

Fountainbridge Towpath Strategy

Landscape Document

Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, UK

July 2016

rankinfraser
landscape architecture

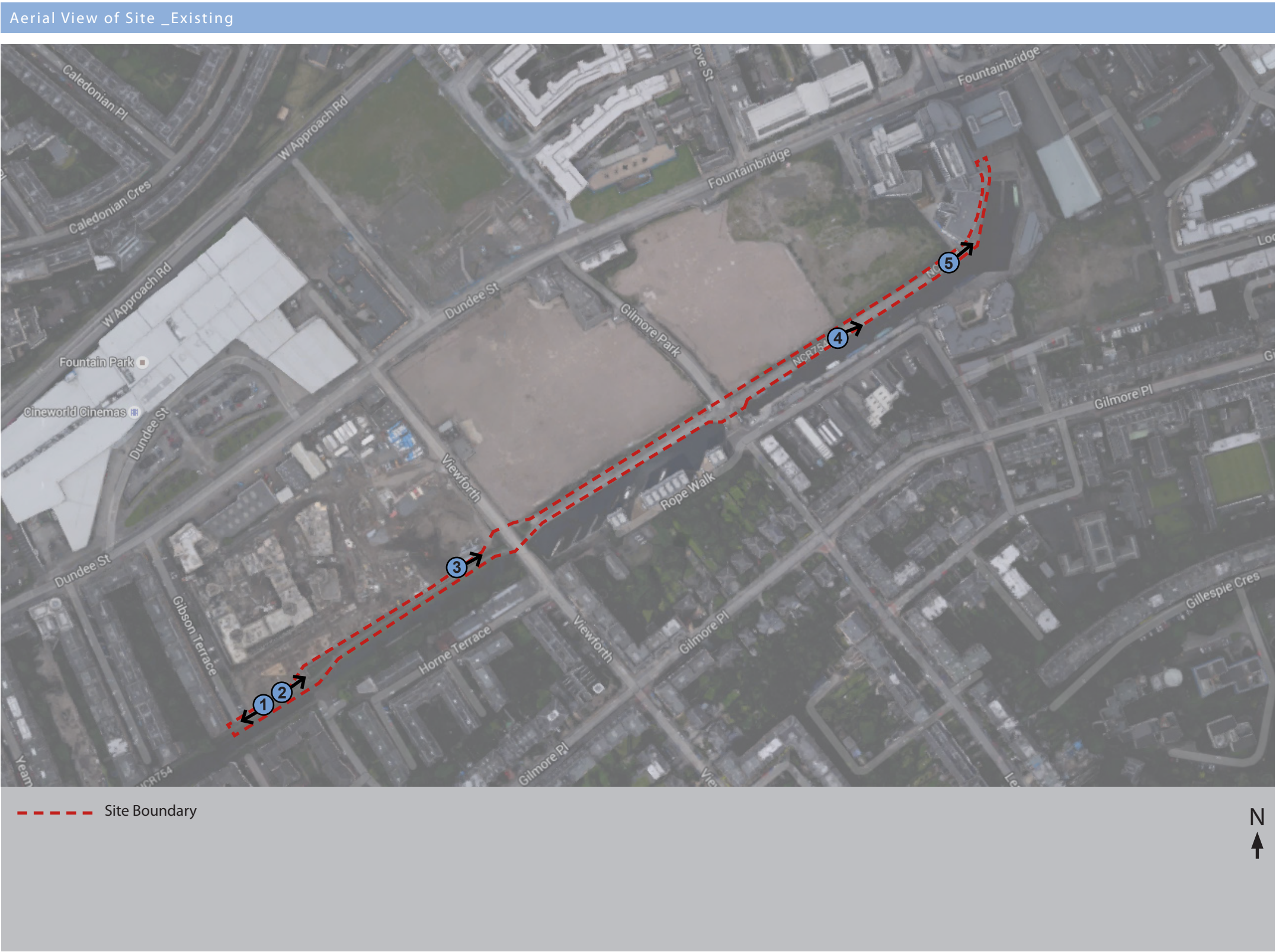
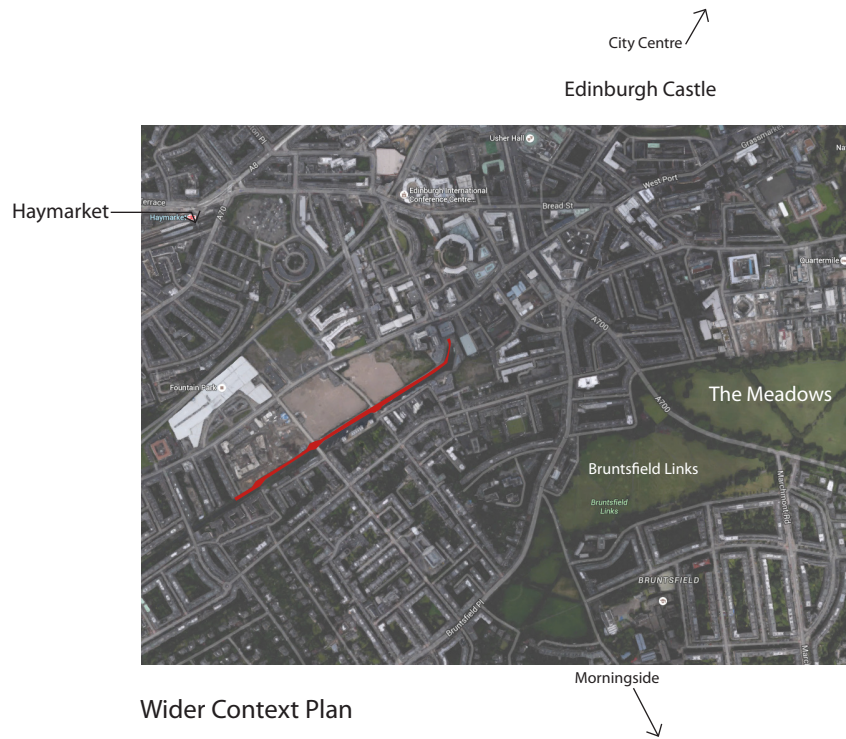
The Site

Existing Site Aerial Photo

‘Towpath’

A towpath is a road or trail on the bank of a river, canal, or other inland waterway. The purpose of a towpath is to allow a land vehicle, beasts of burden, or a team of human pullers to tow a boat, often a barge. This mode of transport was common where sailing was impractical due to tunnels and bridges, unfavourable winds, or the narrowness of the channel.

After the Industrial Revolution, towing became obsolete when engines were fitted on boats and when railway transportation superseded the slow towing method. Since then, many of these towpaths have been converted to multi-use trails. They are still named towpaths — although they are now only occasionally used for the purpose of towing boats.



Existing Site Photographs_Fountainbridge Towpath



1 View 1, looking South West towards Yeaman Place Bridge



2 View 2, looking North East towards Fountain South Central Development Plot



3 View 3, Looking North East towards Viewforth Bridge



4 View 4, Looking North East along Union Canal.

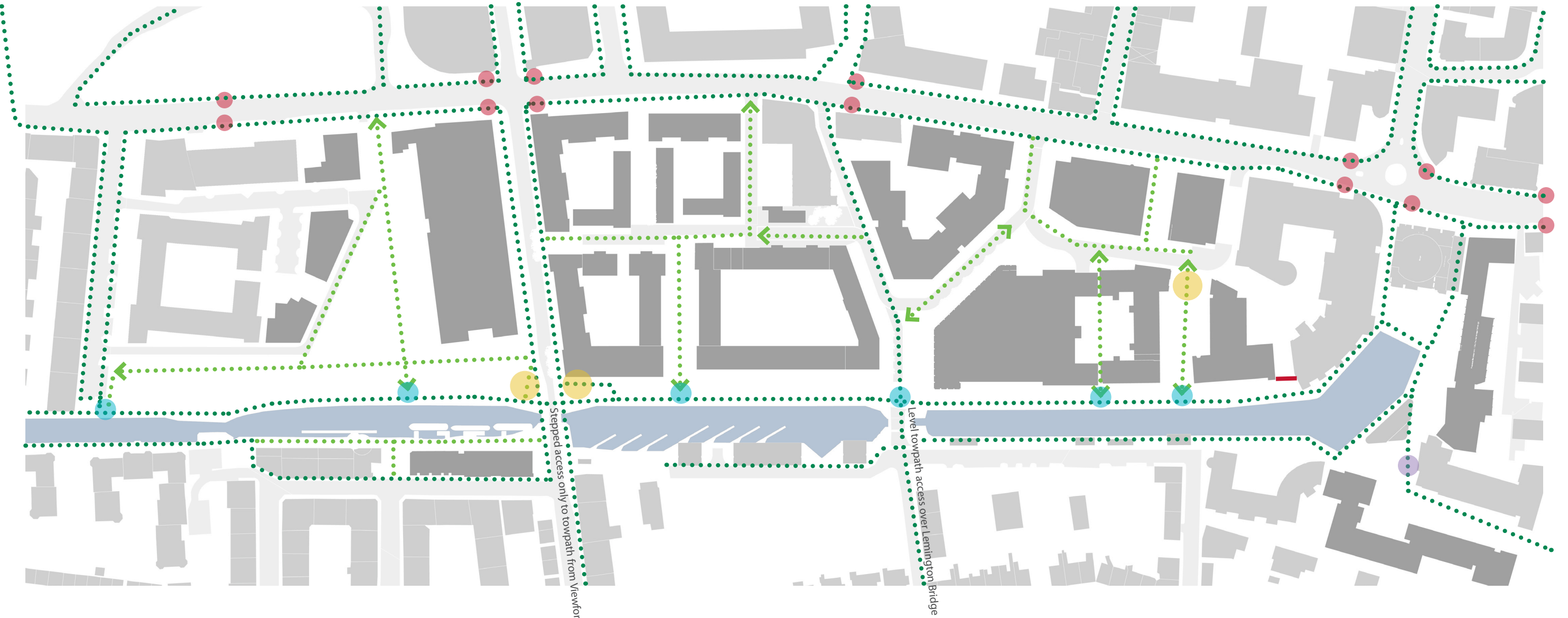


View 5, Looking North East along Union Canal, showing existing canal quayside.

- Observations:
- Mix of materials along towpath:
Tarmac, Setts, Concrete
 - Change of width of towpath
 - Rough surface finish
 - Patch/Repair work
 - Faulty lighting
 - No clear demarcations of shared/pedestrian/bicycle surface/area

Pedestrian Connections

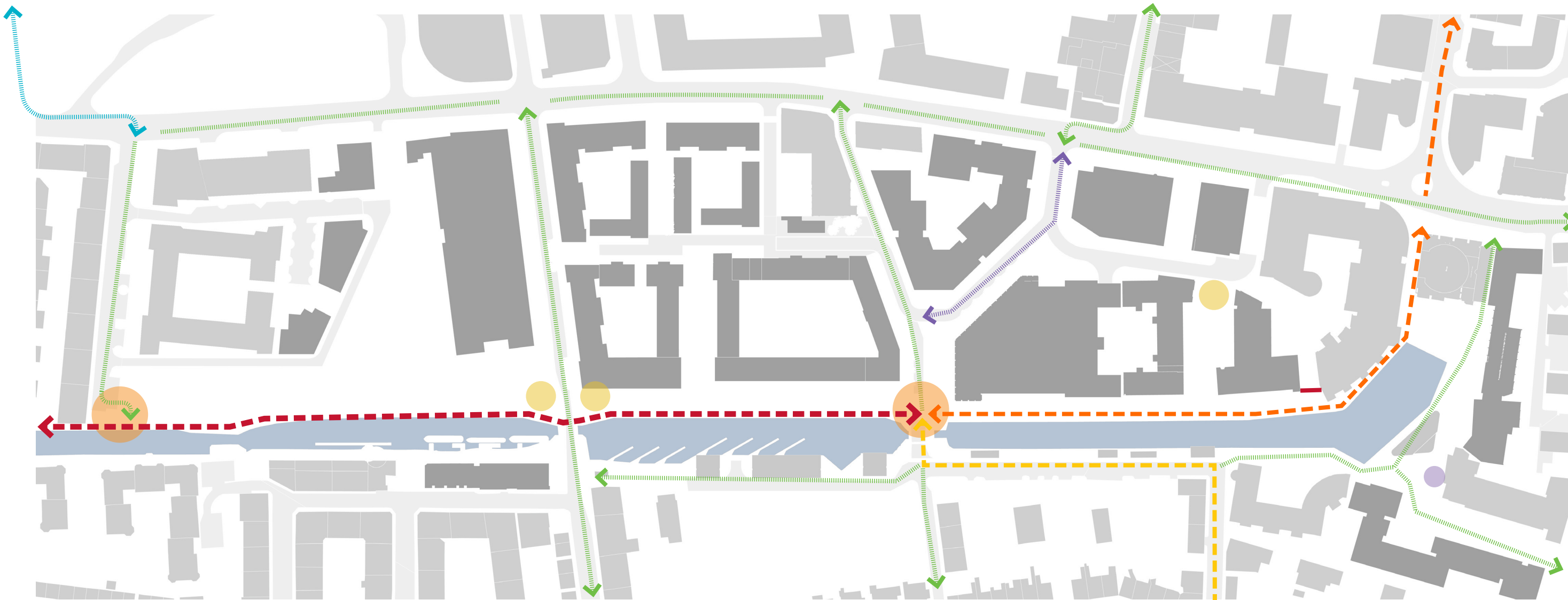
Existing and Proposed Pedestrian Connections



- Legend
- Primary Pedestrian Movement
 - Secondary Pedestrian Movement
 - Retaining wall
 - Existing steps/ramp
 - Additional steps/ramp to access Canal
 - Pedestrian footpath meets towpath
 - Location of existing Traffic Lights
 - Existing Buildings
 - Proposed Buildings

Cycle Network Connections

Existing and Proposed Cycling Connections



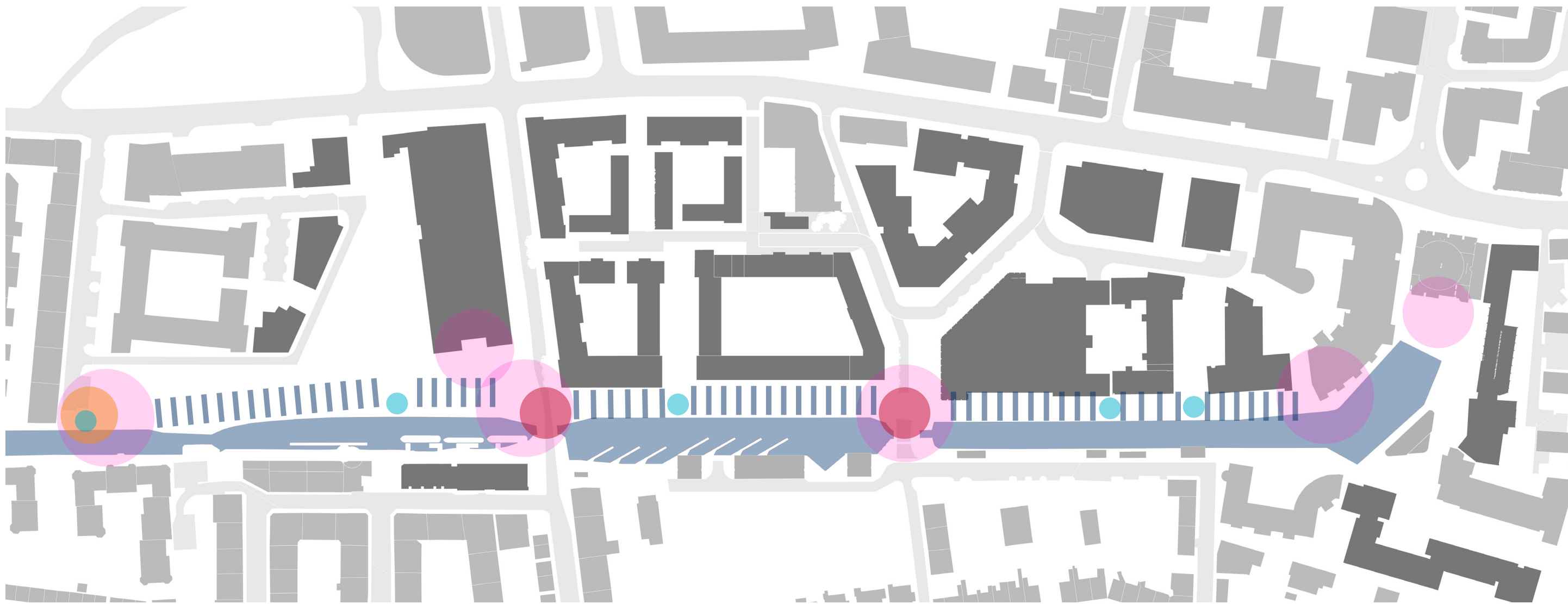
- Legend
- Combined National Cycle Route Nr.75 and Nr.754
 - National Cycle Route Nr.754
 - National Cycle Route Nr.75
 - On Road Cycle Routes
 - Potential Cycle Network Connections
 - Roseburn to Union Canal Strategy Cycle path Proposed Connection

- Level access cycle connections to towpath
- Retaining wall
- Existing steps/ramp
- Additional steps/ramp to access Canal
- Existing Buildings
- Proposed Buildings

Connecting to the Meadows

Towpath Overall Strategy

Vehicular and Pedestrian



Legend



Area of significant interest for possible future feature lighting development: Bridges/ underpasses.
Opportunity: Art installations to highlight underpasses/bridges and places of historical interest, to work with local artists.



Cycle Entrance nodes onto towpath.
Opportunity: Extension of existing cycle network, along towpath through new developments, making a more permeable site. Interlocking the towpath into the wider



Proposed Social Spaces.
Opportunity: To allow for seating, tree planting and resting places/nodes along the towpath, connecting the developments, by the choice of materials and furniture.



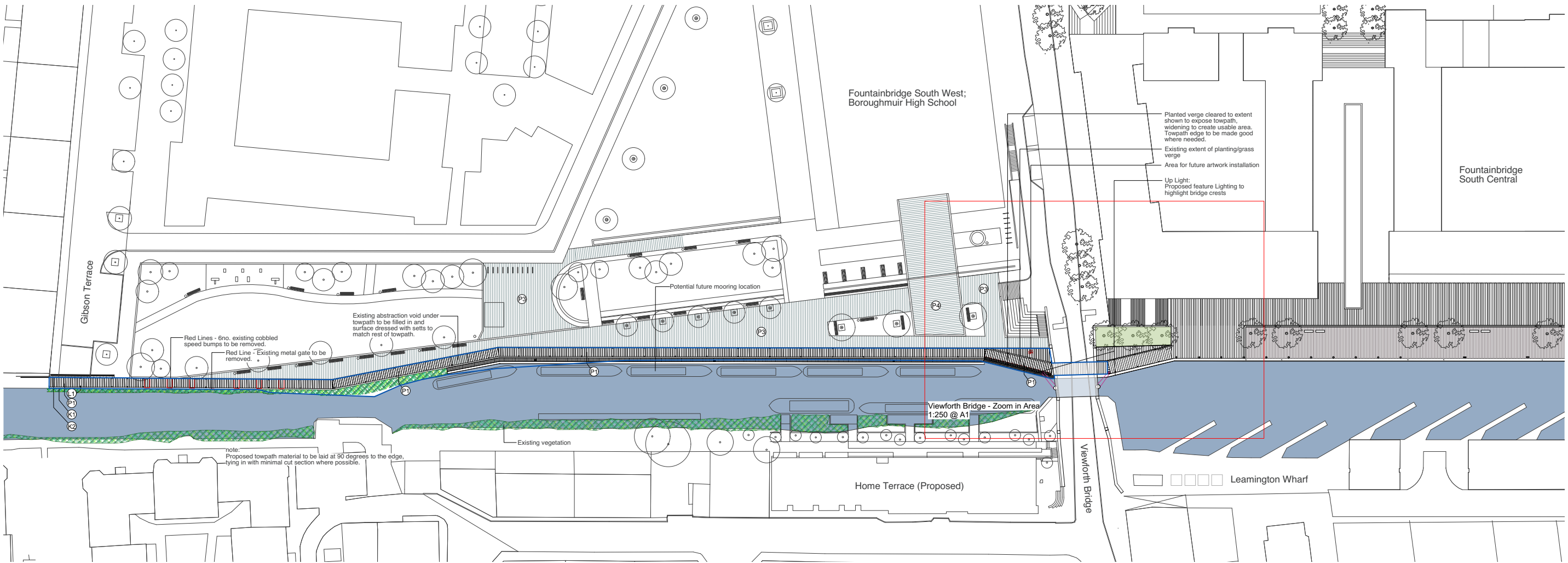
Resting/Viewing Spaces.
Opportunity: To allow for seating/viewing /information points along towpath.



Active Edges to Developments.
Opportunity: Mix use areas and activity zones.

Existing Buildings
Proposed Buildings

Gibson Terrace to Viewforth Bridge - Detailed Layout Plan



Legend: Proposed

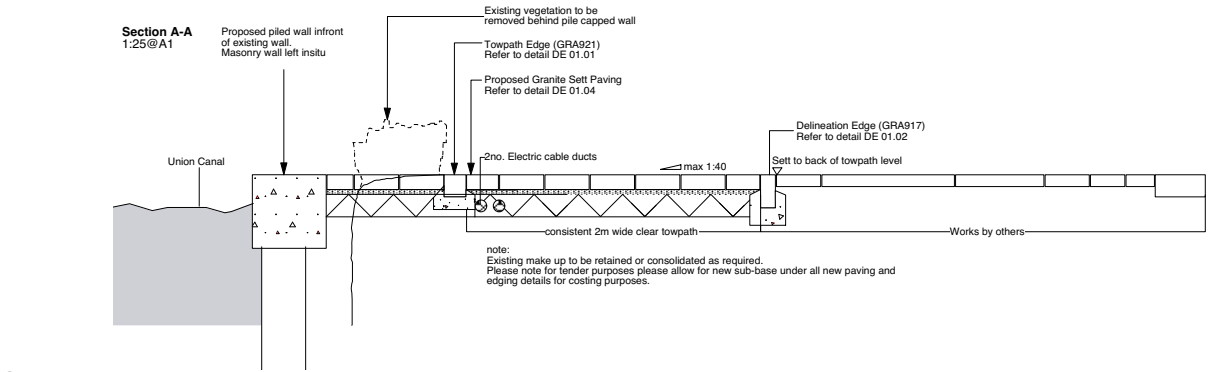
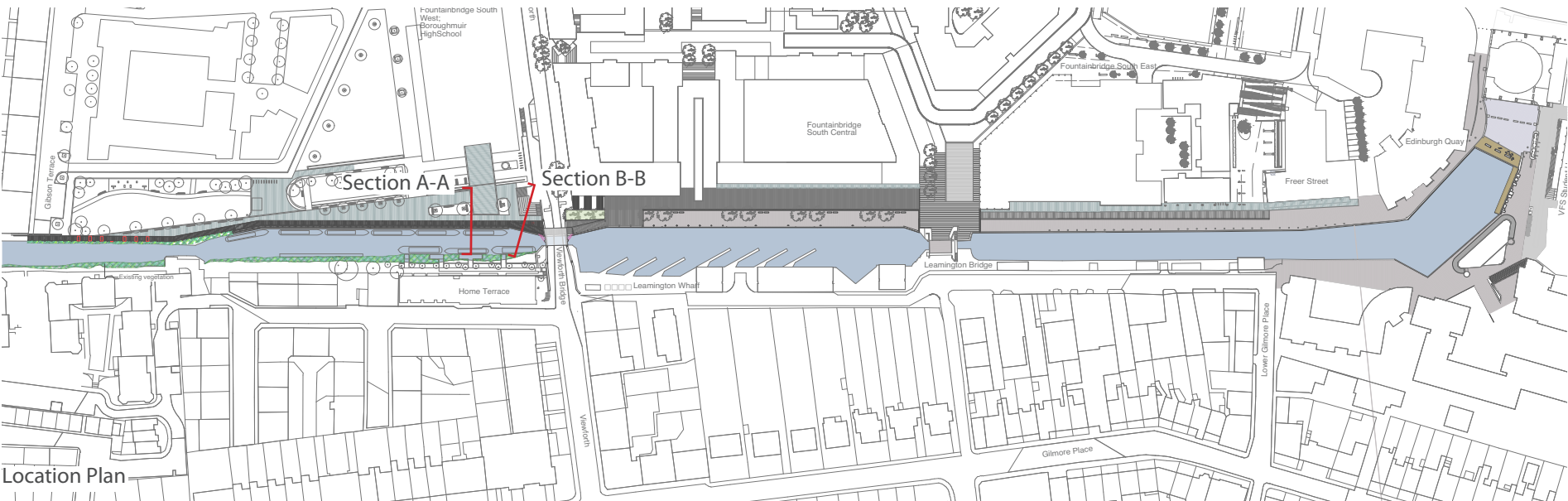
- Extent of works
- Union Canal
- Existing material banding, towpath extent
- Proposed Granite Sett Paving
150 x300mm to match existing towpath material.
Smooth/Sawn finish.
Colour : Dark Grey
- Existing underground void.
Exploratory work needed.
Mid grey Resin Bound Paving, colour to match towpath material

- Proposed Towpath Edge Paving Strip
Granite Paving, flush for drainage purposes
300 x 150mm
Colour: Mid Grey
- Proposed Towpath Edge Paving Strip between new development.
Granite Paving, laid flush
75 x 225mm
Colour: Mid Grey
- L1 - Proposed Towpath Lighting
Lighting to match existing lighting strategy in place along towpath
- Up Light:
Proposed feature Lighting to highlight bridge crests.
- Existing planted verge to be maintained as ecological corridor.
- Planted area to take into account level change

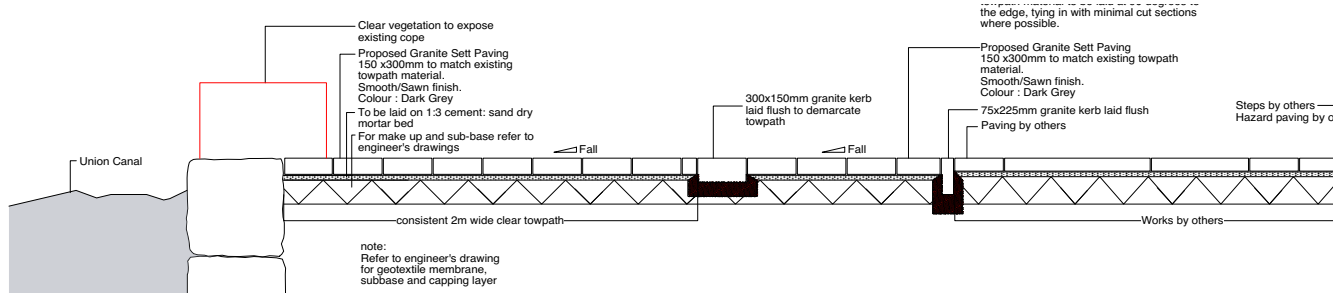
Other Developments Proposed

- Boroughmuir School
Proposed Material:
Granite Paved Footway.
150mm wide x 300 to 600 varying lengths.
Matrix of Light grey and Dark grey.
- Boroughmuir School
Proposed Material:
Granite Paved Entrance Square. 300mm wide x 300 to 900 varying lengths.
Matrix of grey colours.

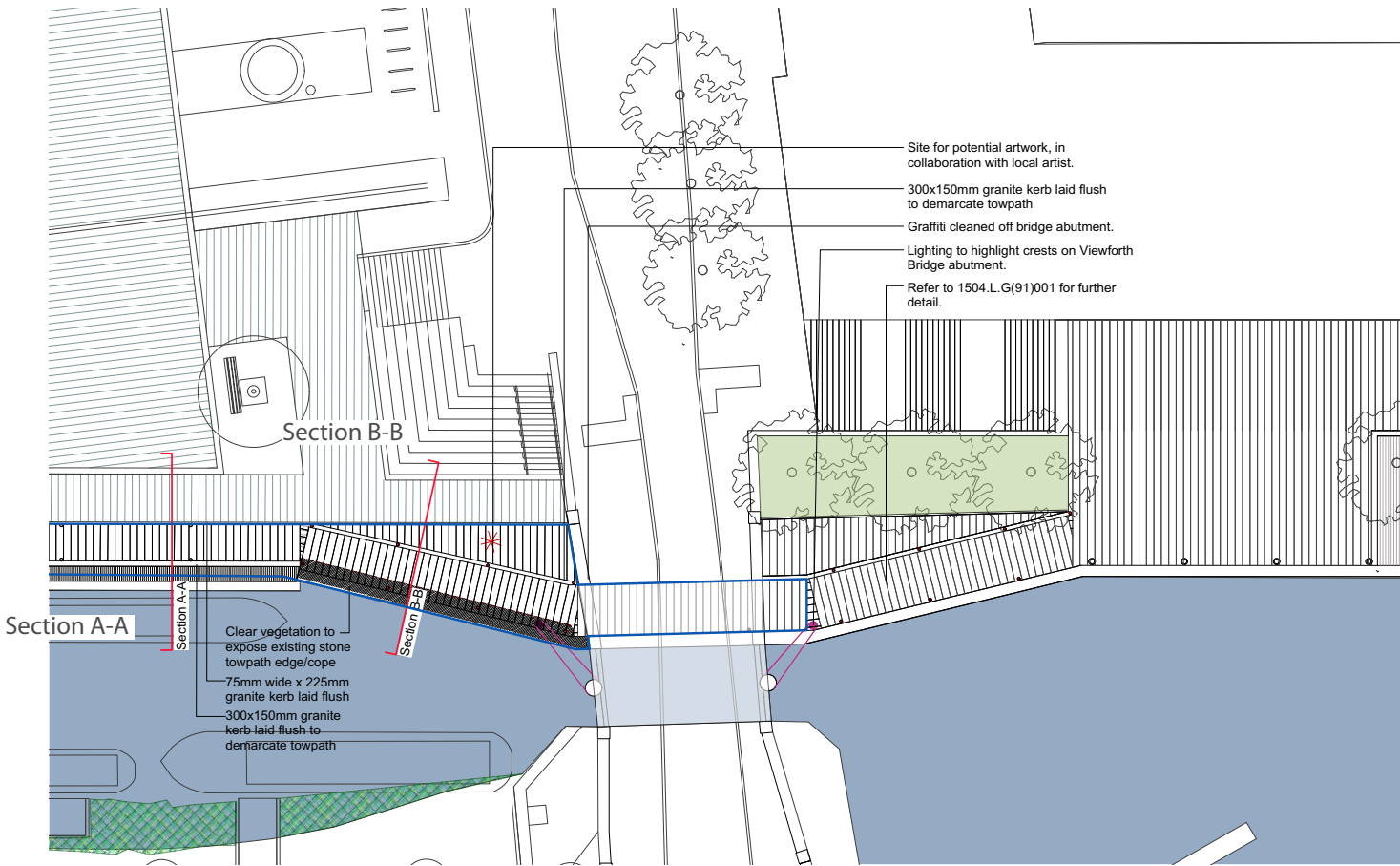
Gibson Terrace to Viewforth Bridge - Detailed Areas



Section A-A

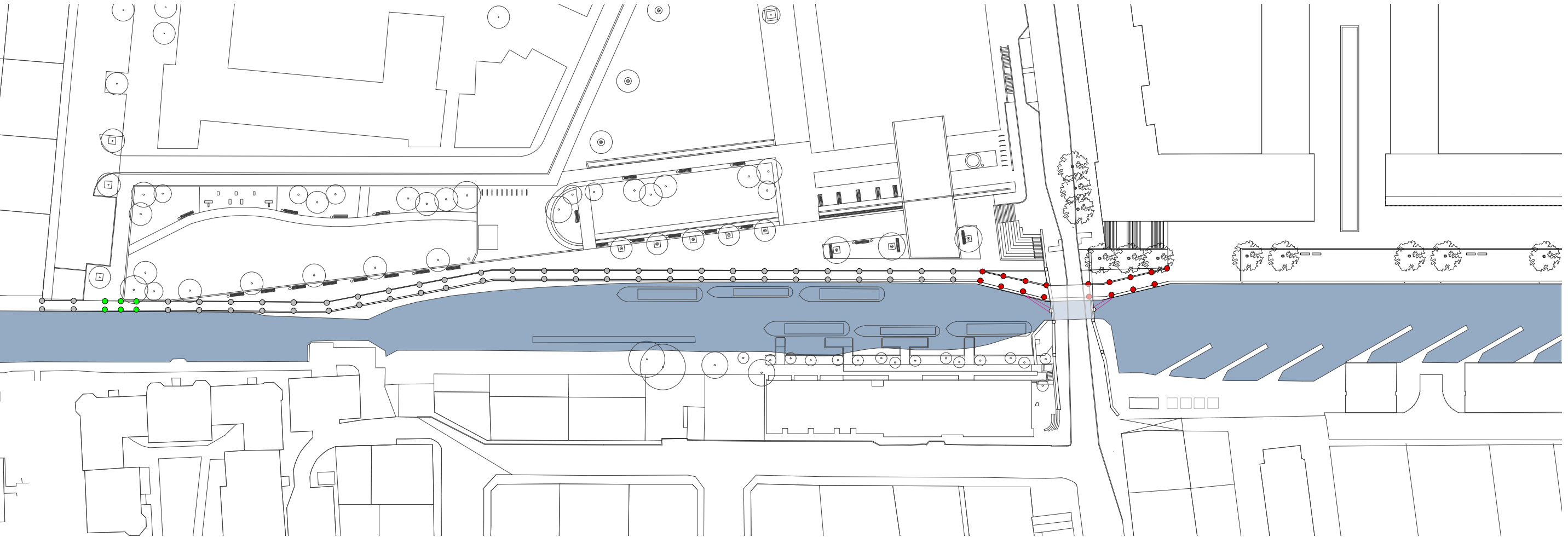


Section B-B



Detailed Area

Gibson Terrace to Viewforth Bridge - Lighting Strategy



Viewforth Bridge



Edinburgh Coat of Arms



Glasgow Coat of Arms

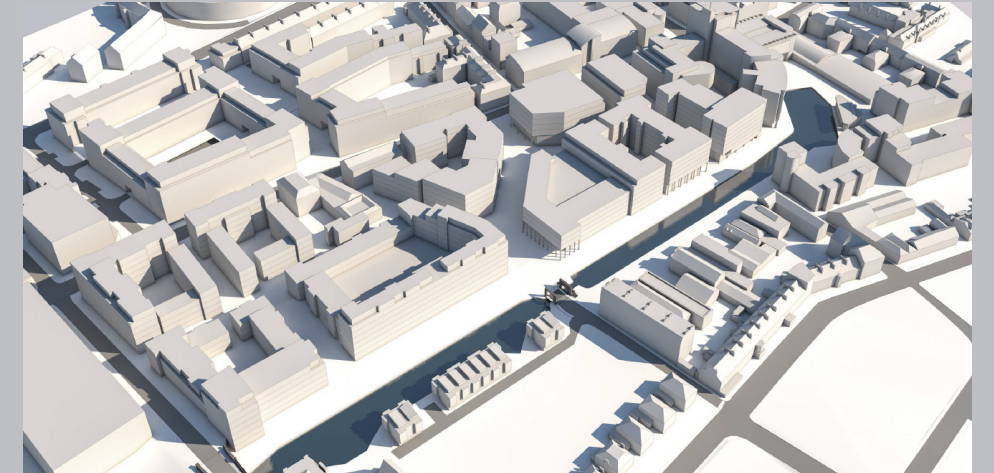
Current Proposal for Union Canal-Fountainbridge Masterplan

Proposed high quality environmental improvements to Union Canal Towpath, incorporating key public realm spaces associated with existing bridge crossings



7N Masterplan Visualisation of Union Canal Development

Overall Proposed Developments Model



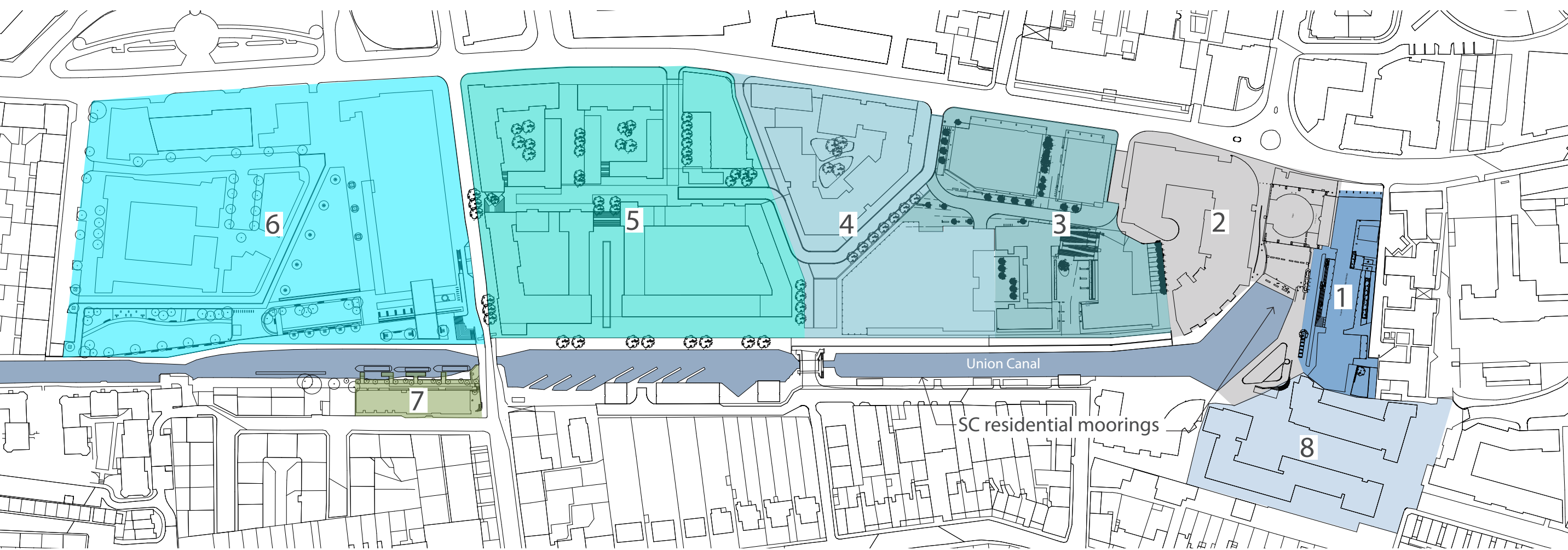
Michael Laird Architects and Rankinfraser Freer Street Masterplan Proposal



Visualisation by Michael Laird Architect

Surrounding Developments

Developments Surrounding Union Canal



Development Locations

- 1 Old Bingo Hall: VFS Student Homes: Michael Laird Architects, rankinfraser Landscape Architects. Developer :VFS
- 2 Edinburgh Quay: Existing. Developer :Edinburgh Quay
- 3 Freer Street: Michael Laird Architects, rankinfraser Landscape Architects. Developer : Apart Hotel
- 4 Fountain South East: 7N Architects (Overall Masterplan). Developer :EDI
- 5 Fountain South Central: 7N Architects (Overall Masterplan). Developer :EDI
- 6 Fountain South West ; Boroughmuir School: Allan Murray Architects and John Richards Landscape Architects. Developer : CEC/Napier
- 7 Home Terrace Edinburgh: Comprehensive Design Architects
- 8 Knightsbridge Student Housing Development, Fletcher Joseph Architects

Existing and Proposed Materials

Existing Materials



NATURAL STONE PAVING

Varying in Size:
760 x 250mm,
450 x450mm,
500x250mm,
500x900mm



CANAL EDGE MATERIAL

Concrete Edging:
Ranging from
600mm to 900mm
wide.

Granite Setts:
150 x 300mm



BOLLARDS

Stainless steel



LIGHTING

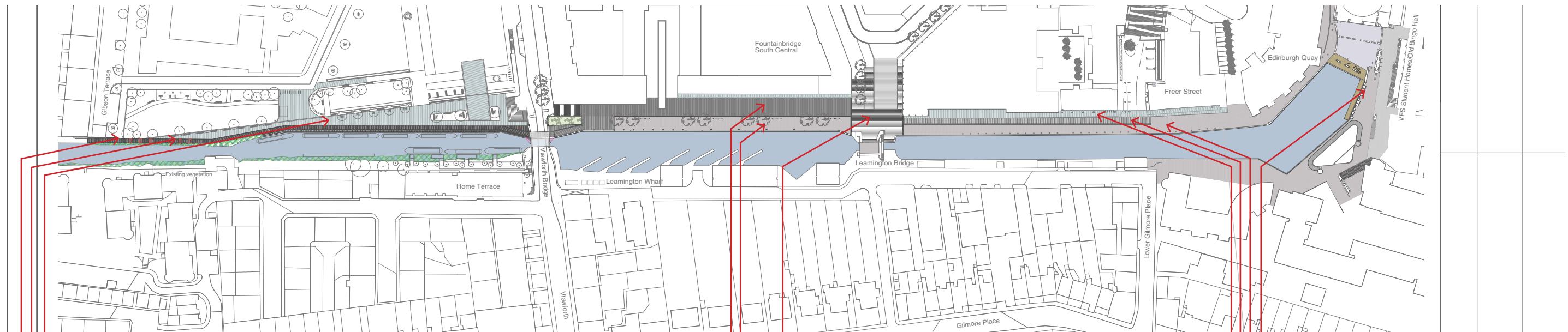
Varying coloured
lighting indicating
access points,
bridges and
towpath edges



SEATING

Mix use of
concrete , timber,
stainless steel and
powder coated
street furniture in
place.

Proposed Materials



Fountainbridge South West: Boroughmuir



Granite Paving:
300mm wide x 300 to
900mm varying lengths.
150mm wide x 300 to
600mm varying lengths.
Granite kerb 300mm
wide at random lengths
450-950mm



Granite kerb 75mm
wide at random lengths
450-950mm



Granite Sett Paving
150 x300mm to match
existing towpath material.
Smooth/Sawn finish.
Colour : Dark Grey

Granite Paving
Blue grey hues to tie into proposed
developments and existing granite sett
paving colours

Granite setts
Warm grey hues to tie into existing
towpath colours

Scottish whin stone kerbs
250mm wide to tie into surrounding
proposed developments

Reconstituted stone /concrete paving
Warm grey and buff hues.

7N Masterplan

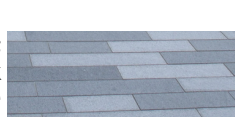


Location: Activity Zone;
Medium Granite Blocks, Colour: Silver/Mid
Grey/ Matrix, Surface Finish; Textured / fine
picked, Type; Granite.

Location: Towpath Shared Surface;
Small Granite Blocks, Colour: Mid/Dark
Grey/Matrix, Surface Finish; Textured / fine
picked, Type; Granite.

Location: Canal Towpath Activity Zone;
Existing Granite setts, Colour: As
existing, Surface Finish; As existing, Size:
150x300mm, Type; Granite.

Freer Street Proposal



Old Bingo Hall: VFS Student Homes:



Canal-side footway,
natural stone medium
slabs, to match Freer
Street Proposal.

Fountainbridge Road
Frontage to 125a
Entrance threshold, to
dimensions and colour
to match existing
surrounding type, natural
stone slabs.

Shared Surface, natural
stone small unit slabs,
to match Freer Street
proposal.

Feature paving, sett
paving to match existing
canal setts material.

Material Location Overview

Material Palette

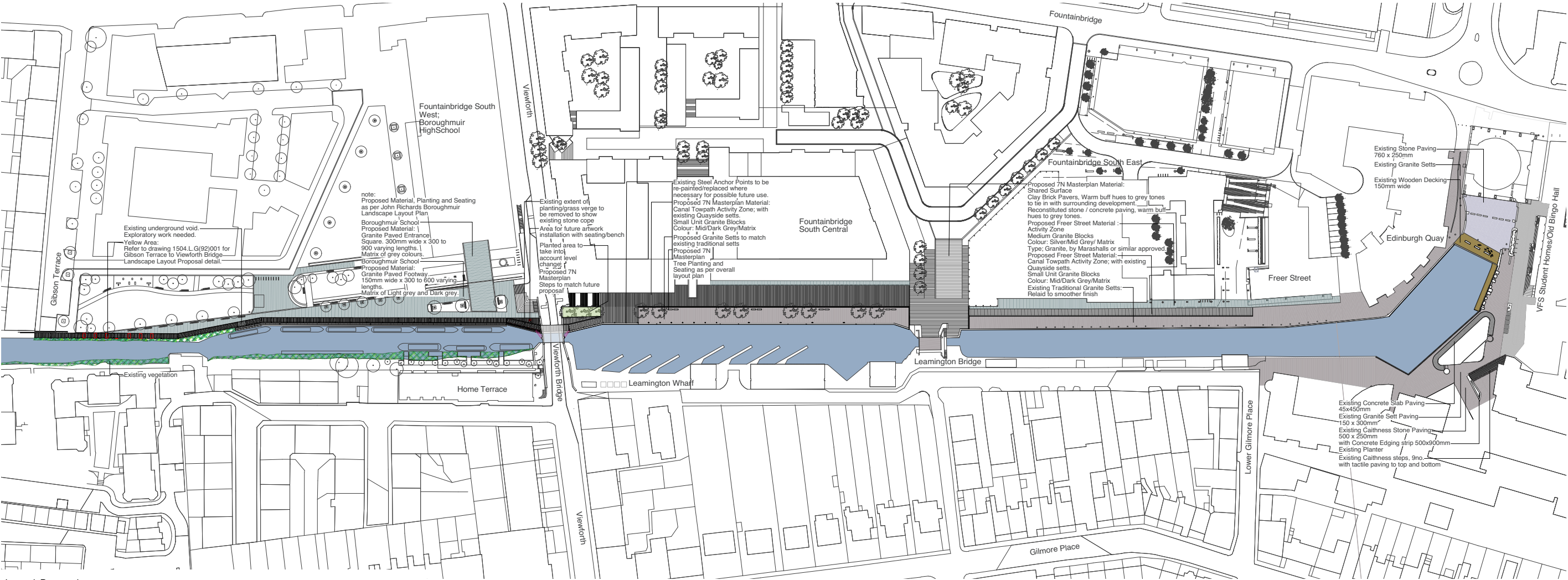


Material Attributes

- Existing traditional setts
- Existing traditional setts, re-laid to smoother finish
- Proposed setts to match existing traditional setts
- Flat topped granite setts
- Natural/Reconstituted stone paving
- Small Unit cropped granite cubes
- Timber

Towpath Strategy Overall Masterplan

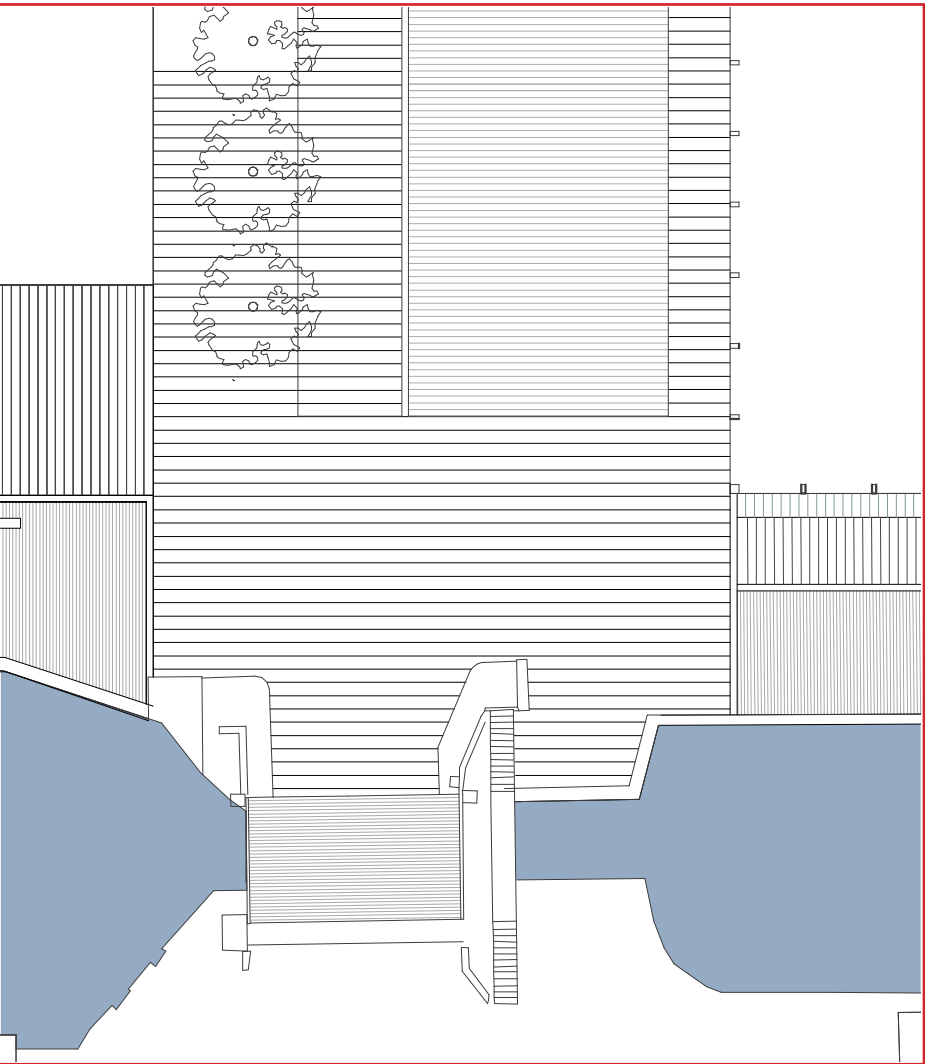
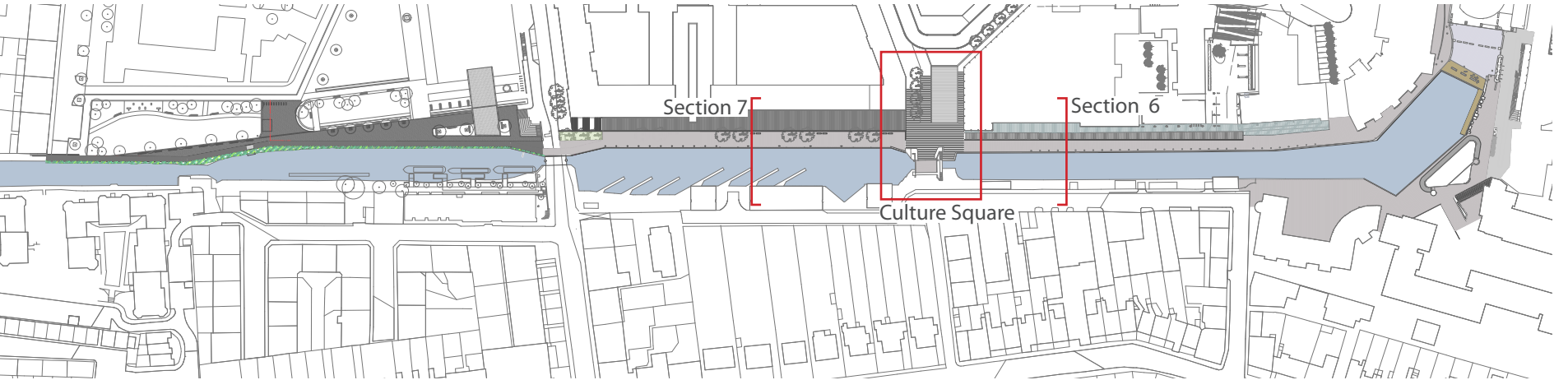
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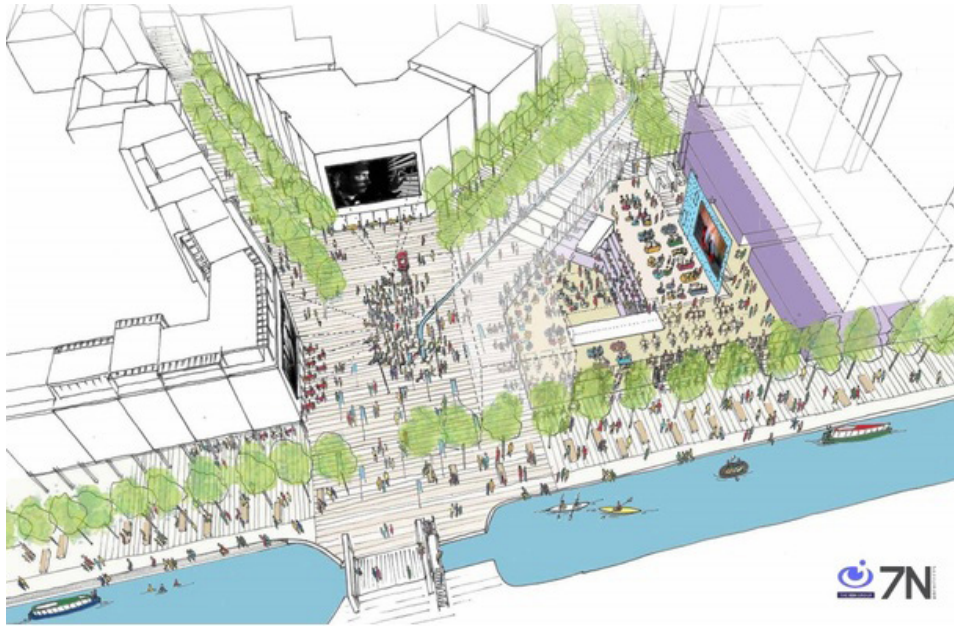
Legend: Proposed

- Union Canal
- Existing Towpath Granite Setts, refer to plan for location
- Existing Proposed Development Stone Paving, refer to plan for proposal
- Existing Timber Decking, refer to plan for location
- Towpath Granite Edge, refer to plan for proposal
- Towpath Granite Edge to New Developments, refer to plan for proposal
- Towpath Lighting, to tie in with existing lighting strategy. Astucia or similar approved.
- Up Light: Proposed feature Lighting to highlight bridge crests, to be undertaken in collaboration with local artist
- Existing planted verge to be maintained as ecological corridor.
- Planted area to take into account level change

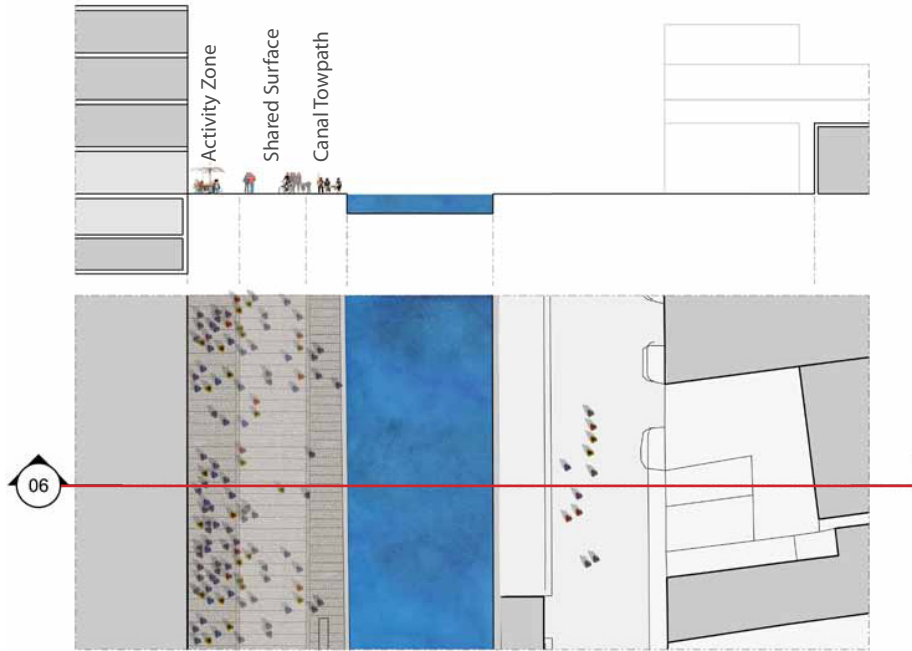
Towpath Strategy - Detailed Areas



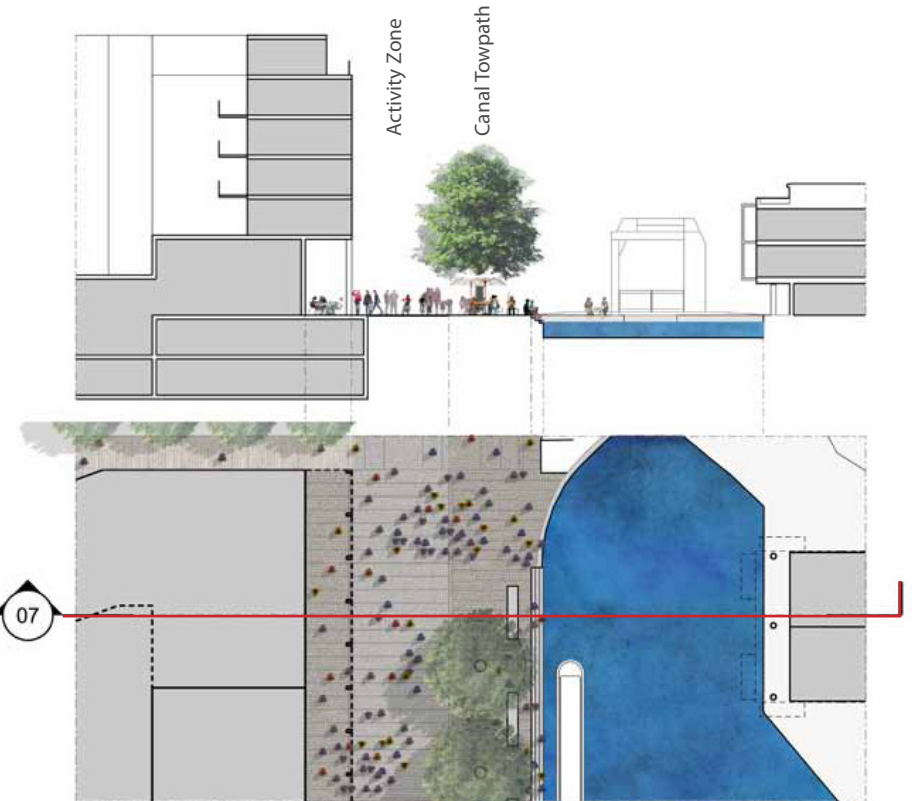
Culture Square
Details to be developed by EDI developer team.



Culture Square 7N Plan/Visualisation



Section 6 - 7N Masterplan Layout Sections



Section 7 - 7N Masterplan Layout Sections

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