

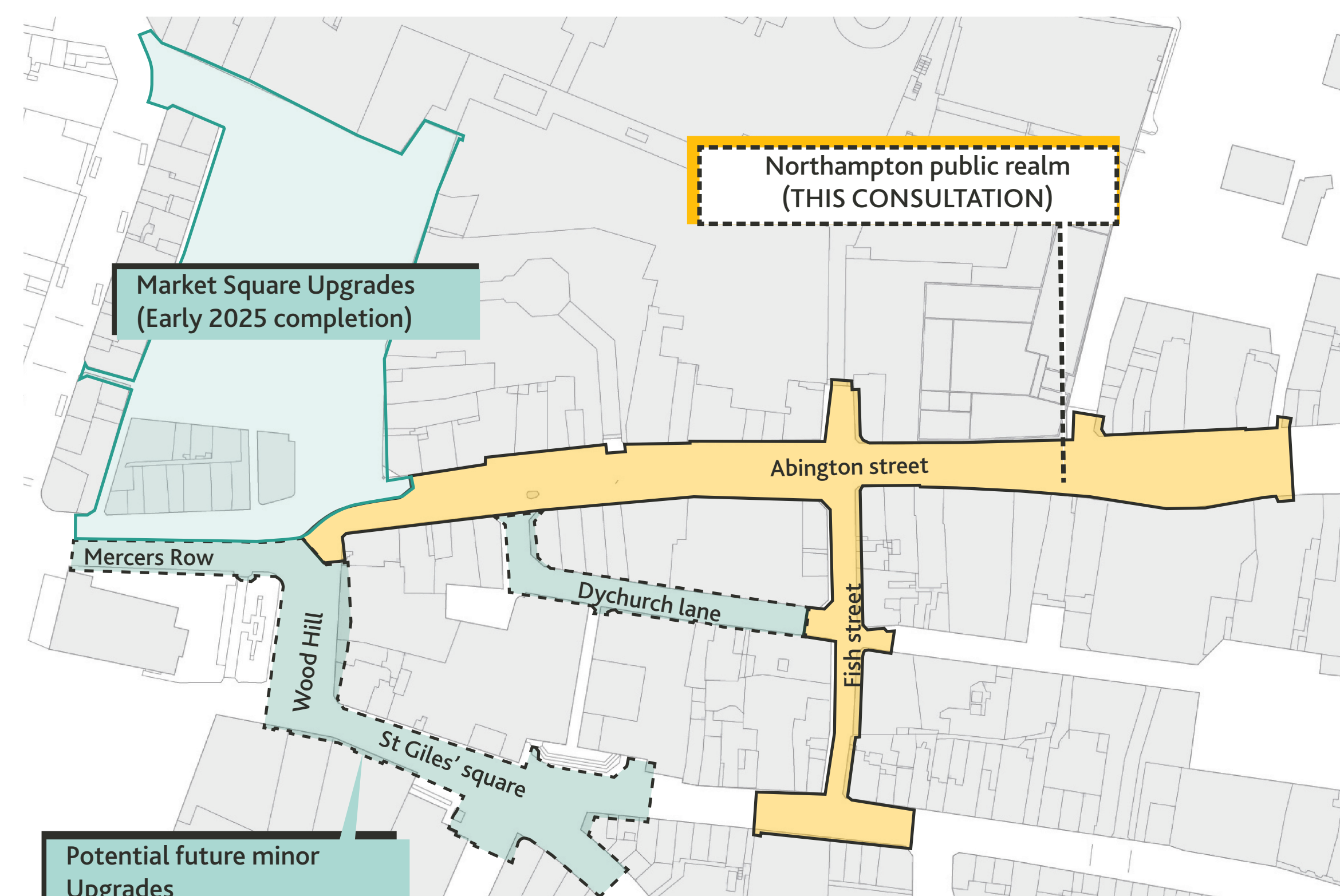
## PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Abington Street Public Realm project responds directly to the need to support the re-purposing and rejuvenation of the town centre particularly in response to the impact of the pandemic on the high street. This project aims to increase footfall into the town centre by regenerating Abington Street and Fish Street in response to extensive consultative and survey work undertaken by West Northamptonshire Council.

Gillespies have been appointed to prepare design proposals for Northampton's Town Centre's Public Realm Improvements by West Northamptonshire Council on behalf of the Northampton Forward Board. Working closely together, a vision has been developed for the Public Realm connecting the Market Square and Cultural Quarter.

These boards set out the vision for the pedestrianised section of Abington Street and all of Fish Street with significant upgrades to the paving, planting and lighting to create a vibrant and distinctive streetscape.

## THE DESIGN SCOPE



## SITE CONTEXT



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- 1 CREATE A DESTINATION**  
 A comprehensive redesign and refresh of the streetscape to create a unique town centre
- 2 LEGIBILITY & CONNECTION**  
 Improve pedestrian legibility and connections to surrounding streets and spaces & declutter
- 3 REFLECT THE VERNACULAR**  
 Respond to the town heritage and vernacular, yet be contemporary and bold
- 4 ACTIVE DAY & NIGHT**  
 Facilitate new activities and social engagement through the creation of a multi-functional environment
- 5 FLEXIBLE USES**  
 Incorporate flexibility and adaptability into the spaces for now and the future
- 6 SAFE & INCLUSIVE**  
 Create an attractive, high quality and safe public realm where people feel protected and comfortable
- 7 GREENING THE STREET**  
 Re-connect with nature through street greening to enhance biodiversity
- 8 SUSTAINABLE STREETScape**  
 Use materials that are sustainable, durable and easy to maintain

SCAN HERE FOR THE ONLINE  
SURVEY FORMS FOR THIS  
PROJECT



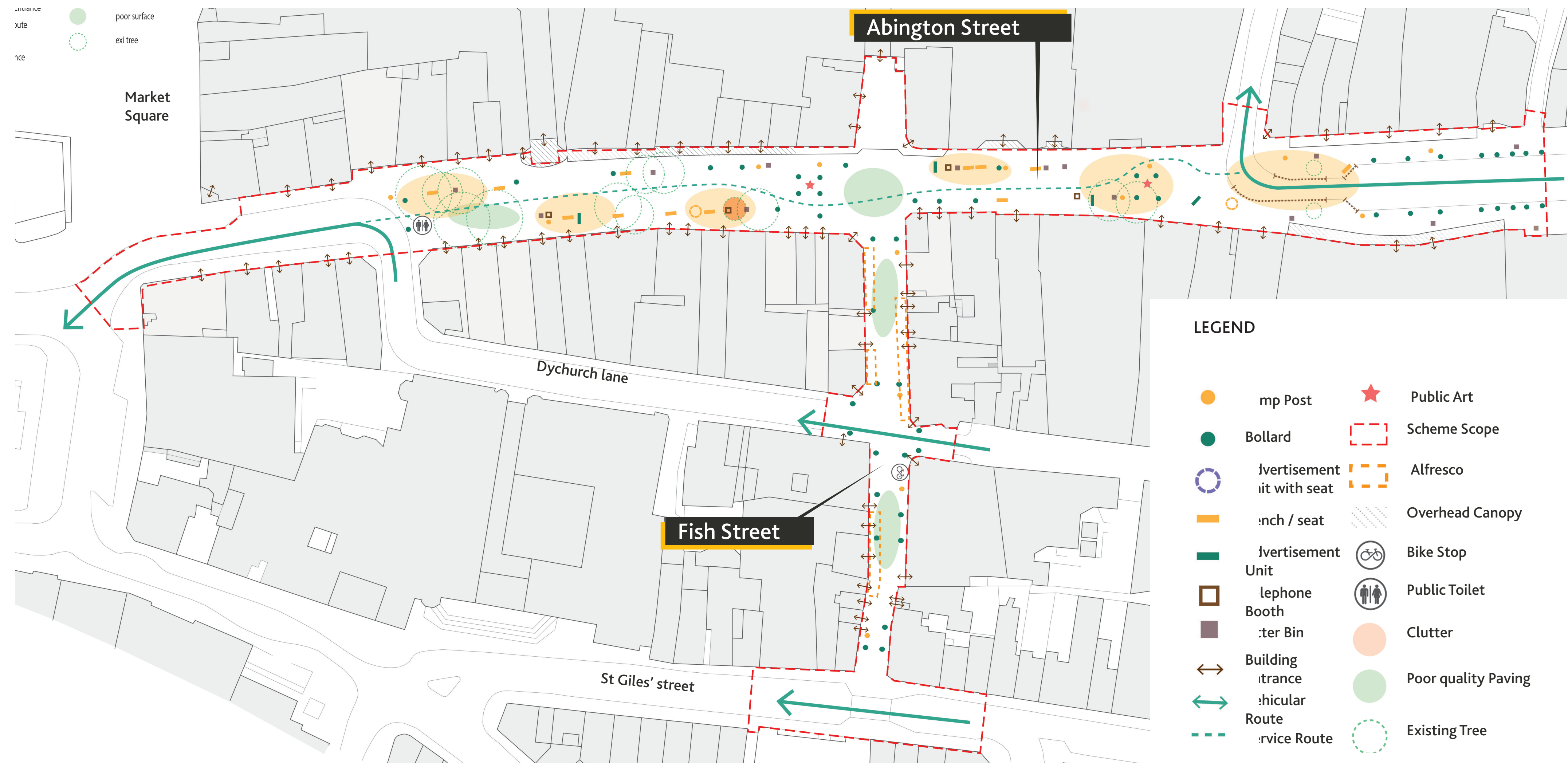


## KEY CHALLENGES

The plan to the right highlights a number of challenges presented by the current streetscape. Challenges that this project looks to address are:

- Dwindling units and lack of life & activity on the high street
- Mixed and poor quality paving 'patched-up' with tarmac
- A very grey and hard urban environment with limited planting or biodiversity
- Poor quality and inconsistent types of street furniture
- Large amounts of street clutter, including bollards, lighting, bins, telephone booths, advertisement units, etc.
- Some poor condition trees with crowns and roots causing issues along the street
- Poor setting and location of the existing sculptures

## SITE CLUTTER



**Tree condition & management**

Several species have outgrown the size of the street and other trees in generally poor health and causing issues such as a lifting the paving.



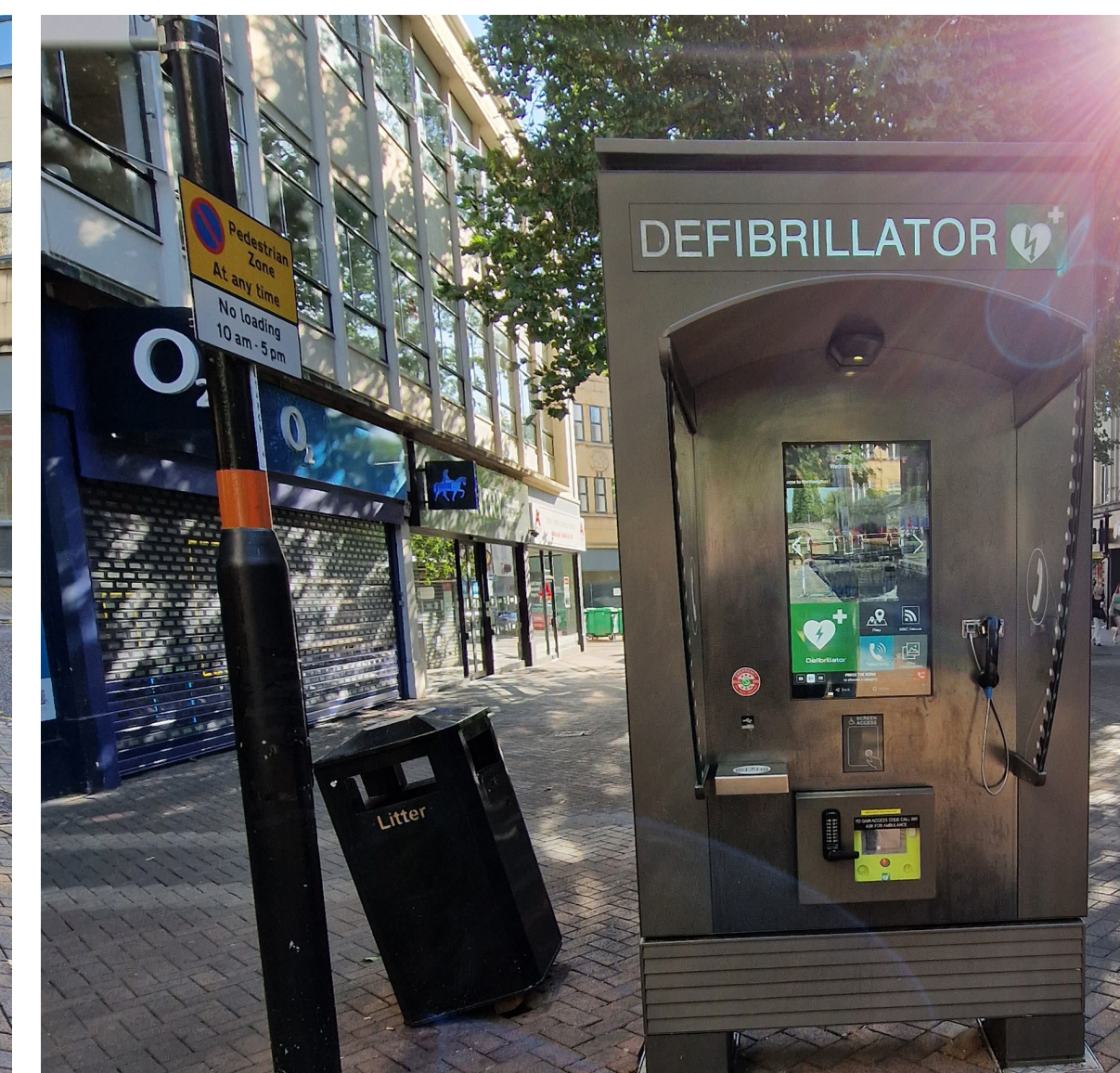
**Uneven, poor quality paving**

Areas of paving are generally in poor condition and detract visually from the overall street. Some areas have become uneven.



**Prominent unattractive feature**

The toilet block forms a very prominent feature at the key gateway into the site. The block itself is in poor condition inside and out.



**Cluttered, poor condition furniture**

A high number of bollards, bins, posts and general clutter has built up over the years and is in generally poor condition.



**Lack of prominence for sculptures**

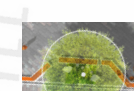
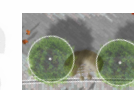
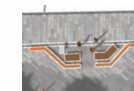

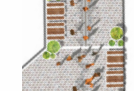





The Francis Crick sculpture is lost amongst overgrown trees with sap causing maintenance issues. The Shoe Last is lost behind fencing.



## PROPOSED LAYOUT



### LEGEND

-  Existing trees to be retained (8)
-  Proposed Trees\* (13)
-  Seating Alcoves
-  Tree Surround Seating
-  Fish Street Planters
-  1 Current Abington East Scheme
-  2 Relocated DNA Sculpture
-  3 Relocated Shoe Last Sculpture
-  4 Market Square
-  5 Fish Street Square

\* Proposed trees to be of appropriate size & species to avoid current issues experience by the trees to be removed

0 10 20m



### PREVIOUS RESPONSES

#### 1 | SIMPLE STREET

Simple and Minimal Design

Generous Market Space

8%  
Preferred  
this option



PEOPLE LIKED



PEOPLE DID NOT LIKE

- ✓ The seating
- ✓ Simplicity / Minimalist style
- ✓ The paving

- ✗ Not enough change / not brave enough
- ✗ Too minimal
- ✗ Won't attract more people to town

#### 2 | DYNAMIC STREET

Contemporary Street Structure

Flexible Events Space

Social Interaction Space

15%  
Preferred  
this option

- ✓ Activities / Social interaction
- ✓ Continental / European feel
- ✓ Outdoor Dining
- ✓ Flexibility

- ✗ Nothing (inc. no answer)
- ✗ Too many sculptures / sculptures open to abuse

#### 3 | GREEN STREET

Green and Leafy Public Realm

Sustainable Drainage Design

Biodiverse Planting

31%  
Preferred  
This option

- ✓ Combination of features
- ✓ The look and feel
- ✓ Street Furniture

- ✗ Too busy / Cluttered
- ✗ Too basic / not enough change

#### 4 | BLENDED OPTION

Outdoor Dinning Space

Flexible Events Space

Elements from the "Dynamic" St. Option

Informal Play Space

Social Interaction Space

Elements from the "Green" St. Option

46%  
Preferred  
This option

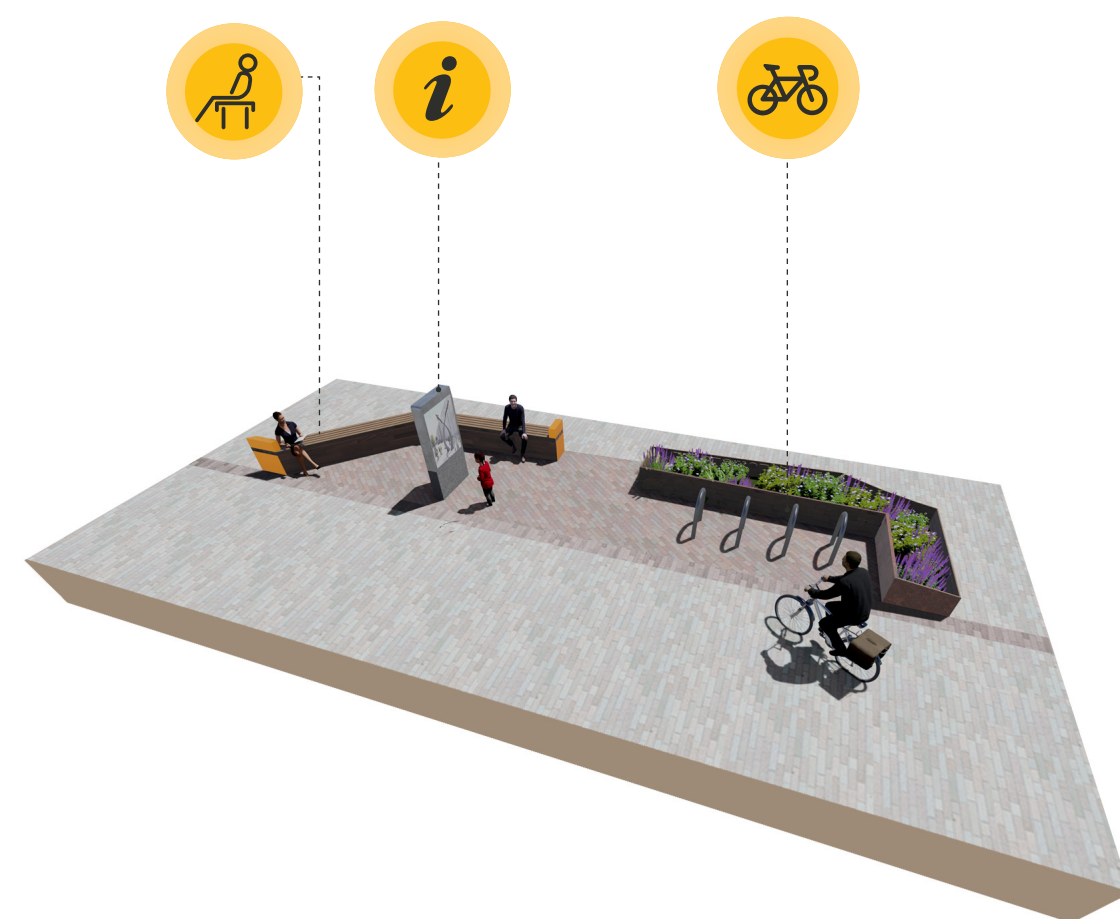
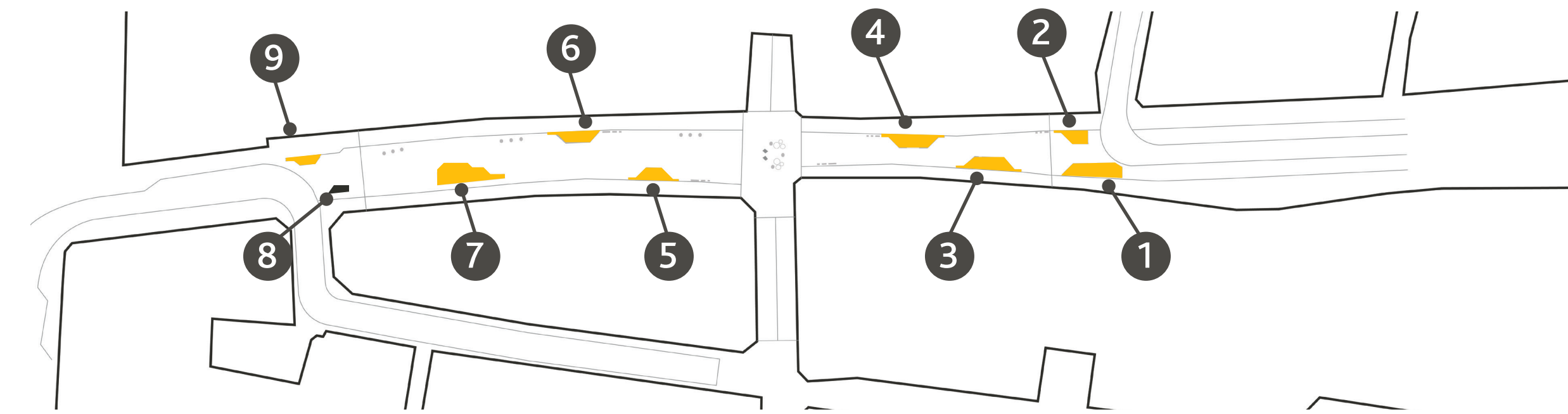
#### CONSULTATION KEY OUTCOMES

- 1 Blended Option emerges as the preferred design
- 2 Preference for the combination on features shown
- 3 Removal of toilets
- 4 Some feedback about being too cluttered/simple to consider
- 5 This option to be taken forward to Stage 3 design



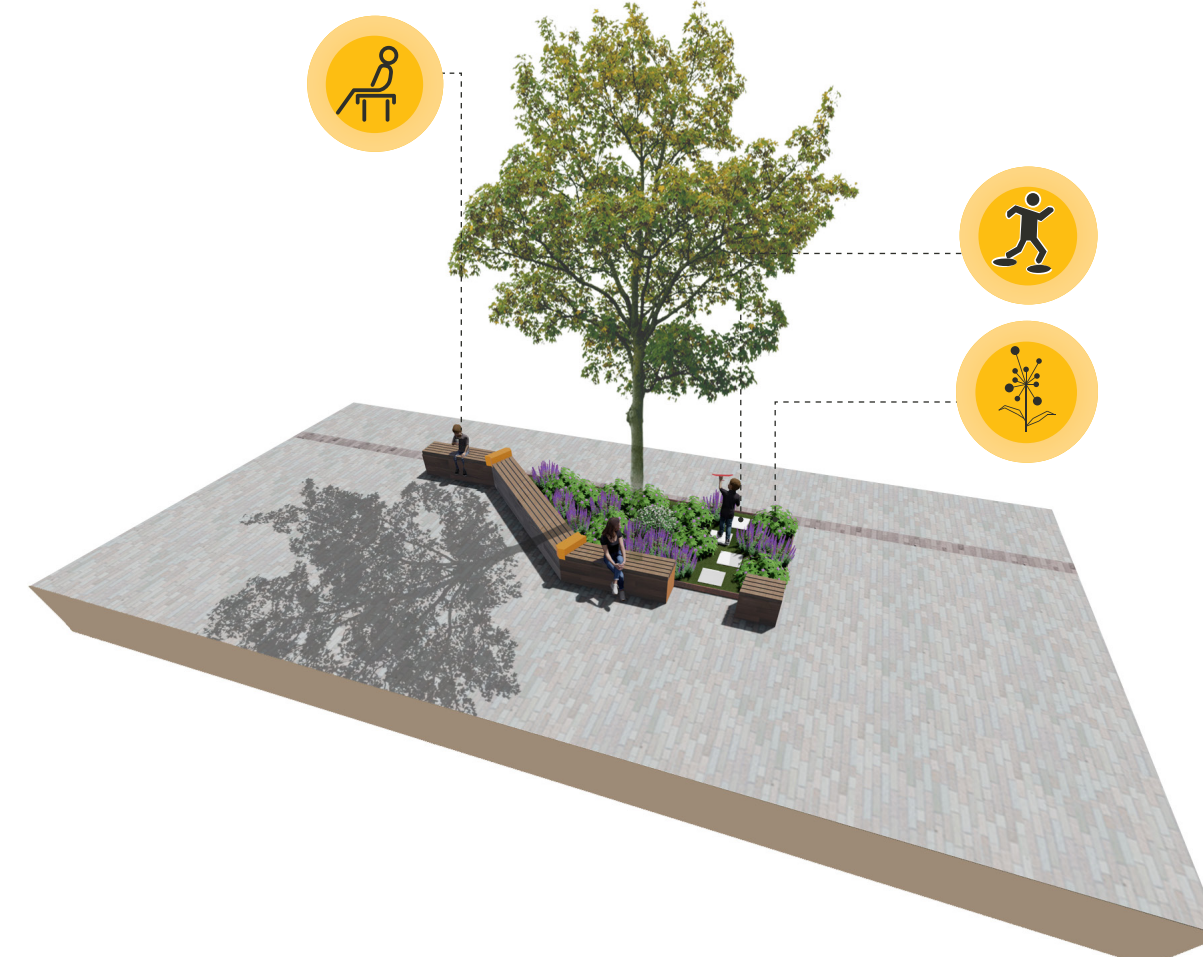
## ACTIVITY ALCOVES

To help to de-clutter the street, elements such as cycle hoops, seating and information boards will be clustered together in small, organised groups. Seats will wrap around the perimeter of these groups to form a safe alcove for sitting and other activities. Each alcove will cater to a different theme, allowing different types of street activity to flourish.



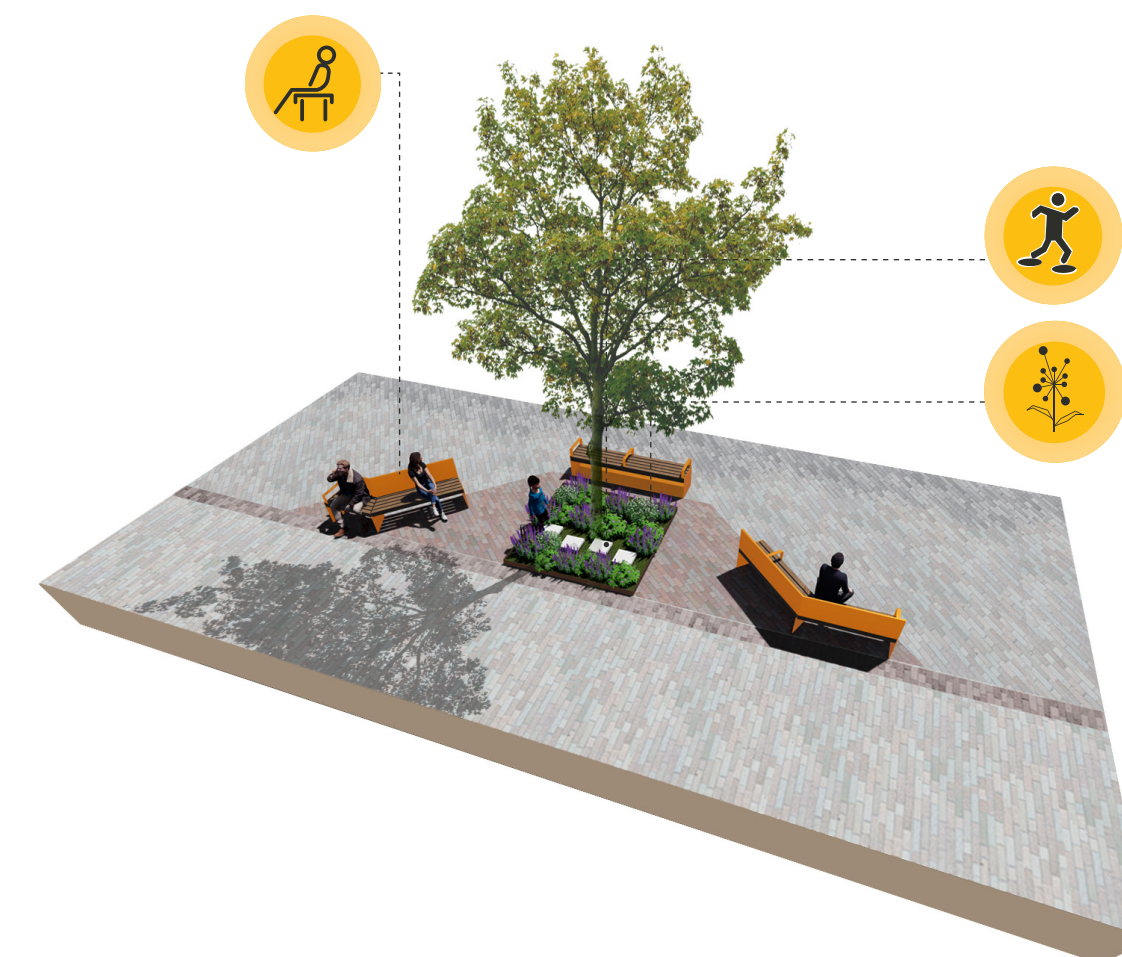
**1** CYCLE & INFORMATION ALCOVE

A space for orientation and infrastructure at the start of the street. Raised planting provides a barrier to unwanted vehicle movements.



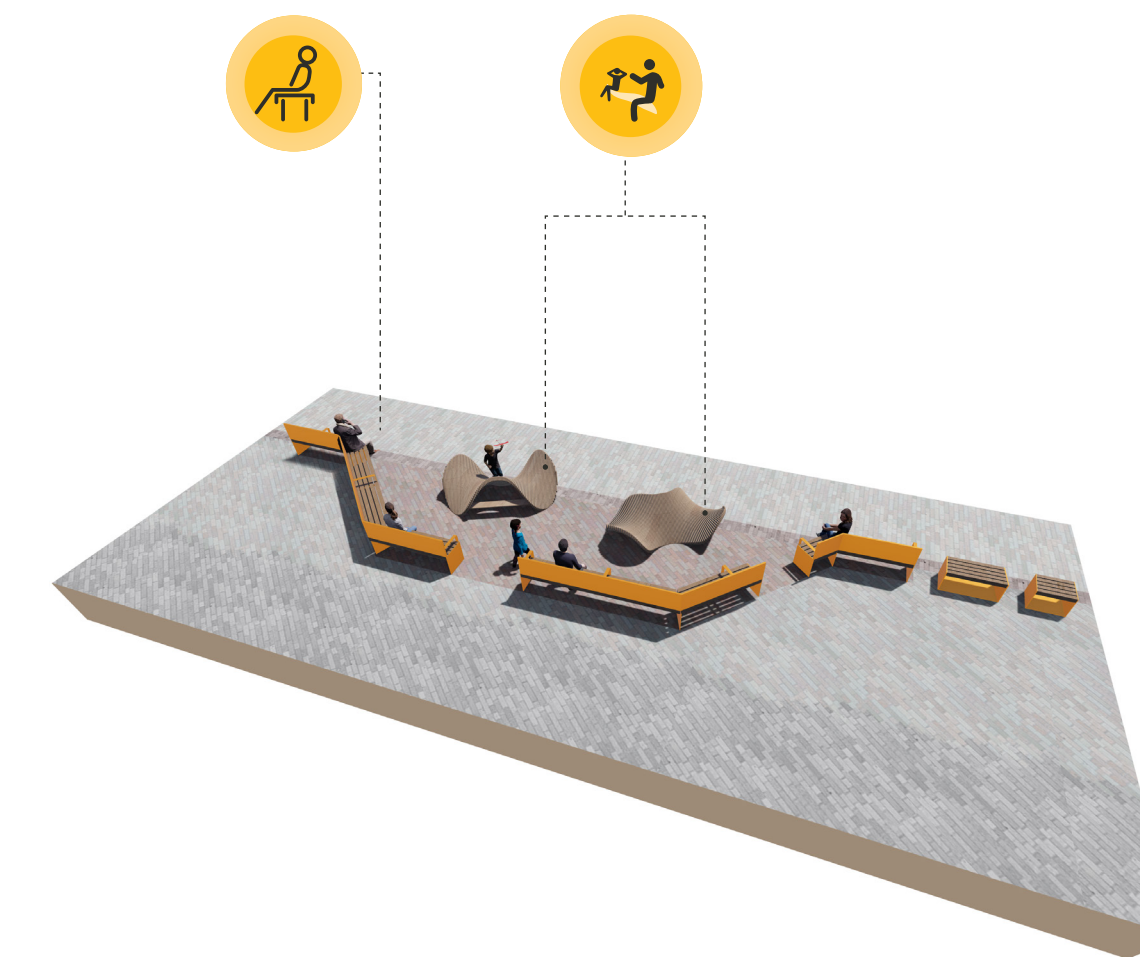
**2** PLANTING & PLAY ALCOVE

Introducing greenery and play into the street whilst forming part of barrier to restrict unwanted vehicle movements.



**3** EXISTING TREE ALCOVE

Planting and seating around the base of existing street trees and protecting against areas of pavement lifted by existing roots.



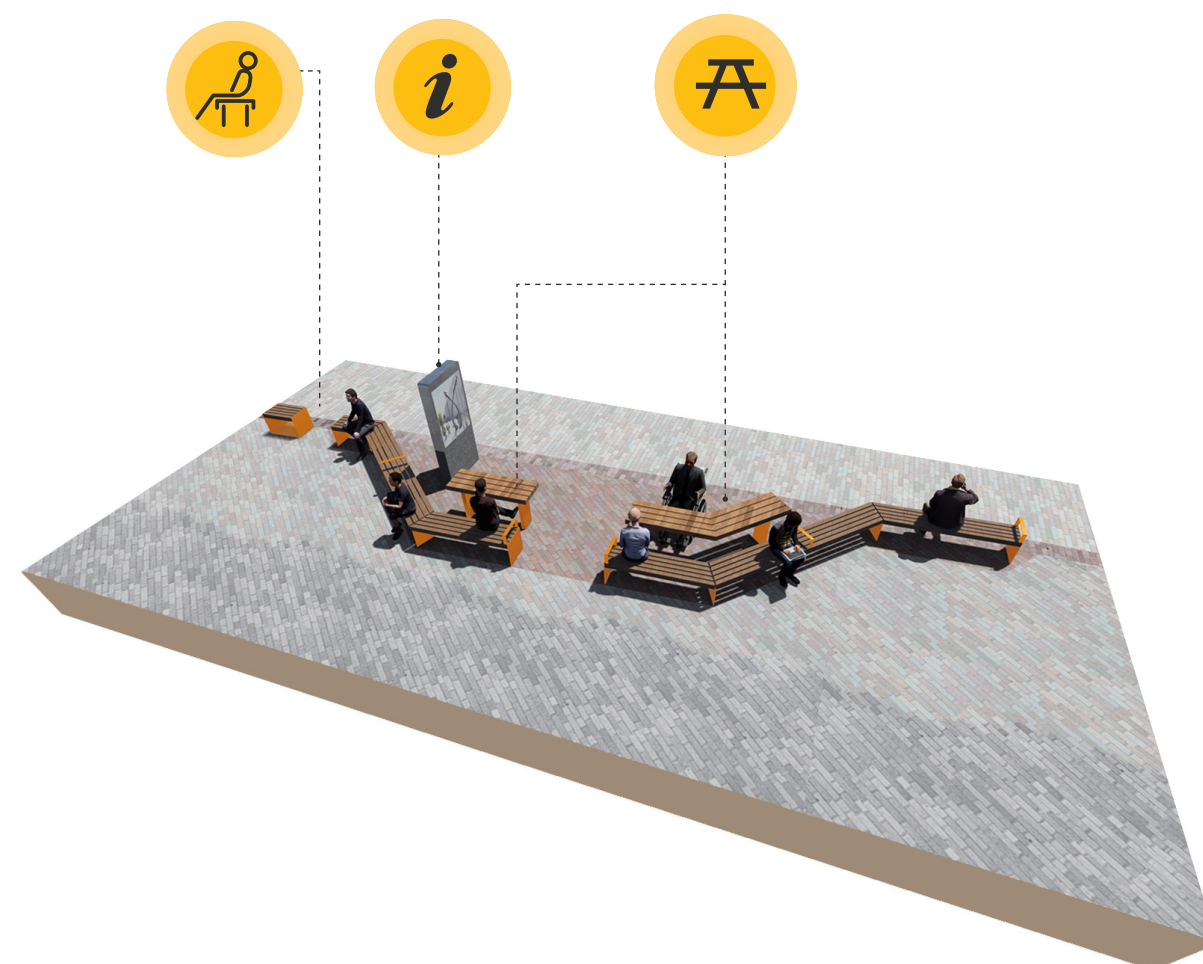
**4** CREATIVE DNA BENCHES

Spaces on the sunny side of the street for seating and urban play focused around the theme of DNA.



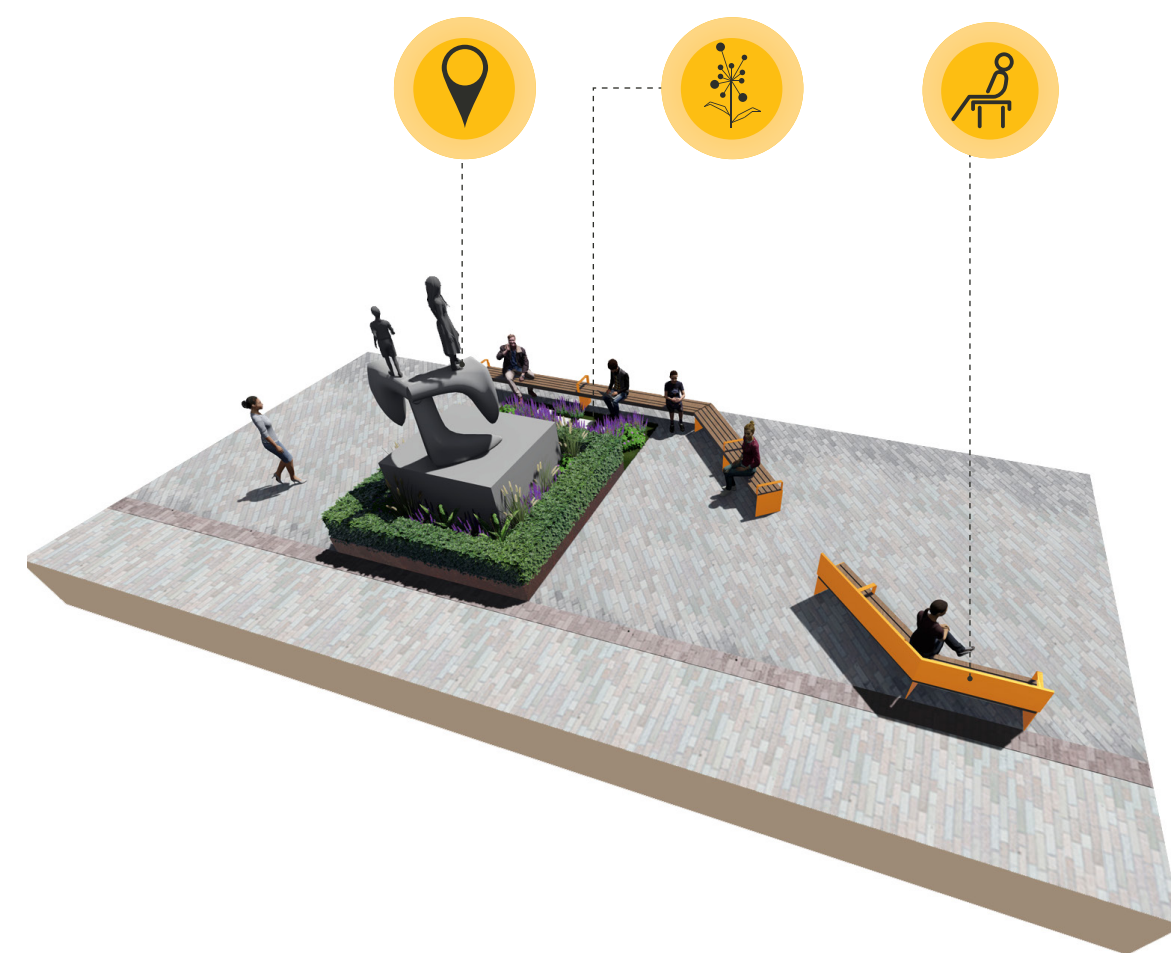
**5** EXISTING TREE ALCOVE

Planting and seating around the base of existing street trees and protecting against areas of pavement lifted by existing roots.



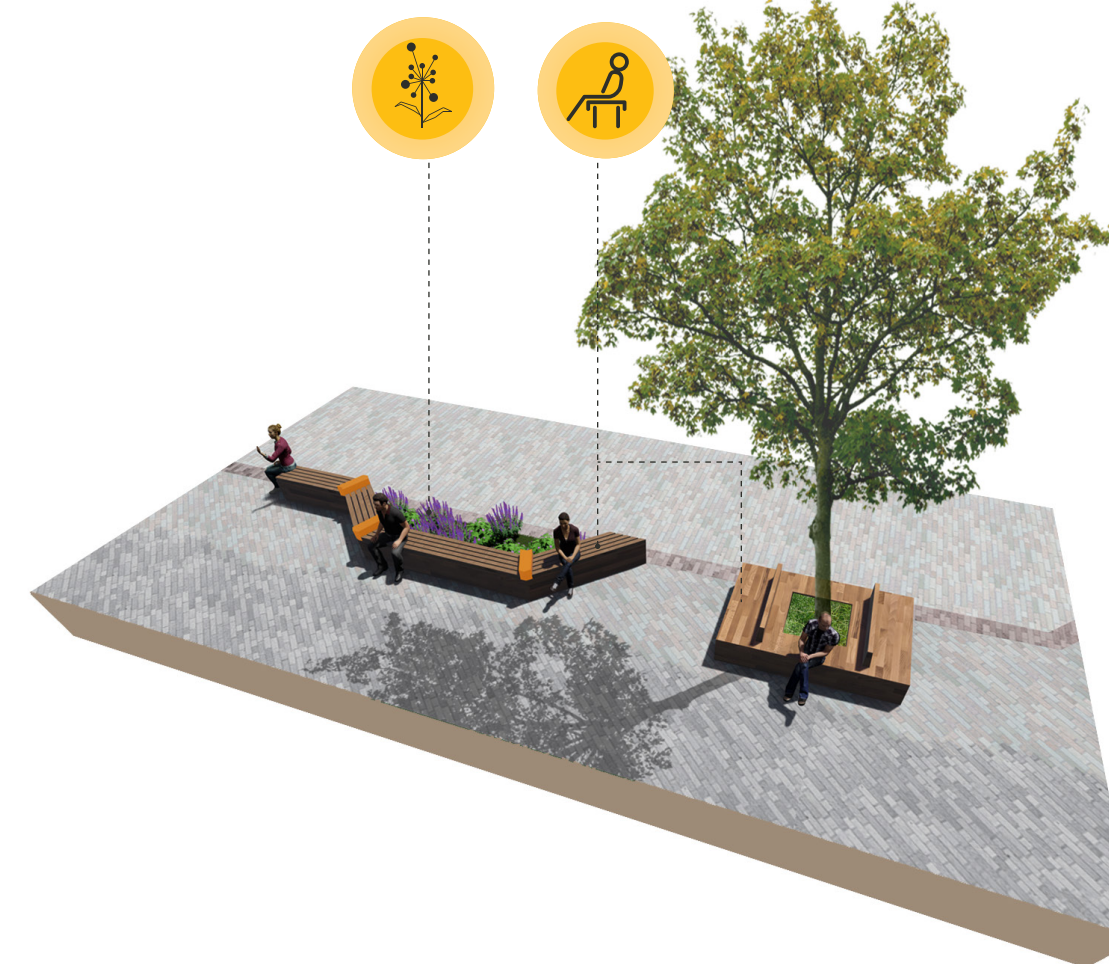
**6** PICNIC TABLE ALCOVE

Spaces for seating and eating with flexible areas for benches and tables.



**7** SHOE LAST SCULPTURE ALCOVE

A space for the Shoe Last sculpture set on a key node along the street.



**8** PLANTING & TREE SEAT

Planting and secondary HVM measures to the western entrance of the Street.



**9** CYCLE & INFORMATION ALCOVE (BACK)

Areas around the existing trees for shady seating and raised planters as part of HVM measures.



**9** CYCLE & INFORMATION ALCOVE (FRONT)



**1 ABINGTON EAST AERIAL VIEW**



**2 RELOCATED FRANCIS CRICK SCULPTURE**



**ABINGTON STREET WESTERN GATEWAY 3**

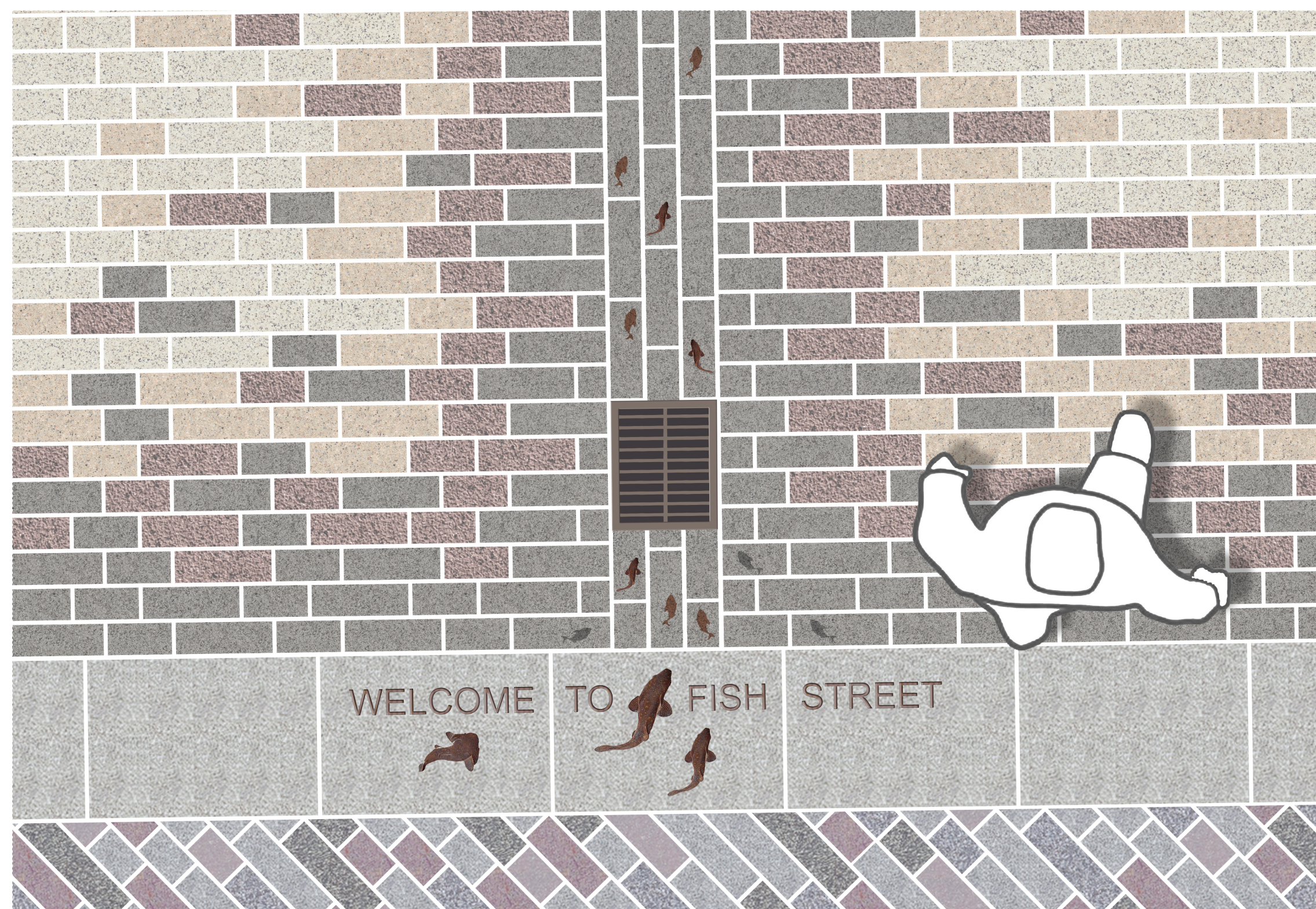




### FISH STREET CONCEPT

Fish street will see a significant upgrade to the paving, planting and lighting to create a vibrant and distinctive streetscape. The narrower proportions of the street support the opportunity for a more intimate, lively atmosphere with areas of spill-out seating for cafe's, bars and restaurants. Underground services limit the opportunity for in-ground street trees but large contemporary planters add clusters of greenery along the street.

### FISH STREET/ABINGTON THRESHOLD



ENGRAVED FISH LOGO



RAIN ACTIVATED ART

Dry Day



Wet Day



1

### FISH STREET PAVING VIEWS



### FISH STREET AERIAL VIEW

2



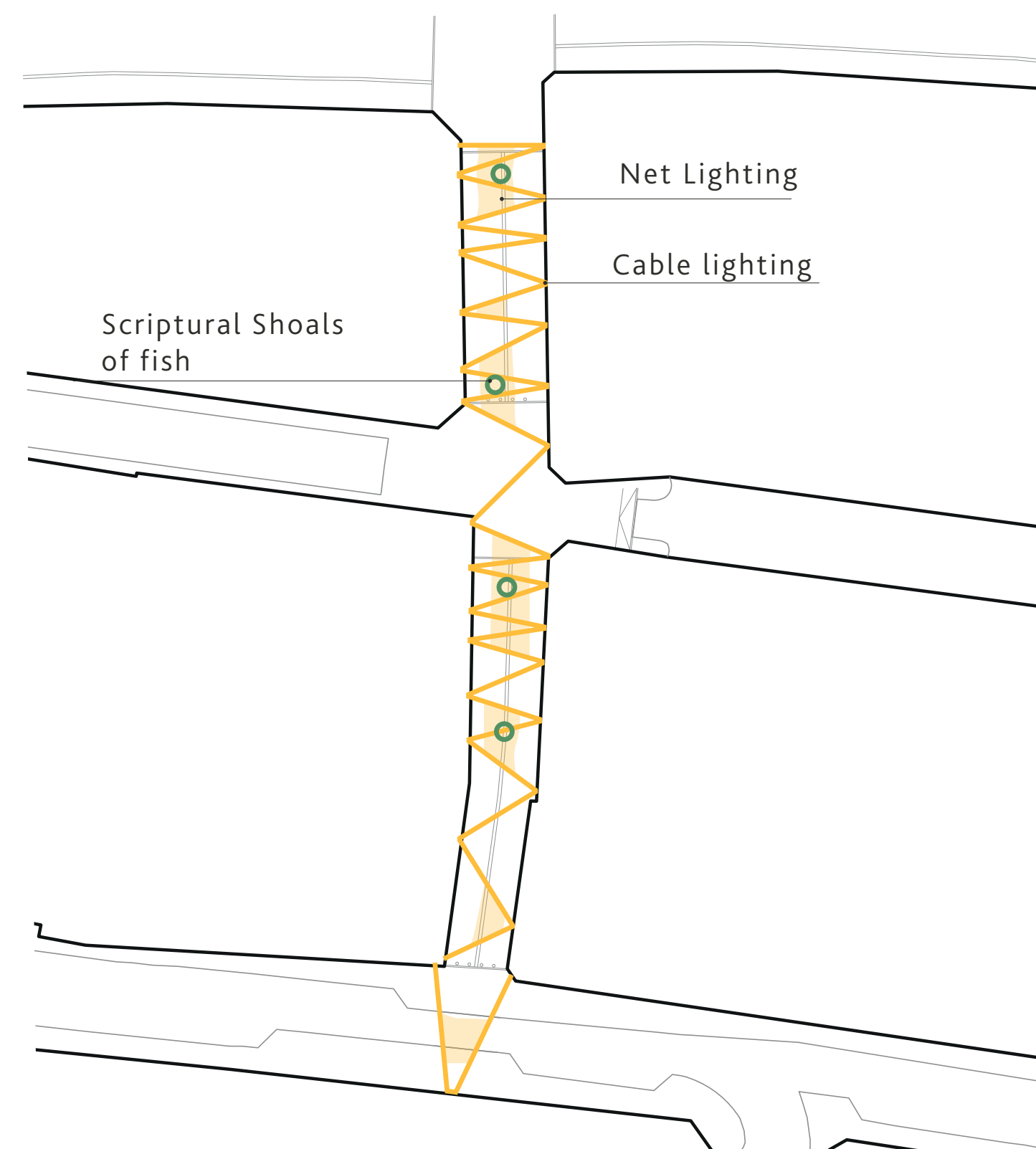


## LIGHTING CONCEPT

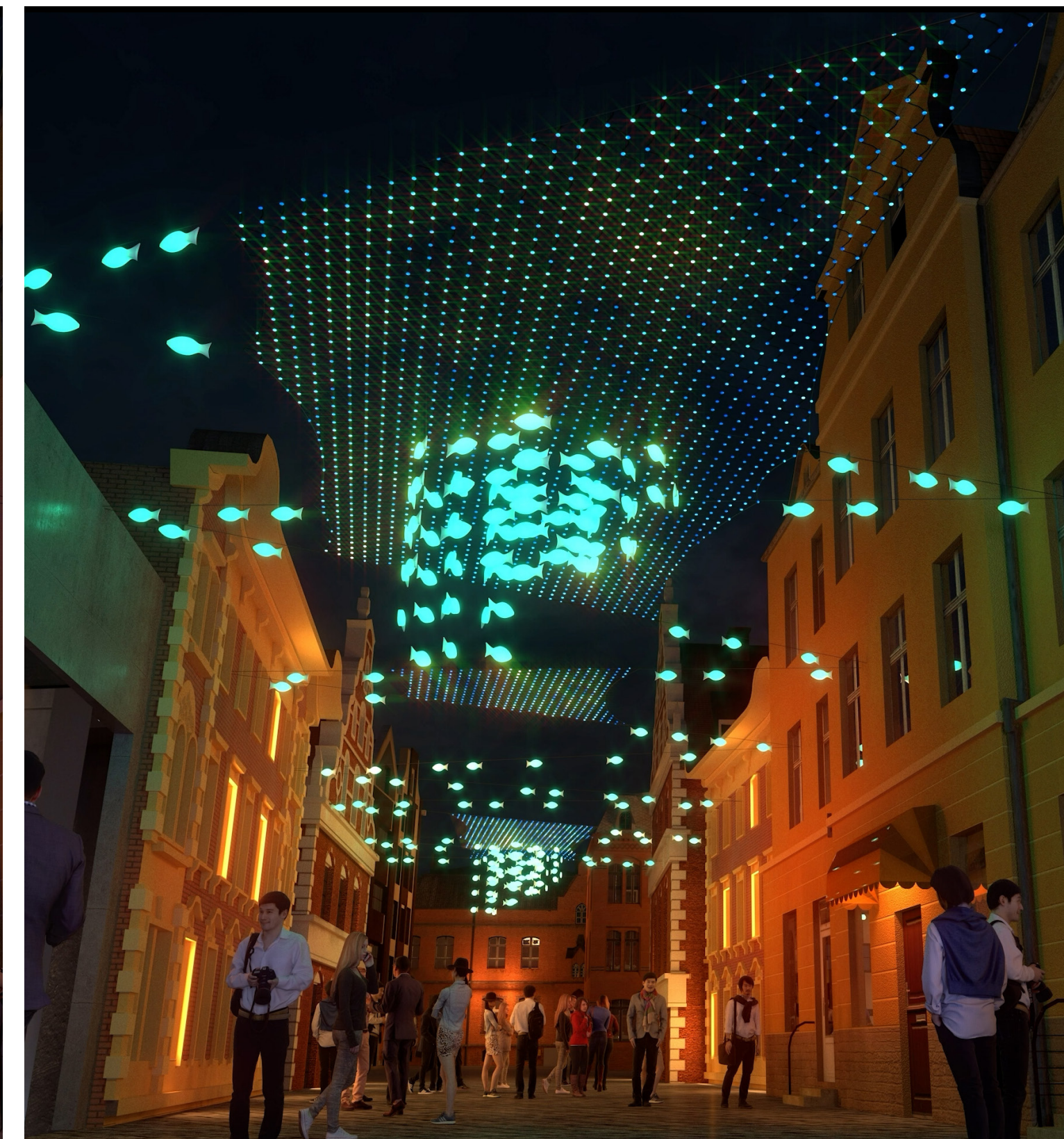
The existing festoon lighting along Fish Street will be upgraded to a new, iconic catenary feature that provides an animated "ceiling" of light along the street.

Inspiration has been taken from the history of Fish street, which used to be a bustling area of fish stalls in the past. The design proposals on this page show how the existing light fixture points are-used to provide an intricate lighting feature formed by a series of illuminated fish and nets that provide a strong link back to the streets history.

The colour and patterns of animation can be programmed to respond to local events and celebration to create an ever changing art feature.



## POTENTIAL SCENES





## INTRODUCTION TO MAREFAIR

West Northamptonshire Council is looking to transform Chalk Lane Car Park in Marefair into a Heritage Park. This will redefine the entrance to the town centre from the train station, offer open green space for families and the local community to enjoy while celebrating the heritage of the area.

## WHY WE ARE HERE

Through various studies over the years, it emerged that this area was to be redeveloped to help renew and revitalise the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood. There is also a need to improve the residents' quality of life as well as maximising the social, environmental and economic benefits of well-planned and managed development. The project will also create a much needed wider heritage gateway from the train station into the town centre.

West Northamptonshire Council and Northampton Forward secured £1.5 million through the Government's Towns Fund for the creation of this Heritage Park in Marefair, which will deliver new green space, trees, play areas, community gardens, pathways and lighting.

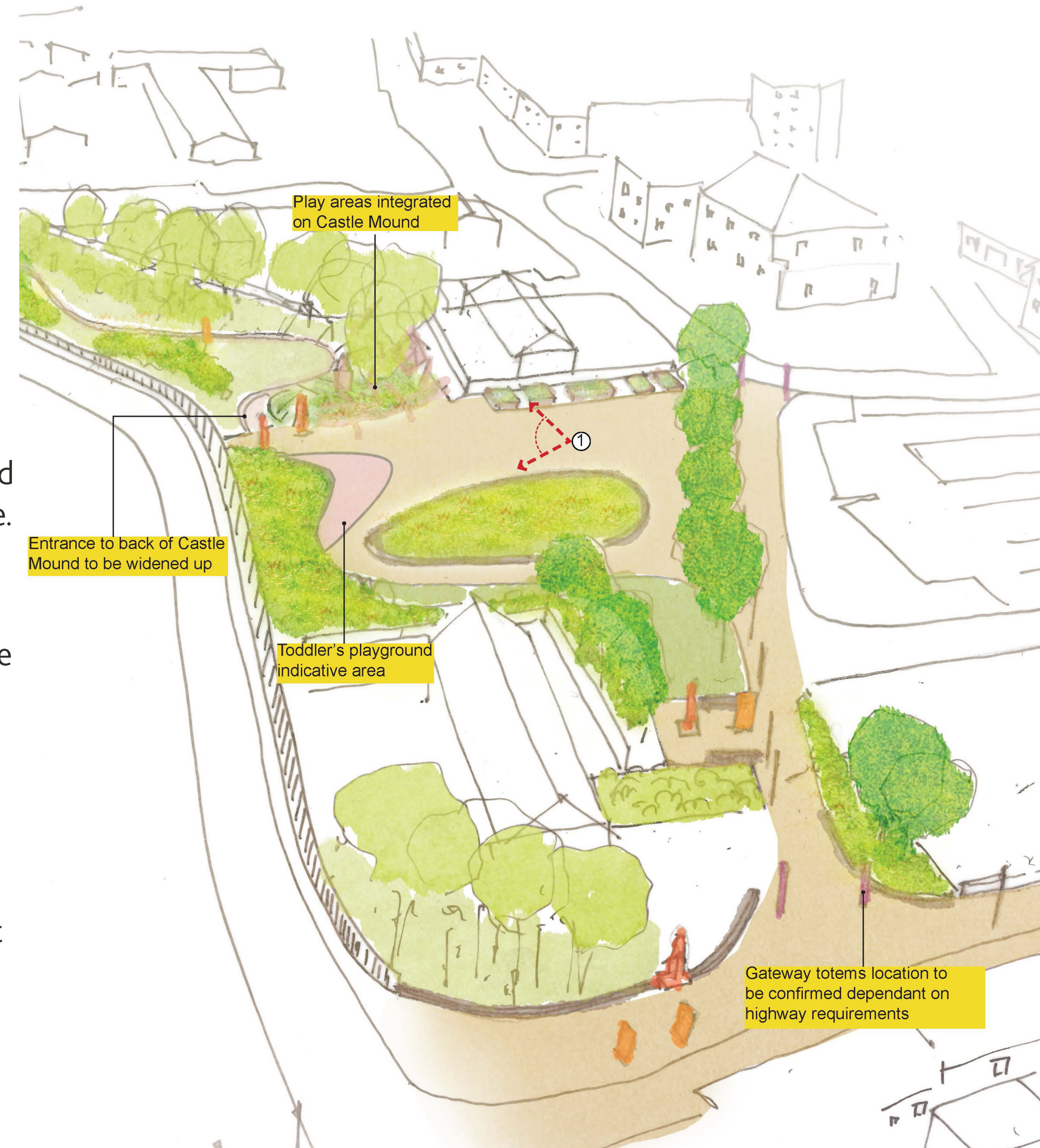
## WHAT IS THE PROJECT

Marefair and the surrounding area has a fascinating and important history, and this site is on the boundary of the once famous Northampton Castle. The Castle Mound, where part of the Castle used to stand, forms part of this new Heritage Park. The park will give an improved first impression for visitors to the town centre from the train station and provide an open green space for surrounding

communities to relax and enjoy. Through creating the Heritage Park

and an improved heritage gateway, the project will provide open space to enhance the connection of the heritage assets in the area, neighbourhood safety, and a sense of place.

## ARTISTIC IMPRESSION



SCAN HERE FOR THE MAREFAIR ONLINE  
CONSULTATION & SURVEY

