

What is Ilford Arrival?

Ilford Arrival is a project by Redbridge Council to improve the quality, quantity and access to public realm within and adjacent to Ilford Town Centre. It also aims to enhance climate resilience and broaden authorship of these spaces though exemplar engagement. A strategy report was prepared in 2024 which identified a series of projects across the Town Centre; proposals presented here are part of the first phase of works.

These early works will bring forward proposals across three sites and have been developed through a gender-informed process working closely with a dedicated Co-Client group and community steering group.

The proposals presented in this consultation event present an opportunity for public commentary as the team develop the design towards a planning application.

The planning application will comprise three projects:

- 01 - York Road Pocket Park & Bridge
- 02 - River Roding Path West
- 03 - River Roding Path South

The principal project funders are Redbridge Council and the Mayor of London, the consultant team working on the design is led by Periscope, key stakeholders include, Network Rail, River Roding Trust, Thames 21 and Transport for London.



Aerial view, Google Earth, 01.06.2025



Ilford Arrival Phase 1 Planning Application Boundary

Engagement Process

From the outset, engagement and co-creation have been an integral part of Ilford Arrival, working with the local community to shape the design brief and our design thinking. To date the team has conducted 15+ engagement events, workshops or co-design sessions with Ilford residents. The four core engagement groups below have shared their lived experiences, reflecting the needs and desires of Ilford residents:

Co-Client Team

A group of local young women who sit alongside LB Redbridge in creating a design brief which addresses their needs, who hold the design team accountable for meeting it.

Community Co-Creators

Community members (i.e. sports associations or individuals with physical impairments) with vested interests in the project, reflecting their specific and complex needs.

Local Schools

Co-creation with two Ilford Schools:

- Ursuline Academy Year 9 students
- Highlands Primary School, Year 3-6 ambassadors.

Neighbours & Residents

- Immediate neighbours to the proposed York Road Pocket Park.
- Local and adjacent businesses.

Safety for young women and girls is of particular importance to the Ilford Arrival project. The co-client team have been recruited to inform the project with their own lived experience of unequal access to public space in and around Ilford. They have been working alongside LB Redbridge to shape Ilford Arrival in a way that reflects their needs. They're empowered to influence decisions, drive change, and ensure the project delivers lasting impact.

Together with engagement specialist Diverse Dialogues the Co-client team has authored the project briefing principles (below). The principles are embedded within the design brief, locking-in the early priorities set by the engagement process and becoming criteria by which the Co-client team can appraise the project as it develops.

Safety First

People Want
to be Here

Somewhere
for Everyone

Quality
Materials
Matter

A Well-Lit
Environment

Connection to
Nature

Playful
and Sensory
Places

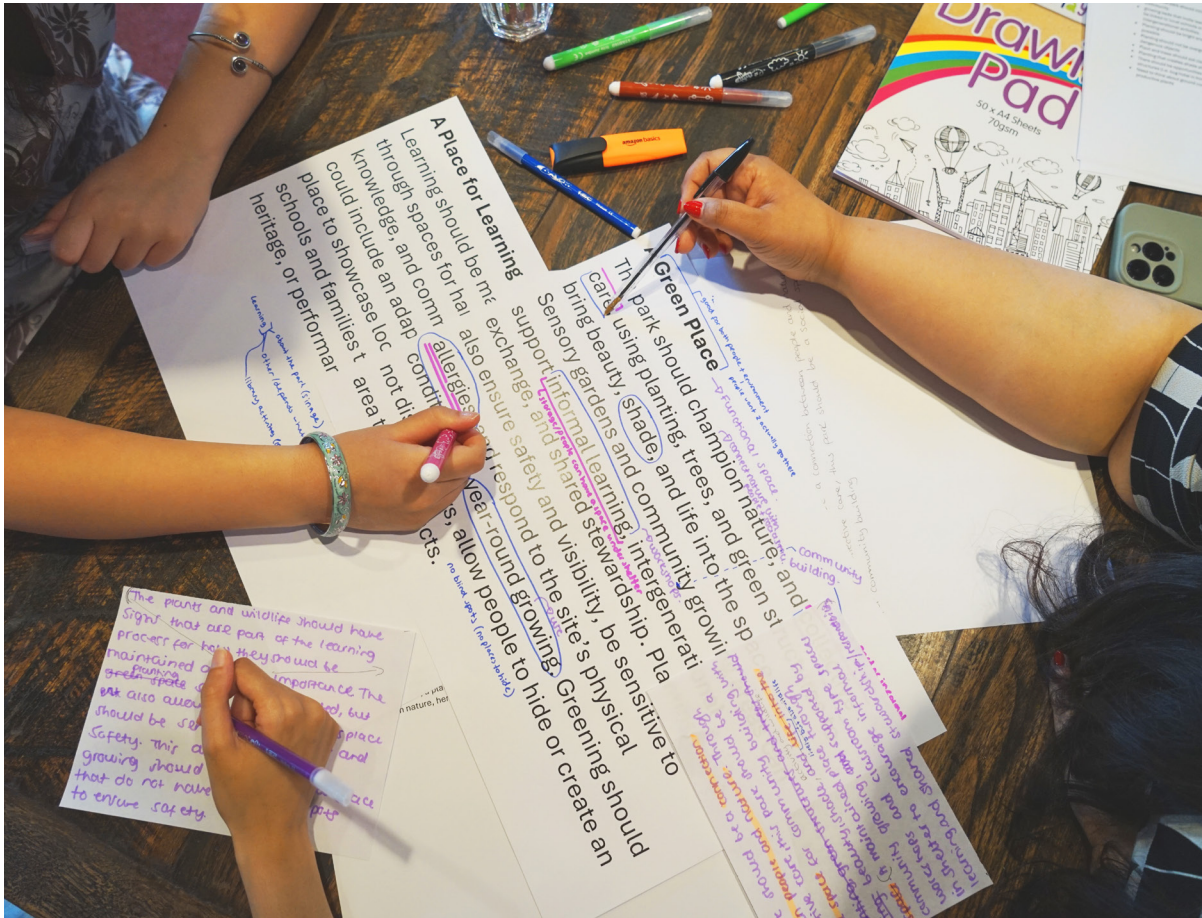
Inclusive
Learning

A
Representative
Space

Co-client briefing principles



Session 01: Brief Writing (spring 2025)



Session 02: Brief Finalisation (spring 2025)



Session 03: Ursuline Academy (spring 2025)



Session 04: Highlands School (summer 2025)



Session 05: Community Co-Creation (summer 2025)



Session 06: Stage 1 Co-client Review (summer 2025)



Session 07: Ilford Design Festival (summer 2025)



Session 08: Bridge Study Visit (summer 2025)



Session 09: Technical Lighting Workshop (autumn 2025)



Session 10: Co-Client Stage 02 Review (autumn 2025)



Session 12: Co-Design with Ursuline Academy (winter 2025)



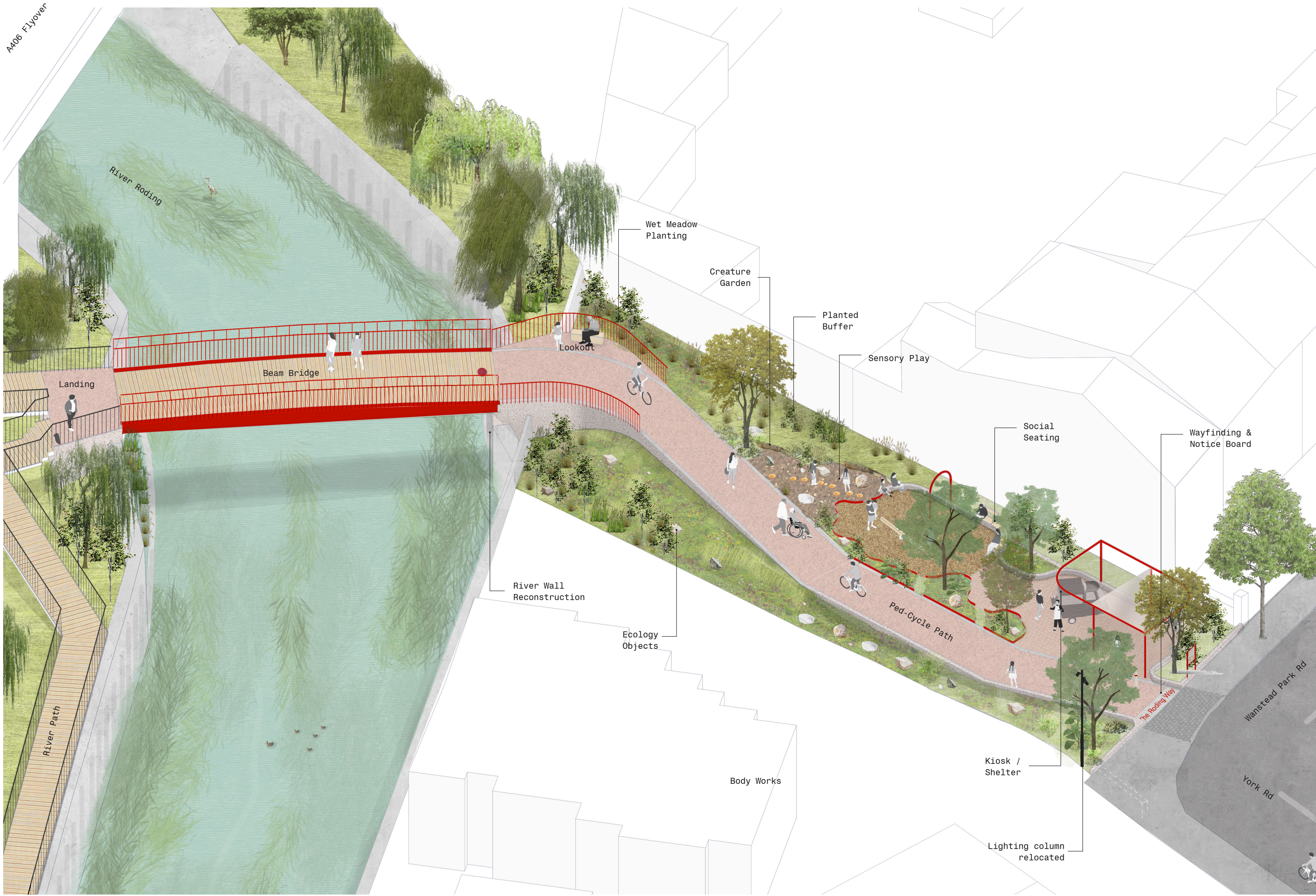
Session 14: Co-client Lighting Workshop (summer 2026)

York Road Pocket Park and Bridge

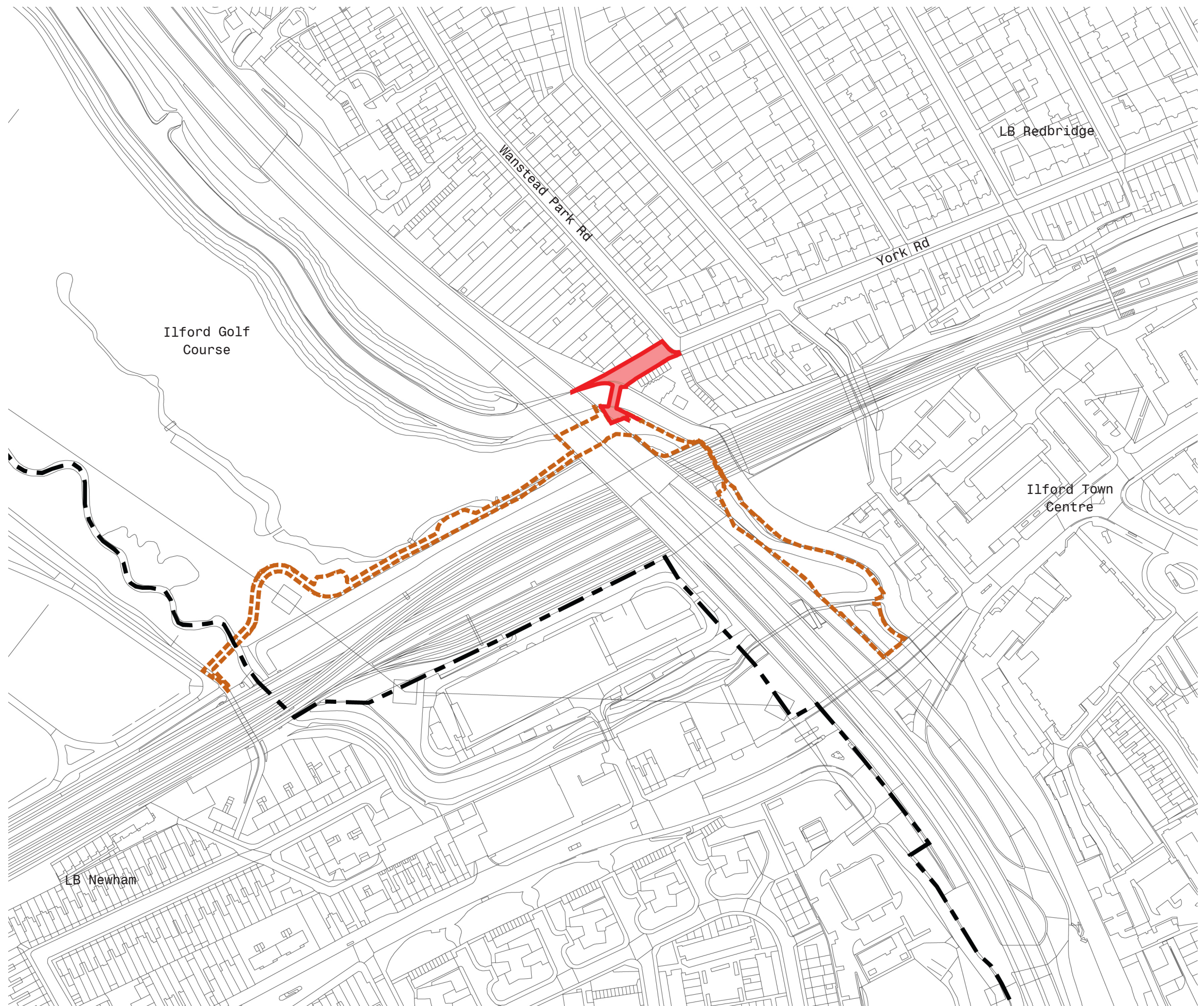
The York Road Pocket Park and Bridge will be the key first component of Ilford Arrival, a gateway to the River Roding and bridge crossing which will provide safer and more direct public access to green spaces from Ilford Town Centre. A pedestrian and cycle bridge will be accessed via a gently sloping path running through the site, with small activity areas for the local community. These spaces have been co-designed by local schools and community groups, and include a kiosk structure, social seating and creature garden. The bridge has been designed collaboratively with the co-client team as a new landmark for the Borough. The structure and balustrade are designed to support a feeling of visual lightness and openness.

Outputs and Outcomes:

- >823 m² overall public realm created
- Expanding access to open green space within 5-10 minutes walk from Ilford town centre
- Co-designed pocket park with elements including social seating, kiosk, creature garden and wayfinding
- 10+ trees planted
- Passive drainage strategy with mostly permeable surfaces
- 'Art-wall', with future commission for a local artist
- River wall reconstruction with in-river biodiversity enhancements and increased flood capacity
- 17m x 4.3m shared pedestrian-cycle bridge
- Utilities including CCTV, lighting and river level gauge



Proposed pocket park, axonometric diagram



- - Borough Boundary
● Project Boundary
- - Contingent Projects



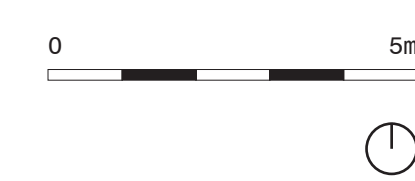
Proposed pocket park entrance view



Proposed bridge landing view



- KEY:
- L001 - Brick Paving
 - L002 - Exposed Aggregate In-Situ Cast Concrete
 - L003 - Bound Rubber Mulch Play Surface
 - L004 - Non-slip GRP Planks
 - L005 - Resin Bound Gravel Continuous Surface
 - L210 - Meadow Mix Dry
 - L211 - Geotextile Reinforced Slope with Wet Planting
 - L212 - Dense Wet Planting
 - L213 - Creature Garden
 - L214 - Sensory Planting
 - 5m offset from A406 Flyover Piers

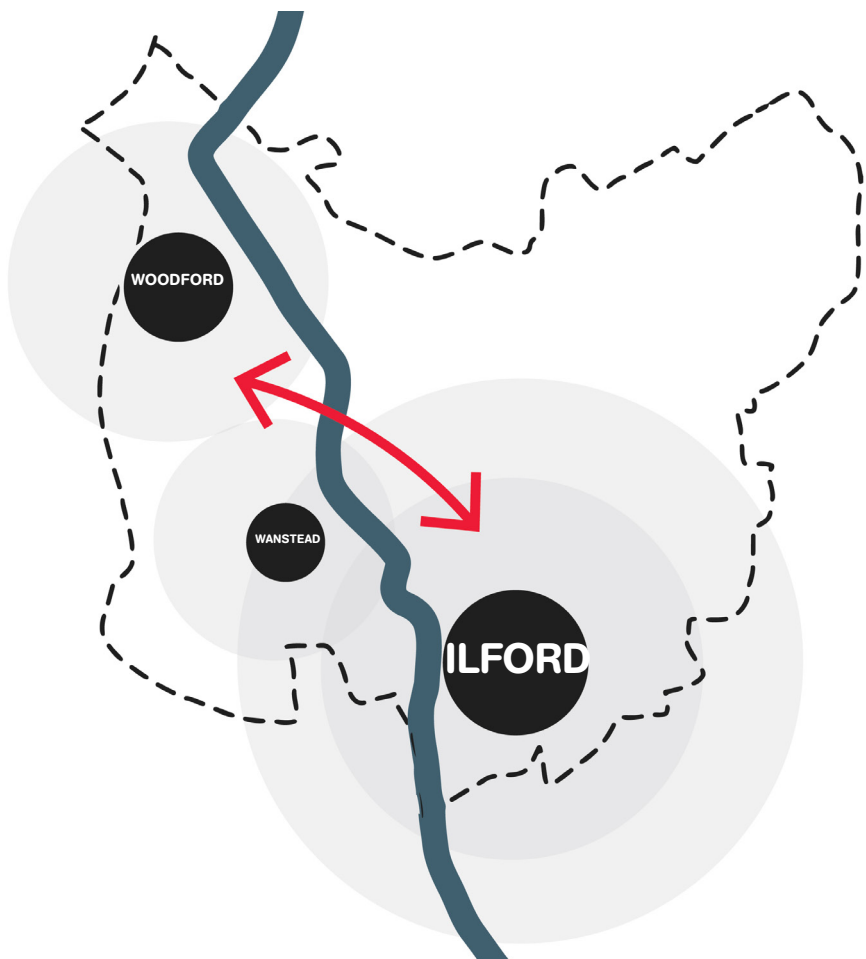


River Roding Bridge

The colour and materials of the proposed bridge take inspiration from the heritage of the London Borough of Redbridge, it having united the towns of Ilford, Wanstead and Woodford. The historic 17th Century ‘red bridge’ - named for its brick construction - was a vital link between these towns across the Roding. The bridge is proposed as a 17m x 4m tapered beam deck structure, spanning the Roding at a channelised bend in the river. The structure provides for ease of construction on a highly constrained site and allows for more balustrade transparency to enhance openness and safety.



The historic ‘red bridge’ (Redbridge Archive)



The River Roding connects the towns of Redbridge



Testing bridge widths with Ursuline Academy (spring 2025)



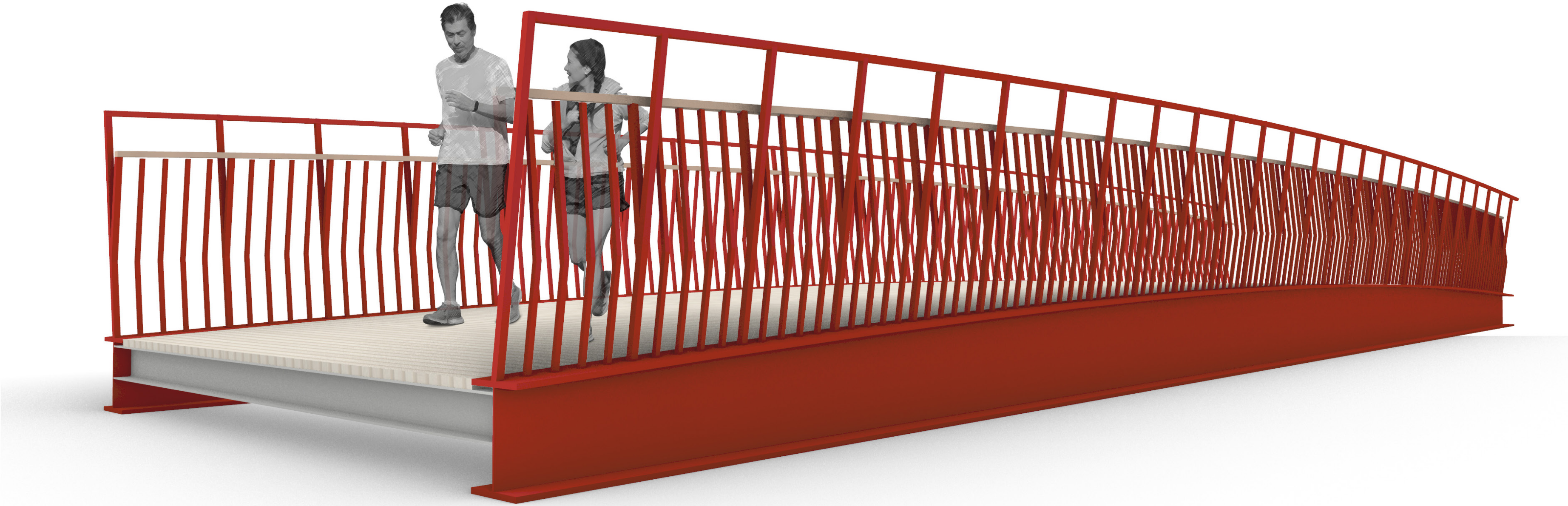
Co-Client bridge case-study visit to Hackney Wick (summer 2025)



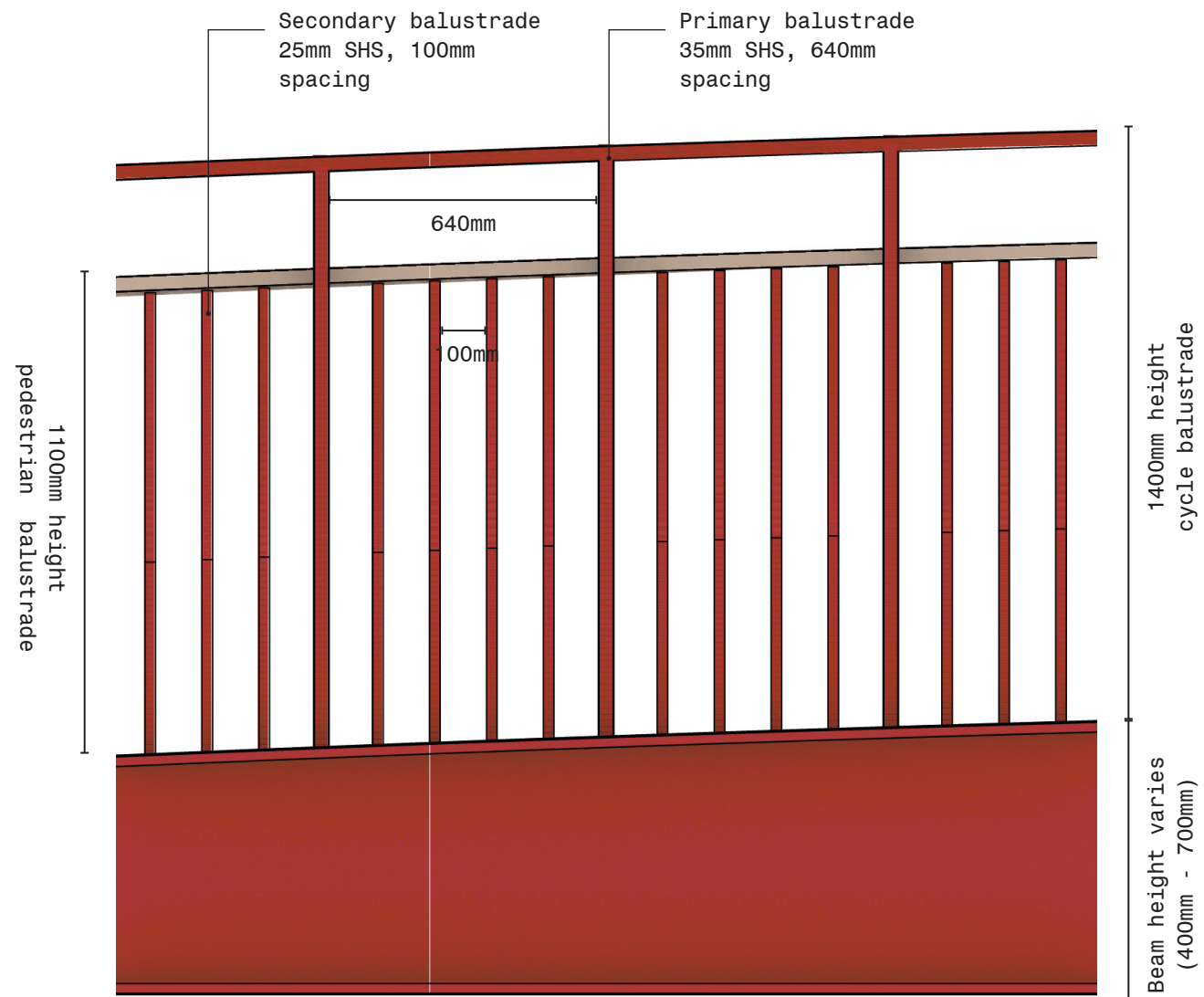
The community co-creators selected RAL 3020 as the bridge colour in summer 2026



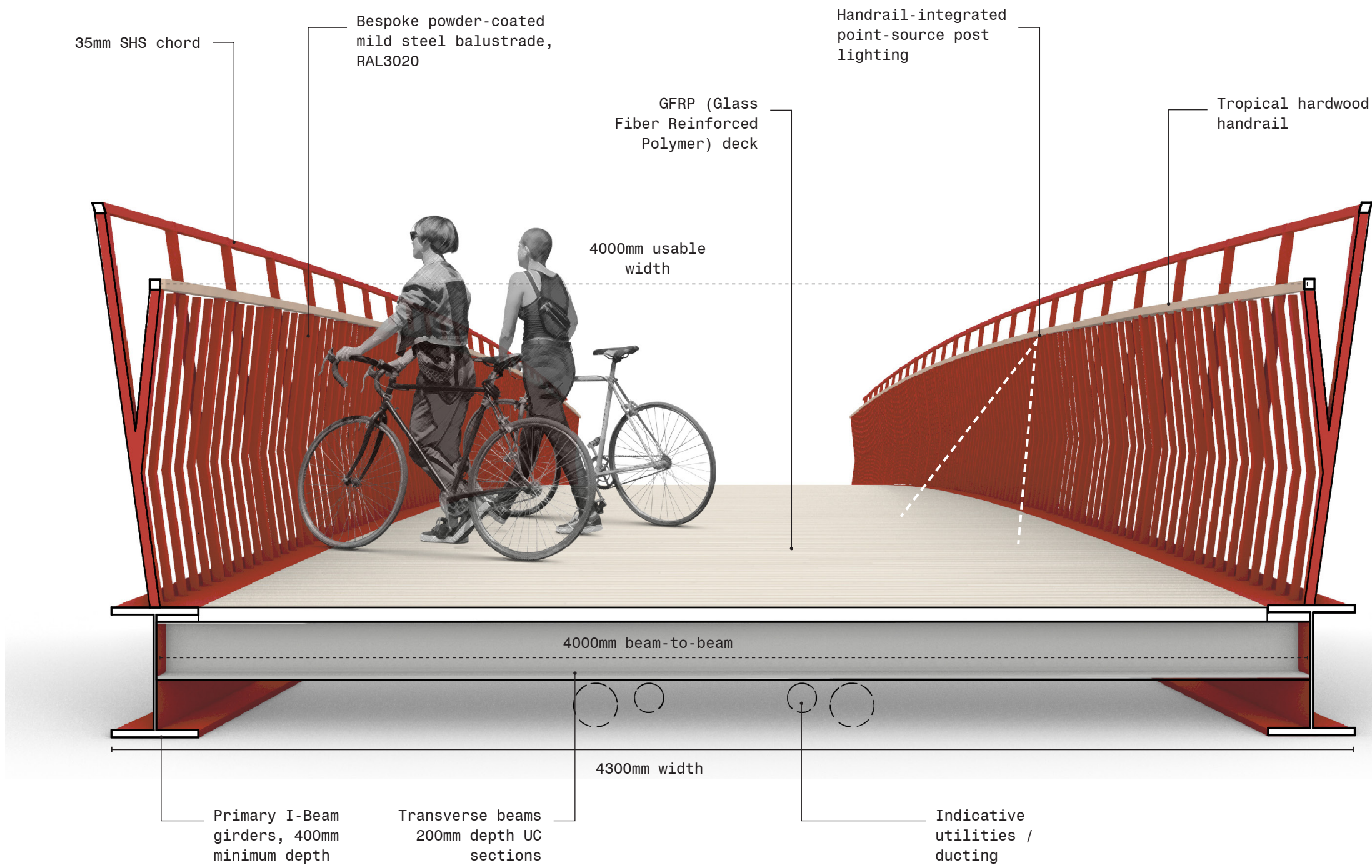
Co-Client bridge case-study visit to Canada Water (summer 2025)



Perspective view of proposed bridge



Elevation detail of proposed bridge



Section of proposed bridge

River Roding Path West



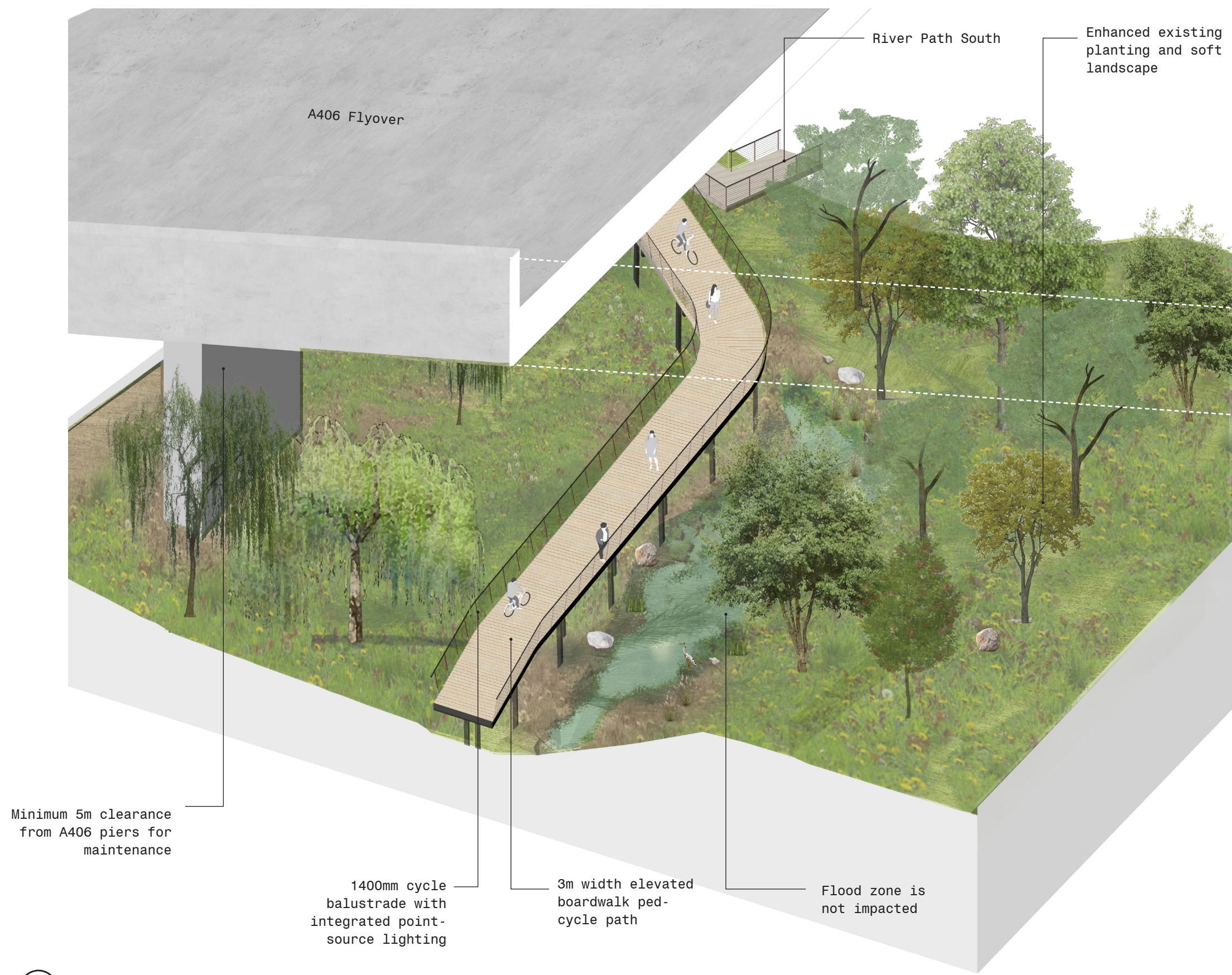
The River Roding Path West will expand cycle and pedestrian access from Ilford Town Centre to the wider River Roding valley, enhancing local mobility, wellbeing and the perception and ecological value of the River Roding. This western segment will connect York Road to the existing River Roding Way, bypassing the longer route via Romford Road, and opening up access to Wanstead Park, Wanstead Flats and beyond.

The proposal consists of a series of raised boardwalks and at-grade paths along the southern edge of Ilford Golf Club. Lighting and wayfinding signage are proposed to enhance safety, promoting access for all.

Outputs and Outcomes*:

- ~380m linear 3m-width ped-cycle path created
- Boardwalk and bound-gravel path segments
- <1.62ha associated landscape improvement works
- Increased surface water attenuation capacity (SuDS)
- Security fencing to Golf Club and Network Rail / Transport for London infrastructure

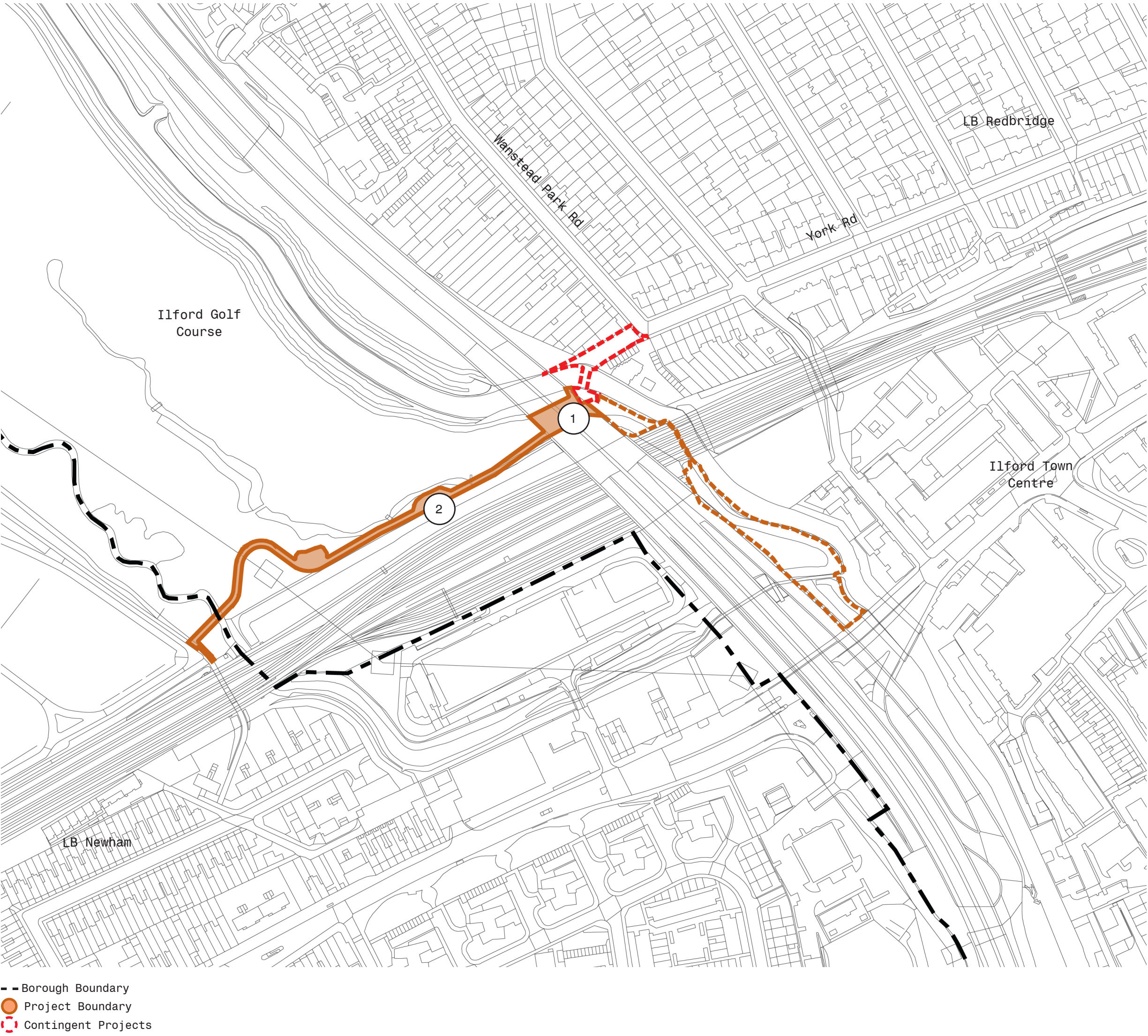
*Outputs, outcomes and areas are subject to ongoing design development.



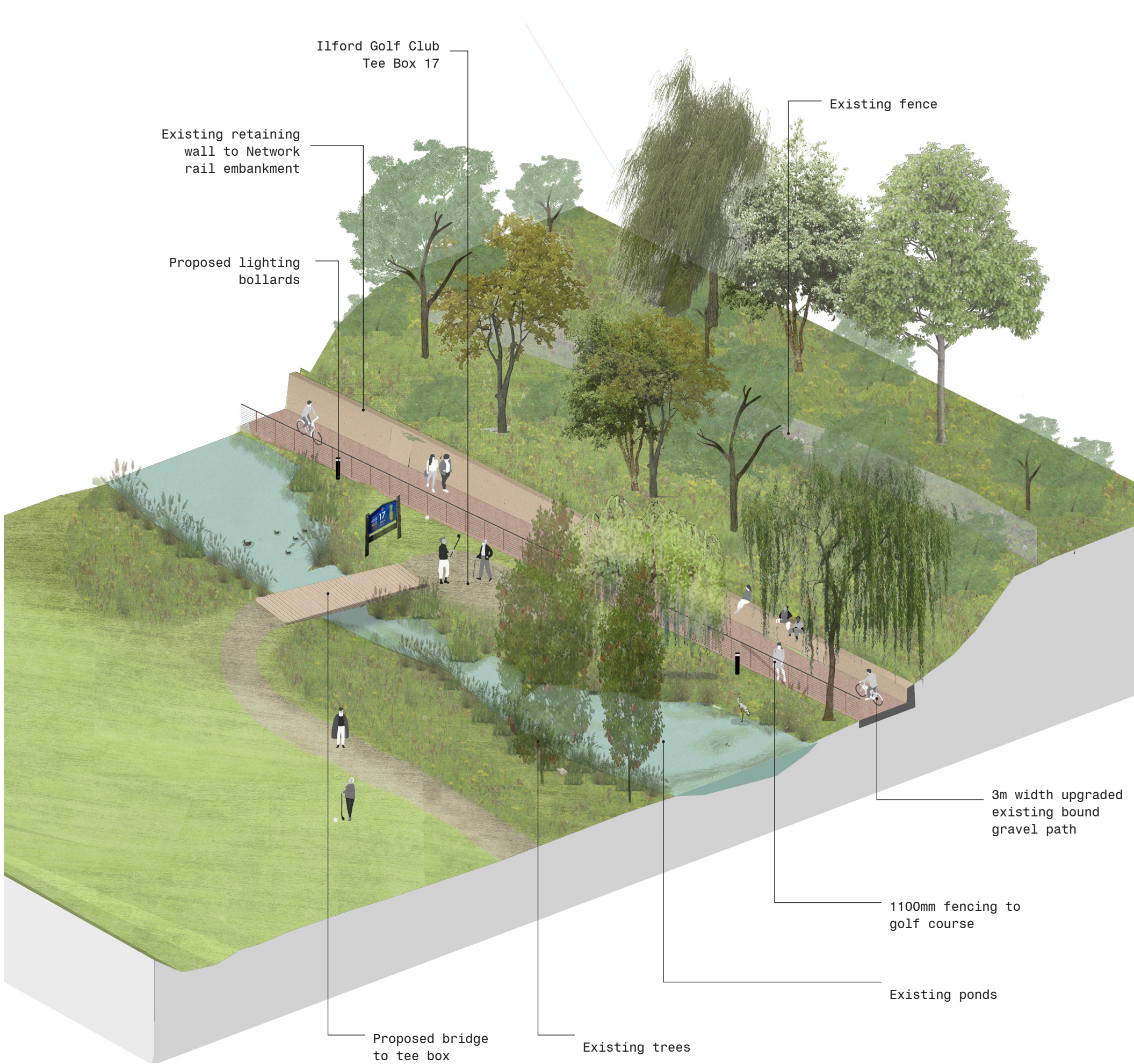
Existing condition underneath A406 flyover



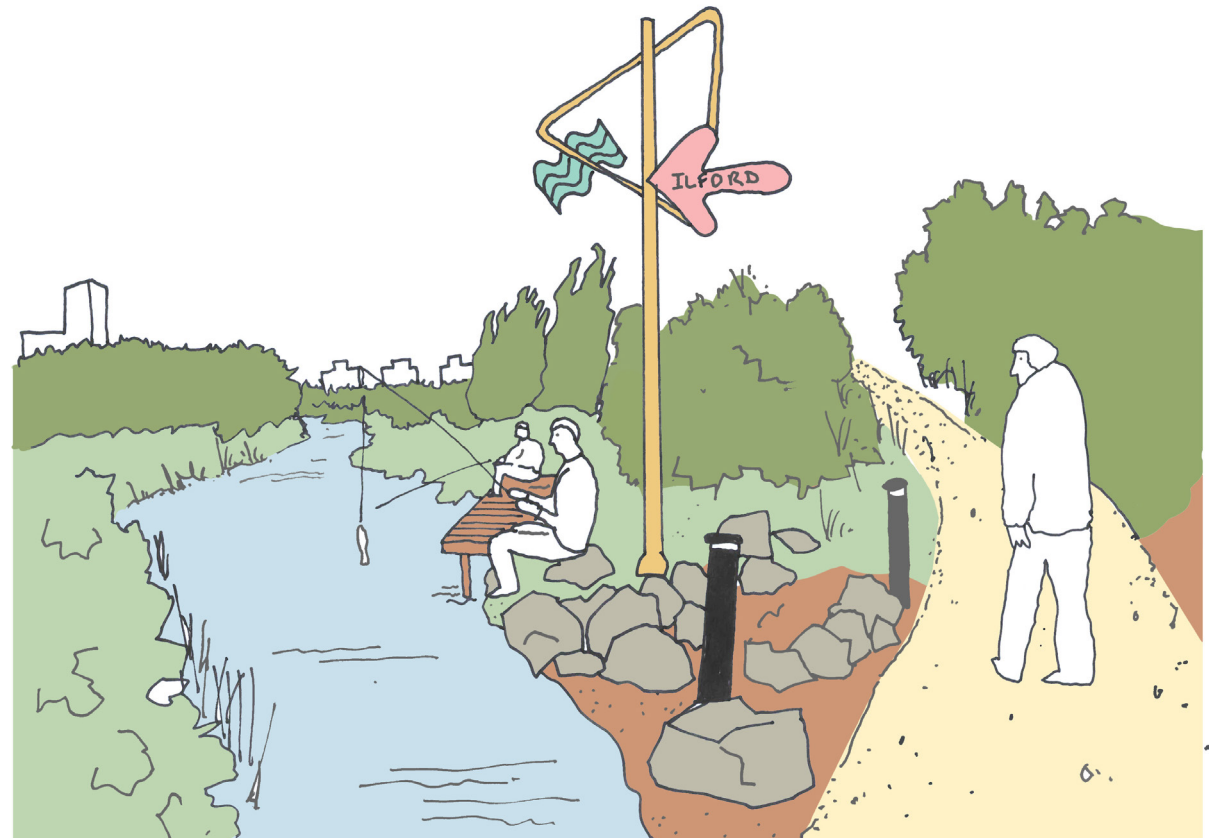
Existing path to south of Ilford Golf Course



1 Axonometric illustration of proposed boardwalk under A406 flyover



2 Axonometric illustration of proposed river path to south of golf course



Sketch of proposed path character alongside ponds



Sketch of proposed boardwalk character

River Roding Path South



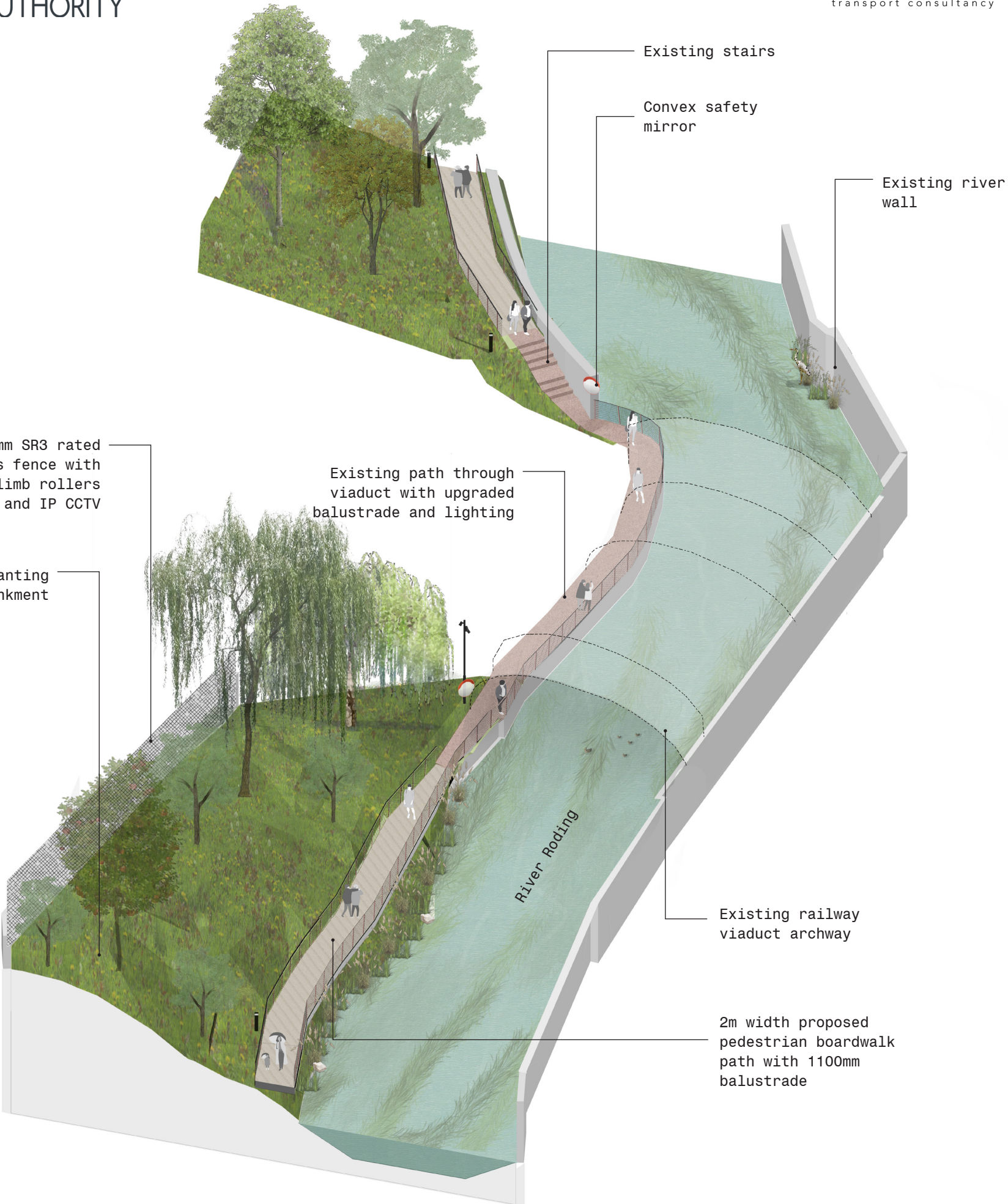
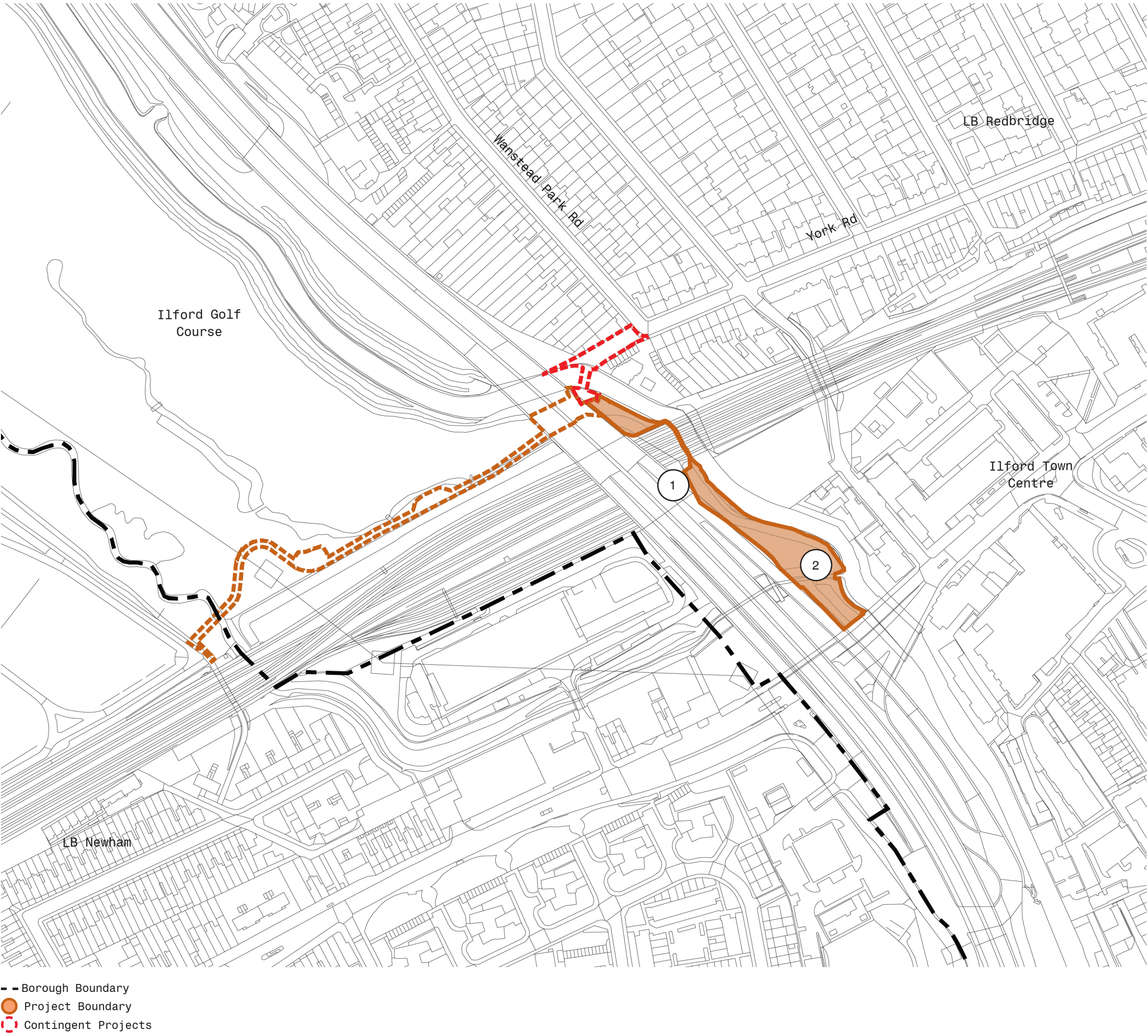
Connecting York Road to Ilford Hill, the River Path South will be a pedestrian route that reintroduces the Roding to the Town Centre. The path will create direct access from Ilford Hill to the River Roding Way, circumventing the route via Mill Road, which is heavily congested, dangerous and not fit for safe pedestrian use.

The River Roding Path South will be a boardwalk structure that follows the river’s edge. Users’ safety is prioritised by creating wide views along the river, with lighting enabling after-dark use. The route also makes use of an existing pathway underneath the railway viaduct, opening up access to Ilford’s hidden Victorian infrastructure.

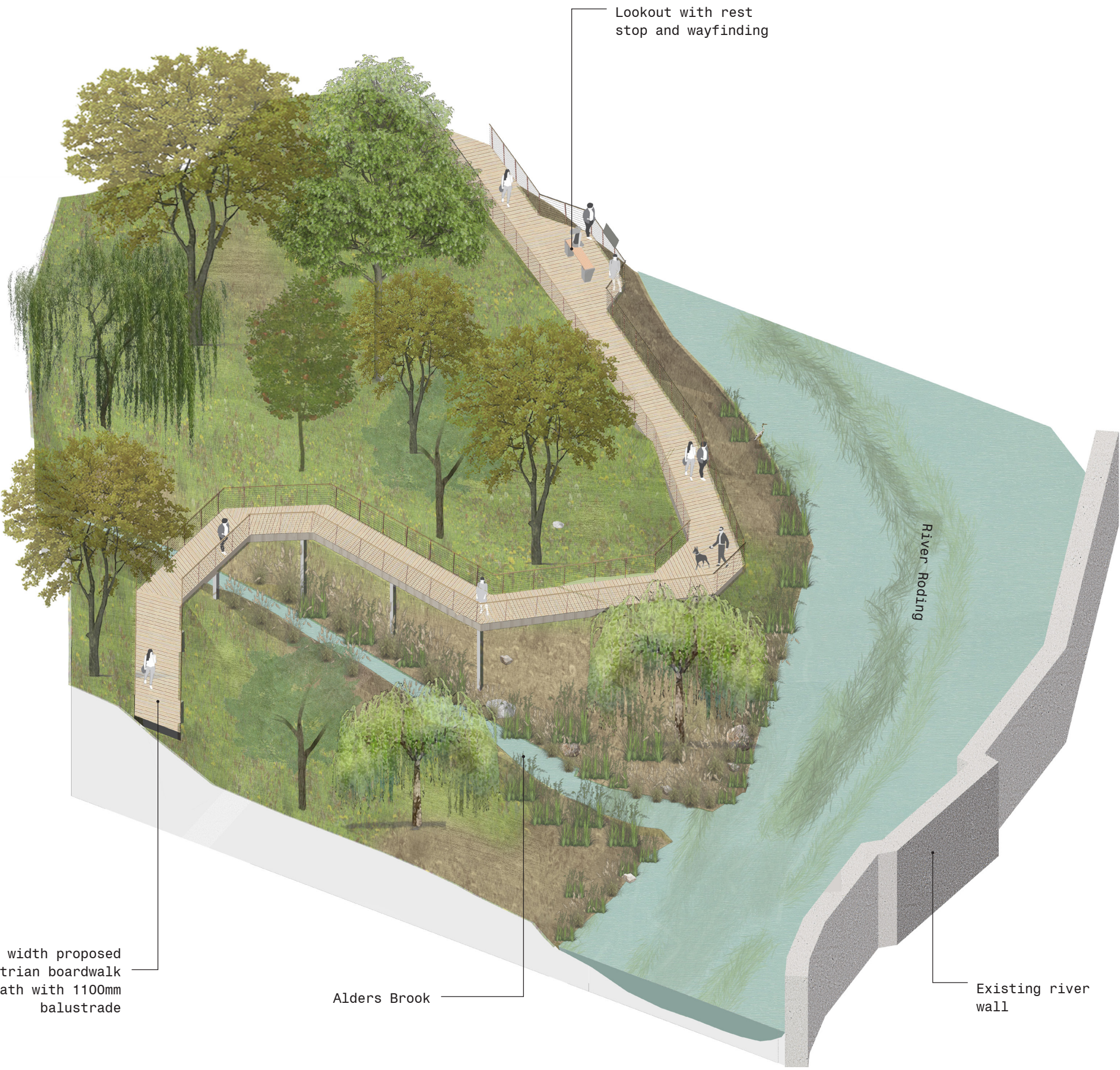
Outputs and Outcomes*:

- ~280m linear pedestrian path created
- Boardwalk
- <0.66ha associated landscape improvement works
- Increased surface water attenuation capacity (SuDS)
- Security fencing to Golf Club and Network Rail infrastructure
- Bridge segments over Alders Brook
- Removal of invasive species from river embankment.

*Outputs, outcomes and areas are subject to ongoing design development.



1 Axonometric illustration of proposed river path through railway viaduct



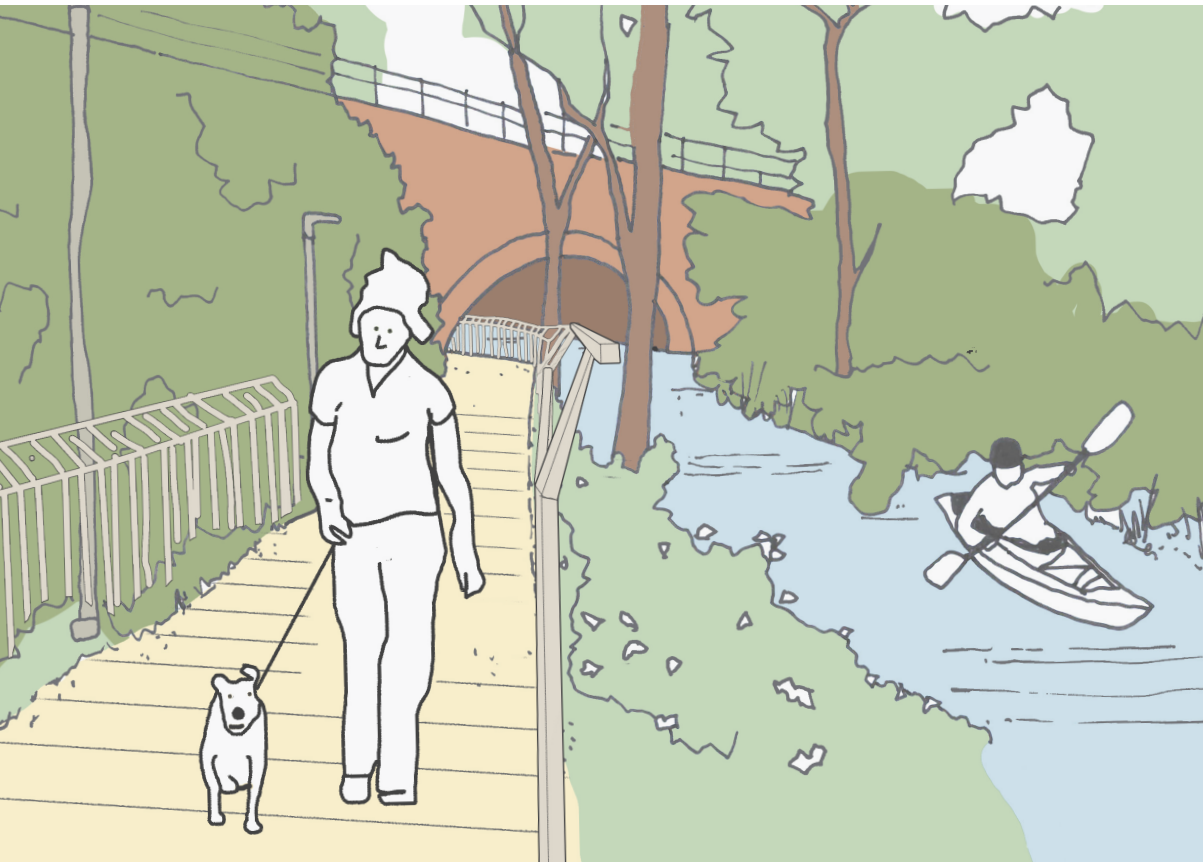
2 Axonometric illustration of proposed river path, crossing the confluence of the Roding and Alders Brook



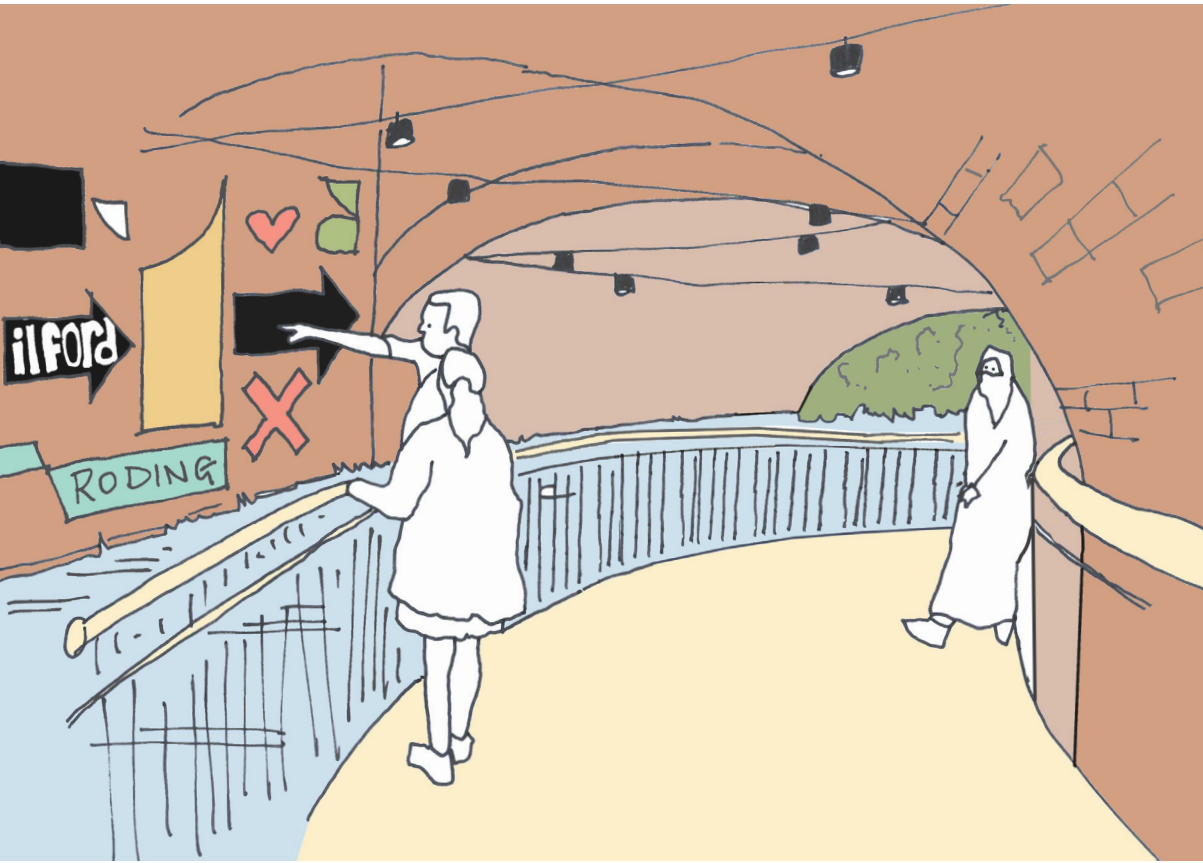
River Roding embankment from Ilford Hill, as existing



Approach to railway viaduct, as existing



Proposed character of approach to railway viaduct



Proposed character of path underneath railway viaduct



KEY:

- Timber Boardwalk Path
- At-grade Self-Binding Gravel Path
- Bridge Deck
- Balustrade / Fencing
- Wayfinding & Signage
- Lighting Column / Bollard

0 50m

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Ilford Arrival Project: Have Your Say

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



We're excited to hear your thoughts on a series of proposed improvements taking place along the River Roding in Ilford, including a new pocket park, pedestrian bridge, and new river path at this site.

Come and have your say!
Saturday 18th July 2026
10:30am-4:30pm
Redbridge Town Hall
IG1 1DD

View our plans and provide feedback on designs at this drop-in event. For more information, visit the Let's Talk Redbridge 'Ilford Arrival' webpage.

