



Smithfield





Latitude 53 degrees 20'52.17" N Longitude 6 degrees 16'39.01 W

Smithfield

(Irish: Margadh na Feirme, meaning "Farm Market") is an area on the northside of Dublin. Its focal point is a public square, formerly an open market, now officially called Smithfield Plaza, but known locally as Smithfield Square or Smithfield Market. Notable landmarks include the Old Jameson Whiskey Distillery and the Observation Tower. The area also has a seasonal ice rink and a monthly horse fair.

There is no general agreement on the extent of the area known as Smithfield, but it might generally be said to incorporate the area bounded by the River Liffey to the south, Bow Street to the east, Queen Street to the west, and North Brunswick street in the suburb of Grangegorman to the north.

History

Smithfield Market was laid out in the mid 17th century as a marketplace. Until recently the square was lined with inner city 'farm yards' housing livestock. Smithfield was recently rejuvenated under the HARP (Historic Area Rejuvenation Plan). Contemporary architecture and twelve 26.5 metre gas lighting masts, each with a 2-metre flame, now flank the square. Although the flames are rarely lit, the lighting mast shades are regularly to be seen in different colours, reflecting cultural events throughout the year.

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The smell of horses can still be experienced at Smithfield at the Horse Market (held on every first Sunday of the month) and the sight and sounds on these Sundays give an impression of what Smithfield was once like, with a number of surrounding alleys and laneways bearing obscure names relating to the equine heritage of the site.

Features

Smithfield's iconic tower, and its observation deck, is no longer accessible to the public, as it has long-since been closed due to health and safety concerns.

Developments

Smithfield may include the satellite, and developing "Museum district" to the west, and the Four Courts district to the east. These districts are largely residential and combined with the area around Smithfield square they comprise the main Liffey river frontage of Dublin 7.

Recent commercial, residential and cultural developments led to the area becoming newly fashionable in the first decade of the 21st century.

Smithfield is currently being upgraded and should be completed by August 2011. The new development will see the trees at the south end replaced, and raised green area at the northern end. Large planters and bollards are being installed to help segregate traffic and pedestrians and a children's play area will also be established. Electrical points are to be installed to facilitate traders and a Traders Toilet exits in the old maintenance building at the south end of the Plaza. Water is also available at this point.

The Red Luas Line skirts the square to the south, providing a convenient link to the nearby city centre, or to the far south of the city, to Tallaght.

Restaurants, bars and a cinema are all conveniently located nearby.

Space within Smithfield:

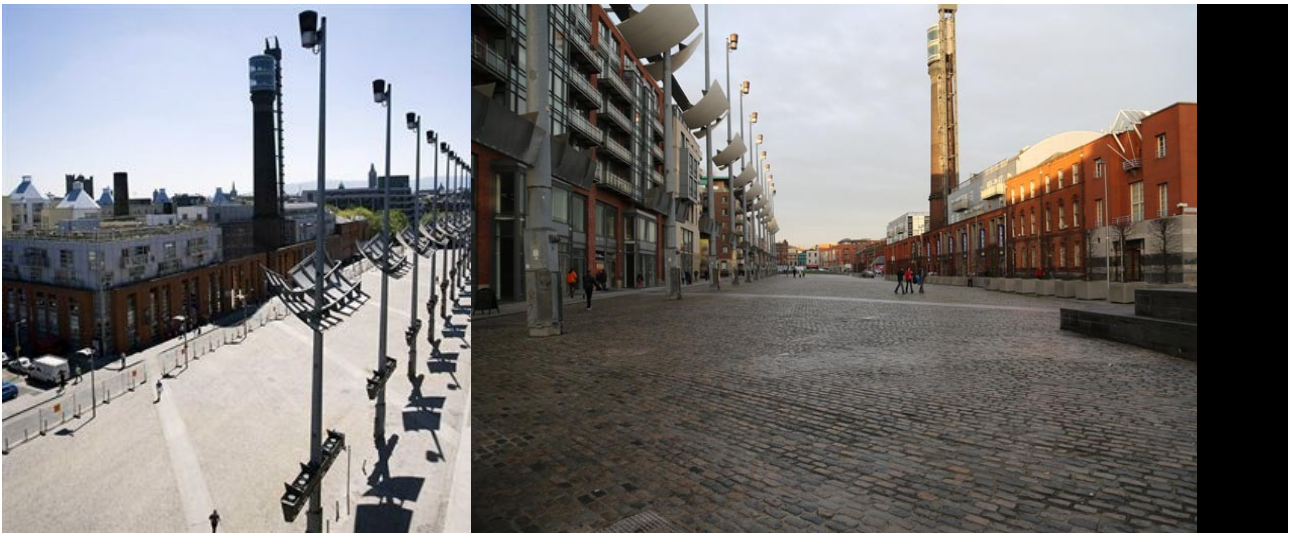
Plaza

Area: 278 meters x 37 meters (Approx)

10,286 Sq meters

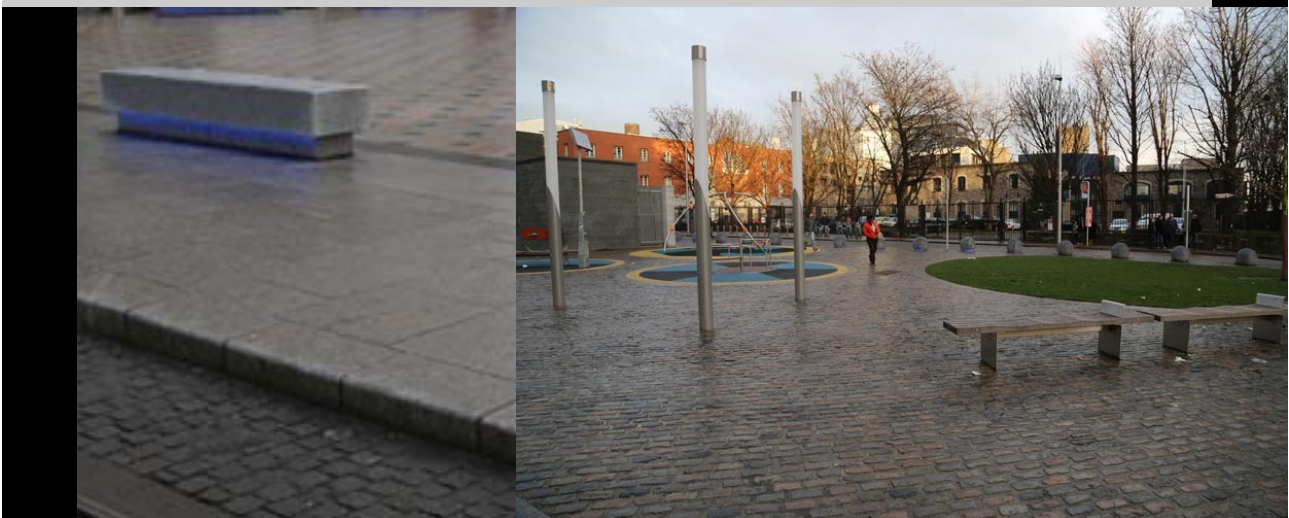
Description: Large, level, cobble stoned plaza on the north side of Dublin City Centre.

Bordered on the South by the Red Luas Line and on the North By North King Street.



Features

Many bollards, and posts exist on the Plaza, care should be taken when positioning structures or resources for events.



Car Parking

A large basement car park is accessible at the rear of the Maldron Hotel (Queen Street) and there is some on street available also.

Buses to Arran Quay, North King Street or the Red Luas to Smithfield.

Traffic

Smithfield Plaza is pedestrianised, access is via Haymarket (off Queens St) or Church St. (off Bow St.) or Friary Avenue (off Bow St). Emergency vehicle access is from King Street North or Haymarket. These access points must never be blocked.

Retractable Water and Electrical outlets are available on the Plaza.

