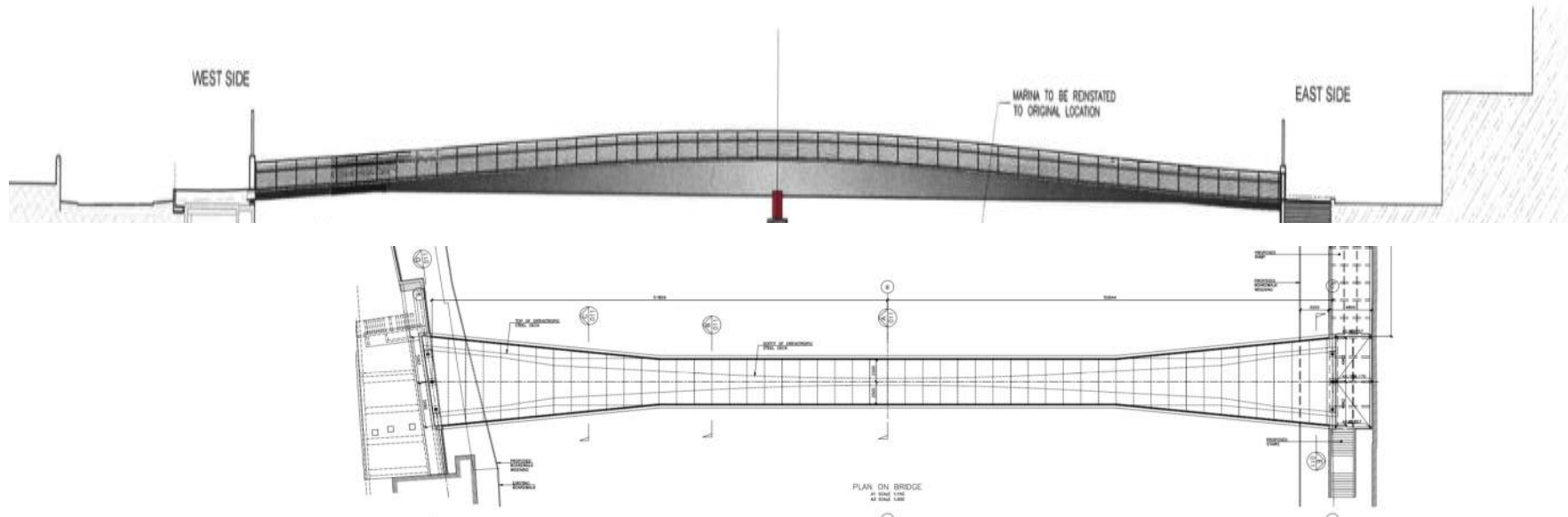


# Galway Dublin Cycleway Athlone Bridge Crossing



## Thematic Architectural Design Strategy



## Overriding Strategy;

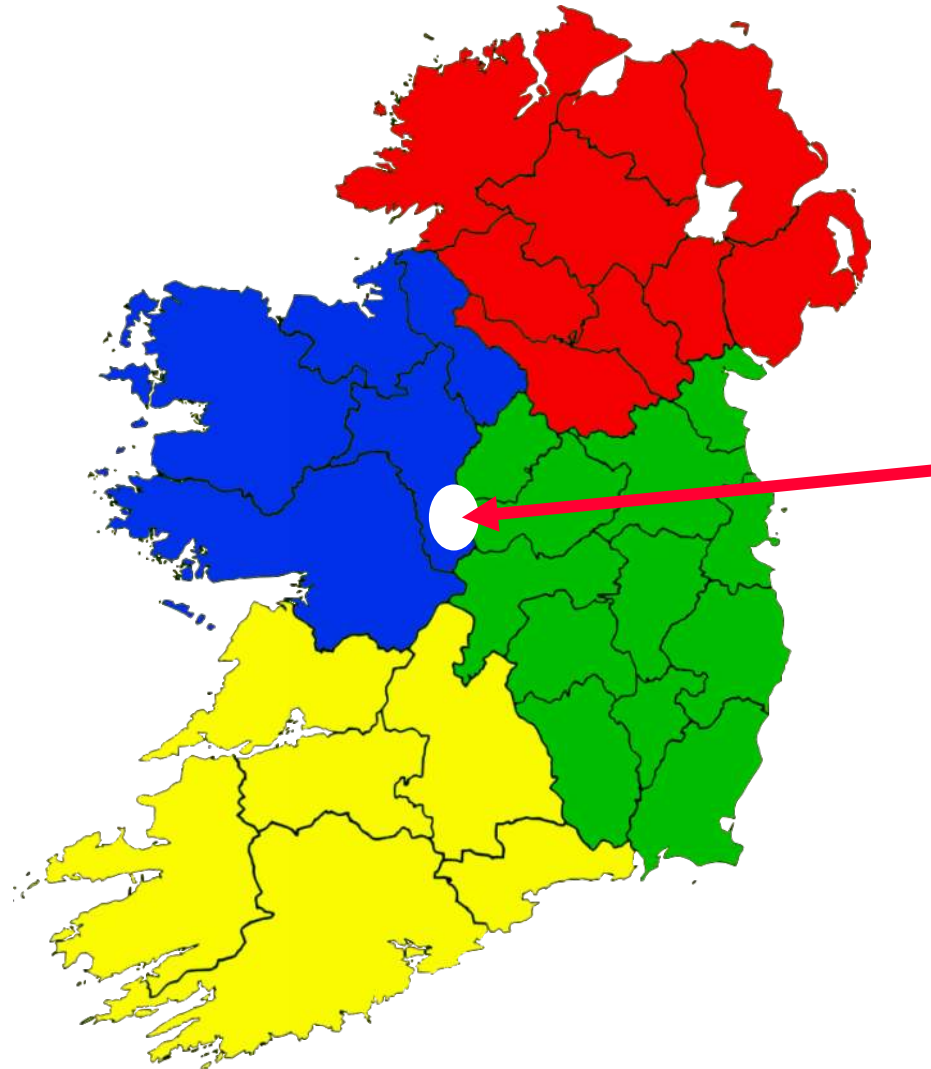
- To be safe, functional, useful and long lasting.
- To have timeless elegance and be visually calm.
- To be in harmony with its place and to integrate seamlessly into the existing surroundings.
- To be a worthy addition to the civic life of Athlone.

# **1. National Importance**

# River Shannon



# Connacht - Leinster

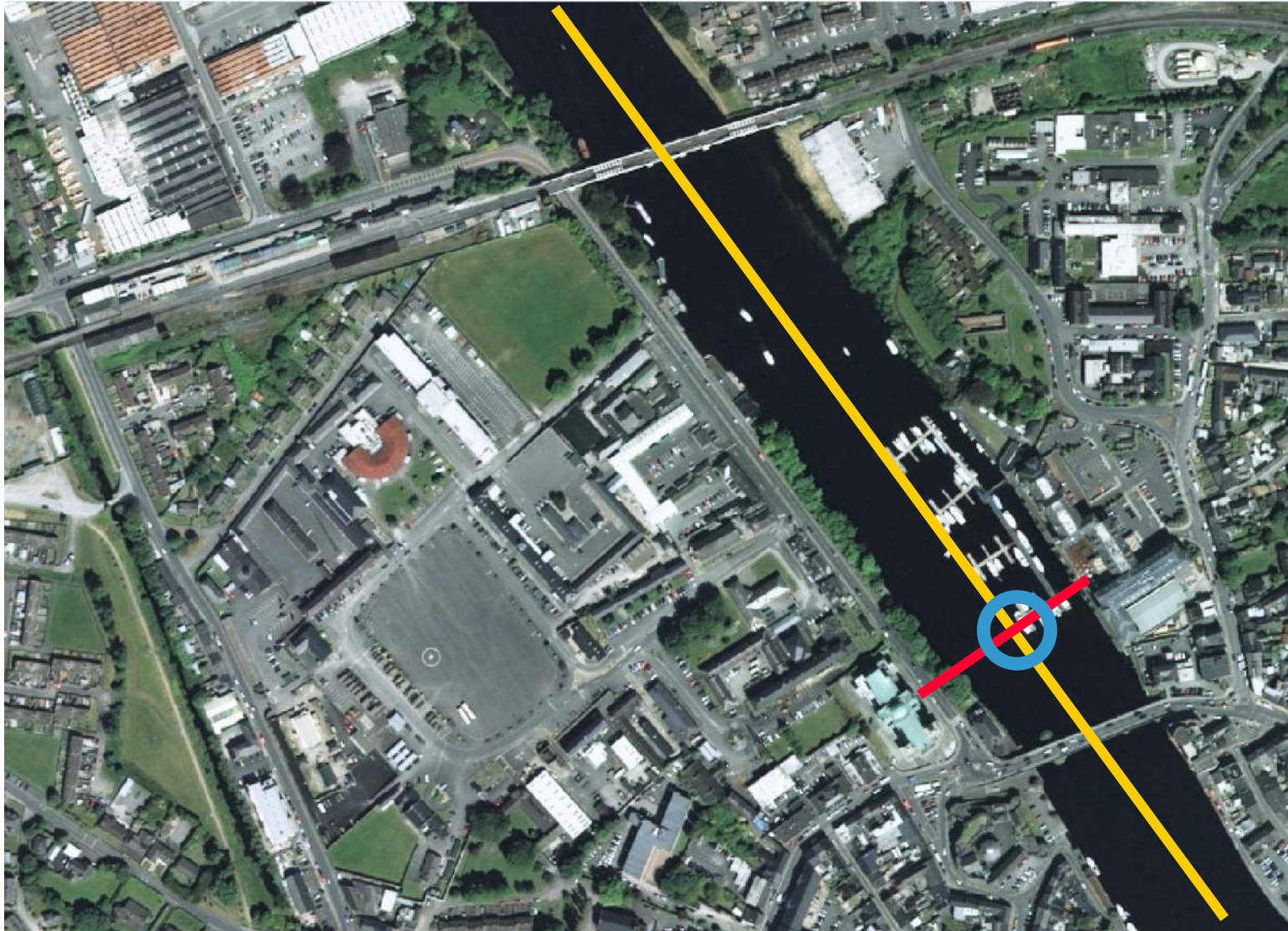


# The Equator

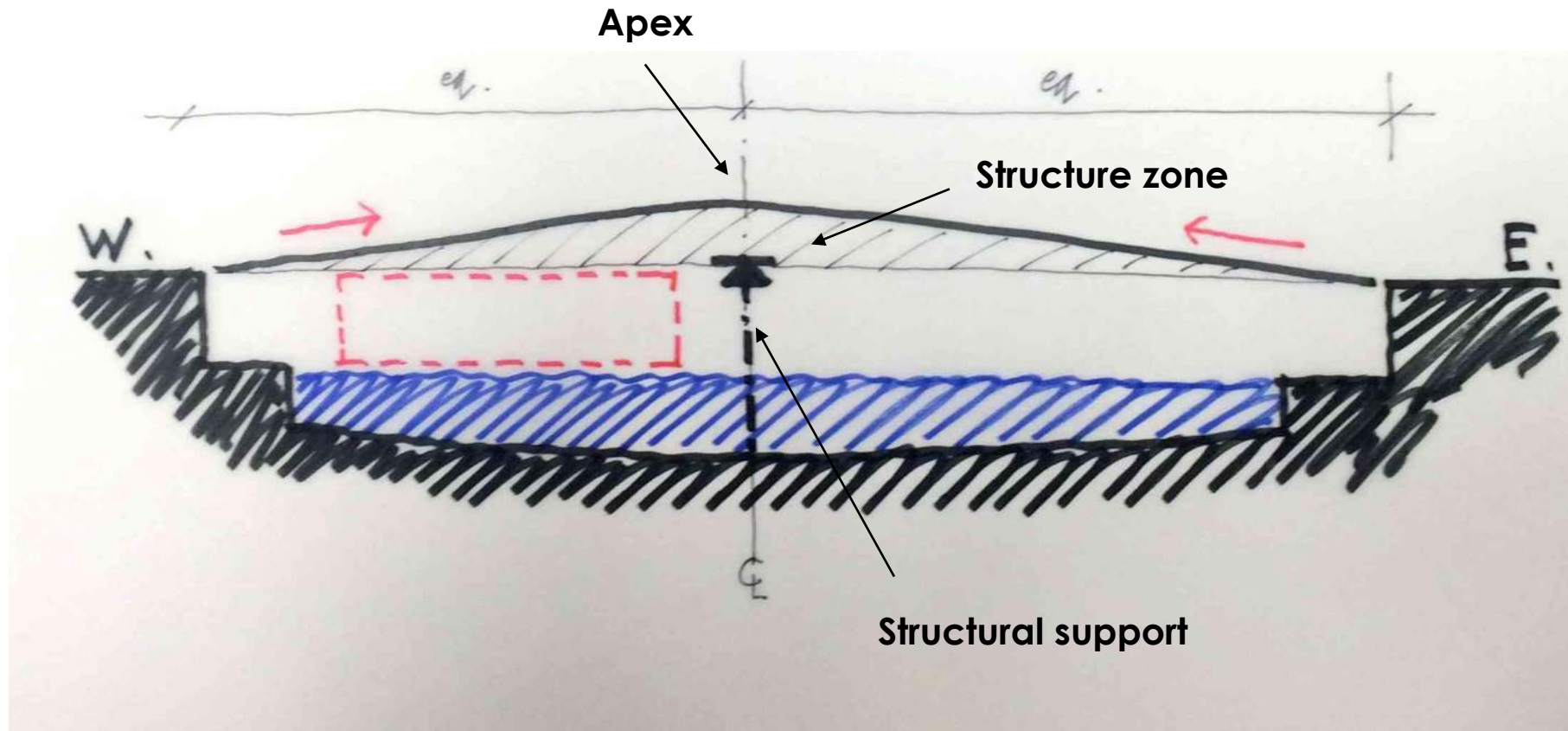




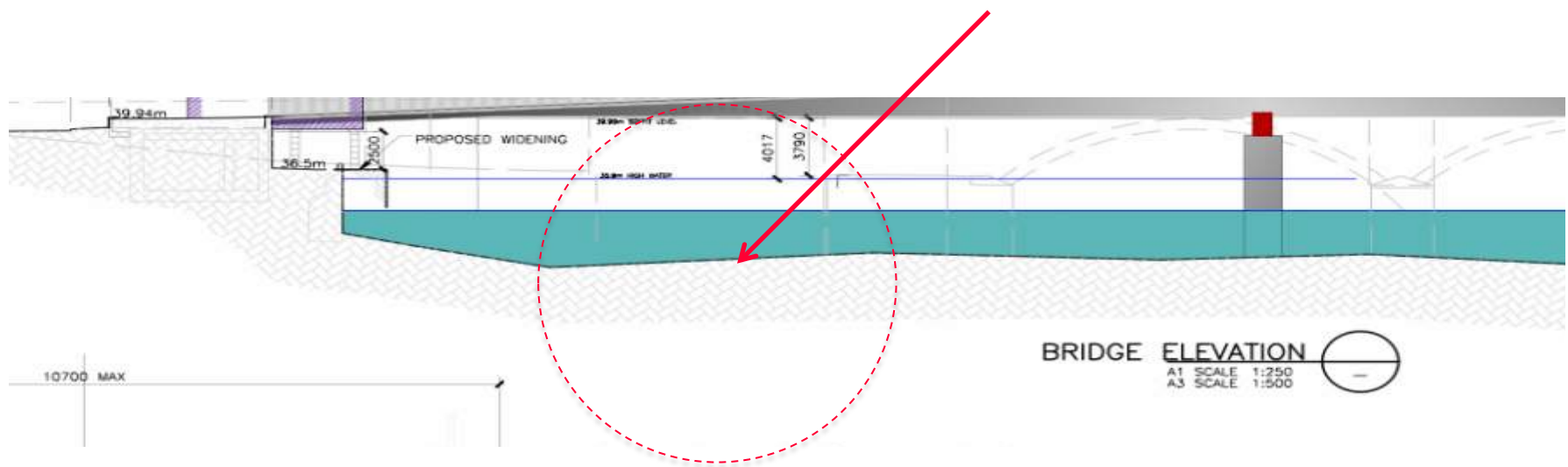
# Crossing the Line

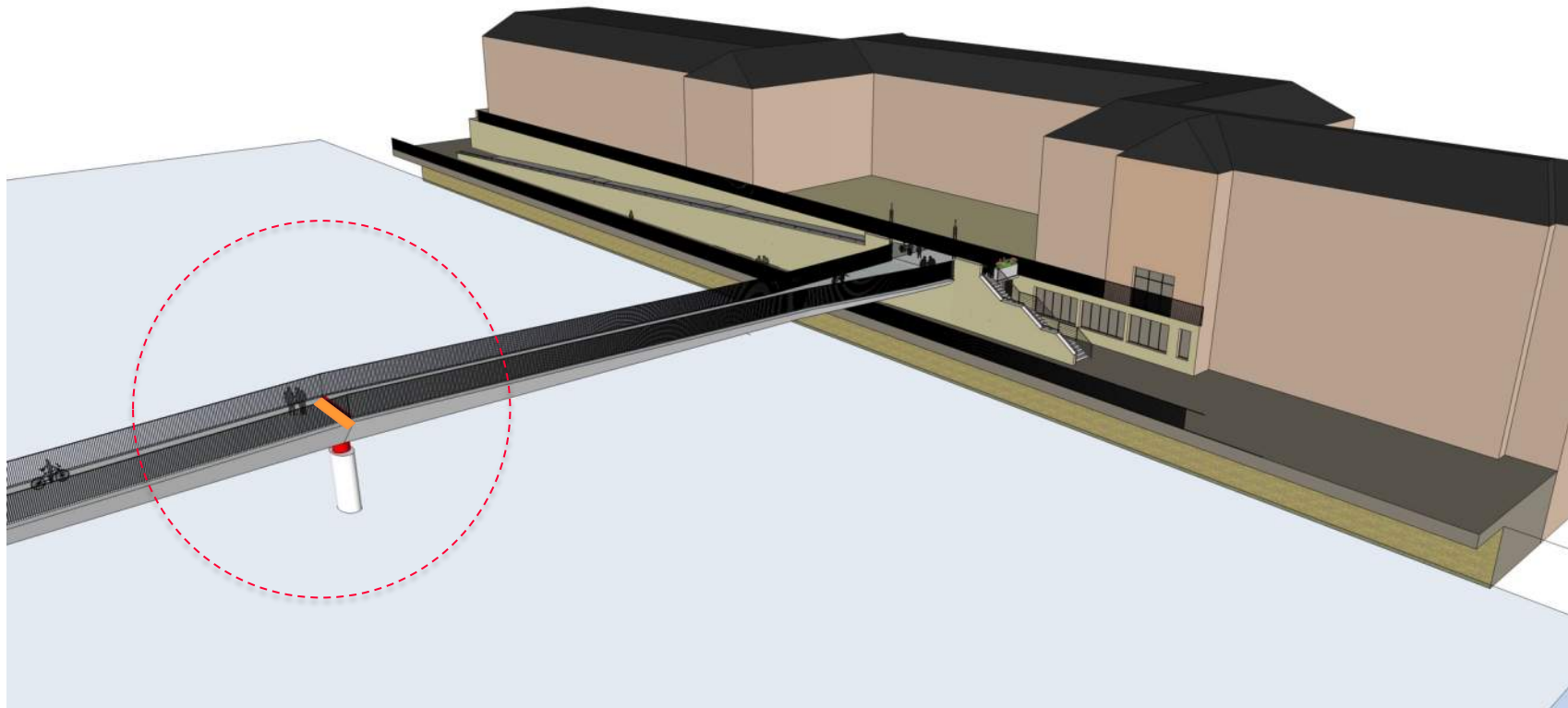


# Marking the centre









**Key architectural matters;**

Visual articulation of the centre point, on the deck and the top of the pier.  
For this magical place to be the “Instagram location”.

## **2. Athlone**

# The weight of history

*Baile Átha Luain*, meaning "The town of Luan's Ford"



The Bridge in 1685



# The expanse of the river



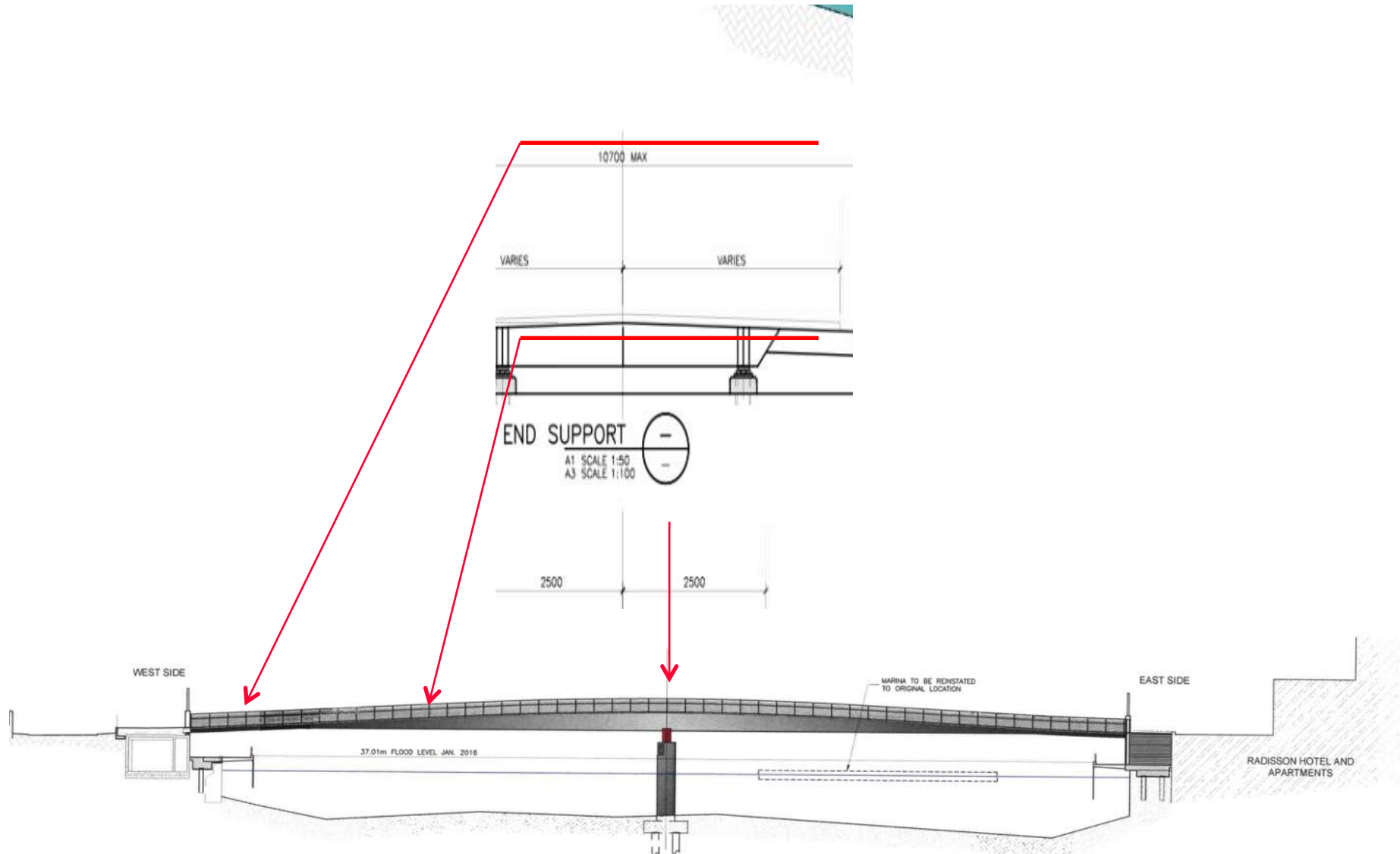
# The expanse of the river





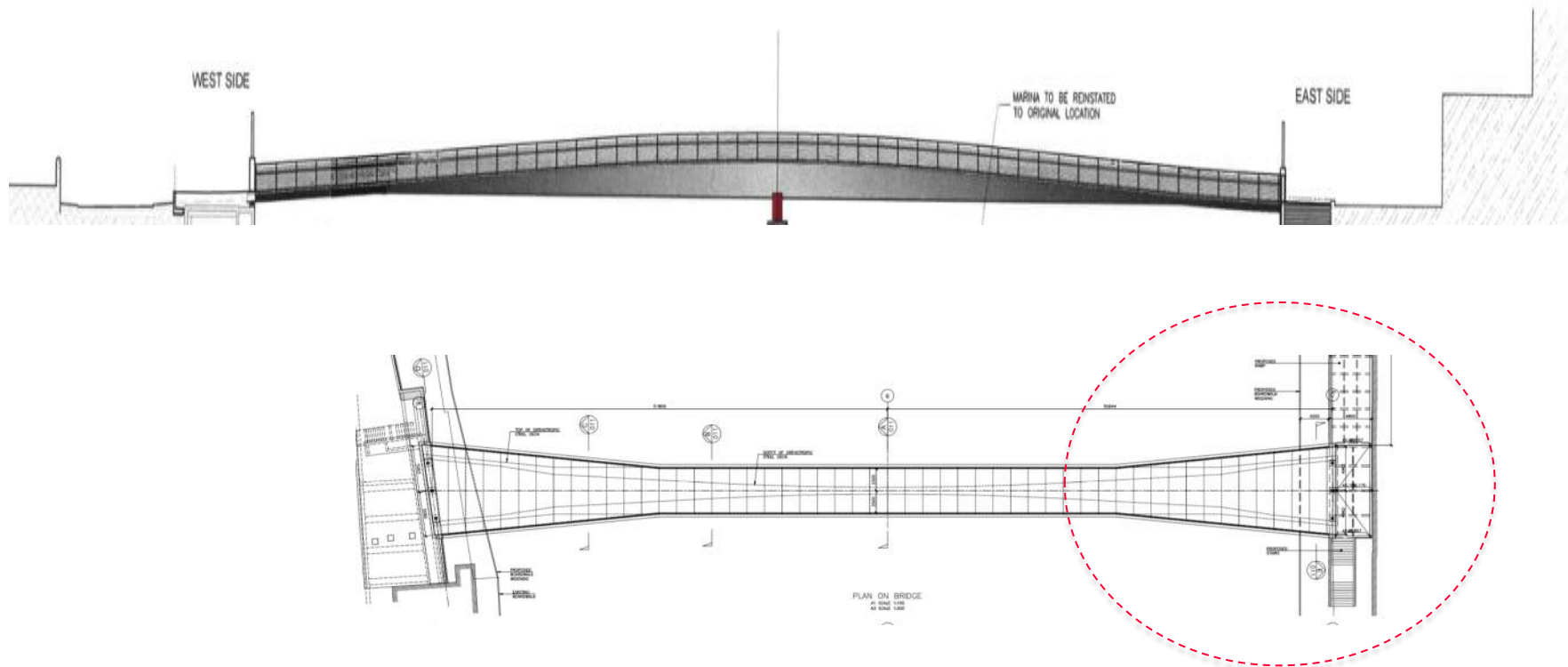


# Elegant cross section, developing







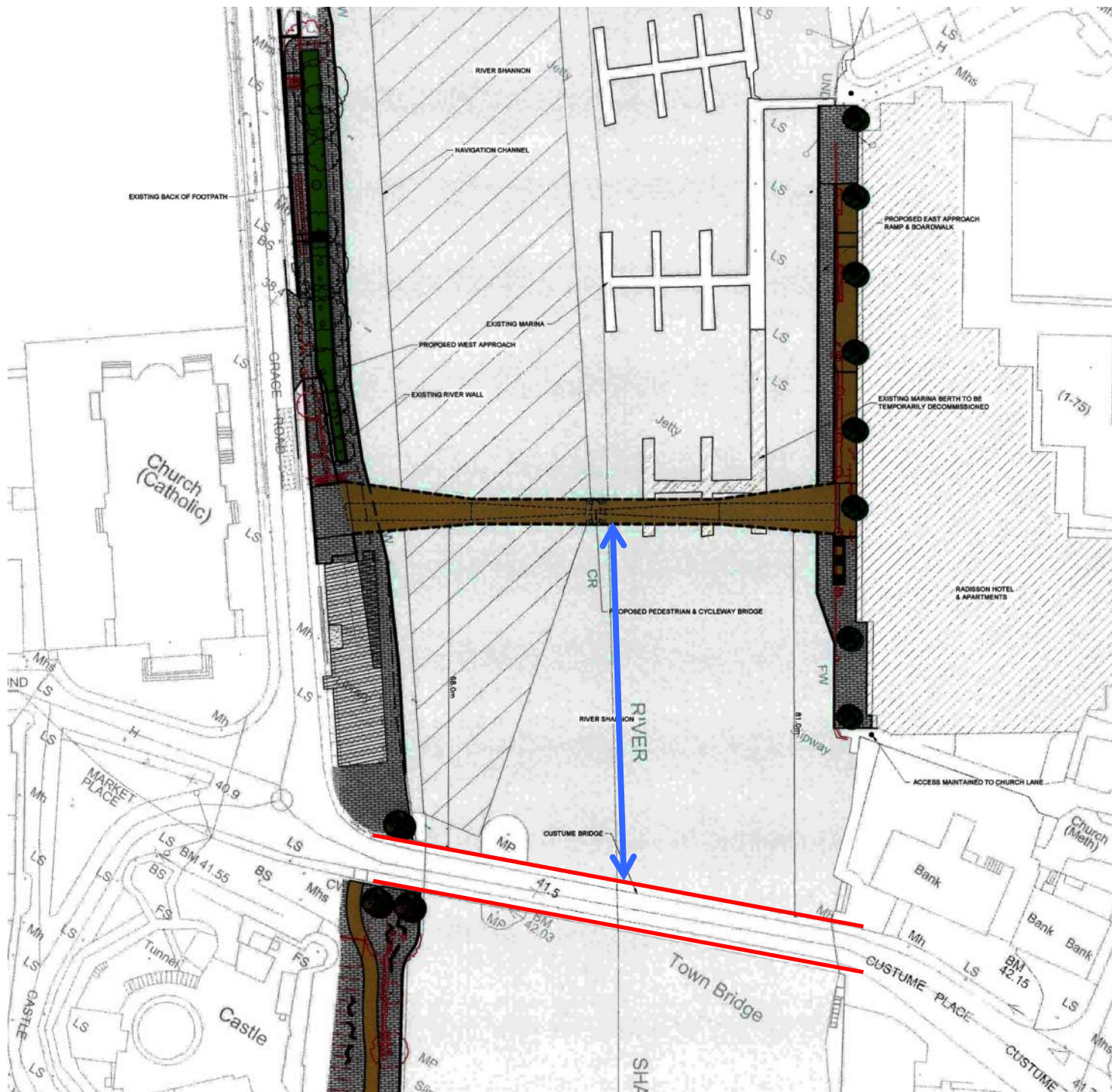


- Key architectural matters;** The increase in width of the deck towards the ends has practical advantages;
- allows for ease of movement on and off the bridge
  - visually assists in making the bridge seem calmly and securely connected to the banks.

# The Historic Bridge









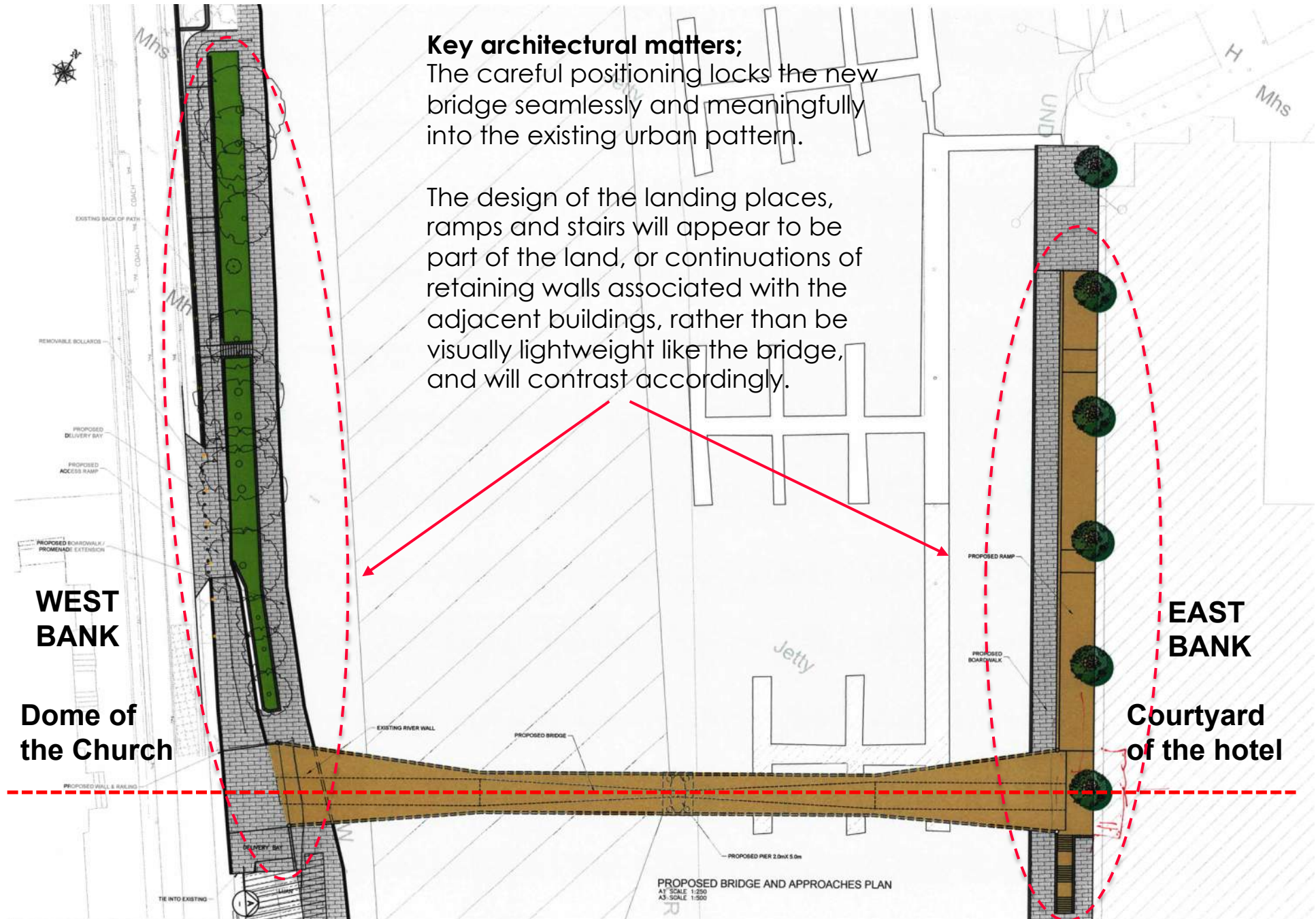
Balustrade and handrail to be as visually unobtrusive as possible.



### Key architectural matters;

The careful positioning locks the new bridge seamlessly and meaningfully into the existing urban pattern.

The design of the landing places, ramps and stairs will appear to be part of the land, or continuations of retaining walls associated with the adjacent buildings, rather than be visually lightweight like the bridge, and will contrast accordingly.



## **3. West Bank**



# Church of SS Peter and Paul



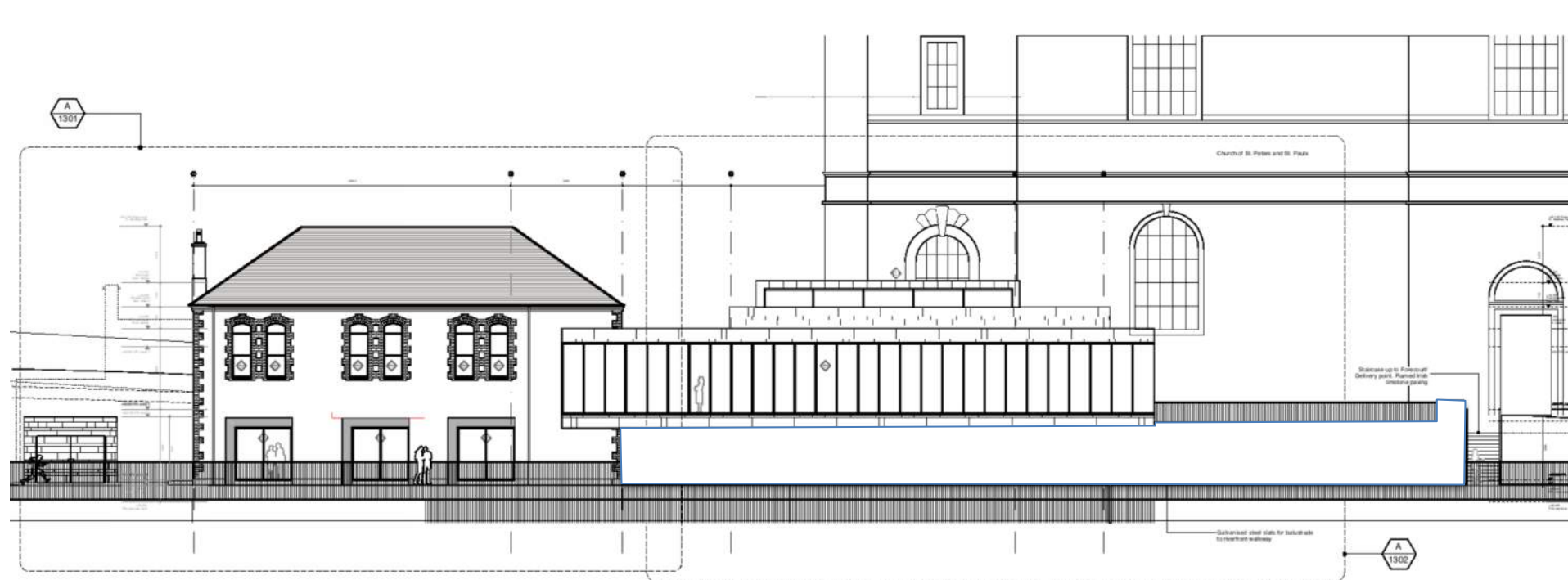


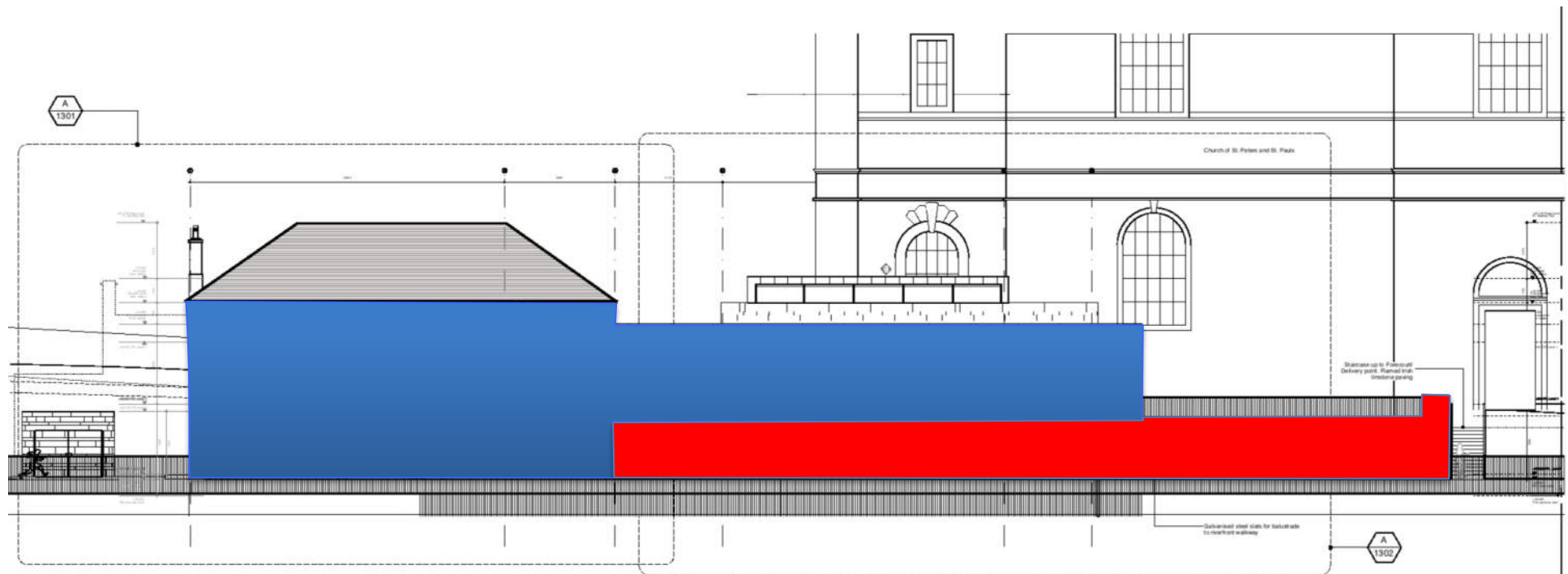


# The Luan Gallery















Avoid new vertical elements near this corner of the gallery and avoid cluttering up the view of the church portico.

Keep existing design of railings.

Keep as many existing trees as possible.



Keep white stone wall as a flat straight surface.

White stone wall needs a visually strong end.

There should be a change of architectural language upstream From the new end of the LUAN wall.





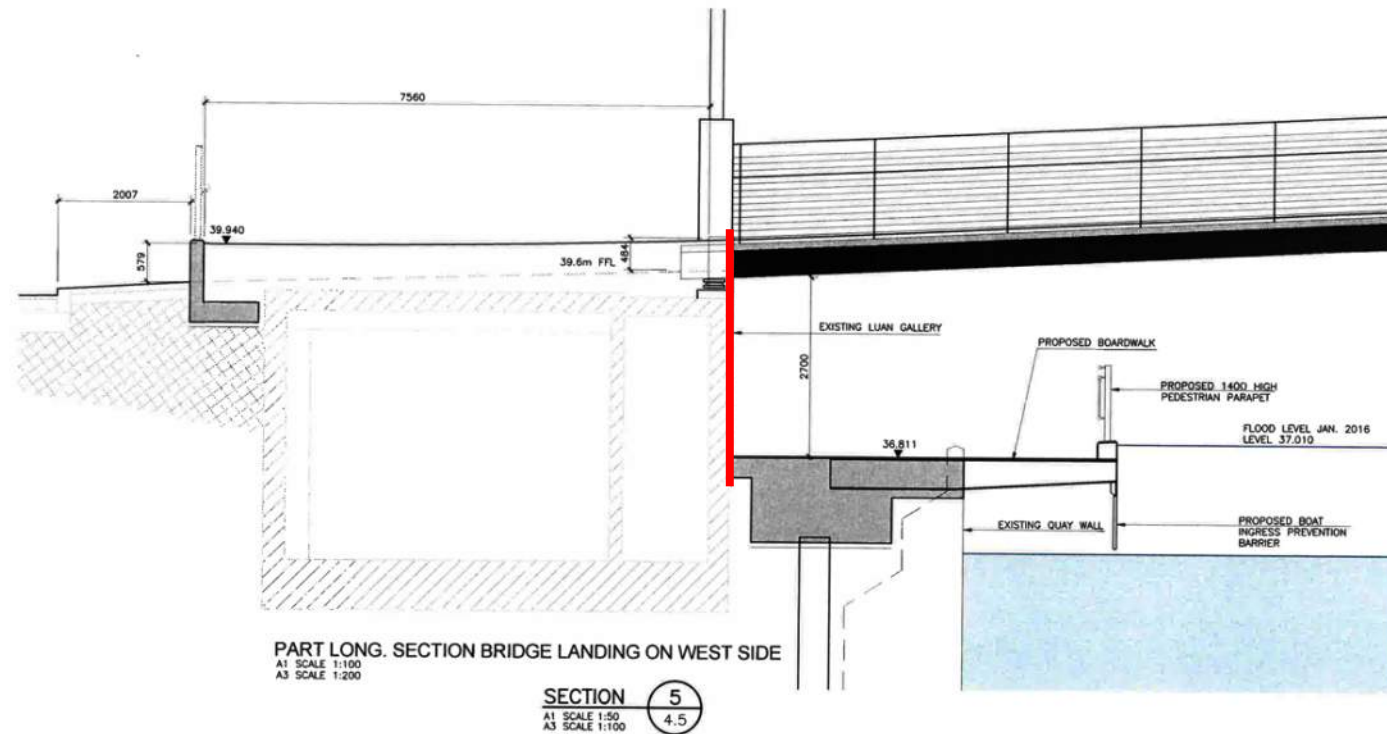






# Lower walkway/Bridge support





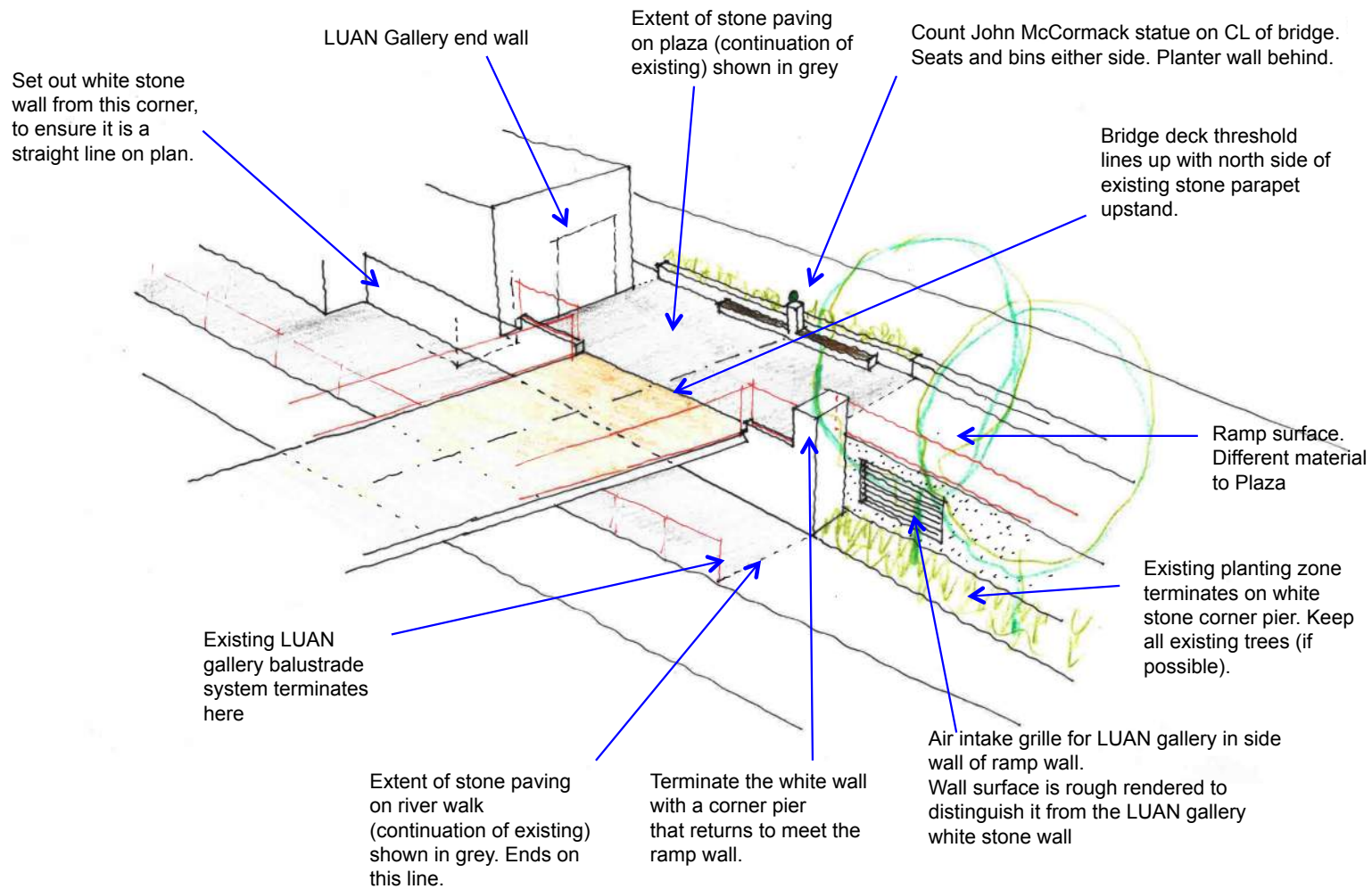
**Key architectural matters;**  
 How to incorporate the bridge pier?  
 Lighting the undercroft.











**ATHLONE BRIDGE**  
**West bank.**  
**3D Sketch Proposal.**  
**SHA.**  
**13.2.20**

## **4. East Bank**

# The Marina and the Hotel









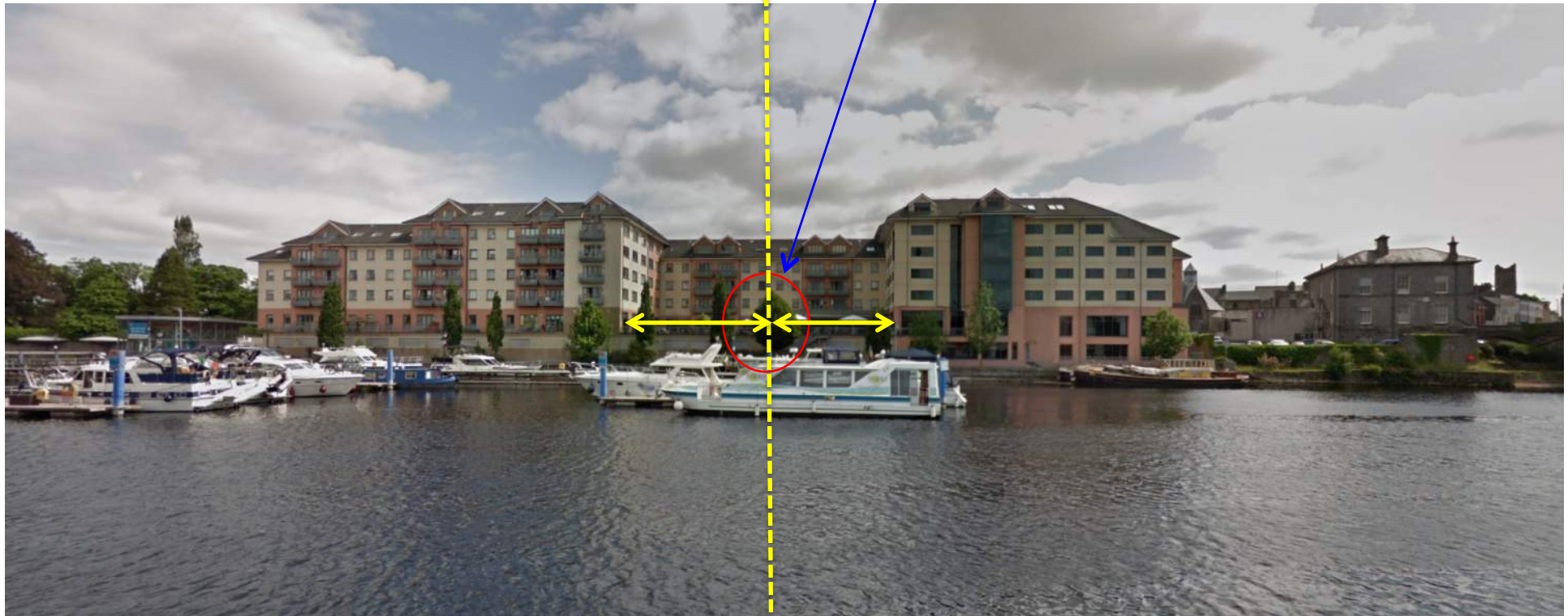


Keep the strong podium effect



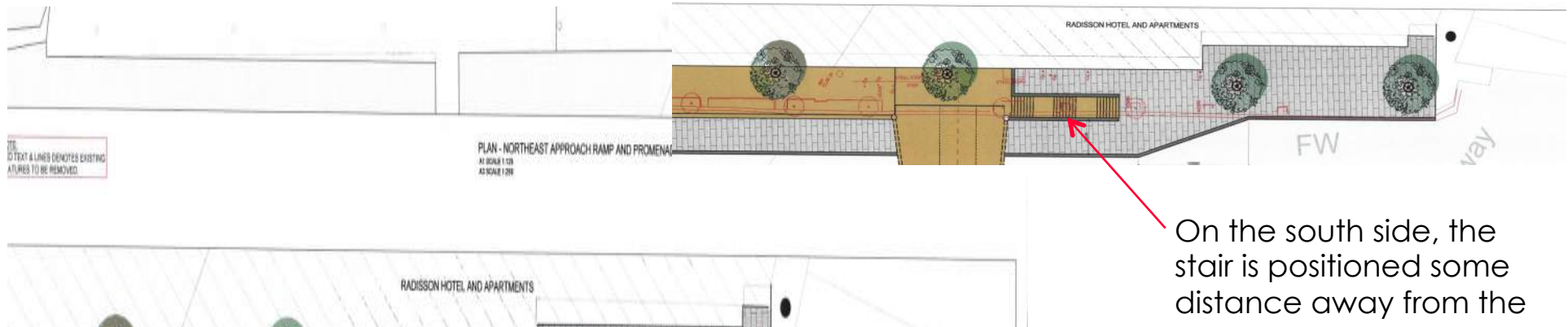


There is visual room to mark the landing, with light masts, which are centred on the hotel.









## Key architectural matters;

Wall materials

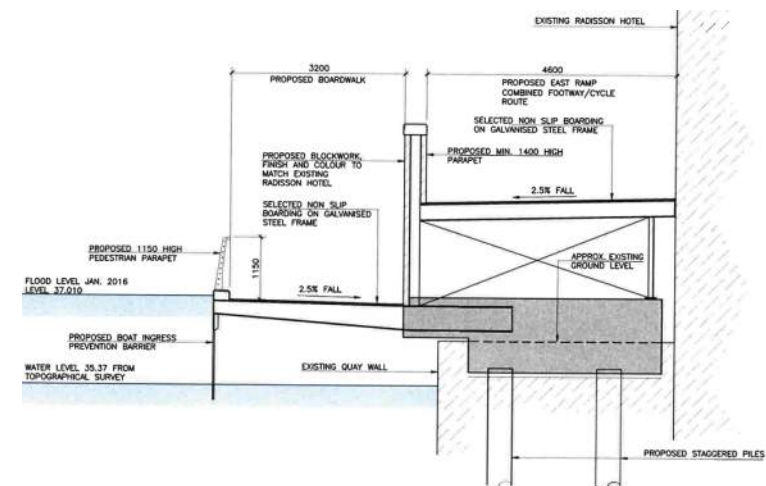
Types and positions of vents

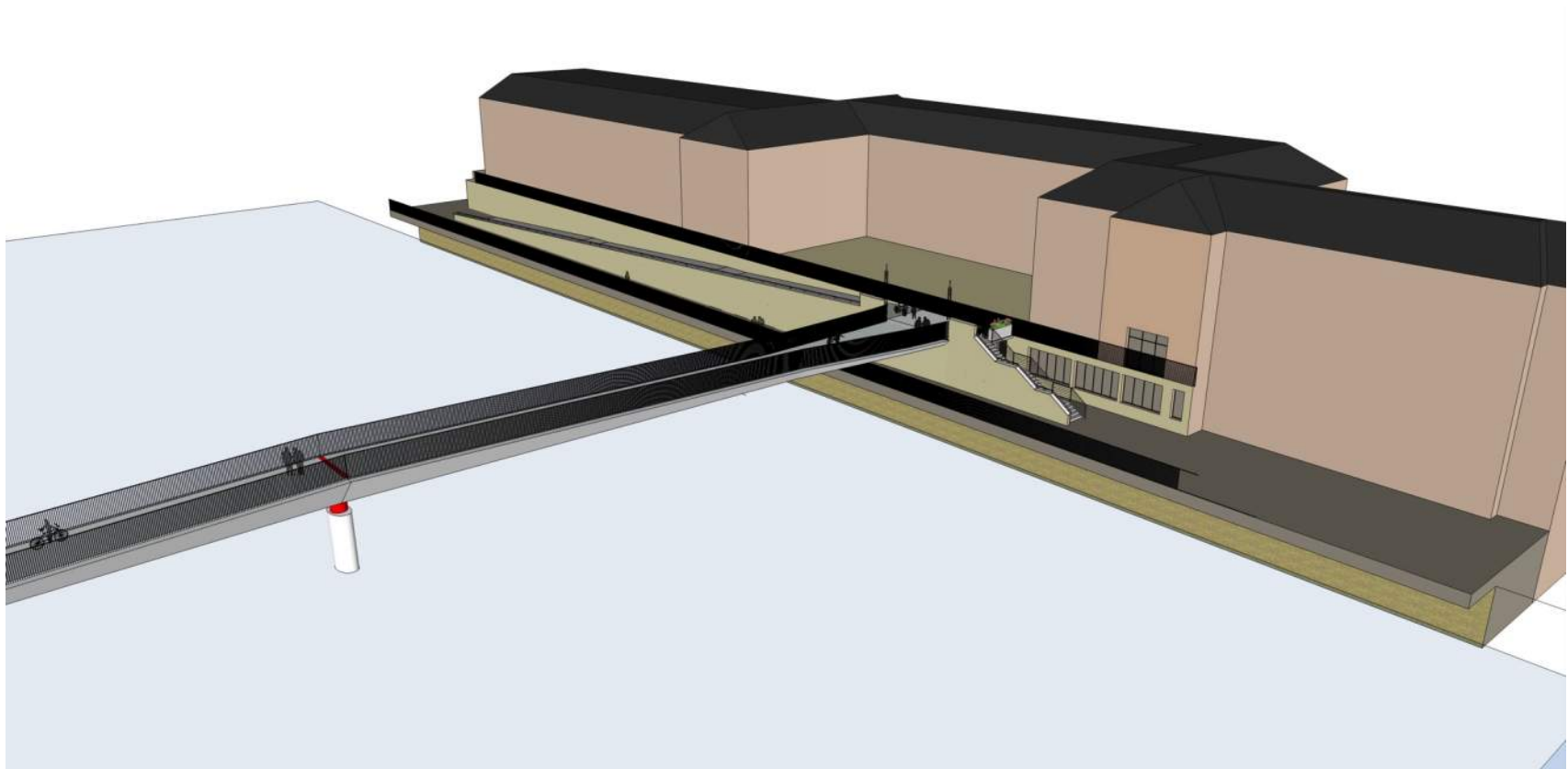
Balustrading; on ramp and along river

Planting

Ground finishes

The thresholds between landing and bridge proper will also be emphasised, with standard lights as portals, and with a change of walkway surface material.











# **5. Materials, Colour and Lighting**



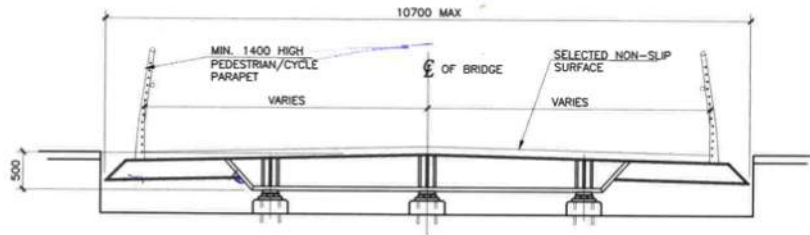




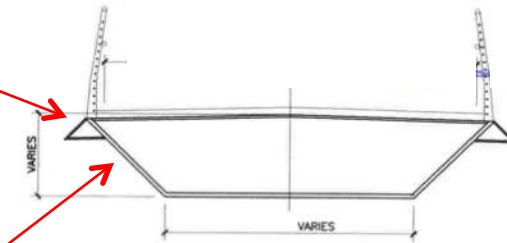
# BRIDGE ELEVATION - LOOKING NORTH

A1 SCALE 1:250  
A3 SCALE 1:500

Light and reflective

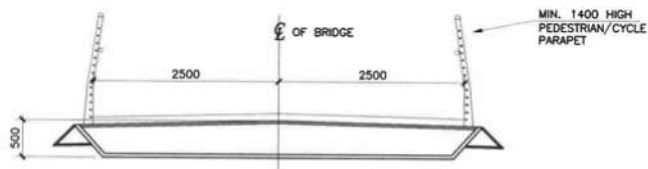


SECTION 1  
A1 SCALE 1:250  
A3 SCALE 1:500

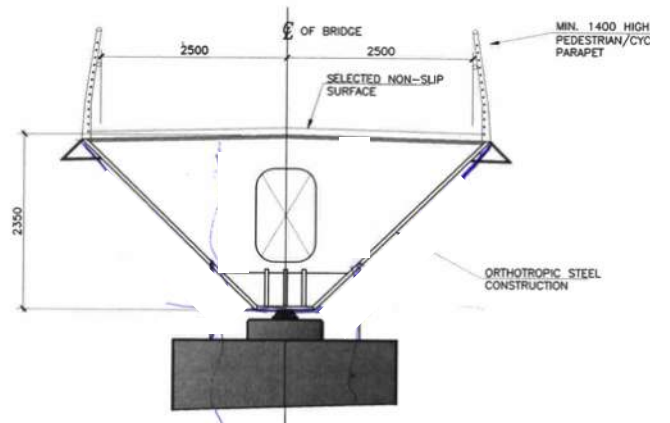


SECTION 3  
A1 SCALE 1:250  
A3 SCALE 1:500

Dark and matt



SECTION 2  
A1 SCALE 1:250  
A3 SCALE 1:500



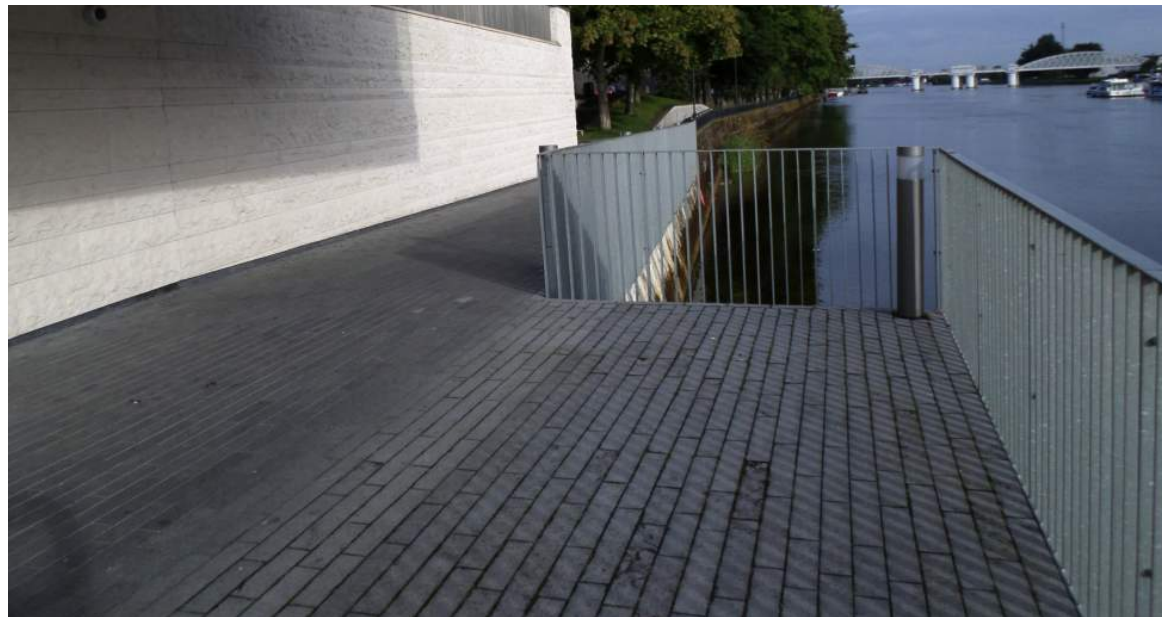
SECTION 4  
A1 SCALE 1:250  
A3 SCALE 1:500

|                                  | Ground Surface         | Balustrades     | Wall surfaces      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Luan Plaza</b>                | Paving to match        | s/s As existing | -                  |
| <b>Luan riverside walk</b>       | Paving to match        | s/s As existing | Stone as existing  |
| <b>Bridge</b>                    | Poured, slip-resistant | s/s As Luan     | -                  |
| <b>East bank ramps and steps</b> | Aluminium grating      | Masonry         | Masonry            |
| <b>East bank riverside walk</b>  | Paving to match        | As existing     | Masonry with vents |





|                                  | Ground Surface         | Balustrades     | Wall surfaces      |
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|                                  | Ground Surface         | Balustrades     | Wall surfaces     |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Luan Plaza</b>                | Paving to match        | s/s As existing | -                 |
| <b>Luan riverside walk</b>       | Paving to match        | s/s As existing | Stone as existing |
| <b>Bridge</b>                    | Poured, slip-resistant | s/s As Luan     | -                 |
| <b>East bank ramps and steps</b> | Aluminium grating      | Masonry         | Masonry           |
| <b>East bank riverside walk</b>  | Paving to match ?      | As existing ?   | Masonry           |



Consideration of safety will be paramount in the development of the design, including non-climbable balustrades and parapets, all of suitable height, slip-resistant ground surfaces, and suitably incorporated safety lighting. The design of all elements of the landings will ensure minimum maintenance and will be designed to dissuade vandalism or graffiti.

## **6. Opportunities**







Although this hotel terrace is currently a privately controlled area accessed only from the hotel itself, it is hoped that in time it will open up to the bridge landing area, (which is at the same level), and become a more open and civic space, whilst taking economic advantage of the increased footfall as a result of the new river crossing that will attract cycle tourists and other potential customers.







# Galway Dublin Cycleway Athlone Bridge Crossing



## Thematic Architectural Design Strategy