

Fixing the Link

Improving the walking route between Colchester Railway Station and the town centre

Planning Statement



abellio ^{greater}anglia

COLCHESTER
STATION
TRAVEL PLAN



DALLAS PIERCE QUINTERO
9th November 2015

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Fixing the Link seeks to improve the walking route between Colchester Railway Station and the town centre.

The work carried out to date has involved site analysis, research, development of initial design ideas, public consultation and detailed designs. We have worked closely with Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council and Abellio Greater Anglia.

The site analysis indicated that the site could be divided into a number of different character areas, each with its own specific issues.

This led to the development of four types of design solutions, which would be unified by one continuous colour, which would act as a glue, to create a family of initiatives. The aim of this approach is to create a cohesive and coherent walking route for first time visitors, with wayfinding being at the

heart of our proposals.

It was important that the proposals were specific to Colchester, and we were keen to explore the concept of 'arrival'. Following further site specific research, we identified a historical reference in Emperor Claudius's dramatic arrival into Colchester with a herd of elephants to celebrate the victory of the Roman invasion. This and other more contemporary references to elephants in Colchester has inspired our proposals.

We consulted widely on the proposals and collated comments from the public as well as stakeholders. This feedback has informed our thinking in order to progress from the concept design stage to the detailed design stage.

The phase 1 initiatives are as follows;

- Station underpass graphics
- Station elephant artwork
- Station flags
- All Lampposts
- The Albert Planter

- All Plaques
- Base Camp
- The North Roman Gate
- Lighting the church
- Town centre elephant artwork

The following initiatives are being submitted for full planning permission;

- Station elephant artwork

A 25mm thick Cor-ten metal elephant with cut out text describing the walking route and a map illustrating key points of interest. The ground treatment surrounding the artwork will be conservation granite setts, which include flush mounted lights to up light the front surface of the elephant. (please see a visual on page 3)

- Station flags

A total of three landmark flagpoles with fixed 90 degree flags have been proposed. The poles are a spray finished yellow and the flags will show a printed graphic artwork, which has been inspired by the styling of Roman flags.

- Base Camp

A cast metal 3D map showing the geographical topography of Colchester and Roman walls sits amongst new trees and public seating. The ground treatment surrounding the artwork will be conservation granite setts.(please see a visual on page 4)

- Town centre elephant artwork

Two 25mm thick Cor-ten metal baby elephants with cut out text highlighting the direction of the Railway Station and the town centre. The ground treatment surrounding the artwork will be conservation granite setts, include flush mounted lights to up light the front surface of the elephants. (please see a visual on page 5)

Conservation area design response;

- The proposed sculpture serves to strengthen an area's special qualities in terms of its long history by adding a restrained piece of public art which

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promotes the historical walking route from the railway station to the town centre.

- In addition, no original features will be removed, and the proposal enhances the conservation area by using high quality materials and conservation granite setts for a ground surfacing treatment.

- The proposed sculpture recognises its setting in the conservation area and the architectural heritage of its surrounding buildings and responds in form and scale subordinate to the existing buildings.

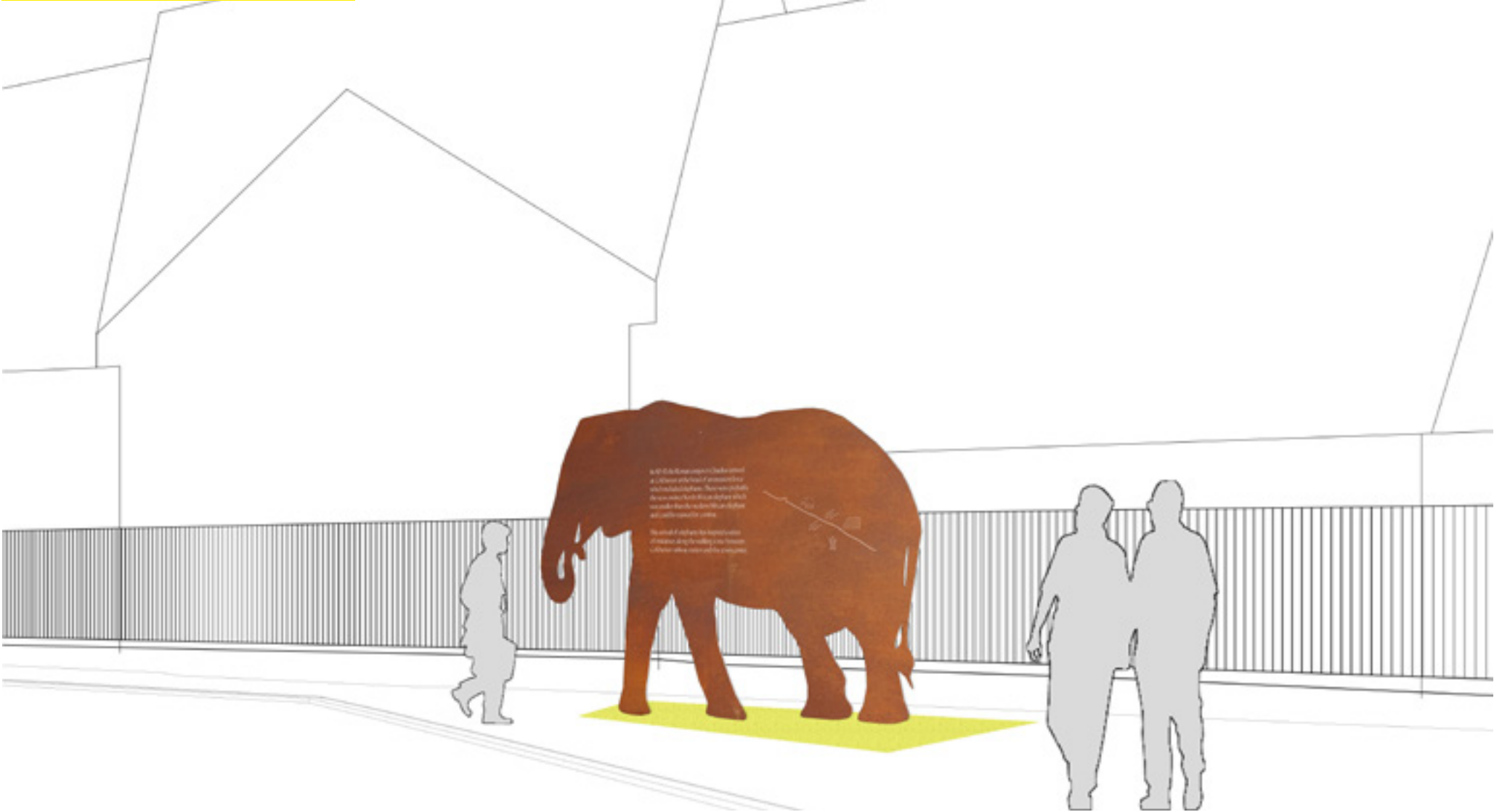
- The proposed foundations are of shallow design so as not to disturb any archaeological remains present.

- The proposal presents a playful and endearing sculpture showing two baby elephants, which act as a directional prompt by walking towards the town centre and the railway station. They further instil the essence of the project being primarily about walking. Both elephants are positioned in close

proximity to each other to further enhance their impact and presence as a statement artwork.

- The proposed sculpture is subordinate to the original buildings and respects key views of the surrounding buildings, and does not adversely affect the dominance of any key existing features within the Hi Street.

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Station Elephant



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Base Camp



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Baby Elephants



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