

selected works

PORTFOLIO

Monica Ying Chong

landscape architecture

MONICA CHONG

PROFILE

Landscape architecture graduate with work experiences in design, teaching, community engagement, and research. Interests include cultural landscape conservation, regenerative design, and decolonial environmentalism.

CONTACT

☎ 07849870019

✉ monica95@connect.hku.hk

🌐 [linkedin.com/in/monica-chong-bb9558155](https://www.linkedin.com/in/monica-chong-bb9558155)

SOFTWARE

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Photoshop | ● ● ● ● ● |
| Illustrator | ● ● ● ● ● |
| InDesign | ● ● ● ● ● |
| Premier Pro | ● ● ● ● ● |
| AutoCad | ● ● ● ● ● |
| Rhino 7 | ● ● ● ● ● |
| QGIS | ● ● ● ● ● |
| Lumion | ● ● ● ● ● |

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- + Hand graphics
- + 3D visualizaion
- + Video editing
- + Animation
- + GIS analysis
- + Project coordination
- + Stakeholder liaison
- + Proposal package
- + Report writing
- + Budgeting

WORK EXPERIENCE

Landscape Research Assistant (also holding the title of Project Coordinator)
Technological & Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong | Hong Kong
Feb 2021 - Dec 2021

- + Conducted research on the water systems, waste circulation and cultural heritage of Pokfulam Village in Hong Kong.
- + Village engagement - interviewed villagers and stakeholders; analyzed data collected.
- + Communicated and maintained relationships with invited speaker, symposium participants, and villagers.
- + Wrote proposals, reports, price quotations, and budgets.
- + Designed exhibition materials, book, videos, and souvenirs
- + Organized and facilitated online symposium and physical exhibition.

Community Engagement Project Assistant (Part-time)
MakerBay | Hong Kong
Sep 2020 - Dec 2020

- + Conducted research on Tung O Ancient Trail and nearby villages.
- + Involved in site expeditions, oral history collection, and secondary research.
- + Planned and organized public engagement activities to collect views and opinions on revitalization and sustainable landscape heritage.
- + Established and maintained good relationships with partners such as cultural organizations and environmental groups.
- + Created and maintained documentation of research findings .
- + Wrote revitalization guidelines and thematic masterplanning.

Landscape Architecture Teaching Assistant
The University of Hong Kong | Hong Kong
Aug 2019 - Aug 2020

- + Prepared course materials for design studios and planting courses.
- + Planned lessons and taught a course on sustainability making use of a socialised interactive e-learning platform.
- + Led design software and digital fabrication tutorials.
- + Conducted research on housing estate in Hong Kong.
- + Visualized findings with maps, drawings and diagrams.
- + Oversaw online engagement and outreach on the Division's social media platforms.

Assistant Landscape Designer
Earthasia Design Group | Hong Kong
Aug 2018 - Aug 2019

- + Liaised with different external parties such as overseas landscape designers, architects, developers, structural engineers and district council members in the schematic and detailed design stages.
- + Prepared renderings, landscape master plans, cost estimates, maintenance schedules, presentation slides, and reports.
- + Conducted desk-based site research and field visits.
- + Coordinated and communicated with various governmental departments about management and maintenance issues.
- + Prepared Tree Removal Application.

EDUCATION

Master of landscape architecture
University College London
2022-2024

Certificate in Sustainable Communities
HKU SPACE
2019-2020

BA in Landscape Studies
The University of Hong Kong
2014-2018
University of British Columbia
2017 Fall Exchange Semester

VOLUNTEERING

Cultural mapper
KaiFong Tour 2020

Community Researcher
YWCA - Tin Library 2020

Docent
Openhouse Macau 2018

AVOCATIONS

Zine maker

Published zines about the charms of old urban communities and the local history of Hong Kong.
IG: @hkunderstairs.shop

Co-founder of pop-up
bookstore (2021-22)

6-month bookstore collaborating with 6 other individuals in a working class neighbourhood in Hong Kong. There were regular book talks, workshops, film screenings, walking tours, and a children's book freecycle corner.
IG: @urban.booktique

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selected academic projects

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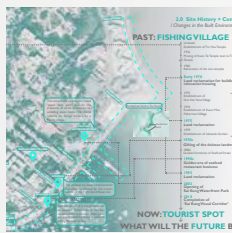


THE FRONTIER OF 'NOTHING MUCH'

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HONG KONG UNDERSTAIRS SHOPS
zine about urban landscapes and community | 2020-2022



Year 1

Year 6

Year 12

01

CHANCEFUL CARE CULTIVATING ALEATORY ECOLOGIES IN WORMWOOD SCRUBS

Site location: Wormwood Scrubs, East Acton, London
Year: MLA Year 2 Term 1 (2023)
Studio tutors: Eric Guibert, Emma Colhurst

Project statement

Staged in Wormwood Scrubs, this project is a venture intersecting aleatory design and modes of care, with the vision of cultivating new ecologies and forging co-creative connections between human and non-human agents. Drawing on insights gained from foraging on the site, the project delves into the history of commons and the witch hunt in England, as well as the fascinating ways that non-human co-creative agents respond to 'controlled disturbances', creating new ecologies and habitats that are ever-evolving. Findings from the study on controlled disturbances are subsequently compiled into a lexicon of care for the landscape.

Inspired by John Cage's aleatoric music and chance operations, the design evolved into a toolkit featuring a manual of care and a game of chance. This didactic game invites players to become co-creators with the landscape. Each round of the game generates an unpredictable combination of care for the landscape; each rendition of the landscape design is unique and nuanced. Through hands-on care and gameplay, participants reclaim herbal knowledge and contribute to a biodiverse landscape. Embracing unpredictability, human and non-human co-creates, transforming the landscape into a mosaic of habitats.



Foraging pineapple weed



Collecting rosehips



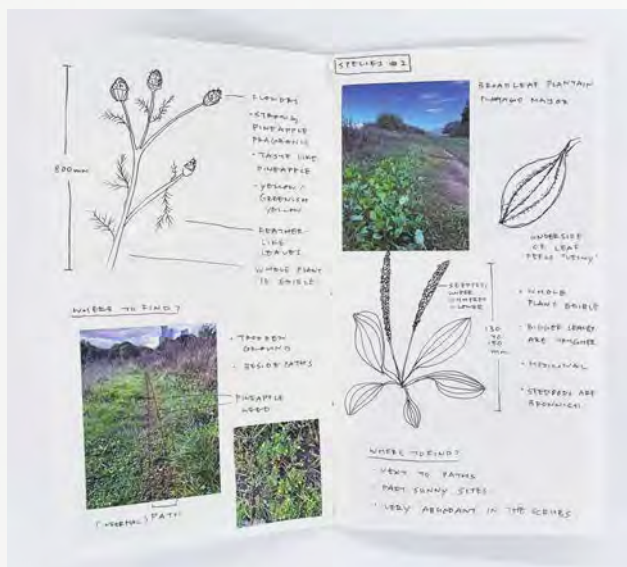
Broadleaf plantain



Finished food products

Foraging as an embodied situated investigation

The project unfolded with foraging on the site as a situated exercise to explore its existing ecologies. Prior research was done before each foraging ventures to gain familiarity of the common edible plants found in scrubs. The foraged plant parts were then used to make syrups, sauces, and infused oils. By exploring the medicinal and culinary uses of foraged plants, along with their folklore and cultural significance, I gained a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the flora in Wormwood Scrubs.



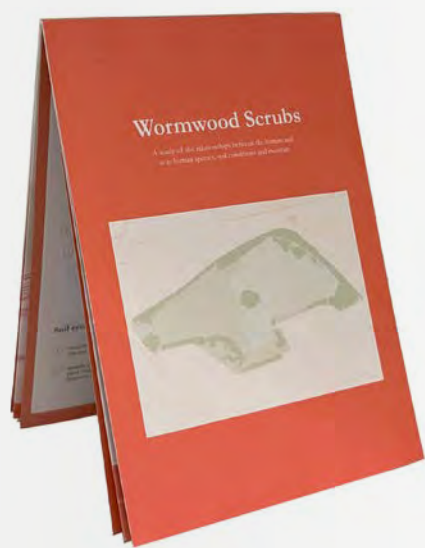
Inside pages of the foraging logbook



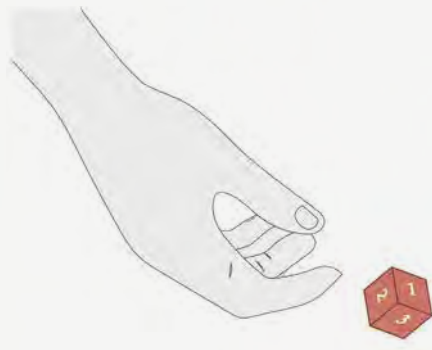
Photos and sketches on four focus species

Feral atlases

Various feral atlases were created to compile to observations and research findings of the interplay between past, present human activities and the scrub's plant communities. This understanding of the human and more-than-human actors of Wormwood Scrubs formed the basis of the design proposal.



Design concepts



“Chanceful”

Certain aspects of the design is undetermined, providing space for unpredictability to influence the final outcome.

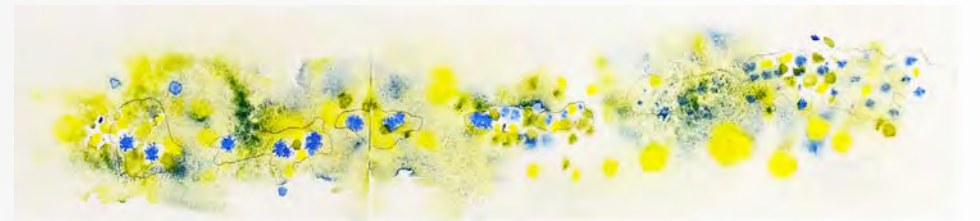


“Care”

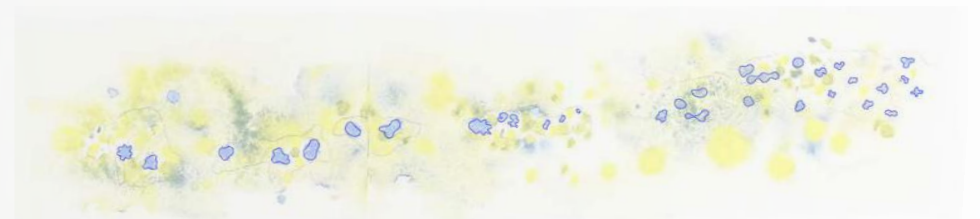
Various modes of care, such as mowing and pruning, serve as design tools to shape the landscape and create new spatial experiences and ecology.

Chance operation in landscape design

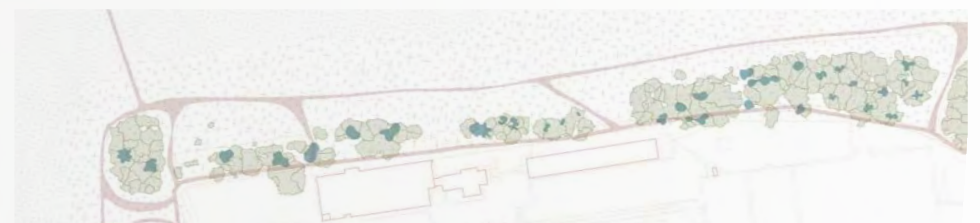
“Chance operation,” a concept by John Cage, uses randomness to free art from full control, inviting unexpected outcomes. This project applied this approach, embracing nature’s unpredictability by incorporating random elements into the landscape design, blending intentional decisions with unplanned co-creation by more-than-human actors. To explore chance operations in landscape design, watercolor techniques that reduce the artist’s control—such as salt sprinkling, wet-on-wet blending, spraying, and bubble-blowing—were employed in the ideation process.



Drawing using wet-on-wet technique. Blue paint was dotted on the wet paper randomly and allowed to bloom into various shapes and sizes.

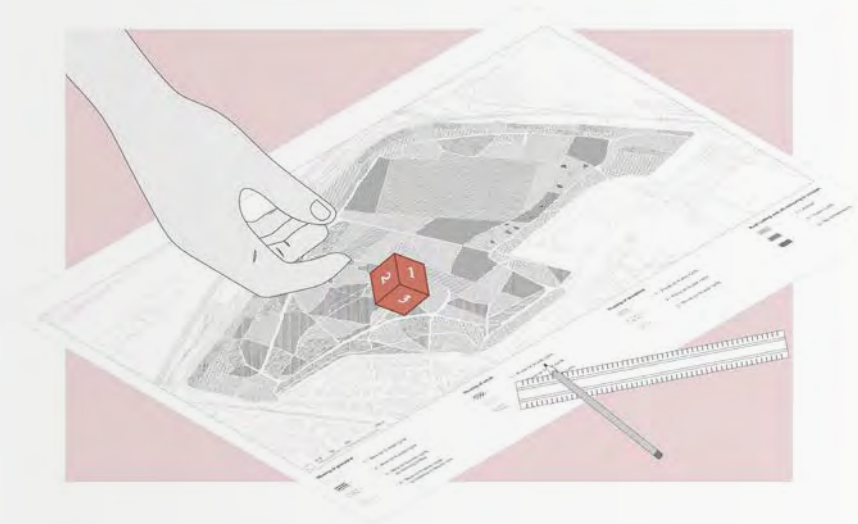


The shapes of the blue paint were traced.



The traced shapes were overlaid onto the site plan, representing scrapes—temporary water bodies that provide foraging, mating, and spawning grounds for many wildlife.

A game embracing indeterminacy and chance



Caring cycles are determined by dice-throwing



Caring methods are determined by card-drawing



These design concepts are materialized into a physical game set. In this game, the landscape carer determines the undetermined variables through chance operations. Each player's iteration would be unique, emphasizing the emergent and undetermined aspects of co-creating with other-than-human agents.

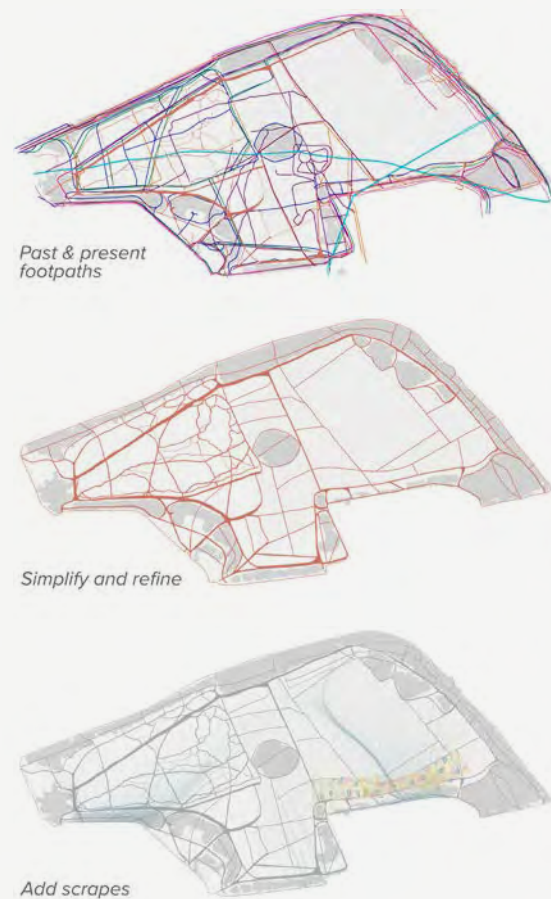
Cycles of care: Dice-throwing to determine the frequency of care

Undetermined masterplans

Informed by the geometry shaped by both past and present footpaths, the site is divided into smaller plots, forming a mosaic of different habitats. In the undetermined masterplans, each plot is assigned a hatch which denotes the frequency of care determined by dice-throwing, and a colour which represents the method of care determined by drawing cards.



Modes of care: Card-drawing to determine the method of care

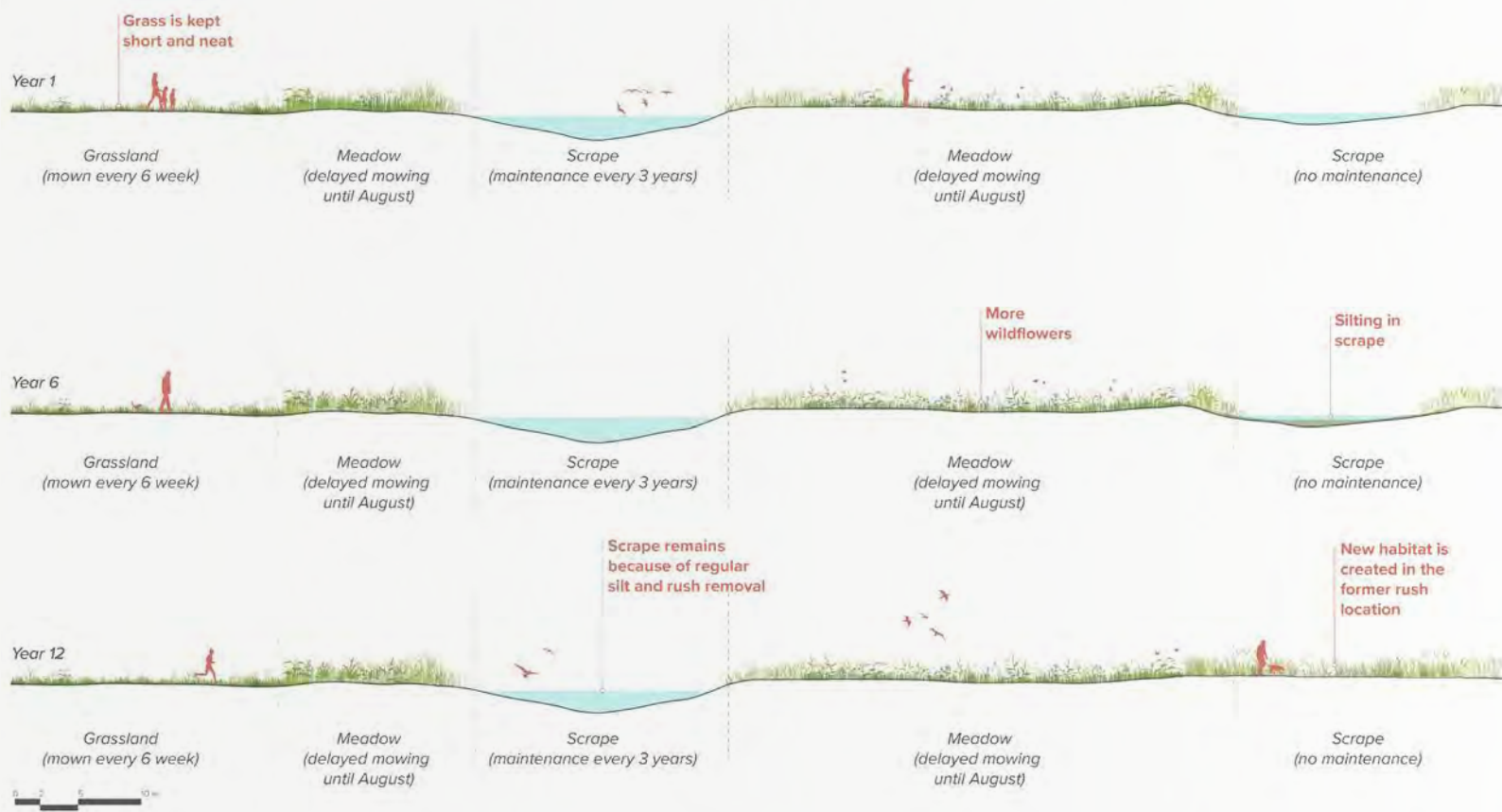


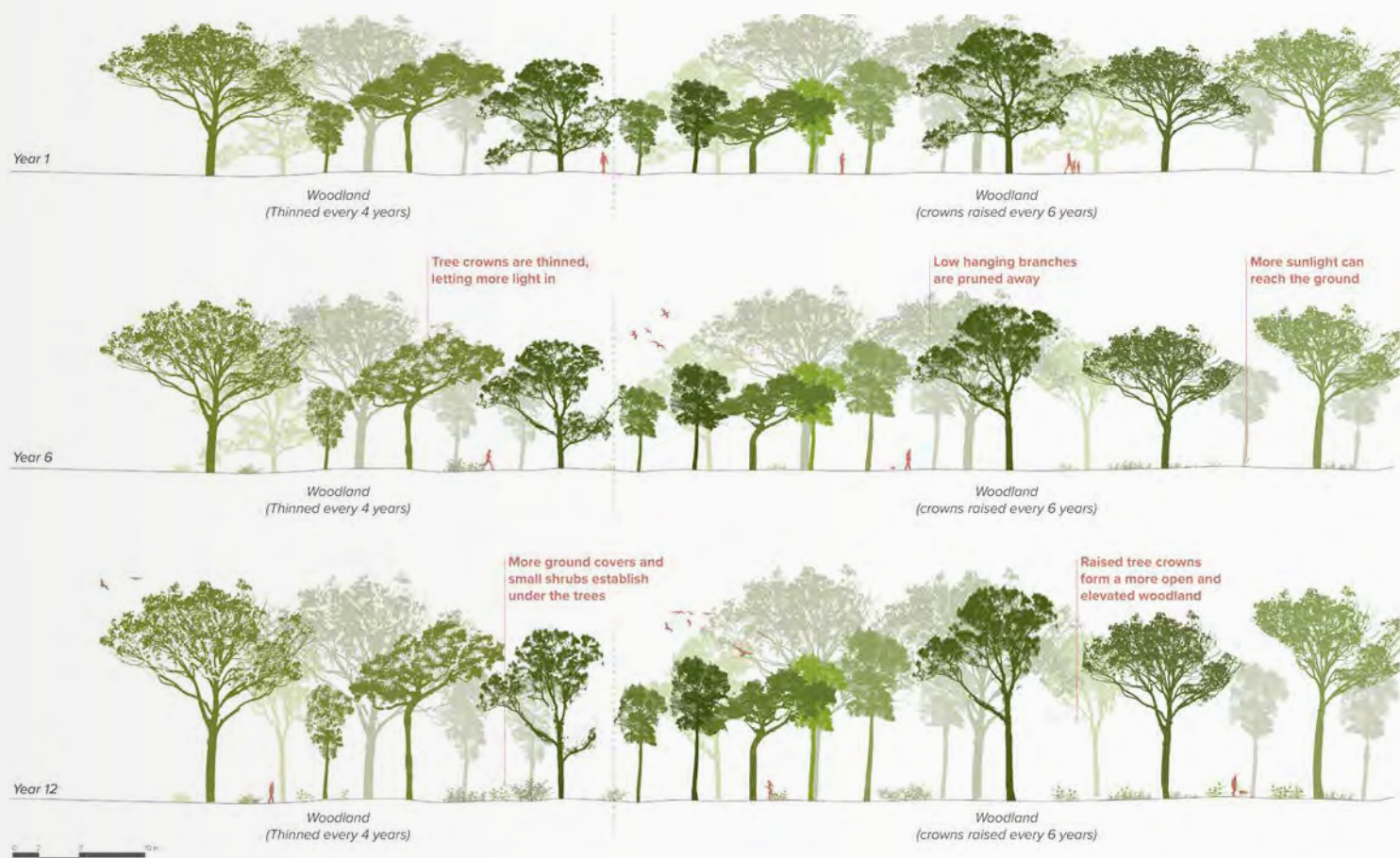
My iteration after chance operation: Landscape masterplan in Year 12

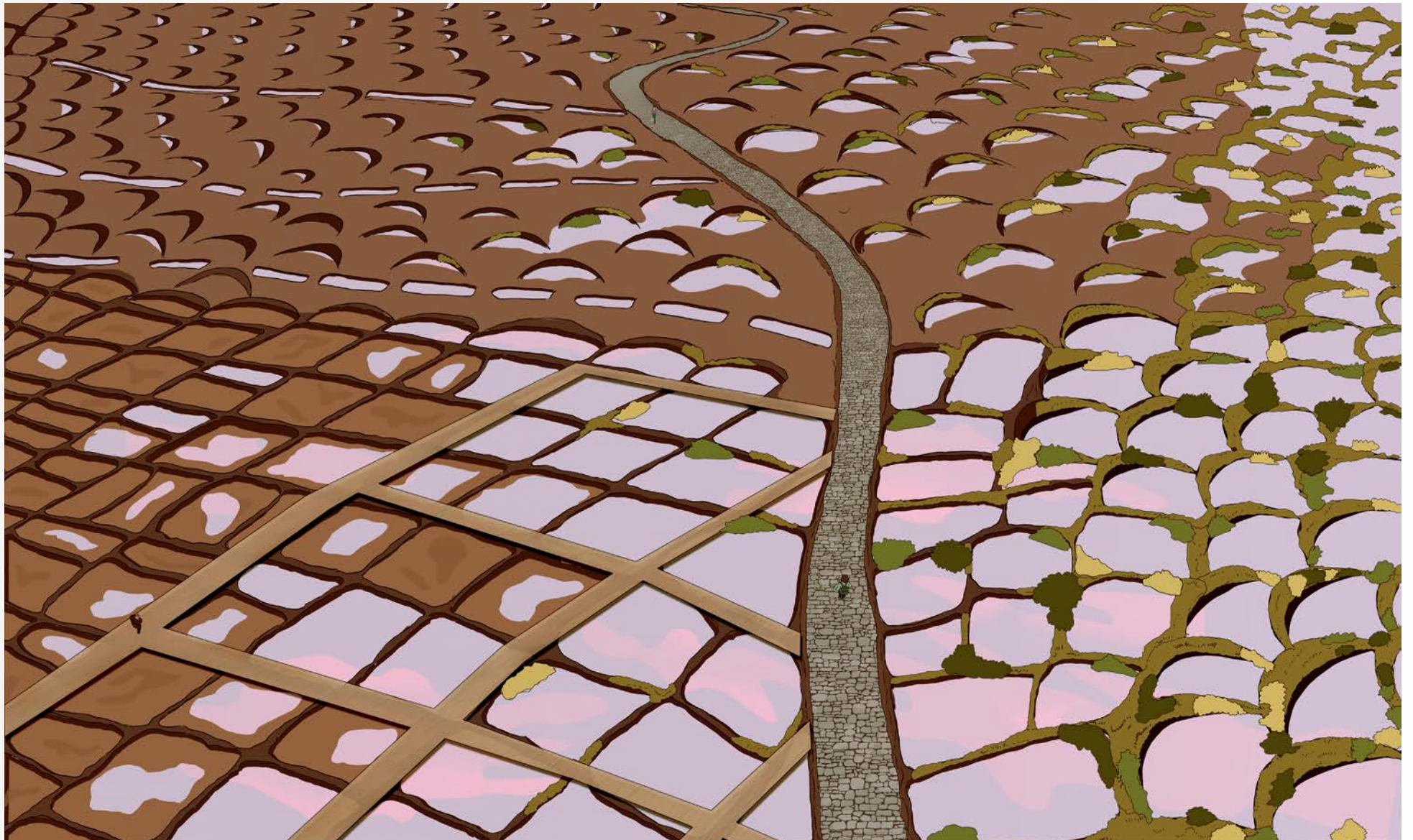


Embracing landscape changes

Embracing the potential of modes of care in shaping the landscape, each pocket of land in the mosaic will take new shape gradually, evolving into new habitats and spatial experiences for both human and more-than-human beings.







02

REVIVAL OF DÙTHCHAS IN KINRARA CRECENTERING PLACE-BASED KNOWLEDGES FOR COMMUNITY-LED REWILDING AMID SCOTLAND'S GREEN LAND GRAB

Site location: Kinrara Estate, the Scottish Highlands
Year: MLA Year 2 Term 2 (2024)
Studio tutors: Eric Guibert, Emma Colhurst

Project statement

This project is a response to the land conflicts arising from international efforts to achieve net-zero emissions. In Scotland, these conflicts manifest as land grabs by corporations pursuing carbon offsetting plans and afforestation by existing landlords on existing sporting grounds and farmland to sell carbon credits. As such, Scotland stands at the forefront of the global Great Net-Zero Land Grab.

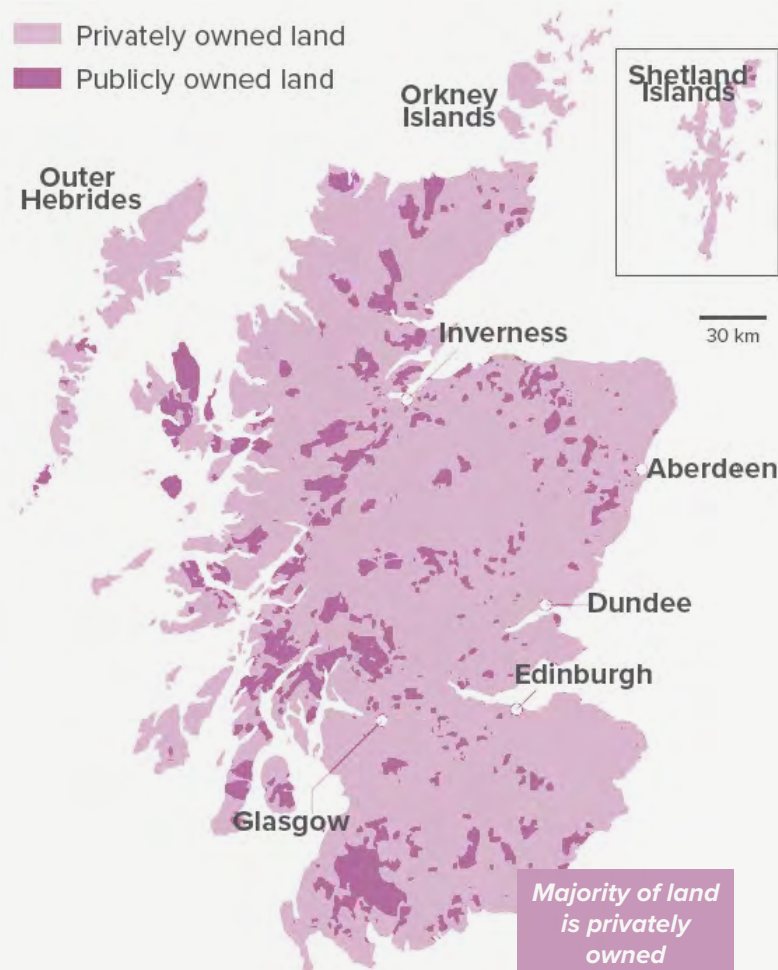
A few questions arose as the research progressed: Who owns Scotland? Whom is rewilding for? What constitutes 'knowledge'? Responding to these enquiries, this project pioneers manual consisting of a series of design scores which combines grouse moors land practices and scientific rewilding methodologies. The project envisions the future of Kinrara Estate under community ownership, where it serves as a testing ground for land practices that foster the coexistence of cultural heritage and ecological restoration, empowering gamekeepers as they transition into effective land stewards for Kinrara Estate.

In essence, this project tackles the complex issue of land use conflicts by offering a practical solution. It aims to empower local communities to imagine a future where place-based knowledge and scientific rewildin methodologies, as well as cultural and natural processes involving both humans and more-than-humans, are given equal voices. It also highlights the collaborative nature of landscape architecture by the introduction of design scores. Instead of a fixed design, employing design scores invites the community nurturing the landscape to become co-creators. Each rendition of the scores generates a slightly different design, reflecting the participants' skills, knowledge, and aesthetics, as well as the potential and agency of more-than-human beings.

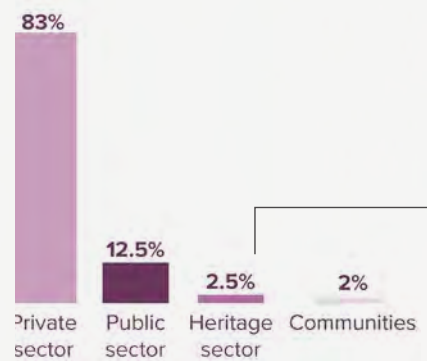
Scotland's Green Lairds: Ownership of and the dominant approaches to rewilding in Scotland

The term "green laird" describes businesses acquiring large tracts of land to plant trees, aiming to offset carbon emissions as part of their net-zero strategies. Previously, carbon offsetting focused on regions like the Amazon, but companies are now turning to the Scottish Highlands to offset emissions and generate profit, intensifying the region's already concentrated land ownership.

Land ownership in Scotland



Rewilding Sites in Scotland (Registered on Rewilding Britain)



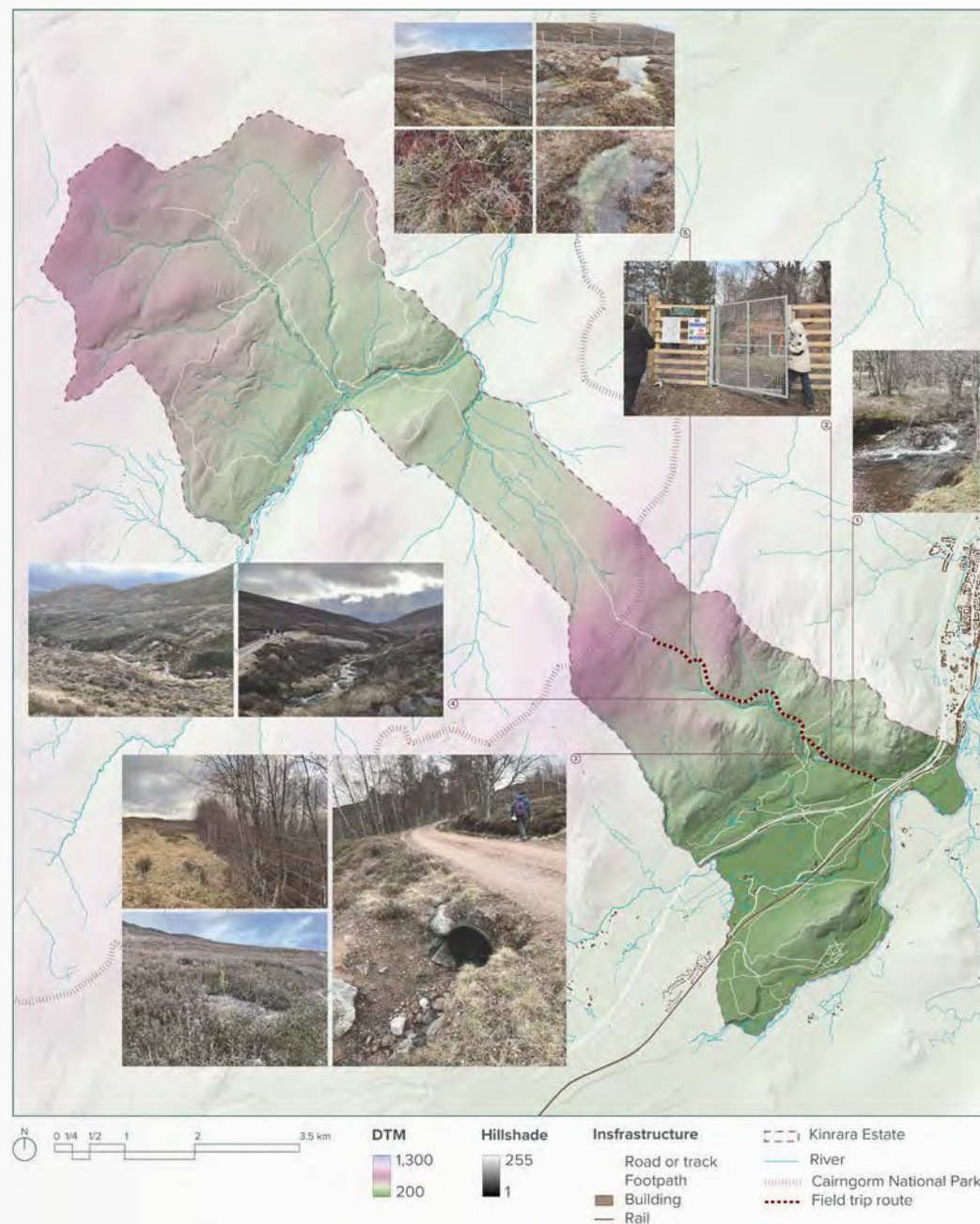
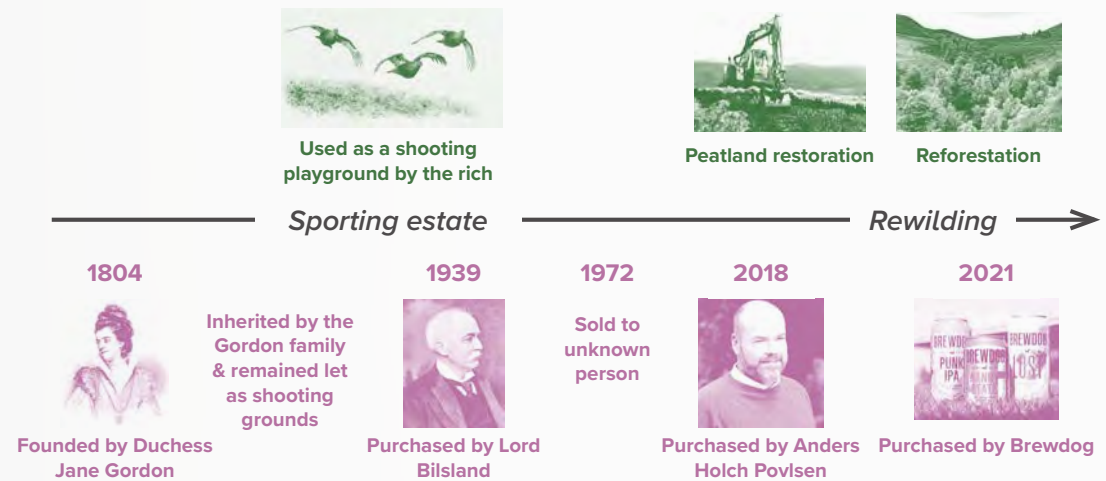
- 3 main types of landlords involved in rewilding:**
- National Trust for Scotland
 - RSPB
 - John Muir Trust
 - Scottish Wildlife Trust
 - Woodland Trust Scotland
 - Borders Forest Trust
 - Plantlife
 - Trees for Life



Rewilding for what? A green transition for whom?

A laird-driven approach to rewilding excludes local communities from envisioning their sustainable futures. Without addressing land justice, rewilding risks transforming these landscapes into biodiverse spaces that primarily serve wealthy landowners and visitors, rather than the people who call these places home.

Changes in ownership of Kinrara Estate





A just transition must be built with and for the community

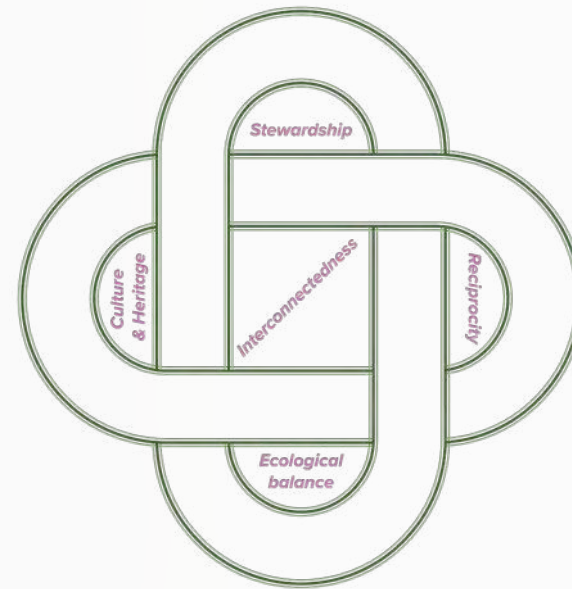
Grouse shooting has grown increasingly controversial due to concerns over practices like muirburn. Critics often position landworkers against conservation efforts, accusing them of harming Scotland's landscape. Yet, this perspective overlooks the fact that grouse shooting supports thousands of rural jobs. By failing to provide landworkers with pathways into environmentally sustainable roles, environmental advocacy risks undermining local livelihoods.

The design project envisions gamekeepers and the local community gaining stewardship over Kinrara Estate through collective ownership, creating a testing ground that blends local knowledge with conservation science for rewilding.

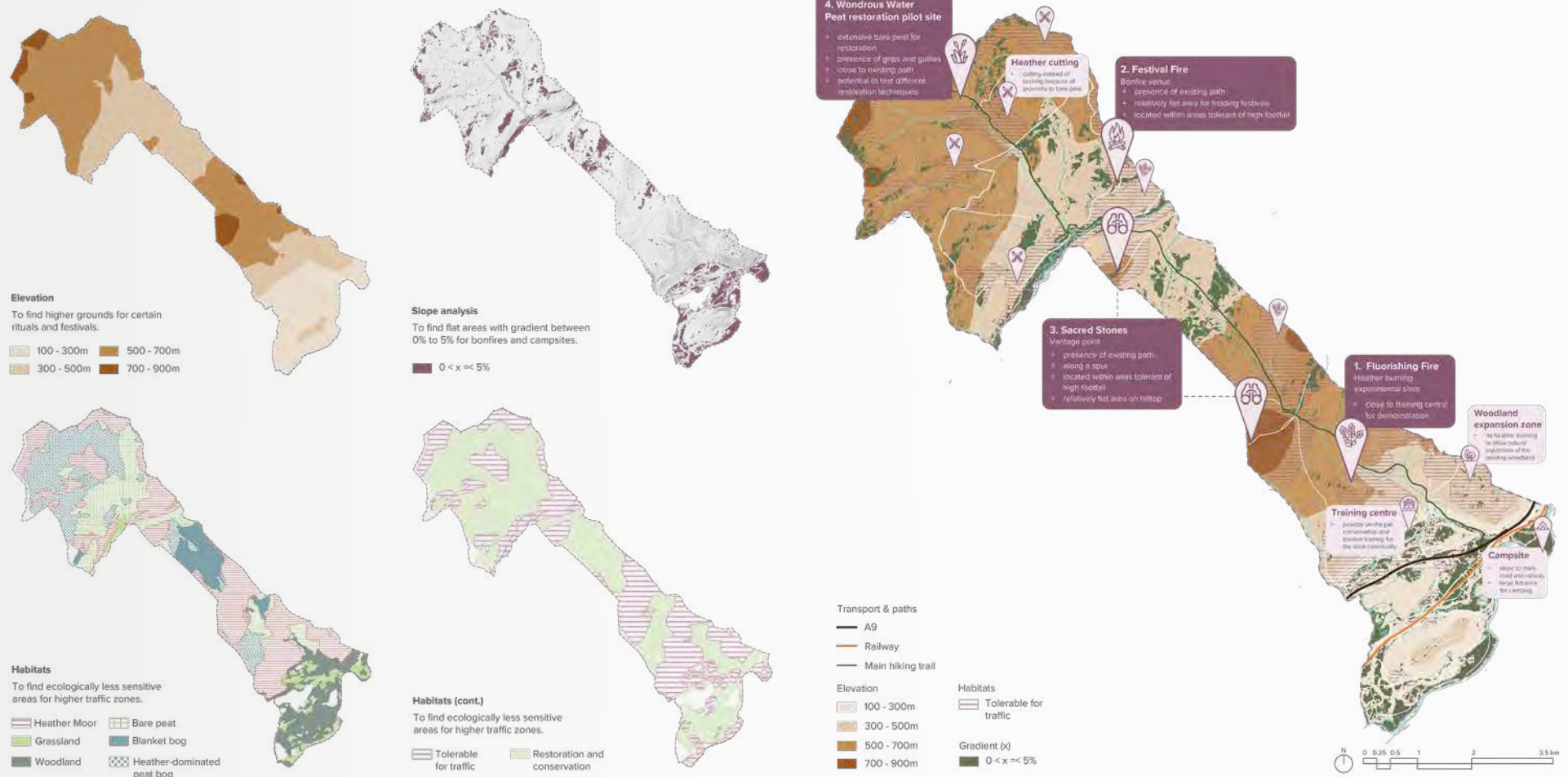
Dùthchas: The reciprocal people-land relationship

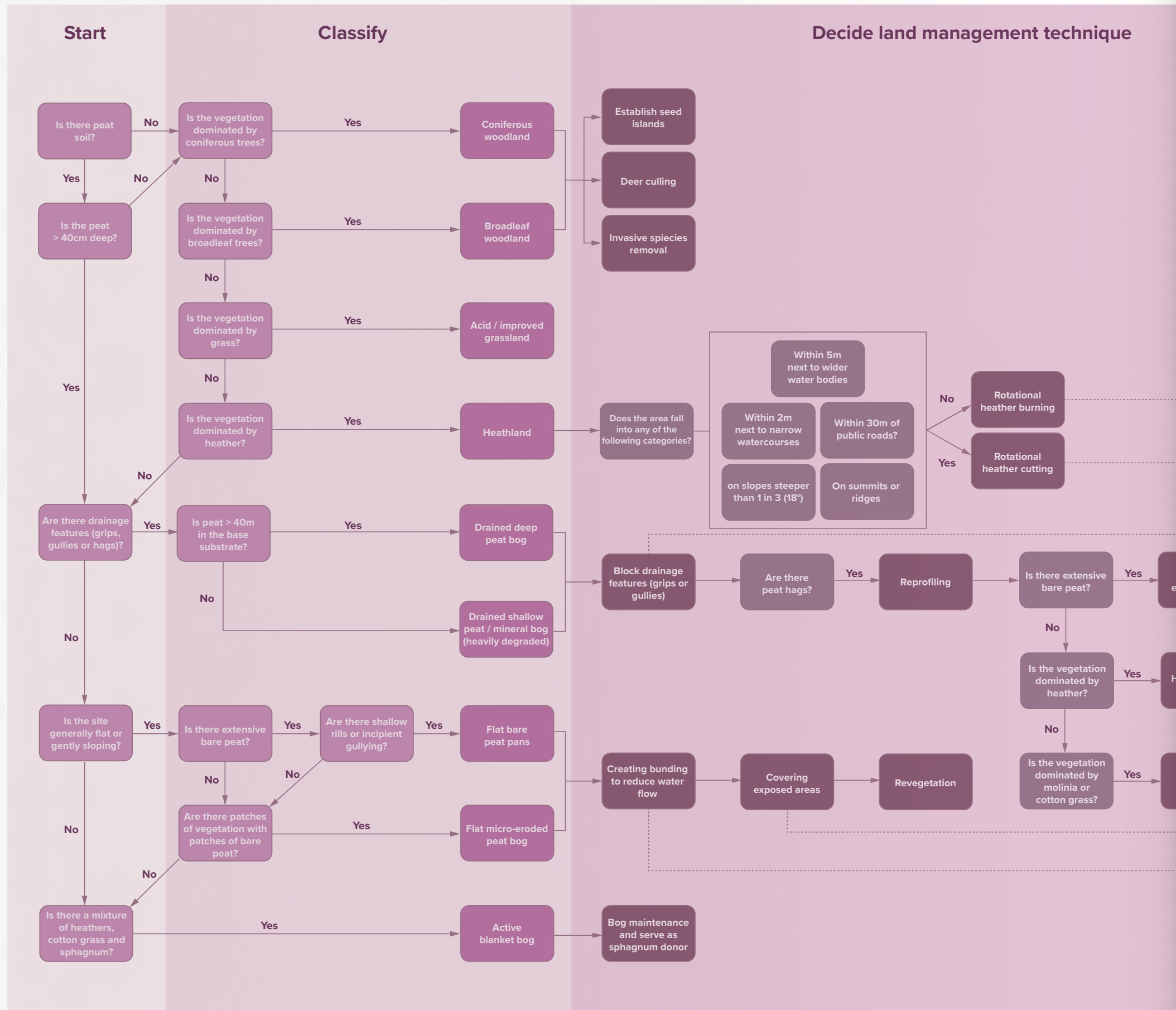
The Gaelic concept of Dùthchas reflects the deep interconnection between people, land, culture, and ecology, encompassing heritage, belonging, and stewardship. Guiding Gaels in harmonious living with their environment for centuries, Dùthchas offers a valuable framework for integrating local knowledge into sustainable futures. Inspired by this concept, the project seeks to blend place-based and scientific knowledge to promote ecological restoration, foster land stewardship, and create training and employment opportunities on Kinrara Estate and its vicinity. The proposed interventions focus on community building, land stewardship, and cultural heritage. Four of them were chosen for further design development.

Gaelic knot representing Dùthchas principles



Strategic masterplan





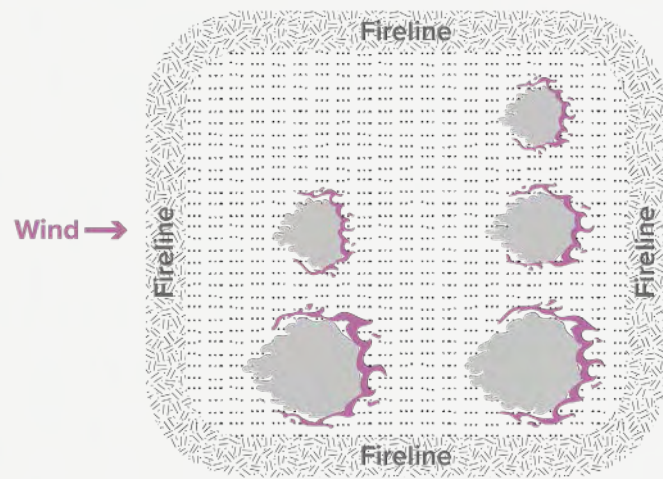
Decide aesthetics & tectonics



Design scores

Research on traditional land practice and rewilding methodologies is distilled into "design scores," inspired by Yoko Ono's event scores in Grapefruit and John Cage's chance operations. Instead of a fixed design, the introduction of design scores invites the community nurturing the landscape to become cocreators. Each rendition of the scores varies, reflecting the participants' skills and aesthetics, and giving voice to more-than-human agency as well.

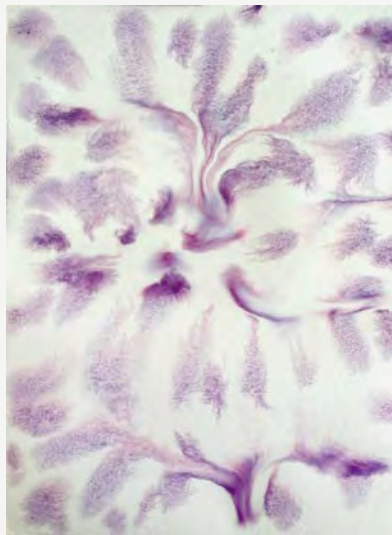
Designing with emergence is a core theme in this studio. Emergence occurs when simple interactions within a system produce more complex, often unpredictable properties. To design with emergence means that instead of strictly controlling every detail, designers set up conditions that encourage self-organization and evolution within the system, as exemplified by the adaptive design scores.



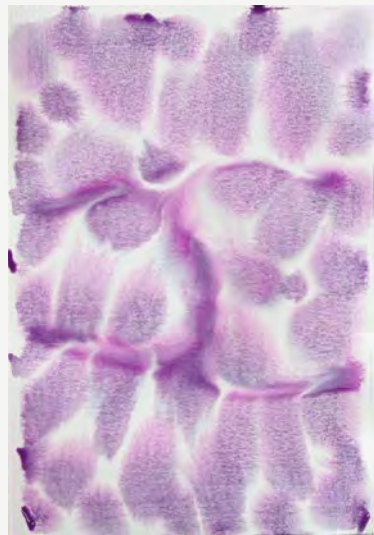
Spot heading fire

Simulating fire ecology with watercolour

When clear water contacts half-dried watercolour on paper, it repels and pushes the colour away from it, creating an effect that looks like burnt edges. Drawings were made using this technique with different variables to simulate different fire conditions. To translate these drawings into landscapes, geometries of the drawing were extracted and assigned with a number according to their colour intensity. This was interpreted at different scales: first as the plan for rotational heather burning, where each shape denotes an area of burning and the assigned number refers to the year of burning; second as the fire mosaic resulted from burning, where each shape indicates a patch of vegetation and the number refers to the degree of burn and rejuvenation.



Random blotches of purple representing heather



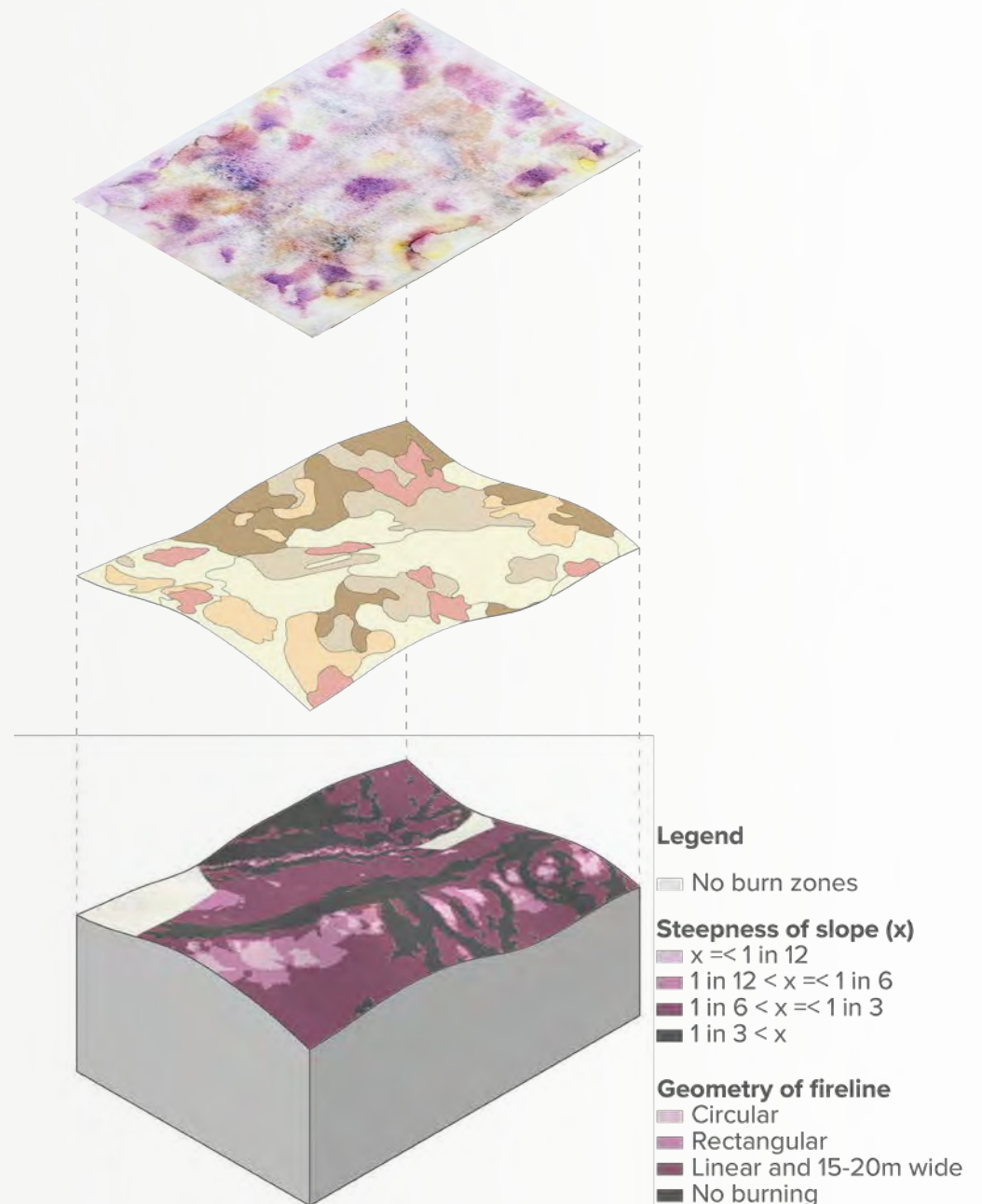
Colour bleed out representing heather growth and spread



Blotches of green and yellow representing other moorland species; Drops of water representing spot fire



Result of mosaic drawing (the lighter the area, the higher the burn intensity)

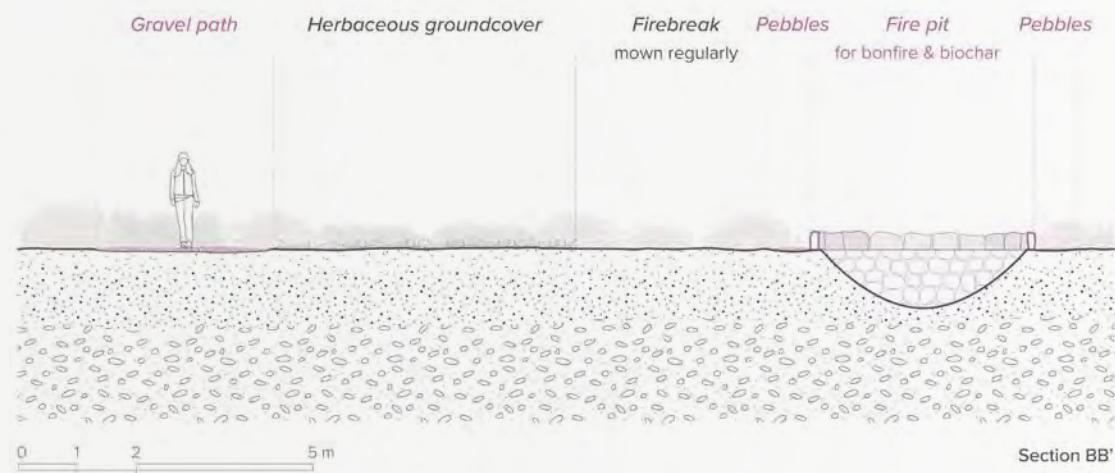
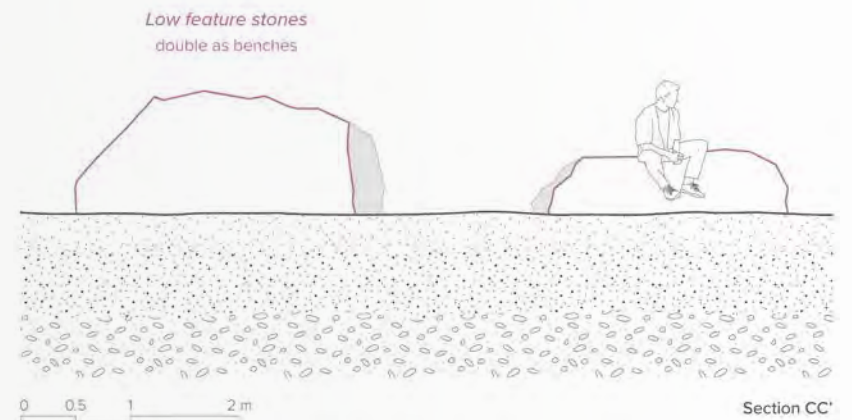
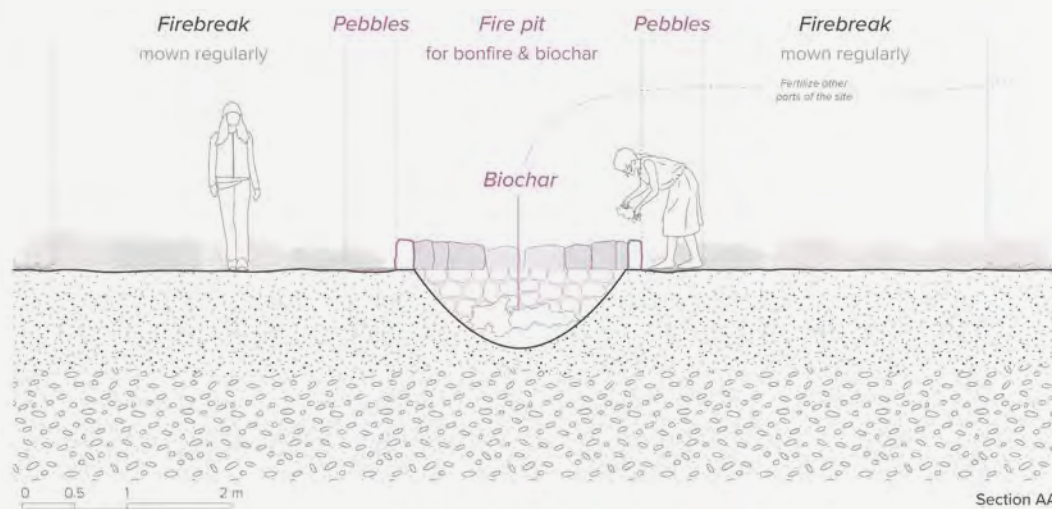


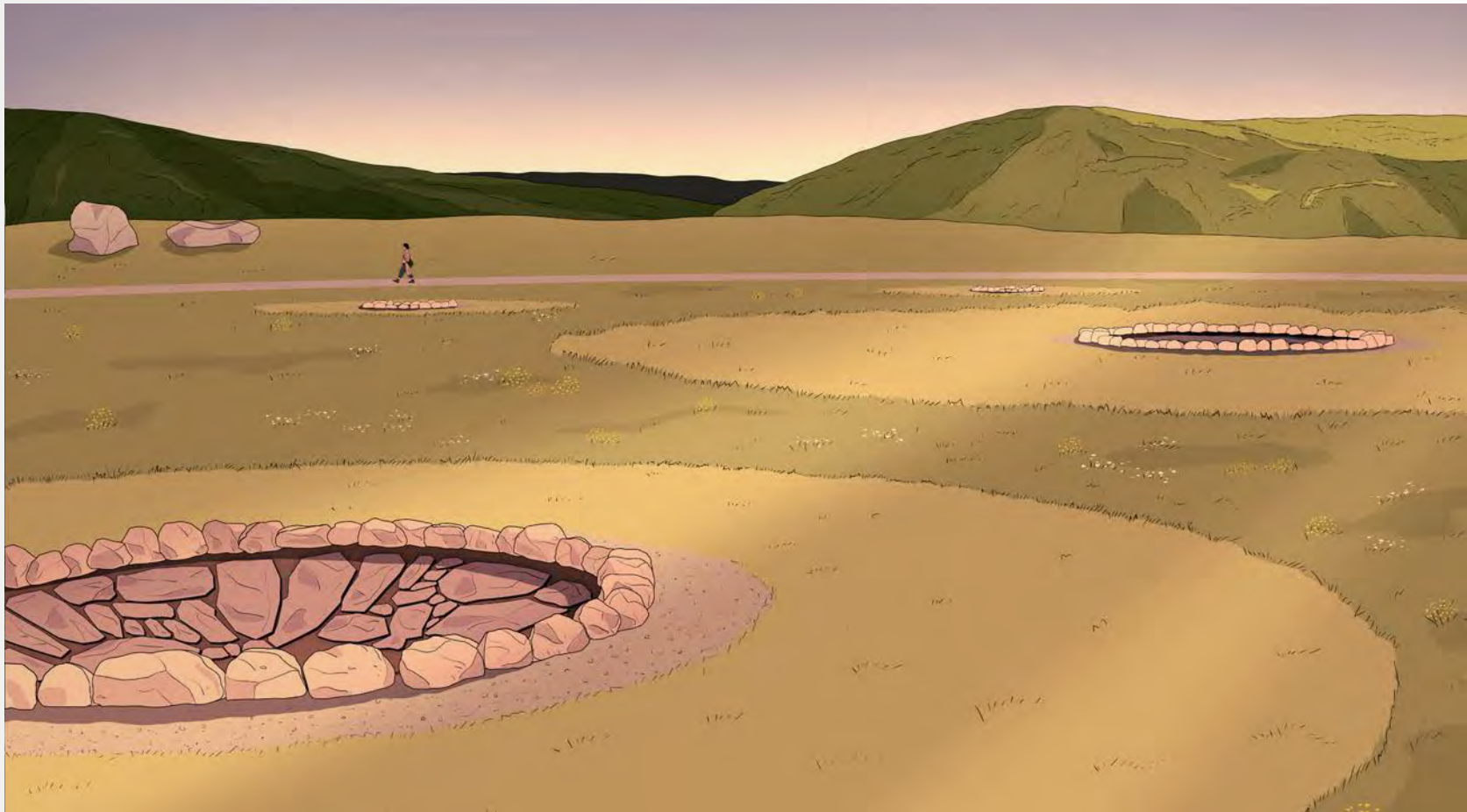


Festival fire

Fire holds a central place in many Scottish cultural events, symbolizing purification, transformation, and the cyclical renewal of life. The design concept here is to create circles of various scales, with a central circular bonfire pit in the middle, expanding into a circle of smaller pits and then to the outer gravel path, and lastly the feature stone outlining the outermost circle.

The firepits also double as biochar pits which can be used to turn plant scraps resulted from heather cutting and woodland maintenance into biochar which can be fed back to other parts of the site.

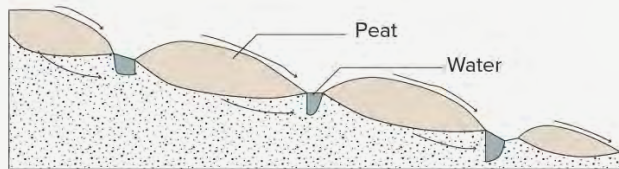




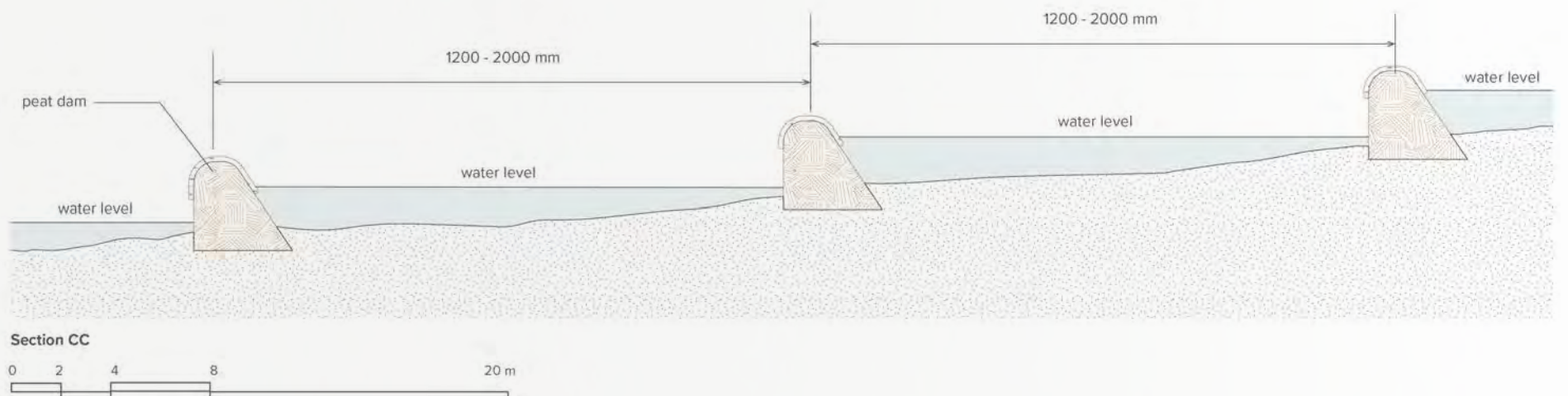
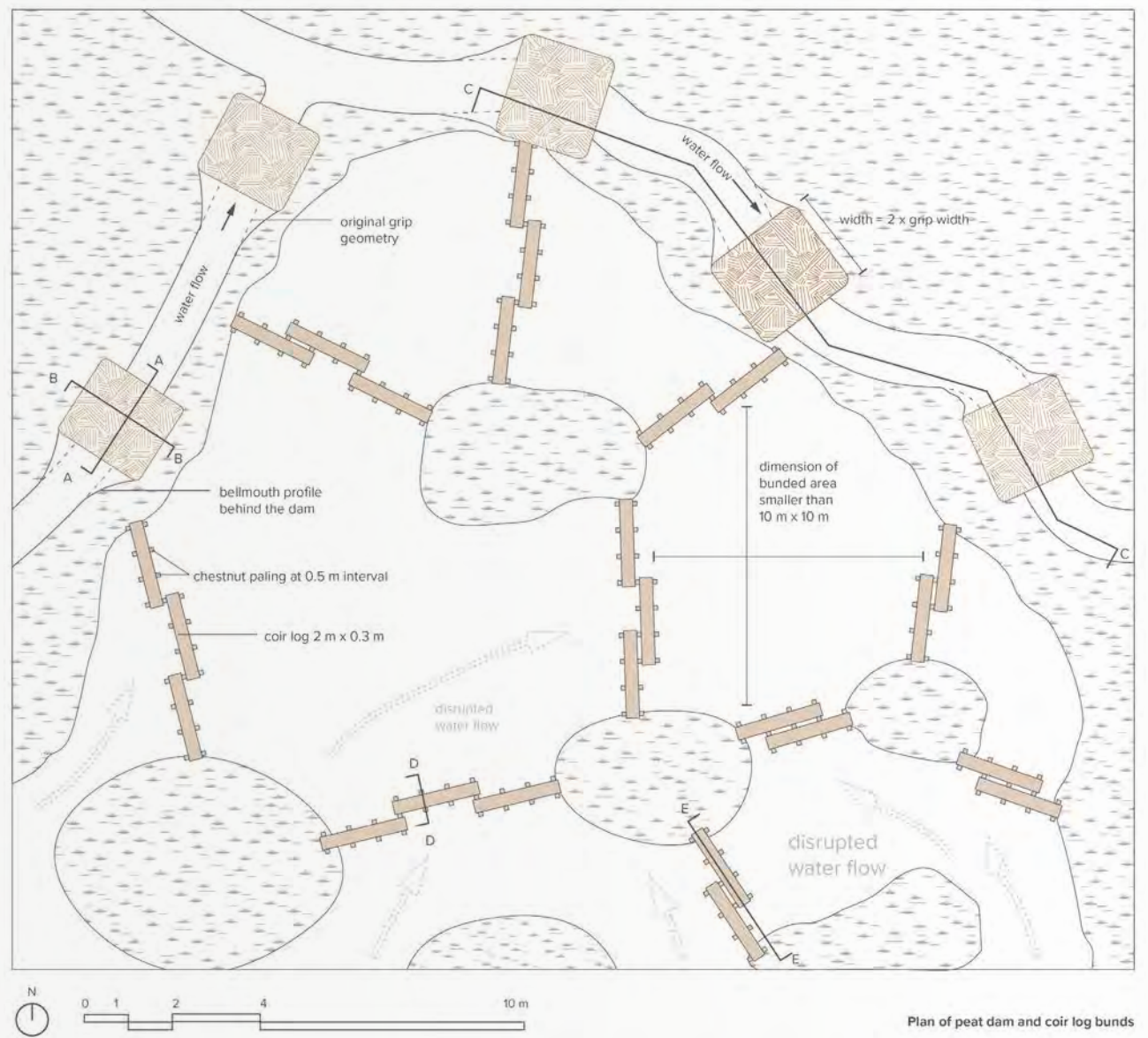
Rewetting peatland

Water holds profound significance in Gaelic mythology and folklore, often embodying life-giving and mystical qualities. In place-making and place attachment, these narratives link people to the land by embedding cultural identity and heritage into the landscape, inspiring pride and a personal duty to protect these places. Inspired by this, rewetting peatland to create pools of water can evoke similar emotional bonds.

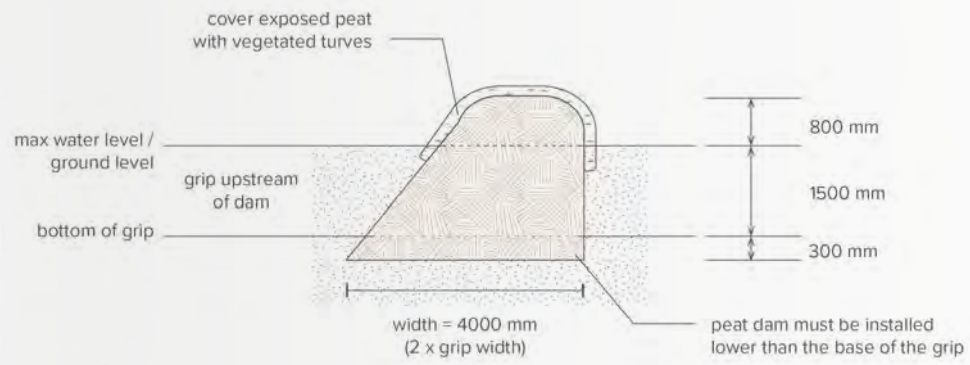
Blanket bog



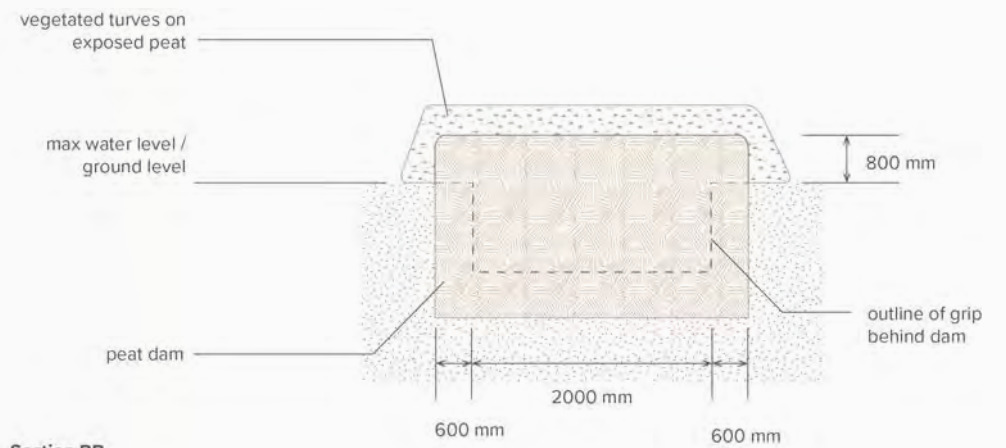
Detail plan of flow management to rewet peatland



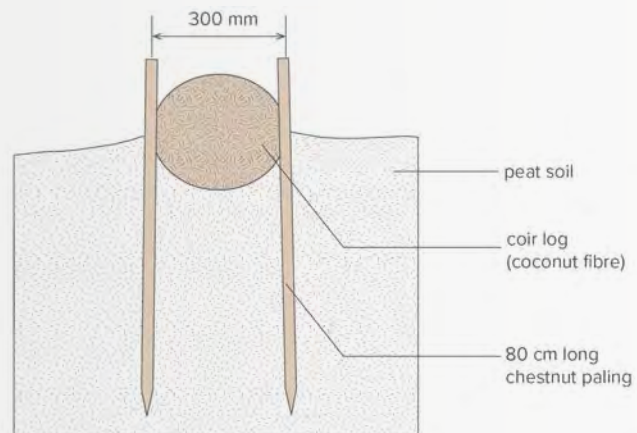
Technical sections of peat dams and coir log bunds



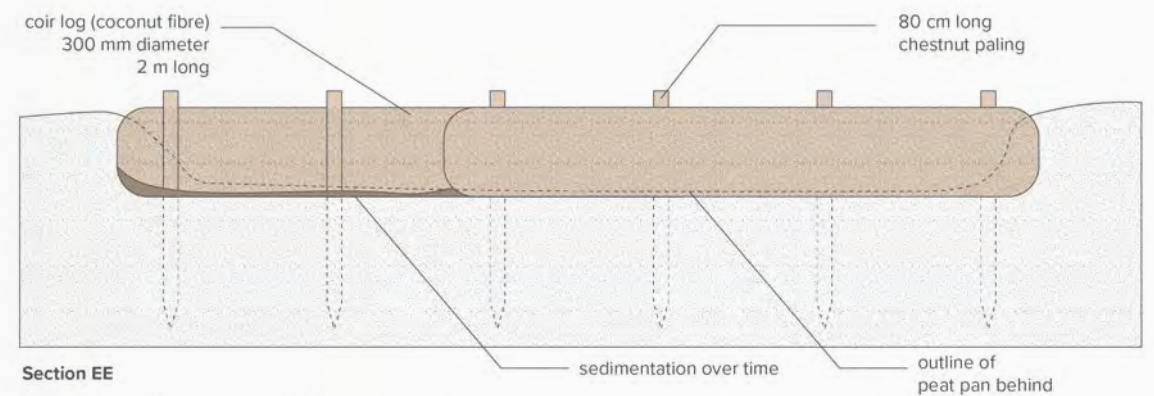
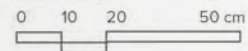
Section AA



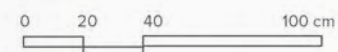
Section BB



Section DD



Section EE





03

CHOREOGRAPHING INDICATOR LANDSCAPES CITIZEN SCIENCE IN THE MIDST OF AN ECOCIDE IN TEESSIDE

Site location: Knitting Wife Beck, Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire

Year: MLA Year 1 Term 3 (2023)

Studio tutors: Douglas Miller, Katya Larina

Project statement

Based on the environmental disasters unfolding on the shores of the Northeast and North Yorkshire, this project imagines how fishers, residents, scientists, and volunteers could come together to take ownership of their living environment and actively engage in environmental monitoring. Since October 2021, piles of dead and dying crustaceans have been washed up along the northern beaches. The scale of this die-off was unlike anything seen before, even after the fiercest storms. As marine life suffered, so did the communities that depend on it. Already grappling with the challenges of Brexit, local fishers watched their livelihoods shrink. Wildlife volunteers reported a growing number of malnourished seals, signaling deeper ecological distress. Despite smaller-scale die-offs continuing into 2022, the official response offered little reassurance.

Determined to uncover the truth, fishers and coastal communities commissioned independent research from four northern universities. The findings pointed to something far more alarming: poisoning from pyridine, an industrial by-product buried in the River Tees' sediment, likely disturbed by dredging. Inspired by their civic engagement and proactivity, this project proposes a network of indicator landscapes at different points of the water system to serve as sites for citizen science. Drawing from phytoremediation techniques, one of the strategies involves making use of plant species that can tolerate high levels of toxins as water pollution indicators. The long-term vision of the proposed indicator landscapes is for them to become sites that promote civic engagement and environmental protection.

What happened to the coast of Northeast England?

The project began with research about the massive crustacean die-off in the northern coasts of England. GIS was utilized to analyse and understand the ecological and socioeconomic impact of the Teesside Freeport on the surrounding area.



The dredger Orca made 52 trips from Teesmouth to the soil drop zone.

SEP 25 - OCT 4



Dead crabs began to appear at the beaches near Tees Estuary. Photo of dead crabs found at Seaton Carew, taken by Carl Clyne. (BBC, 2021)

OCT 6

A dead porpoise was found washed up near the Tees estuary. Photo taken by Sarah Jane Goodall. (BBC, 2021)

LATE OCT



2021

Oct 2021

A protest was held in Saltburn over dead crustaceans and sea pollution. Photo by Salty Lamb Photography. (BBC, 2021)



The Environment Agency rules out chemical pollution as a likely reason for the deaths. Investigators also rule out sewage, undersea cabling, seismic survey activity or dredging as likely causes (itv News, 2022).

26 NOV

By November, the casualties had spread as far south as Whitby, with fishers reporting a 90% drop in their catches (The Guardian, 2022). Photo of James Cole, a fisher based in Whitby, taken by Christopher Thomond.



Corpse of thousands of crabs have been found on the coast near the River Tees. Photo by Katie Simmon. (BBC, 2022)

Nov 2021

Dead seals have been found on beaches at South and North Gare, Sandsend and Whitby (The Northern Echo, 2022).



David McCready, a retired marine biologist, argued that dredging was to blame and called for the country's top testing lab to get involved (itv News, 2022).



DEFRA released a report that claimed that the death of crustaceans was potentially resulted from a naturally occurring harmful algal bloom, and that they found no evidence of a link between the disposal of dredged sediment and the deaths (itv News, 2022)

2 FEB



Concerns grew after dead crustaceans began washing up on Teesside's beaches again. Clumps of dead seaweed were also found.

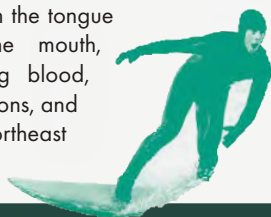
2022

Jan 2022

Feb 2022

May 2022

Some surfers who had surfed at South Gare next to Teesmouth in mid-November, fell ill with an unprecedented sickness. Their symptoms included tingling in the tongue and roof of the mouth, diarrhoea, passing blood, ear and eye infections, and aching joints (Northeast Bylines, 2023).



The report by the independent expert panel was released, claiming that it was unlikely algal blooms were to blame. The team also added that it was very unlikely that the die-offs are a result of a pyridine or another toxic pollutant.

The government set up an independent expert panel to investigate the cause of the mass die-offs of crabs and lobsters on the north-east coast of England (The Guardian, 2022).



The beach between Marske and Saltburn were awash with dead shellfish, from razor clams and crabs to lobster and mussels. Photo by Stuart Boulton. (The Northern Echo, 2022)

A report commissioned by the North East Fishing Collective and carried out by an independent study group of academics from 4 northeastern universities was released. The report stated that pyridine, a common industrial chemical, might be linked to the crustacean death because high levels of it was found in the dead crabs.

29 SEP

Feb 2022

Jan 2022

2023

Nov 2022

Sep 2022



Sites of ecological value

Teesworks is near ecologically significant sites, including RAMSAR wetlands to the north and west.



Water network

Several streams flow from the southeast into Teesworks, with many culverted through the site.



Land use

Predominantly industrial, with wetlands, vegetation, and arable land on the north bank, and residential areas concentrated on the south bank.



Transport

Teesworks has direct access to the North Sea, rail freight, and major roads.







Planning in Teesworks

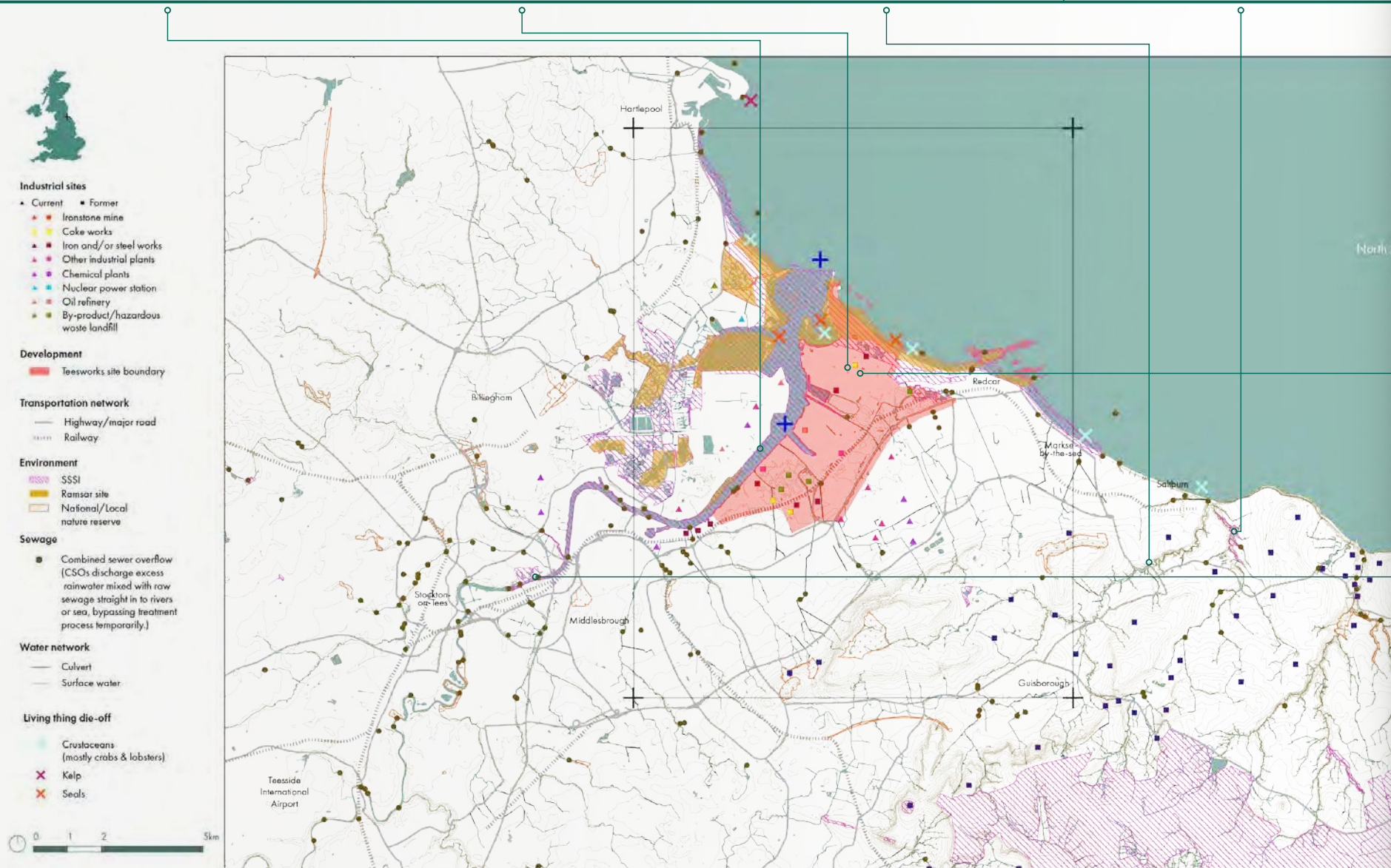
Dredging near Tees Dock will deepen the channel from 8.8m to 13m, with a berth pocket reaching 15.6m. The site includes 11 zones for industry, logistics, and port facilities.



Teesworks and tax/custom benefits zones

Tax and customs benefits are available in and around Teesworks to attract investment and trade.

| Possible sources of water pollution | Dredging | Untreated discharge from industrial plants | Illegal waste disposal | Abandoned mine drainage |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Incident(s) occurred |  <p>Figure 07. Screenshot from video by Grecko Indie Media that shows dredging taking place at the South Bank Quays.</p> |  <p>Figure 08. A study on the land west of Warrenby in Teesworks, a former industrial site, found that 20 contaminants in the soil leachate were above water-quality limit, including cyanide, lead and mercury.</p> |  <p>Figure 09. Hazardous waste was found dumped in a field near Skelton Beck. This wiped out fish population and left the river discoloured and odourous.</p> |  <p>Figure 10. Polluted water from former mines turned Saltburn Gills orange and Killed aquatic life.</p> |



Teesworks construction & demolition sites

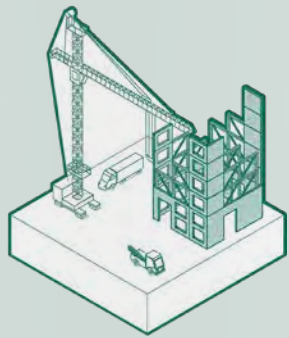


Figure 11. The former Redcar Coke Ovens were demolished with 175kg of explosives. On the same day, the air quality monitor in nearby Dormanstown for PM10 spiked to 50 micrograms per cubic metre from 7.5 an hour before (Mazza, 2022).

Combine sewer overflow

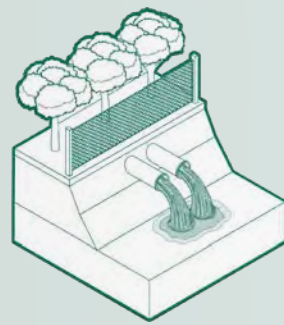
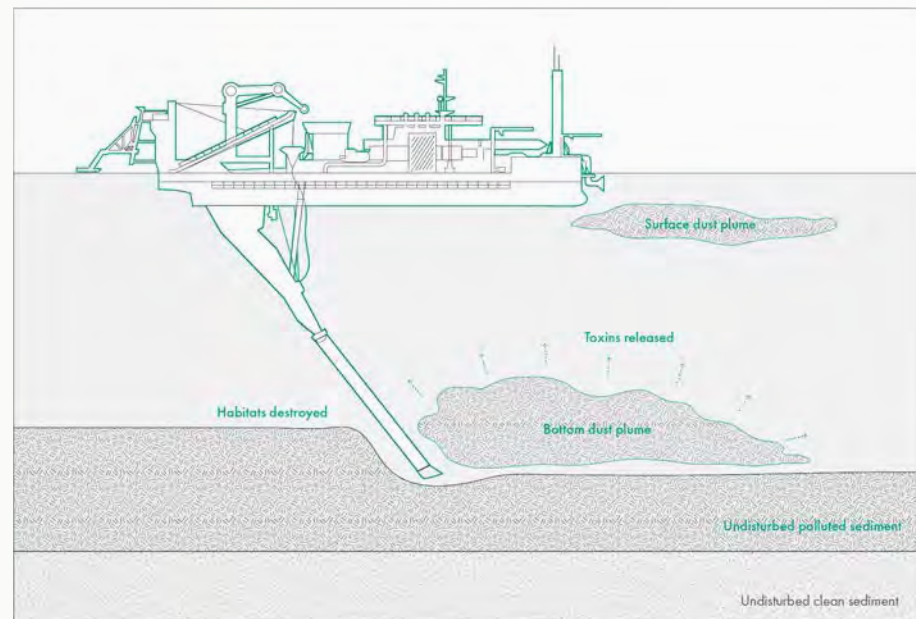
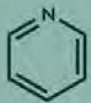


Figure 12. The section of River Tees between Stockton and Middlesbrough was polluted by untreated sewage spilled from the combined sewers after heavy rainfall.



Understanding dredging

Dredging may stir up contaminants in the riverbed by suspending sediments during the excavation process, potentially releasing any contaminants that may be present in the sediment as a result of the industrial activities in the area.



Pyridine

Pyridine (a by-product of coking coal) levels recorded in the dead crabs were substantially higher than in those from outside the impacted area. Research concluded that pyridine is acutely toxic to crabs at concentrations well below those measured in the dead crabs.



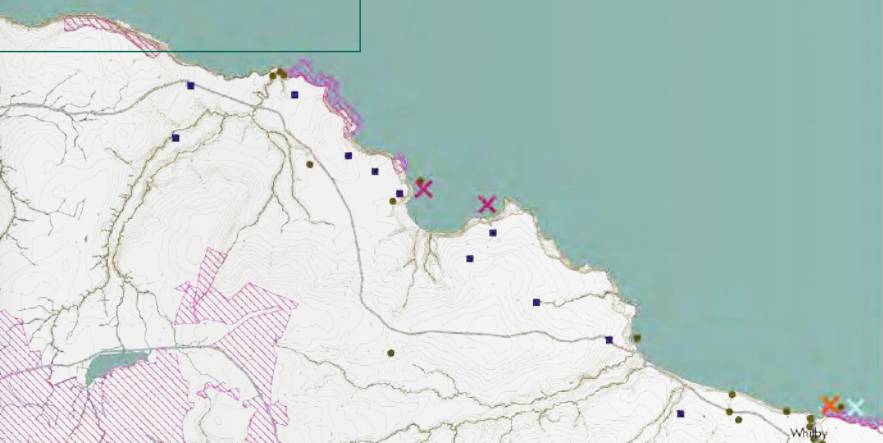
Crab and lobster catches along the NE coast from Hartlepool to Scarborough was down 90% 4 months after the first crustacean die-off in October 2021.

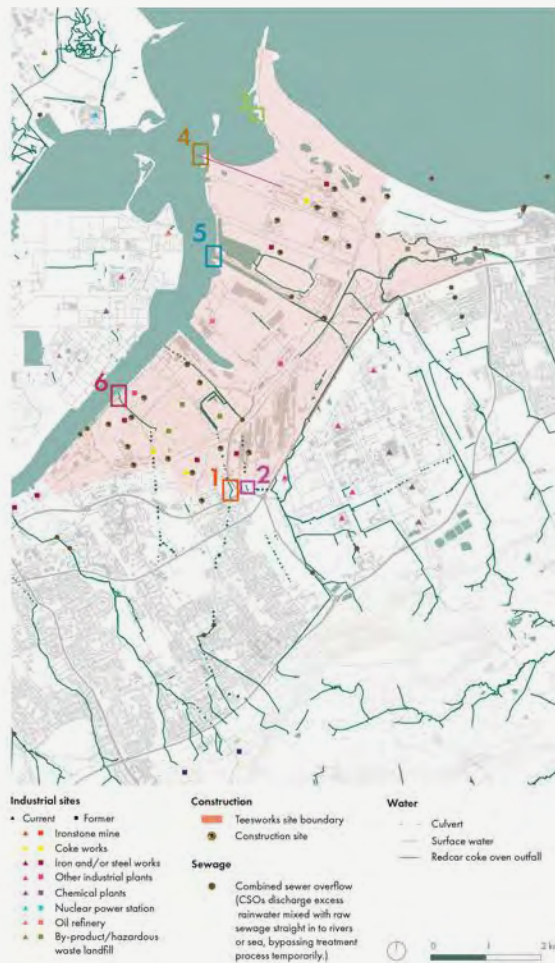


Death of other sea animals reported include seals, octopuses, flatfish, soft sponge and more.

Forensic research: Tracing water pollution

This research compiles historical, geospatial, social, and infrastructural data from maps, news, and development plans to investigate the connection between dredging in Tees Bay and the crustacean die-off. It also explores other potential sources of water pollution affecting the broader Teesside water system.

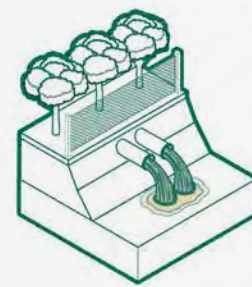




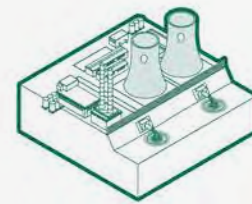
Design strategy: A network of indicator landscapes

A network of indicator landscapes across Teesside will monitor pollution through three intervention types: Inland Indicator Gardens, Estuarine Oyster Gardens, and Water Sample Collection Stations. These sites will track water quality while serving as hubs for grassroots environmental advocacy and recreation. 6 potential sites are identified and 1 is chosen for design development in this project.

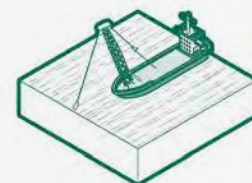
Possible sources of water pollution



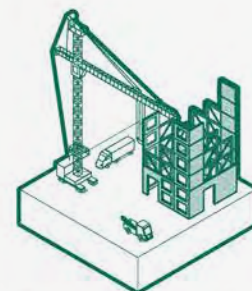
Combine sewer overflow



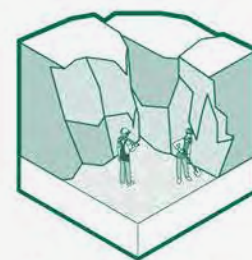
Untreated discharge from industrial plants



Dredging



Teesworks construction & demolition sites



Abandoned mine drainage

Pilot sites

Site 1 - Knitting Wife Beck

- presence of terrestrial watercourse
- space available for developing garden
- near local residents and publicly accessible

Site 2 - Kinkerdale Beck

- presence of terrestrial watercourse
- space available for developing garden
- near local residents and publicly accessible

Site 3 - Powder Hole

- close to the estuary
- publicly accessible
- close to coastal communities

Site 4 - Redcar coke ovens outfall

- potentially polluted water discharge
- has existing development plans
- limited access
- close to dredging zone

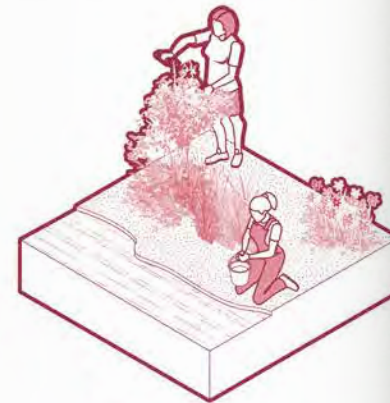
Site 5 - Dabholm Cut

- potentially polluted water discharge
- limited space for design
- has existing development plans
- limited access
- close to dredging zone

Site 6 - Outfall near the wharf

- potentially polluted water discharge
- limited space for design
- has existing development plans
- close to dredging zone

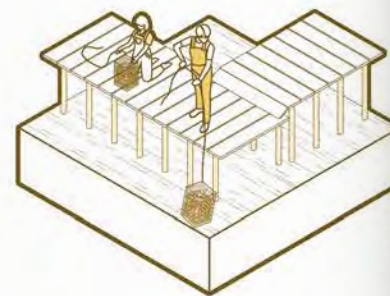
Intervention typology



Inland indicator garden

Site selection criteria

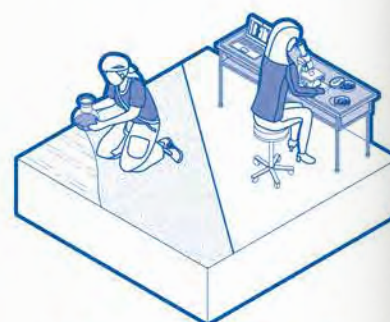
- presence of terrestrial watercourse
- size \geq 1 acre
- publicly accessible
- proximity to local community



Estuarine oyster indicator garden

Site selection criteria

- estuarine setting
- size \geq 1 acre
- publicly accessible
- proximity to local community



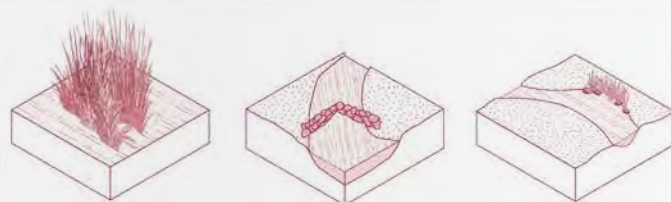
Water sample collection station

Site selection criteria

- water outfall
- close to dredging zone
- only viable for temporary / meanwhile design

Features

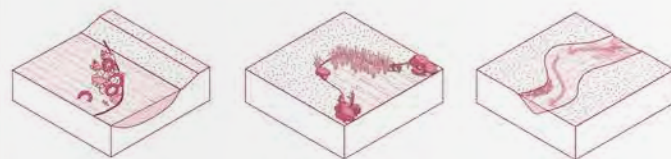
Indicator landscapes



Indicator species planting

Cascade

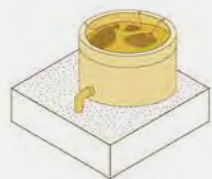
Meander



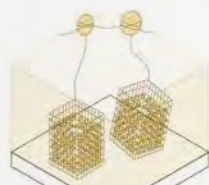
Waste barrier

Control pond

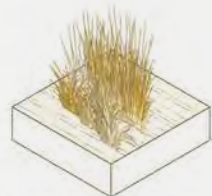
Riffle-pool sequence



Remote setting tank



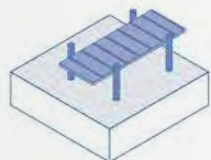
Oyster farm



Indicator species planting

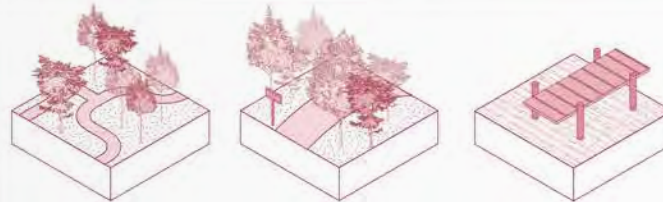


Oyster restoration ground



Water sample collection deck

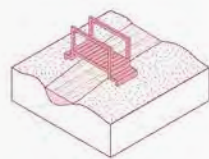
Access & connection



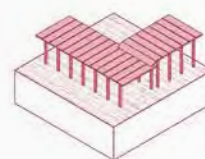
Vehicle access

Entrance

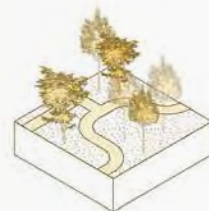
Observation deck



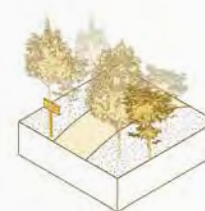
Bridge



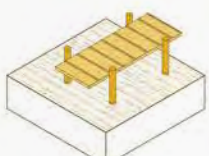
Boardwalk



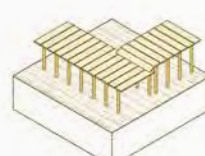
Path



Entrance



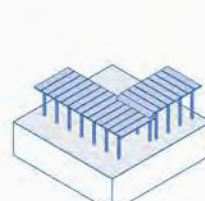
Observation deck



Boardwalk

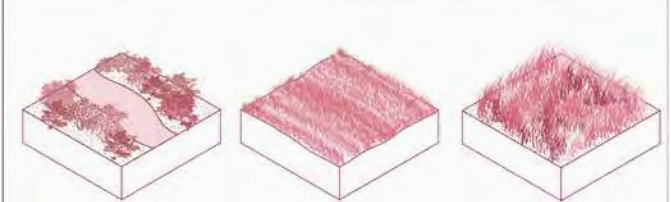


Path



Boardwalk

Amenities



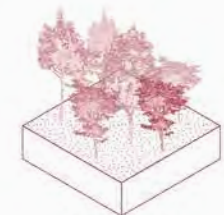
Walking trails

Grass and sedges

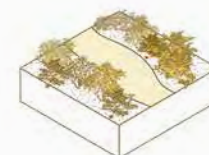
Meadow



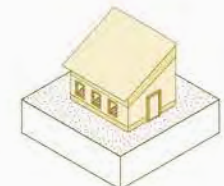
Shed



Tree planting



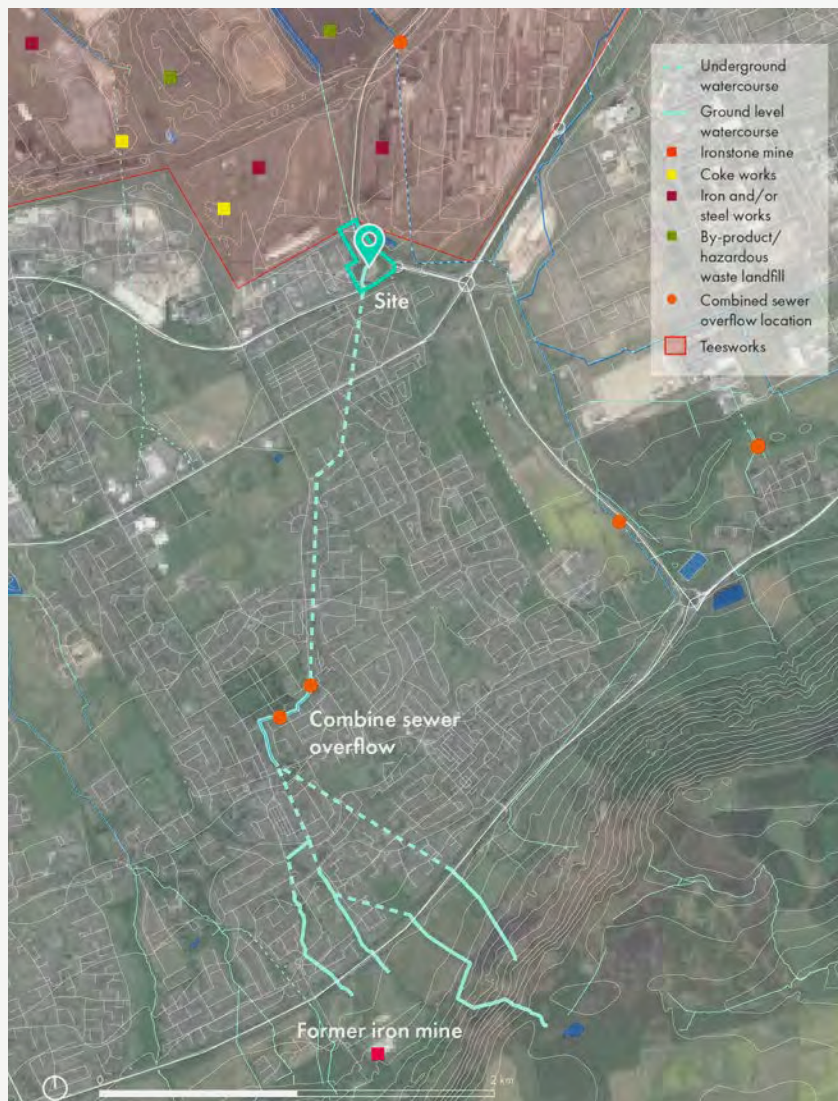
Walking trails



Shed

Community indicator garden

Knitting Wife Beck is chosen for design development in this project. Receiving water passing through a former iron mine and 2 combined sewer outfalls, the open stream in the site may contain pollutants ranging from human and industrial wastes, to oil, toxic metals, pesticides, and litter. Analyzing its evolving context, surrounding amenities, and neighbourhood need, the proposal aims to transform this sites into an accessible indicator garden for community environmental monitoring.



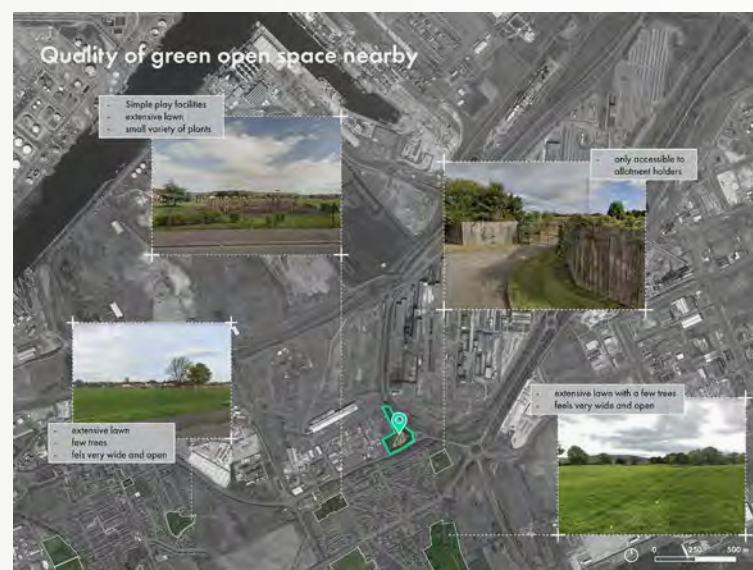
Knitting wife beck and its context



An evolving context



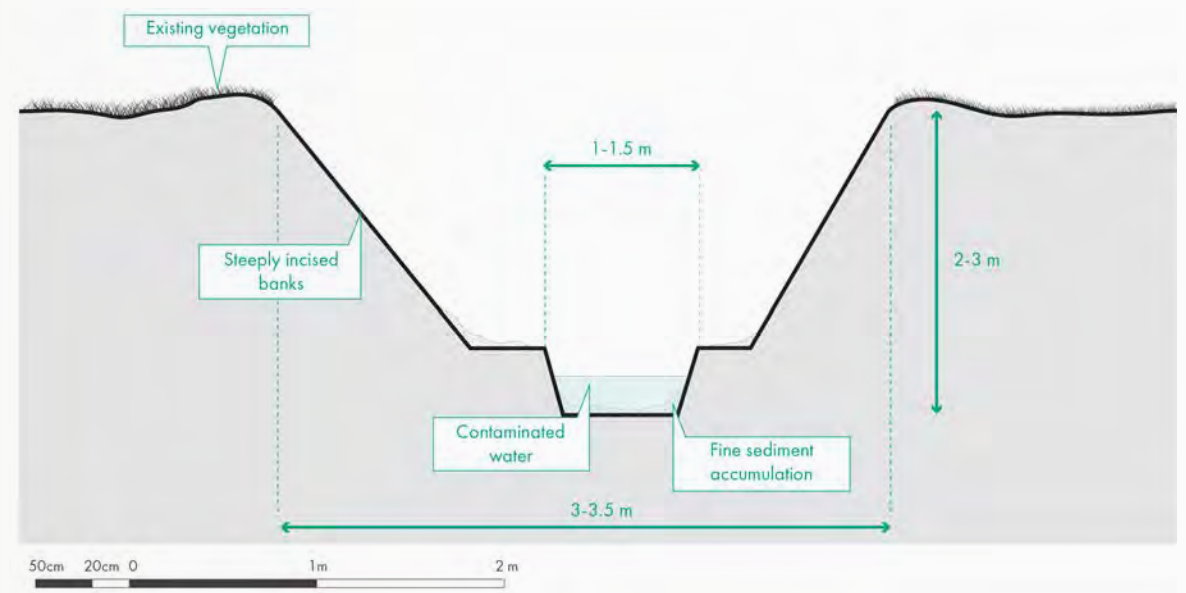
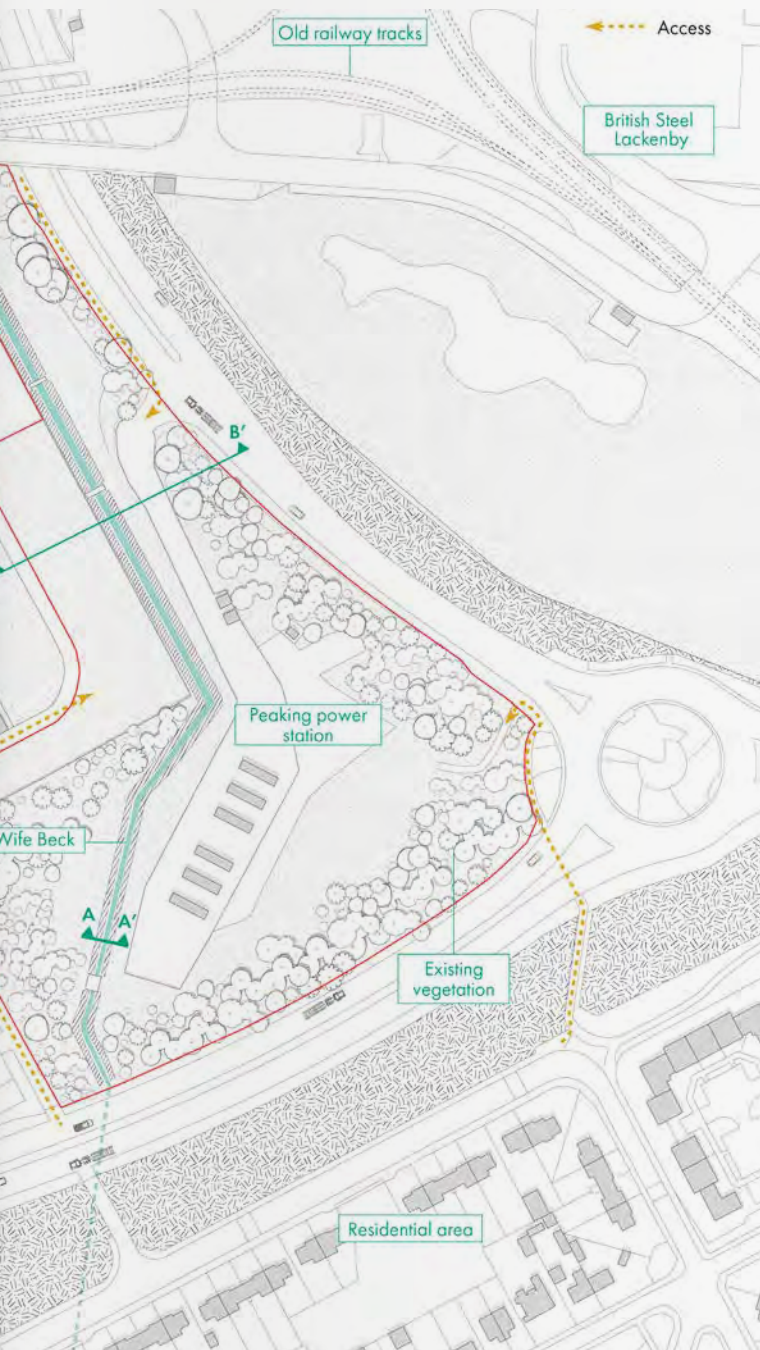
Proximity to the local community



Limited Green Space

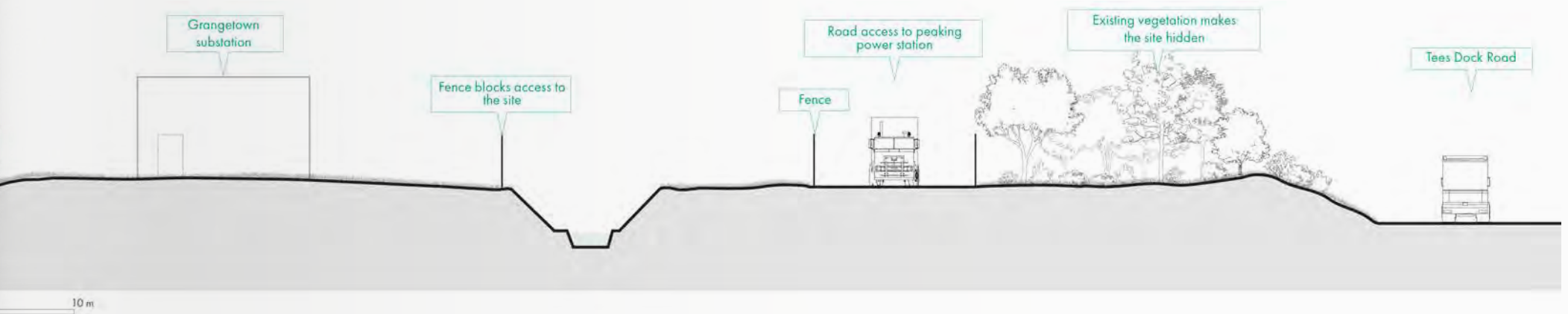


Section BB' - Section



of Knitting Wife Beck

Section AA' - Typical channel cross-section



n across site



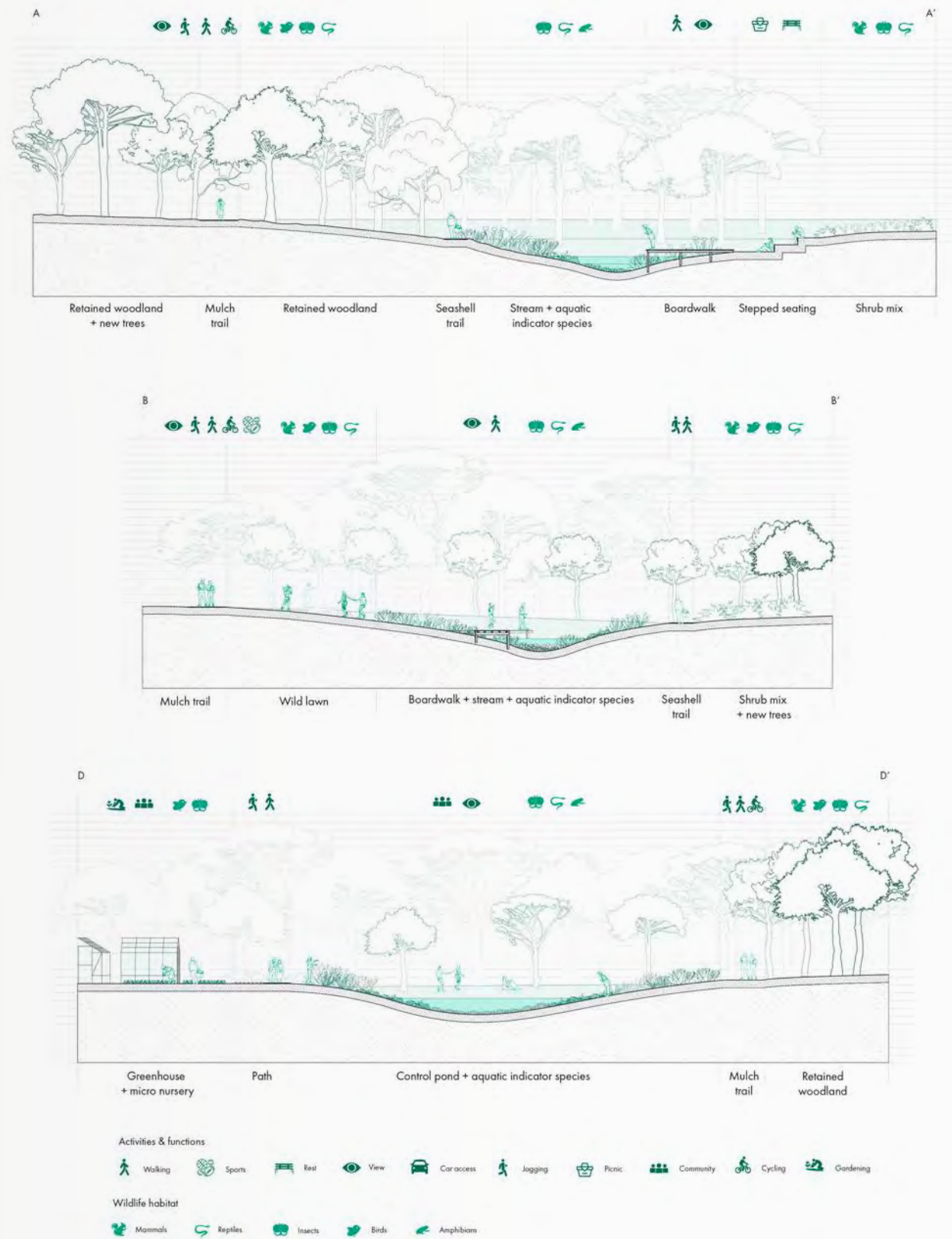
During normal conditions



During rainfall: the design accommodates temporary flooding of

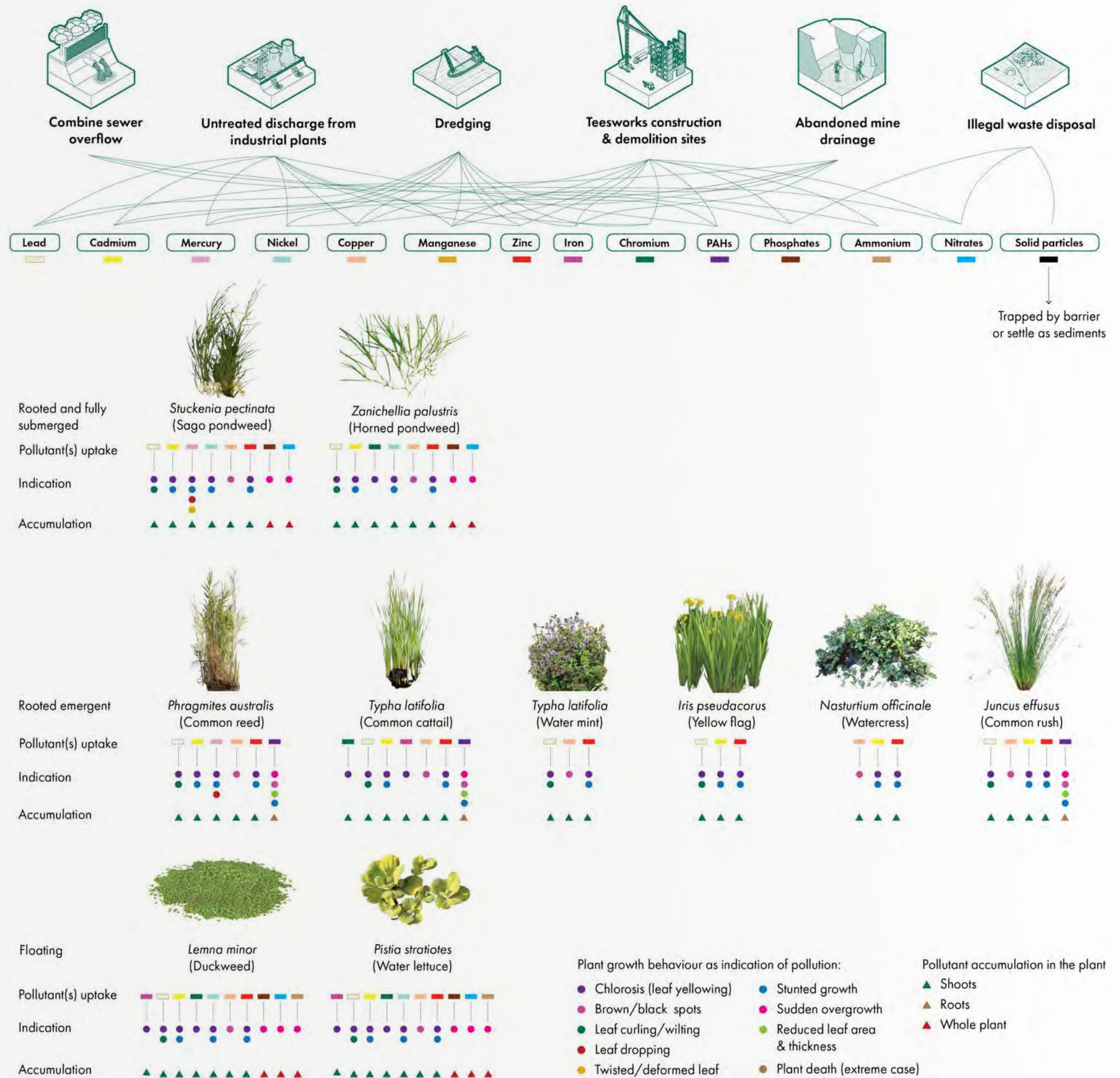


of the stream banks



Masterplan

The project creates a landscape for citizen science by using indicator species, stream features for sediment sampling, accessible paths, and repurposed power stations. A restored Knitting Wife Beck will serve as both an ecological hub and a community space in Teesside.







**Indicator species
(on the left page)**

They are planted throughout the site along the watercourse.






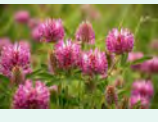
○ Native ● Exotic
 △ Evergreen ▲ Deciduous

Daucus carota ● △
Rhinanthus minor ○ △

Wild lawns and meadows

A diverse mix of wildflowers and grasses enhances biodiversity by providing food, shelter, and habitat for wildlife year-round.

Carex nigra ○ △
Phleum pratense ○ △
Agrostis stolonifera ○ △
Ranunculus acris ○ △
Cichorium intybus ● △
Trifolium pratense ○ △

Shrubs

Selected for colorful stems and early blooms to maintain visual appeal in colder months.












Cornus sanguinea ○ ▲
Viburnum tinus ● ▲
Sarcococca confusa ● ▲
Mahonia x media ● ▲
Cotoneaster horizontalis ● ▲

New trees

Replacing fences with broadleaf trees, mainly willows and poplars, to create a natural screen and support wildlife.

○ Native ● Exotic
 △ Evergreen ▲ Deciduous

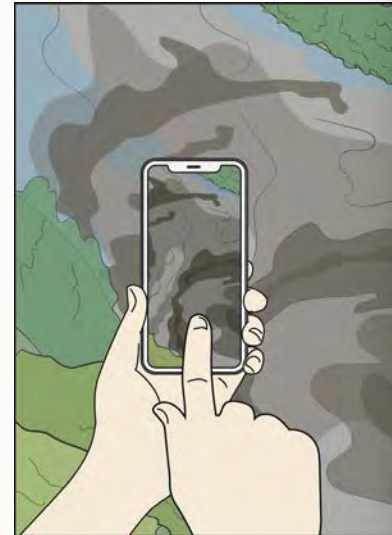
Quercus robur ○ ▲
Alnus glutinosa ○ ▲
Fraxinus excelsior ○ ▲
Populus x canescens ○ ▲
Salix cinerea ○ ▲

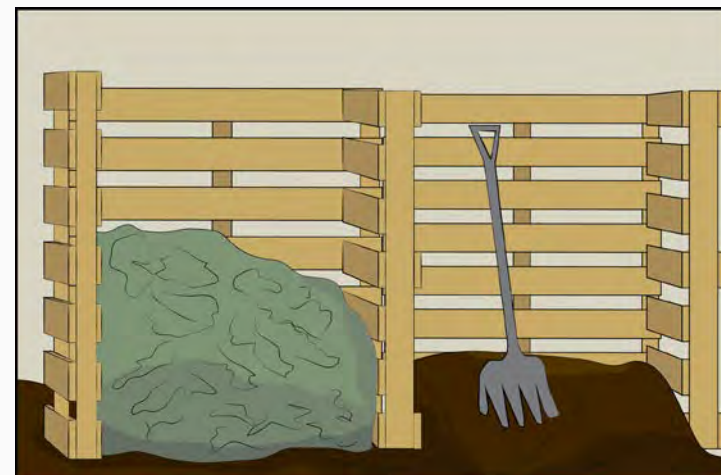
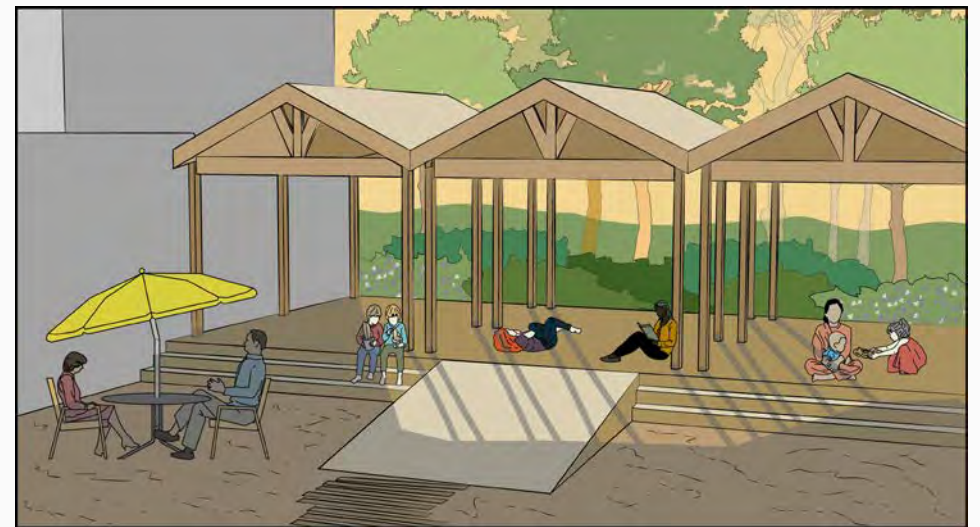
Retained Trees and shrubs

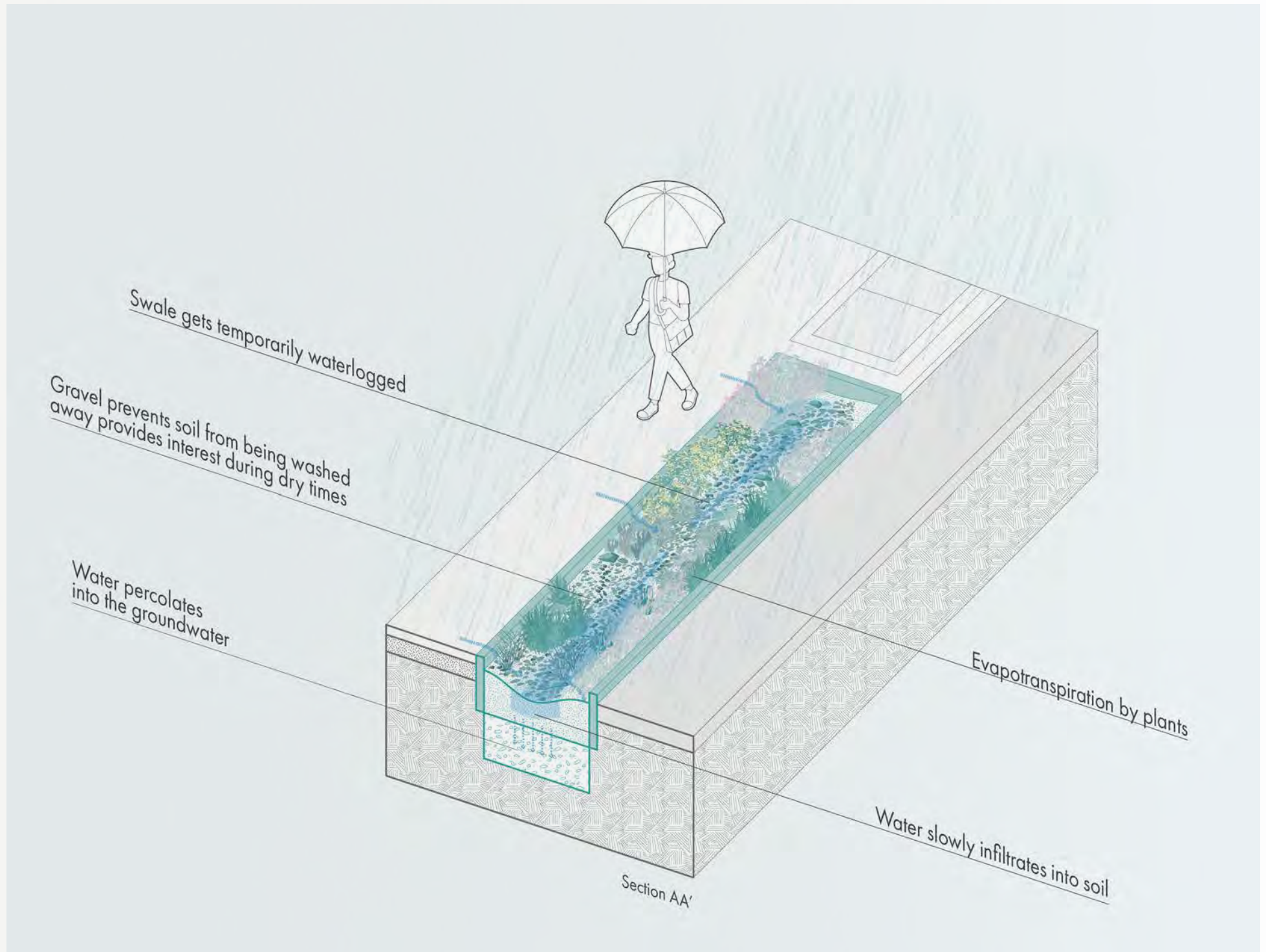
Preserving existing trees and shrubs for sustainability and a natural buffer, with selective removal of invasive species if needed.

Proposed Planting

Hyperaccumulator plants tolerate and absorb pollutants like heavy metals, PAHs, and excess inorganics. Their growth patterns can signal contamination, while proper disposal aids water remediation. Site-specific indicator plants are selected based on potential pollutants present. Trees, shrubs, and meadow species are also introduced to create various habitats for wildlife.







03

THE FRONTIER OF 'NOTHING MUCH' CELEBRATING THE THREE SPINES OF OLD KENT ROAD AREA

Site location: Old Kent Road, Southwark, London

Year: MLA Year 1 Term 1 (2022)

Studio tutors: Douglas Miller, Katya Larina

Project statement

In this project, students were tasked with identifying frontiers within London, experimenting with innovative methods of mapping edge conditions, and articulating their personal interpretation of what constitutes a frontier. In my search for a frontier in London, I began by talking to friends who had previously lived in this city. During one of these conversations, I was struck by the fact that a friend of mine, despite living in London for years, had never ventured to the Old Kent Road area where I was living at the time. This absence was largely due to the neighborhood's lack of Tube connectivity—a characteristic that defines it as a kind of "frontier" within the city.

At first glance, Old Kent Road may appear to be a typical working-class neighborhood. However, its diverse population, thriving small businesses, and niche light manufacturing industries reveal a distinctive character that makes it a compelling site for further exploration.

A central theme that emerged from my research was the inconspicuous yet rich historical significance of what I call the "three spines" of the area: Old Kent Road itself, Earl's Sluice, and the Grand Surrey Canal. Old Kent Road, originally a Roman road, once served as part of the pilgrimage route to Canterbury. Earl's Sluice, now a culverted stream, used to flow through fields and marshlands, offering a watering place for pilgrims' horses. The Grand Surrey Canal, formerly used to transport timber, has since been drained and transformed into a pathway within Burgess Park.

Inspired by this layered history, my design proposal seeks to reveal and celebrate the hidden historical dimensions of these three spines. Through a series of small-scale landscape interventions, the project establishes green linkages for both wildlife and people, simultaneously engaging the local community in the creation of these spaces. This collaborative approach aims to foster a deeper sense of place and belonging among residents, allowing them to connect with both the visible and hidden histories of Old Kent Road.

Palimpsest 1

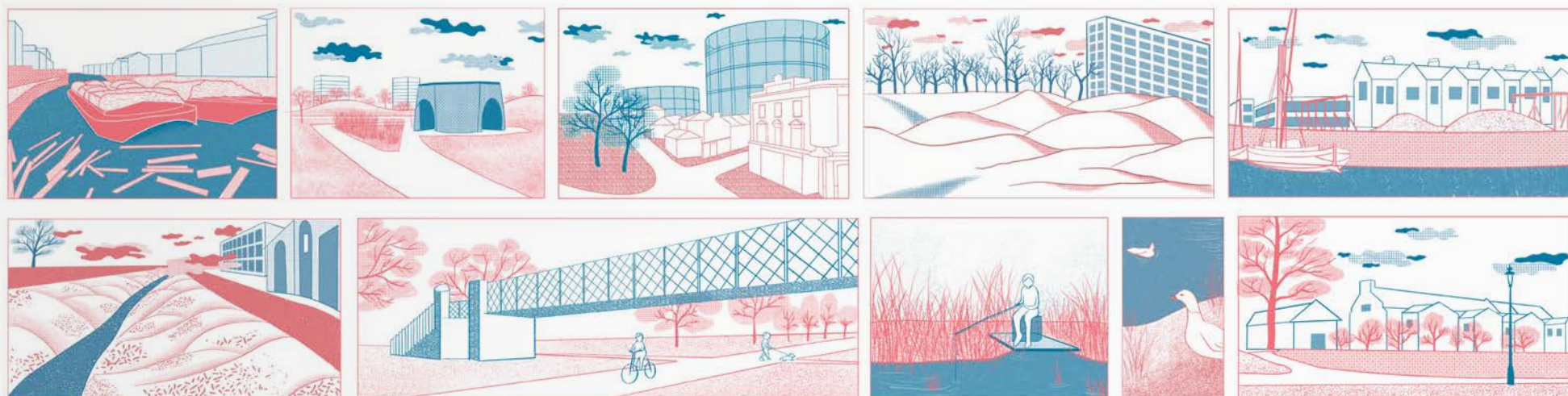


Mapping the layered stories of Old Kent Road

By overlaying old and new maps, Old Kent Road could be understood as a palimpsest landscape, where remnants of the past blends into the contemporary urban landscape. The illustrations and information gathered are consolidated into a portable printed map. On one side, there are the illustrations and their respective locations on the map. They are arranged in a format inspired by the monopoly board. On the other side is the description and stories. The map is intended to be an introduction of Old Kent Road. No walking routes are designed because users are encouraged to explore freely and even discover things not covered in this map.

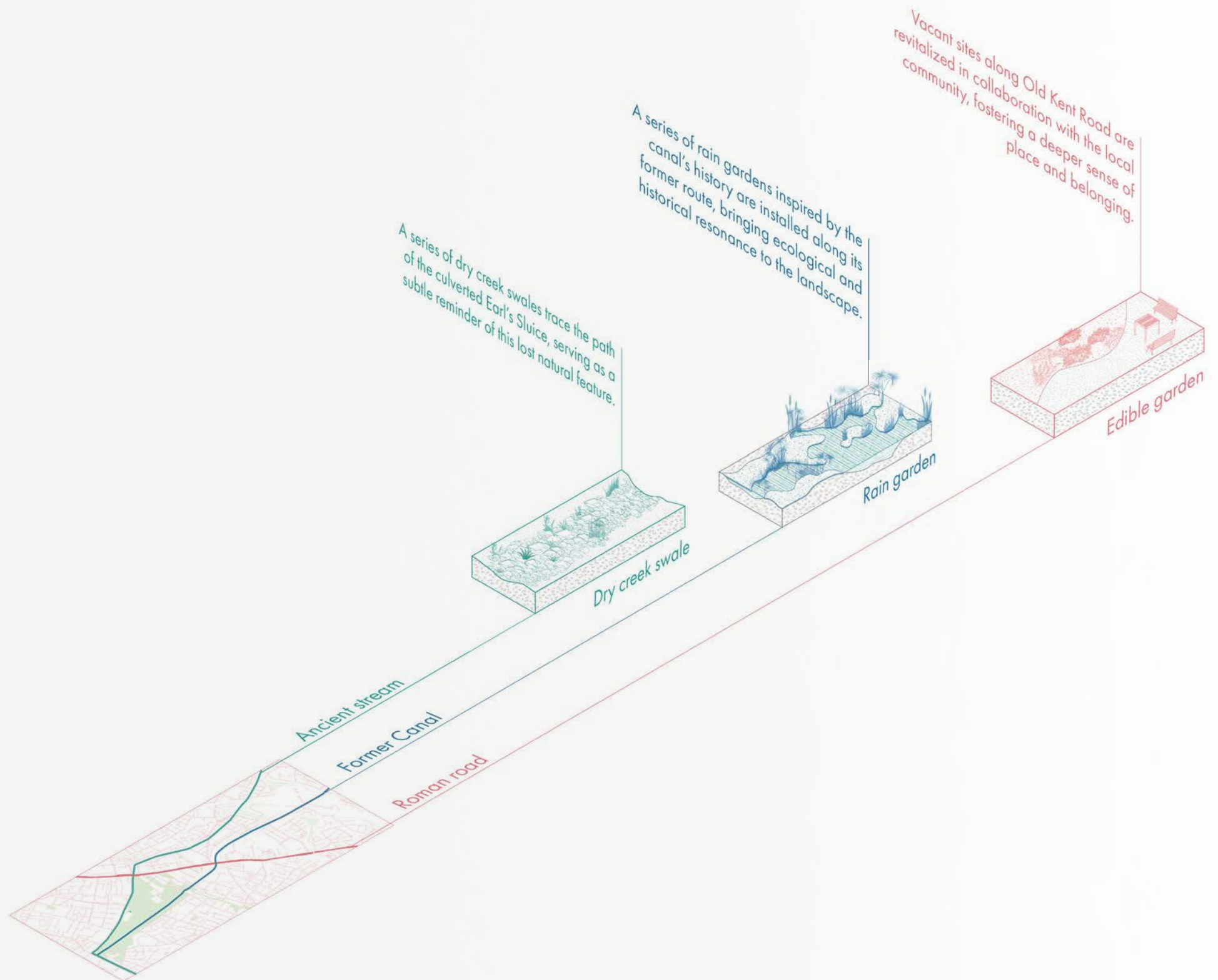
Palimpsest 2





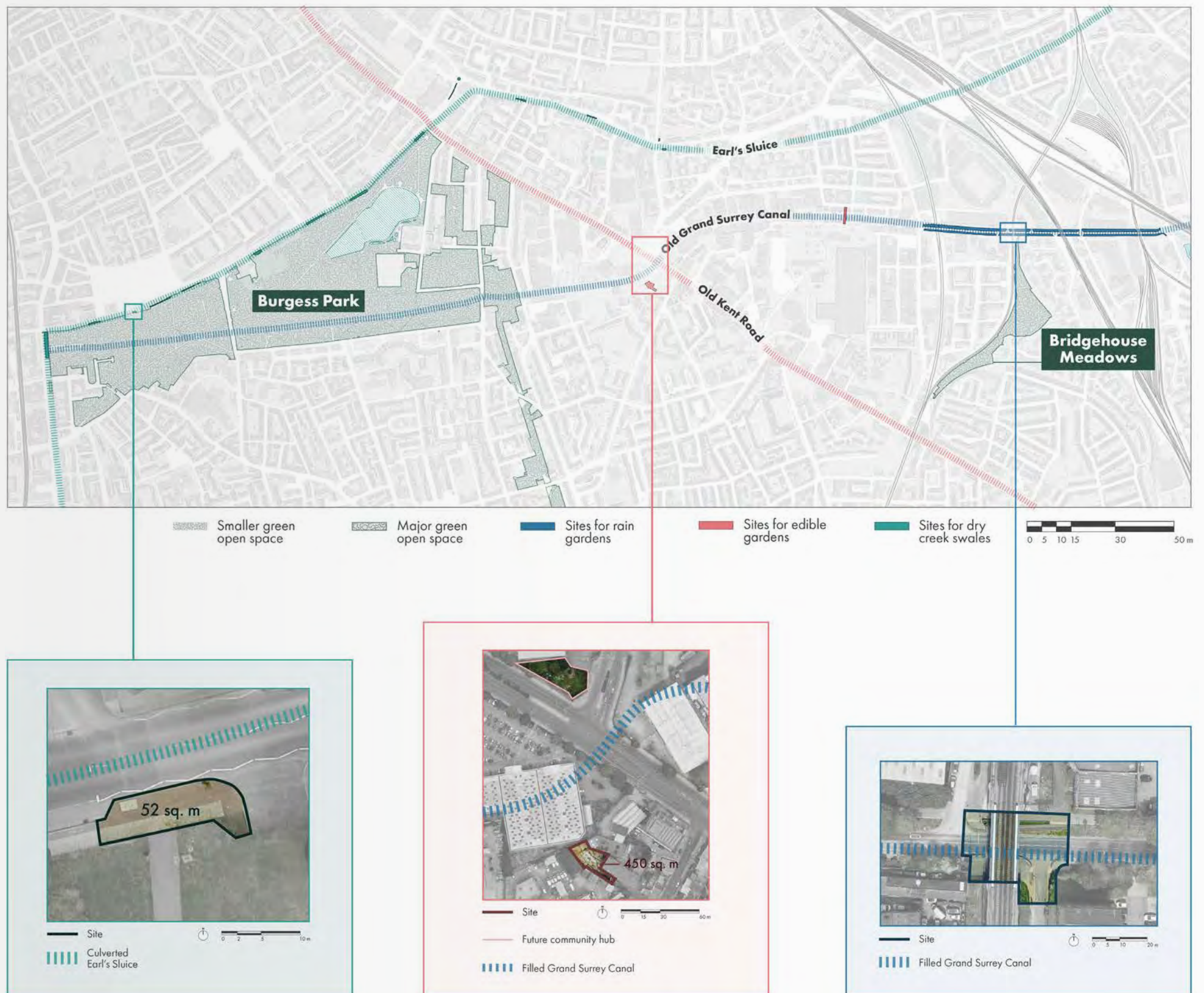
Design strategy

Inspired by the area's "three spines" — Old Kent Road, the culverted Earl's Sluice, and the infilled Grand Surrey Canal — this project reveals their layered histories through small-scale landscape interventions, creating ecological links between green spaces and community venues that foster a sense of place.



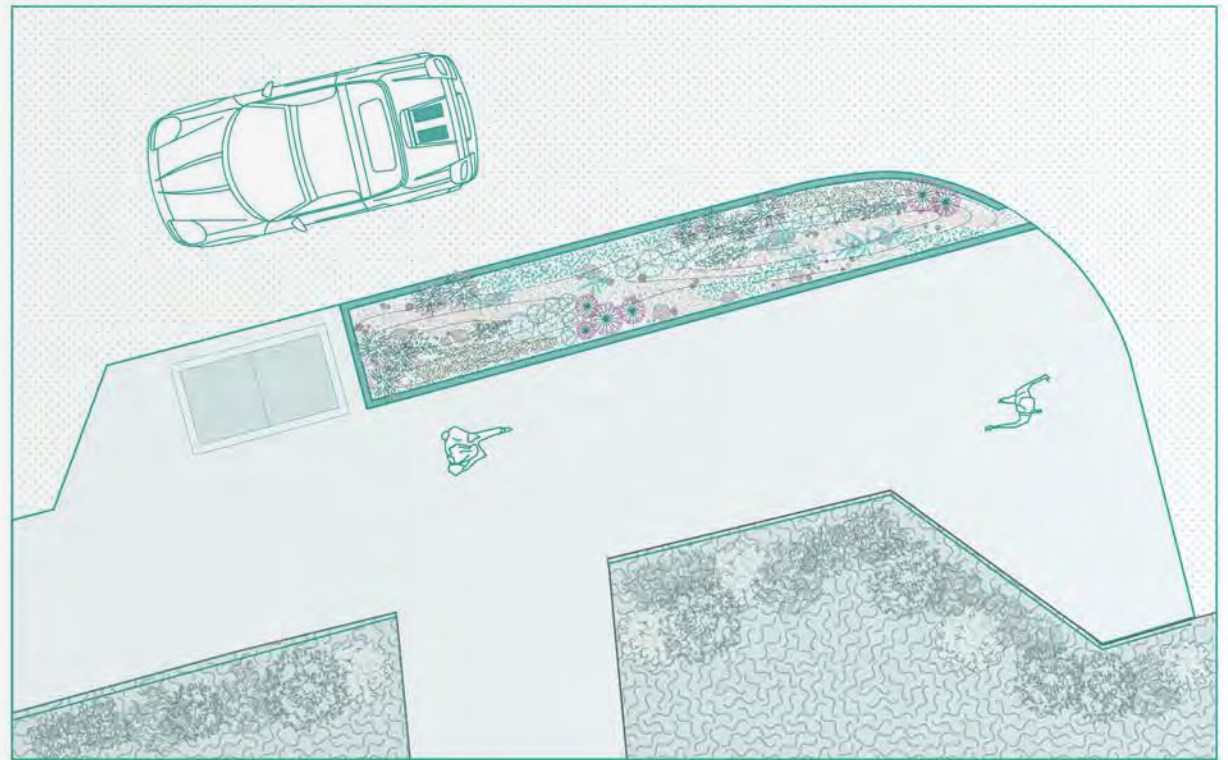
Strategic masterplan


Potential sites have been identified along each spine, with one from each spine selected for further design development in the proposal to demonstrate the overall vision.





Existing condition

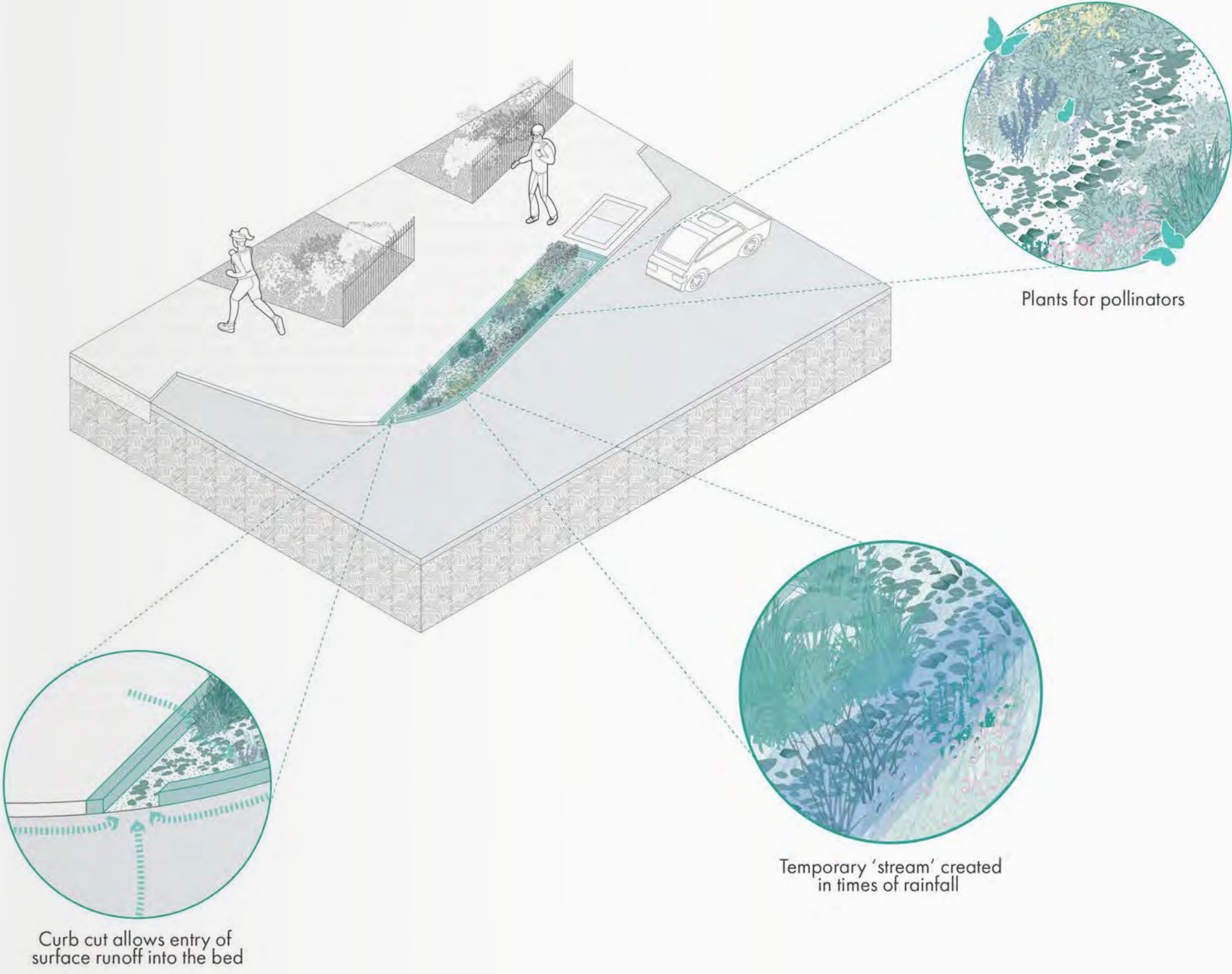


| Base and inlet Temporarily waterlogged | | Slopes Wet and dry | | | Slopes Wet and dry | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Carex remota</i> | <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | <i>Carex flacca</i> | <i>Thymus pulegioides</i> | <i>Hosta 'Halcyon'</i> | <i>Geranium maculatum</i> | <i>Alchemilla mollis</i> |

Seasonal colours

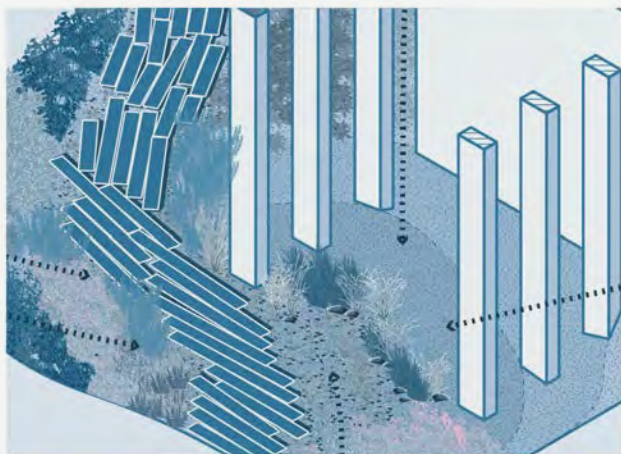
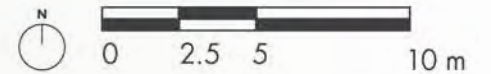
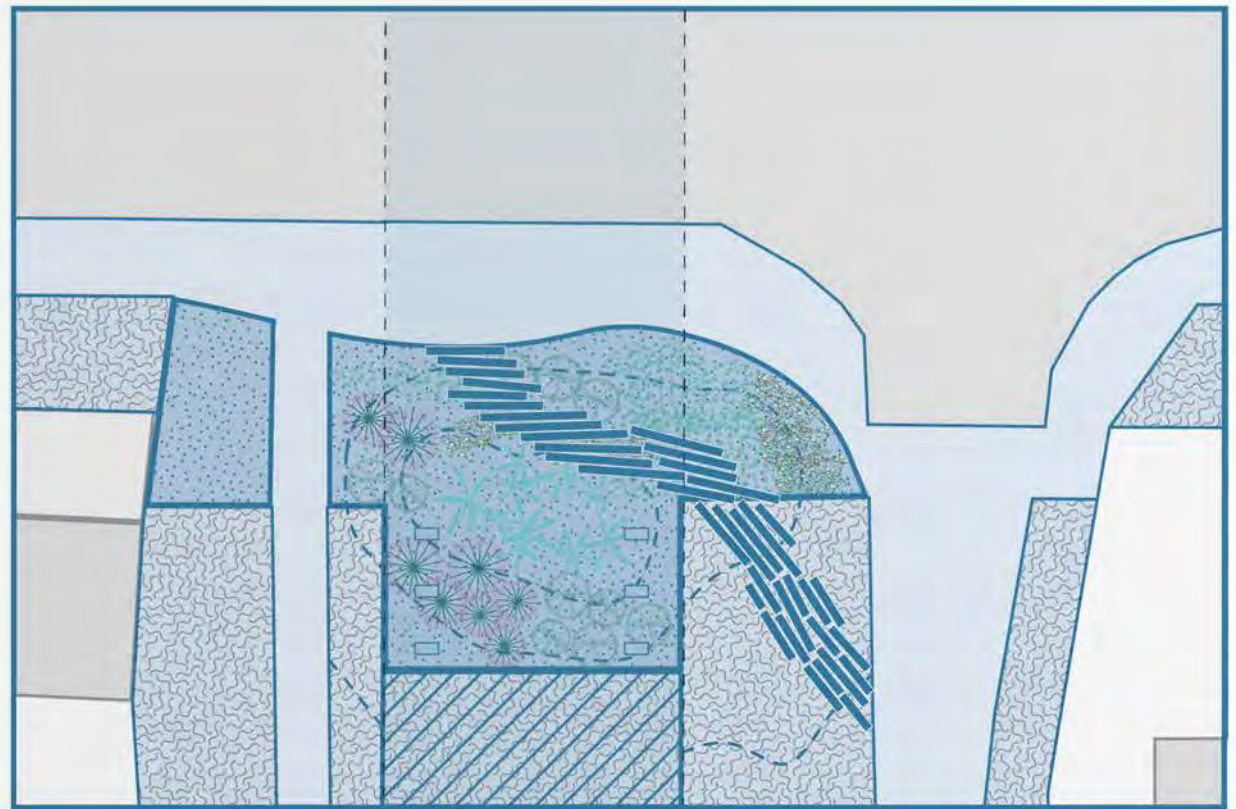
| Species | | Spring | Summer | Autumn | Winter |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Carex remota</i> | N | [Green bar] | | | |
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | N | [Blue bar] | | | [Dark Green bar] |
| <i>Carex flacca</i> | N | [Teal bar] | | | |
| <i>Thymus pulegioides</i> | N P | [Green bar] | [Purple bar] | [Green bar] | [Green bar] |
| <i>Hosta 'Halcyon'</i> | | [Teal bar] | [Purple bar] | [Teal bar] | |
| <i>Geranium maculatum</i> | N P | [Thin multi-colored bar] | | | |
| <i>Alchemilla mollis</i> | | [Green bar] | [Yellow bar] | [Yellow bar] | |

N = Native P = Pollinator-friendly





Existing conditions



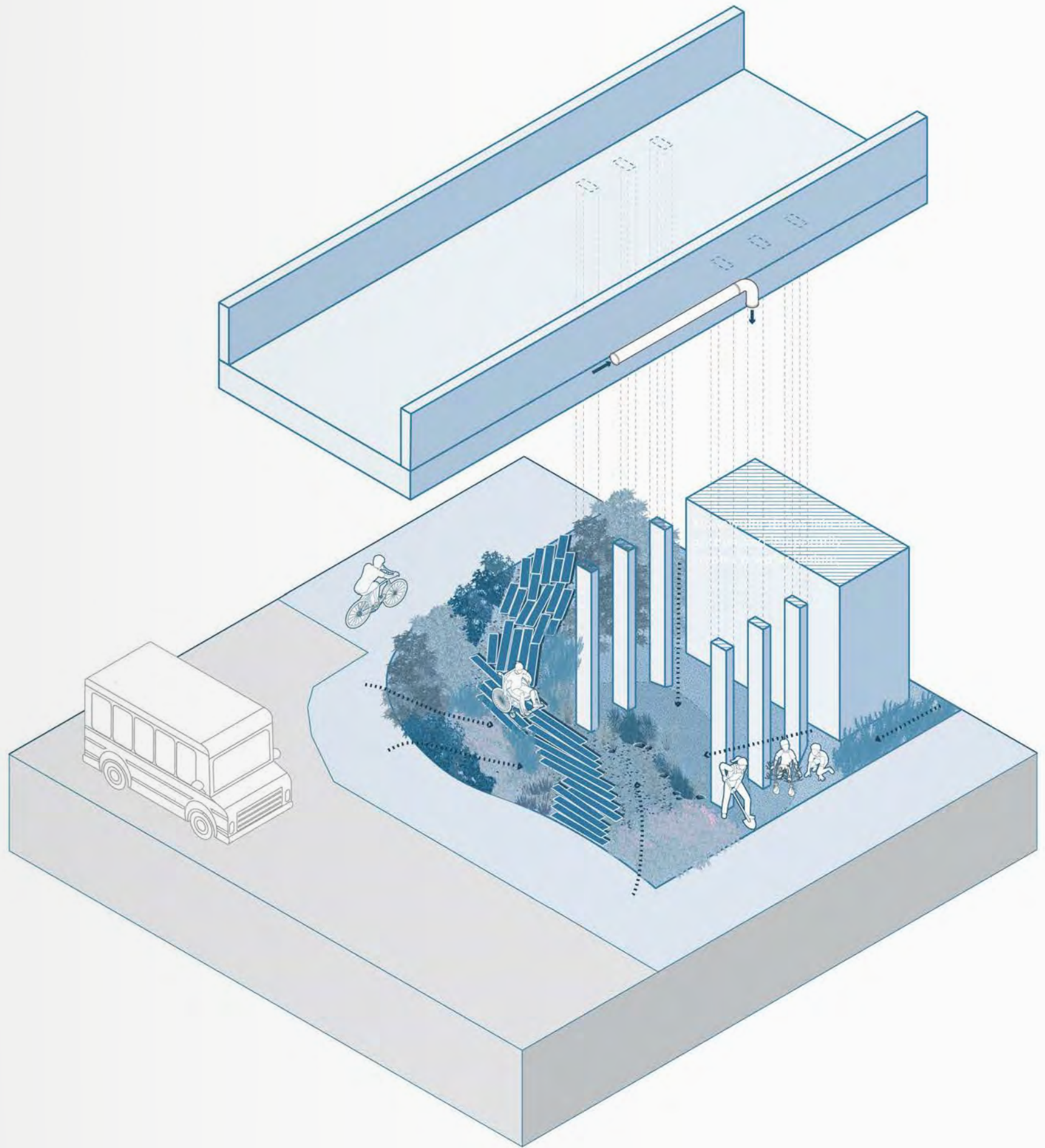
Stormwater drains into rain garden and temporarily creates a water feature.



Engage residents and students in the making of the rain garden to increase sense of ownership & environmental awareness.



New walkway serves as a gateway to the meadows and highlights its presence.





04

SAI KUNG PROMENADE REVITALIZATION DESIGN FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SAI KUNG DISTRICT COUNCIL

Site location: Sai Kung Promenade, Hong Kong
Year: 2018-2019
Consultancy firm: Earthasia Design Group

Project statement

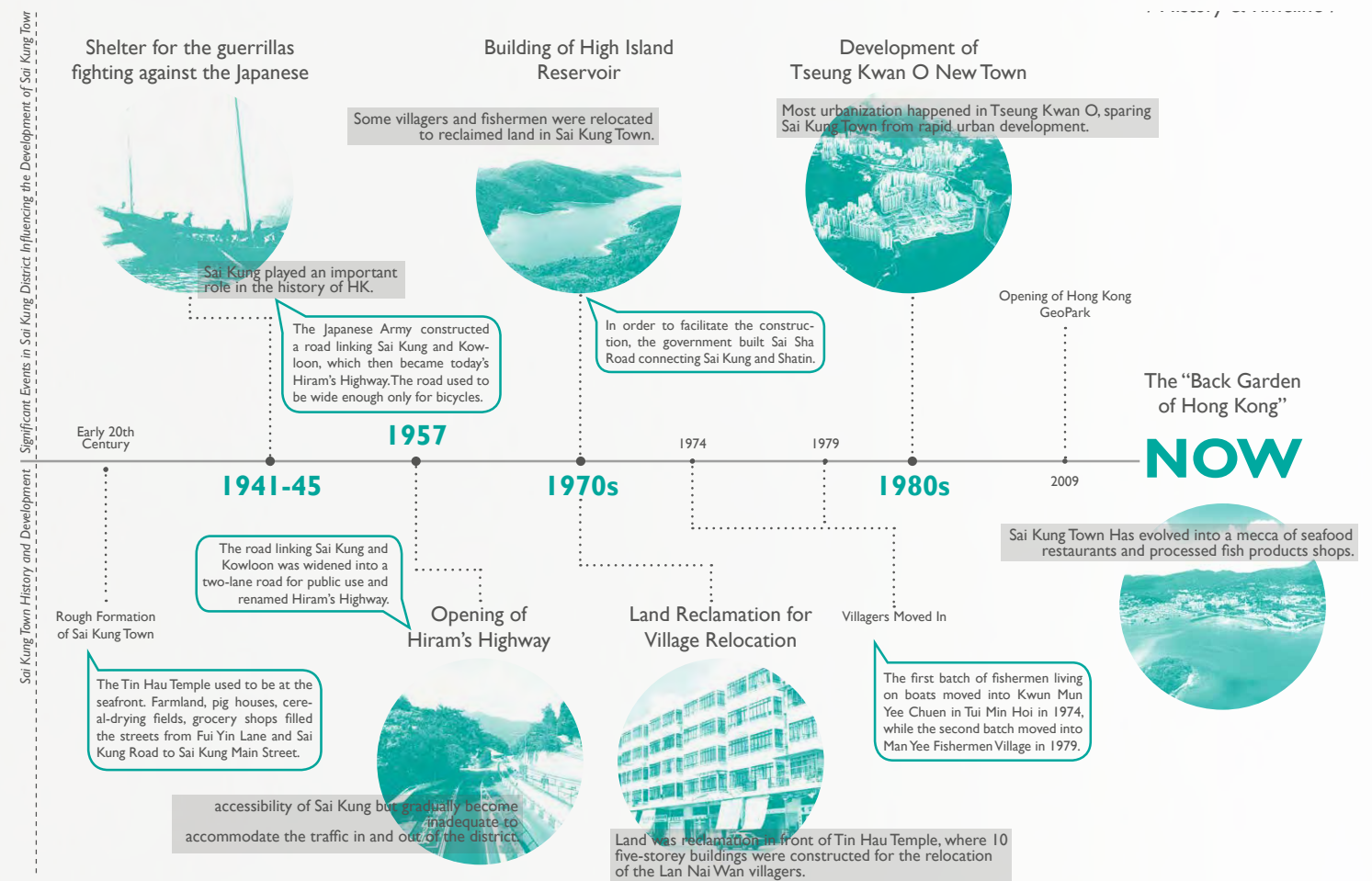
Following Typhoon Mangkhut, parts of the Sai Kung Promenade suffered significant damage, including fallen trees, broken pavers, and damaged parapet walls. The Sai Kung District Council has since proposed an improvement project to replace deteriorated facilities and infrastructure while enhancing the promenade's environment and fostering a stronger sense of place.

Earthasia Limited was appointed by the CEDD to conduct a design feasibility study. Through a combination of historical and contextual research on Sai Kung and comprehensive site visits, a proposal was developed aimed at creating a vibrant public space that supports leisure activities, cultural events, and social gatherings.

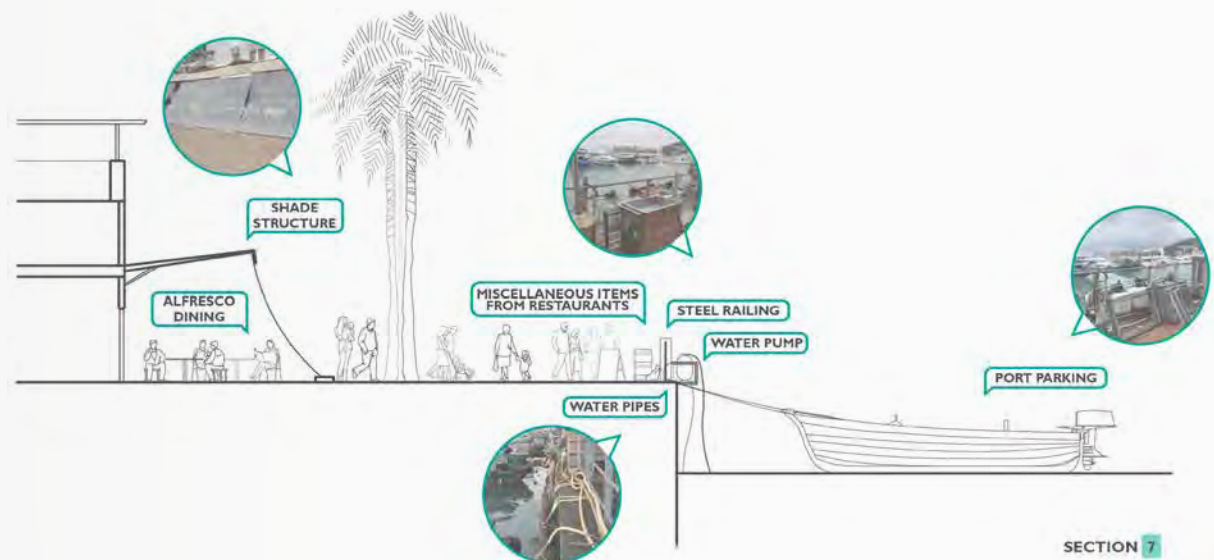


Site context and history

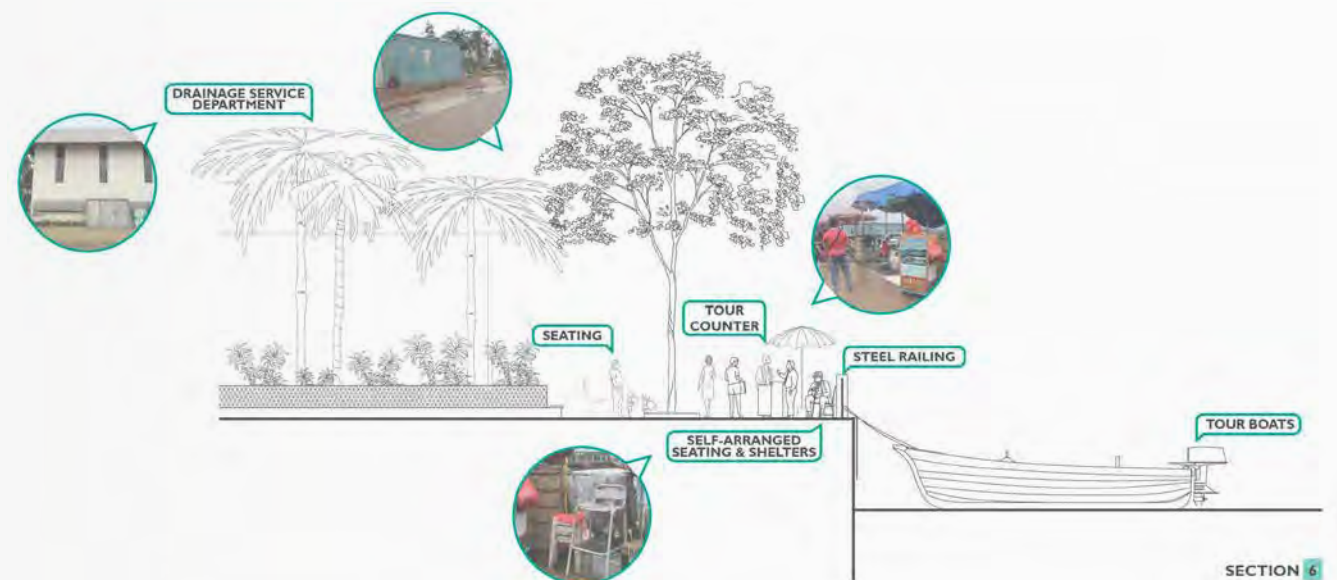
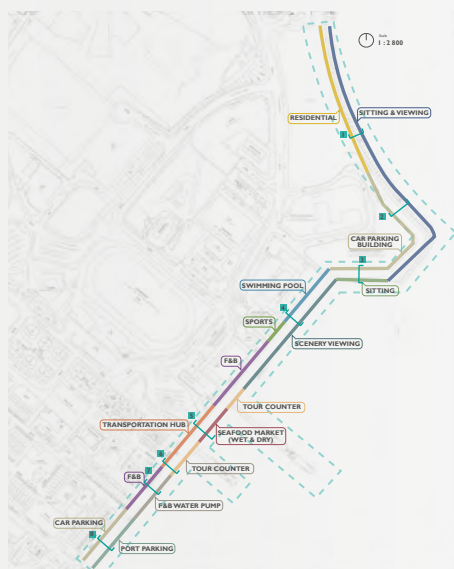
Sai Kung has gradually evolved from a fishing village to a tourist spot cherished by both local and overseas visitors. The charming area still centers around fish and seafood businesses. This factor was accounted in the proposal.



Circulation



Land use and activities



Zoning



Opportunities

By observing the ebb and flow of seafood businesses and community activities in Sai Kung, several revitalization opportunities emerged, such as enhancing circulation and reducing congestion, as well as creating inviting spaces for lingering and enjoying the seaview.



Key Programs

- 1 Planted sitting-out area
- 2 Landmark
- 3 Pergola awnings
- 4 Tour kiosks
- 5 Arrival plaza
- 6 Extended lower platform
- 7 Souvenir kiosks
- 8 Water play area
- 9 Terraced sitting-out area
- 10 Boardwalk extension
- 11 Lawn plaza & event space
- 12 Lookout platform
- 13 Shade structure
- 14 Kayak launch site





05

THEMATIC GREENING IN JORDAN VALLEY URBAN GREENING PROPOSAL FOR KWUN TONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

Site location: Area adjoining Choi Wan Road, Jordan Valley and Lower Ngau Tau Kok

Year: 2019

Consultancy firm: Earthasia Design Group

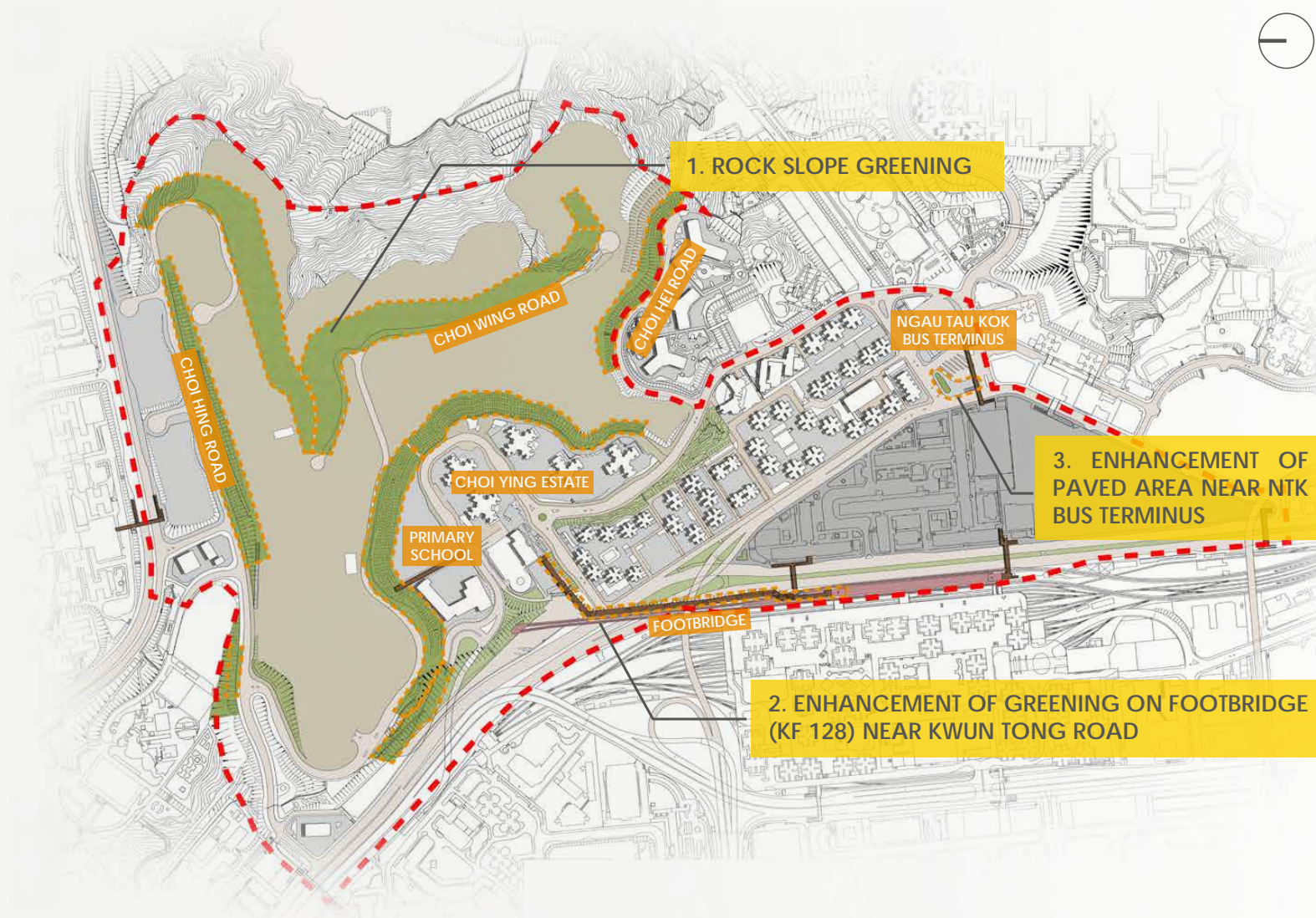
Project statement

With anticipated population growth and increased pedestrian traffic stemming from large-scale public housing and key facility developments near Choi Wan Road, Jordan Valley, and Lower Ngau Tau Kok, the need for a green pedestrian spine has become evident. Although a design proposal was initially presented in 2009, the project was put on hold until 2019.

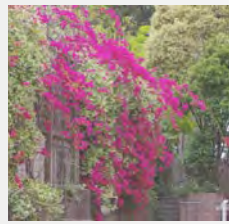
Given significant changes in site conditions and the surrounding urban landscape due to ongoing development, a comprehensive review of the project's objectives and requirements is now essential. A baseline site study and an updated landscape enhancement proposal have therefore been developed to address the current context.

Design objectives

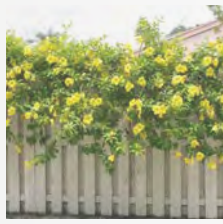
Recognizing the landscape potential of Jordan Valley and Lower Ngau Tau Kok, this project seeks to harmonize the area's natural and rehabilitated landscapes through strategic urban greening. It aims to seamlessly integrate with the district's Greening Master Plan while enhancing the local natural ecosystem. This includes rock slope greening, enhancement of Ngau Tau Kok bus terminus, and greening on footbridges near Kowloon Bay Station



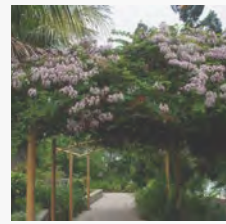
Proposed plant species for rock slope greening



Bougainvillea spectabilis



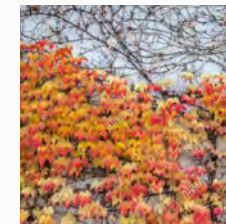
Allamanda cathartica



Bauhinia glauca (N)



Ficus pumila (N)

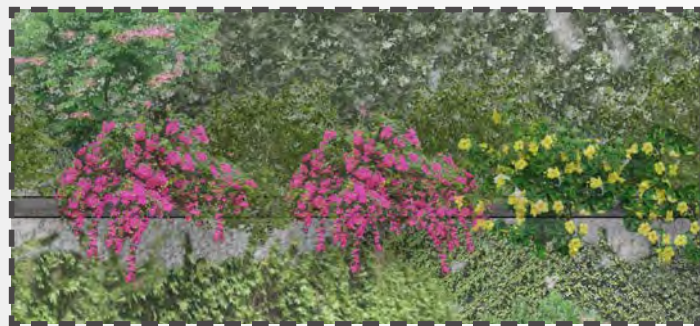


Parthenocissus dalzielii (D)



Trachelospermum jasminoides (N)

(1) Weeping Shrubs in Existing Berm Planters

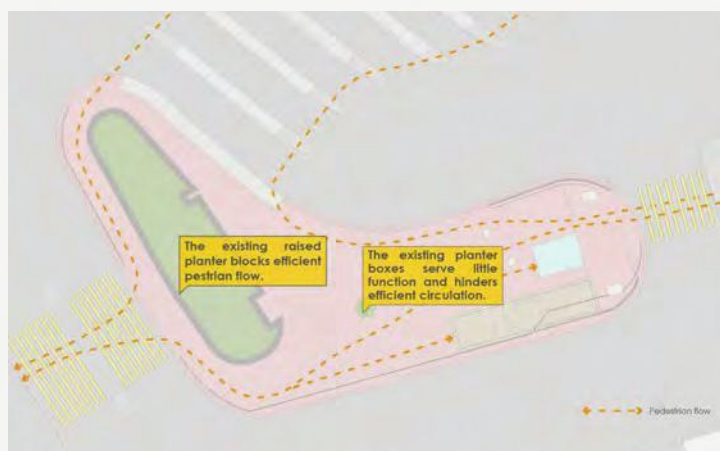


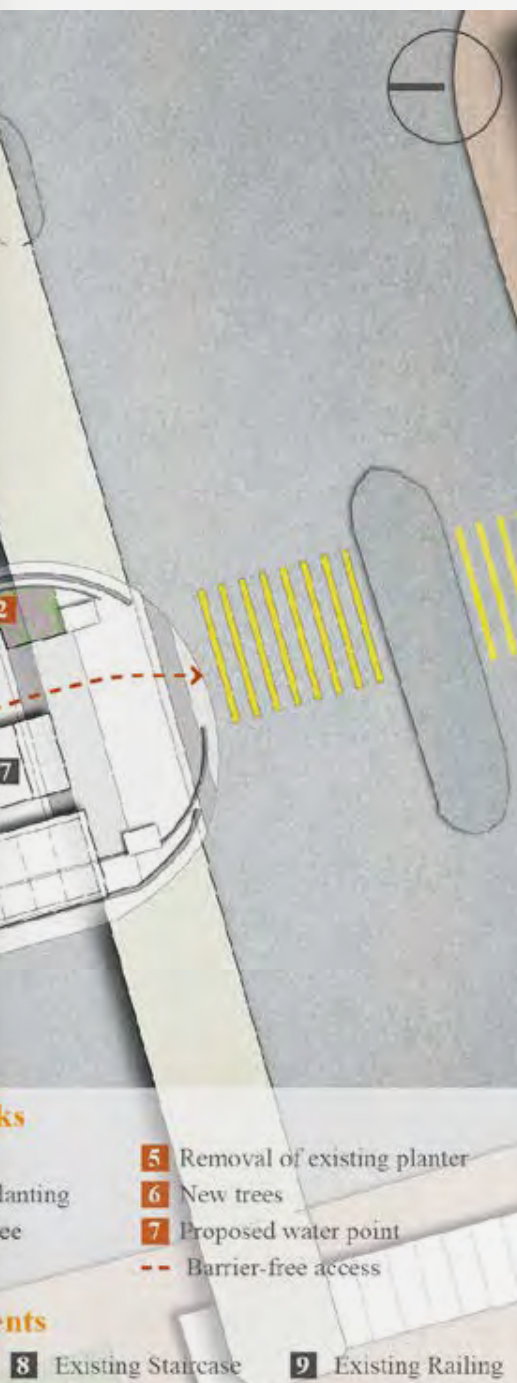
(2) Climber in New Toe Planters

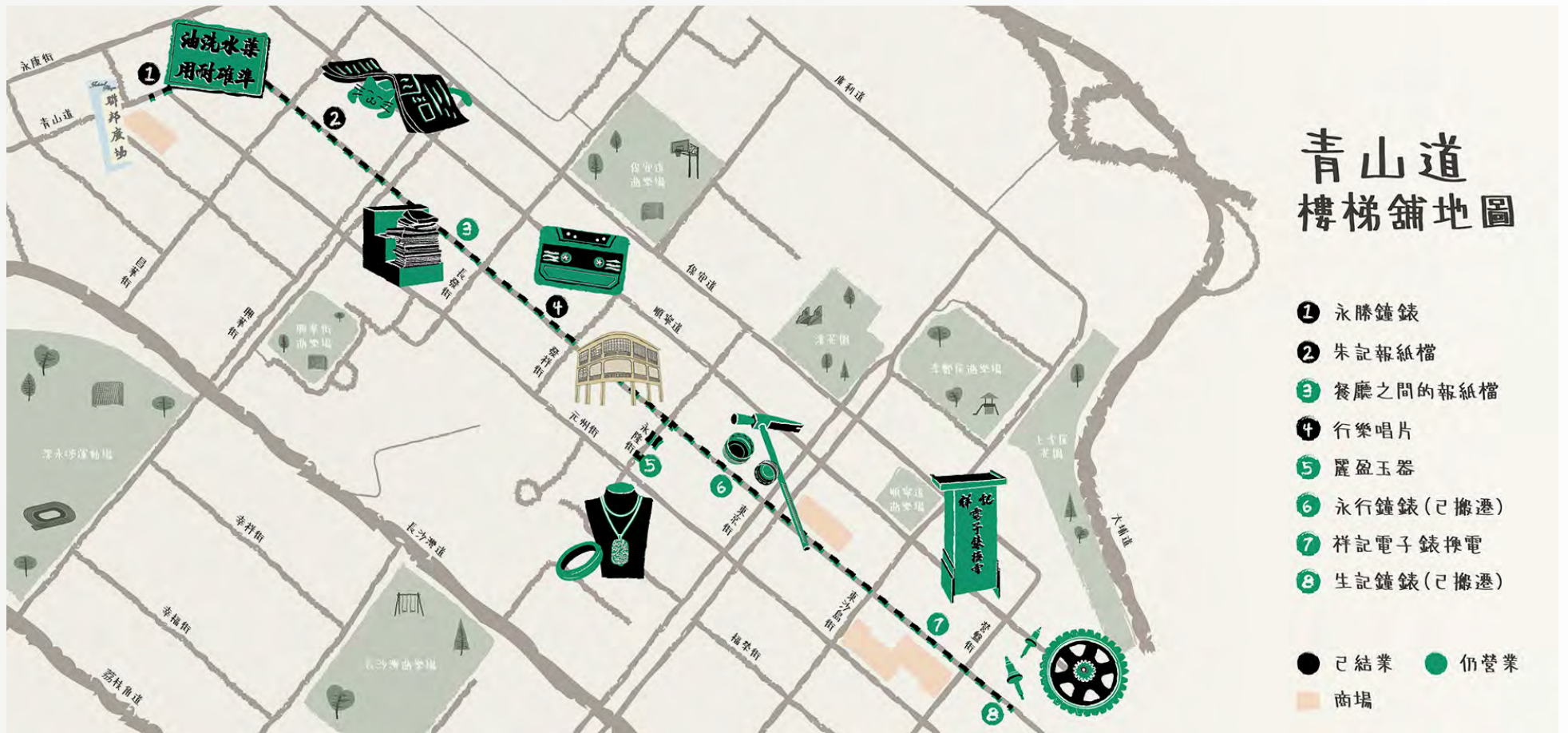


Enhancement of Ngau Tau Kok Bus terminus

The proposal seeks to improve pedestrian flow and enable wheelchair access. The existing raised planters obstruct direct access to the footbridge and bus station from the crossroad; thus, the design suggests splitting the existing planter into two while preserving the established ficus tree in situ. Newly positioned planters near the railings create a spacious central pathway, while integrated seating along the planter edges offers commuters a convenient resting spot before their journey.







06

HONG KONG UNDERSTAIRS SHOPS ZINE ABOUT URBAN LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITY

Site location: Tokwawan, Castle Peak Road, and other old urban districts in Hong Kong

Year: 2020-2022

Personal project

Project statement

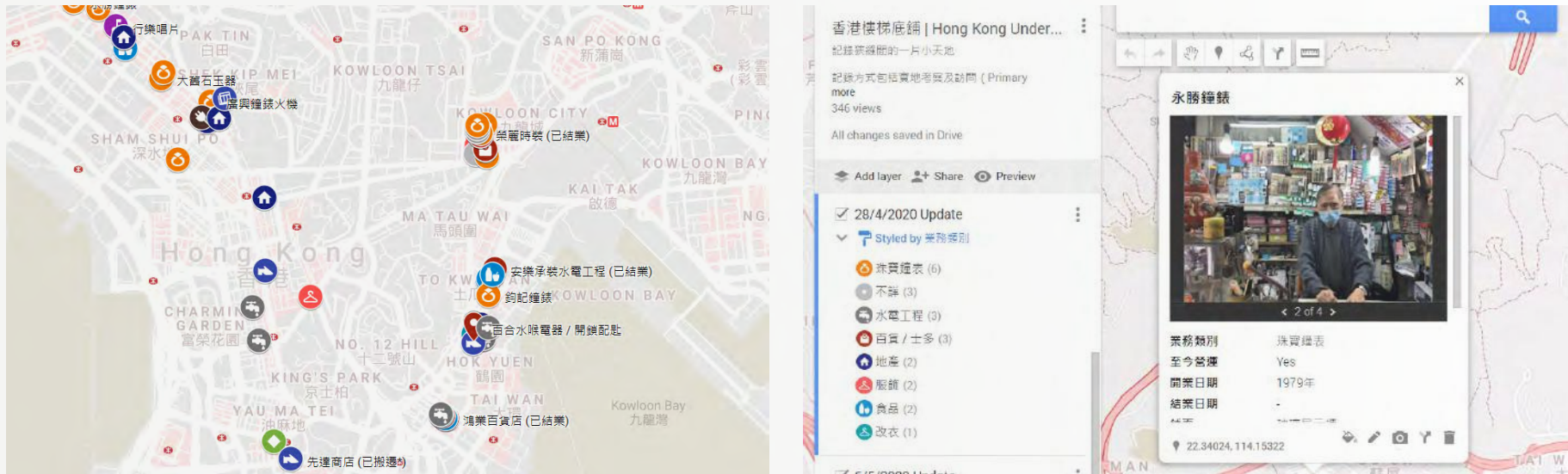
In recent years, the number of understairs shops has been steadily declining, creating a sense of urgency to document them before they vanish completely. This self-initiated project seeks to capture the stories and heritage of both existing and now-gone understairs shops in Hong Kong through interviews and research, aiming to reflect not only the evolution of these unique spaces but also the broader narrative of the city's development. Findings are shared through self-published zines and social media to reach a wider audience.

The project began by mapping the locations of both active and closed understairs shops through site visits to urban districts developed from pre-war times through the 1960s, alongside online research and interviews. The mapped locations, compiled into an online database, include details such as products and services offered, dates of establishment or closure, and shopfront appearances.

Since June 2020, I have interviewed over 20 current or relocated shop owners to uncover their stories, reasons for relocating, and insights into how their districts have transformed. Rather than focusing on exact spatial documentation, the project adopts a more illustrative approach to capture the essence of these spaces. The zines and drawings produced have been gifted to shop owners as tokens of gratitude and recognition for their contributions to Hong Kong's cultural landscape.

Creating an online database

The project began by locating both existing and former understairs shops through site visits to urban districts developed from pre-war to the 1960s, along with online research and interviews. These locations have been compiled into an online map, including details on products or services offered, establishment and closure dates, and shopfront appearances.



Documenting the closing down of a watch shop



Collecting personal stories



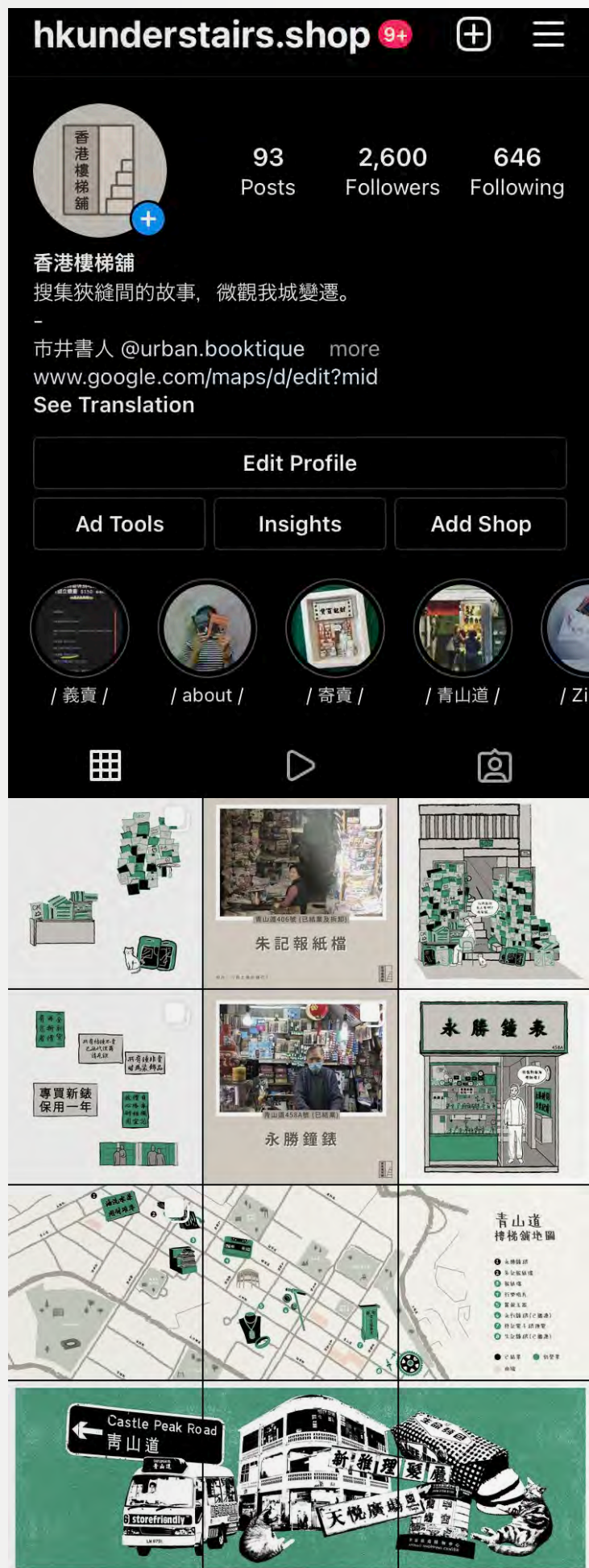
Documenting shops through illustrations





Self-published zines

The findings from interviews and desktop research have been compiled into self-published zines and sold at independent bookstores and art book fairs in Hong Kong. To date, two issues have been published, each focuses on one old urban district in Hong Kong. In addition to the stories gathered and illustrations, a map and a suggested walking route are also included in each zine. The concept is to encourage people to visit the district introduced and experience first-hand the atmosphere and people's everyday life there.



Online dissemination

In addition to creating zines, the project's stories and findings are shared on social media to reach a wider audience. Since its launch on Instagram in September 2020, the account has grown to over 2,000 followers, sparking discussions and raising awareness about not only understairs shops but also issues like controversial urban renewal schemes, gentrification, and unjust compensation. This platform has also allowed me to express my reflections on these topics, both visually and in words.

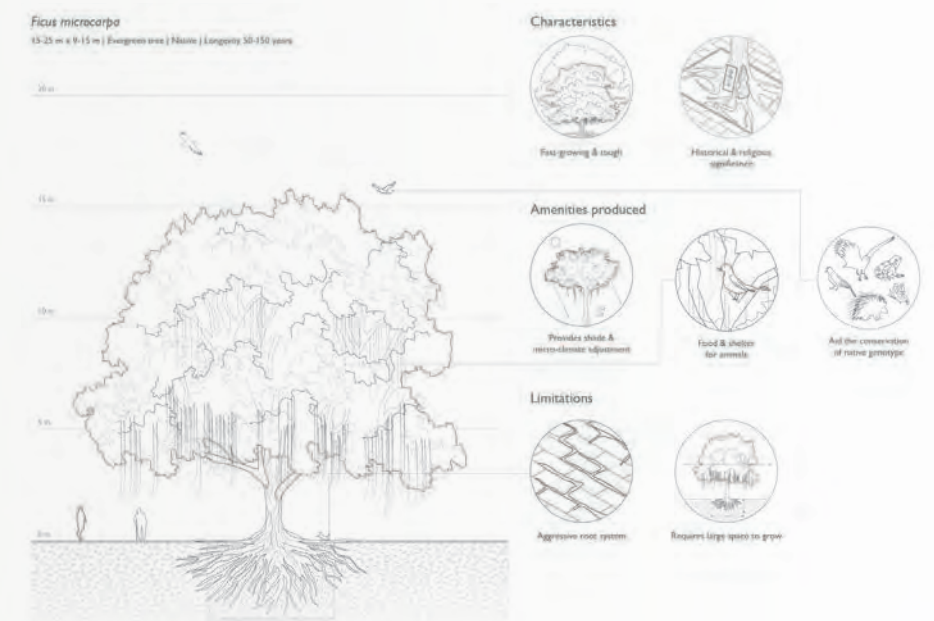
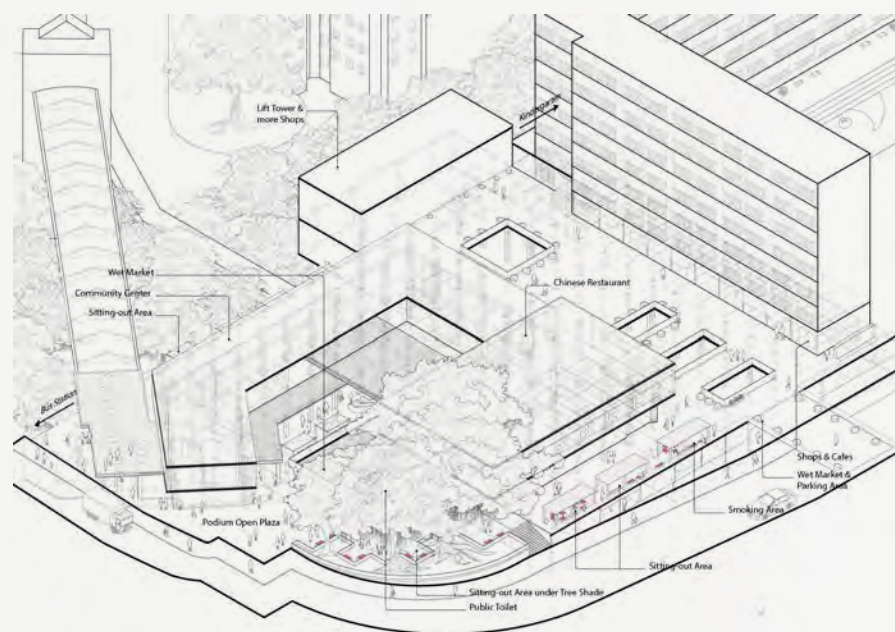
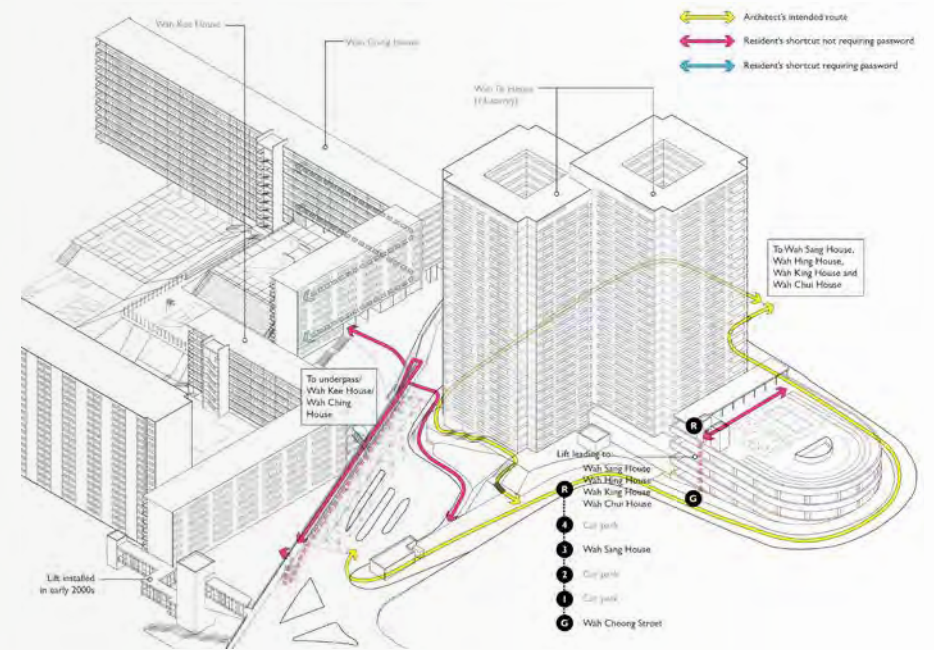
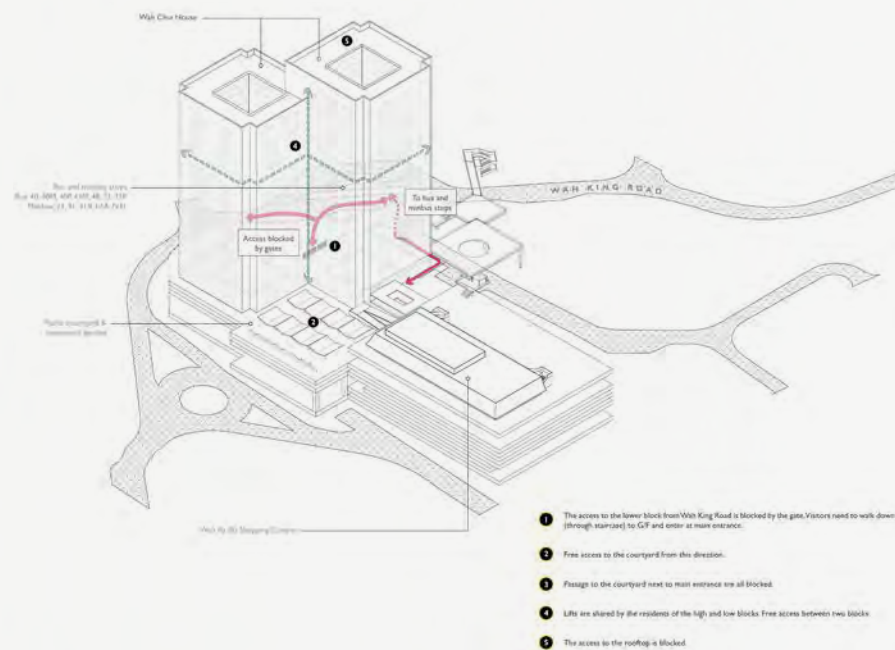
RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Everyday Space & Memory in Wah Fu Estate

This interdisciplinary project, a collaboration between HKU's Sociology Department and Landscape Architecture Division, explored everyday life stories and their connection to built spaces through sketches and technical drawings. Fieldwork involved site visits, observations, and interviews. Findings were disseminated via a curated website, a book, and an exhibition.

Co-authors of drawings:
Ellena Wong, Kity Pang, Joyce Fong

Investigators:
Dr. Gary Wong (Department of Sociology, HKU)
Vincci Mak & Natalia Echeverri
(Division of Landscape Architecture, HKU)



Resilient Cities: Pokfulam Village

The International Workshop on Urban Landscapes (IWUL) is an annual workshop by landscape architecture programs from Asian universities, focusing on advancing research and exploring urban landscape challenges.

In 2021, the theme “Resilient Cities: Landscape Remediation” centered on Pokfulam Village, one of Hong Kong Island’s last squatter villages. Held online from August 2–10, activities included 8 public seminars, virtual site visits, design workshops, and a final presentation. Outcomes were showcased in two public exhibitions and a concluding publication.

Co-Principal Investigator:
Ms Sylvia Ng
Department of Design and Architecture, THEi



The project team with Aaron Wong, member of Pokfulam Village Cultural Landscape Conservation Group, on a village tour.



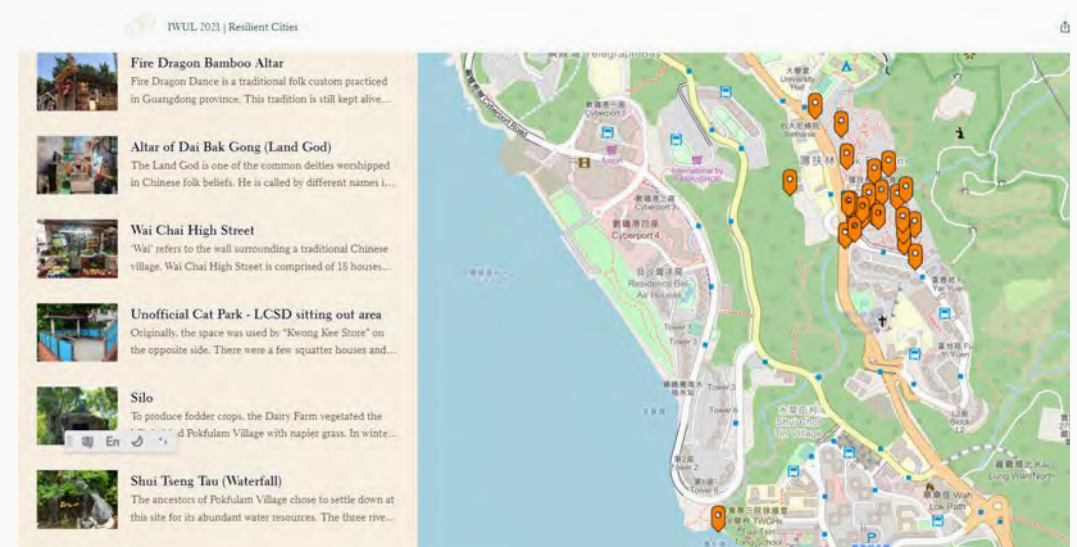
THEi student helpers and teachers visiting the Village Craft Ladies Workshop in Pokfulam Village.



Interview with Mr. Spencer Lau, member of the Conservation Group, on flooding issues in Pokfulam Village

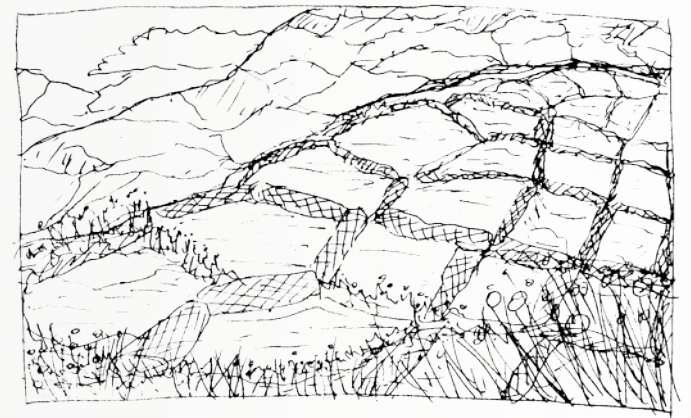
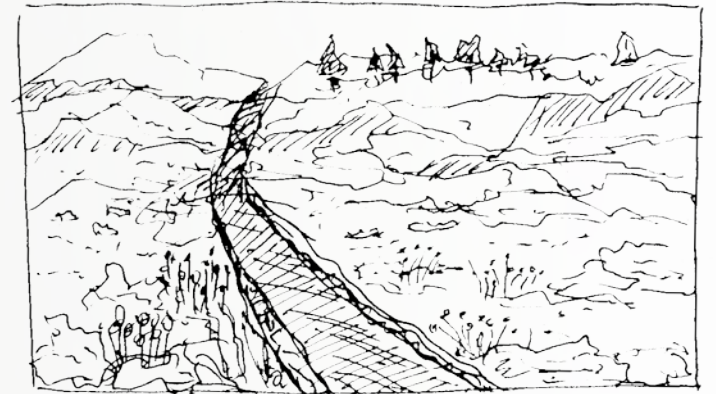
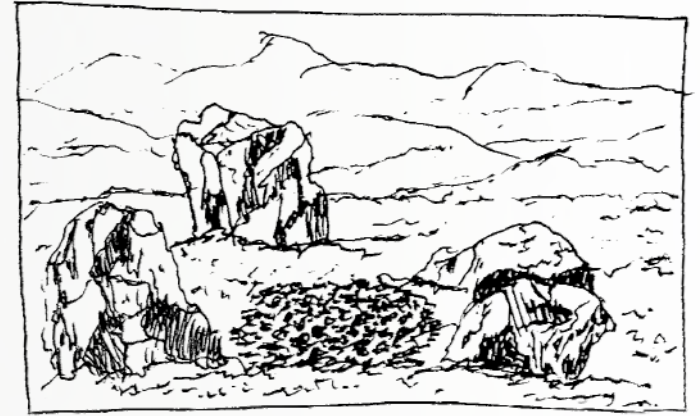


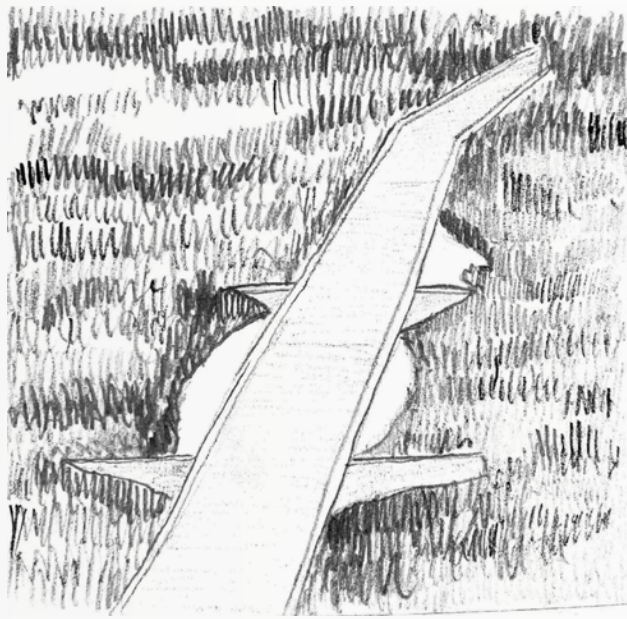
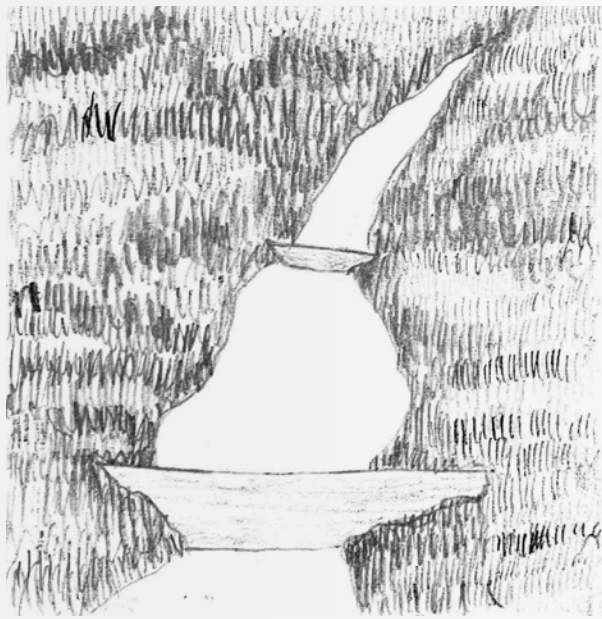
One of the exhibitions was held in Pokfulam Village. Guided walking tours around the village were also organized.



Stories collected from interviews and desktop research were concluded in an interactive website.

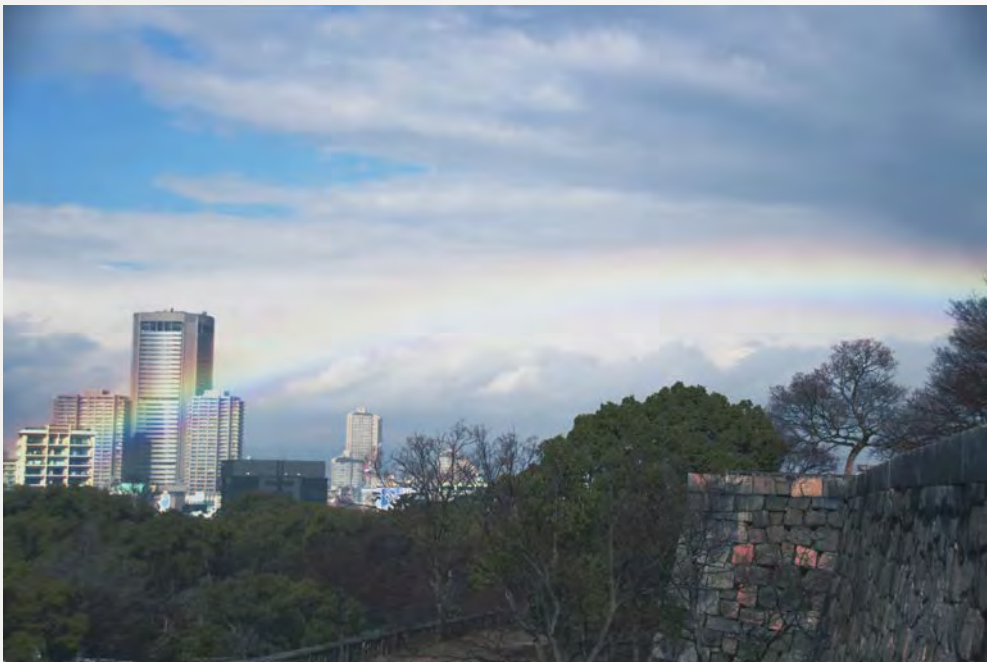
HAND SKETCHES





PHOTOGRAPHY





Monica Ying Chong

monica95@connect.hku.hk

+44 7849870019