

About the project

In July 2024 Westminster City Council launched the Paddington Green and Little Venice Canalside Public Realm Improvements project with the ambition of creating safer, more accessible, and greener public spaces. Throughout September and October 2024 we carried out initial community engagement to understand your experiences and aspirations for the spaces, as well as your concerns about any changes. We listened to your views and translated this feedback into key objectives, which informed a series of design ideas.

This exhibition showcases the design ideas that have come out of this initial phase. Now is your opportunity to **tell us what you think about each of the ideas to help us refine a preferred proposal to take forward to the next stage**. A short online survey will be open for five weeks from **Monday 14th April until Sunday 18th May**. We encourage all those who live, work or study around Paddington Green & Little Venice Canalside to submit their feedback.

It is important to note that the Council has earmarked some funding that can be used for the delivery of these proposals. However, further progression of these will be subject to public feedback, additional technical studies and detailed design development. Also, statutory consultations may be required.

Background

In 2023, the Council published its *Paddington Public Realm Strategy* which focused on improving public spaces and connections for walking and cycling across this part of Westminster. The strategy aims to transform Paddington’s disconnected neighbourhoods into a vibrant, healthy and inclusive area. Paddington Green and Little Venice Canalside are part of the first phase of projects being taken forward, alongside Warwick Avenue.

More information about the *Paddington Public Realm Strategy* can be found here: www.westminster.gov.uk/paddington-place/paddington-public-realm-strategy

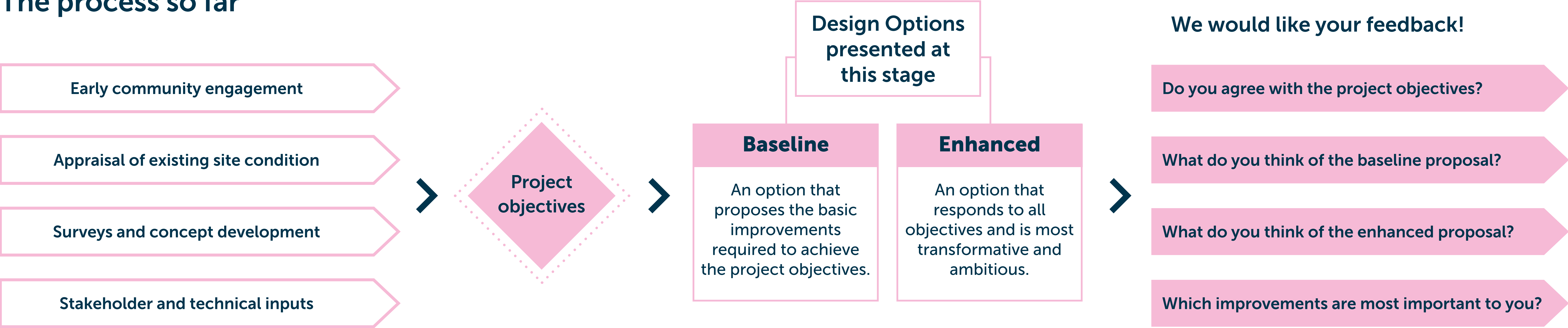
Team

The Council’s Place Shaping, Highways and Parks teams are managing the project and have appointed a design team led by East urban designers, with JCLA landscape design, Studio Dekka lighting design, NRP traffic and transport, WSP highways engineers , alongside Appleyard & Trew cost consultants.

Contact

If you have any queries, or would like more information please contact us via email: paddingtonplaceplan@westminster.gov.uk

The process so far



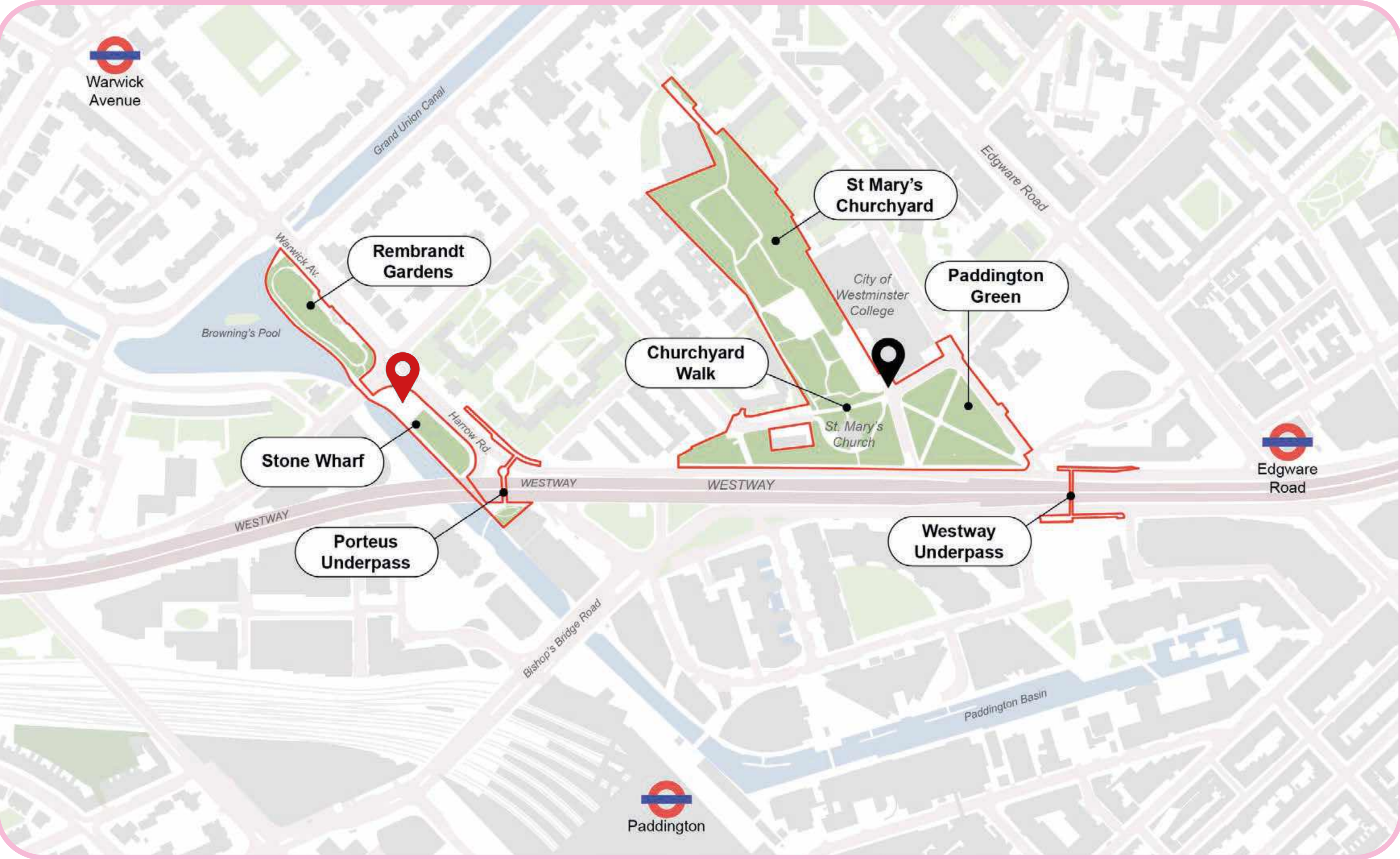
Sites for consultation

The project is split across 7 different sites, clustered in two main areas:

- The **Paddington Green** exhibition will be located at the City of Westminster College forecourt and will showcase design options for:

 - Churchyard Walk
 - St. Mary’s Churchyard
 - Paddington Green
 - Westway Underpass
- The **Little Venice Canalside** exhibition will be held at Stone Wharf and will present options for:

 - Rembrandt Gardens
 - Stone Wharf
 - Porteus Triangle & Underpass



Little Venice Canalside Exhibition (you are here!) Paddington Green Exhibition

What we heard

Rembrandt Gardens

Rembrandt Gardens is well enjoyed by local residents who praise it for its natural character and biodiversity. People do not wish to see changes to the green space itself but have identified areas of enhancement, predominantly relating to accessibility such as improving under the Harrow Road bridge, the towpath and ‘dead-end’ by Warwick Bridge.

“Open-up views from the Gardens to the water, to appreciate the full beauty of Little Venice!”



“Create a better, continuous, and more intuitive walking connection along the canal.”

“This dead end on the canal footpath is a dumping ground”



“More benches on towpath, sit by the water, bird watching and calm. I come here on the evening because it is secluded.”

Stone Wharf

Stone Wharf has been highlighted as a locally important site due to its heritage and character. People do wish to see its history being preserved and promoted more, but also seek better accessibility through the site. Under the bridges at both ends of the site could be improved and promote access through and to Rembrandt Gardens. Currently used by the Cavalcade and occasionally by the Floating Classroom, residents consider this site prime for additional uses, including leisure & play, educational, cultural or community activities.

“Protect the cobblestones, relay them in an accessible way!”



“The footpath and walkways are dangerous - they are sloping, bumpy and have terrible light. Needs complete modernisation.”

“Open space with nice potential, but nothing really going on”



“An open plan pavilion that can be rented out by the community, artistic and gallery spaces”

Porteus Underpass

Porteus Underpass has been described as utilitarian and well designed, with many residents using it regularly. Improved lighting and wayfinding were the main topics for improvements, while the approaches (Porteus Triangle & Venice Walk) have been highlighted as unpleasant and unsafe. Additional greening and lighting in these areas were suggestions that would enhance the user experience.

“Looks unpleasant, very concrete-heavy. Lack of lighting makes it feel unsafe to travel through in evenings.”



“This space is functional and doesn't feel unsafe - it is busy and wide and the space is well lit”

“Missing some plants, we need more things growing here to make it pretty; too much of a concrete corner.”



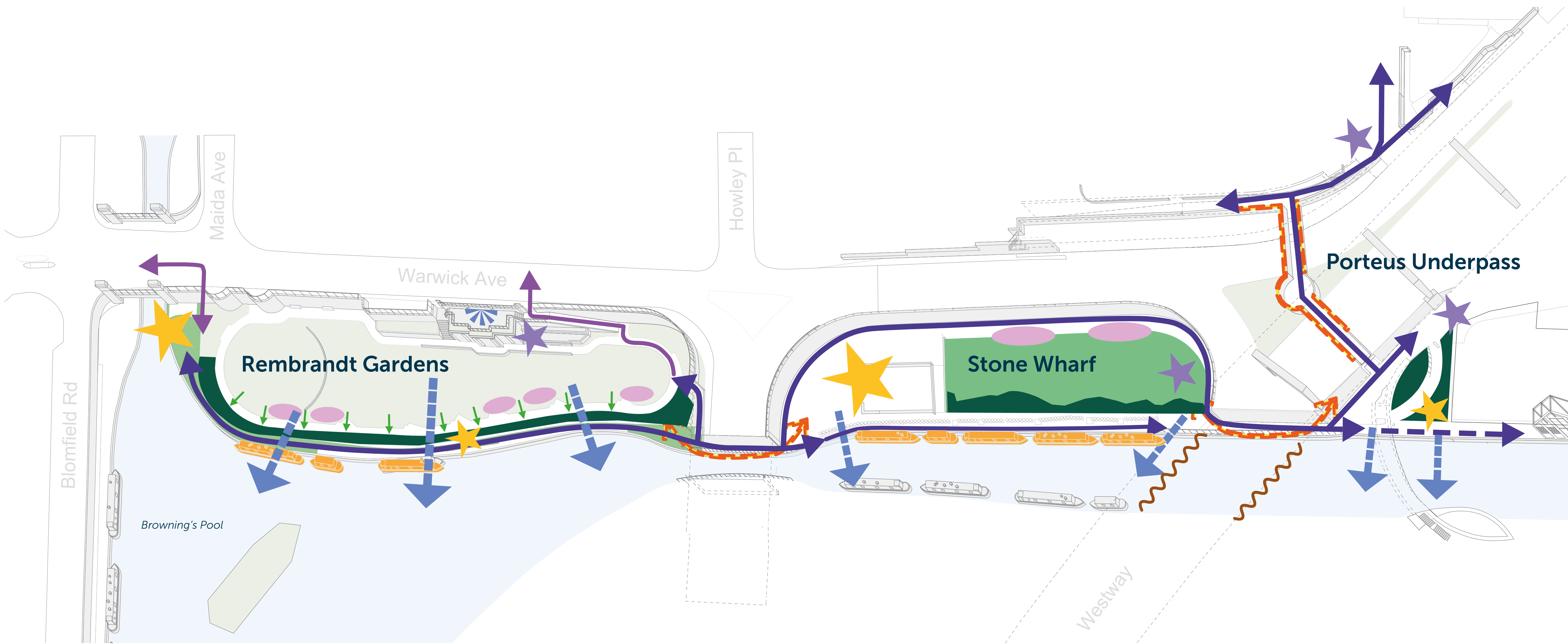
“The footpath and walkways are dangerous - they are sloping, bumpy and have terrible light. Needs complete modernisation.”

Canalside Objectives

The project objectives presented here have been shaped by community feedback, stakeholder engagement and technical surveys. All design options we put forward respond to these, in different levels of ambition.

The planned redevelopment of the Travis Perkins site means that the northern side of the Canalside will eventually become fully accessible and will connect to Paddington Basin. While this is not the main project driver, we are considering these works as part of the wider northern towpath regeneration.

- ★ Key entrances
- ★ Key public spaces
- Informal play opportunities
- Primary routes to be safe and accessible
- Accesses and connections to surroundings
- Views of interest
- Wayfinding and lighting opportunities
- Increased biodiversity
- Open-up views through vegetation
- Protect residential and bookable moorings
- Sound mitigation



Rembrandt Gardens

- Protect the existing character of Rembrandt Gardens
- Enhance Biodiversity and Greening
- Enhance the relation between Browning's Pool and the Gardens
- Enhance the safety and accessibility of the routes along Canalsides
- Create a new public space at the end of the towpath

Stone Wharf

- Protect the existing character of Stone Wharf
- Enhance the safety and accessibility of the routes along Canalsides
- Enhance Biodiversity and Greening
- Create new opportunities for flexible uses

Porteus Underpass

- Improve the visibility and safety in the underpass
- Enhance the biodiversity and greening around the underpass
- Create wayfinding

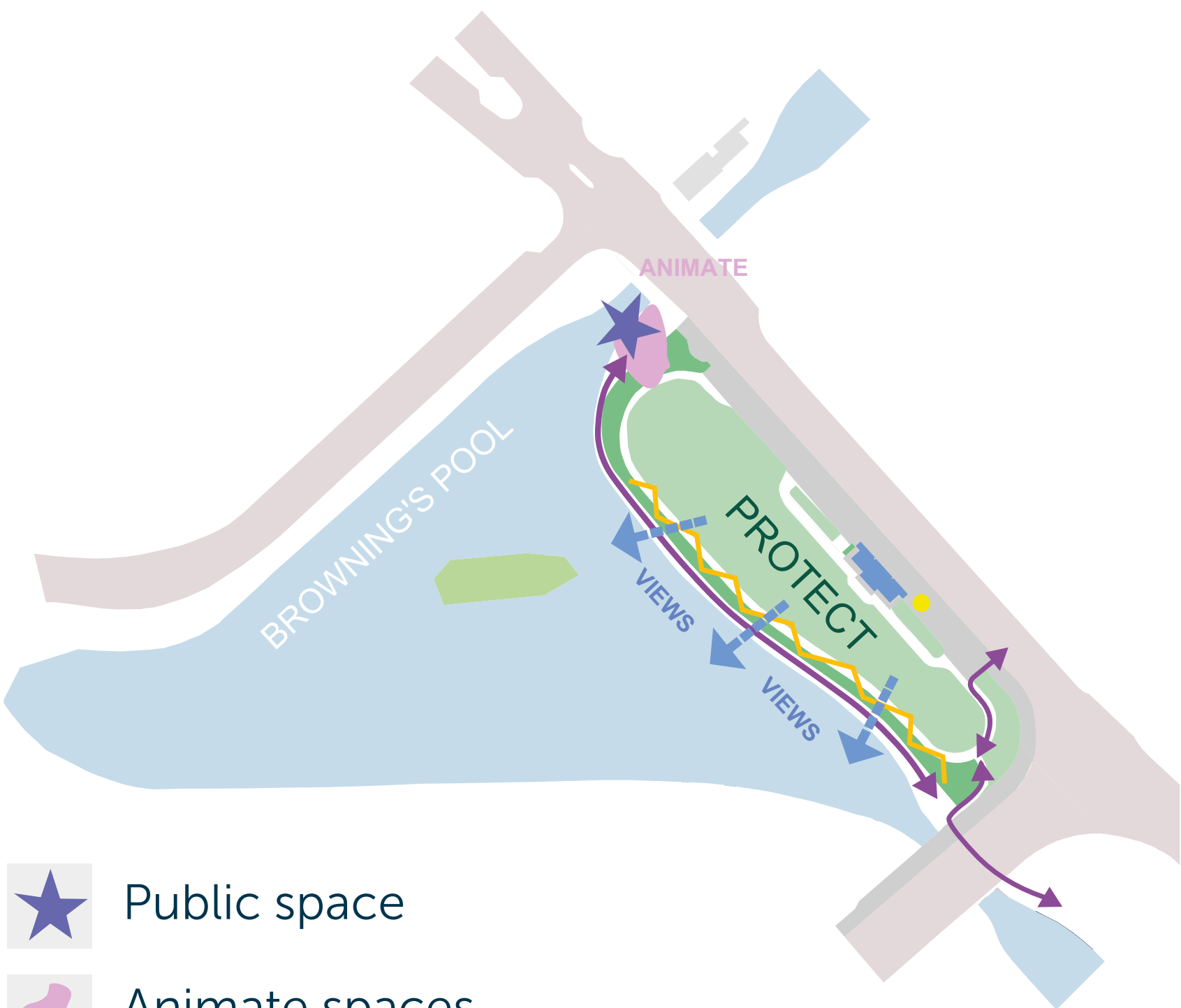


Baseline

Improved
accessibility &
safety

The Baseline Option aims to repair areas of the towpath that are damaged by tree roots, as well as enhance the relationship with Browning’s Pool by opening up views and creating areas with seating closer to the water. We are also addressing accessibility and safety by improving the space under the bridges and making the ramp to the Gardens wheelchair accessible.

- Public space
- Animate spaces
- Safer and more accessible route to the moorers
- Healthier trees and roots
- Wayfinding and signage
- Improve views



Baseline

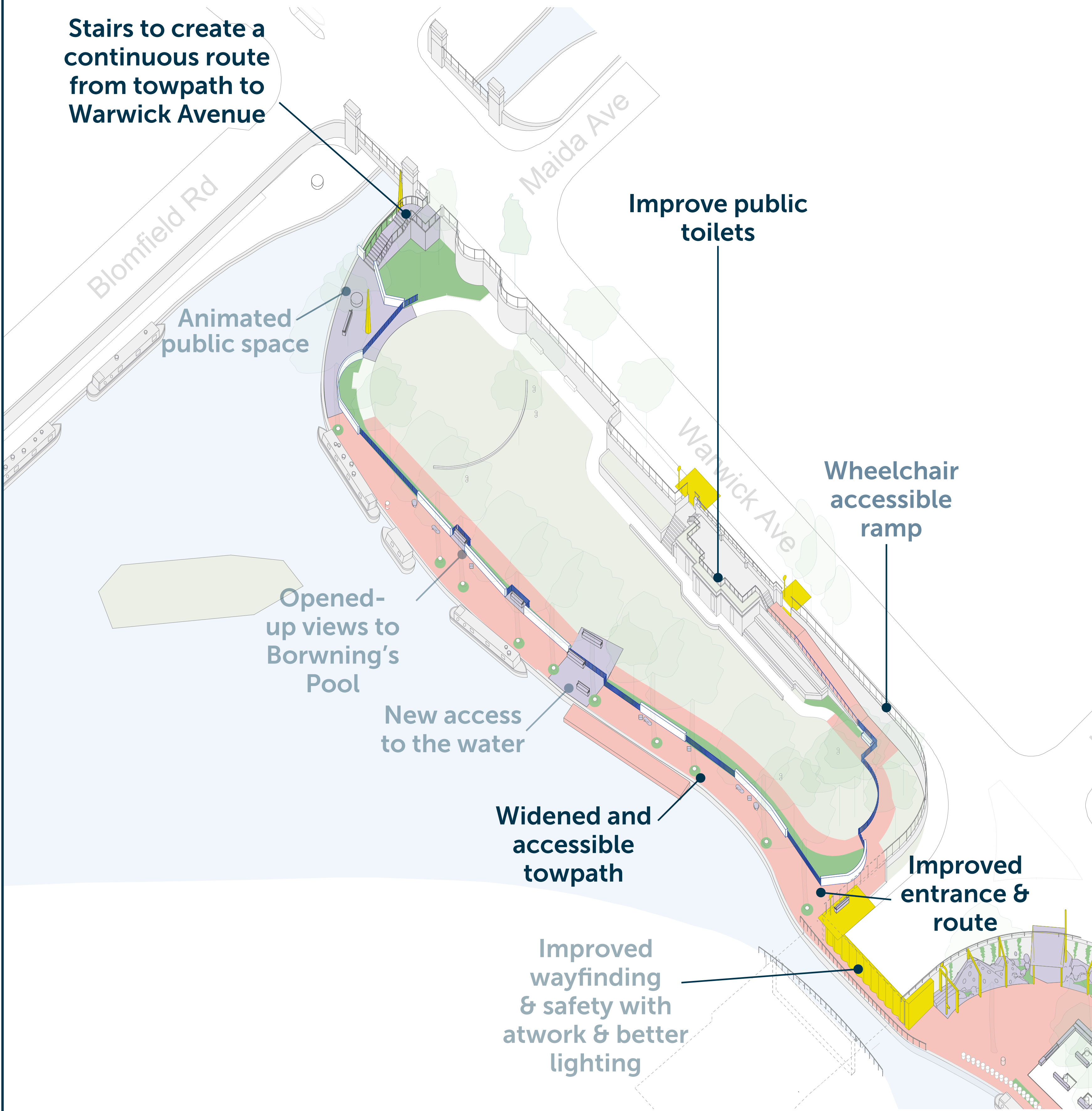
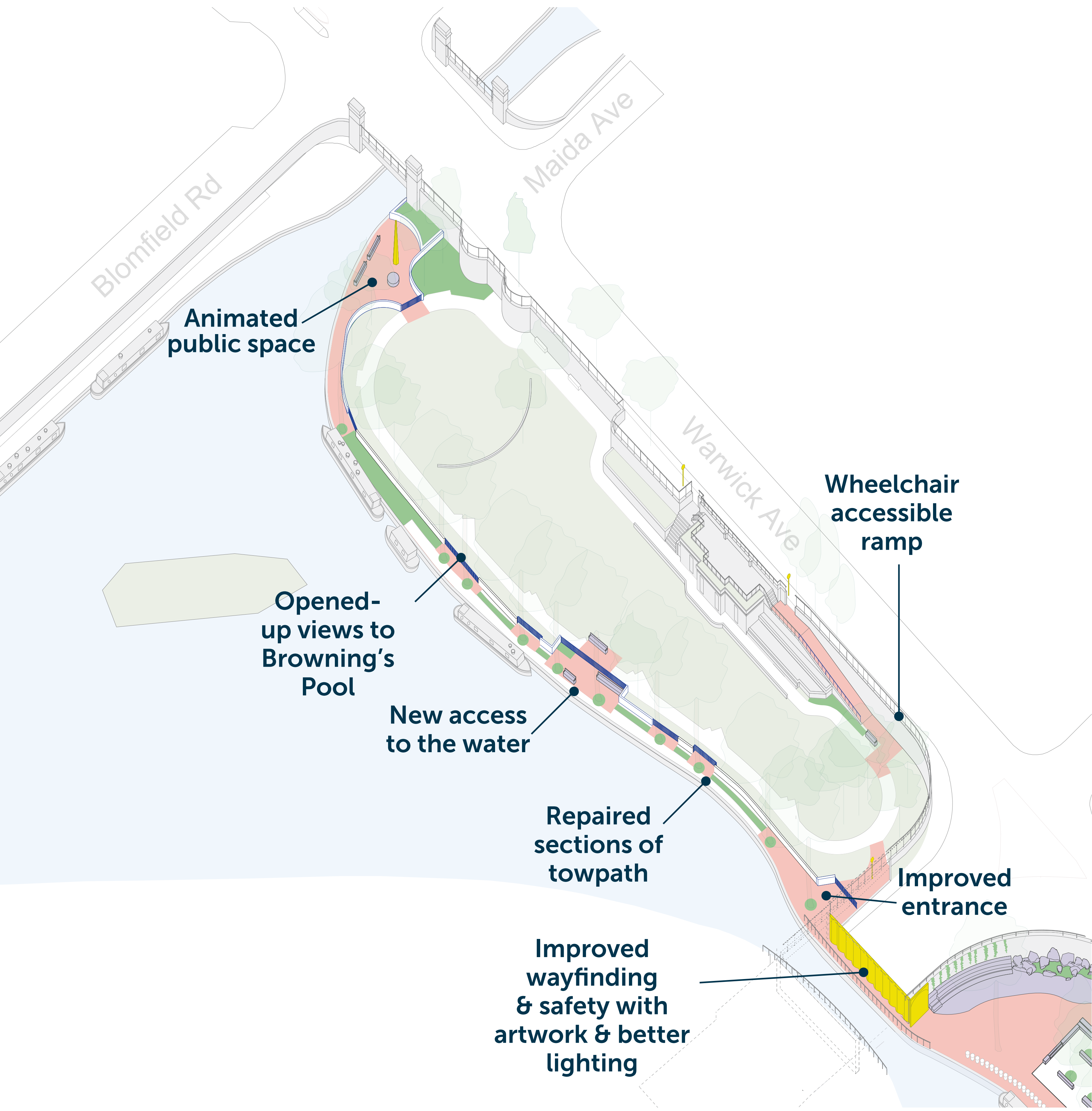
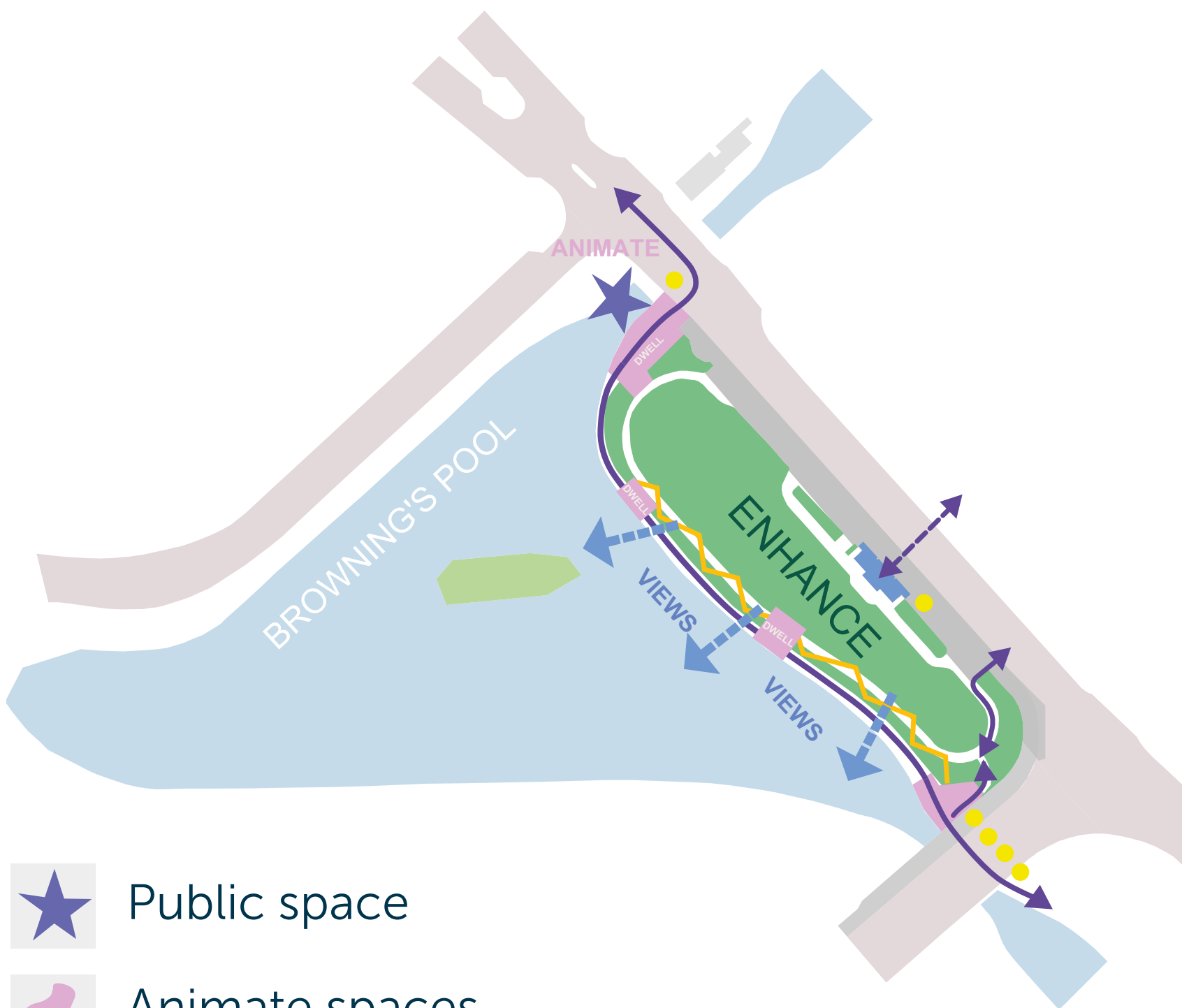
+

Enhanced

Fully accessible
and connected
towpath

The Enhanced Option picks up on all Baseline improvements, but aims to push accessibility further by making the towpath wheelchair accessible and creating a direct connection to Warwick Avenue from the current dead-end.

- Public space
- Animate spaces
- Safer and more accessible route to the moorers
- Healthier trees and roots
- Wayfinding and signage
- Improve views



Accessibility and Safety

More continuous routes, smoother surfaces, and improved crossings to benefit everyone, especially those with mobility needs.

Leisure and Activity

More lively with added seating, play areas, and social spaces, transforming empty spaces into community-friendly hubs.

Boundaries

New boundaries, to increase legibility, accessibility and safety.

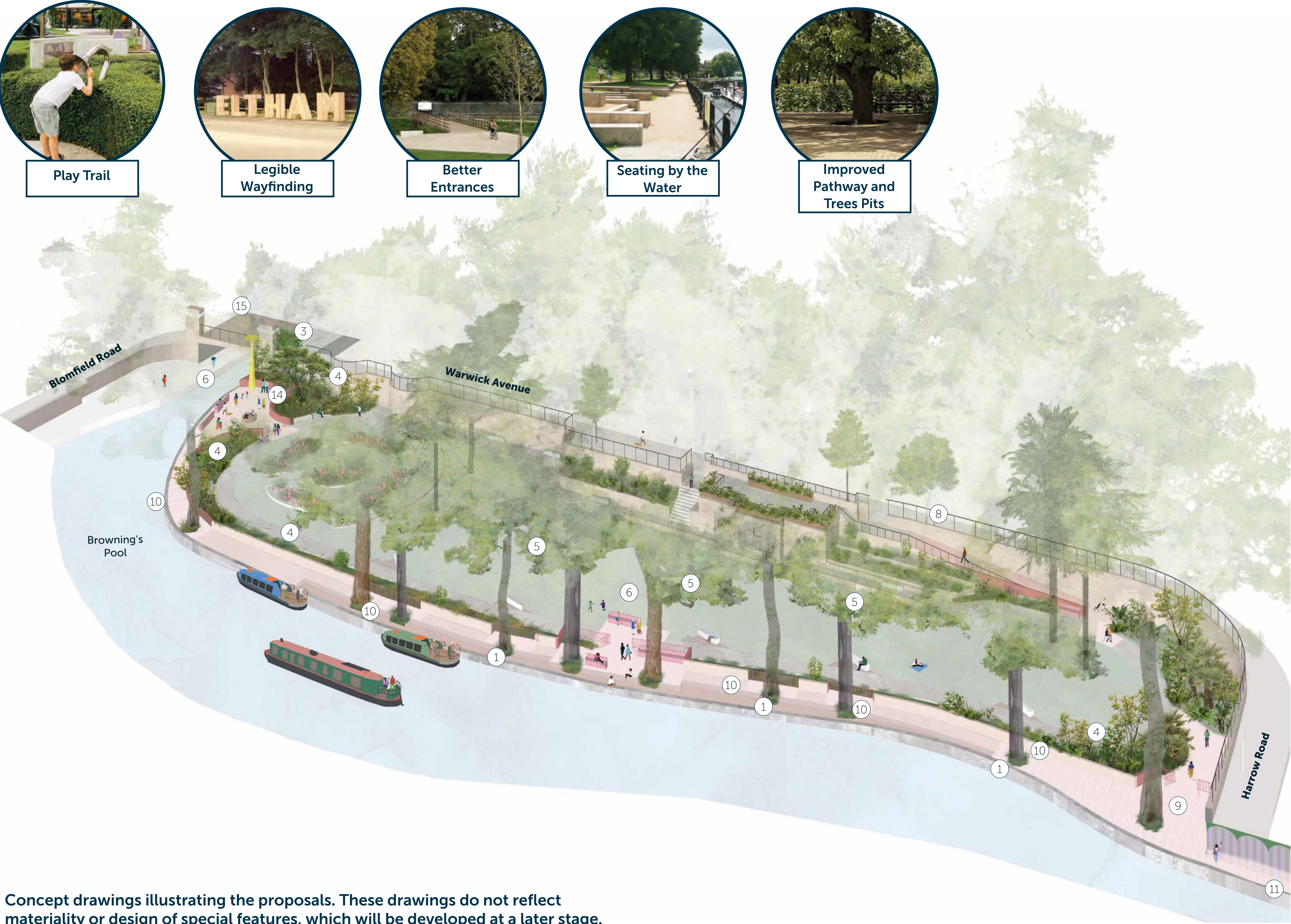
Wayfinding and Lighting

More legible routes with improved signage and clearer pathways accompanied with appropriate lighting features.

Biodiversity and Greening

Protecting natural and historic elements, increasing extents of green areas and biodiversity.





How does the Baseline Option respond to project objectives?

Protect the existing character of Rembrandt Gardens

- 1 Remediating the unhealthy tree roots along the towpath

Enhance biodiversity and greening along the edges

- 3 Introducing new planting at the dead end
- 4 Planting more biodiverse planting along the edges

Enhance visual connection to Browning's Pool

- 5 Lifting the crowns of trees to open up views
- 6 Creating a seating area closer to the water

Enhance the safety and accessibility of the routes along the Canalside

- 8 Making the ramp from Warwick Avenue to Rembrandt Gardens DDA accessible
- 9 Creating a new and larger entrance to the Gardens from the towpath
- 10 Repairing the existing towpath sections around the trees
- 11 Improving the space under the bridge with artwork

Create new public space by Warwick Bridge

- 14 Creating an animated public space at 'dead-end' with seating by the canal
- 15 Introducing a wayfinding, celebratory structure

Concept drawings illustrating the proposals. These drawings do not reflect materiality or design of special features, which will be developed at a later stage.



Proposed: New public space with seating and wayfinding structures



Existing: Dead-end area at the North of Rembrandt Gardens



Existing: Boundary wall and Browning's Pool



Proposed: New seating areas opening-up views and access to Browning's Pool





Floating Pontoon
'Public Boat'



Play Trail
& Wayfinding



Wall Openings



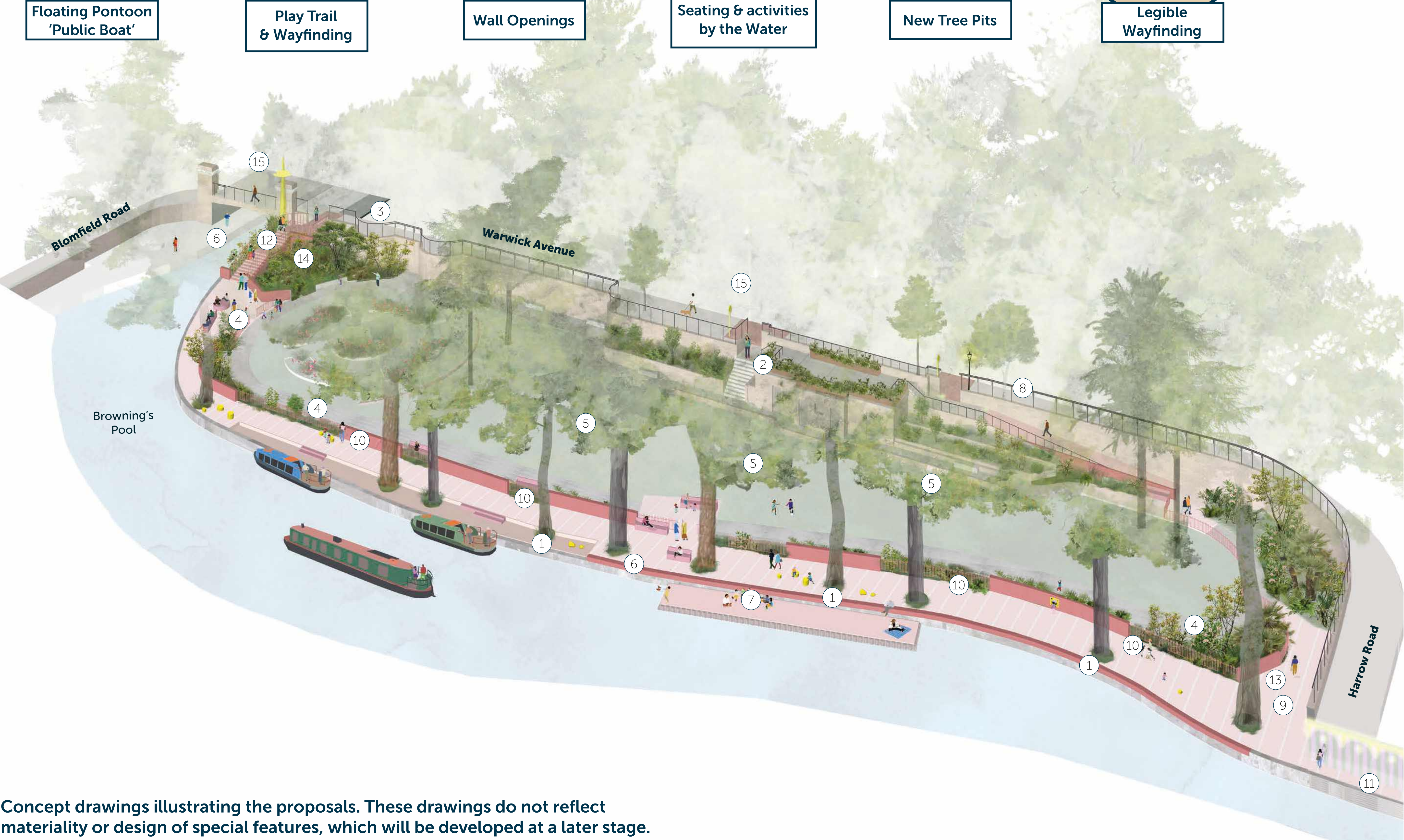
Seating & activities
by the Water



New Tree Pits



Legible
Wayfinding



How does the Enhanced Option respond to project objectives?

Protect the existing character of Rembrandt Gardens

- ① Remediating the unhealthy tree roots along the towpath
- ② Improving existing toilets condition

Enhance biodiversity and greening along the edges

- ③ Introducing new planting at the dead end
- ④ Planting more biodiverse planting along the edges

Enhance visual connection to Browning's Pool

- ⑤ Lifting the crowns of trees to open up views
- ⑥ Creating a seating area closer to the water
- ⑦ Create a publicly accessible pontoon 'Public Boat' for activities by the water

Enhance the safety and accessibility of the routes along the Canalside

- ⑧ Making the ramp from Warwick Avenue to Rembrandt Gardens DDA accessible
- ⑨ Creating a new and larger entrance to the Gardens from the towpath
- ⑪ Improving the space under the bridge with artwork and lighting
- ⑩ Widening the towpath to make it fully accessible
- ⑫ Introducing stairs that connect the towpath to Warwick Avenue
- ⑬ Creating a fully accessible route until early evening
- ⑯ Create a play and wayfinding trail for children to interact with along the canal

Create new public space by Warwick Bridge

- ⑭ Creating an animated public space with seating by the canal
- ⑮ Introducing a wayfinding, celebratory structure

Concept drawings illustrating the proposals. These drawings do not reflect materiality or design of special features, which will be developed at a later stage.



Proposed: New public space with seating and access to Warwick Ave



Existing: Dead-end area at the North of Rembrandt Gardens



Existing: Narrow towpath and existing trees



Proposed: A new fully accessible and wide route on the canal



Baseline

Repaired and improved access to Stone Wharf

The Baseline Option aims to improve accessibility by repairing the historic cobbled path and creating a wheelchair accessible route on the perimeter path. We hope to bring some activity on site by creating informal play elements as well as providing integrated storage for educational and cultural activities.

This option retains the historical character of the site with light touch interventions

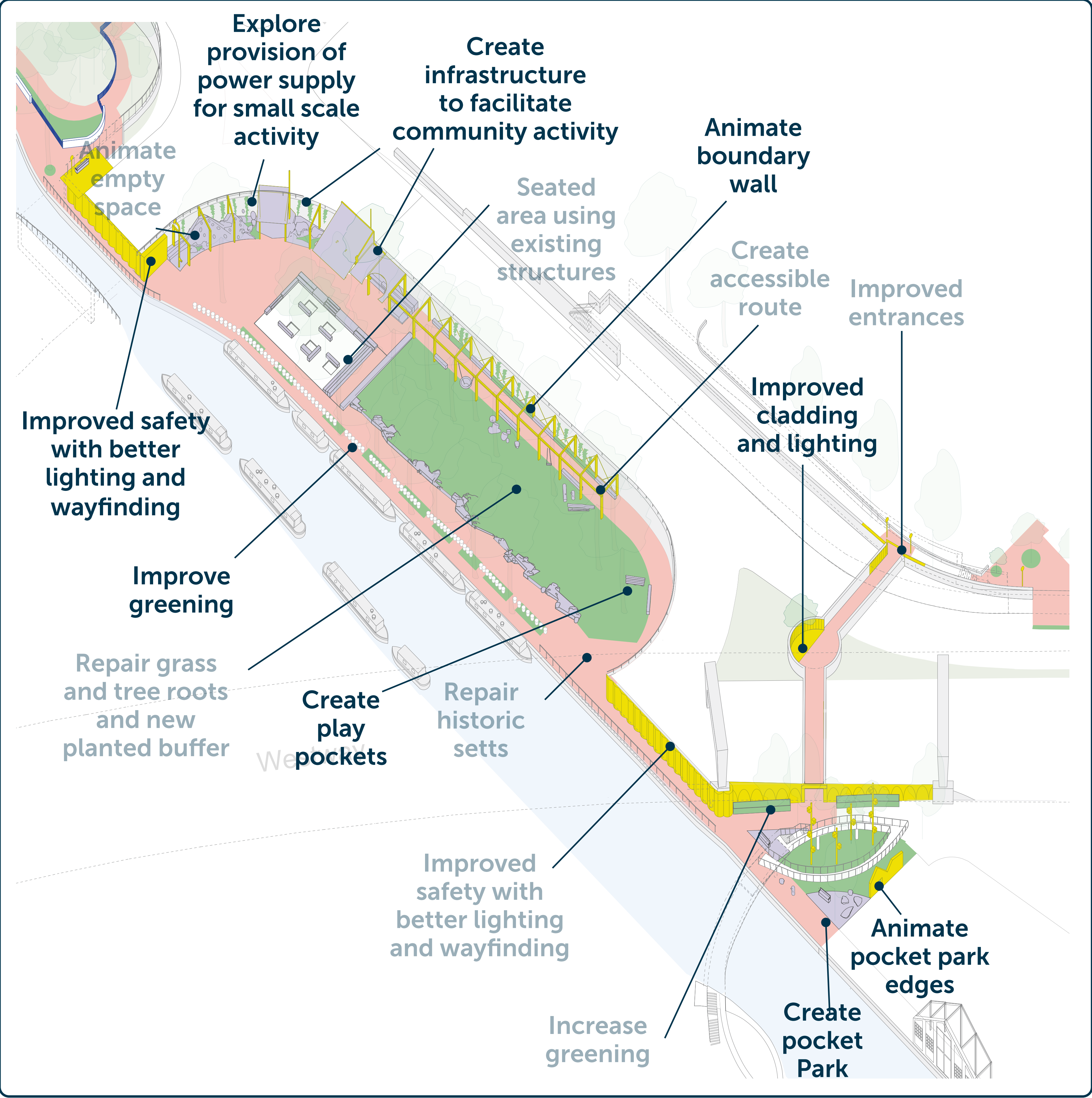
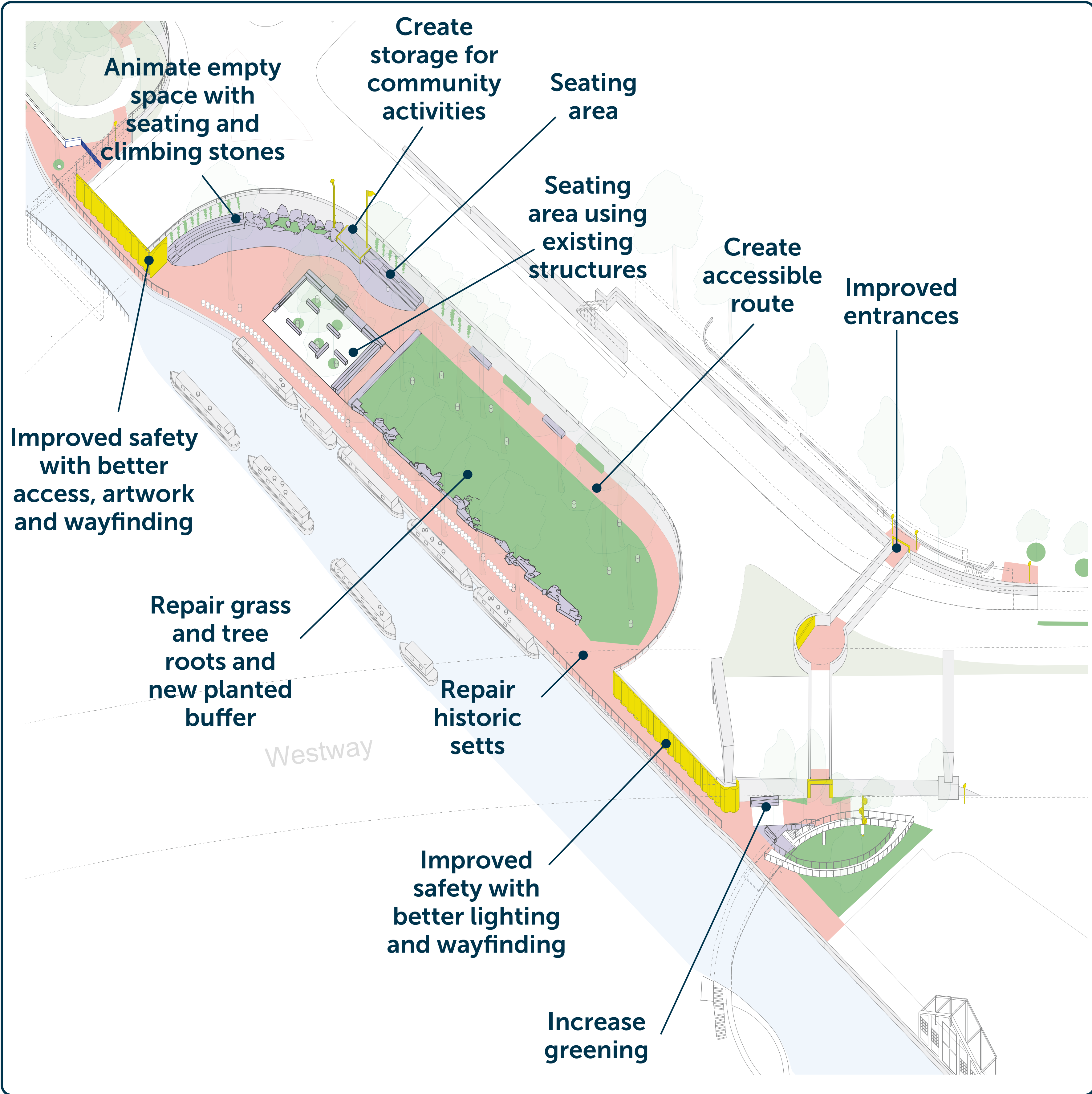


Baseline

+ Enhanced

A celebrated and playful community space on the canal

The Enhanced option aims to celebrate Stone Wharf's history whilst making the most of this incredible public space by the water. The proposals take the baseline offer further by offering more ambitious community uses alongside a community pavilion and some playful elements for all to enjoy.



Accessibility and Safety

More continuous routes, smoother surfaces, and improved crossings to benefit everyone, especially those with mobility needs.

Leisure and Activity

More lively with added seating, play areas, and social spaces, transforming empty spaces into community-friendly hubs.

Boundaries

New boundaries, to increase legibility, accessibility and safety.

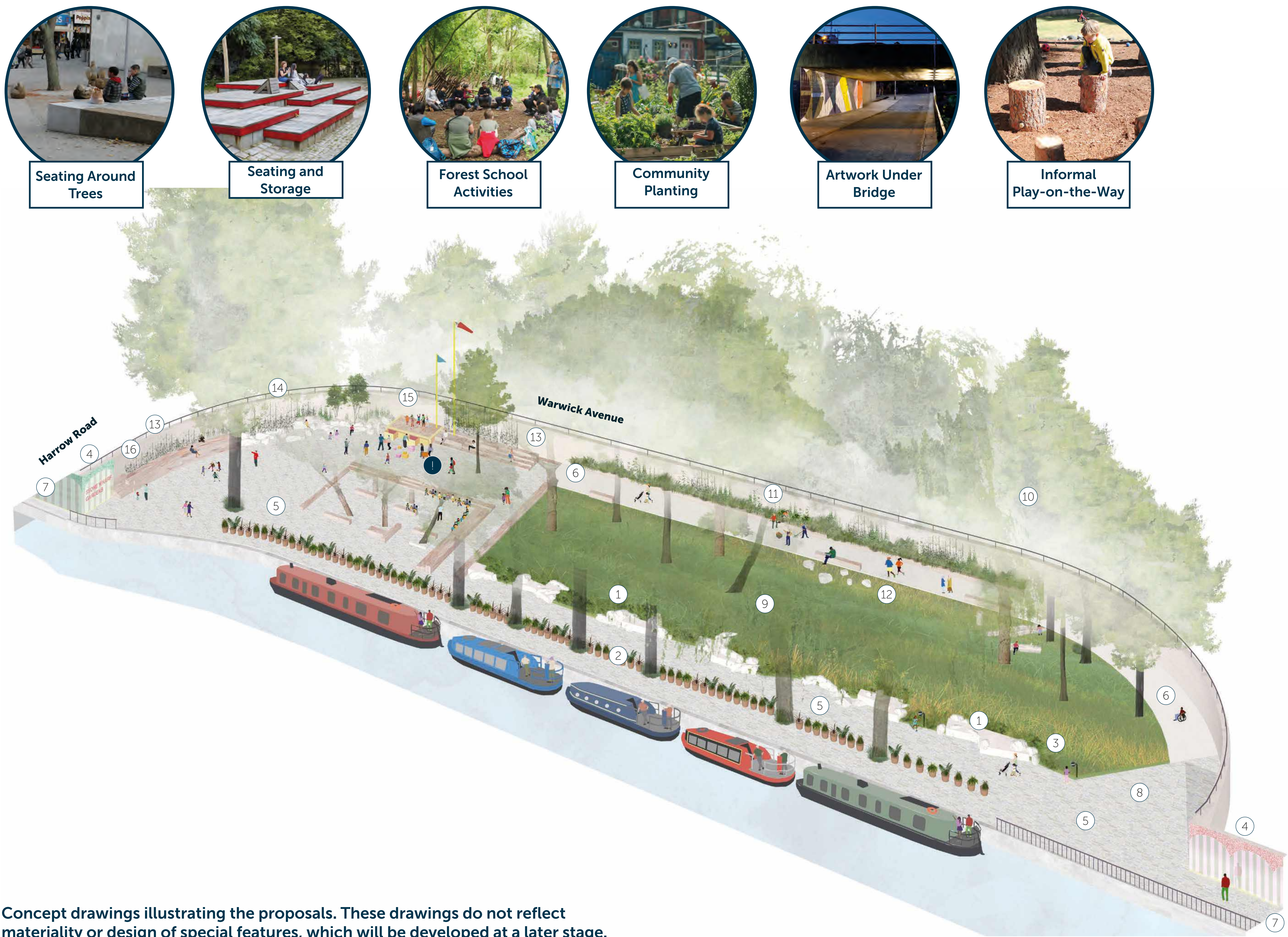
Wayfinding and Lighting

More legible routes with improved signage and clearer pathways accompanied with appropriate lighting features.

Biodiversity and Greening

Protecting natural and historic elements, increasing extents of green areas and biodiversity.





Concept drawings illustrating the proposals. These drawings do not reflect materiality or design of special features, which will be developed at a later stage.



Proposed: New public space with community storage



Existing: Former bridge landing structure



Existing: Damaged towpath and exposed roots



Proposed: Repaired and improved public space with seating and planting

How does the Baseline Option respond to project objectives?

Protect the existing character of stone wharf

- ① Creating planted buffer with stones and plants
- ② Retaining the barrel garden
- ③ Signposting the area's heritage
- ④ Improve wayfinding and signage

Enhance the safety and accessibility of routes along the Canalside

- ⑤ Smoothing the cobbled path and making it accessible
- ⑥ Making a wheelchair accessible route via the perimeter path
- ⑦ Improving the space under the bridge with artwork
- ⑧ Widening the entrance access

Enhance biodiversity and greening

- ① Fall unhealthy tree
- ⑨ Improving the soil quality in the green space
- ⑩ Lift tree crowns
- ⑪ Introducing new planting along the wall and within the green area

Create new opportunities for flexible uses

- ⑫ Introducing informal play features in the grass area
- ⑬ Creating new seating
- ⑭ Creating a climbing rock garden
- ⑮ Creating a structure that acts as a flexible platform and storage for community and educational organisations activities on site
- ⑯ Exploring provision of power supply





Stepped Seating



Community Pavilion
& Structure to
Faciliate Activities



Forest School
Activities



Community
Planting



Green Pergola



Stone Boulder to
Climb on



Quite Seating



Concept drawings illustrating the proposals. These drawings do not reflect materiality or design of special features, which will be developed at a later stage.

How does the Enhanced Option respond to project objectives?

Protect the existing character of stone wharf

- ① Creating planted buffer with stones and plants
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Enhance the safety and accessibility of routes along the Canalside

- ⑤ Smoothing the cobbled path and making it accessible
- ⑥ Making a wheelchair accessible route via the perimeter path
- ⑦ Improving the space under the bridge with artwork and lighting
- ⑧ Widening the entrance access

Enhance biodiversity and greening

- ① Fall unhealthy tree
- ⑨ Improving the soil quality in the green space
- ⑩ Lift tree crowns
- ⑪ Introducing additional planting along the wall and on the green area
- ⑫ Introducing bird boxes and bug hotels

Create new opportunities for flexible uses

- ⑬ Introducing play features with climbable rocks
- ⑭ Creating new seating
- ⑮ Creating a climbing rock garden
- ⑯ Creating a structure that acts as a flexible platform for community activities
- ⑰ Creating a multi-use pavilion that can be used for community, educational and cultural activities
- ⑱ Introduce a low level climbing wall for children
- ⑲ Create a pergola with planting and seating
- ⑳ Exploring provision of power supply



Proposed: New public space with seating and community pavilions



Existing: Former bridge landing structure



Existing: Damaged towpath and exposed roots



Proposed: A celebrated and playful community space on the canal





Playful and Luminous Cladding



Biodiversity



Lit Artwork



Art and Wildlife



Heritage and Wayfinding

How does the Baseline Option respond to project objectives?

Enhance biodiversity and greening around the underpass

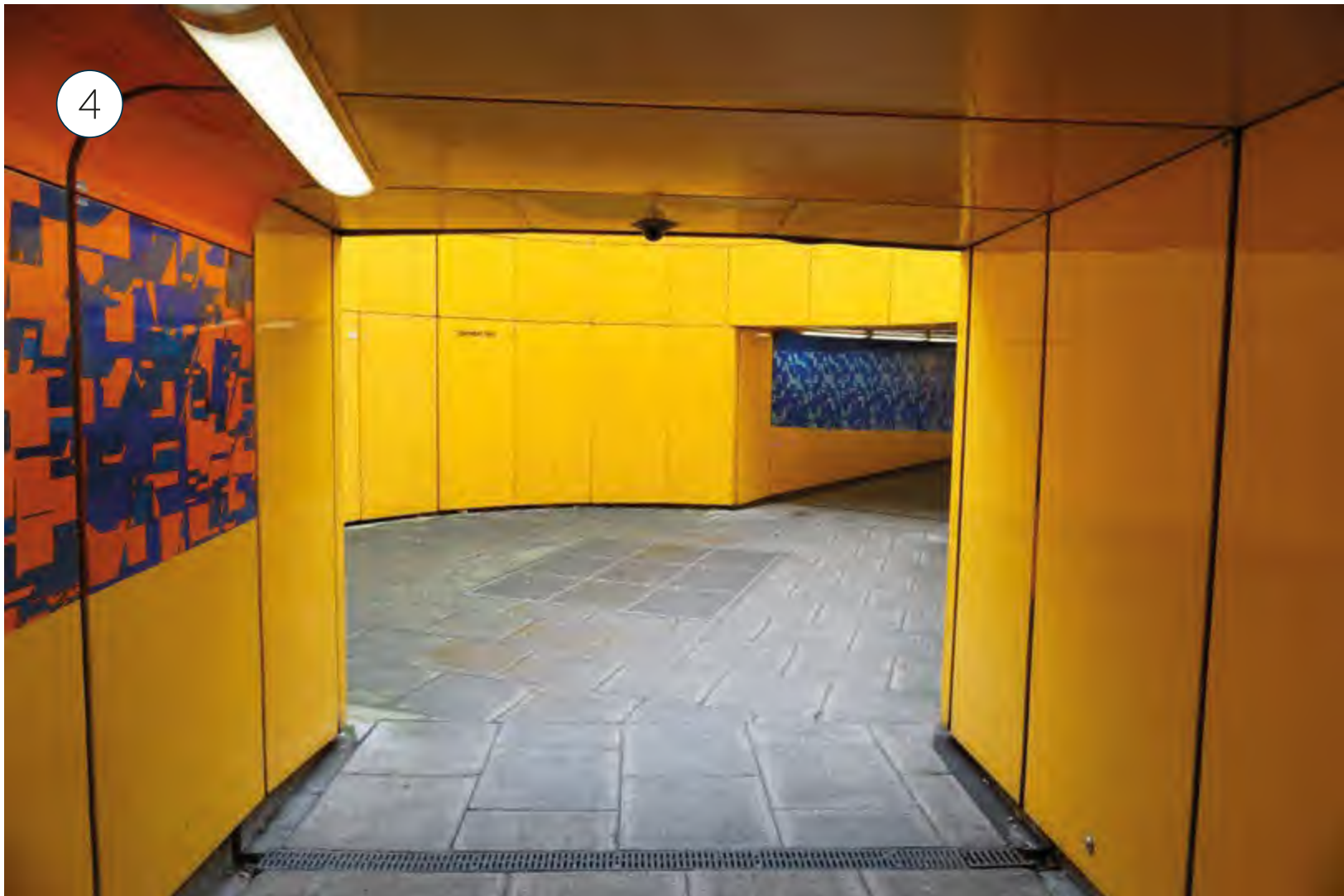
- ① Creating small planters
- ② Protecting and increasing greening and biodiversity

Improve visibility, safety, wayfinding and self-orientation around the underpass

- ③ Improving signage, wayfinding and lighting
- ④ Improving underpass luminosity and feel by the addition of reflective cladding and lighting to improve sight lines

Animate the underpass routes

- ⑤ Enhancing walls and murals with artist installations
- ⑥ Creating play-on-the-way
- ⑦ Creating playful structure for biodiversity and wayfinding such as bird-boxes or bee hotels



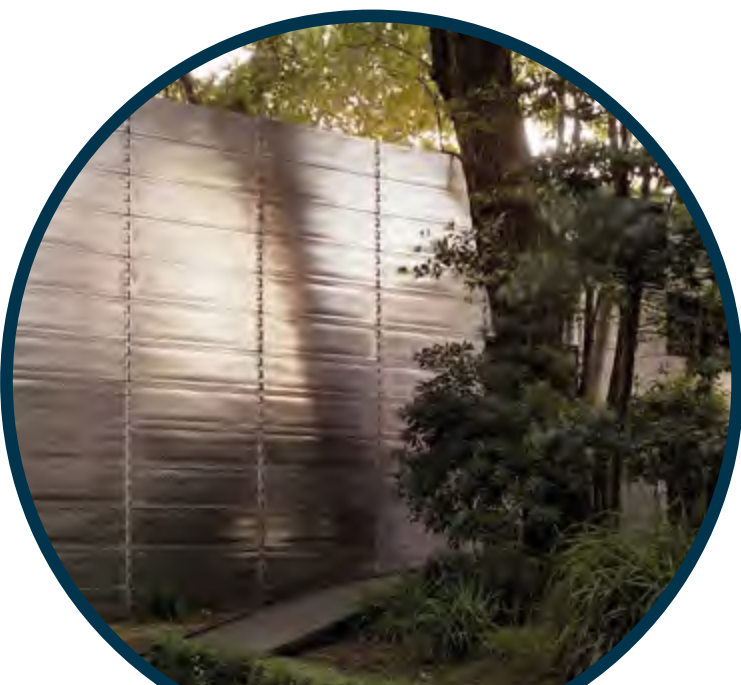
Existing: Central open-air area in the underpass



Existing: Entrance by the canal

Concept drawings illustrating the proposals. These drawings do not reflect materiality or design of artwork and special features, which will be developed at a later stage.





Biodiversity and Reflecting Cladding



Biodiversity



Lit Artwork and Heritage Follies



Art and Wildlife



Social Pocket Park



How does the Enhanced Option respond to project objectives?

Enhance biodiversity and greening around the underpass

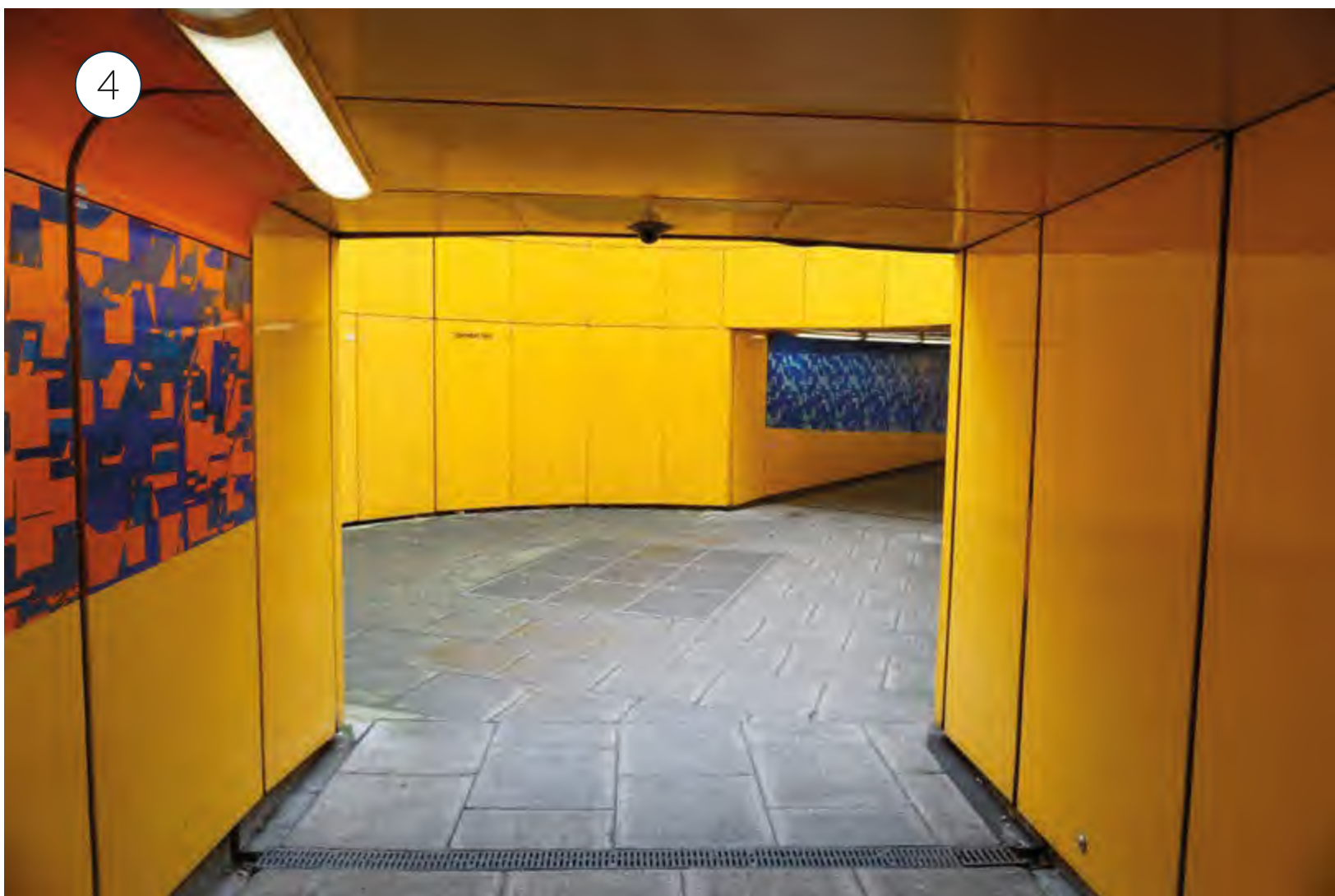
- ① Installing large scale planters
- ② Protecting and increasing greening and biodiversity

Improve visibility, safety, wayfinding and self-orientation around the underpass

- ③ Improving signage, wayfinding and lighting
- ④ Improving underpass luminosity and feel by the addition of reflective cladding and lighting to improve sight lines
- ⑤ Enhancing walls and murals with artist installation
- ⑥ Repairing and replacing with new ground

Animate the underpass routes

- ⑦ Creating play-on-the-way
- ⑧ Creating playful structure for biodiversity and wayfinding such as bird boxes or bee hotels
- ⑨ Creating playful cladding and feature lighting
- ⑩ Creating new pocket park with seating



Existing: Central open-air area in the underpass



Existing: Entrance by the canal

Concept drawings illustrating the proposals. These drawings do not reflect materiality or design of artwork and special features, which will be developed at a later stage.

