# HERITAGE AS PART OF THE PALIMPSEST

## Rethinking heritage at risk in London through an approach that is driven by the context

Sophie Koopman
4462793

Architectural Design Crossovers
Tutors: Ir. A. van der Meij, Dr. Ir. R. Cavallo, Ir. J. D. Fokkinga
P5 Presentation
24-06-2022

# TABLE OF CONTENT

**Introduction**

**Research set up**
- Research question
- Field of research: The Royal London Hospital

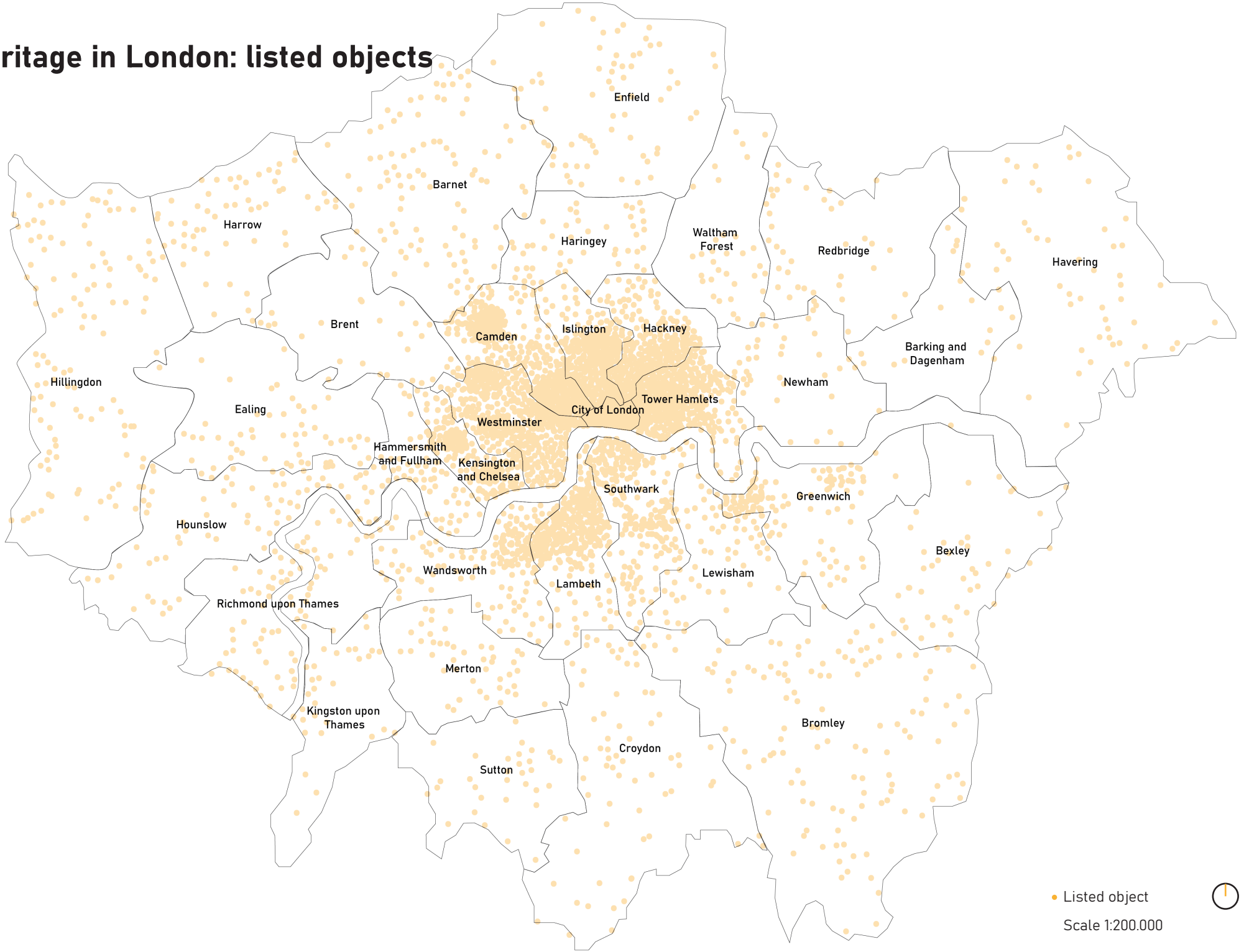
**Theoretical foundation**

**Application of the approach**
- Urban scale & building scale

**Conclusion and reflections**

# INTRODUCTION

# Heritage in London: listed objects



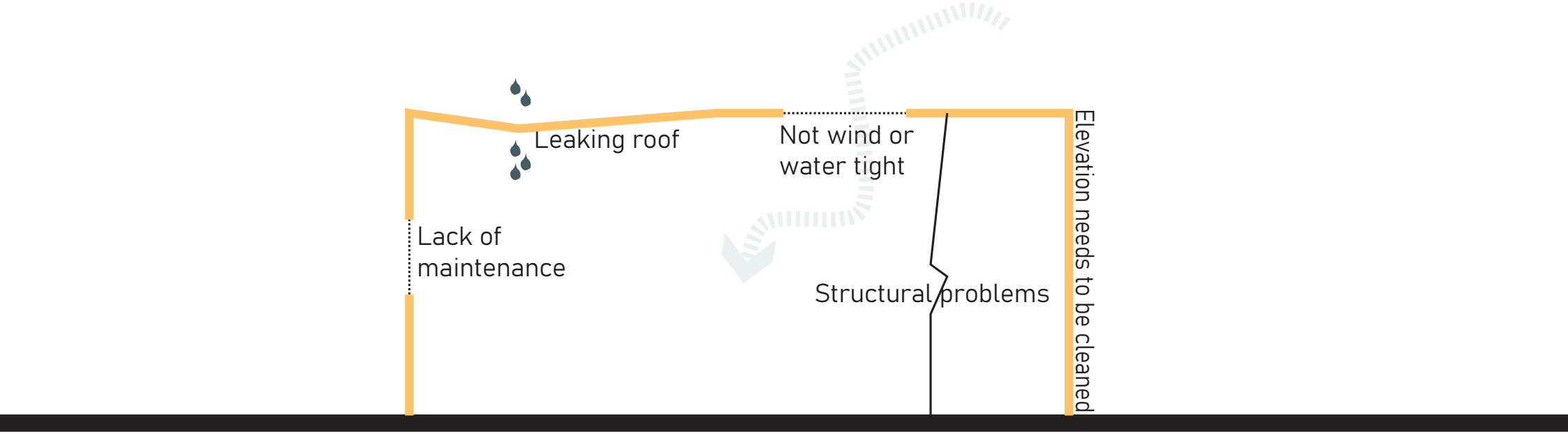
# Heritage in London: Heritage at Risk

**HERITAGE AT RISK**

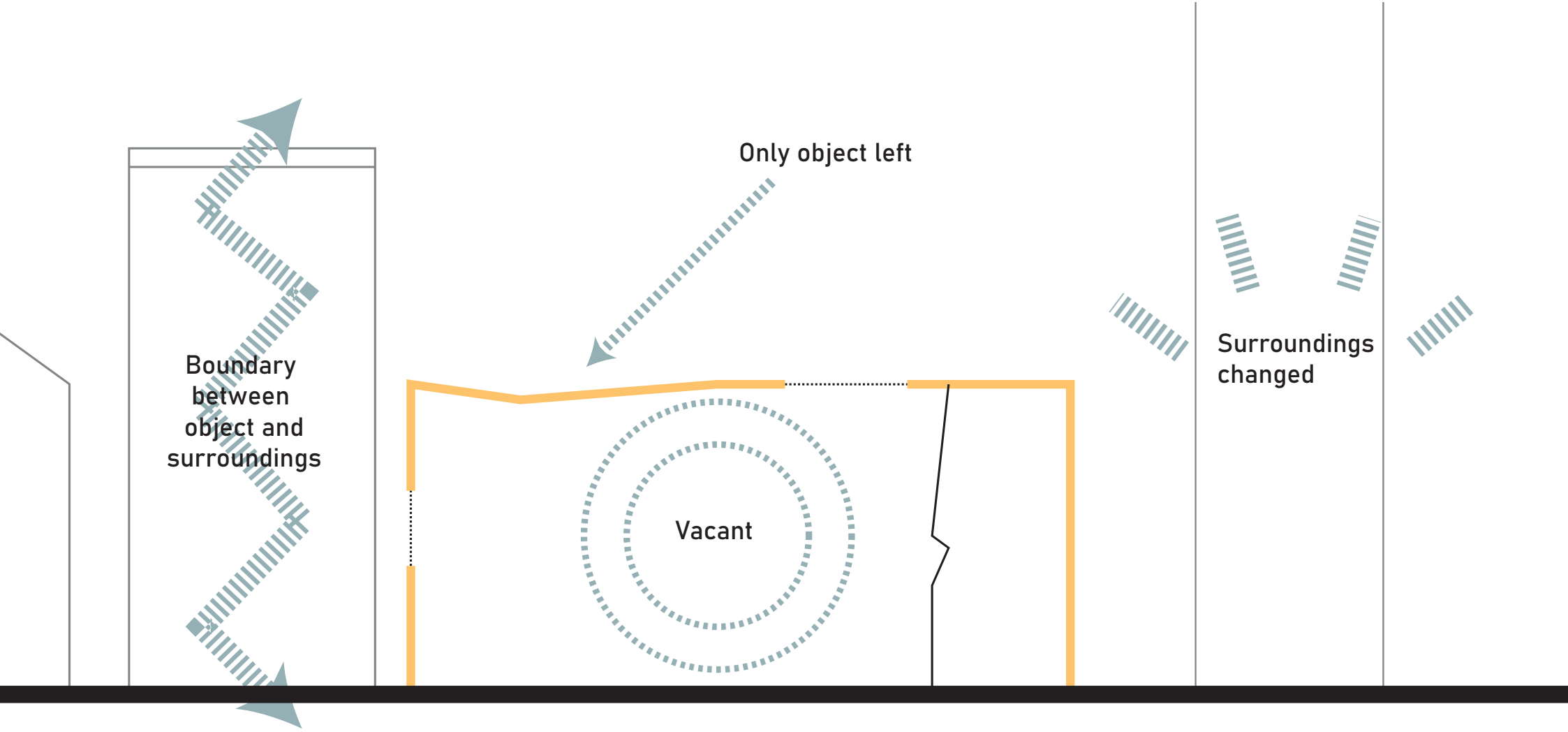
# “Historic buildings and sites at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or deterioration”

Historic England

# Approaches towards heritage



# Heritage that is not connected to the layers of palimpsest

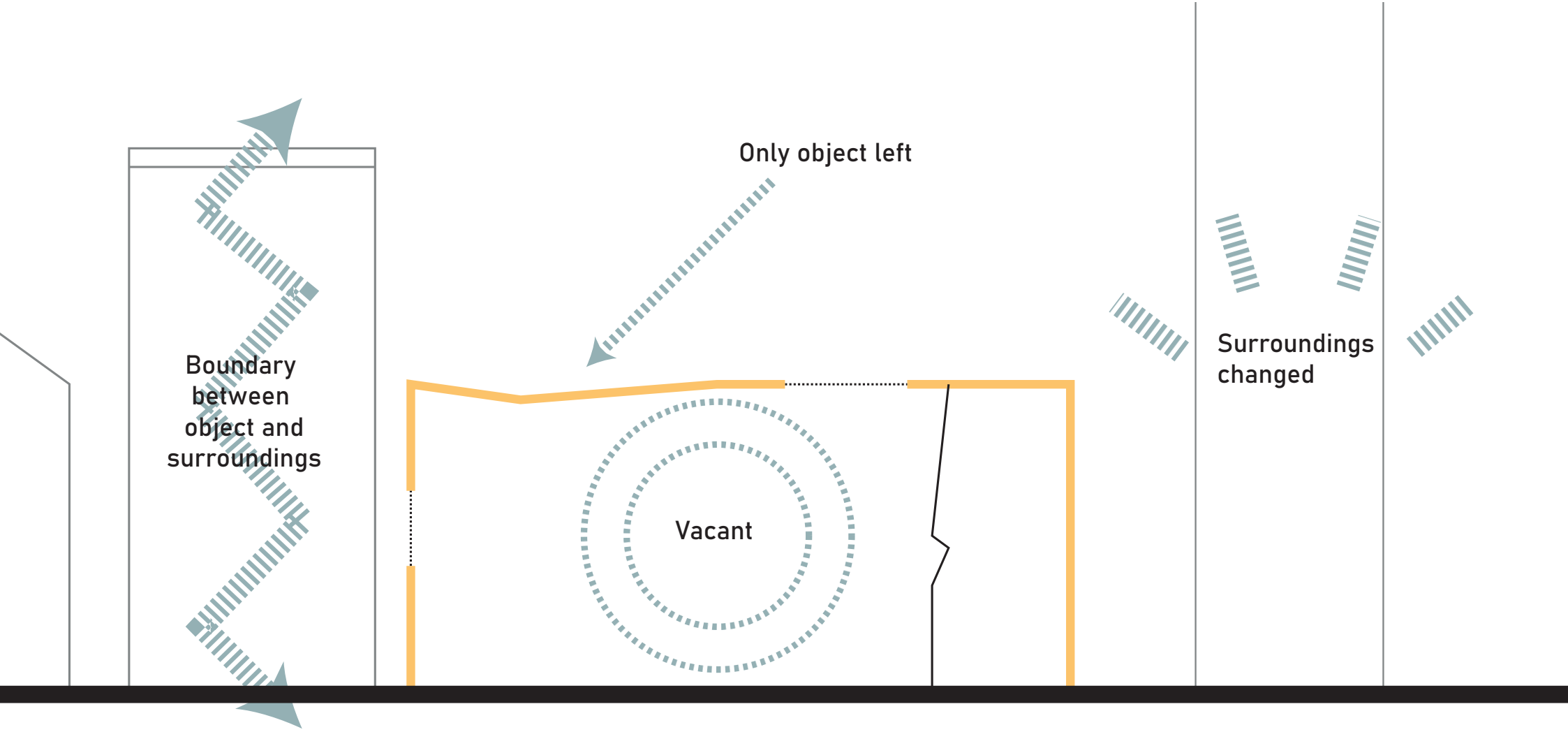


## Problem statement

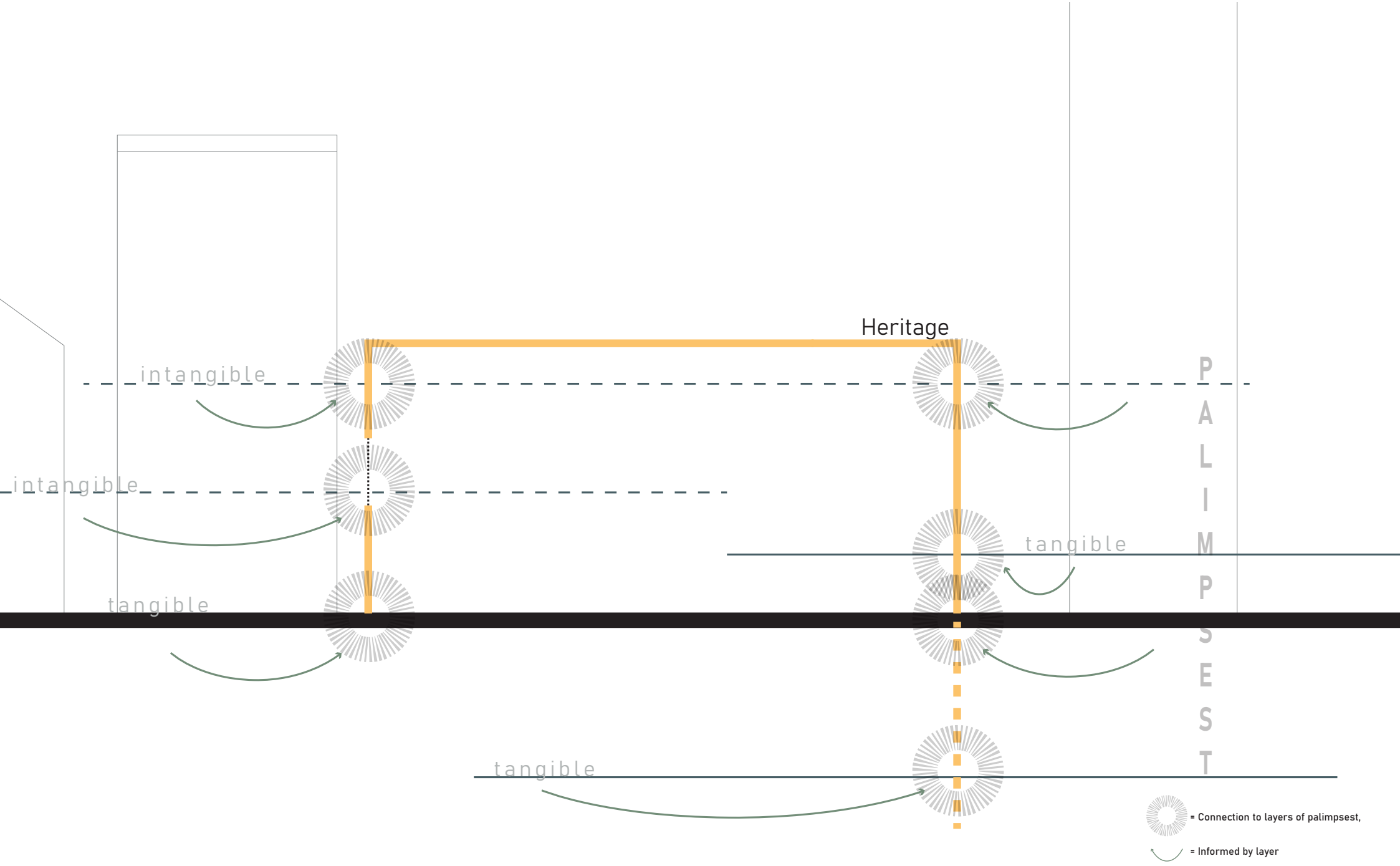
# RESEARCH SET-UP

**In what way can a context-driven approach contribute to making heritage, that lost connection to the surroundings, an integral part of the current palimpsest again?**

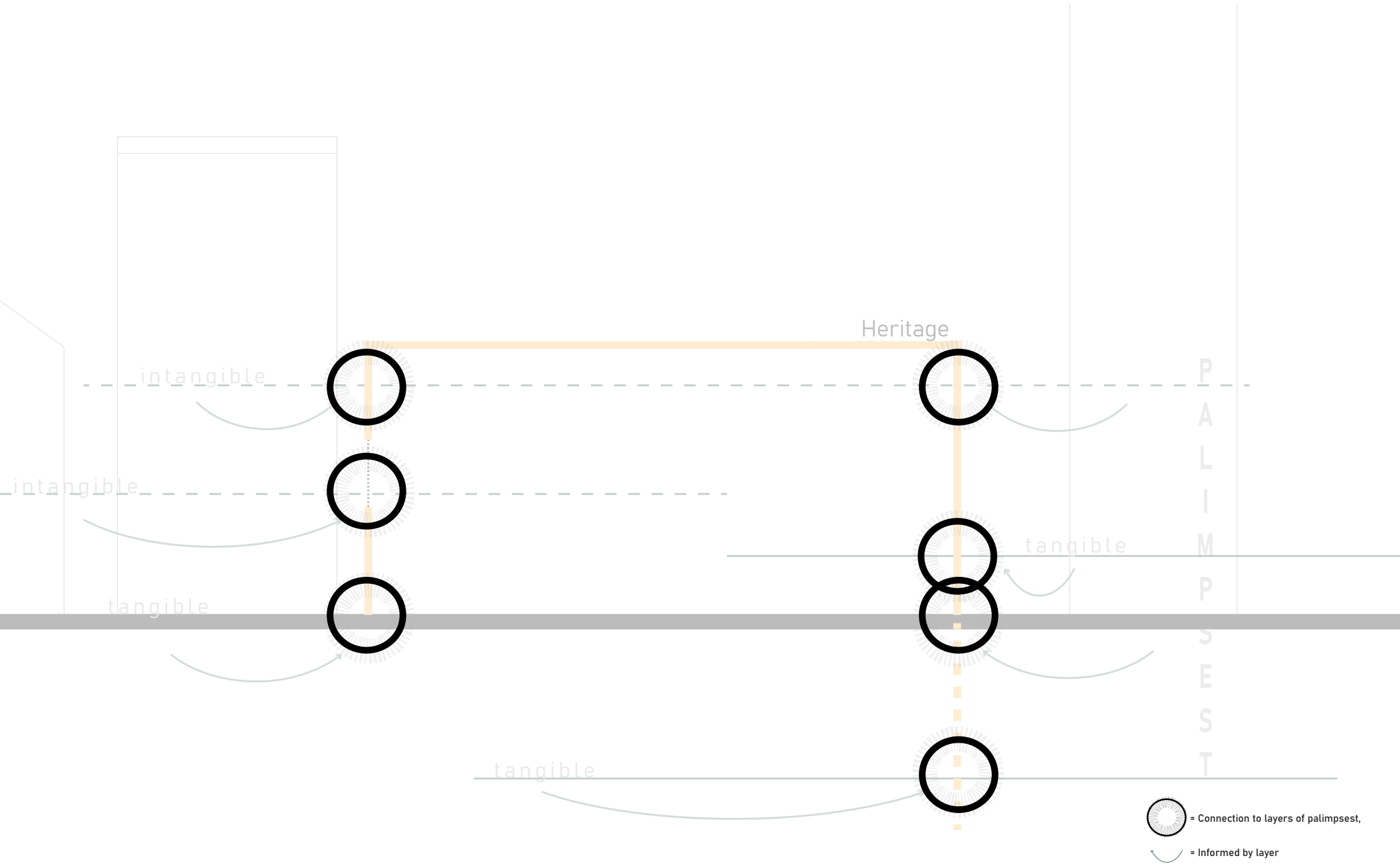
# Current situation



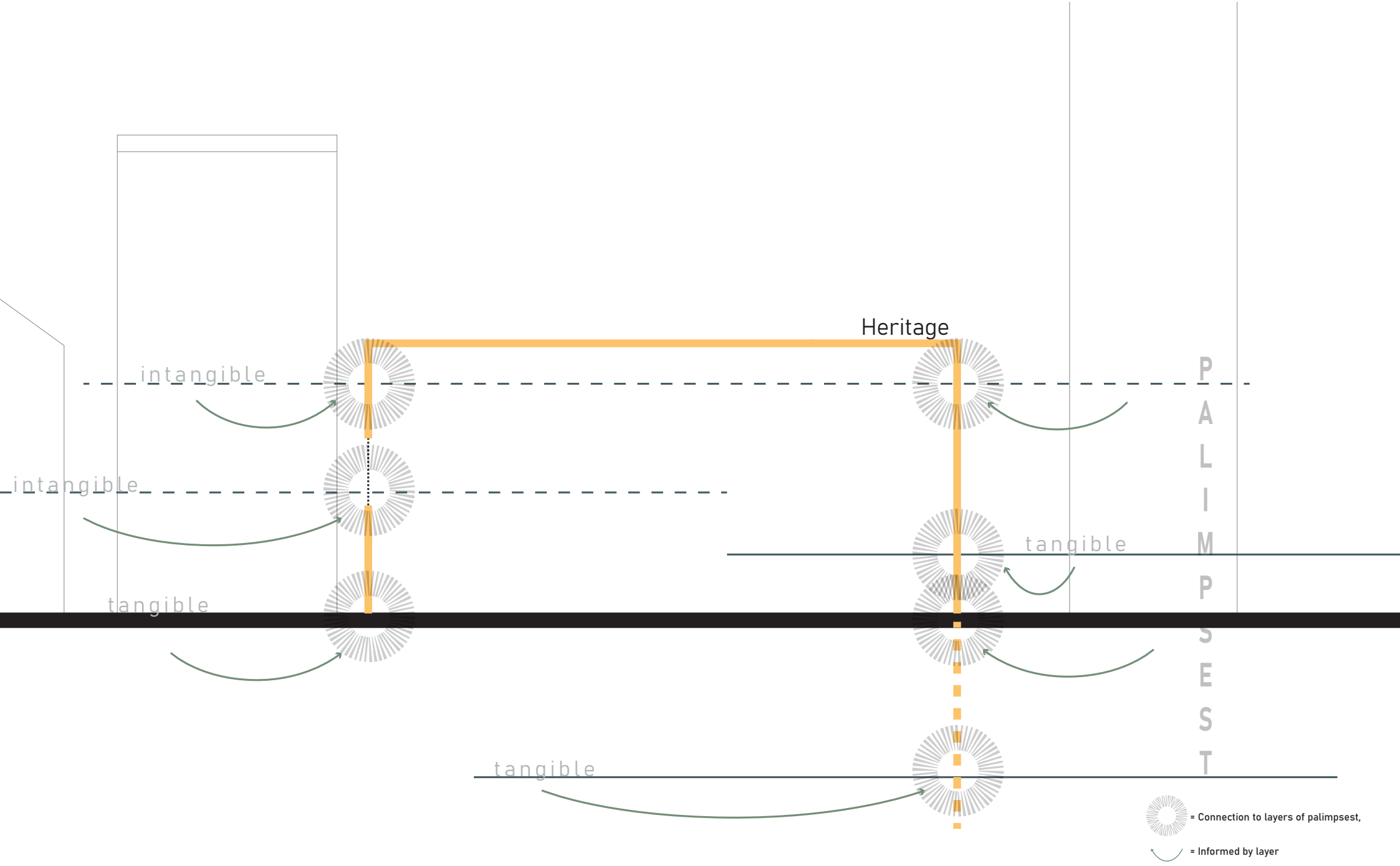
# Goal


Heritage
intangible
intangible
tangible
tangible
tangible
PALIMPSEST
= Connection to layers of palimpsest,
= Informed by layer

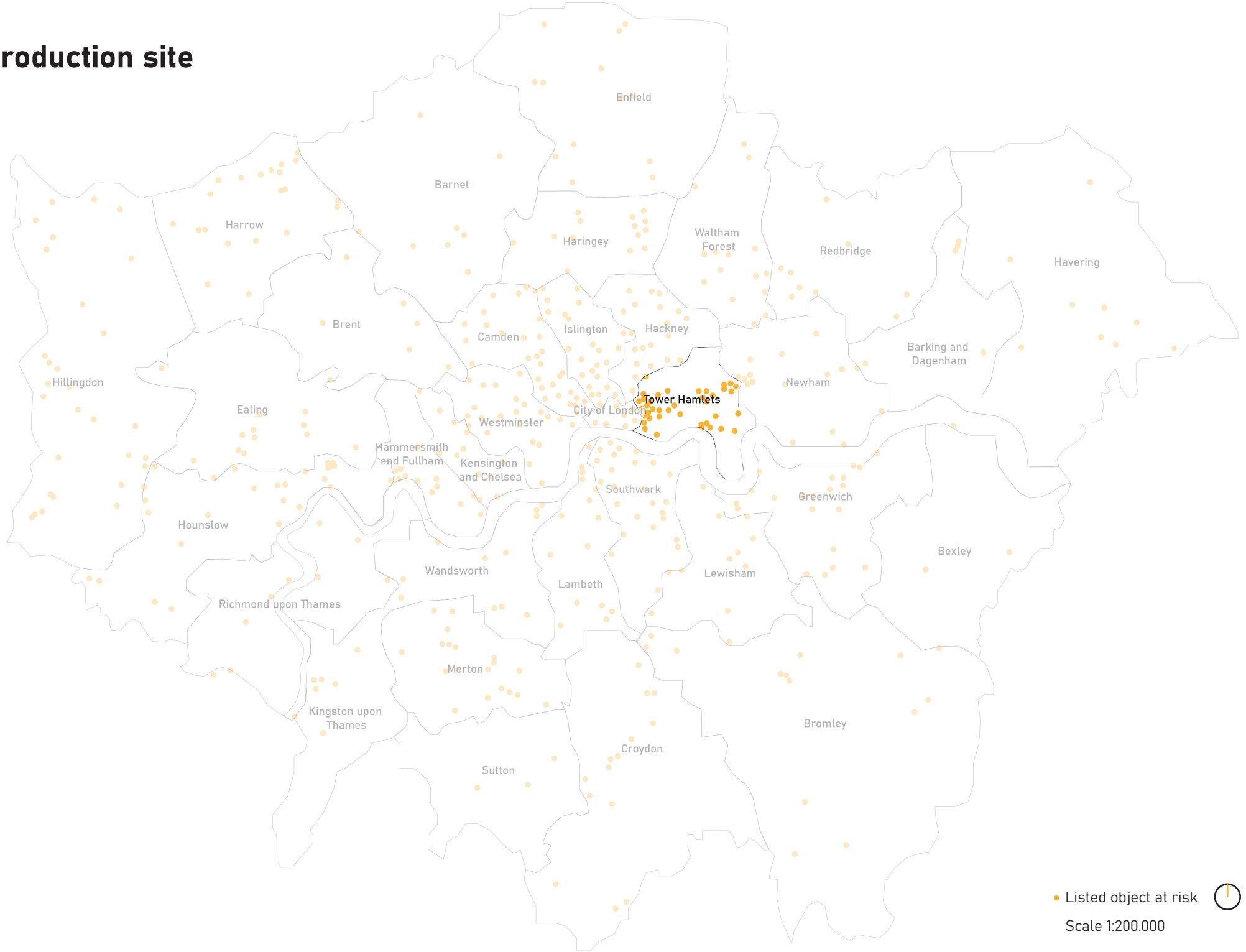
# Approach: established by theoretical framework



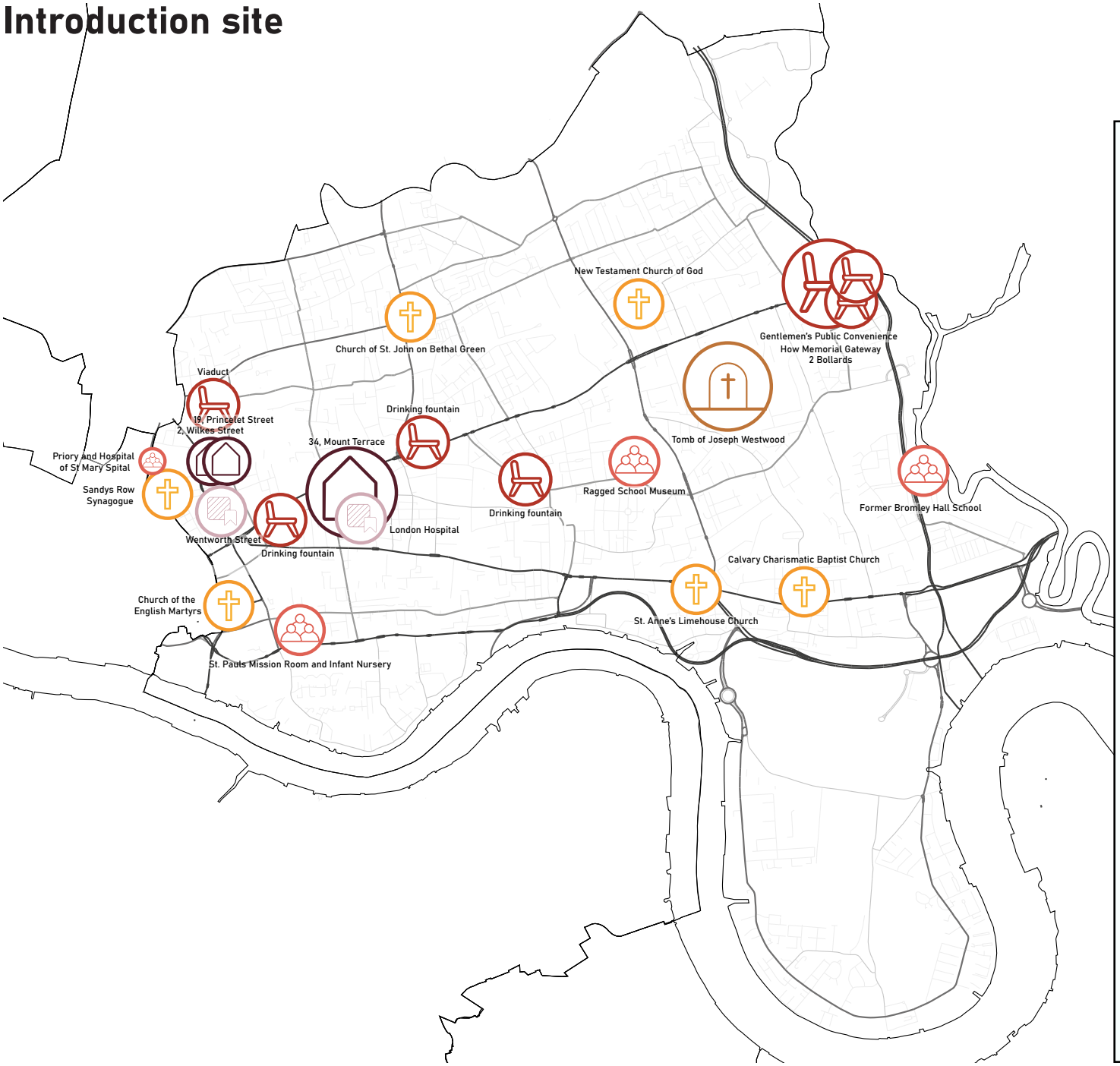
# Approach: application in design process



# Introduction site



# Introduction site

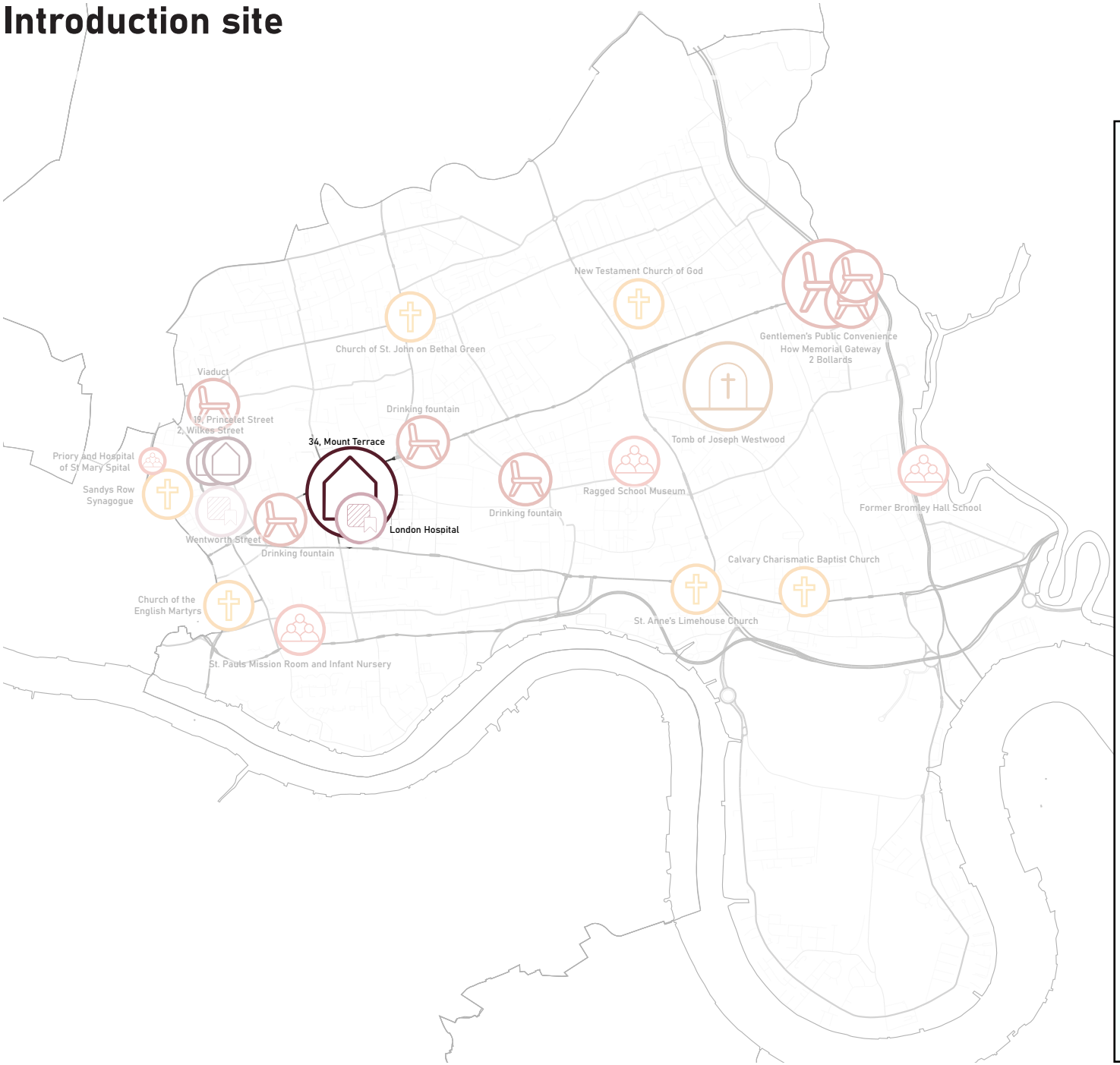



## LEGEND

| | Low priority | High priority |
|---|---|---|
| **Archaeology** | | |
| **Parks and Gardens** | | |
| **Battlefields** | | |
| **Conservation areas** | | |
| **Buildings and structures** Housing | | |
| Religious buildings | | |
| Cemeteries | | |
| Commercial buildings | | |
| Public buildings | | |
| Urban furniture | | |

Scale 1:35.000

# Introduction site

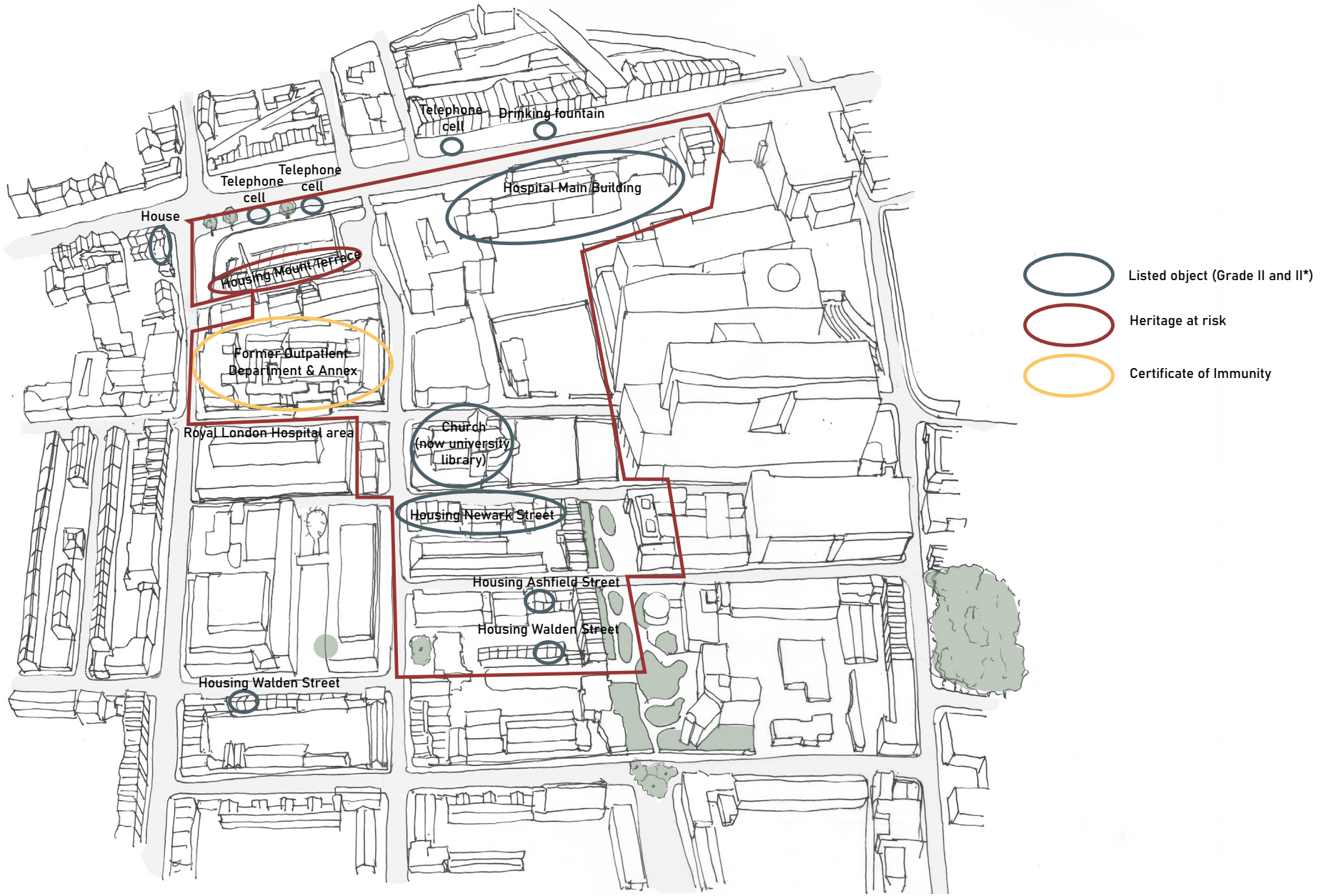



## LEGEND

| | Low priority | High priority |
|---|---|---|
| **Archaeology** | | |
| **Parks and Gardens** | | |
| **Battlefields** | | |
| **Conservation areas** | | |
| **Buildings and structures** Housing | | |
| Religious buildings | | |
| Cemeteries | | |
| Commercial buildings | | |
| Public buildings | | |
| Urban furniture | | |

Scale 1:35.000

# Introduction site: the Royal London Hospital

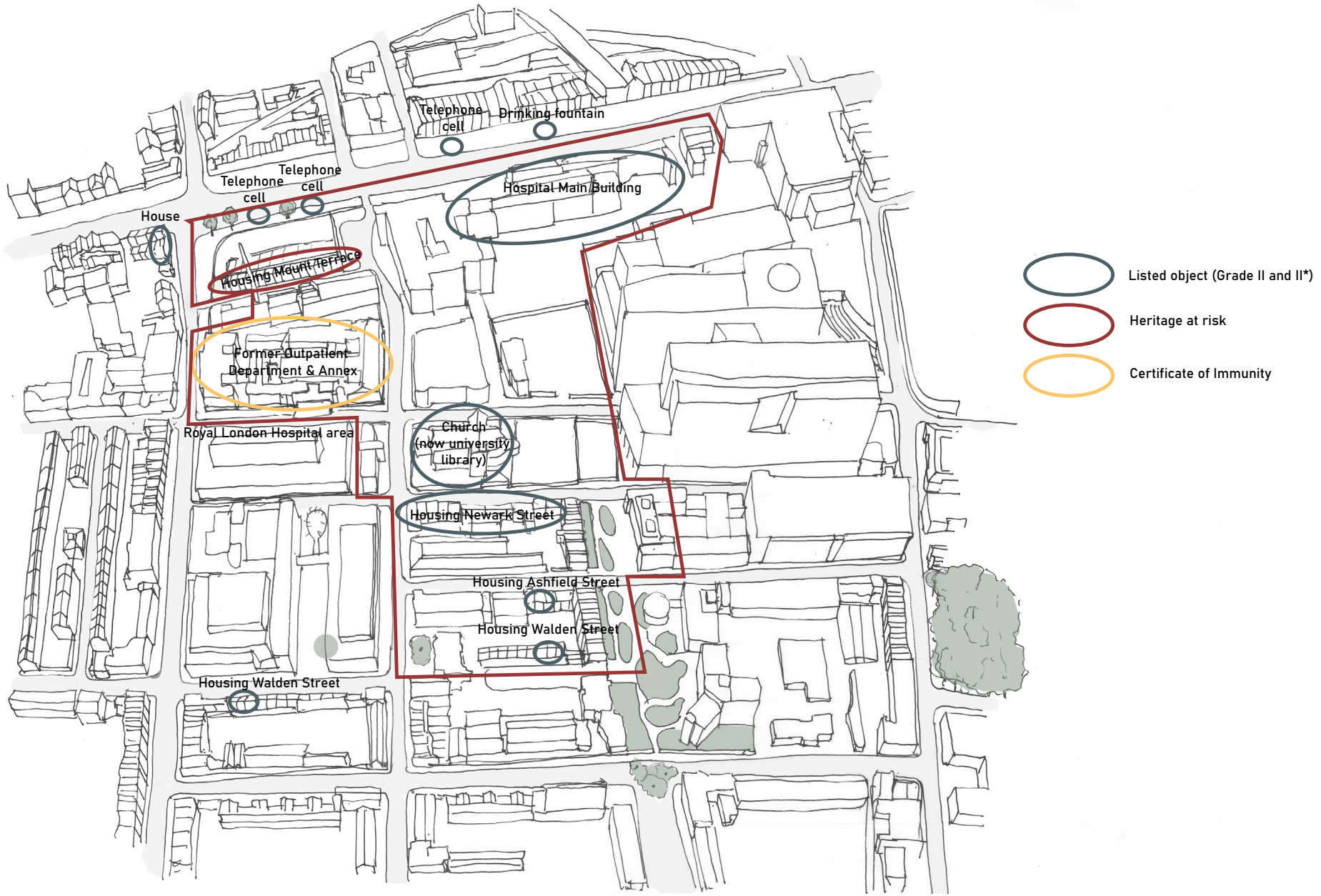



Based on scale 1:2000

# Introduction site: Former Outpatient Department

# Introduction site: Former Outpatient Department

# Introduction site: the Royal London Hospital




Based on scale 1:2000

# THEORETICAL FOUNDATION
## Defining an approach

## CONTEXT

**“Such an analysis proceeds by means of successive syntheses, causing certain elementary facts to come to light, which ultimately encompass more general facts. This analysis... becomes capable of providing us with a fairly complete knowledge of the city. ”**

Rossi, A. 1982. “The Architecture of the City”. In Urban Design Ecologies edited by McGrath, B. (2013). p. 23

# Interpreting context

People, ethnicities, relations, culture, religion, identity

Employment, housing, affordability, profit, income

Uses, functions, patterns,

Previous structures, previous qualities, previous uses

Modes of transportation, routing, circulation, networks

Colour, rythm, building materials, finishes

Nature, environment, sustainability, materials,

SOCIAL-CULTURAL CONTEXT
ECONOMICAL CONTEXT
USE CONTEXT
HISTORICAL CONTEXT
INFRASTRUCTURAL CONTEXT
MATERIAL CONTEXT
ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT +

Intangible context

Tangible context

**KNOWLEDGE OF CITY - CONTEXT**

# Precedents

Temple Church
1841

Phase 1

St. Andrew Holborn Church
1946

Phase 2

Extension of National Gallery
1991

Tate Modern
2000

Phase 3

COOP Interpretation Centre and Incubator
2016

Bailgate Court
2019

Utrecht Central Library
2020

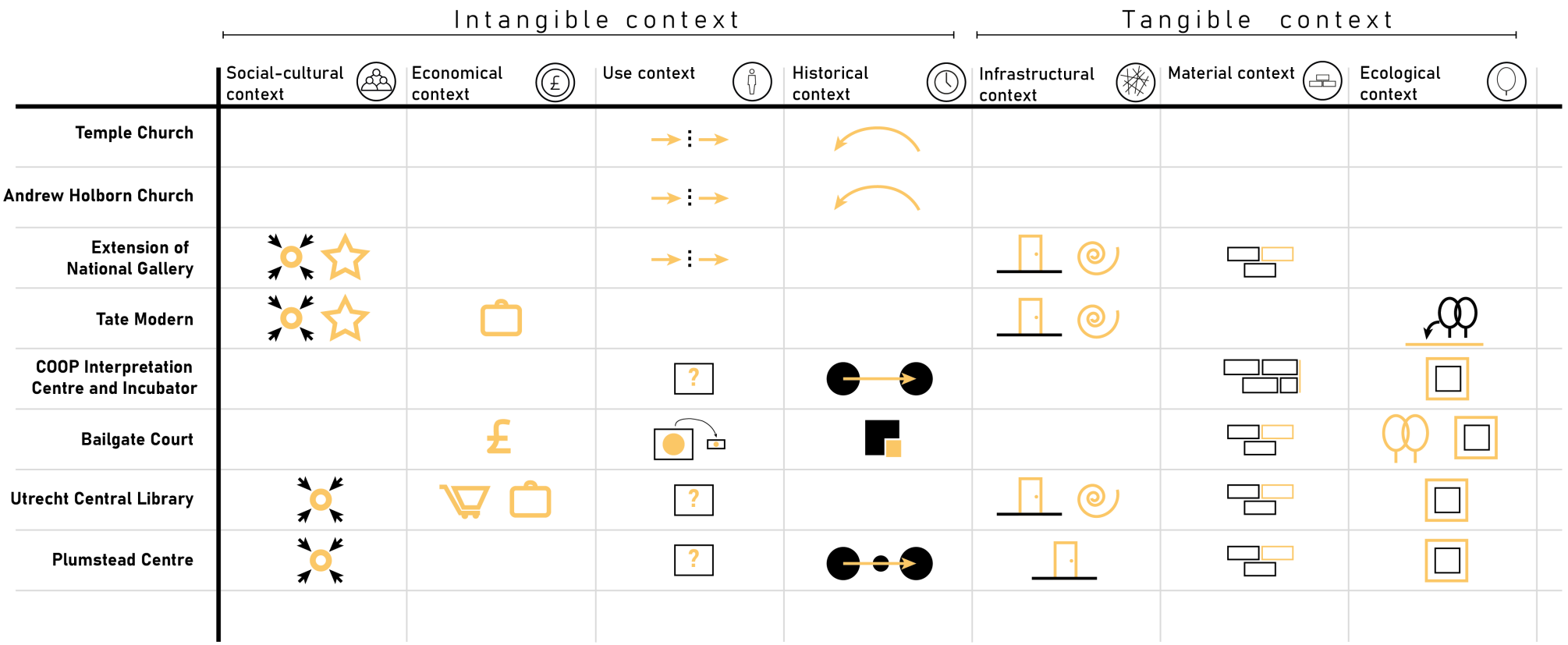
Plumstead Centre
2020

Phase 4

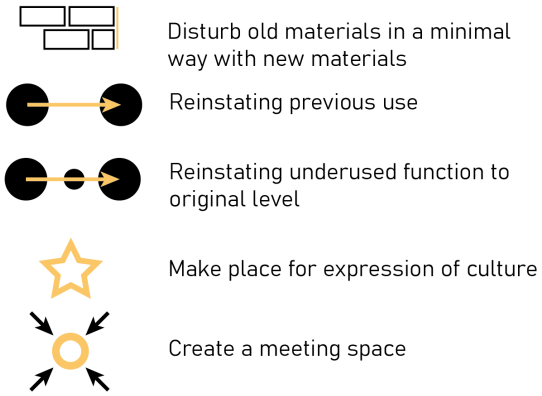
# Connections to context

| | Intangible context | | | | Tangible context | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Social-cultural context | Economical context | Use context | Historical context | Infrastructural context | Material context | Ecological context |
| **Temple Church** | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| **St. Andrew Holborn Church** | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| **Extension of National Gallery** | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **Tate Modern** | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| **COOP Interpretation Center and Incubator** | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| **Bailgate Court** | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Utrecht Central Library** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **Plumstead Center** | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

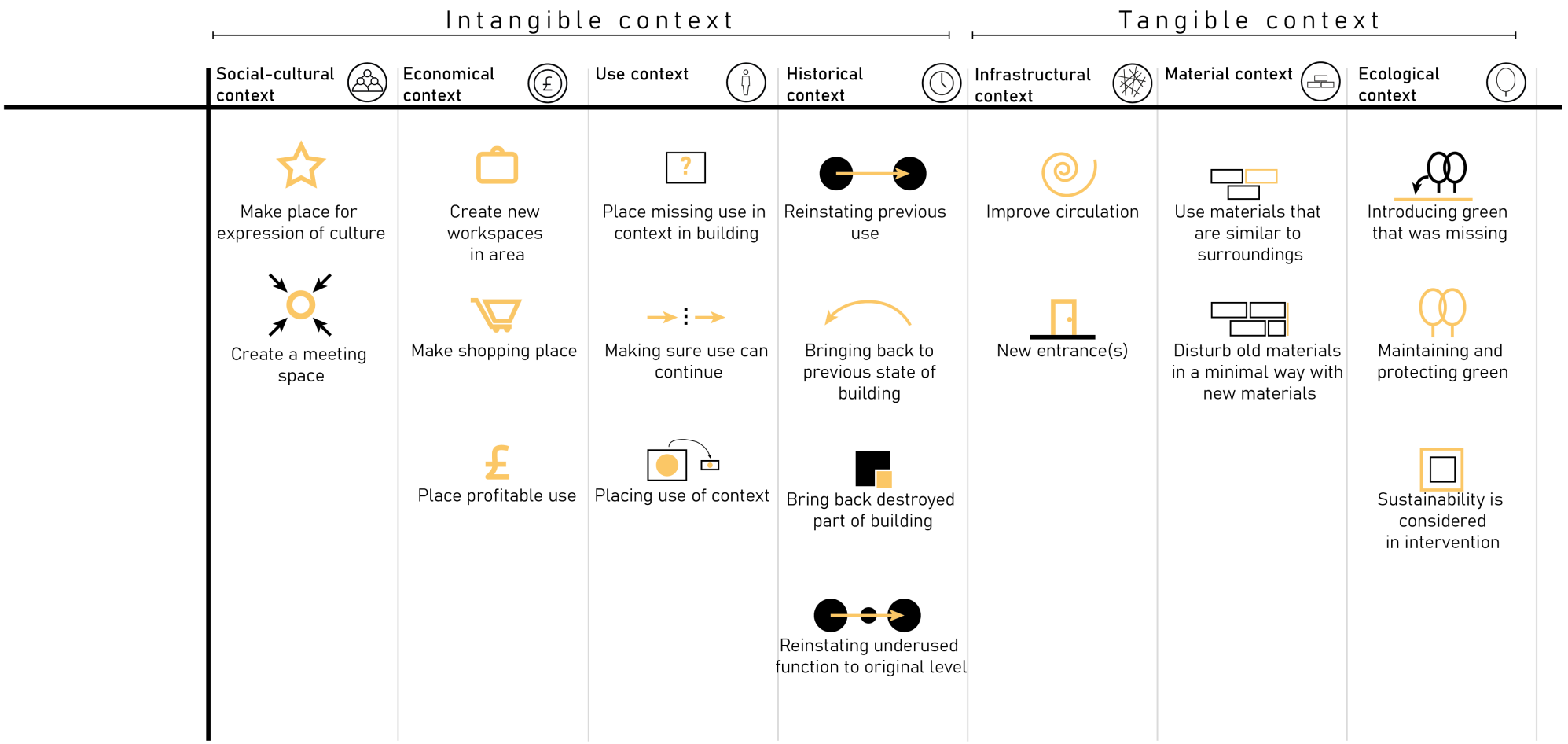
# Establishment of connections




## Legend:



# Tools per context



# APPLICATION OF APPROACH

## Connect to socio-cultural context

Make place for expression of culture

Create a meeting space

# Connect to socio-cultural context

**Whitechapel Road Consultation:**
- More places to sit, relax and socialise

Make place for expression of culture

Create a meeting space

# Connect to socio-cultural context

Make place for expression of culture

Create a meeting space

Create visual connections between levels

# Connect to economical context

Create new workspaces in area

Make shopping place

Place profitable use

# Connect to economical context

Create new workspaces in area

Make shopping place

Place profitable use

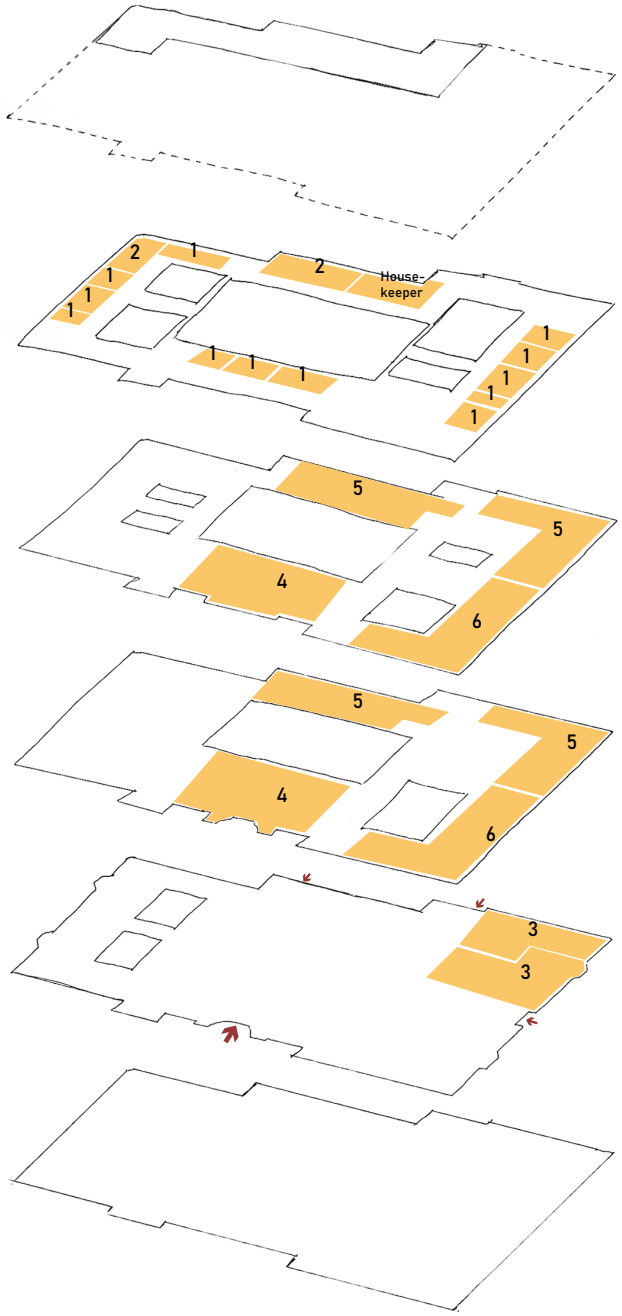
# Connect to economical context

Create new workspaces in area

Make shopping place

Place profitable use

# Connect to economical context




Create new workspaces in area

Make shopping place

Place profitable use

# Connect to use context

Place missing use in context in building



Making sure use can continue

Placing use of context

# Connect to use context

Place missing use in context in building

Making sure use can continue

Placing use of context

# Connect to use context

Place missing use in context in building

Making sure use can continue

Placing use of context

# Connect to use context

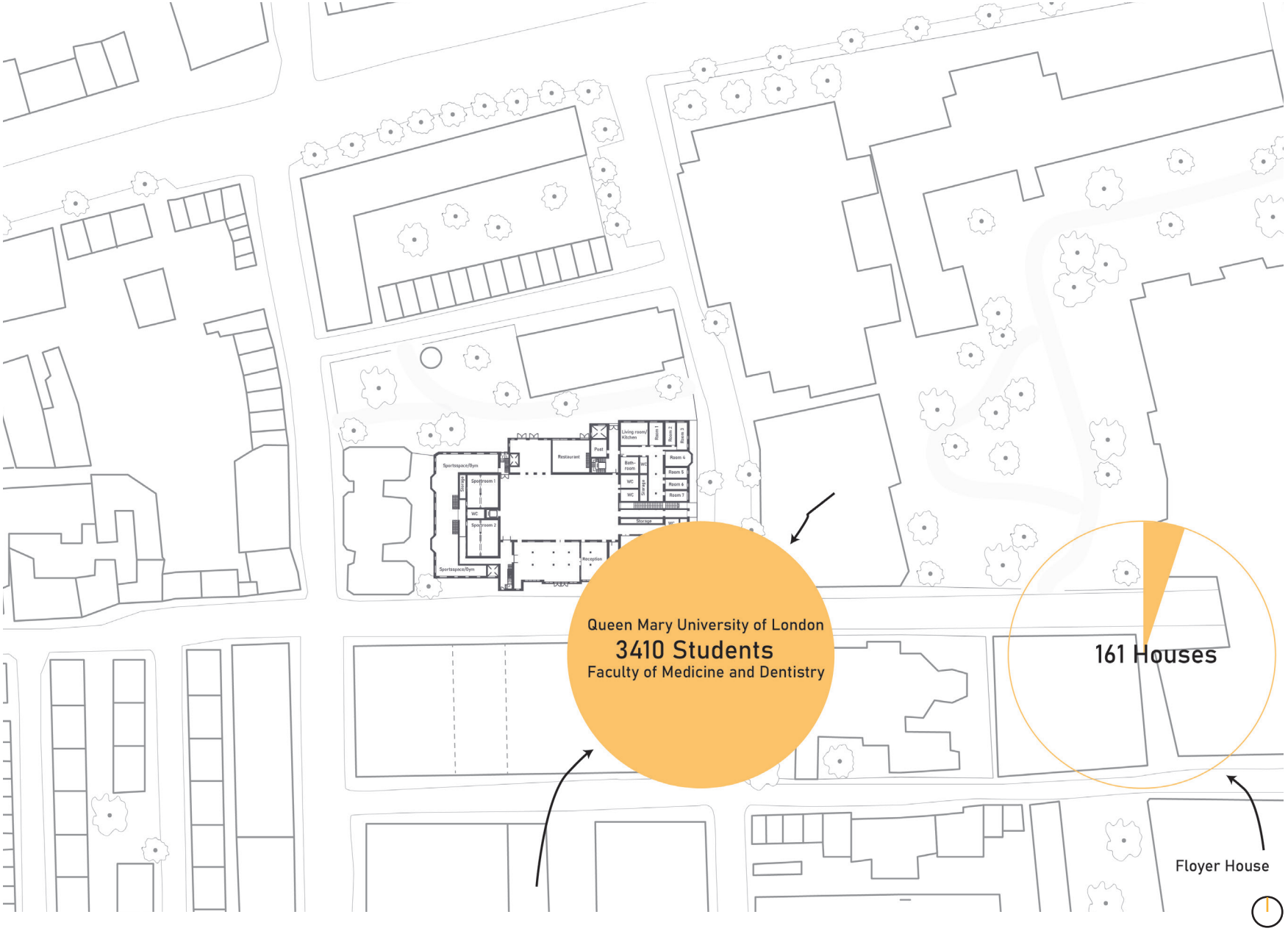
Historic England Archive, bl23996

Place missing use in context in building

Making sure use can continue

Placing use of context

# Connect to use context

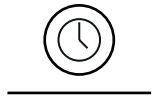



Place missing use in context in building

Making sure use can continue

Placing use of context

# Connect to historical context



Reinstating previous use



Bringing back to previous state of building

Bring back destroyed part of building

Reinstating underused unction to original level

# Connect to historical context

OS Maps, 1893

Reinstating previous use

Bringing back to previous state of building

Bring back destroyed part of building

Reinstating underused unction to original level

# Connect to historical context

Barths health archive, 1902

Reinstating previous use

Bringing back to previous state of building

Bring back destroyed part of building

Reinstating underused unction to original level

# Connect to infrastructural context

Improve circulation



New entrance(s)

# Connect to infrastructural context

Improve circulation

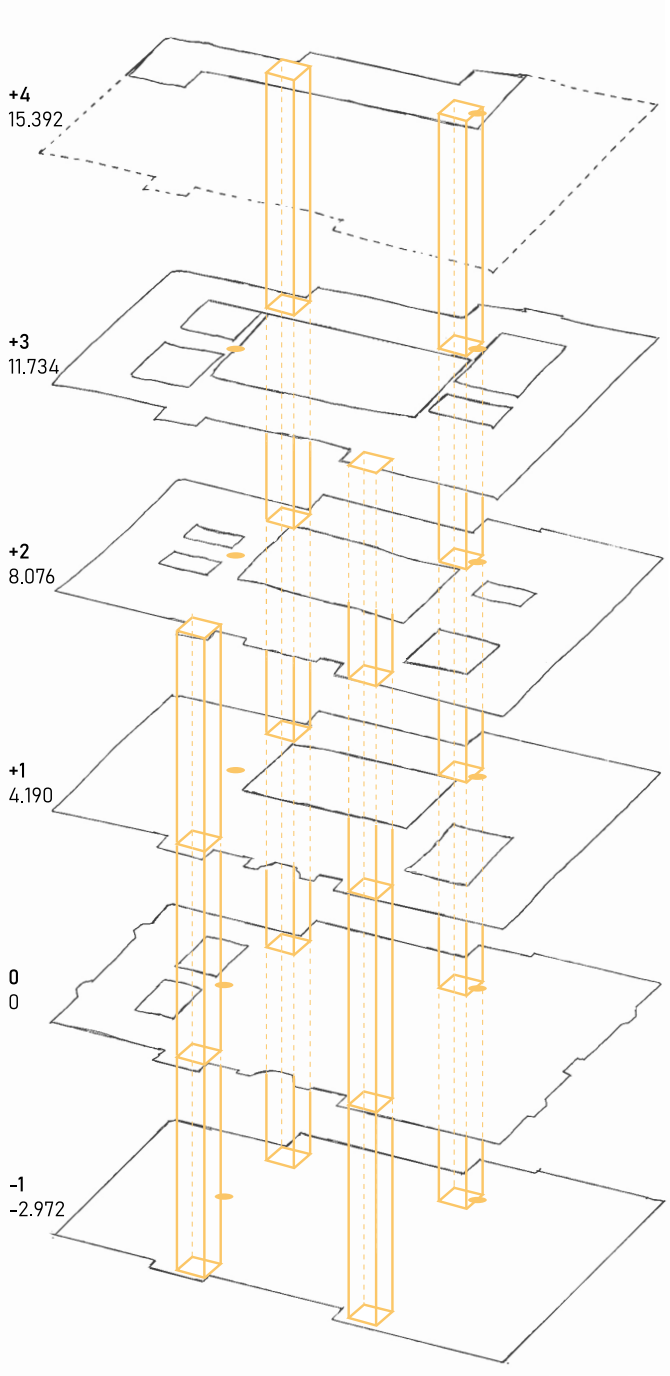
New entrance(s)

# Connect to infrastructural context

Improve circulation

New entrance(s)

# Connect to infrastructural context




Improve circulation

New entrance(s)

# Connect to infrastructural context

Scale 1:500

Improve circulation

New entrance(s)

# Connect to infrastructural context

Improve circulation

New entrance(s)

Create new infrastructural layer

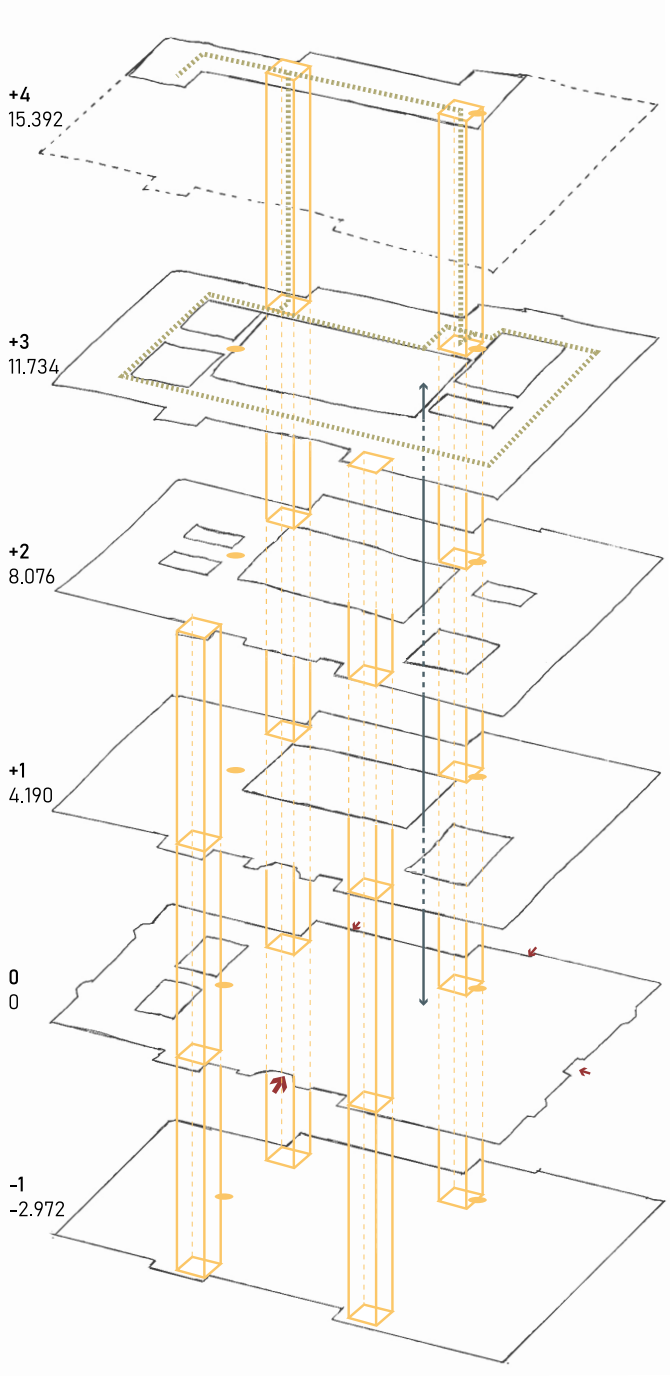
# Connect to infrastructural context

Improve circulation

New entrance(s)

Create new infrastructural layer

# Connect to infrastructural context

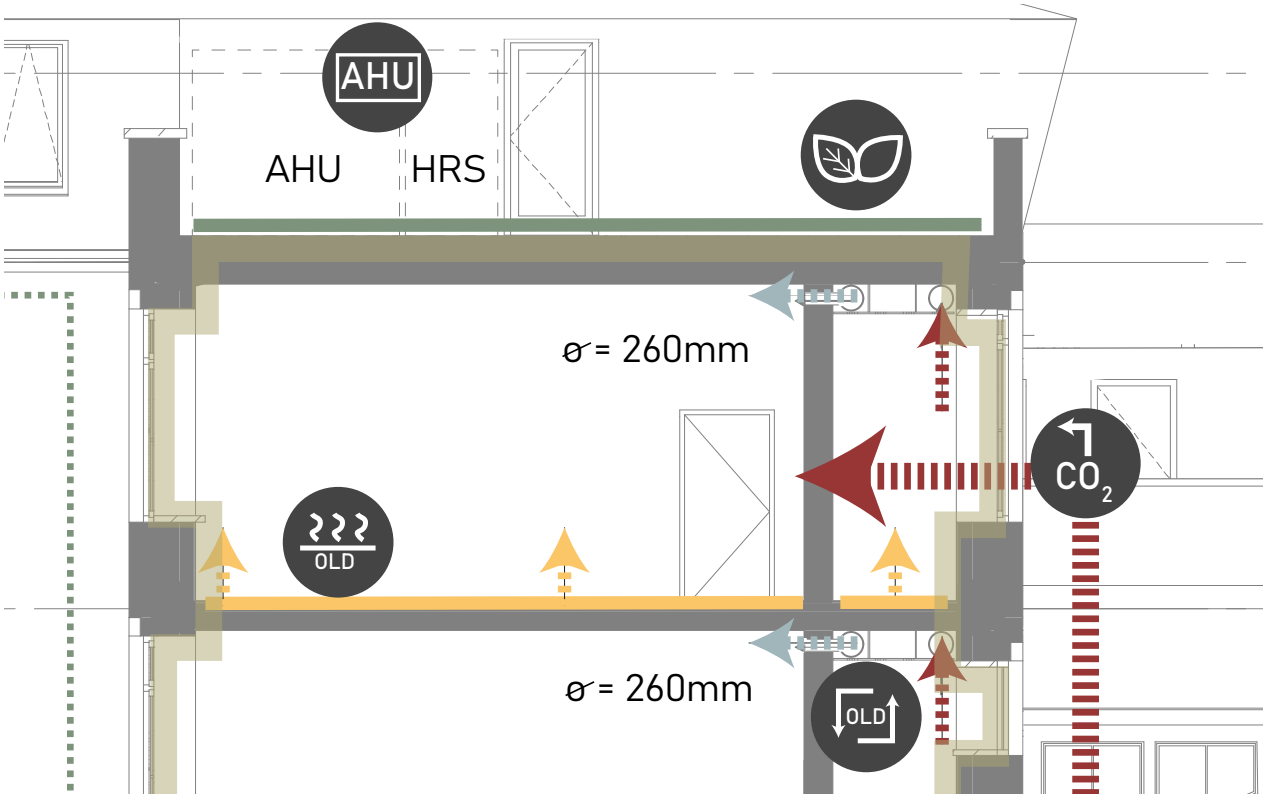



Improve circulation

New entrance(s)

Create new infrastructural layer

# Connect to infrastructural context



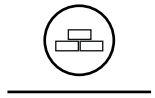

Scale 1:200

Improve circulation

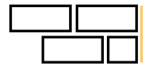
New entrance(s)

Create new infrastructural layer

# Connect to material context



Use materials that are similar to surroundings



Disturb old materials in a minimal way with new materials

# Connect to material context

**Whitechapel Road Consultation:**
- Respect the heritage of the existing buildings

Use materials that are similar to surroundings

Disturb old materials in a minimal way with new materials

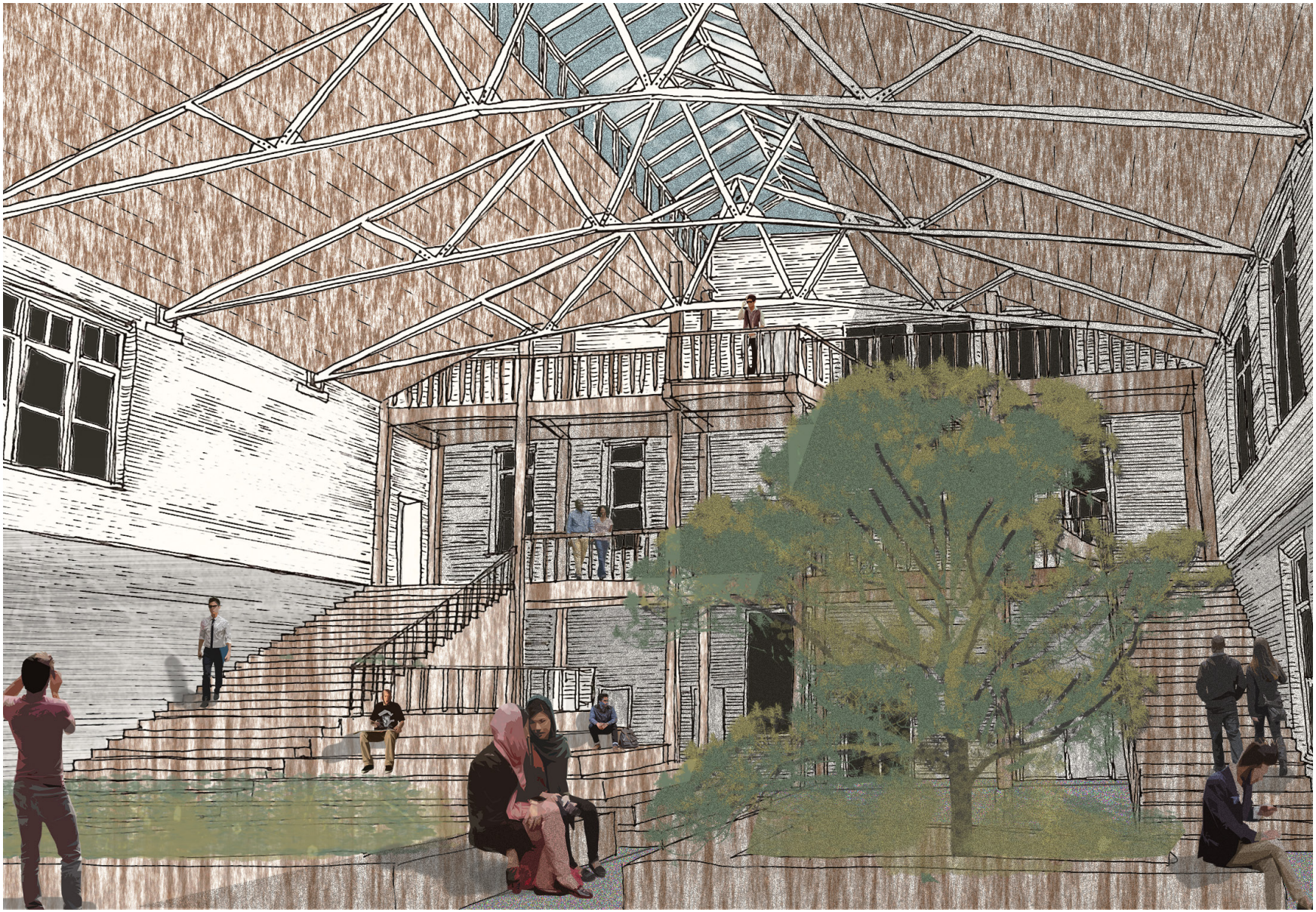
# Connect to material context

Gare Maritime (Neutelings Riedijk Architecten, Brussels, Belgium)

Use materials that are similar to surroundings

Disturb old materials in a minimal way with new materials

# Connect to material context



Use materials that are similar to surroundings

Disturb old materials in a minimal way with new materials

# Connect to material context

Use materials that are similar to surroundings

Disturb old materials in a minimal way with new materials

Contrast to break through monotonousness

# Connect to material context

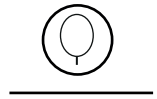
Use materials that are similar to surroundings

Disturb old materials in a minimal way with new materials

Contrast to break through monotonousness

Pay attention to transition in materiality

# Connect to ecological context



Introducing green
that was missing



Maintaining and
protecting green

Sustainability is
considered
in intervention

# Connect to ecological context

Introducing green that was missing

Maintaining and protecting green

Sustainability is considered in intervention

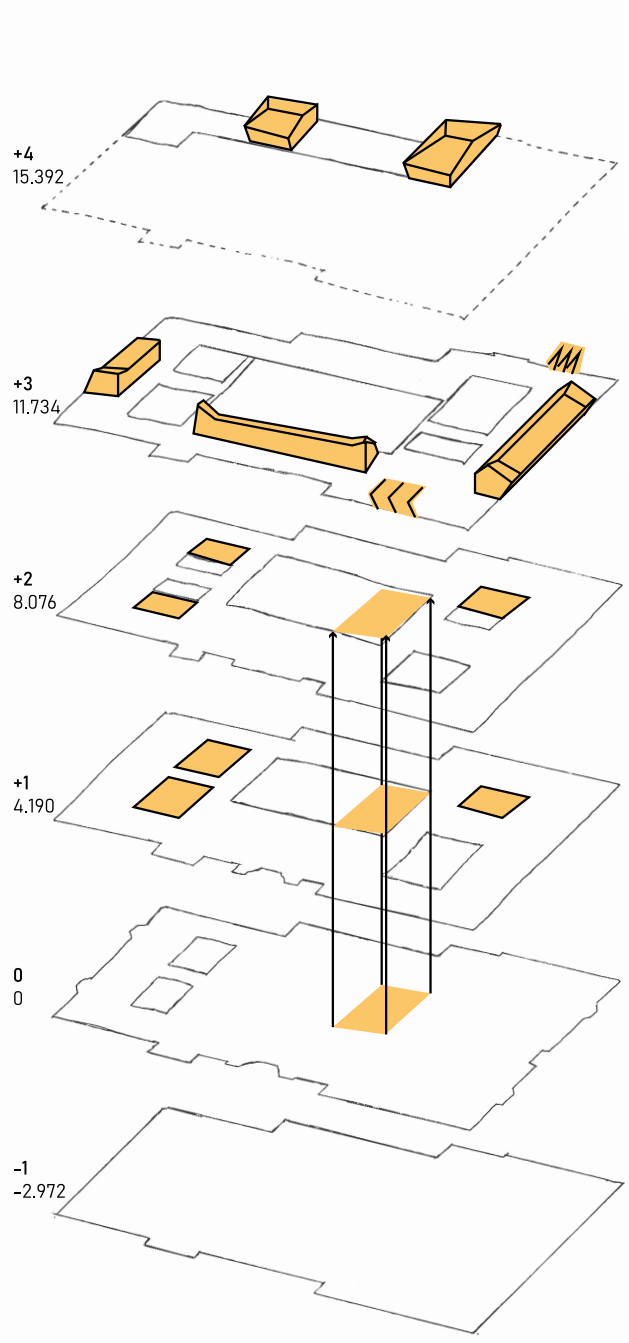
# Connect to ecological context

Introducing green
that was missing

Maintaining and
protecting green

Sustainability is
considered
in intervention

# Connect to ecological context




Introducing green that was missing

Maintaining and protecting green

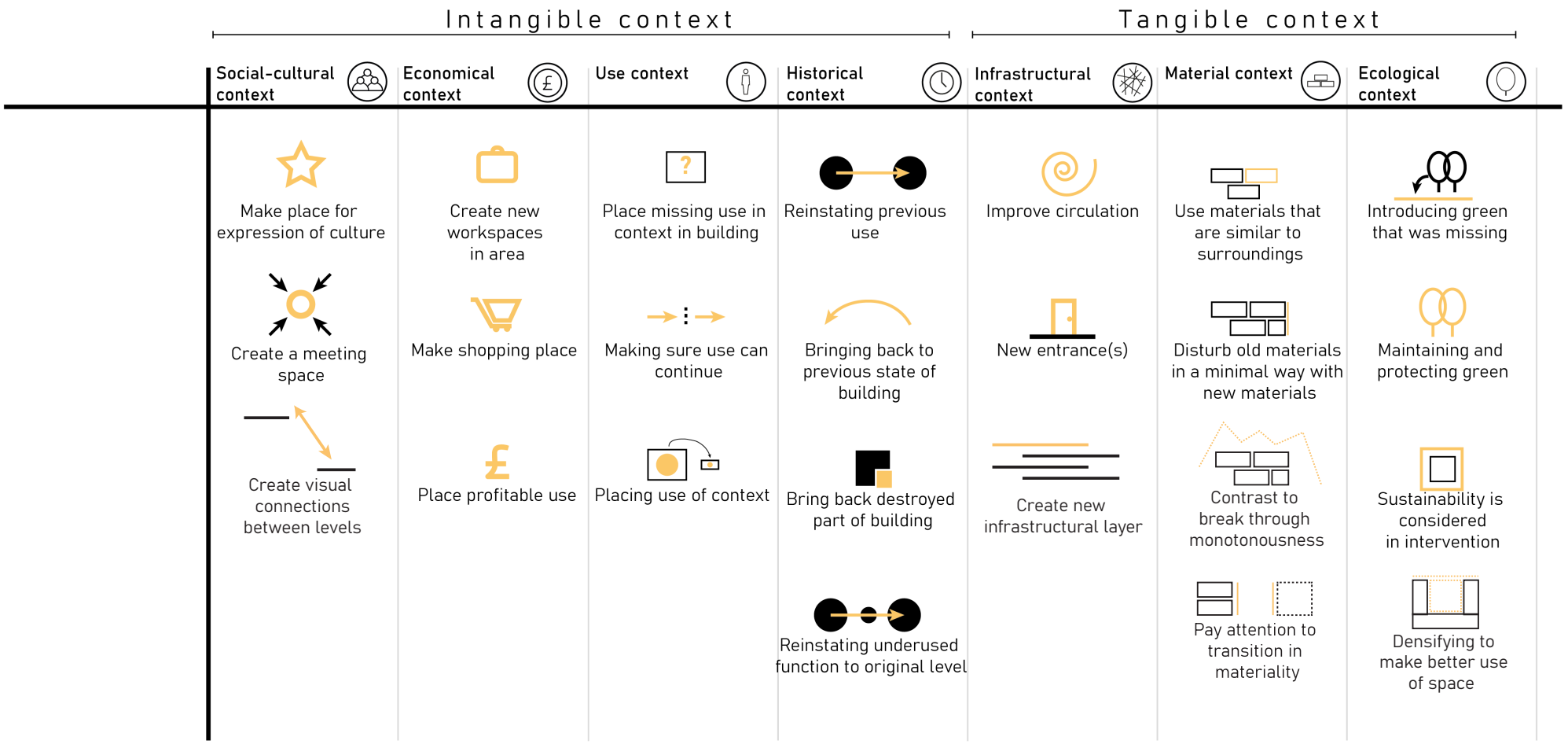
Sustainability is considered in intervention

Densifying to make better use of space

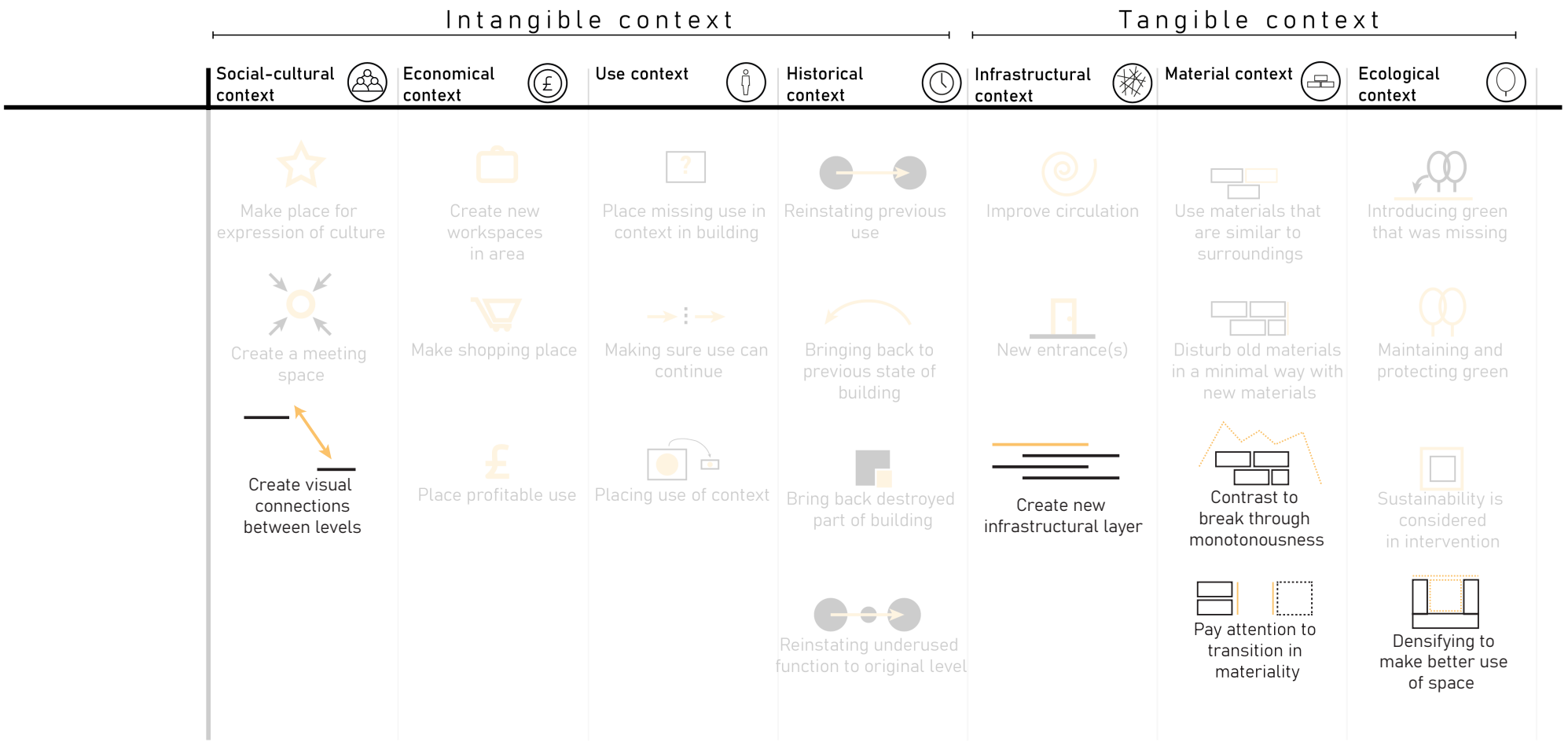
# CONCLUSION AND REFLECTIONS

**In what way can a context-driven approach contribute to making heritage, that lost connection to the surroundings, an integral part of the current palimpsest again?**

# Tools to make building part of palimpsest



# New additions



# Heritage as part of the Palimpsest

**Thank you!**