



The Architecture Centre

## Devizes Market Square Wiltshire

### Notable design features

- Well designed public realm enhances the appeal of the site, encouraging pedestrian usage
- Use of a common paving block increases coherence and reduces maintenance costs
- Provides an attractive public transport hub, reducing the tendency towards car trips
- Public lighting is provided by wall-mounted lamps, almost completely removing lamp posts from the square



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The public realm improvements to Devizes Market Square have transformed this previously cluttered and incoherent interchange into an accessible, attractive and functional space. A particular achievement of this project is that it has encouraged a successful relationship between pedestrians, passing traffic and parking.

### Project description

Devizes has been a market town for centuries, with the Market 'Square' having the shape of an elongated triangle. In recent decades, it became cluttered as a result of poor co-ordination of the management of the public realm and by 1993 it was apparent that the existing square was in need of improvement. It was characterised by an excess of street furniture, too many signs, traffic congestion and incoherence of paving materials.

Devizes Market Square is also a public transport hub, an essential car parking location and the natural heart of the town. It was necessary to devise a plan to accommodate these uses while restoring the visual appeal of the square.

It was a complicated project due to three authorities having a stake in the management of the Square (Wiltshire County Council, Kennet District Council, Devizes Town Council).

Kennet Council established a Community Area Partnership which brought together a wide range of different interest groups.

Consistent long-term commitment from CJDA and Kennet Chief Executive Mark Boden meant that it was possible to coordinate the interests of the many stakeholders in the project.

Under the new design, highway clutter is kept to a minimum. Street lights are attached to buildings, negating the need for free standing columns and a common design of paving is used throughout the square to increase coherence and minimise maintenance costs.

The scheme has proved successful; the number of market stalls has markedly increased and, while traffic flows successfully, the traffic speeds have been reduced.

## Devizes Market Square, Wiltshire

### Comment

"Devizes' triangular market square serves as the transport interchange for local buses and taxis, with traders and customers drawn together around the central monuments and warmth of local hostelrys. There is little to alert the visitor to the 10 years' dedicated work and careful design that underpins the scheme – and it has succeeded in retaining and enhancing the vitality of this historic Wiltshire town.."

CABE 'This Way to Better Streets: 10 case studies on improving street design' (2007)

### Essential data

Location  
Devizes, Wiltshire

Construction period  
Completed 2003

Project team  
Spacial Analysis and Project Management: Colin Davis Associates (CJDA)  
Lighting Design: NEP Lighting Consultancy

Client  
Kennett District Council

Cost  
Unknown

BREEAM rating  
N/A

### Further information

CABE case study:  
[www.cabe.org.uk/case-studies/devizes-market-square](http://www.cabe.org.uk/case-studies/devizes-market-square)

Colin J Davis and Associates:  
[www.streetdesign.info](http://www.streetdesign.info)



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