

# Entrances to County Cork



## Brief

Project: Entrances to Country Cork  
Project Team: Wendy Kirkpatrick + Cathal O'Meara  
Stage: Completed 2018-2019

The client brief was to define the primary entrances to County Cork with a sense of identity and celebration. The primary entrances were defined as

- The North (at Mallow)
- Cork Ferry Port (Shanbally near Ringaskiddy)
- Cork Airport
- The Southwest (at Halfway)

Each area has a different hook and is represented with different threads from the locality.

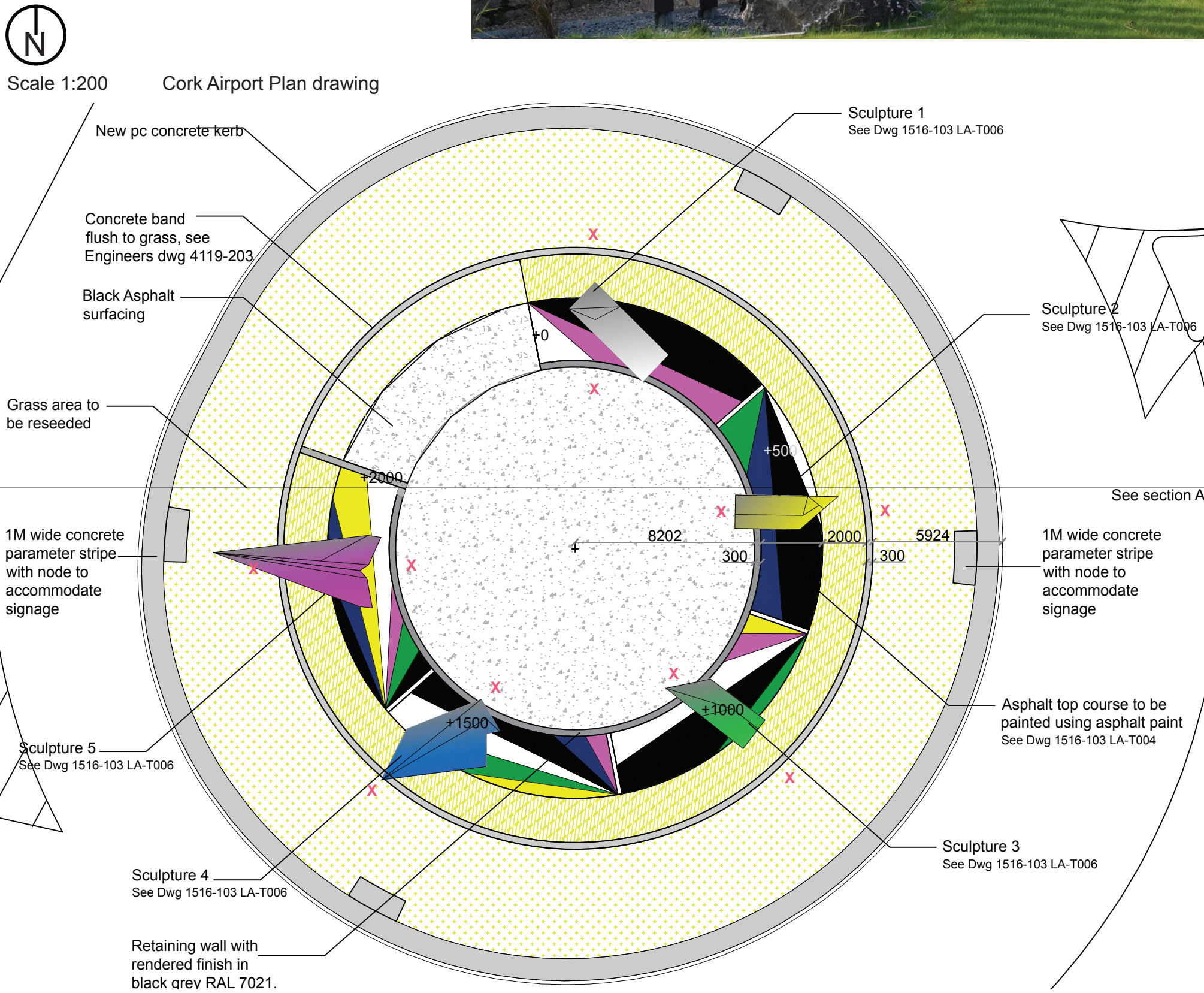
Mallow (Images top left and middle).  
The gateway at Mallow identifies the town with sculptural steel lettering. The letter's vivid red colour make a strong reference to Mallow and County Cork's contribution to the War of Independence. Looser planting along the main roads soften the harder forms of the steel lettering with a mature Liquidambar forming the axis mundi at the Centre of the roundabout.

Shanbally (Upper right)  
The proximity to Cork Harbour and its industrial heritage set the context for the Shanbally proposal. Materials such as steel and charred wood were used in such a way to elevate their function to a high quality architectural context. Maritime planting evokes the proximity to the sea, with a restrained palette of coastal perennials contrasting with the architecture of the harder elements. The planting within the traffic islands, roundabout and large beds are intentionally restrained to emerge from sea washed pebble. Amongst this shoreline of smoothened pebble a hard crust of limestone rock is exposed referencing the cliffs of the outer harbour.

Cork Airport (middle image and drawing).  
COMLA were requested by the Airport Authority to reflect the proximity of the airport in the proposed design. The approach taken features a series of 5 brightly coloured sheets of steel folded to provide the step by step instructions in making a paper plane. The forms ramp in a circular grassed loop to finish in a final folded steel plane in take-off mode at the entrance to the Airport

Southwest (Images at bottom)  
At the Southwest gateway the design takes inspiration from the "Wild Atlantic Way" which begins nearby. A staggered grid of 19 angular landforms breaks the flat ground plane in alternating forms of rock and grass reflecting the jagged peaks of the west coast. Complimentary planting of ornamental grasses and Crocosmia evoke west Cork hedgerows and compliment the stylized forms.

Images by Benson Russell Photography/Cathal O'Meara



Section through Halfway roundabout Scale 1:100

