropriate new design is forthcoming soon.

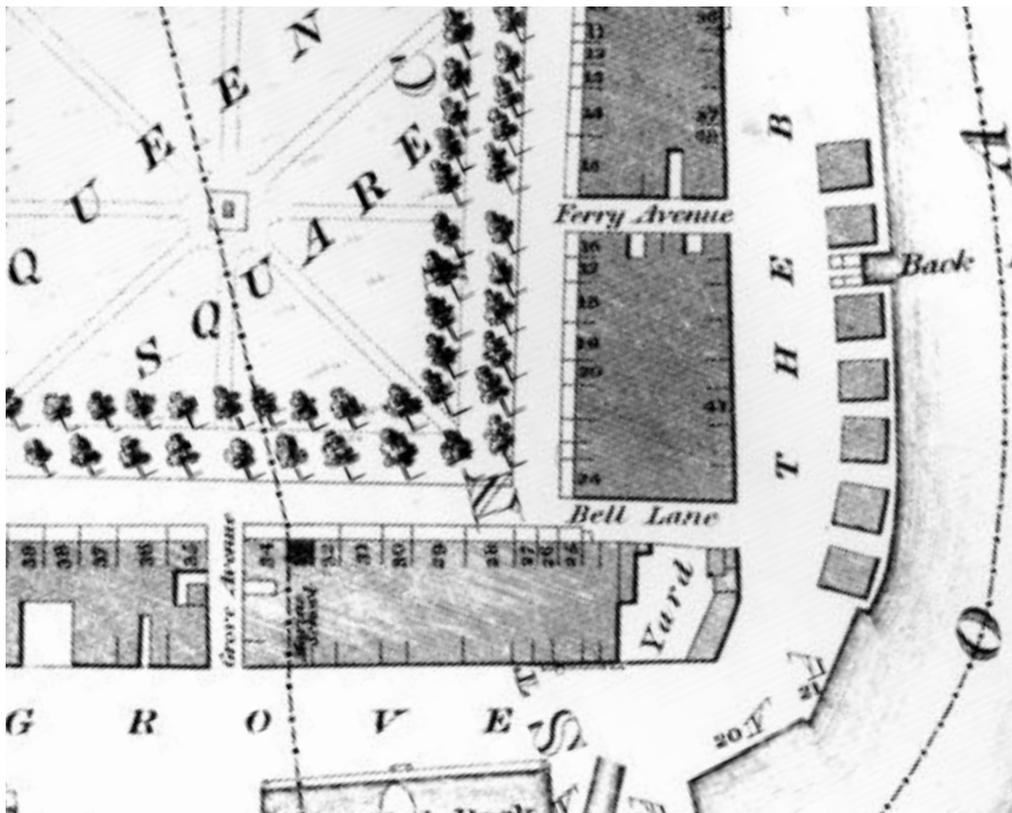


Above: model showing current proposal for the south east corner of the square.



Below: Extract from Ashmead - Plan of the City of Bristol and its Suburbs, Bristol Record Office. BRL B29885. This shows the original SE corner of the the square.

Above: 23 - 28 Queen Square (pre 1923) before demolition for the construction of Redcliffe Way. Winston, F. Reece, Bristol in the 1930s (Bristol 1971)



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