

Prepared For

Liverpool City Council

Date

16 July 2024

Visioning the Waterfront

Introduction

Liverpool Waterfront Vision

WEST 8

Introduction



ekosgen WSP WEST 8 BDP.



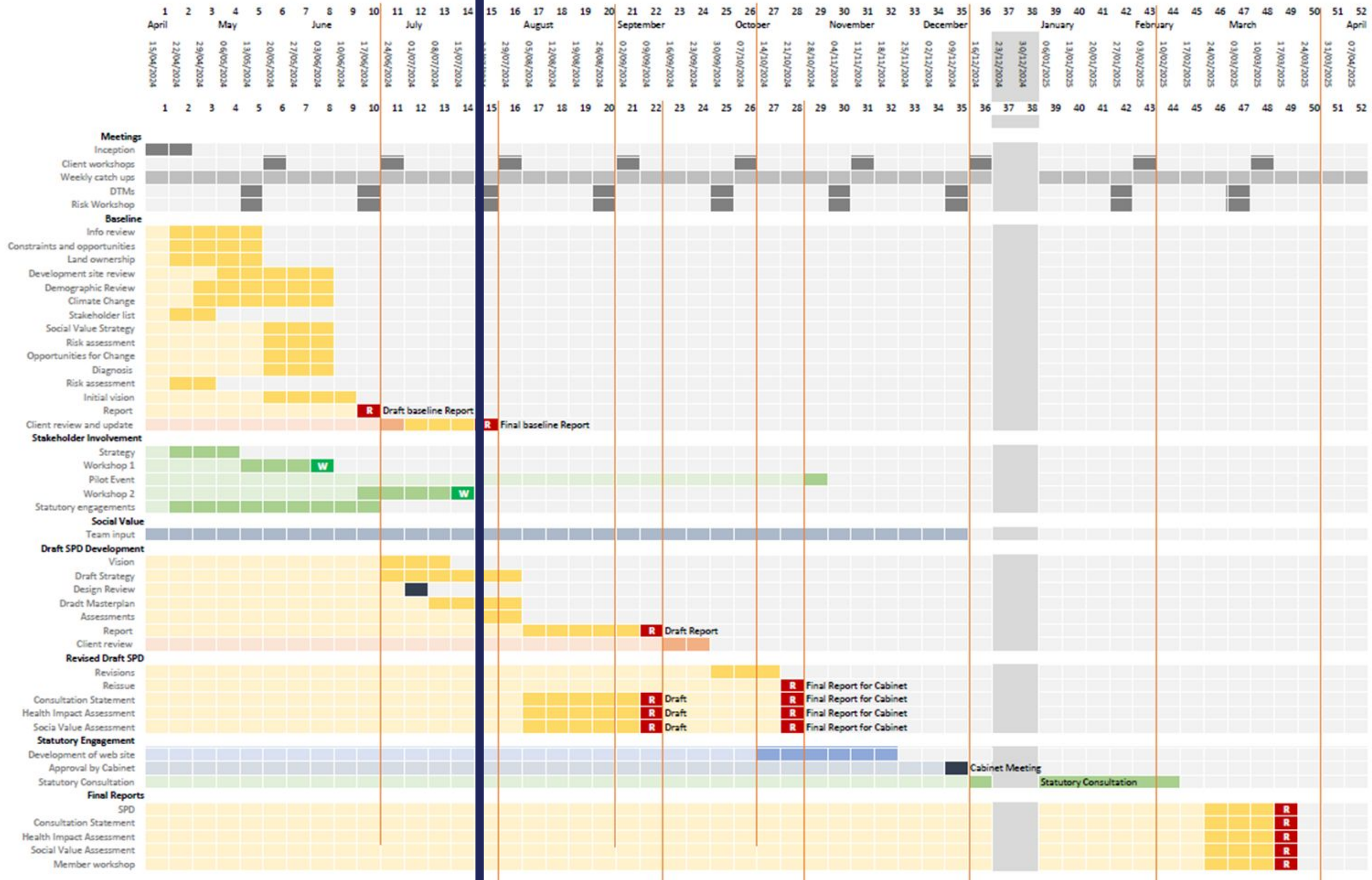
The Team

Introduction



The Study Area

Introduction



Introduction





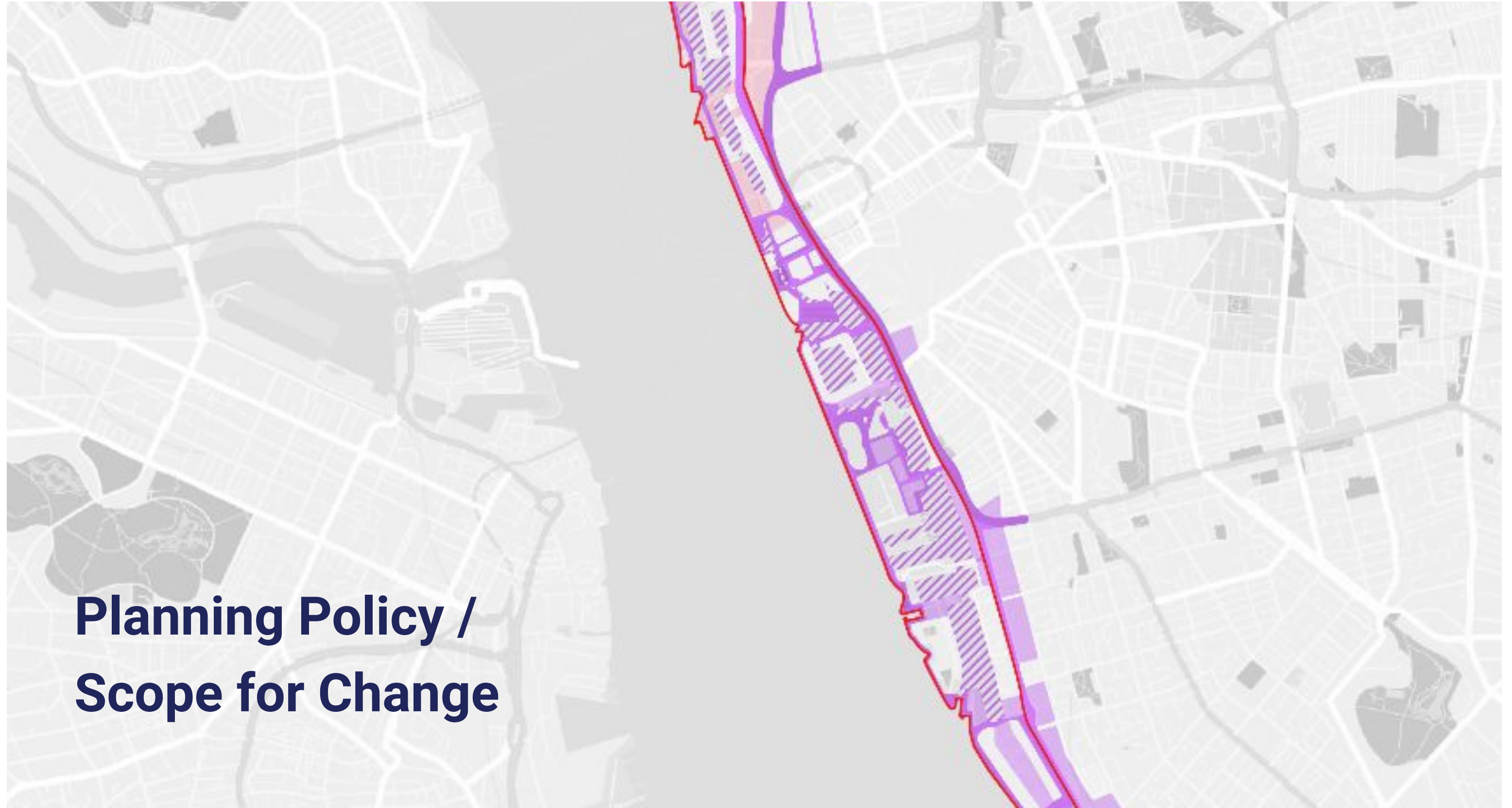
Introduction





Introduction

Key themes



**Planning Policy /
Scope for Change**

Introduction



What if?

Introduction



What if?

Introduction



What if?

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Visioning the Waterfront

Early Directions
Executive Summary

Liverpool Waterfront Vision

WEST 8

01

Diagnosis

Process

June workshop



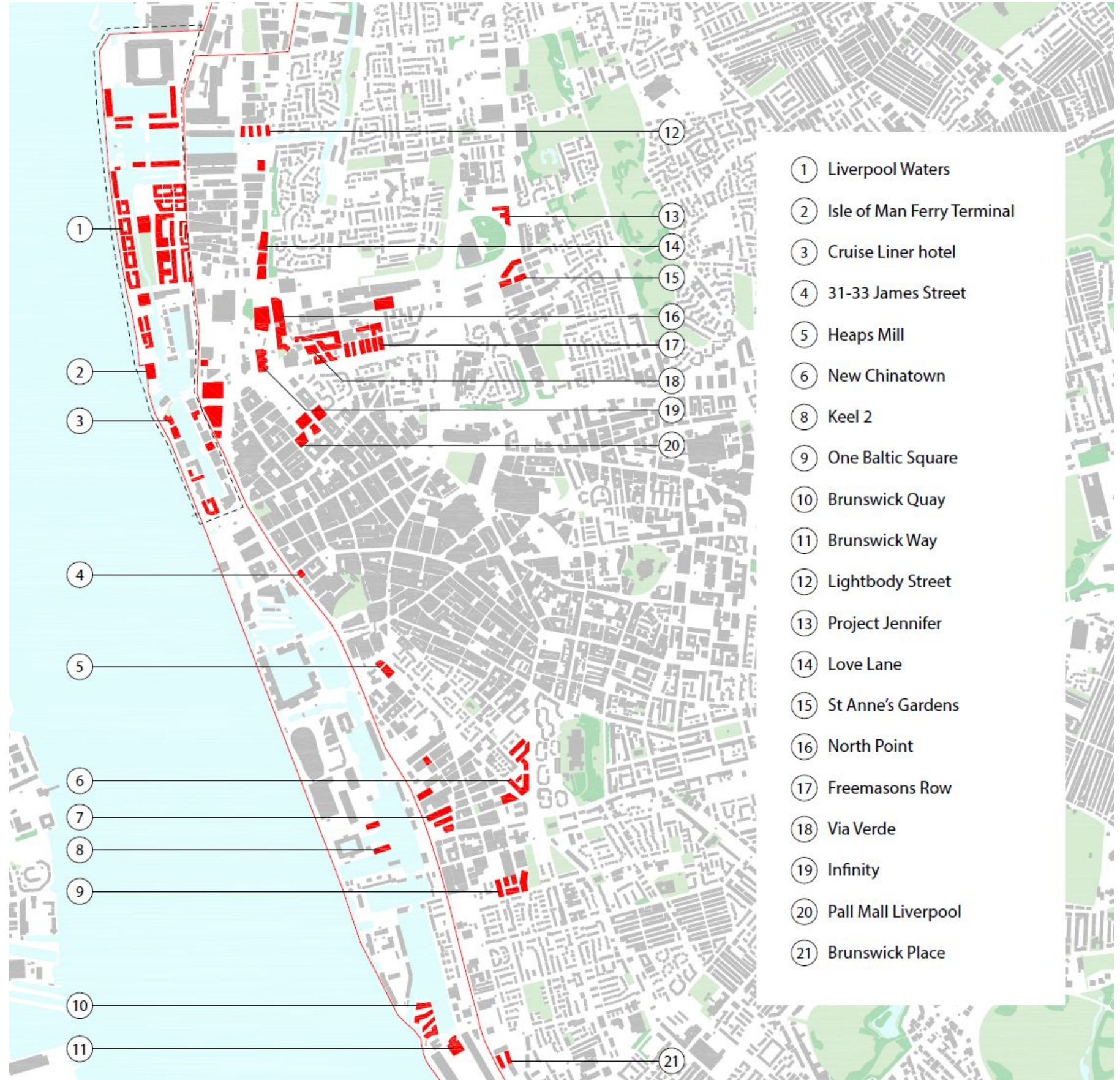
Diagnosis

Key themes

1. Historic dock infrastructure is beautiful, but **designed to keep the city outside** its walls
2. Getting to the waterfront from the rest of the city is hard, with lots of **barriers and gaps** in the urban fabric
3. Once you're on the waterfront, moving **along north-south is also difficult**, with lots of gates, fences, and paving materials
4. The waterfront's natural climate is made worse with big, **barren spaces that amplify wind** and cold
5. The waterfront **lacks space for locals to live their lives**, with a focus on major attractions and excessive parking

What's Happening?

Approved projects near the Waterfront







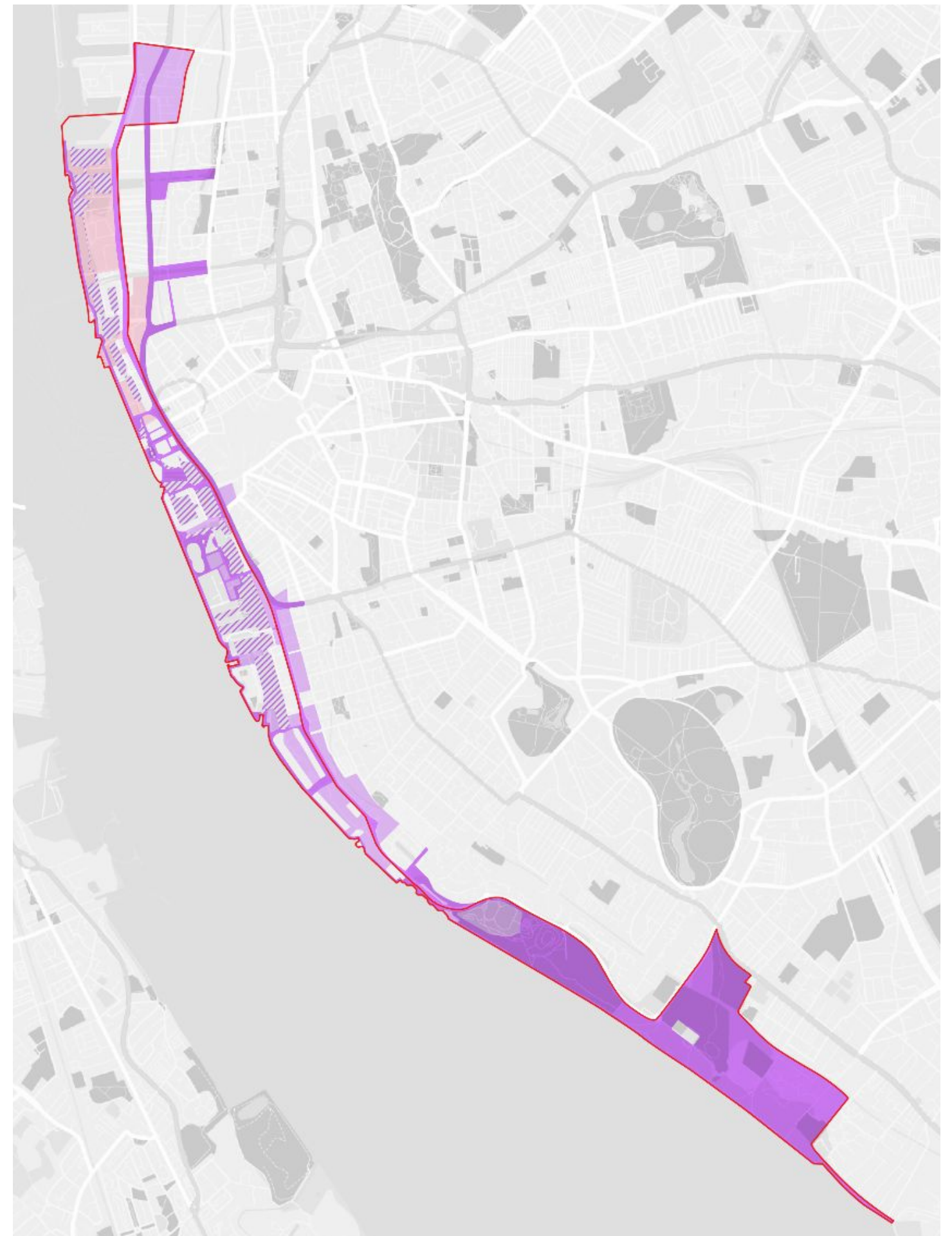
Where can we influence?

Defining areas of possibility

Areas with **full/moderate influence** have no confirmed plans and/or are within LCC ownership boundaries. They can be directly influenced by the Waterfront SPD.

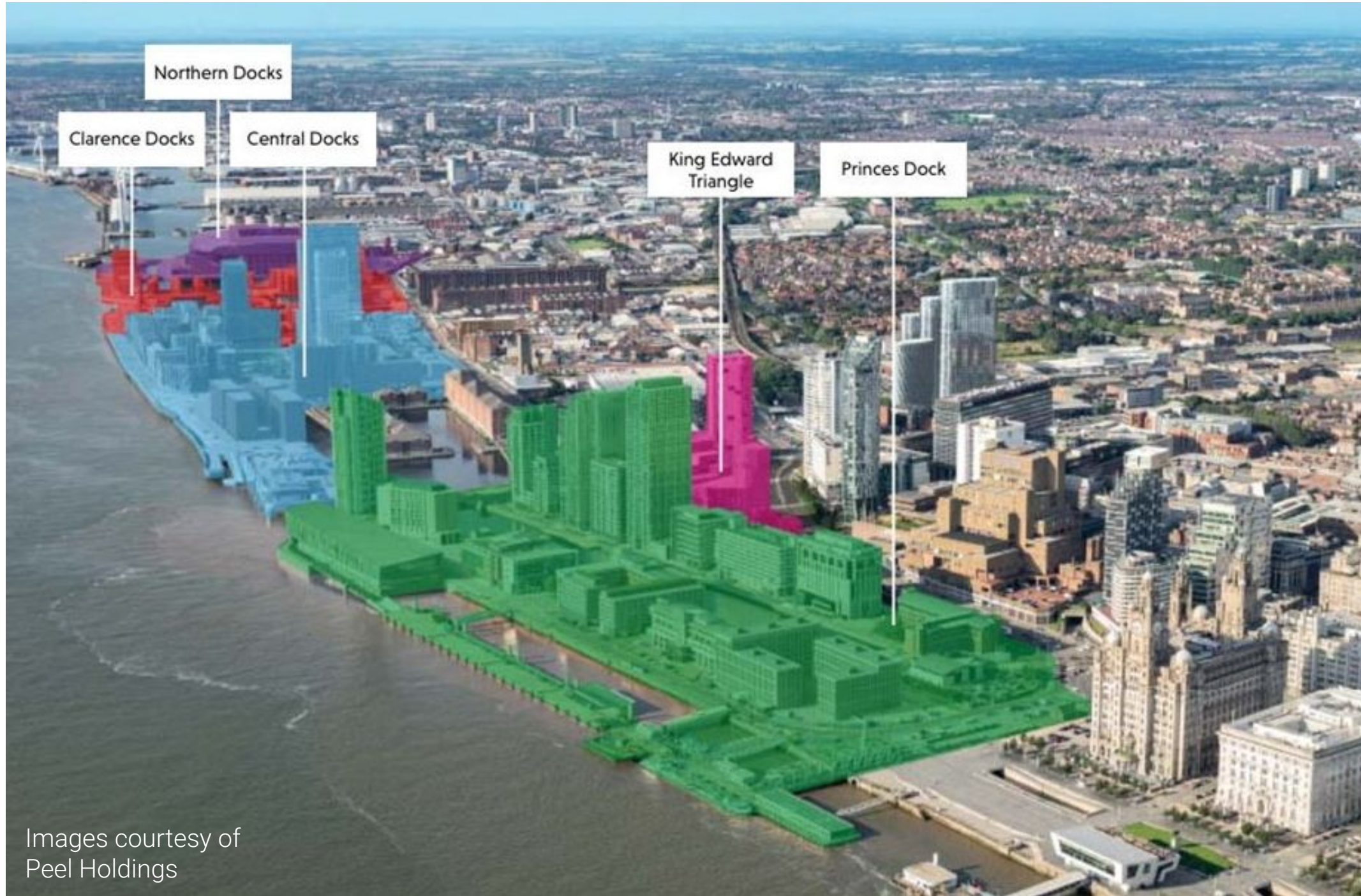
Areas with **soft influence** can be guided by the SPD with cooperation from land- and waterspace owners.

-  Full Influence
-  Moderate Influence
-  "Soft" Influence
-  Original Redline Boundary



Liverpool Waters

Redevelopment plans



Images courtesy of Peel Holdings



02

Vision / Big Moves

Guiding Principles

Progressing and Evolving the Vision



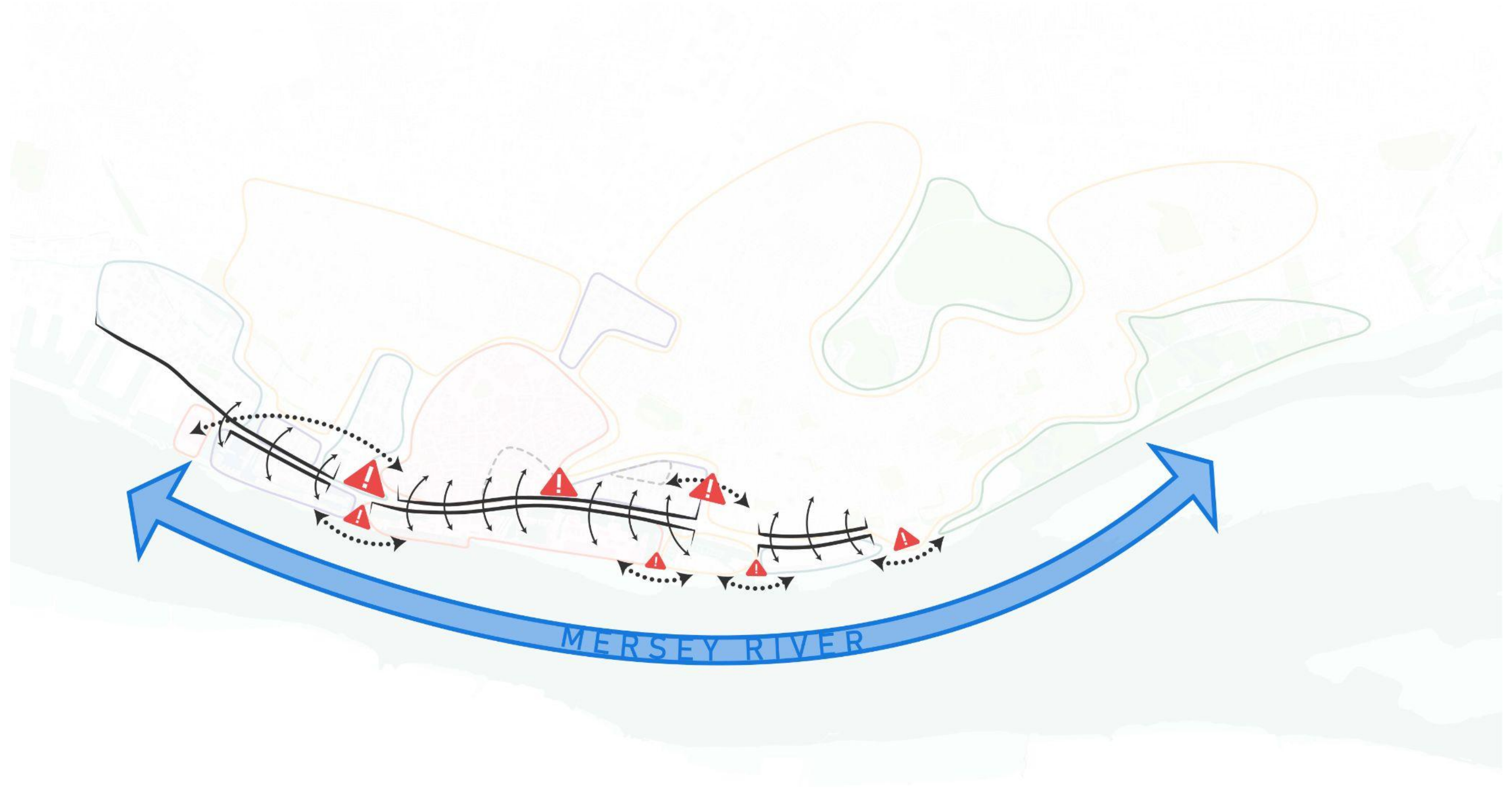
The waterfront is **first and foremost for Liverpudlians**.

It should be **a green ribbon** along the Mersey with a comfortable microclimate and accessibility from Bramley Moore to Otterspool.

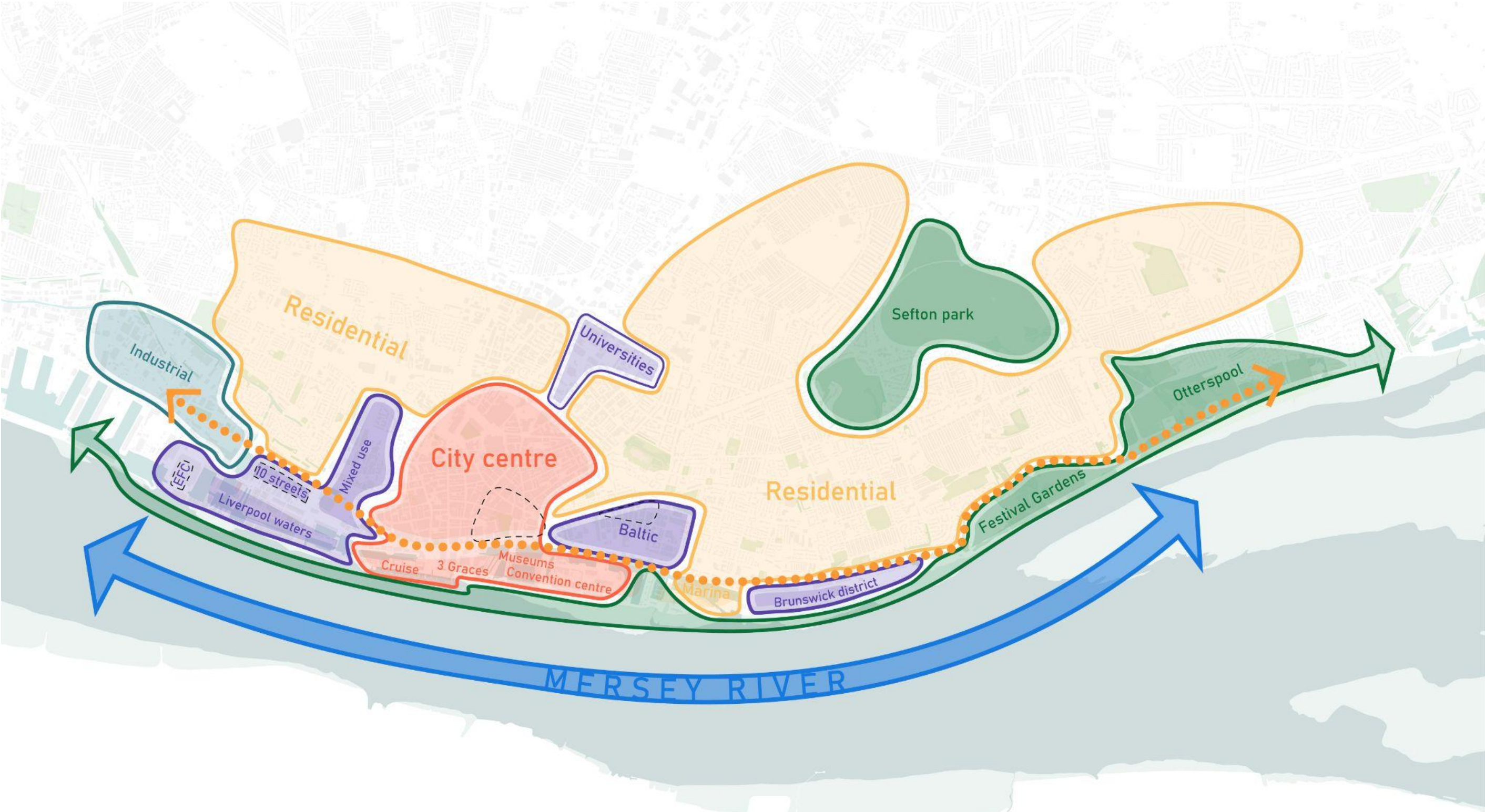
The waterfront should **connect to neighbourhoods** that make Liverpool unique.

And a vision for the waterfront should **celebrate the past, enrich the present, and establish a bright future** for Liverpool.

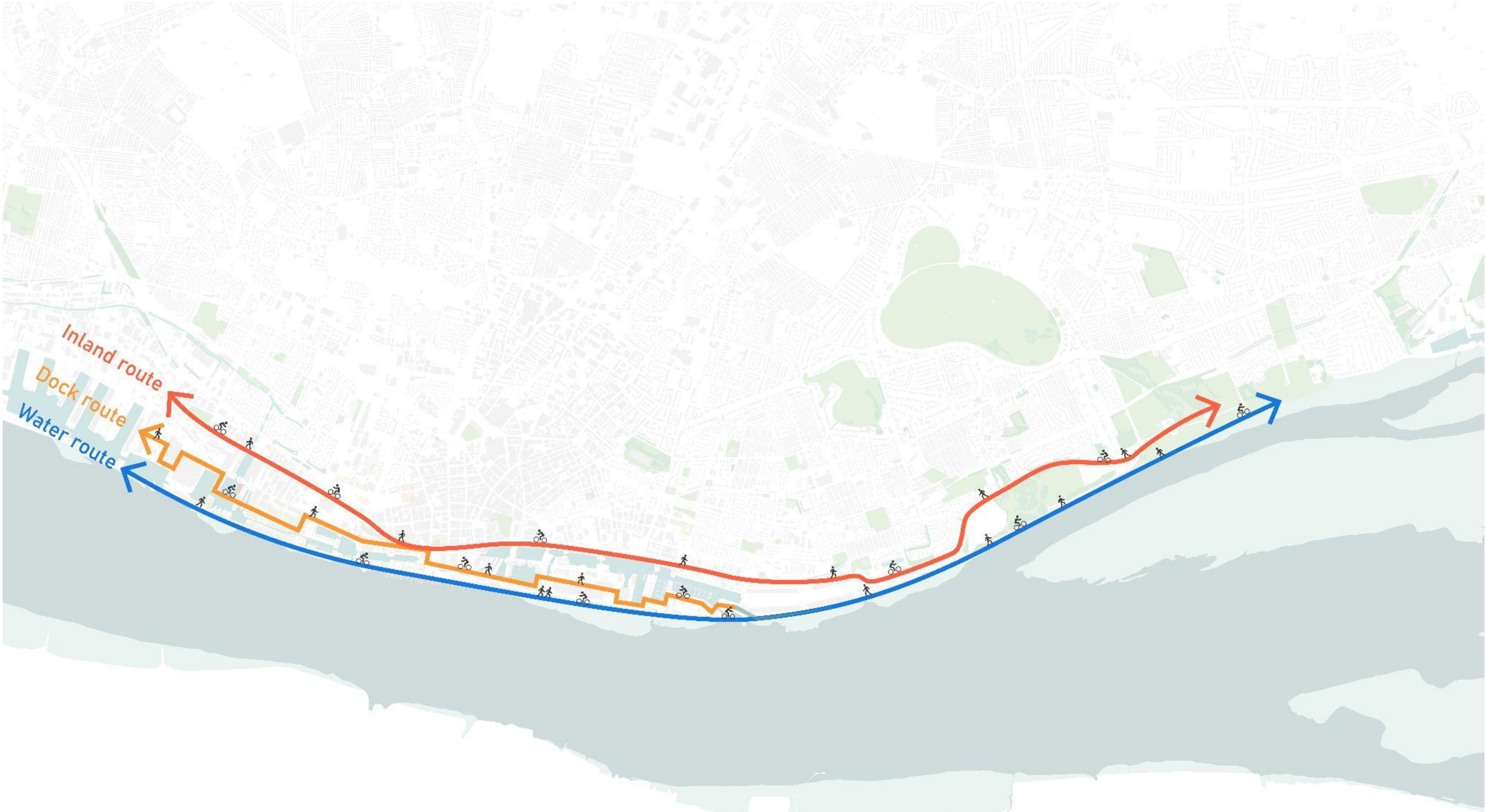
Waterfront needs to be stitched back together



To form continuous experiences



Three linear spines



Connecting neighborhoods to the waterfront

People make the waterfront successful



A Green, Connected Waterfront for Liverpooldians

Our emerging vision for the waterfront

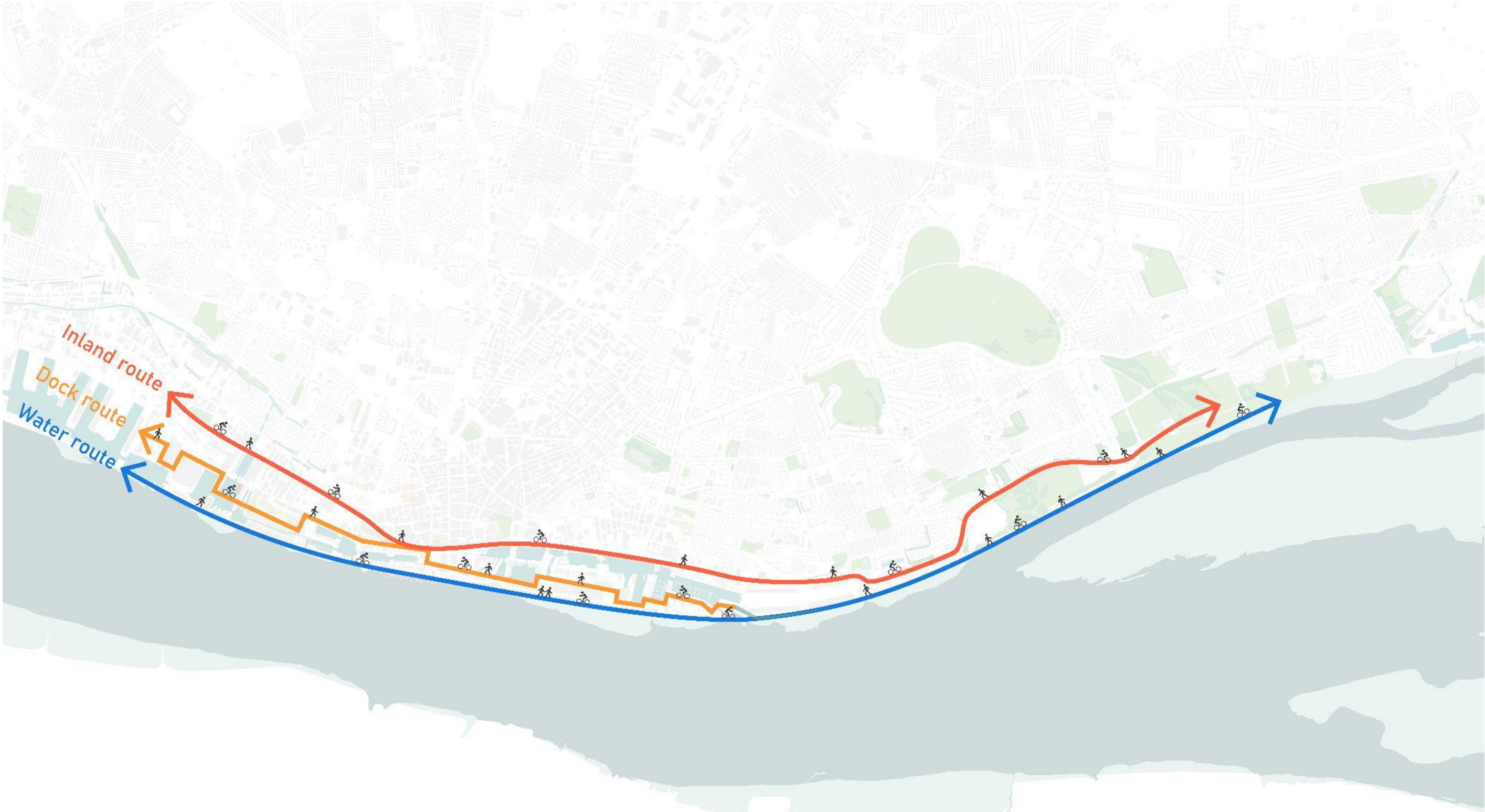


03

North-South Connectivity

Connecting the waterfront from North to South

Three new linear routes with unique characters



Three new routes

“Spines” of the continuous waterfront experience

Water Route

Greenway with unique character that unites the waterfront



Dock Route

Sheltered pedestrian route that celebrates each dock's special atmosphere



Inland Route

Reimagined city:water interface prioritising active travel and a green, friendly microclimate



Water Route

“Spines” of the continuous waterfront experience



A green waterfront boulevard

Global precedent analysis



Boulevard experience with sweeping views to the Mersey



Lush planting specific to the waterfront's character



Plenty of space for free activities and public recreation

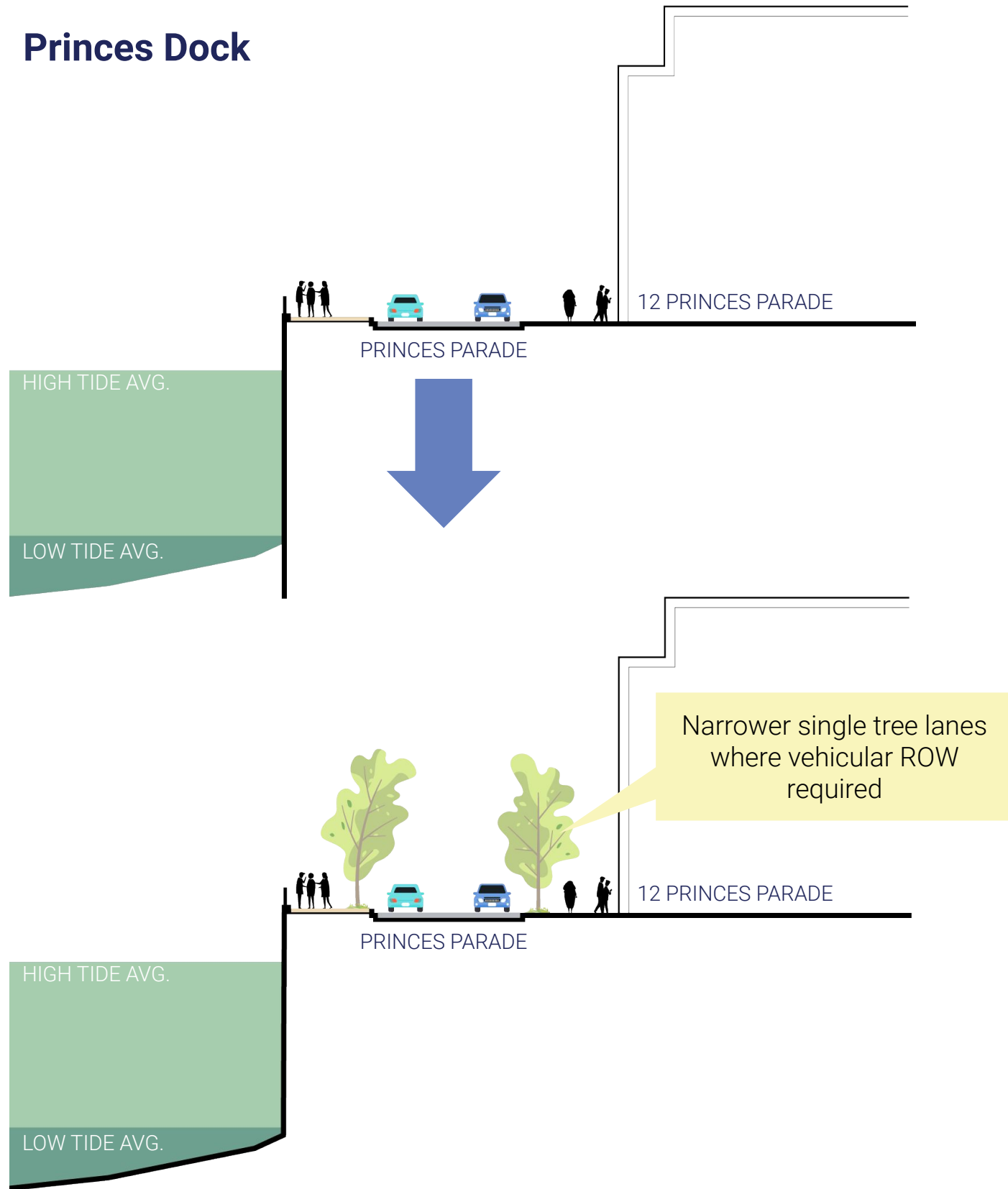


A continuous route that can bypass existing obstacles where needed

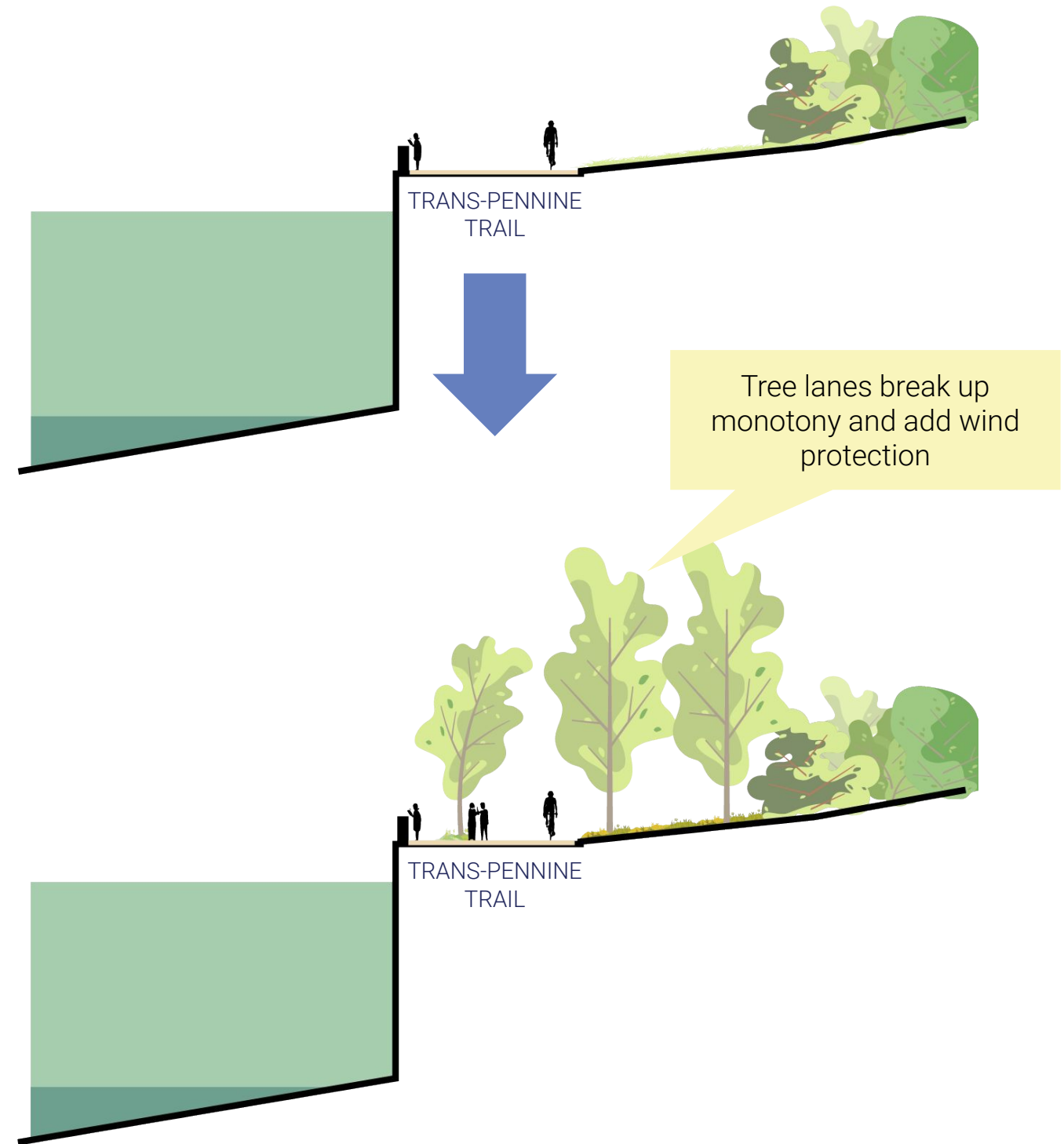
Waterfront Boulevard Expression

A consistent Merseyside experience

Princes Dock



Festival Gardens

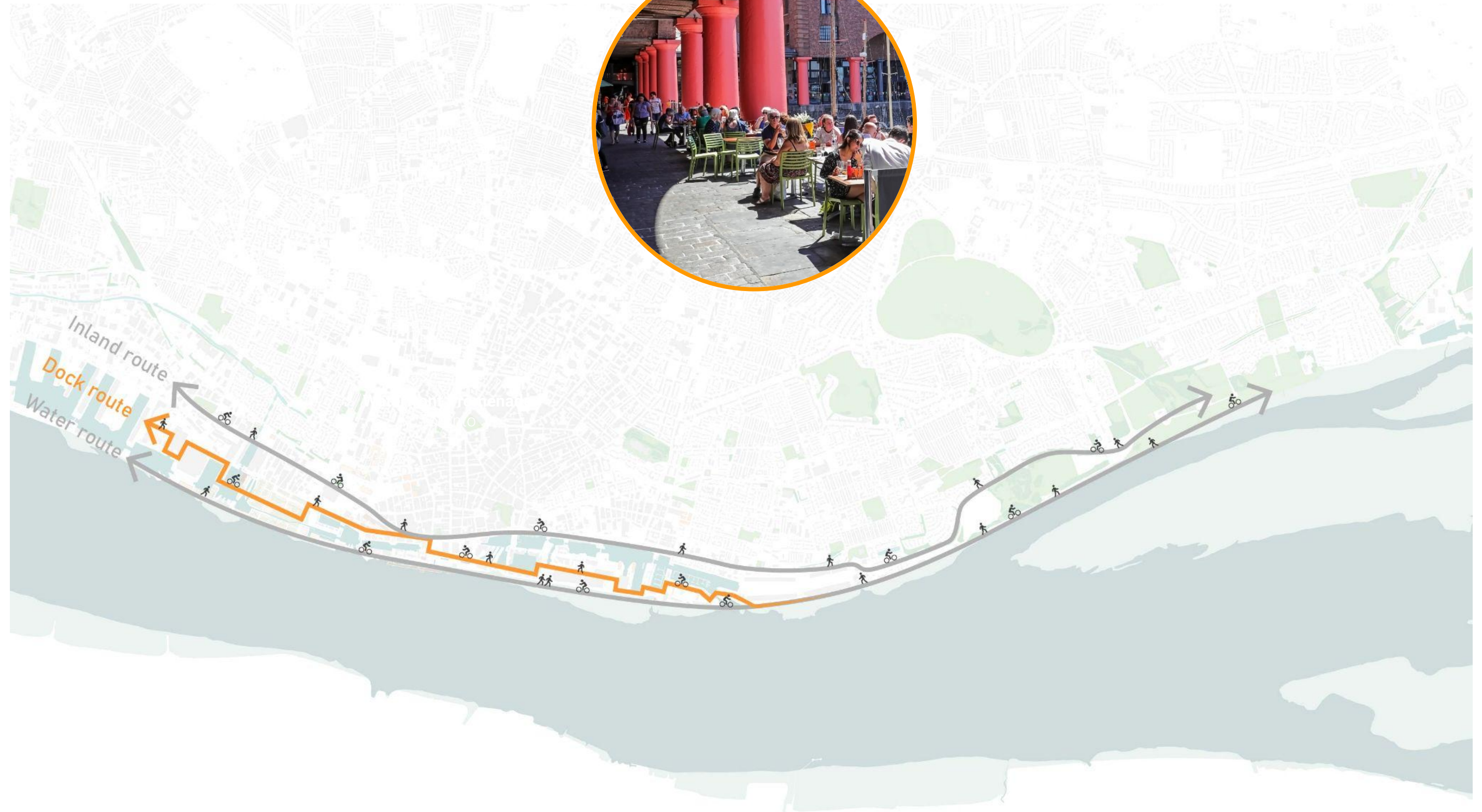


Dock Route

“Spines” of the continuous waterfront experience

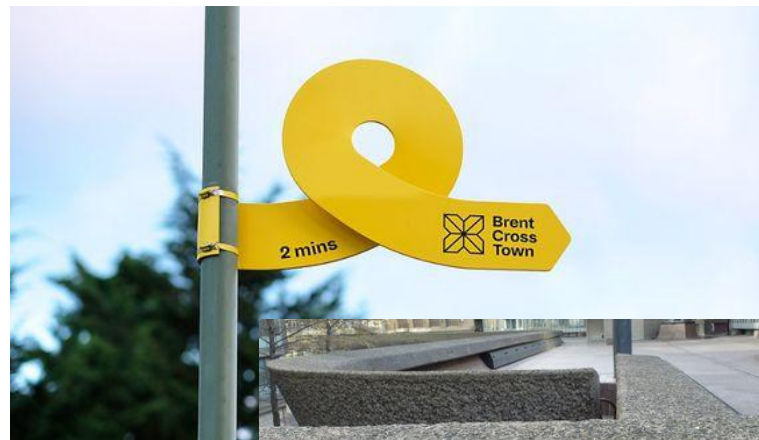
Dock Route

*Sheltered pedestrian route
that celebrates each dock's
special atmosphere*



“Highlights Highway” for tourists and sightseers

Global precedent analysis



Highlight short diversions for key destinations

Frame key landmarks and historic views

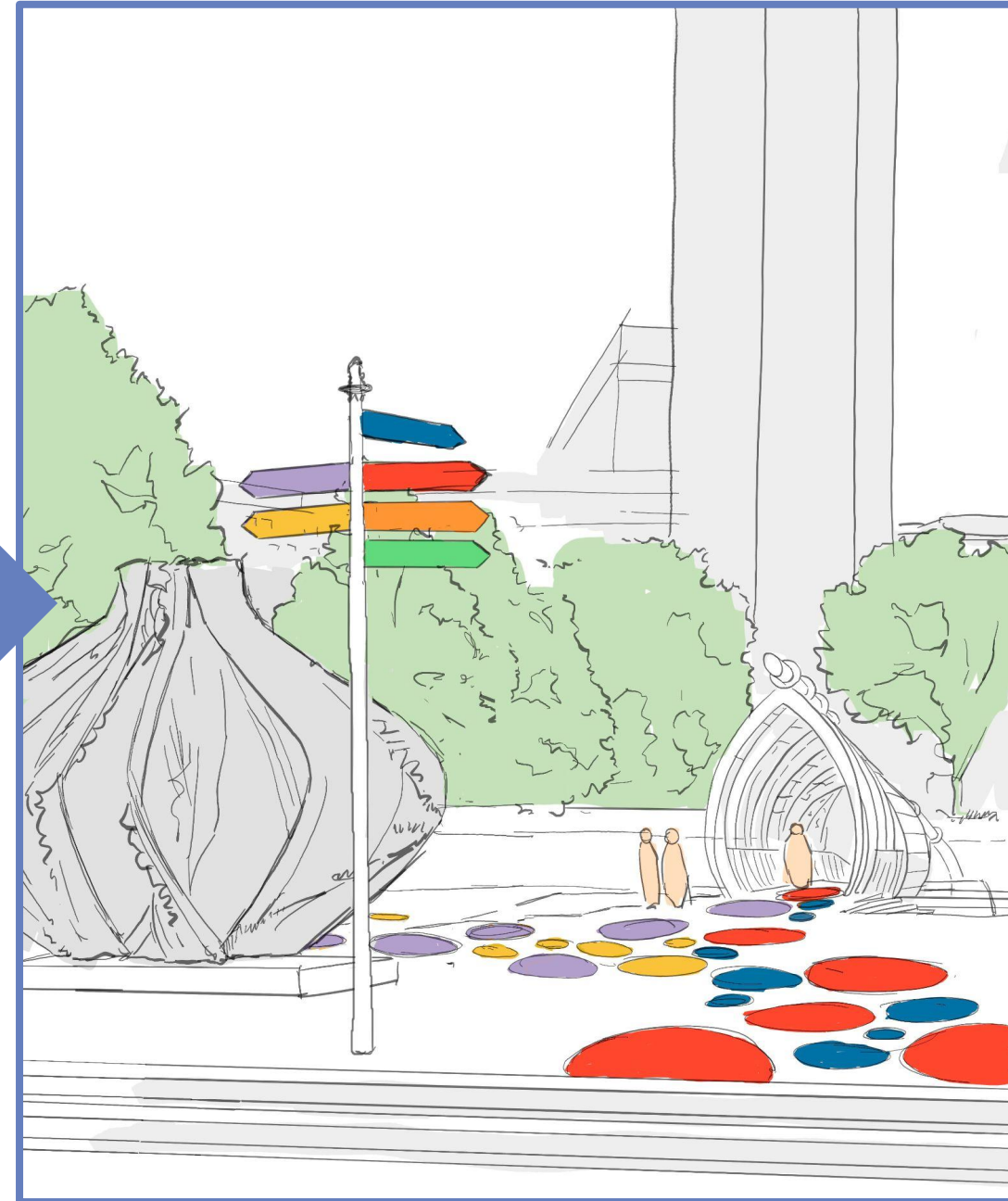
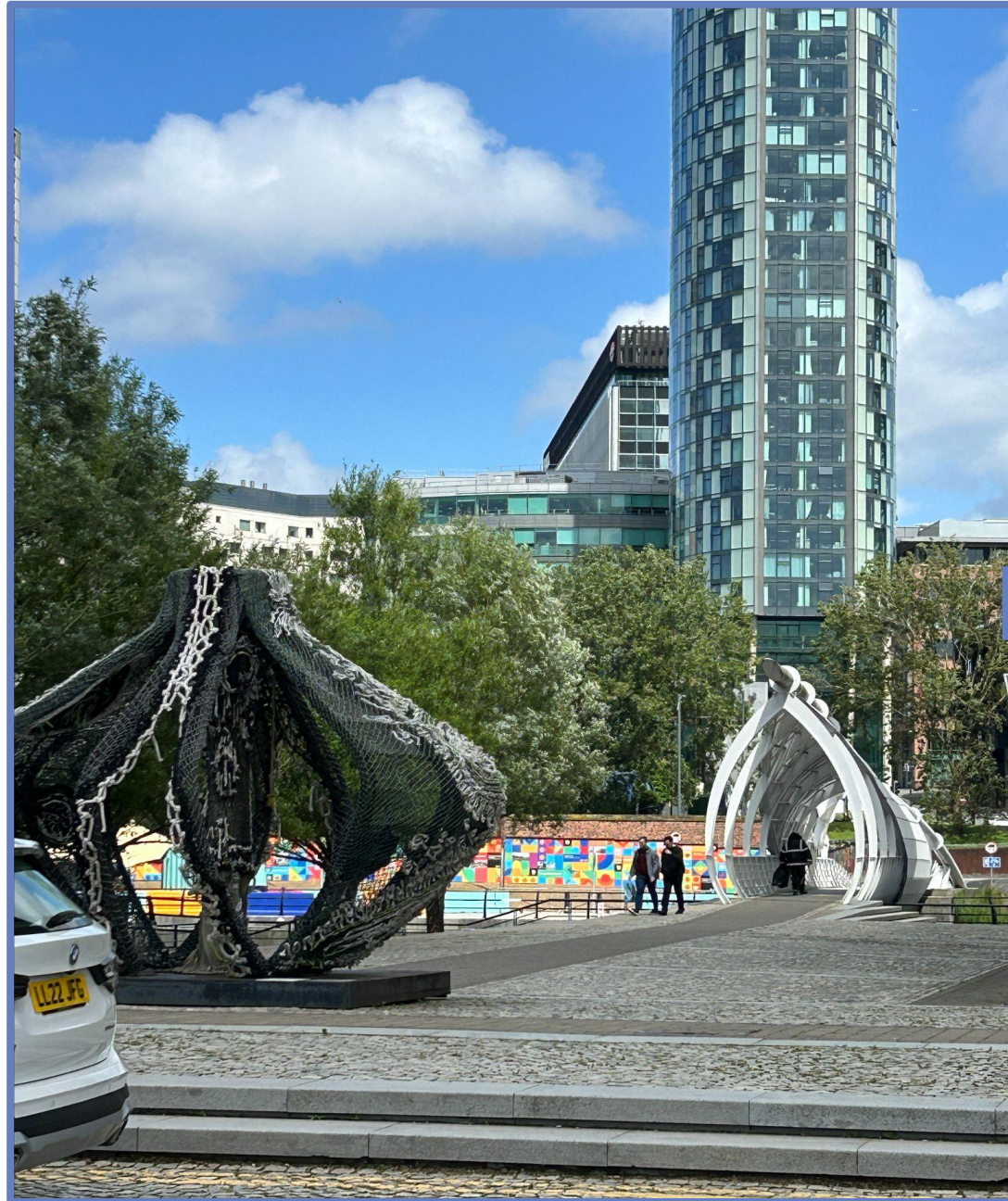


Continuous linear ground or wall treatments to indicate route(s)



Wayfinding Elements

Routes for different types of visitors and venues – uniting the highlights and the unexpected



Inland Route

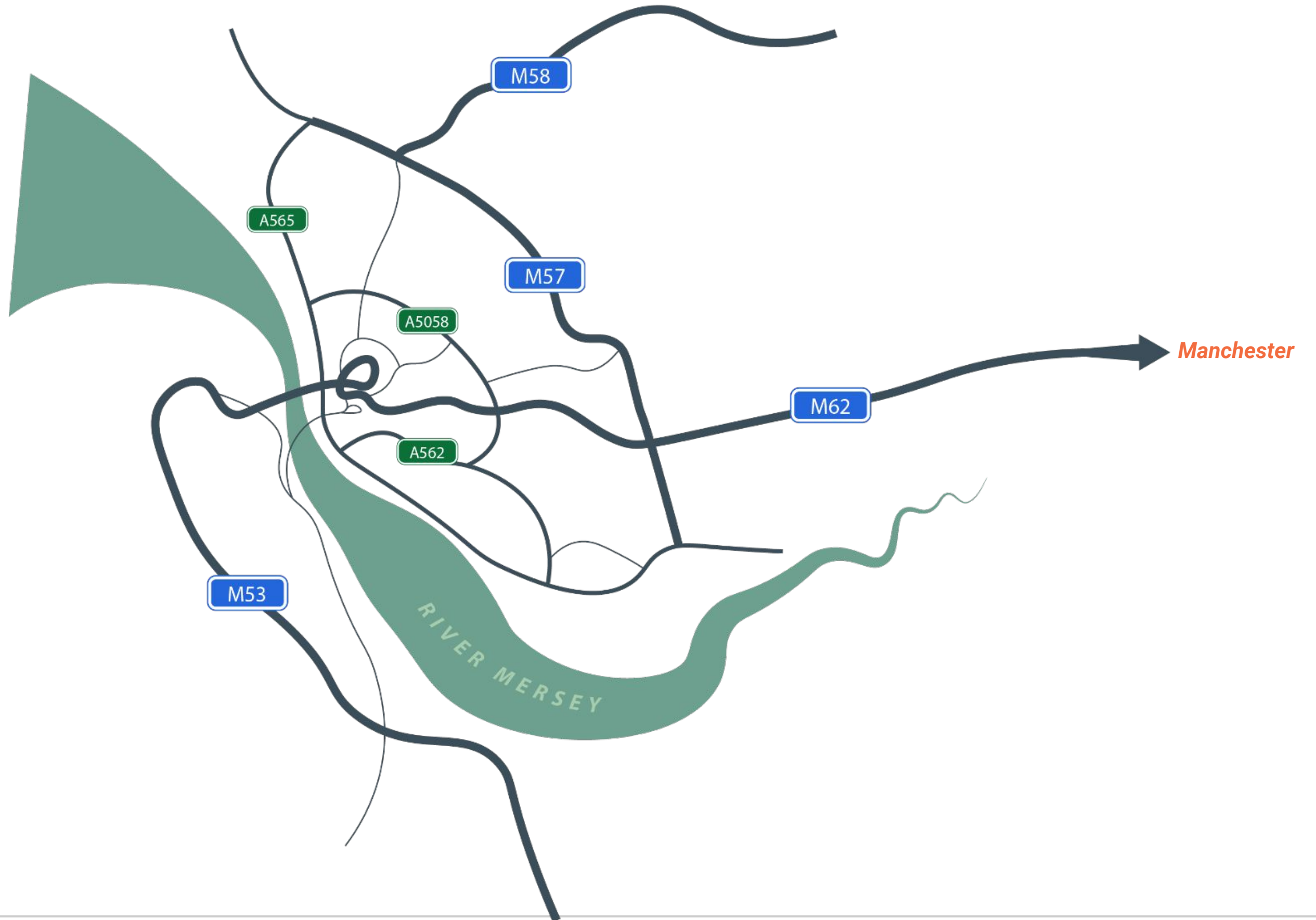
“Spines” of the continuous waterfront experience

Inland Route
Reimagined city:water
interface prioritising
active travel and a green,
friendly microclimate



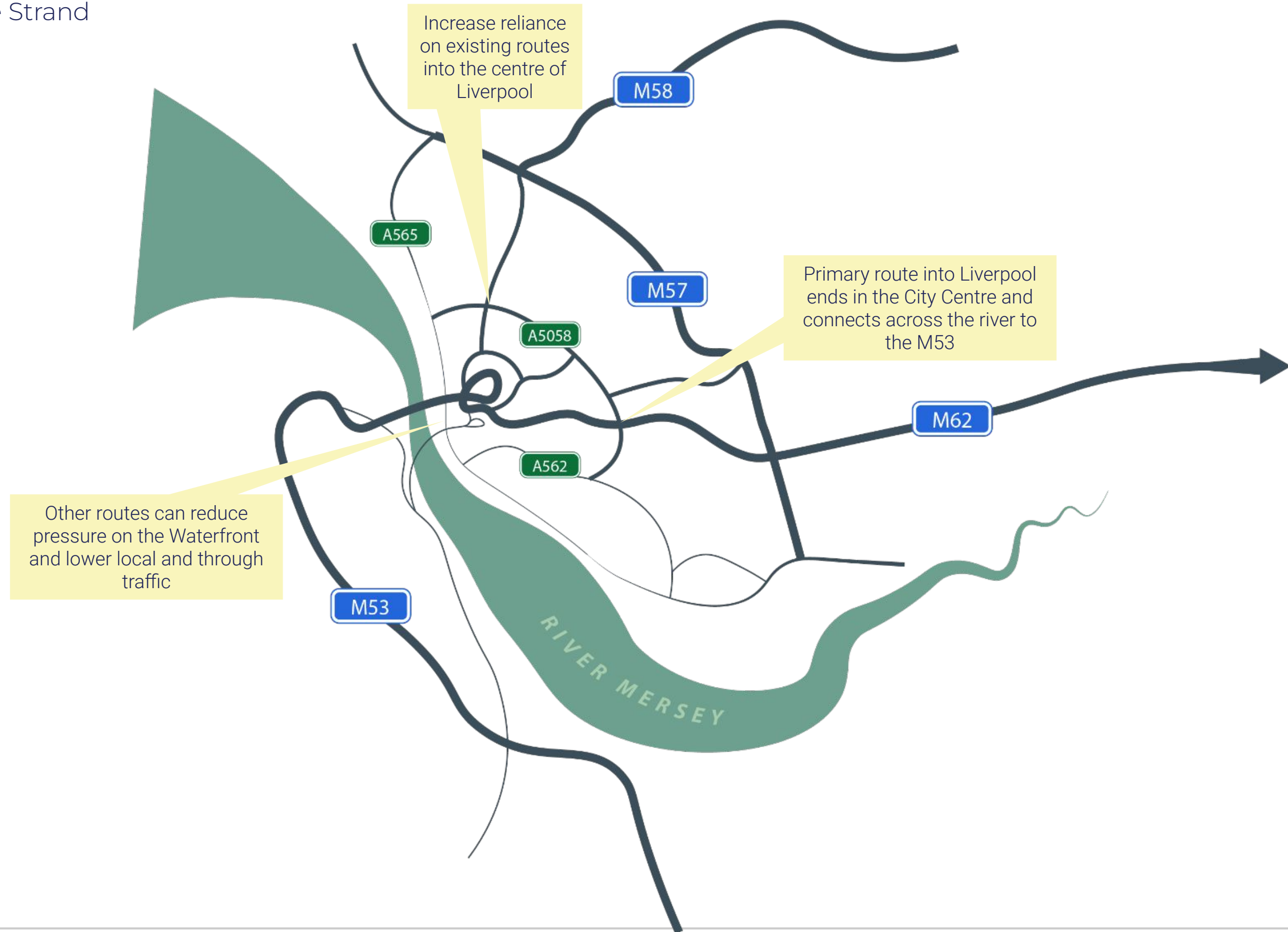
Regional Road Network

Current situation



Regional Road Network

Goals for the Strand



Increase reliance on existing routes into the centre of Liverpool

Primary route into Liverpool ends in the City Centre and connects across the river to the M53

Other routes can reduce pressure on the Waterfront and lower local and through traffic

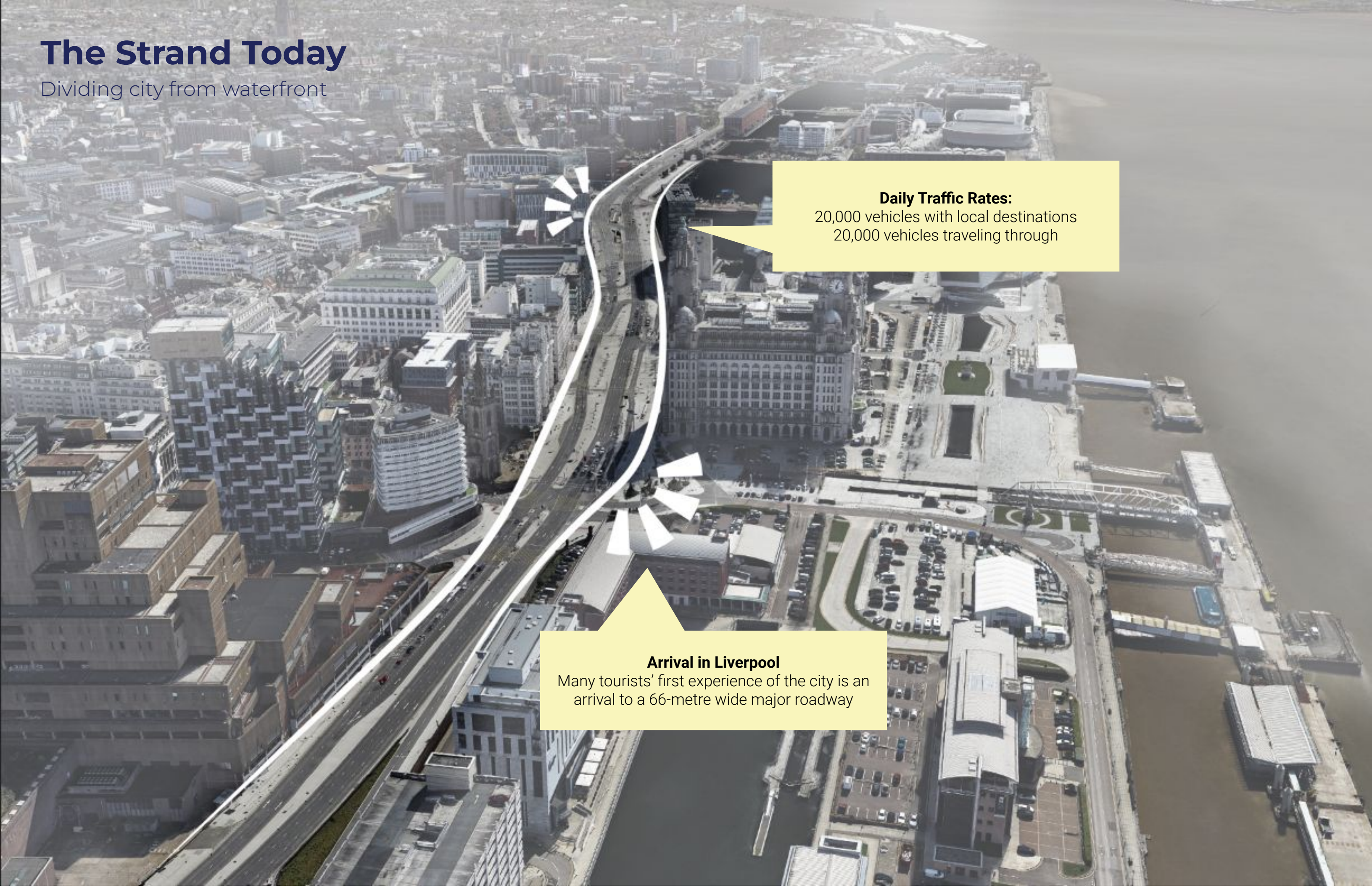
Three new routes

“Spines” of the continuous waterfront experience



The Strand Today

Dividing city from waterfront

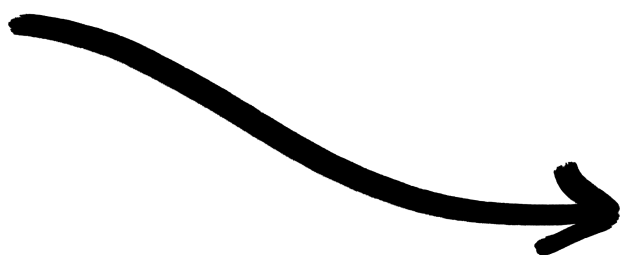


Daily Traffic Rates:
20,000 vehicles with local destinations
20,000 vehicles traveling through

Arrival in Liverpool
Many tourists' first experience of the city is an arrival to a 66-metre wide major roadway

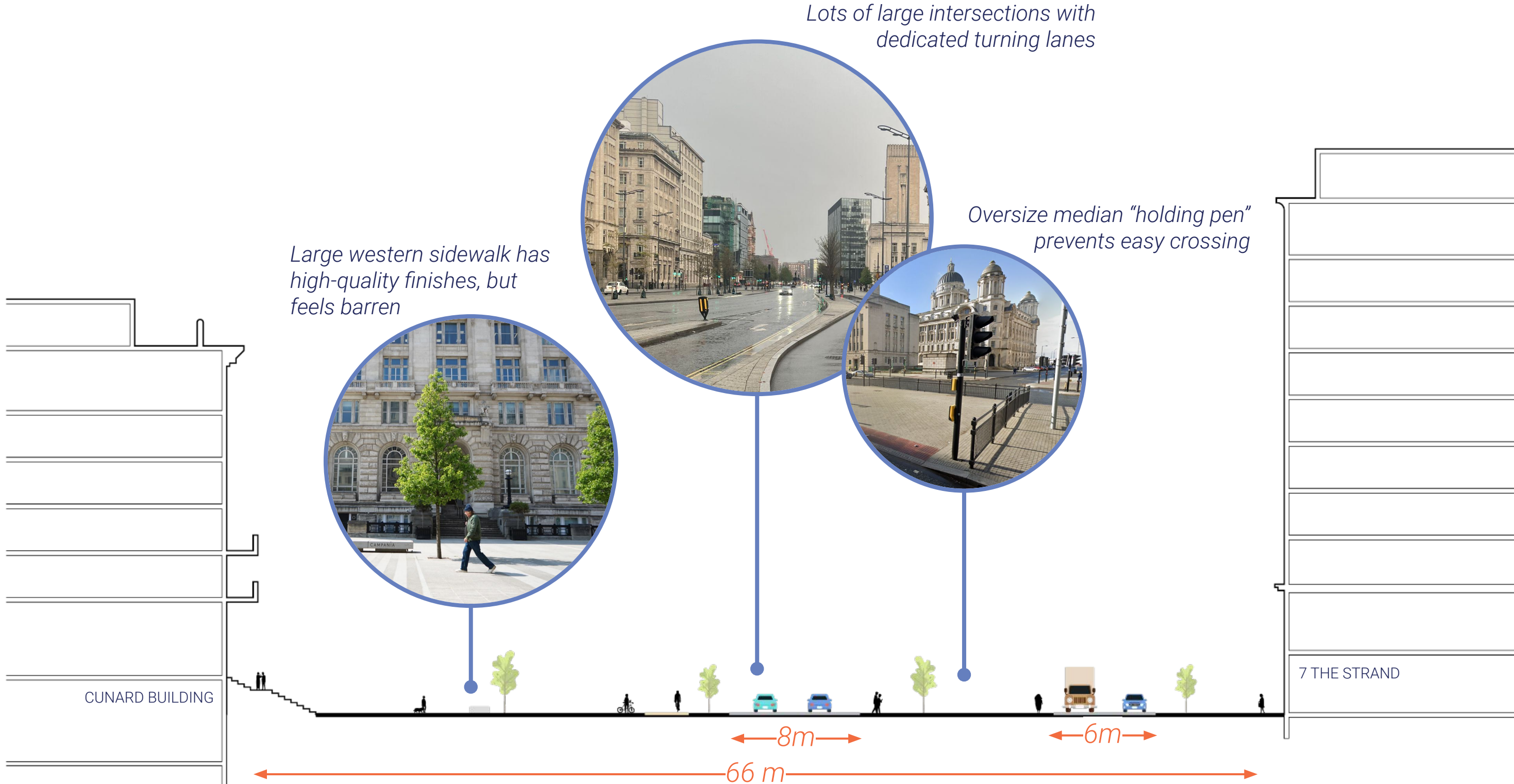
Recent Strand Work

Road pilot completed



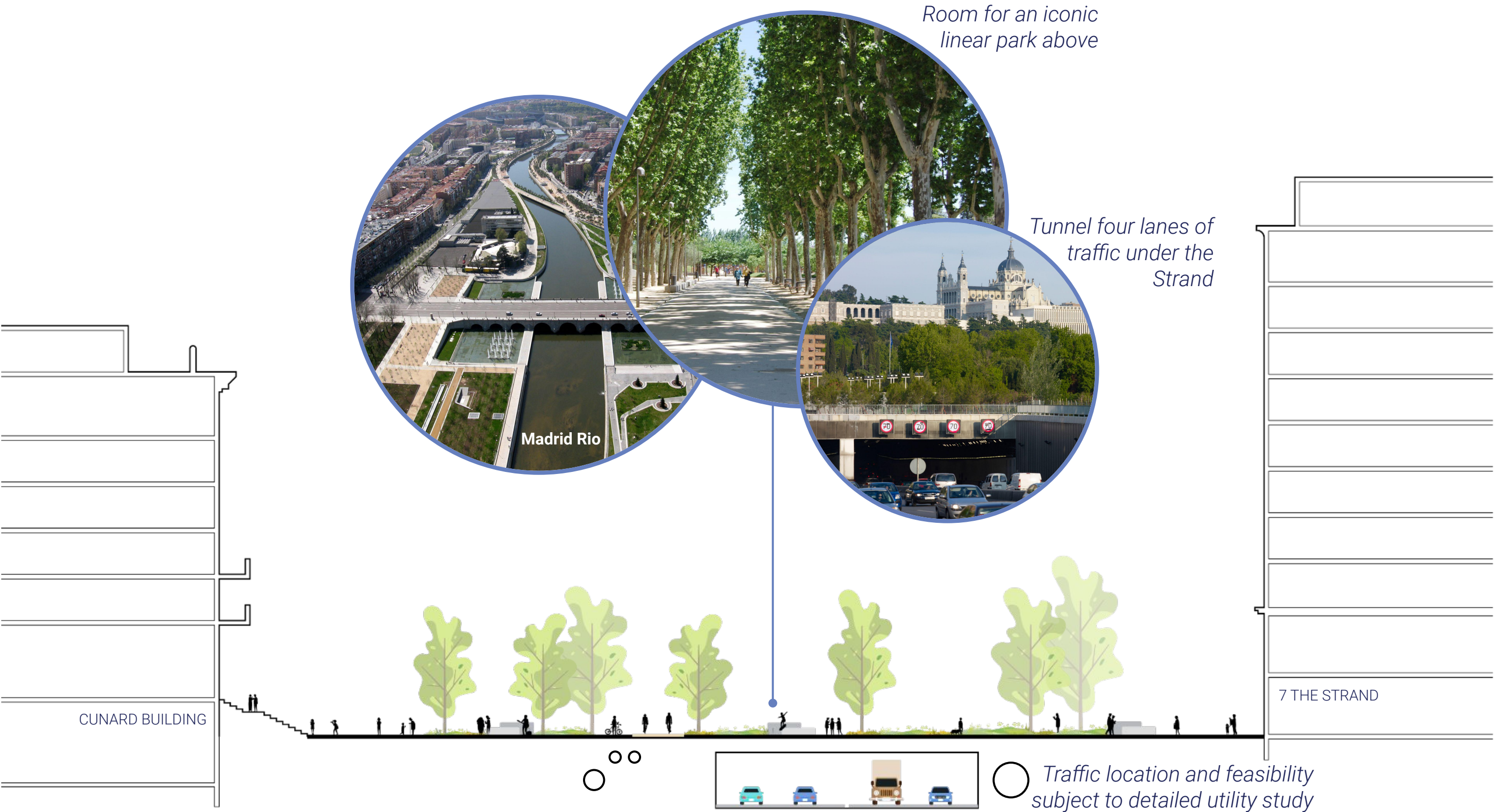
The Strand Today

Lots of space, not so many people



Approach 1: Cut-And-Cover

Sink traffic underground where possible, with ramps up to meet the urban grain at key intersections



Madrid RIO

Sinking of major motorway alongside the River Manzanares, unlocking the waterfront for the city of Madrid to enjoy



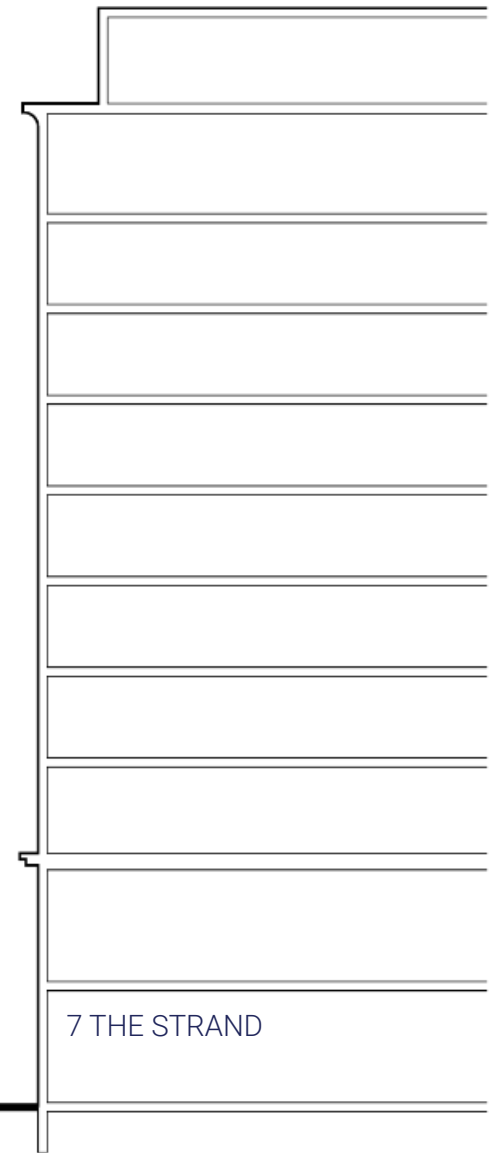
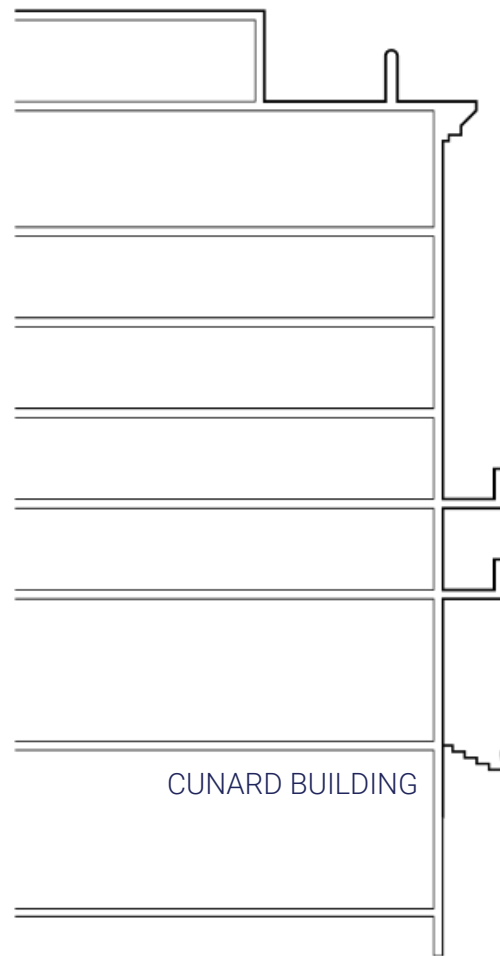
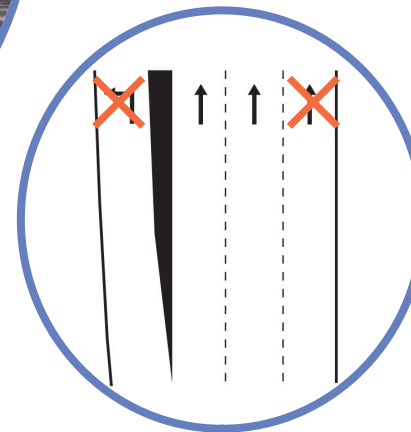
Approach 2: The Road Diet

Consolidate traffic in the centre, making space for generous public amenities

Wider protected bike lane along the entire length of the Strand

Inviting and green linear park

Remove dedicated turning lanes and slim the Strand to two lanes per direction



CUNARD BUILDING

7 THE STRAND

Coolsingel

Restoring the prominence and allure of the city's main boulevard by reducing conflict and prioritizing people



Queens Quay

One of the most complex street reconstruction projects undertaken in Canadian history, where all modes of traffic are served



The New Strand

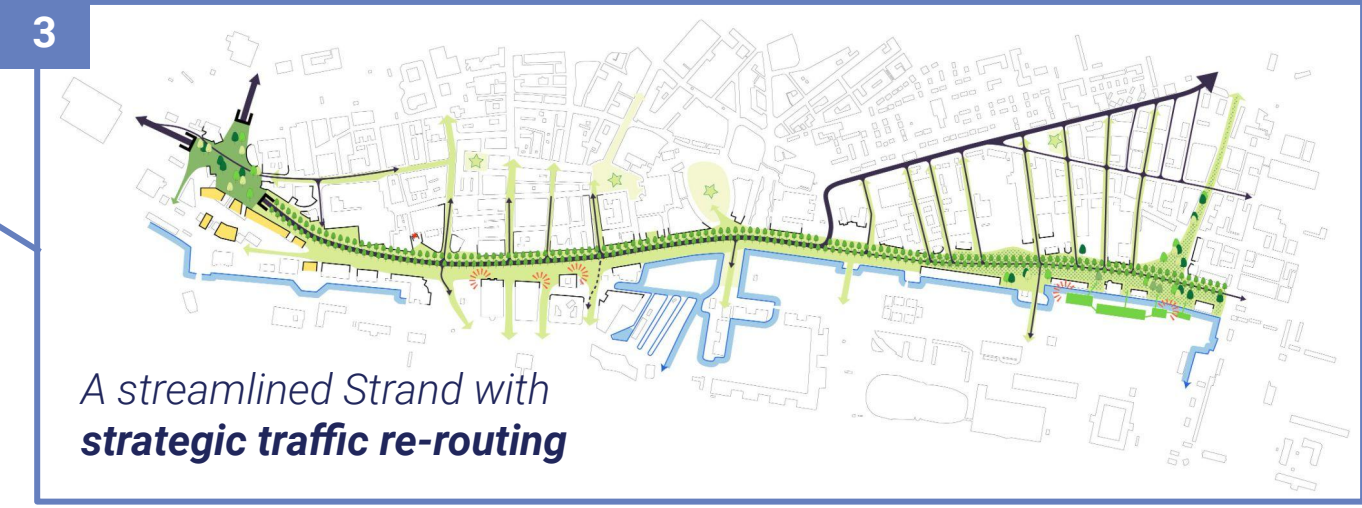
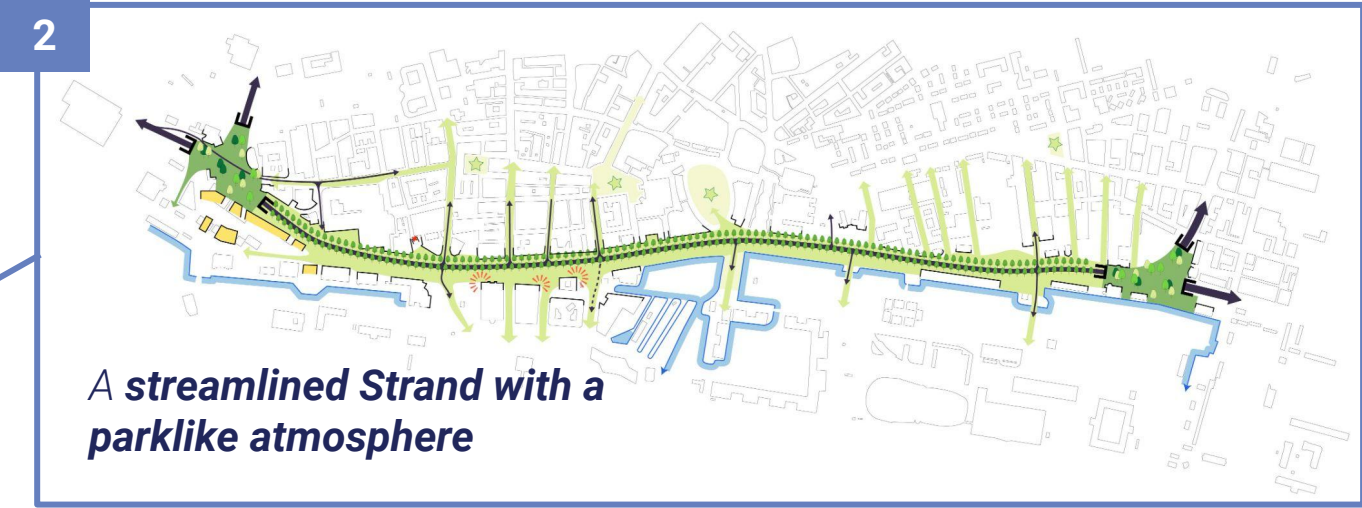
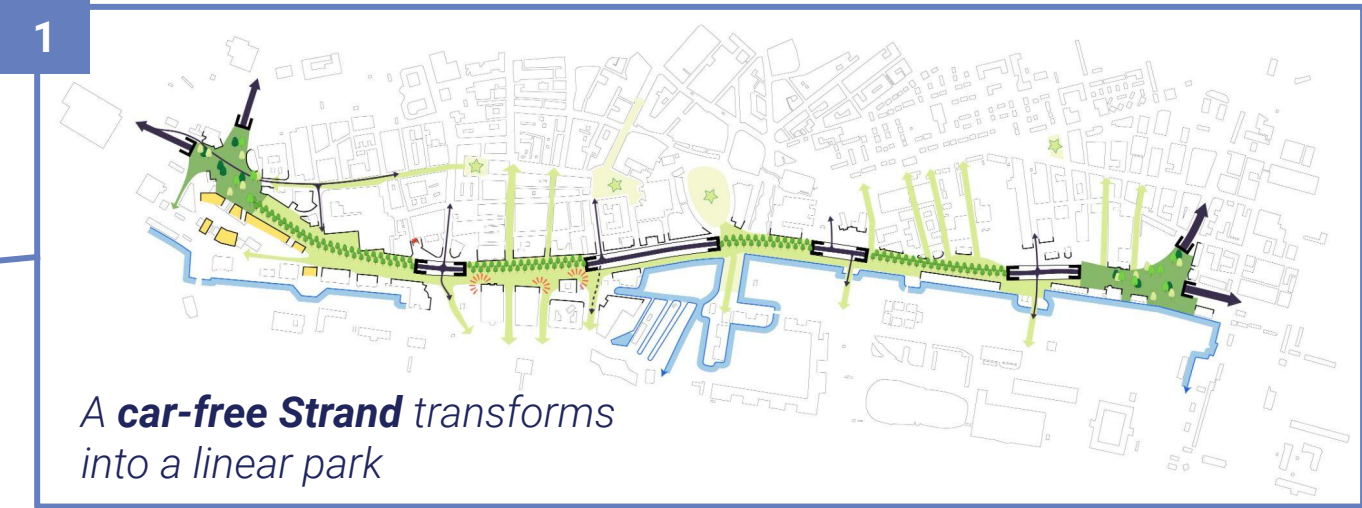
Three approaches for a connected and green experience



Cut-And-Cover

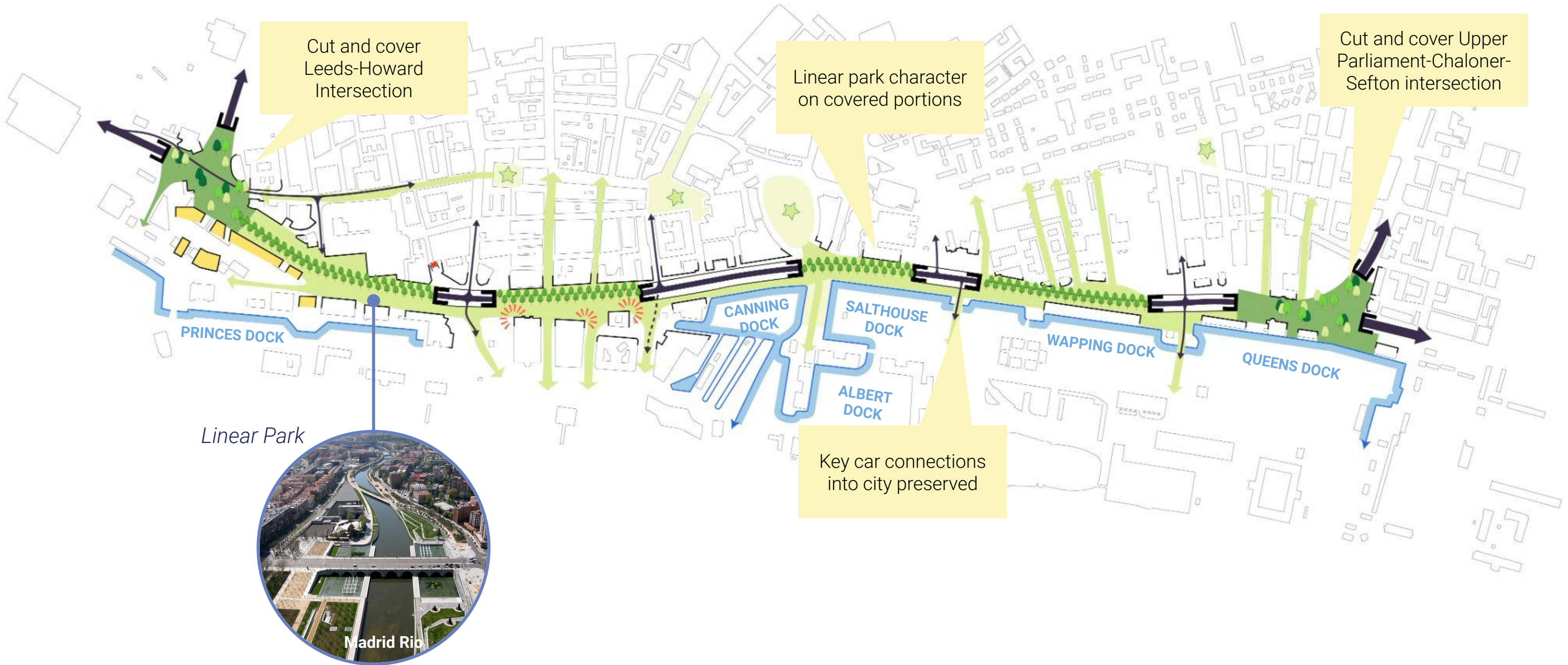


Road Diet



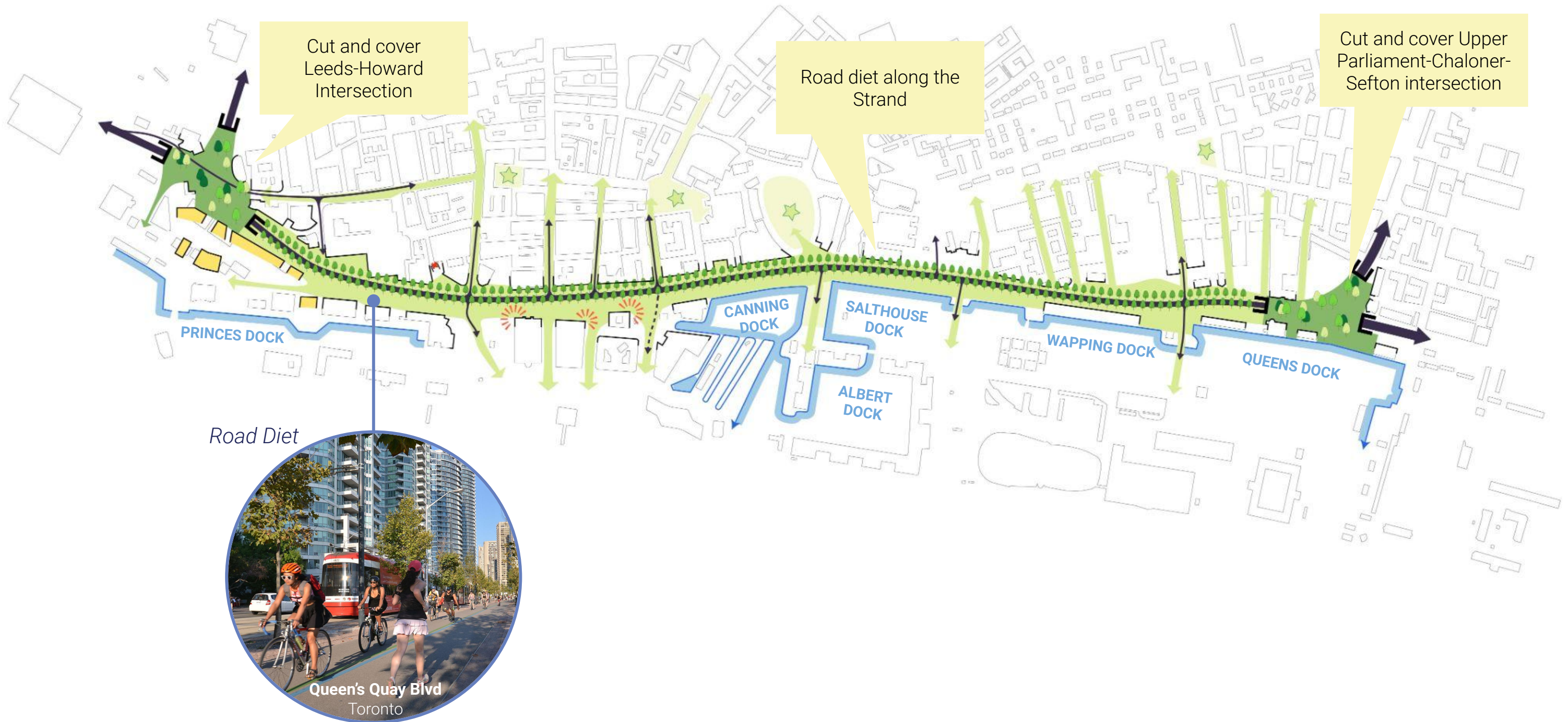
Strand Option 1

Cut and cover the Strand



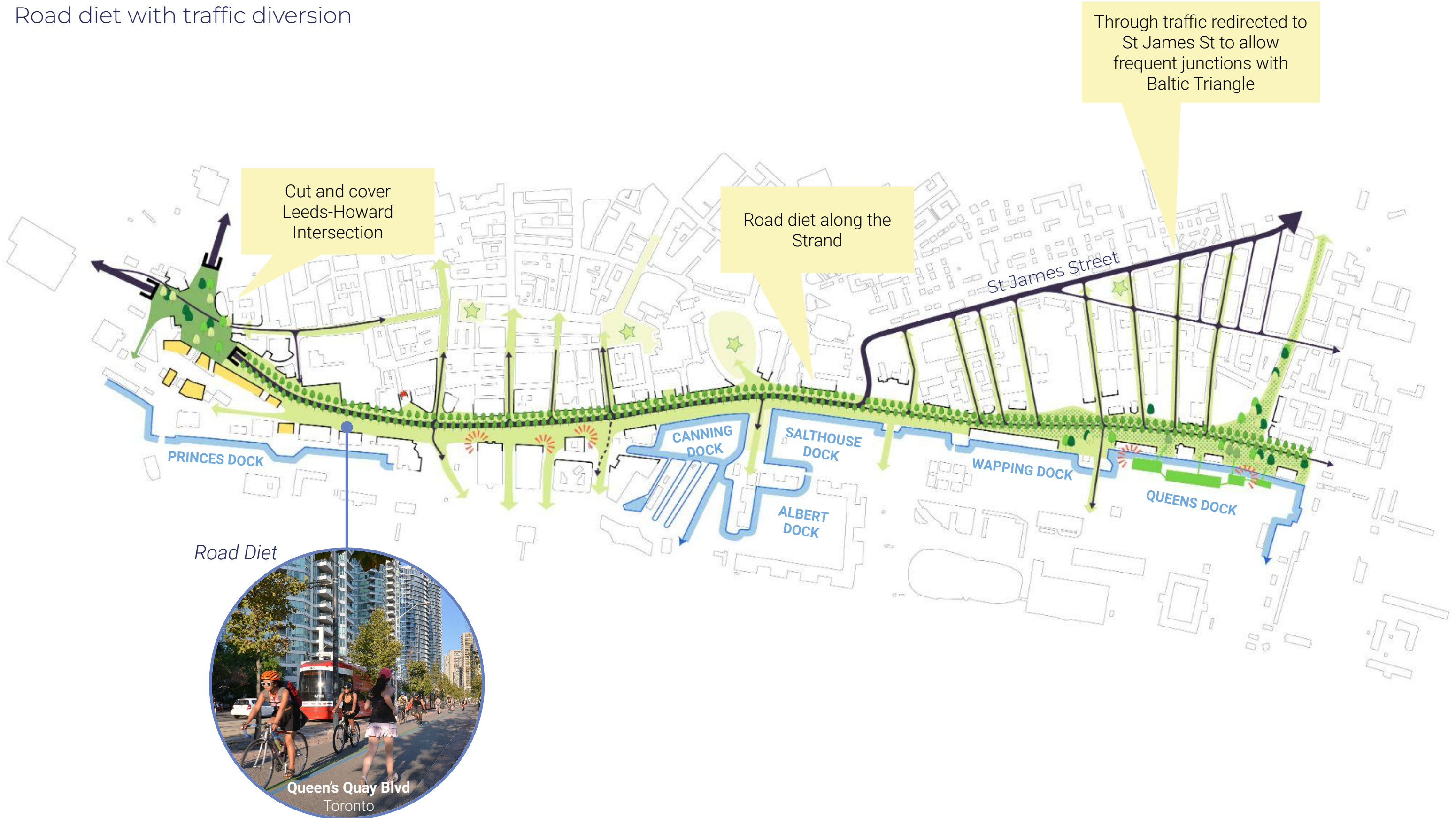
Strand Option 2

Road diet and strategic intersection caps



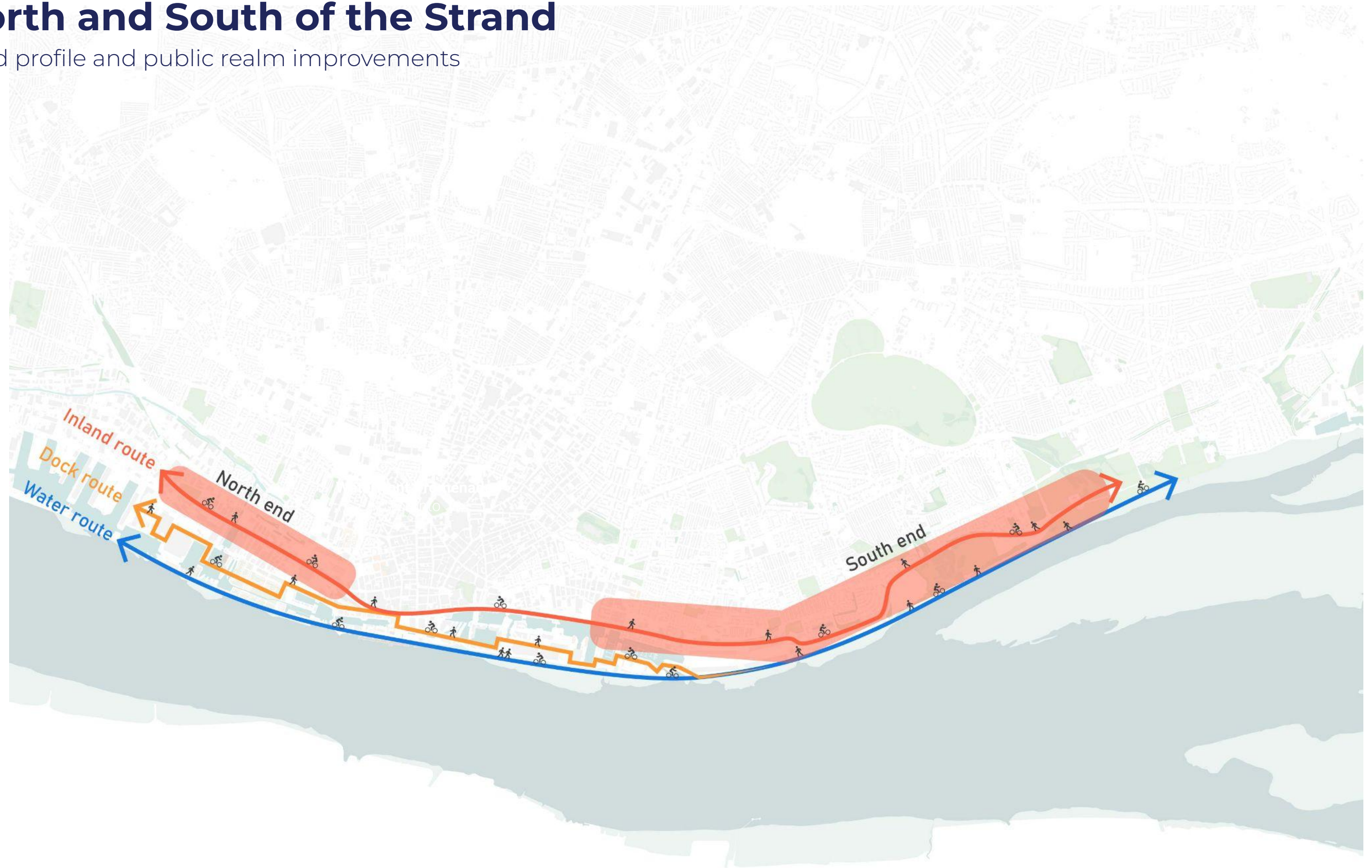
Strand Option 3

Road diet with traffic diversion



North and South of the Strand

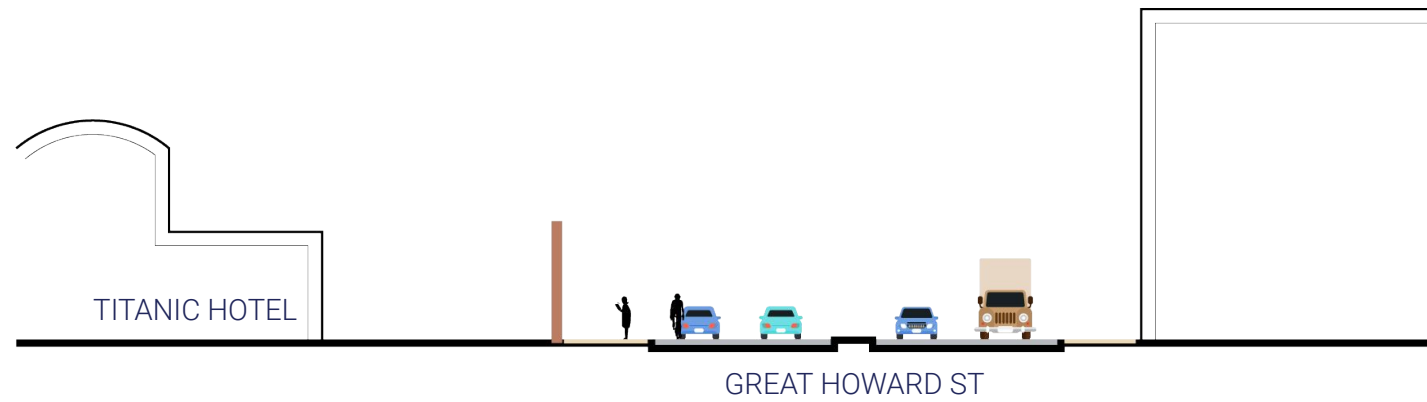
Road profile and public realm improvements



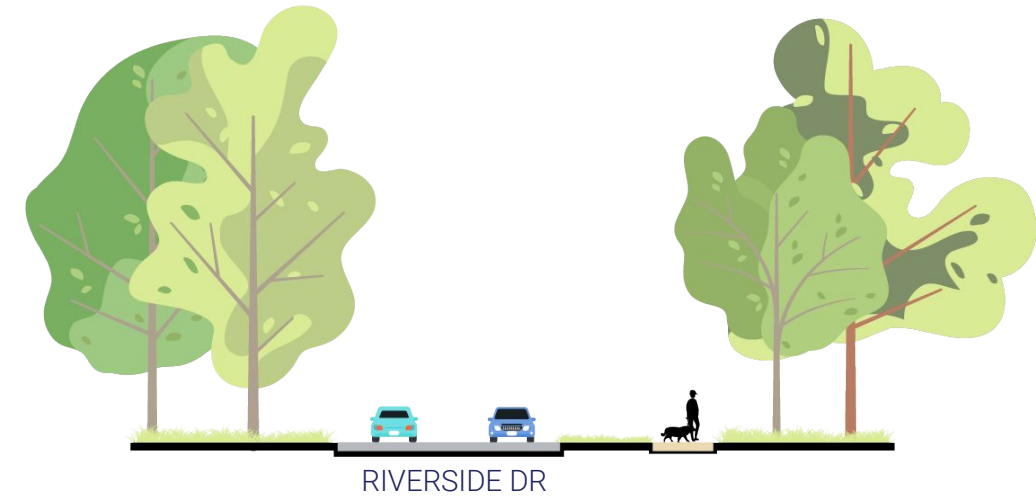
North and South of the Strand

Existing character

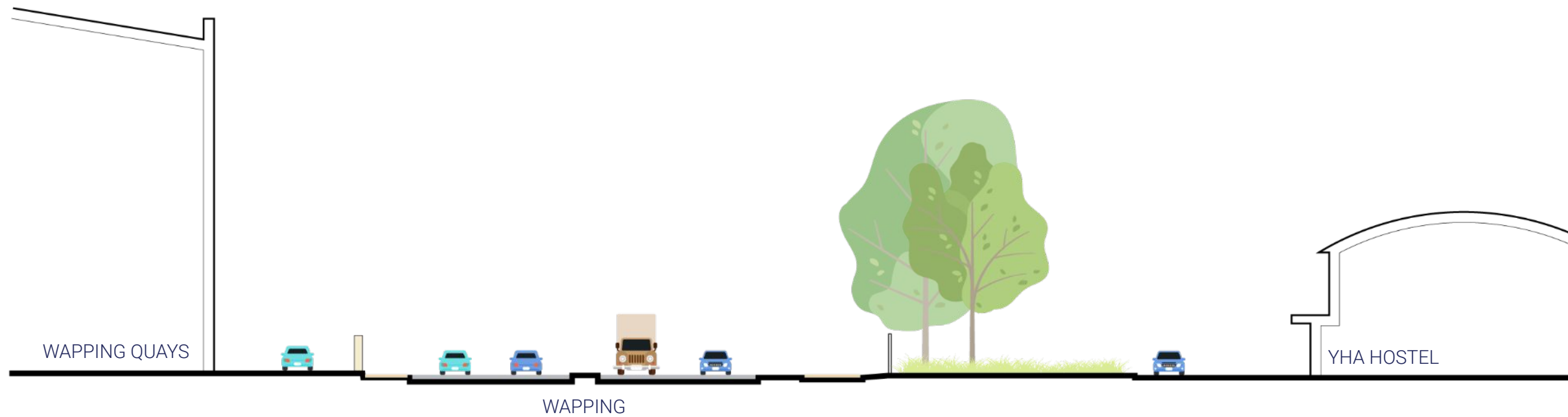
Great Howard St



Riverside Drive

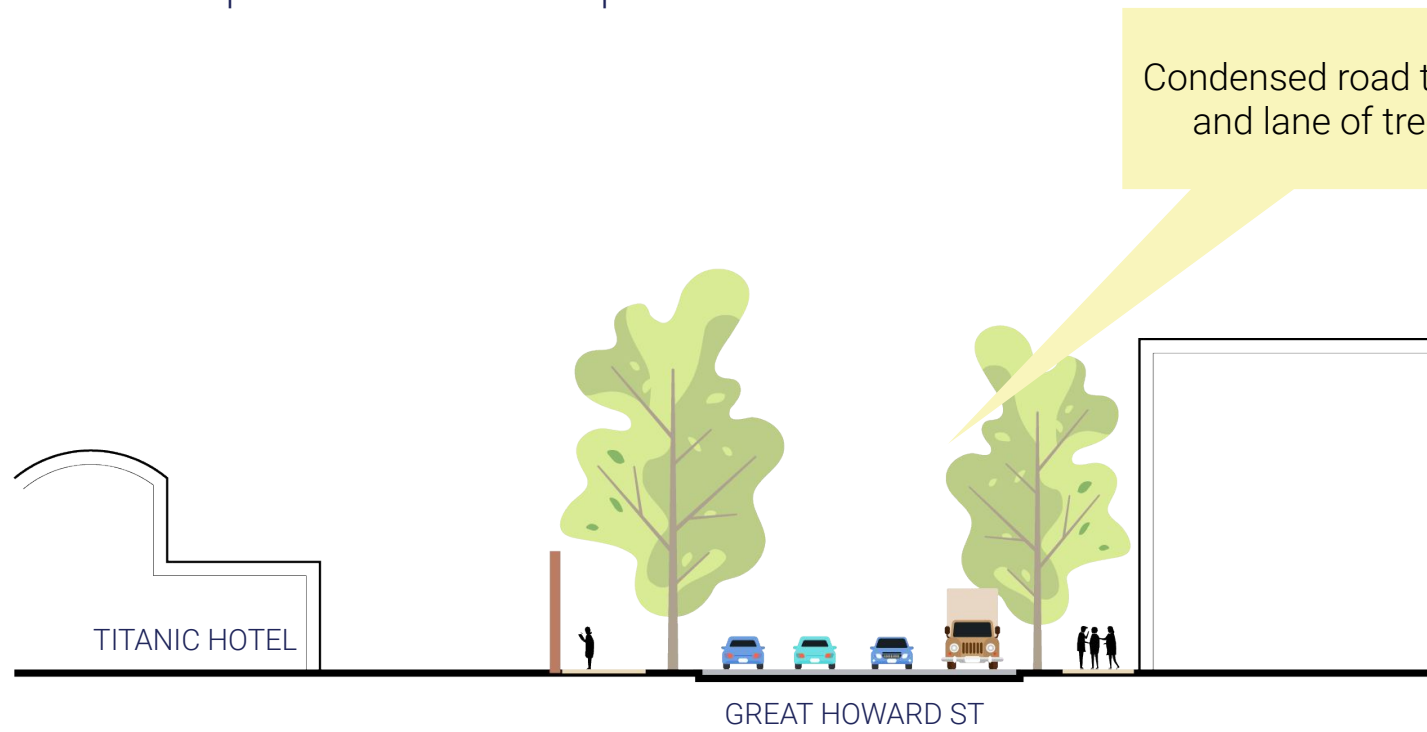


Wapping

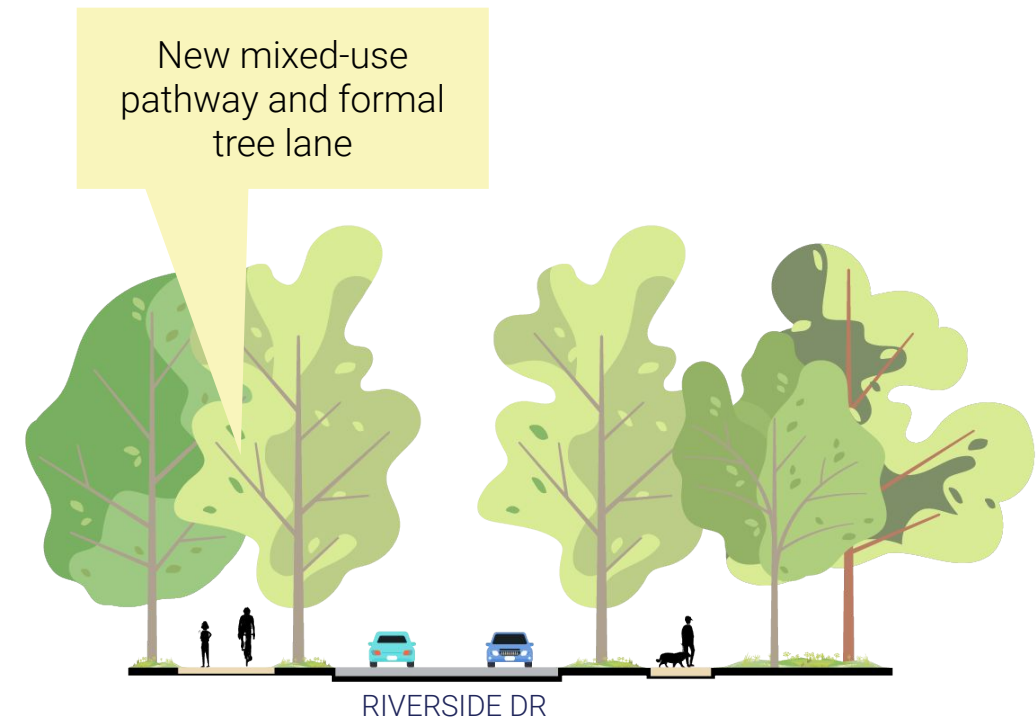


North and South of the Strand

Road and public realm improvements



Great Howard St



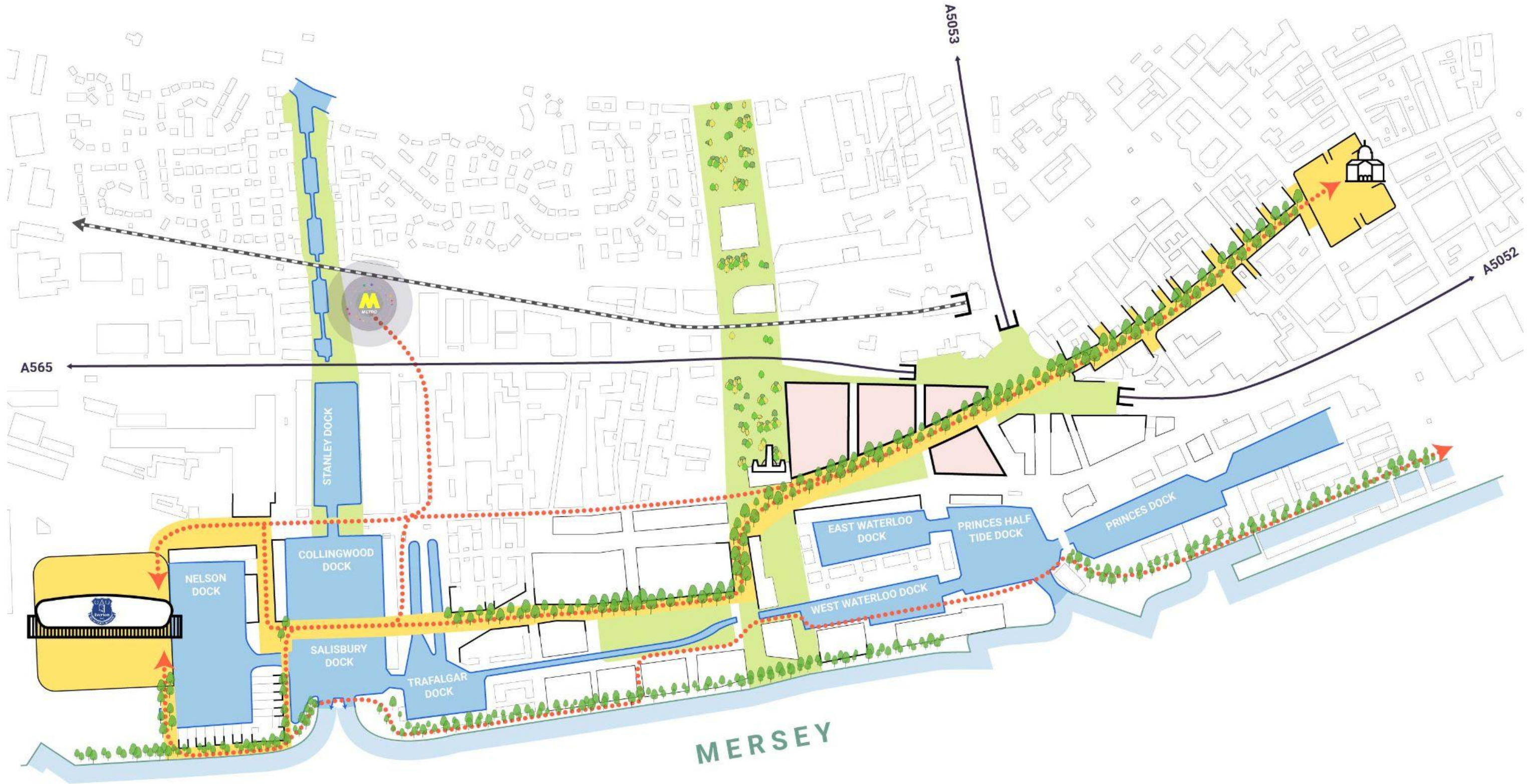
Riverside Drive



Wapping

Bonus: Ceremonial Route

A safe, continuous pedestrian link between City Centre and the new Everton Stadium



Ceremonial Route

A pedestrian-friendly route for Everton fans to make a “pilgrimage” through Liverpool to the stadium

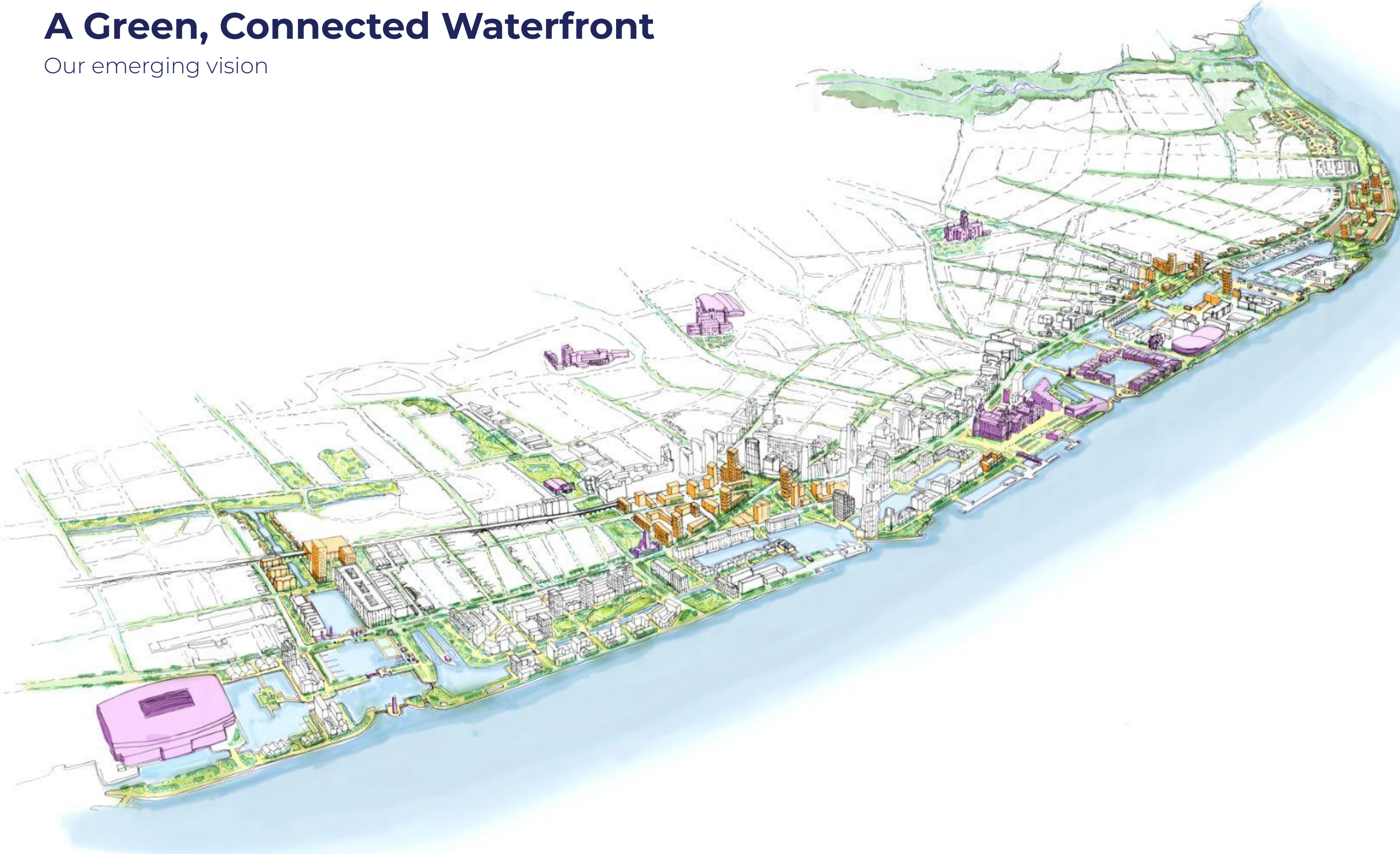


04

Neighborhood Anchors for an Active
and Thriving Waterfront

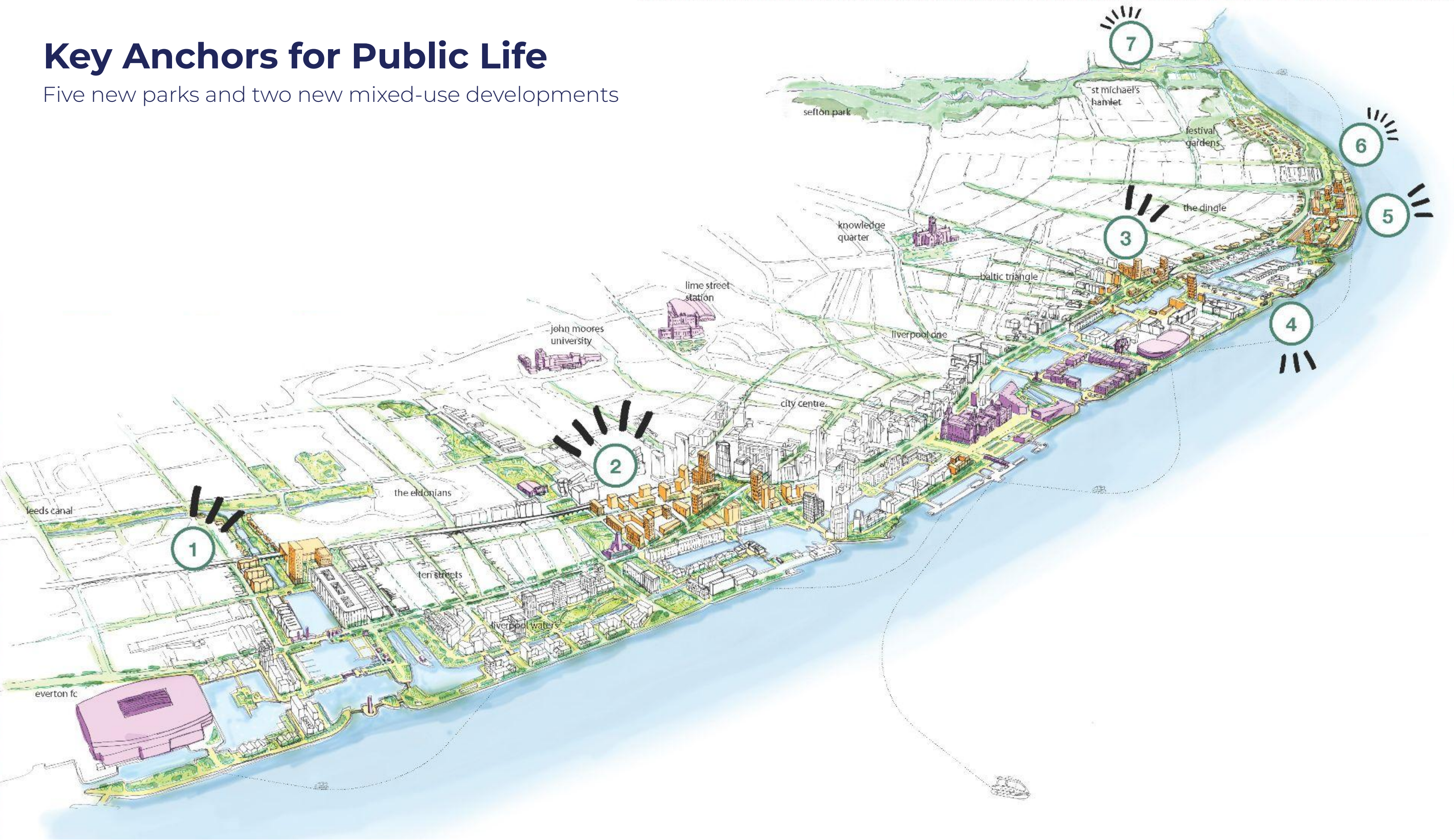
A Green, Connected Waterfront

Our emerging vision



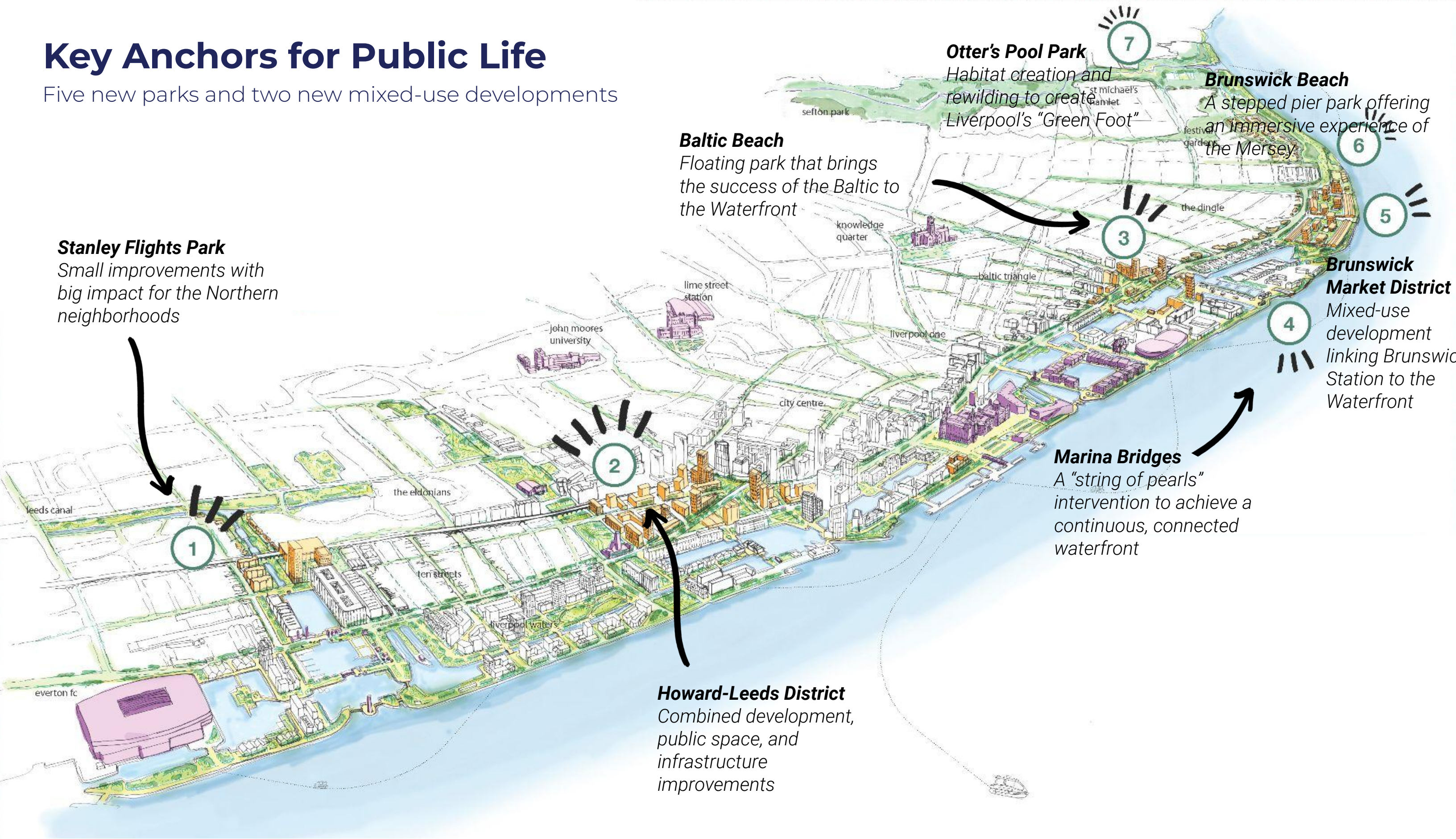
Key Anchors for Public Life

Five new parks and two new mixed-use developments



Key Anchors for Public Life

Five new parks and two new mixed-use developments



Stanley Flights Park

Small improvements with big impact for the Northern neighborhoods

Baltic Beach

Floating park that brings the success of the Baltic to the Waterfront

Otter's Pool Park

Habitat creation and rewilding to create Liverpool's "Green Foot"

Brunswick Beach

A stepped pier park offering an immersive experience of the Mersey

Brunswick Market District

Mixed-use development linking Brunswick Station to the Waterfront

Marina Bridges

A "string of pearls" intervention to achieve a continuous, connected waterfront

Howard-Leeds District

Combined development, public space, and infrastructure improvements

Stanley Flights Park

Small improvements with a big impact for the Northern Neighborhoods



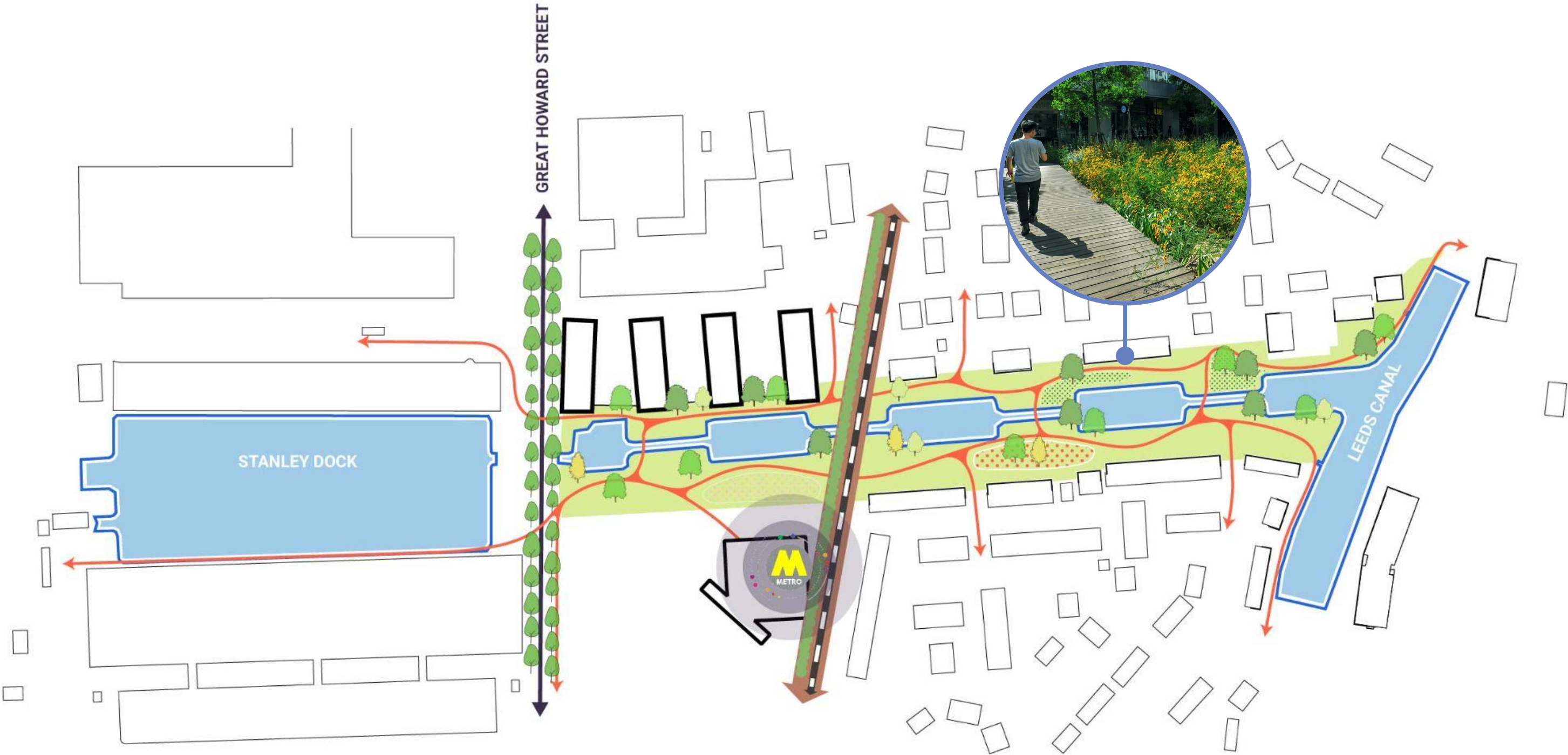
Operational locks that connect to the Leeds canal, with small footpaths and minimal landscaping.

This already existing neighbourhood park can become a major neighbourhood asset and connect The Eldonians more effectively to the upcoming development at Liverpool Waters.

Meanwhile, the lorry parking lot south of the Locks can host a new MerseyRail station in the future.

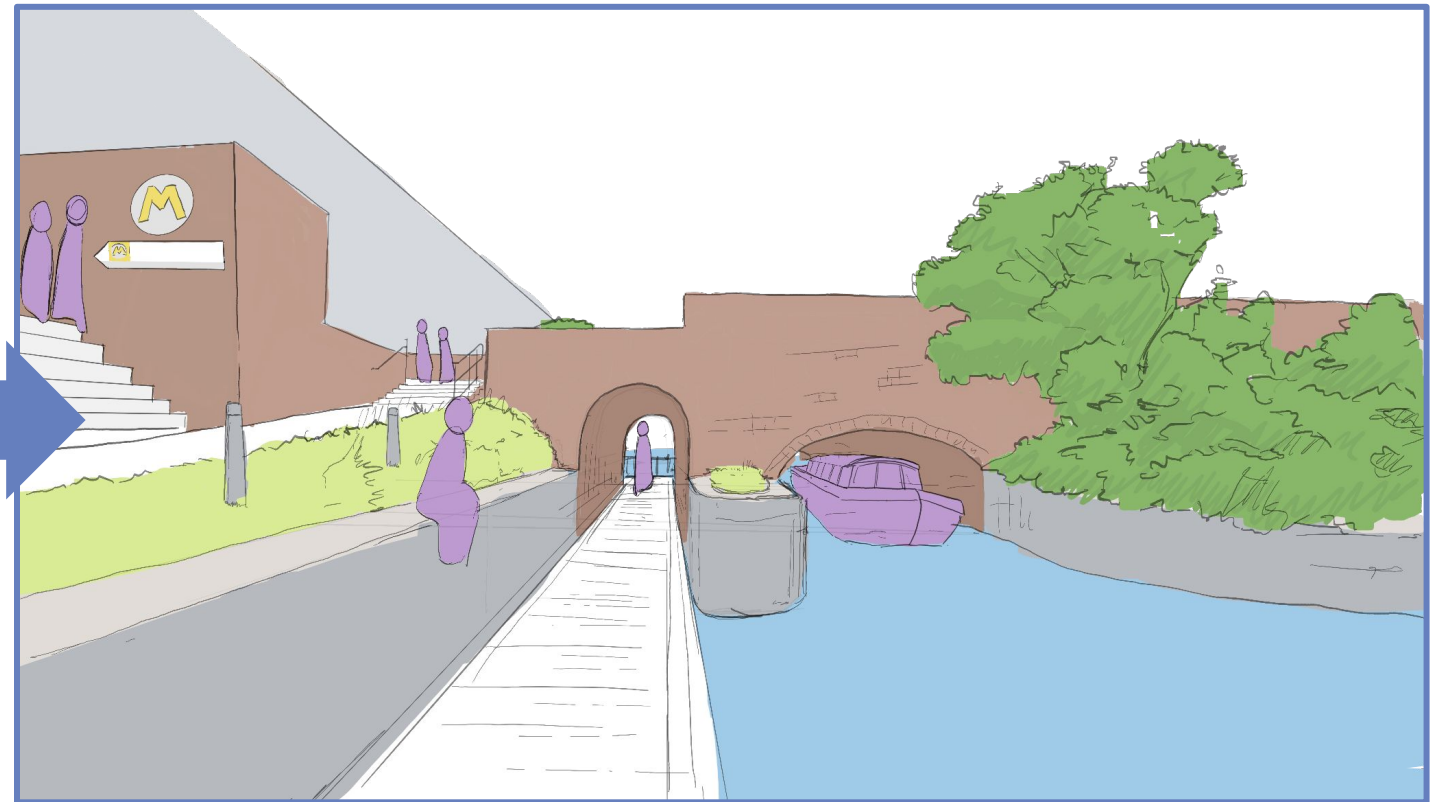
Stanley Flights Park

Small improvements with a big impact for the Northern Neighborhoods



Stanley Flights Park

Small improvements with a big impact for the Northern Neighborhoods



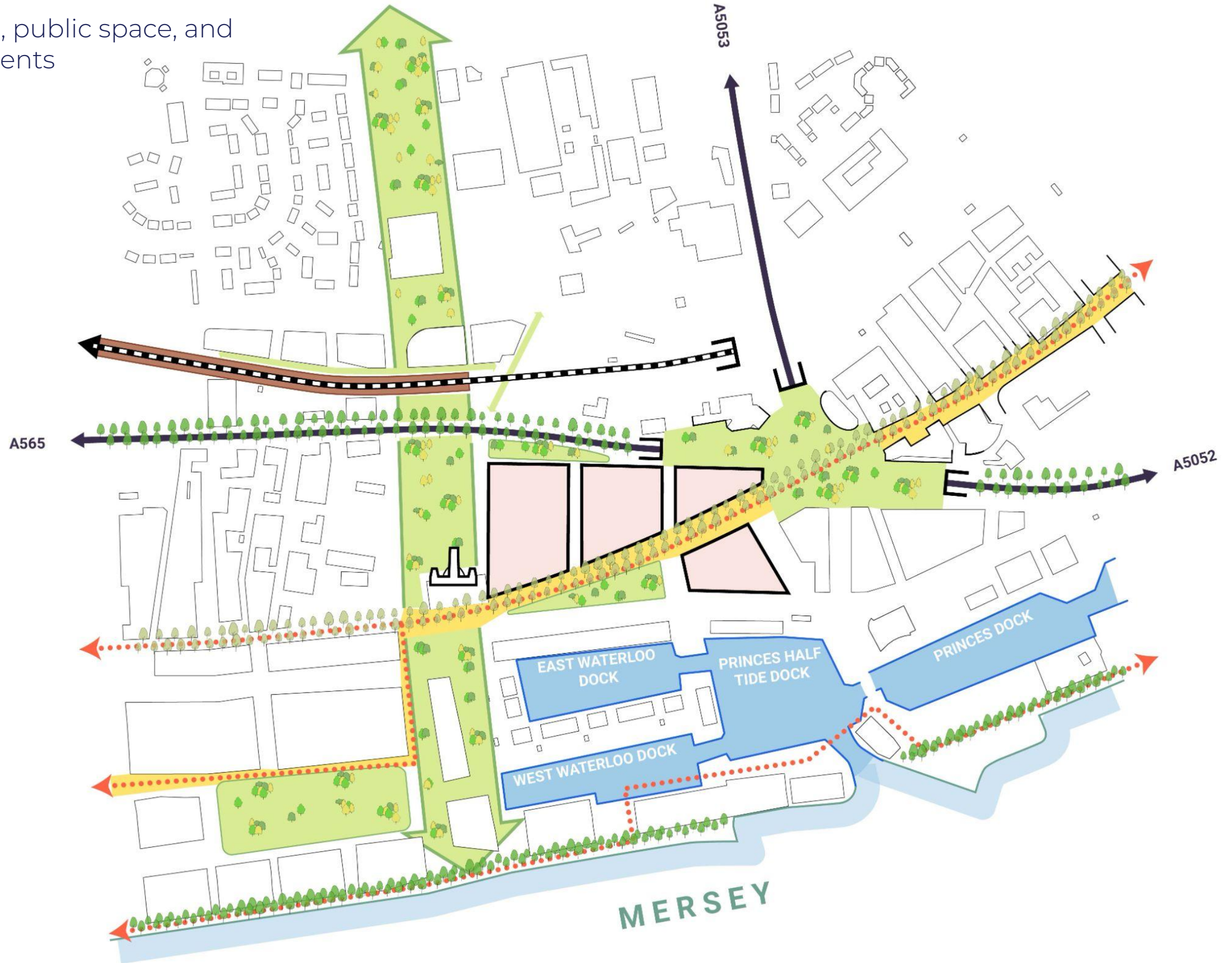
Howard-Leeds District

Combined development, public space, and infrastructure improvements



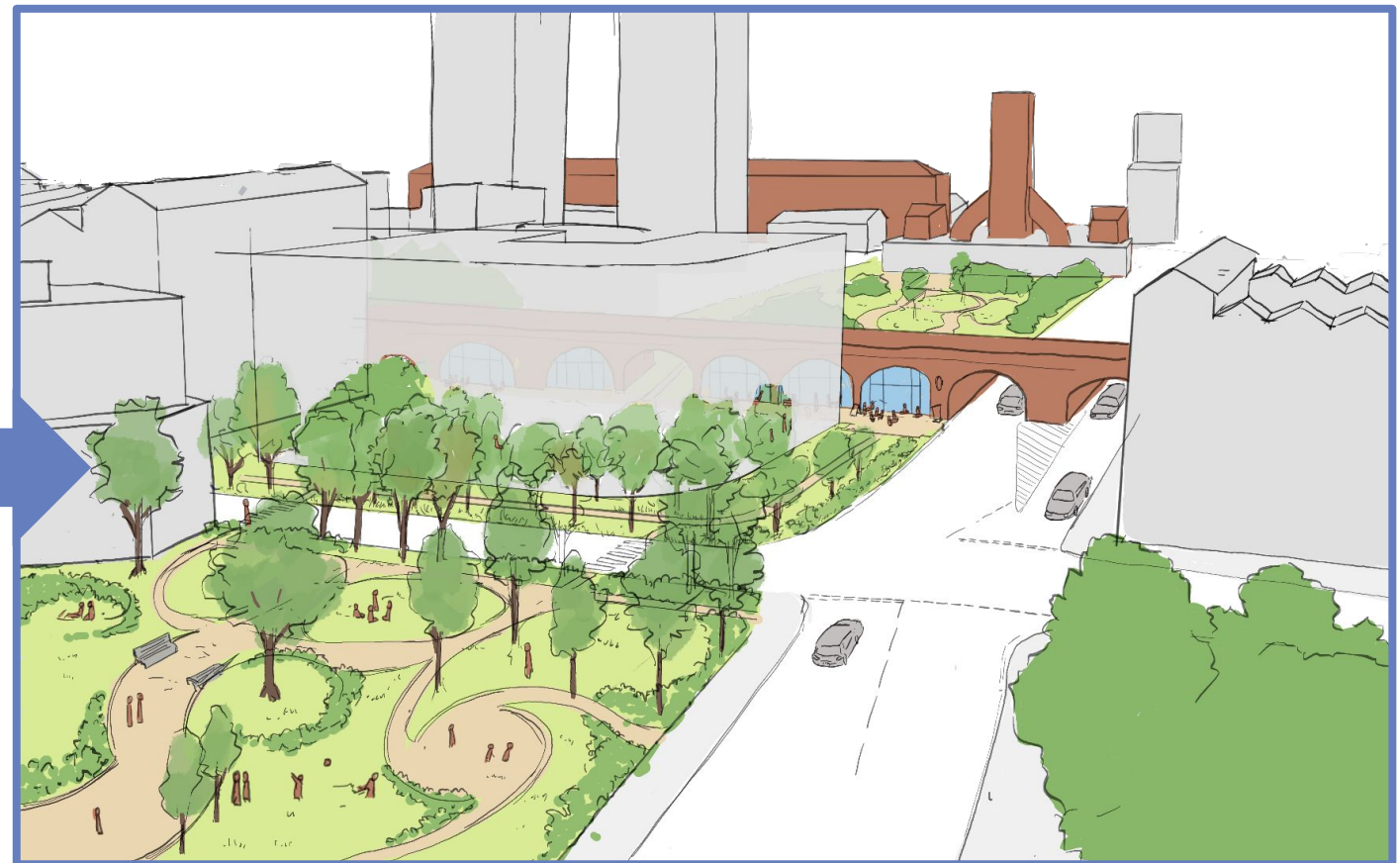
Howard-Leeds District

Combined development, public space, and infrastructure improvements



Howard-Leeds District

A linear green park connects to the waterfront



Baltic Beach

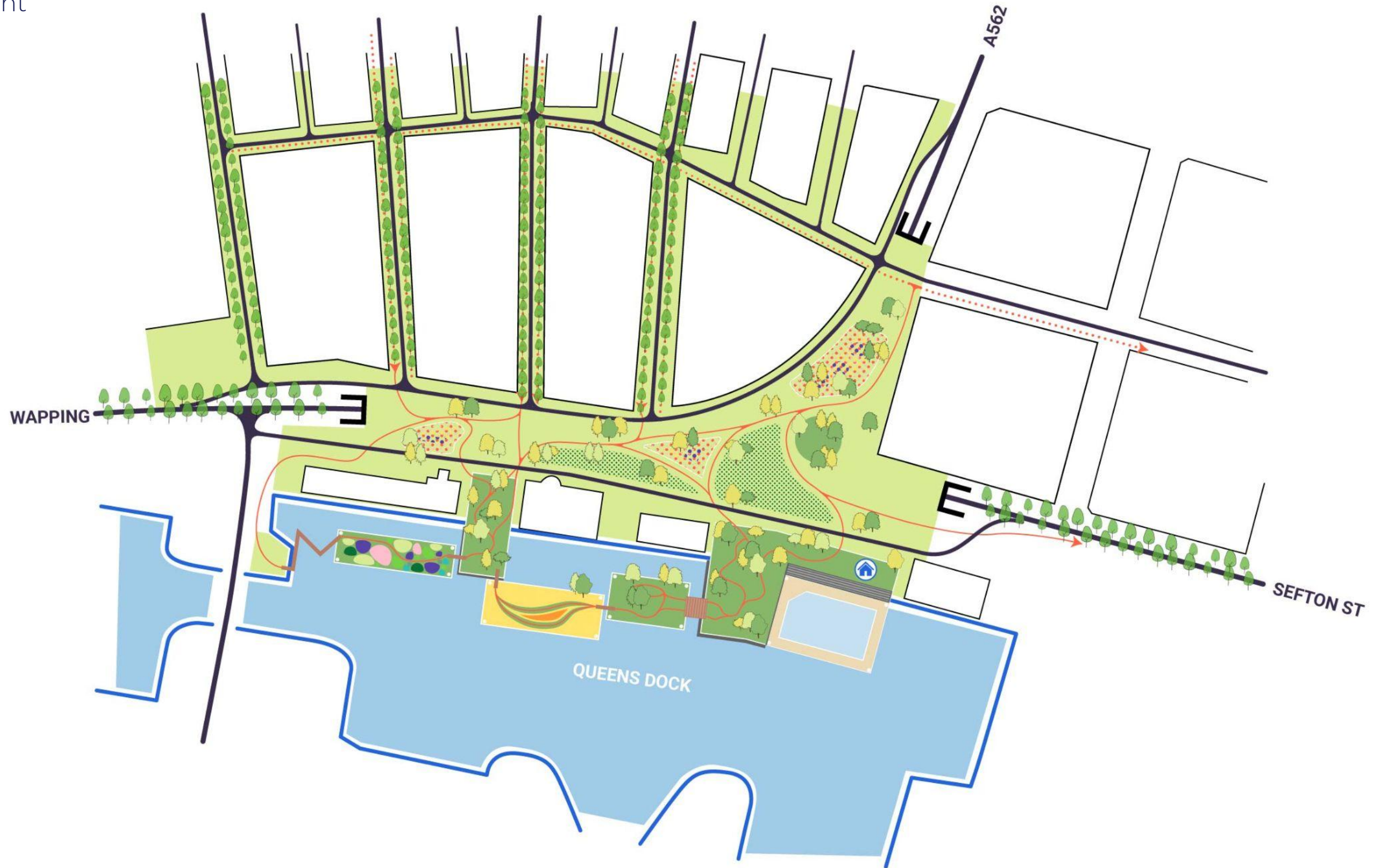
Floating park that brings the success of the Baltic to the Waterfront



The Baltic Triangle is one of Liverpool's greatest new assets. Yet, this neighborhood is completely cut off from the waterfront. We propose giving the Baltic a piece of the water in the form of a floating dockside park, allowing the dynamism and creativity of this thriving neighborhood to influence and benefit the waterfront.

Baltic Beach

Floating park that brings the success of the Baltic to the Waterfront



Floating Park Character

Community-driven, friendly, and a reflection of the neighborhood



Baltic Beach

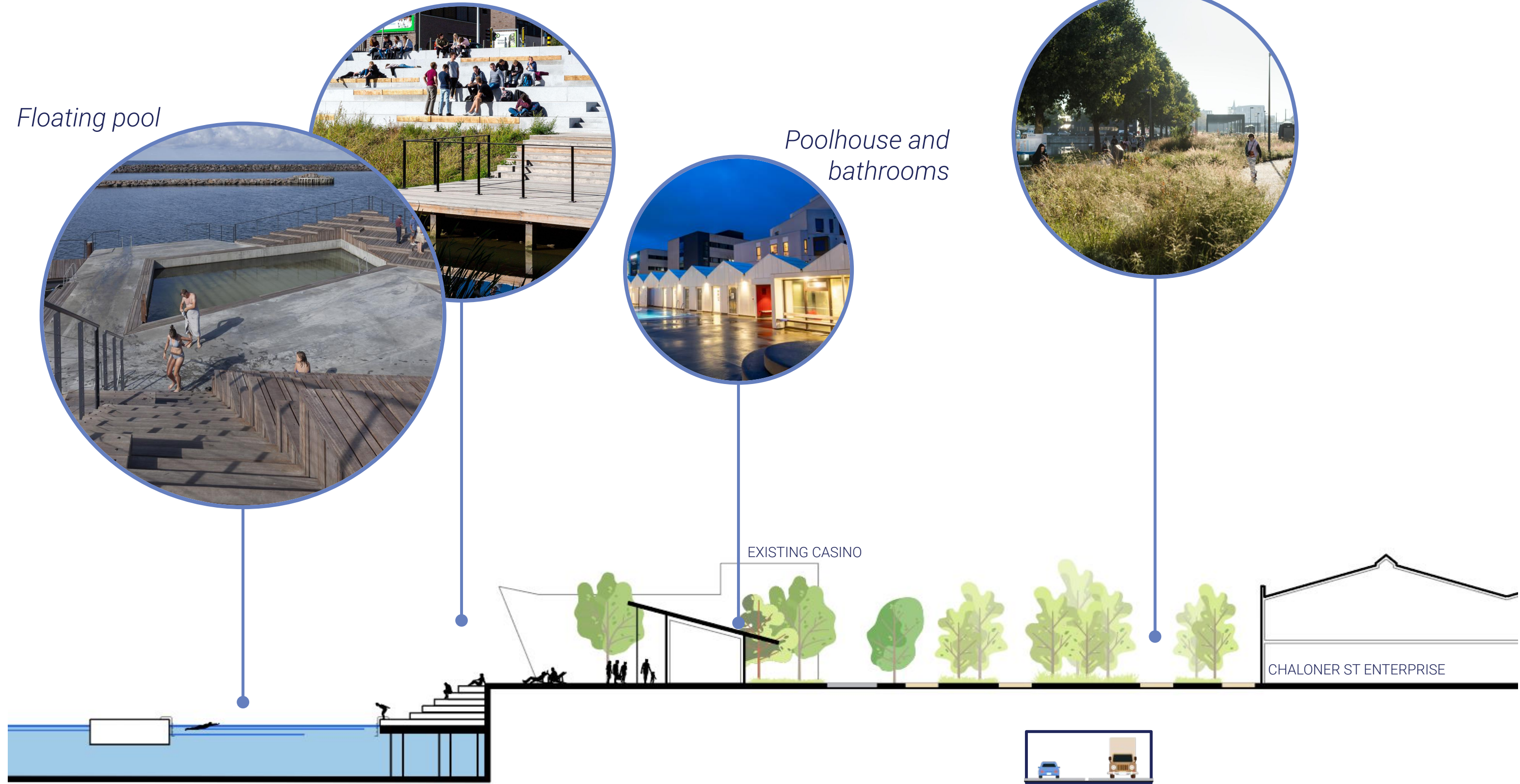
Section

Stepped dock

Informal pathways

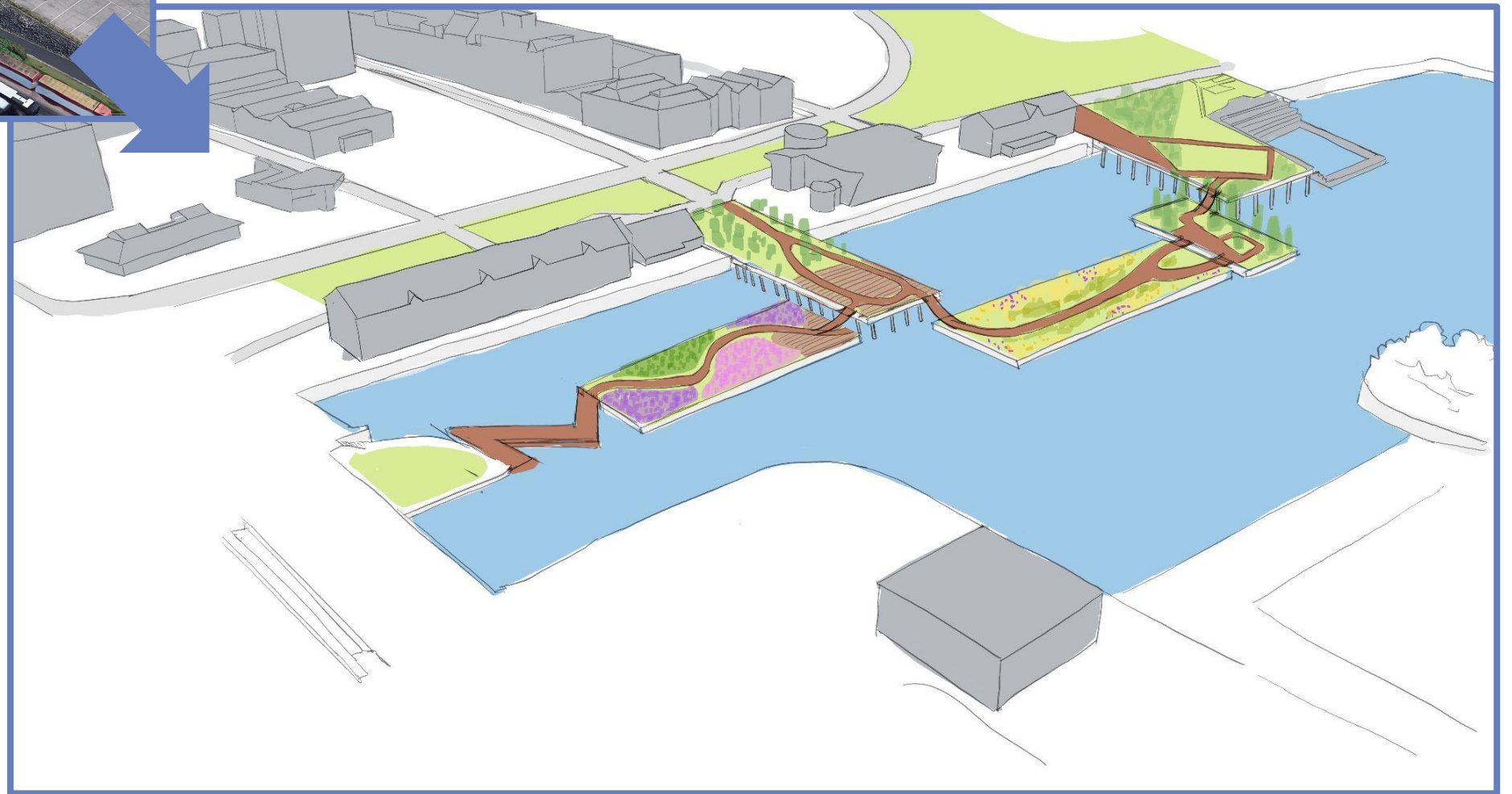
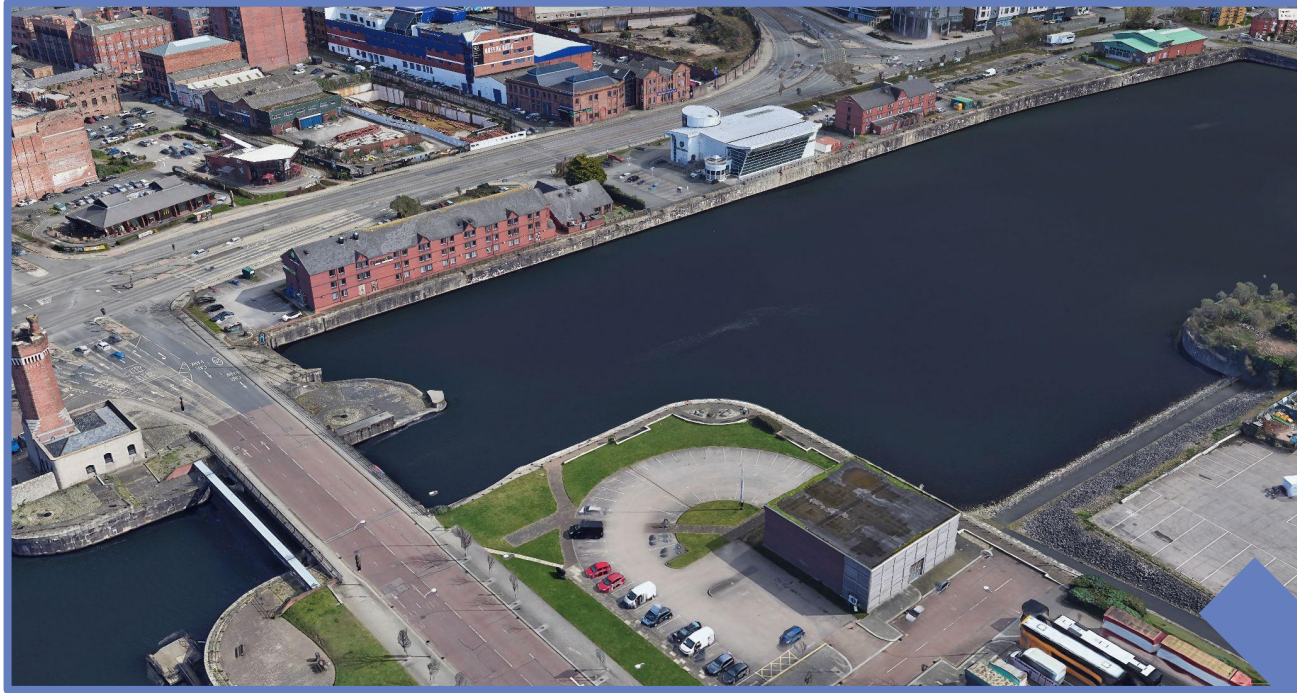
Floating pool

*Poolhouse and
bathrooms*



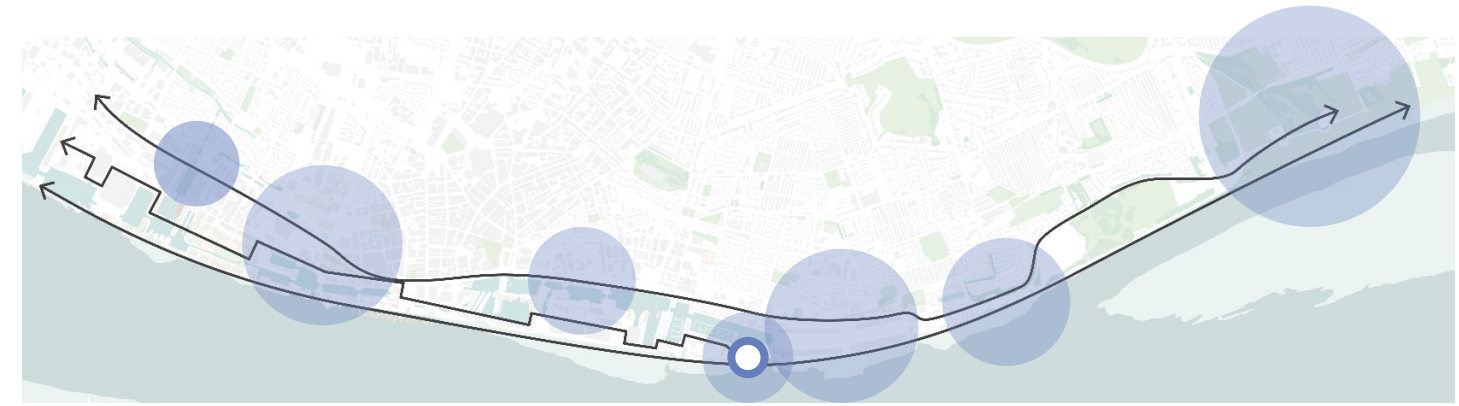
Baltic Beach

Floating park that brings the success of the Baltic to the Waterfront



Marina Bridges

A “String of Pearls” along the water’s edge

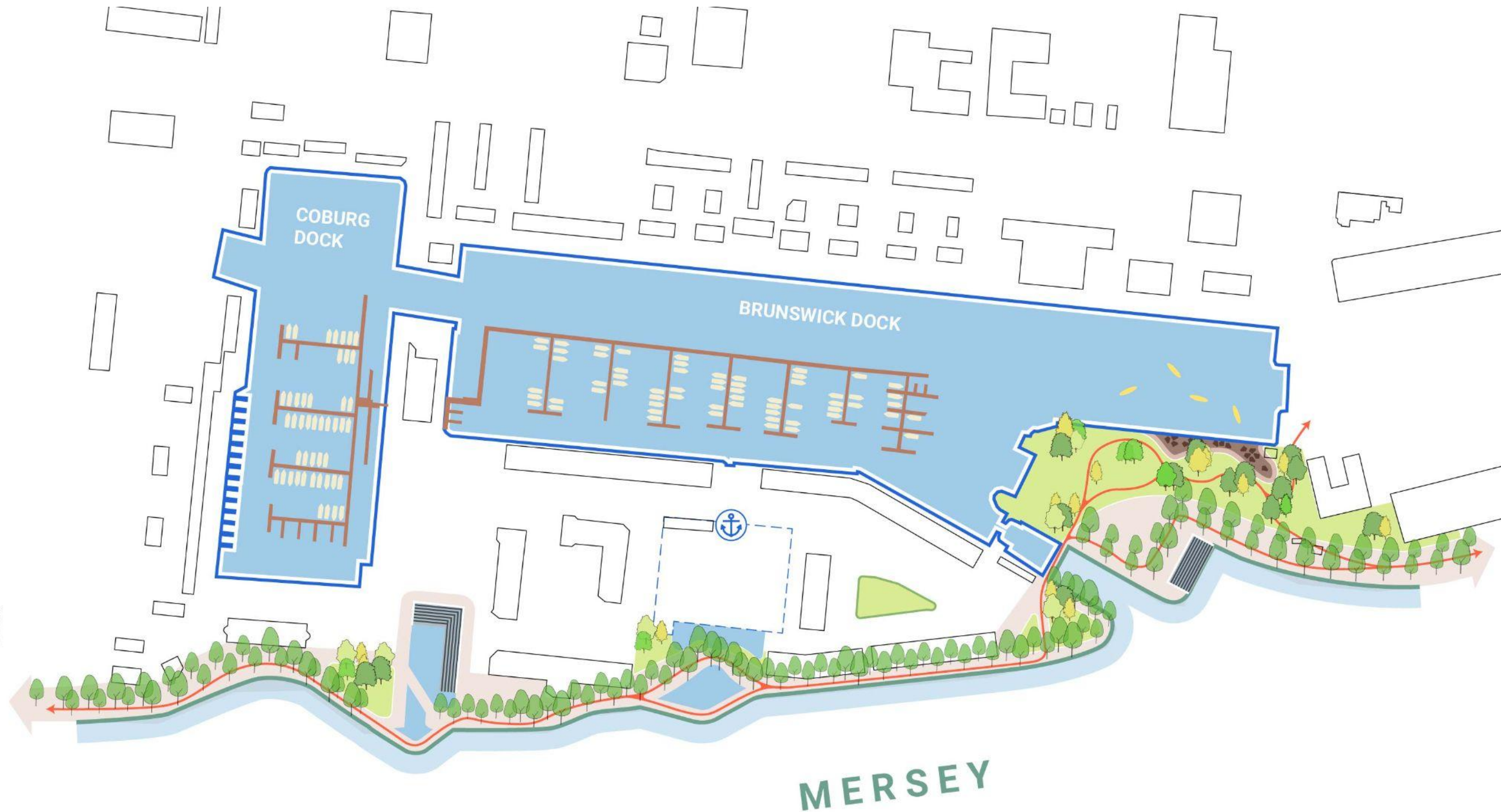


The Marina area currently presents itself as an interruption of the waterfront’s continuity, with a meandering edge that is often hard to follow. The alternate route, through the residential area, feels like a back-of-house world not meant for pedestrians.

We propose to connect the waterfront back to itself via a “string of pearls” along the Marina edge, with new bridge links and a green park redevelopment that serves Marina residents and offers a green respite along this somewhat forbidding portion of the water.

Marina Bridges

A “String of Pearls” along the water’s edge



Marina Bridges

A “String of Pearls” along the water’s edge



Brunswick Market District

Live, work, and connect to the waterfront

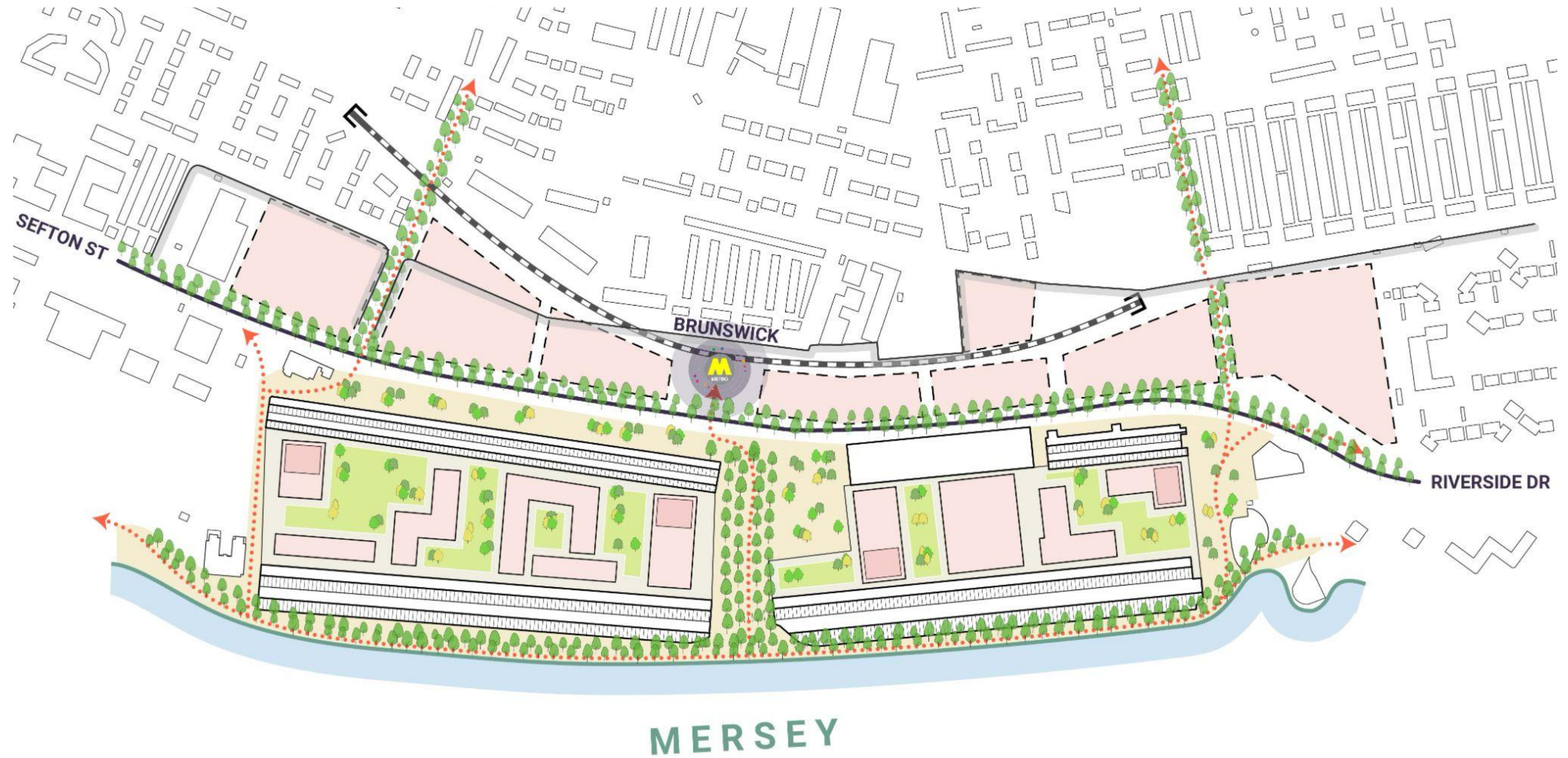


Brunswick Business Park has a number of beautiful historic warehouses currently hosting an array of businesses. The Business Park is not well connected to Brunswick Station, and it is surrounded by fencing, making it a barrier on the Waterfront.

We propose adding significant residential development between the historic warehouses, along with a decked elevated park covering the parking lots. Additional development to the north and stronger connections would transform this area into a new hub of creative businesses and residential.

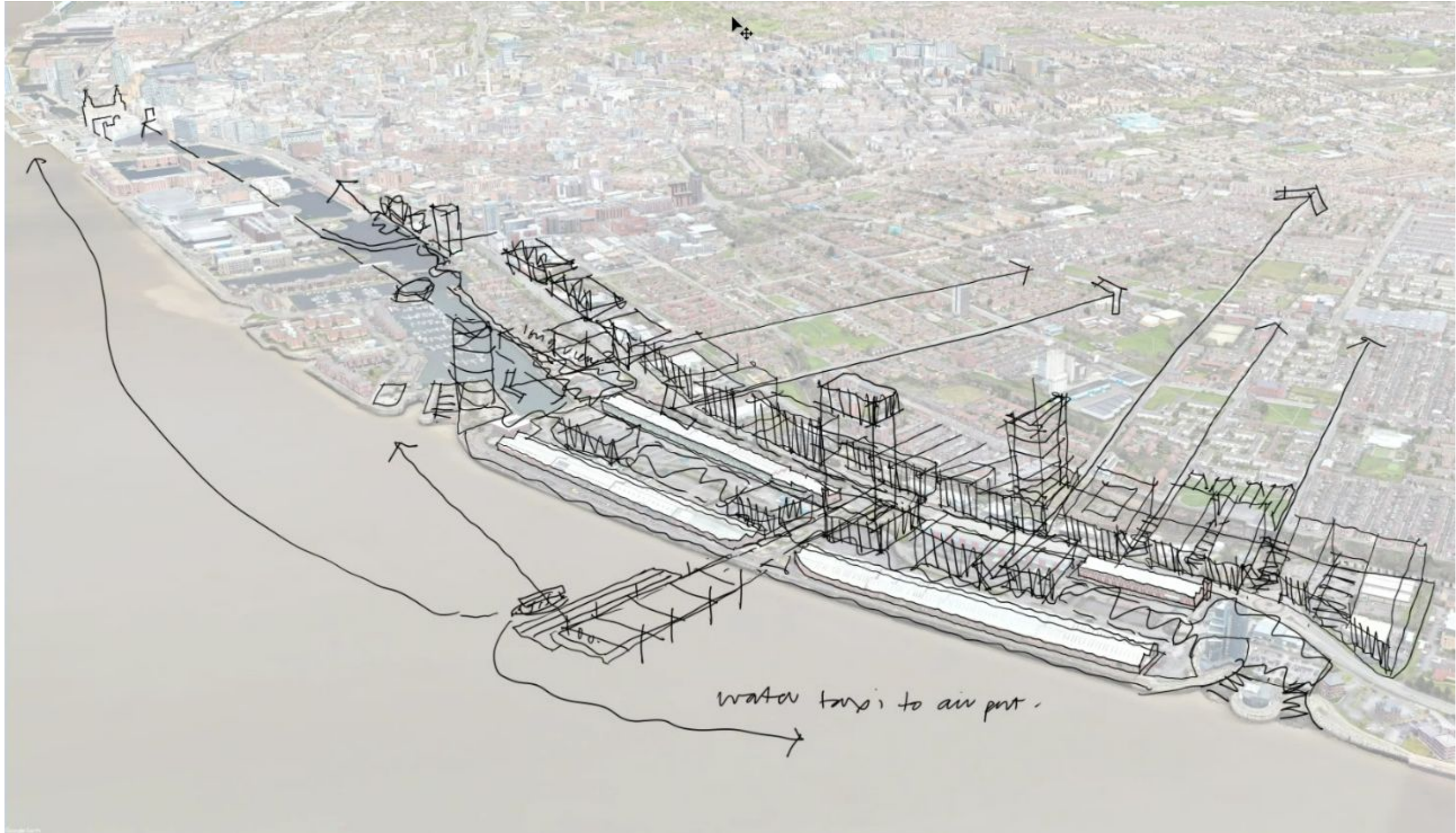
Brunswick Market District

Live, work, and connect to the waterfront



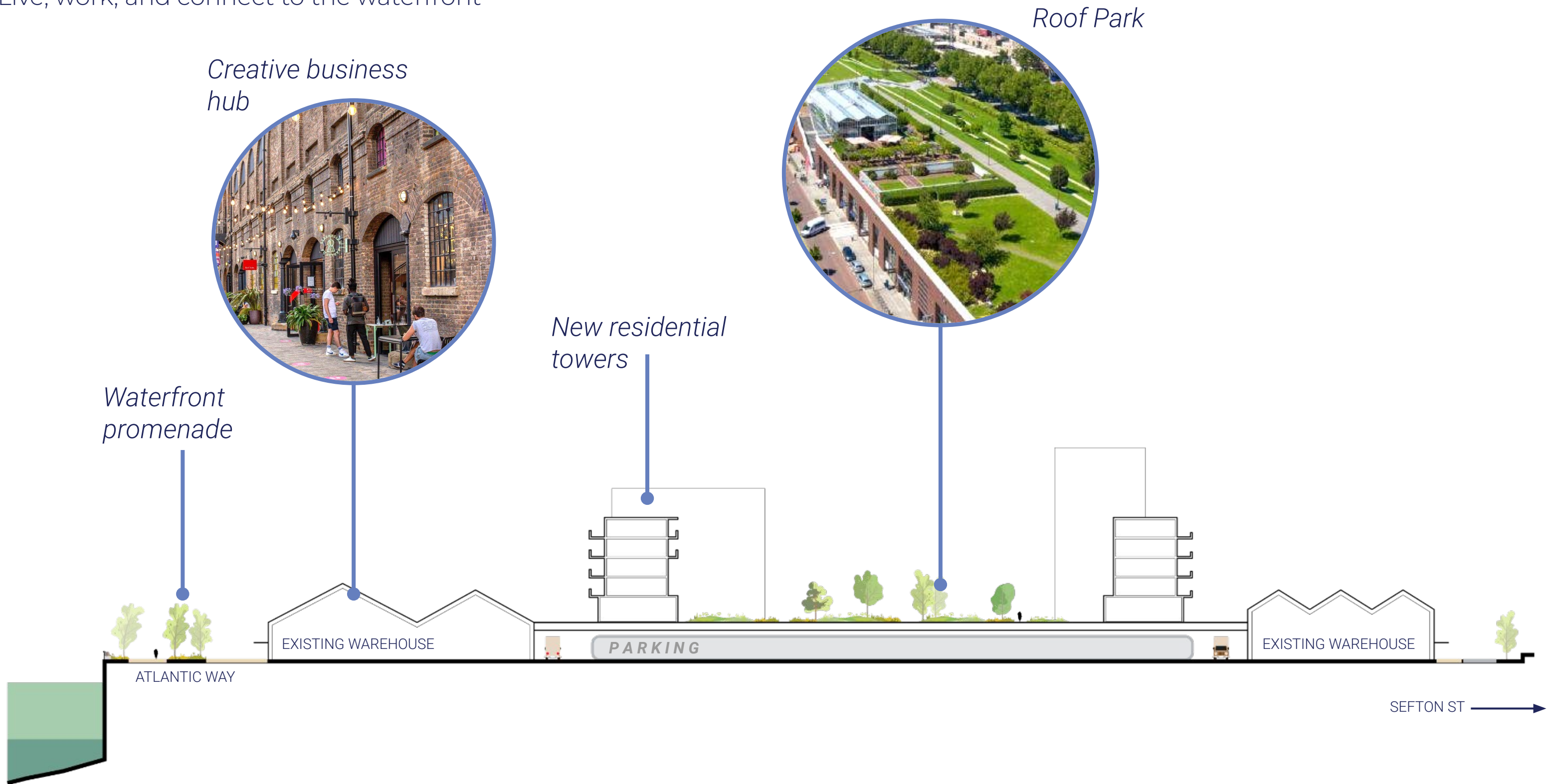
Direction of Influence

Here, the waterfront influences the urban grain and character rather than the inverse



Brunswick Market District

Live, work, and connect to the waterfront



Brunswick Market District

Live, work, and connect to the waterfront



Brunswick Beach

A green connector linking the river to Brunswick, Dingle, and Festival Gardens



Sandwiched between the business park and the new Festival Gardens site is a long, narrow strip of Trans-Pennine Trail that is inset from the rest of the Mersey bulkhead wall slightly. Brunswick Beach is a public space that expands the existing trail into a terraced park, from the coach parking on the eastern side of the road to the water's edge. A lower-level deck path is flooded at high tide, allowing people to make contact with the river when the tide is going out.

Brunswick Beach

A stepped pier park offering an immersive experience of the Mersey



Brunswick Beach

A stepped pier park offering an immersive experience of the Mersey



Brunswick Beach

A stepped pier park offering an immersive experience of the Mersey

Tidal steps



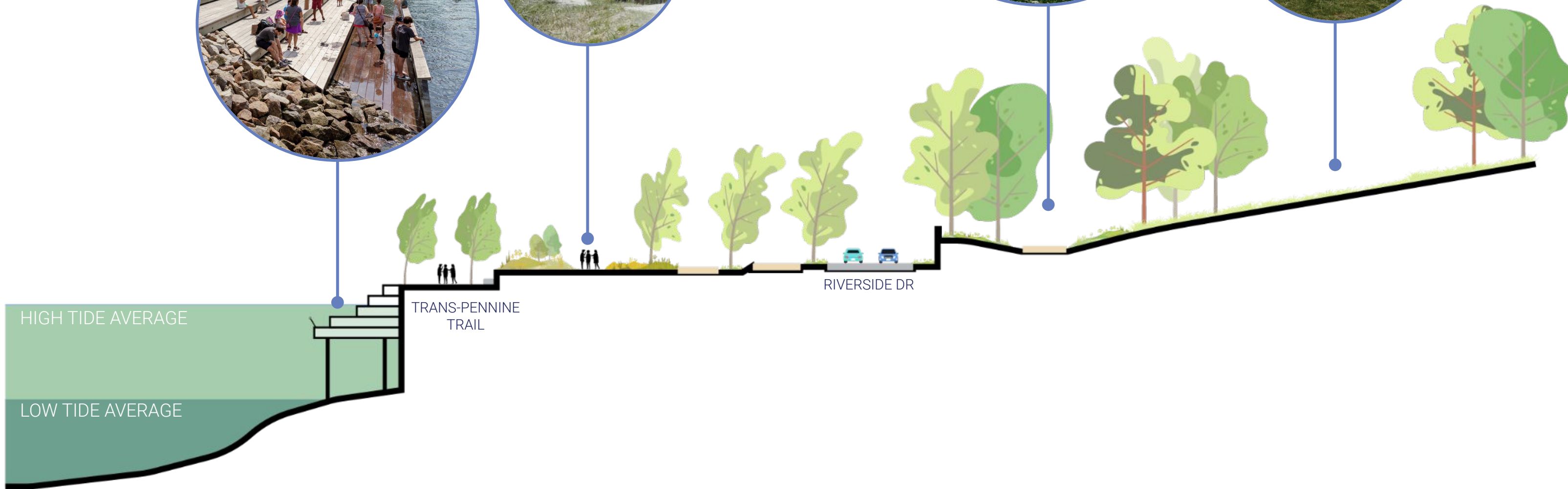
Dune walk



Sheltered park route



Picnic lawn



Otter's Pool

Historic estuarine marsh



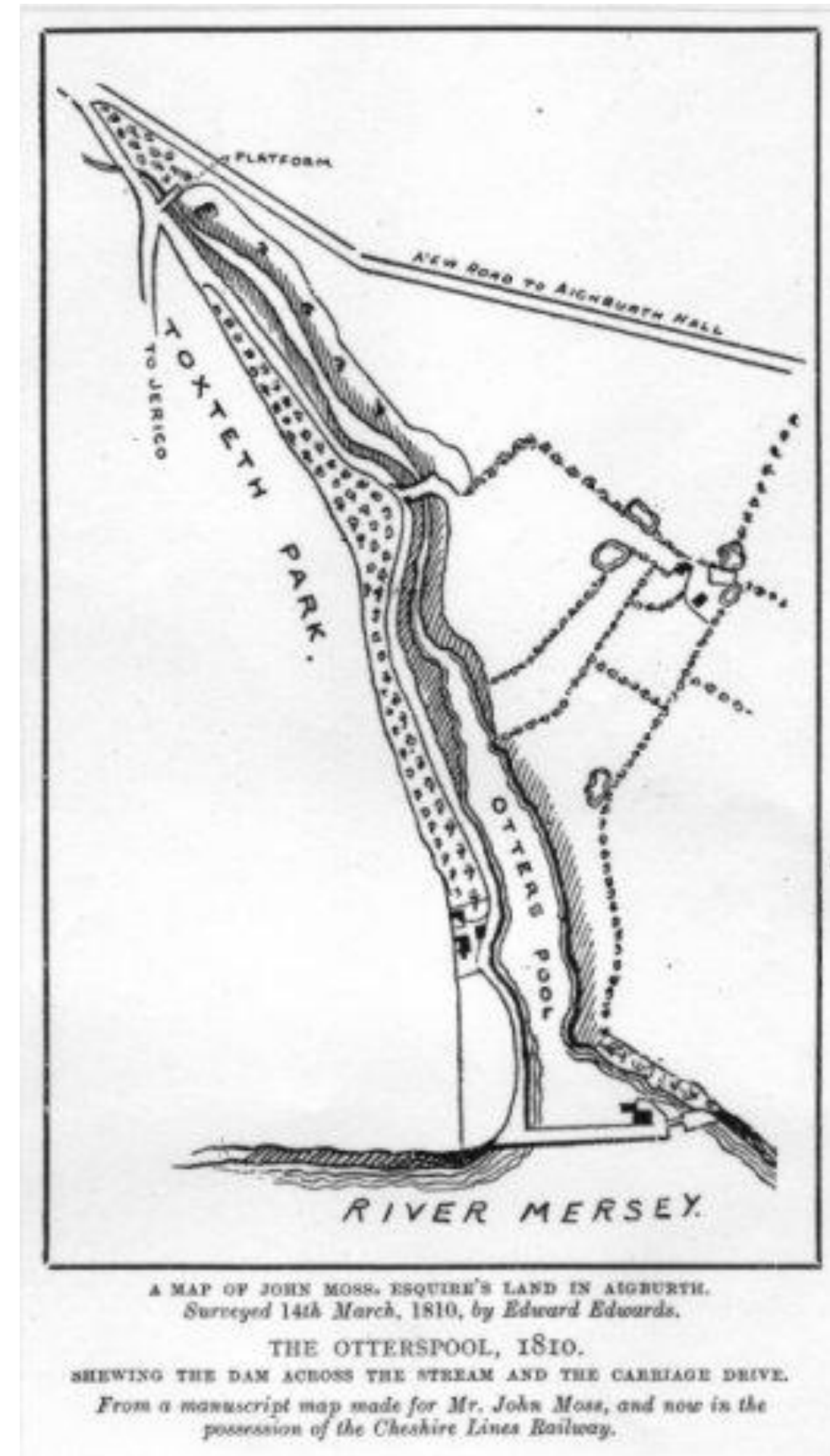
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Otterspool, at the very end of the Liverpool waterfront, contains a number of recreational facilities and an under-used wooded area. The wide grassy berms fronting the river are covering a raised landfill. Historically, there was a natural break in the river leading into an estuarine pool called Otter's Pool.

We propose restoring Otter's Pool and introducing it as an enhanced habitat and natural area for recreation and nature. We are exploring two proposals that would allow us to do this, creating a dynamic tidal landscape that encourages contact with the river in a safe and contained way, further inland.

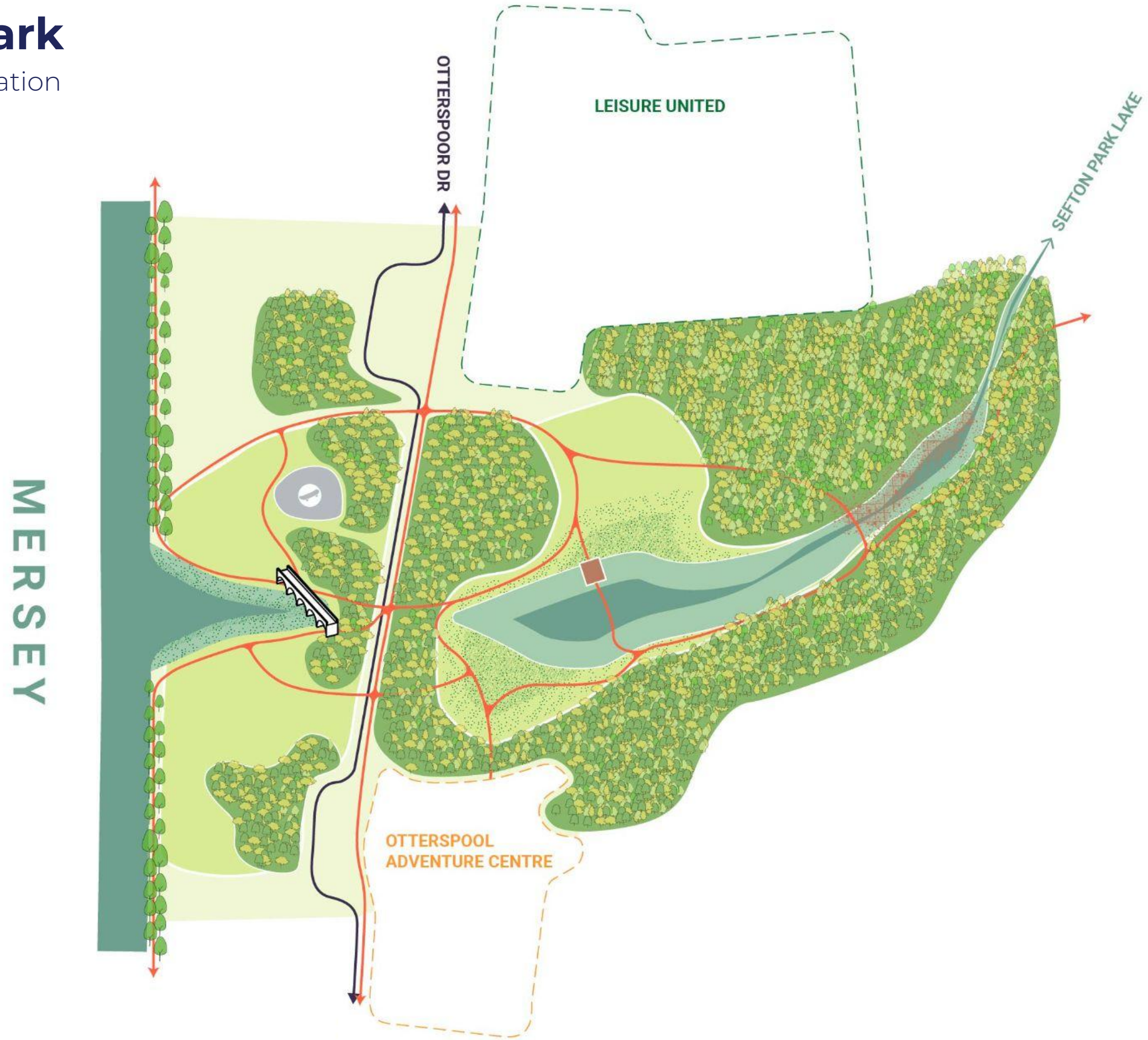
Otter's Pool

Historic estuarine marsh



Otter's Pool Park

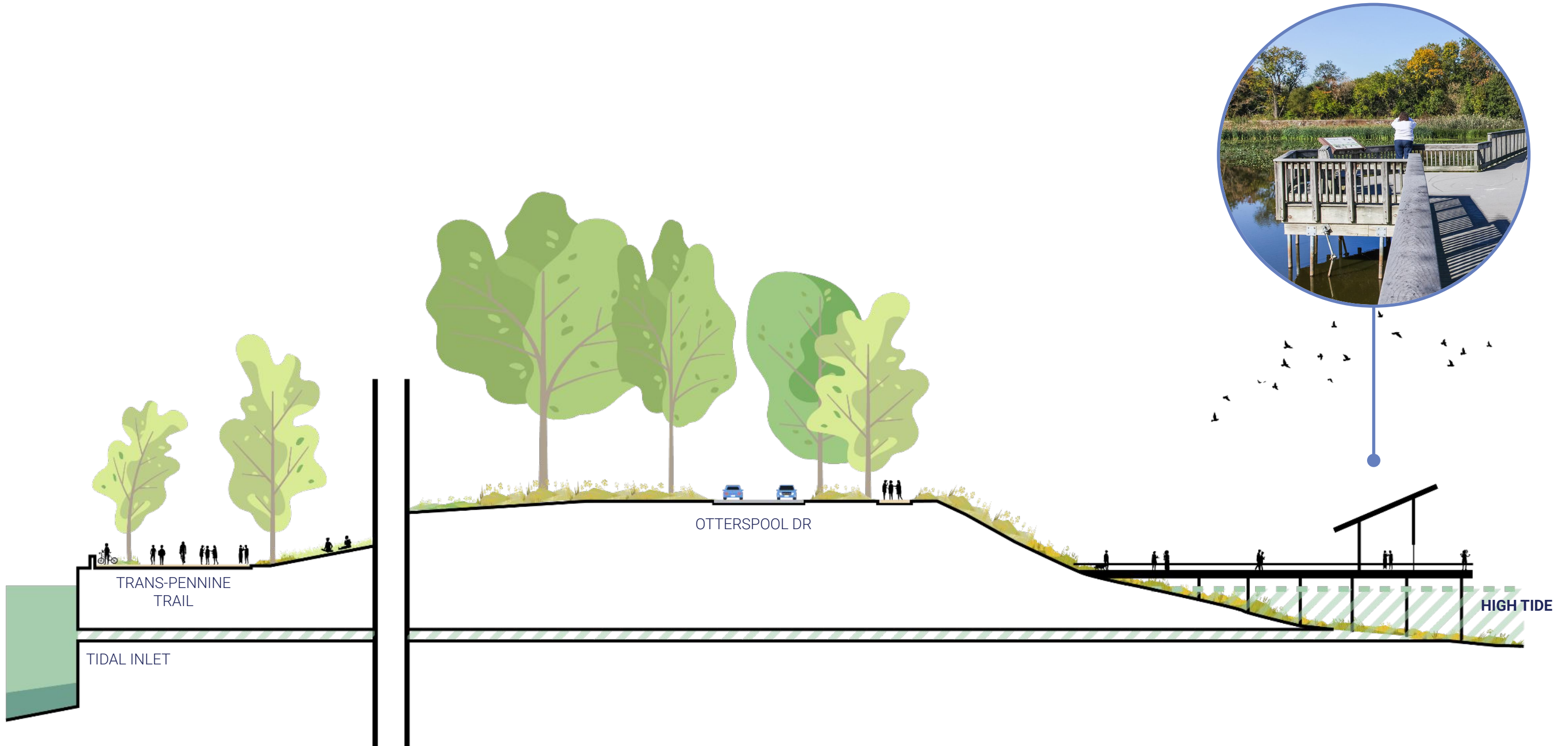
Recreation and Naturalisation



Otter's Pool Park

Recreation and Naturalisation

Education Centre



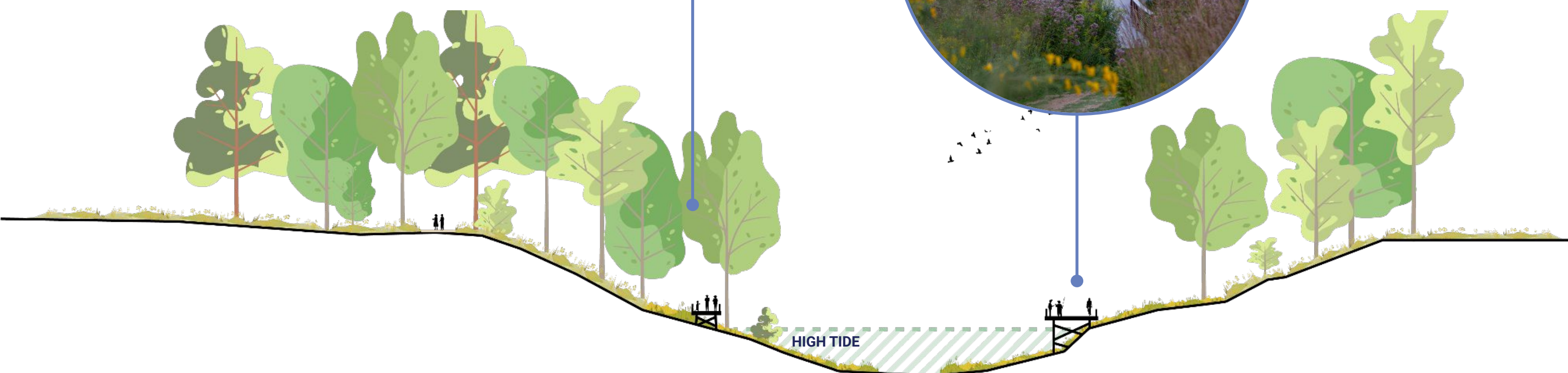
Otter's Pool Park

Recreation and Naturalisation

Four-season nature experiences



Wetland-friendly boardwalk trails



The Otter's Pool

A new nature park and habitat restoration for the waterfront's Green "Root"

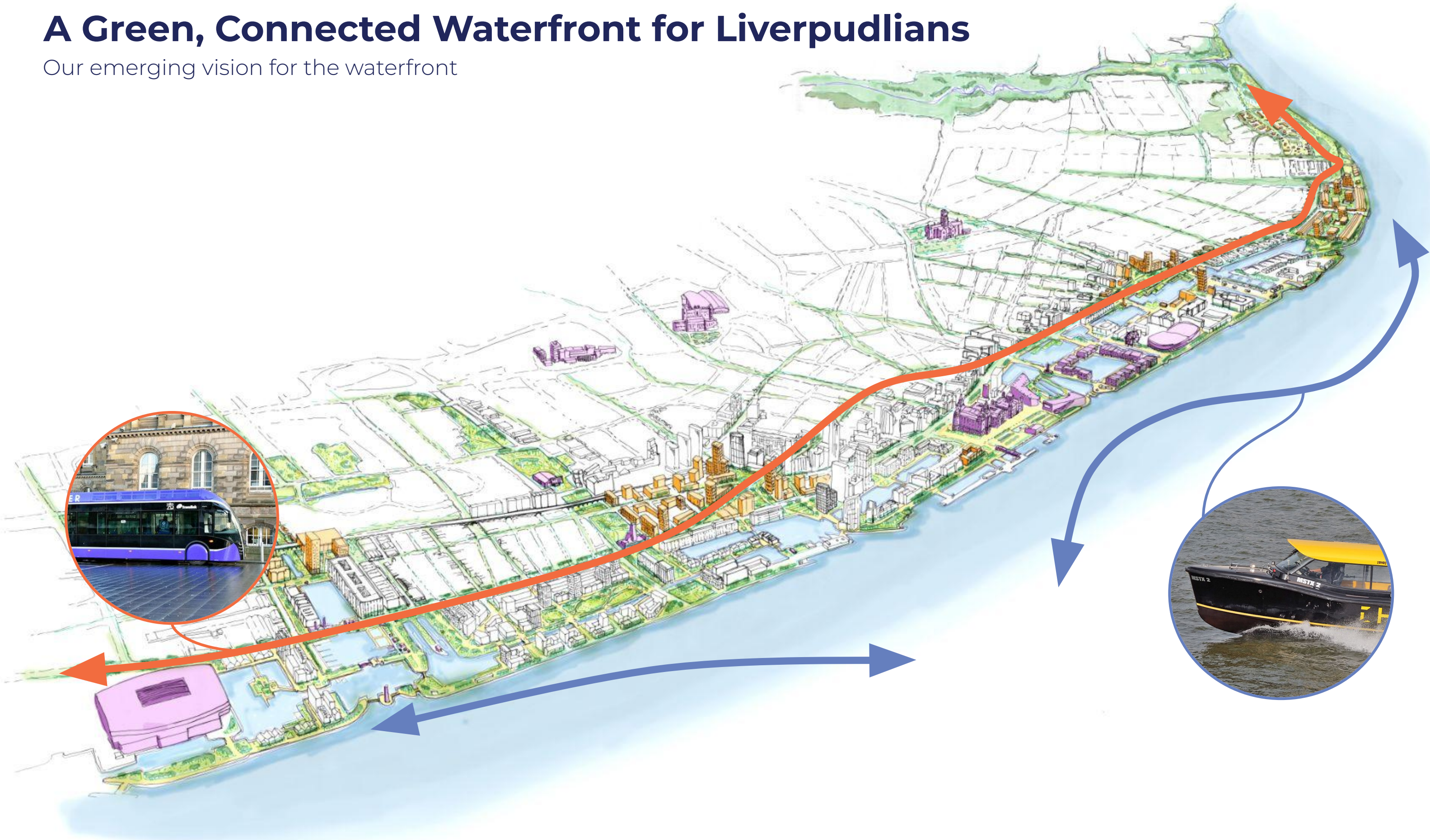


05

Further Detail and Next Steps

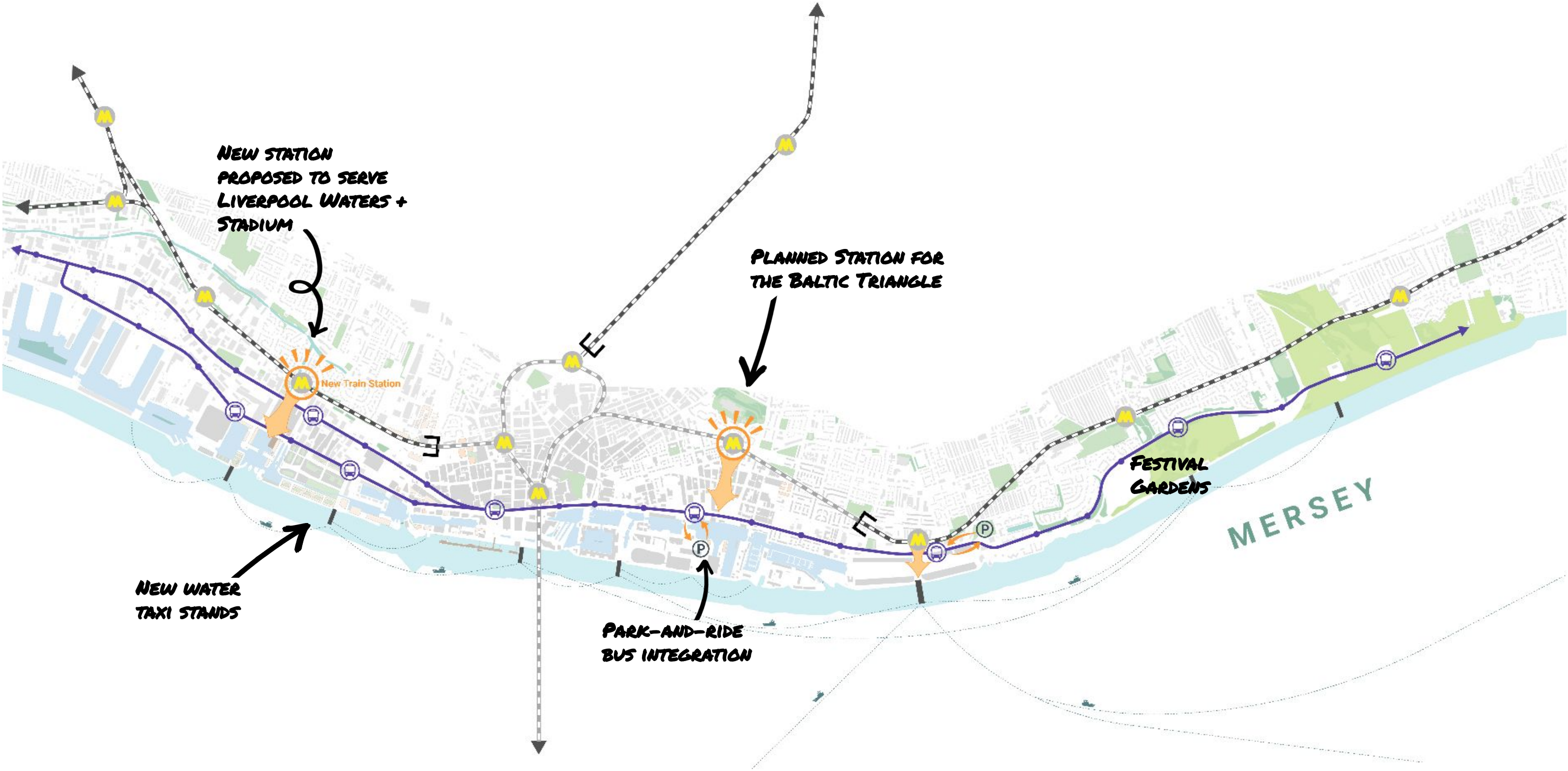
A Green, Connected Waterfront for Liverpooldians

Our emerging vision for the waterfront



Transit Vision

Early directions



Reduce Surface Parking Lots

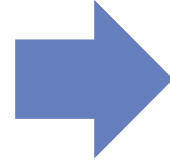
Parking Lot → Park



Empty Docks = Empty Parking Lots



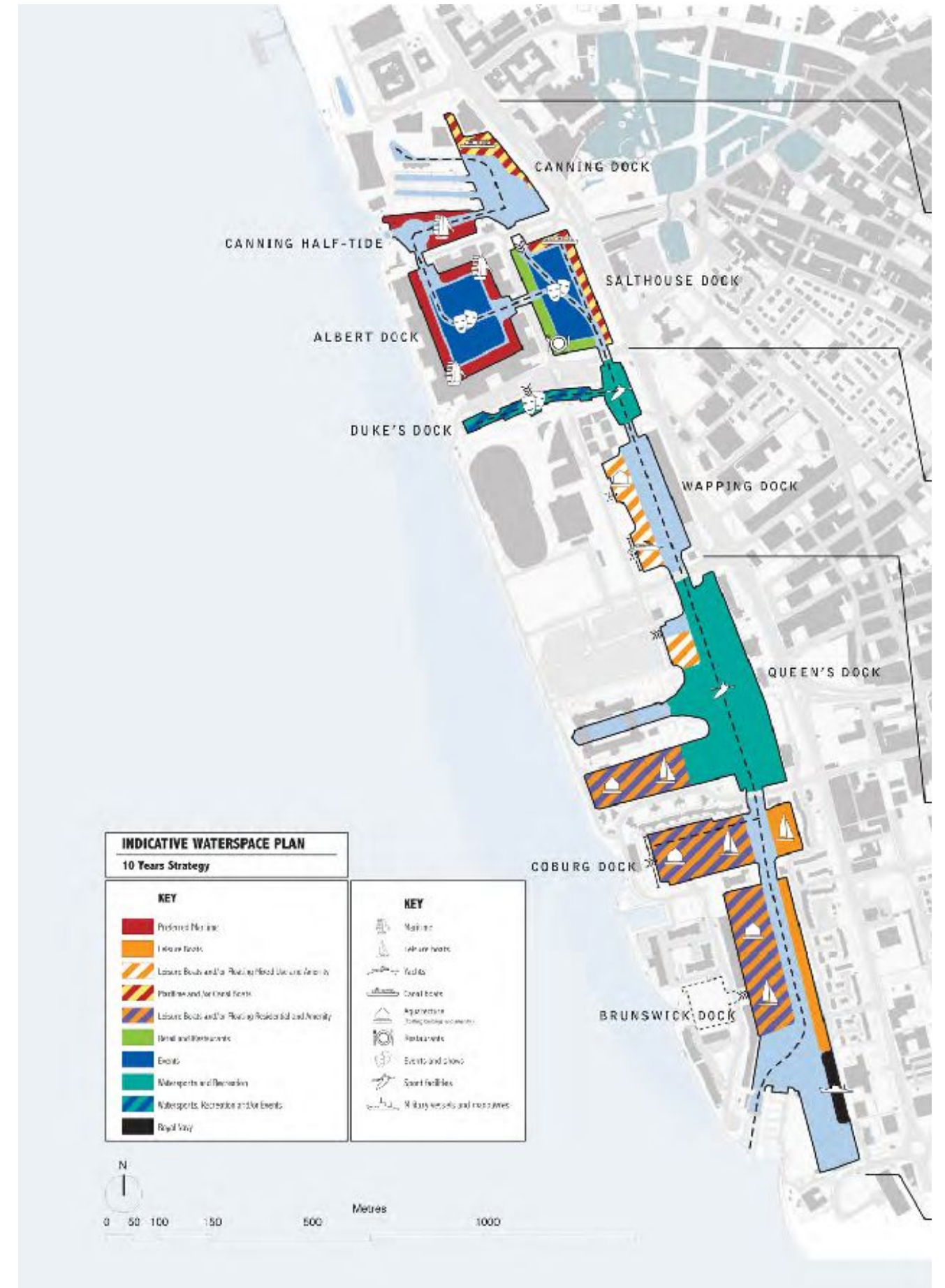
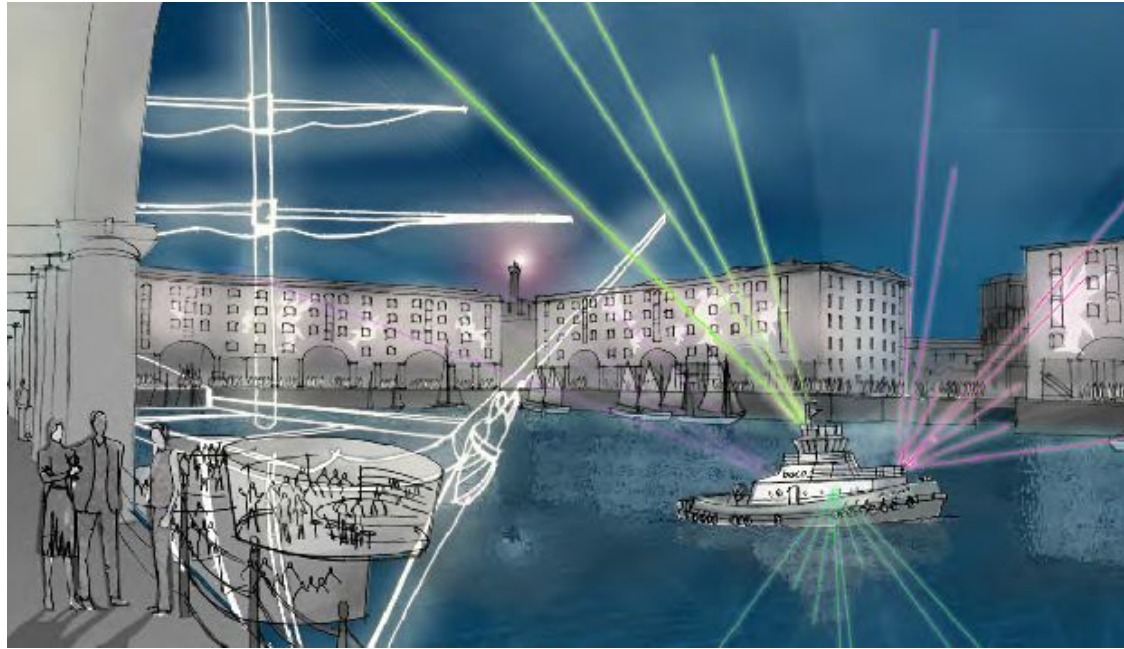
Salthouse Dock, 1890s



Salthouse Dock, 2020s

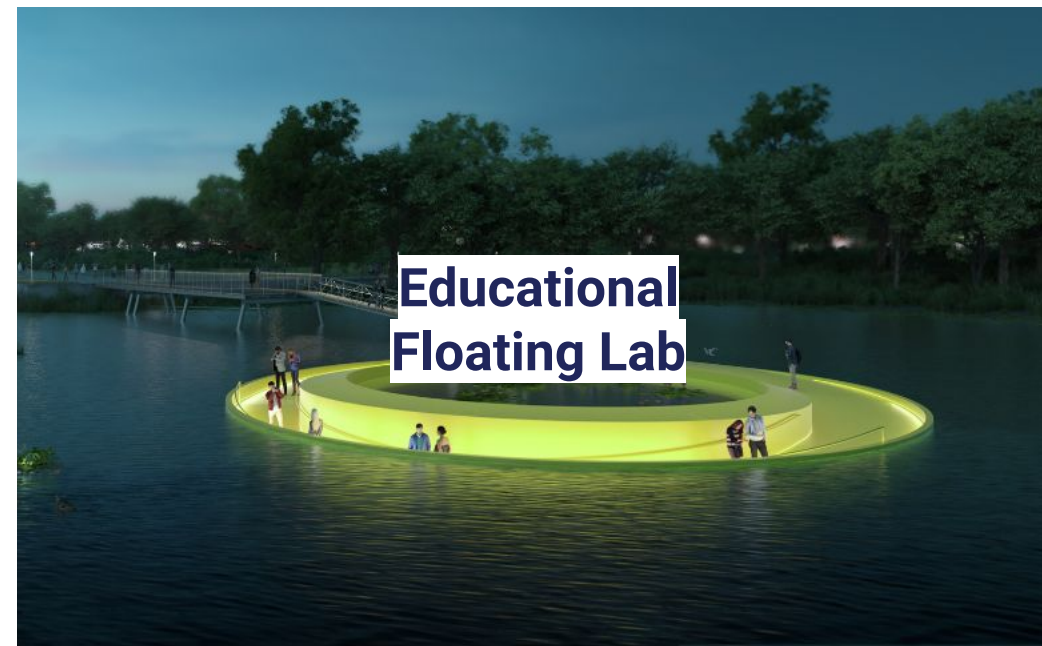
Using the water

2008 Liverpool Waterspace Strategy, BACA Architects



Floating Space Activation

A range of public and private typologies



Process

From Workshops to SPD

Workshops and
Feedback Sessions



Design Vision and
Proposals



Strategic Planning
Document



Guiding Principles

Progressing and Evolving the Vision



The waterfront is **first and foremost for Liverpudlians**.

It should be **a green ribbon** along the Mersey with a comfortable microclimate and accessibility from Bramley Moore to Otterspool.

The waterfront should **connect to neighbourhoods** that make Liverpool unique.

And a vision for the waterfront should **celebrate the past, enrich the present, and establish a bright future** for Liverpool.

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