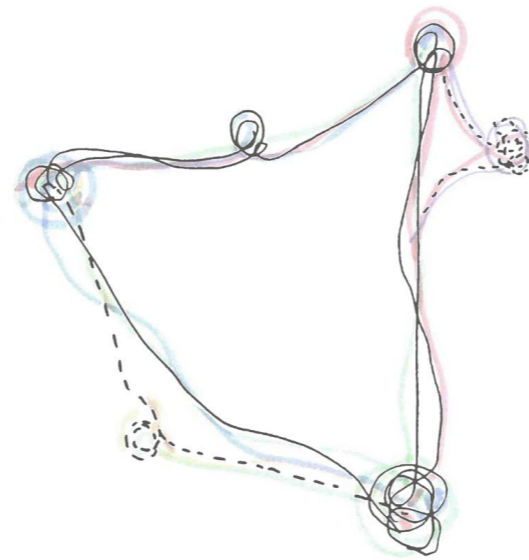


MESHWORKS OF CARE  
*Susie Cox, P5*

# MESHWORKS OF CARE

Susie Cox, P5



Austerity and high land values in London have seen space for care minimised, privatised and restricted for efficiency and maximum profit. This project argues that care within architecture needs to be reclaimed from the closed practices that are framing it, and inhabited in its multiplicity.

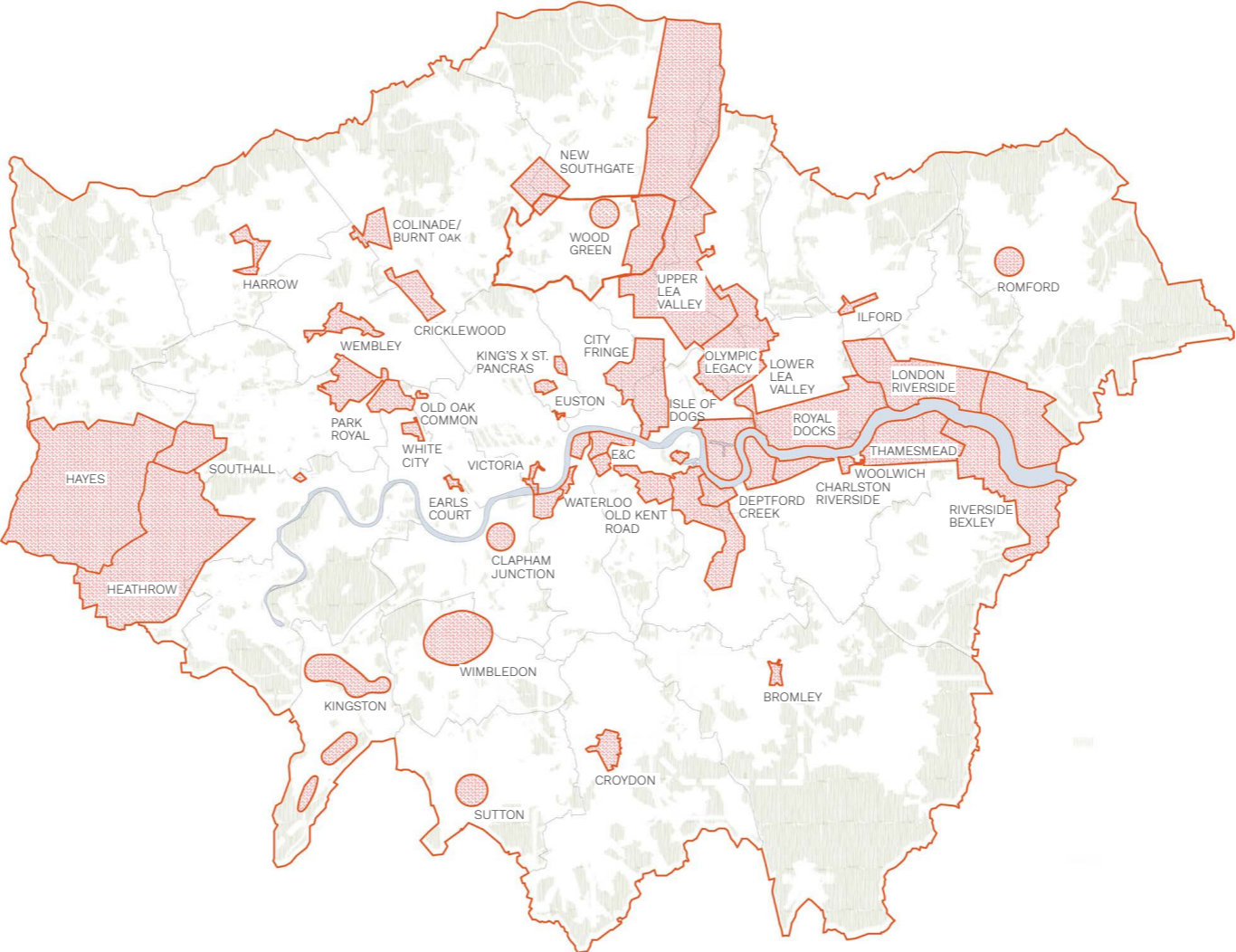
This work is situated in the deprived neighbourhood of Wood Green in North London, where existing caring institutions have struggled to survive public funding cuts. Instead of supporting existing infrastructure, the local authority has made several attempts to solve deprivation through new buildings or plans. These are designed as separate blocks and have failed due to their detachment from the everyday realities of deprivation.

Instead, this project considers how to support and cultivate the existing networks of care that are struggling to survive public funding cuts in Wood Green.



# DEPRIVATION IN LONDON

## CARE IN WOOD GREEN



London's Opportunity Areas, The London Plan, 2017, Greater London Authority.

 Areas of deprivation



Haringey's Growth Area;s, Wood Green Area  
Action Plan, 2017, Haringey Council.





Demolition 1910 - 1945.



Demolition 1970 - 1981.



Demolition 2017 - 2032

- Demolition 1910 -1945
- Demolition 1970-1981
- Demolition 2017 - 2032



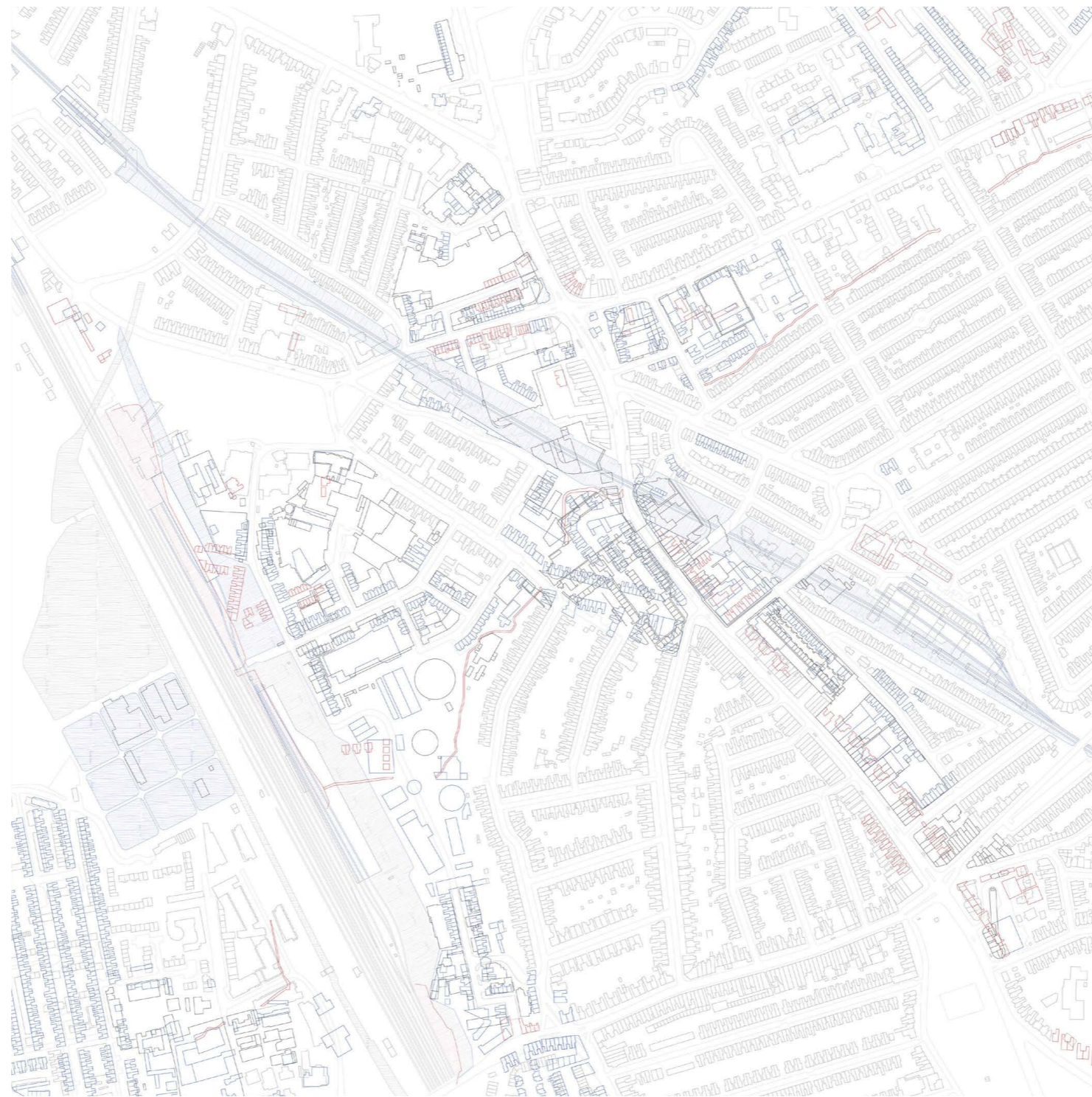
Noel Park Estate looking South.

**1910 - 1945:** 1910: High Street Villas demolished to make way for a shopping parade. 1936: River Moselle culverted to prevent flooding. 1940: Houses and railway embankment demolished to expand tracks

**1970 - 1981:** Demolition of buildings along High Street, railway line, depot and stations, and buildings on council owned land to build 'Shopping City' masterplan. Much of these plans were too ambitious and not carried out.

**2017 - 2032:** High Street and industrial sites selected for demolition to create 'Wood Green Town Centre' and 'Haringey Heartlands Village'. The future of these sites is uncertain due to political and financial failures.





Demolition between 19100 - 2032 overlaid on a map of existing Wood Green

- Demolition 1910 -1945
- Demolition 1970-1981
- Demolition 2017 - 2032





*View looking North from The Mall car park.*



*Park Ridings, looking North towards The Mall*

Cycles of demolition and development have resulted in the diversity of buildings in Wood Green today.



Haringey's Growth Area;s, Wood Green Area Action Plan, 2017, Haringey Council.



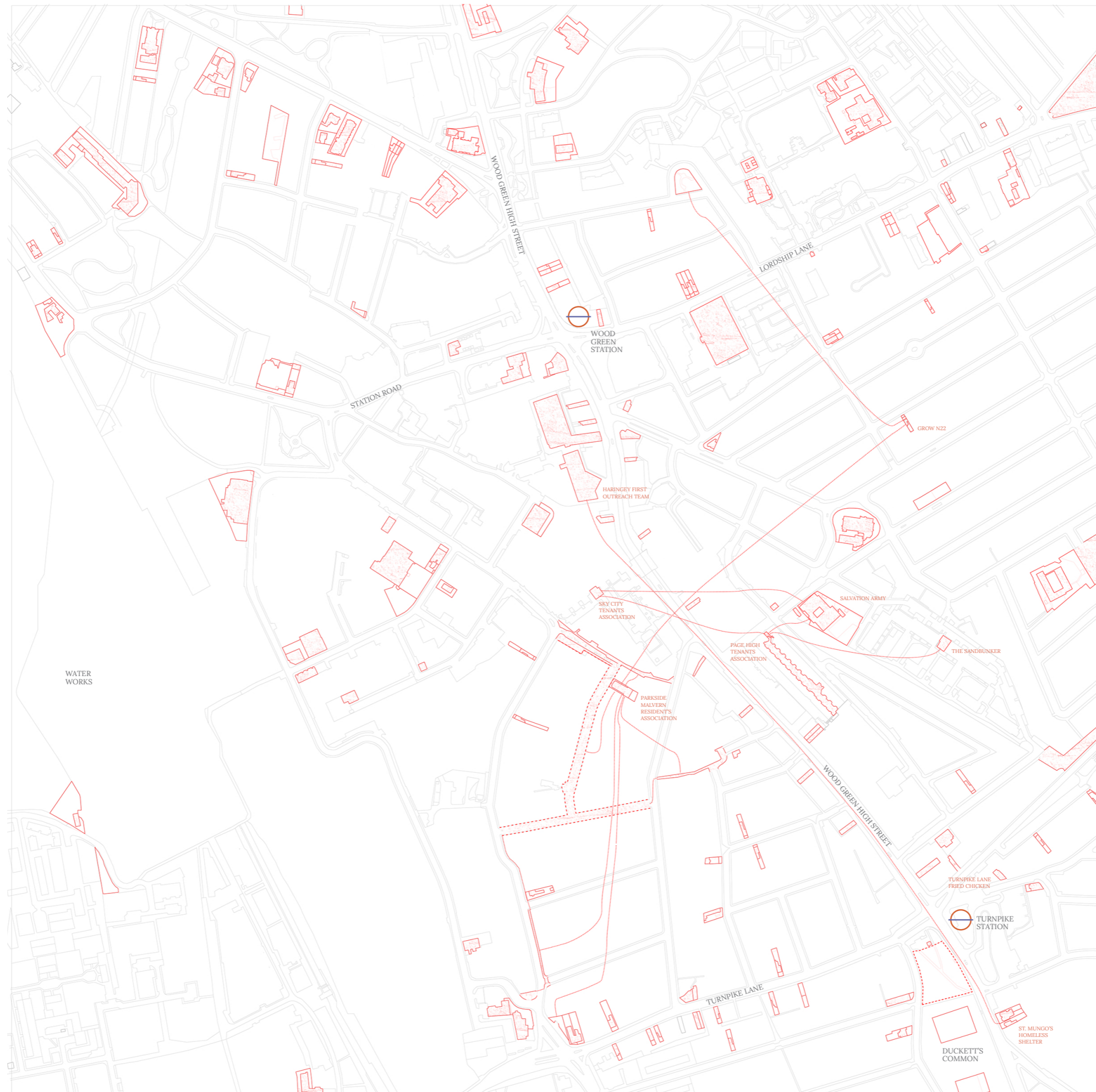
Haringey Youth Zone, WoodSide, proposed by Haringey planners. The design of Youth Zones in England are normally based on a prototype, with standard room sizes rearranged to fit the site.



## SPATIAL STRATEGIES FOR CARING INSTITUTIONS

Formal institutions and centres (highlighted by blocks on the map) are increasingly underfunded and pushed to expand beyond their site boundaries and share space, resources and funding. E.g. St. Mungo's homeless charity does not have enough space in their facilities to welcome homeless people so has joined up with to extend their care into public space. PMRA joined with Green N22 to address common neighbourhood issues, temporarily take over a street. They also come together in solidarity when problems arise. PHTA and Sky City gathering to arrange common protest.

 Demolition 2017 - 2032



Map of Wood Green, highlighting existing caring institutions and their relationships.

0 50m 100m 500m  1:5000



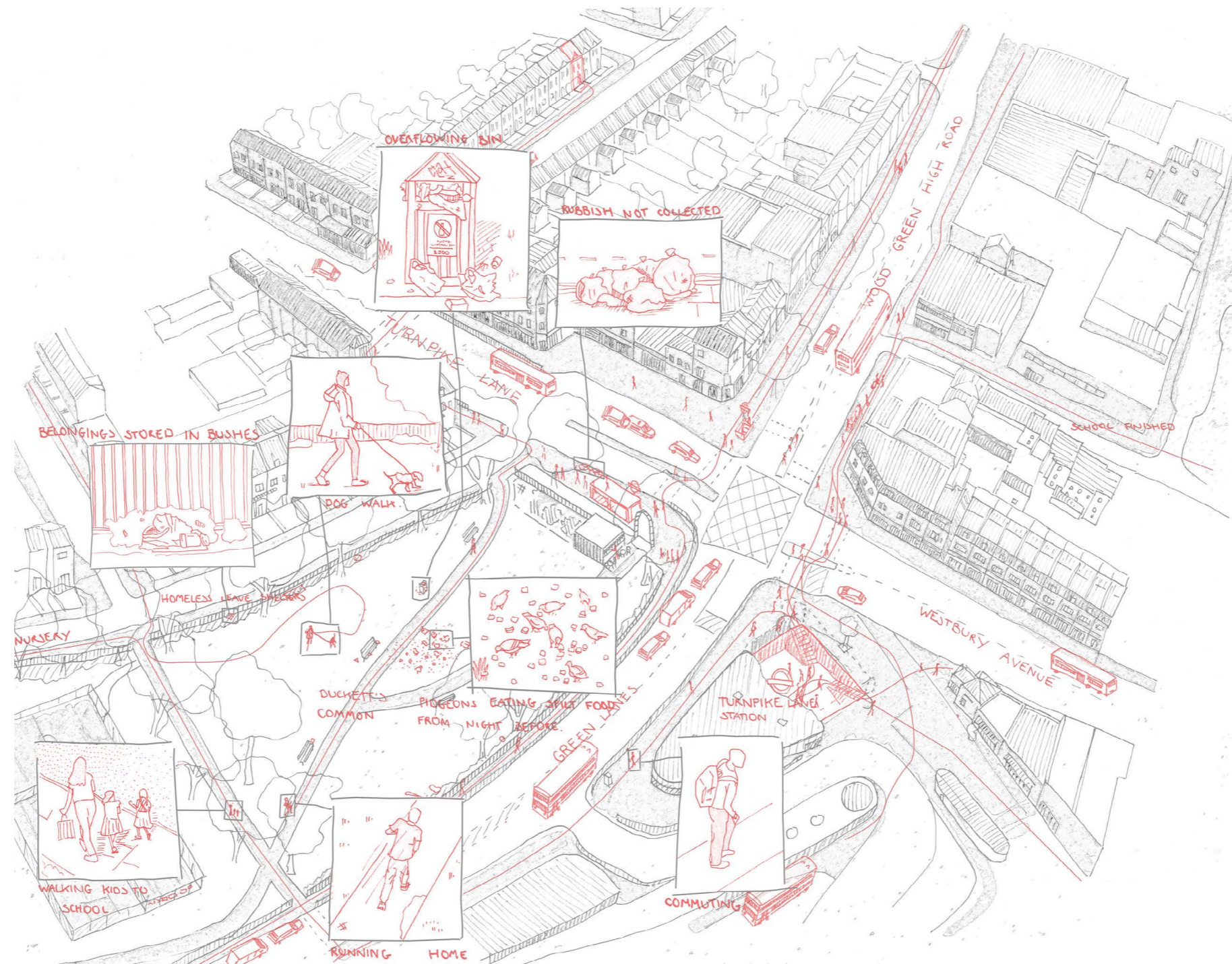


*PlayStreet, Park Ridings/Malvern Road, organised by PMRA.*

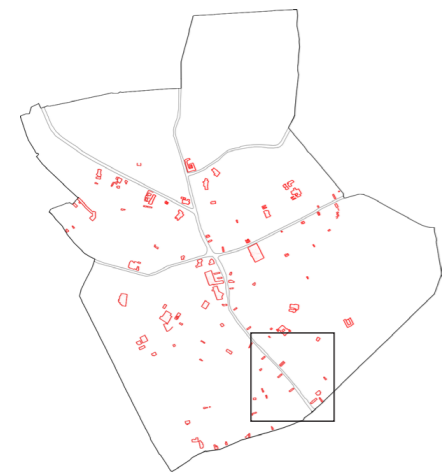


*Park Ridings, managed by Noel Park Big Local and GrowN22.*





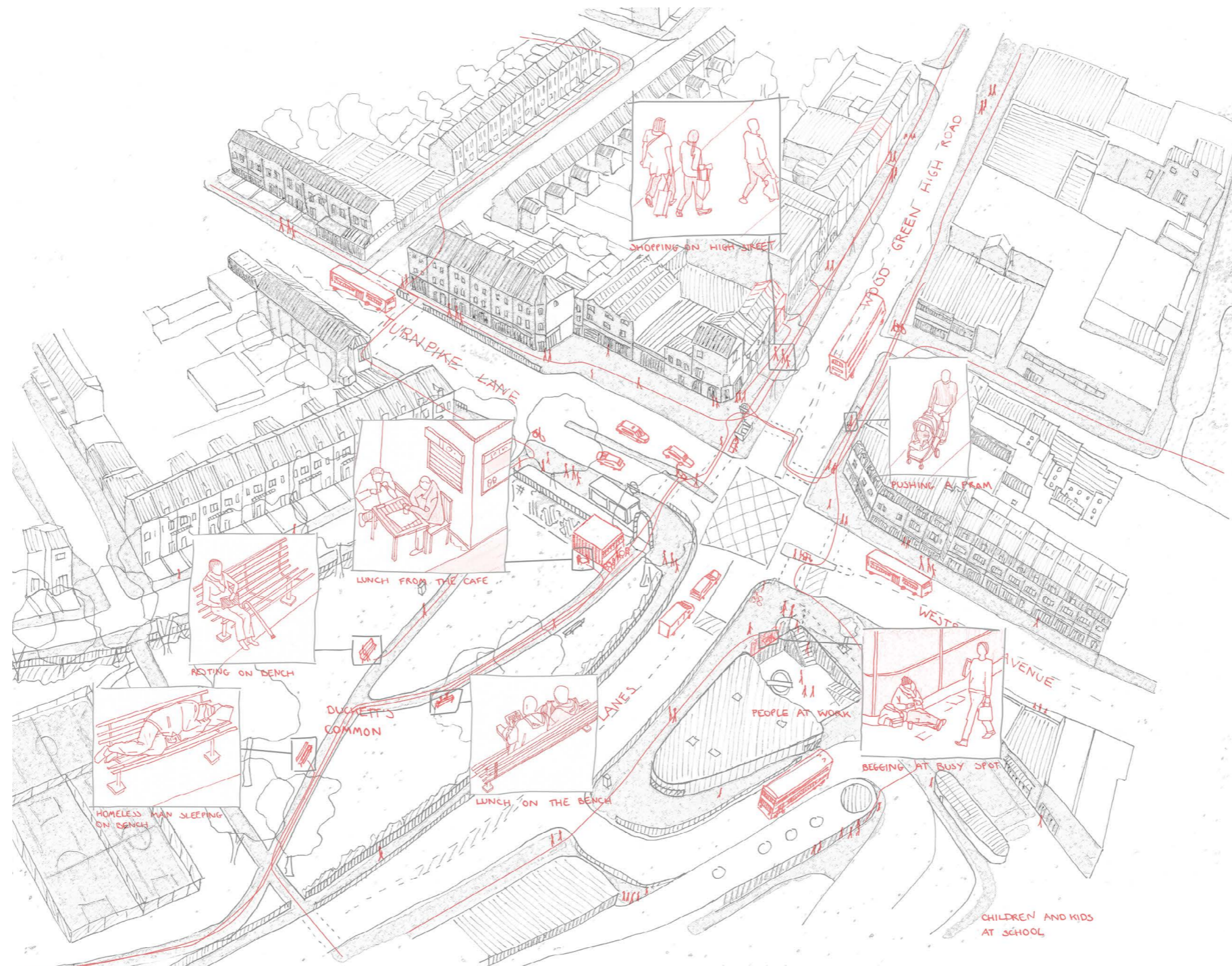
Duckett's Common at 8.00



## SPATIAL STRATEGIES FOR INFORMAL CARE

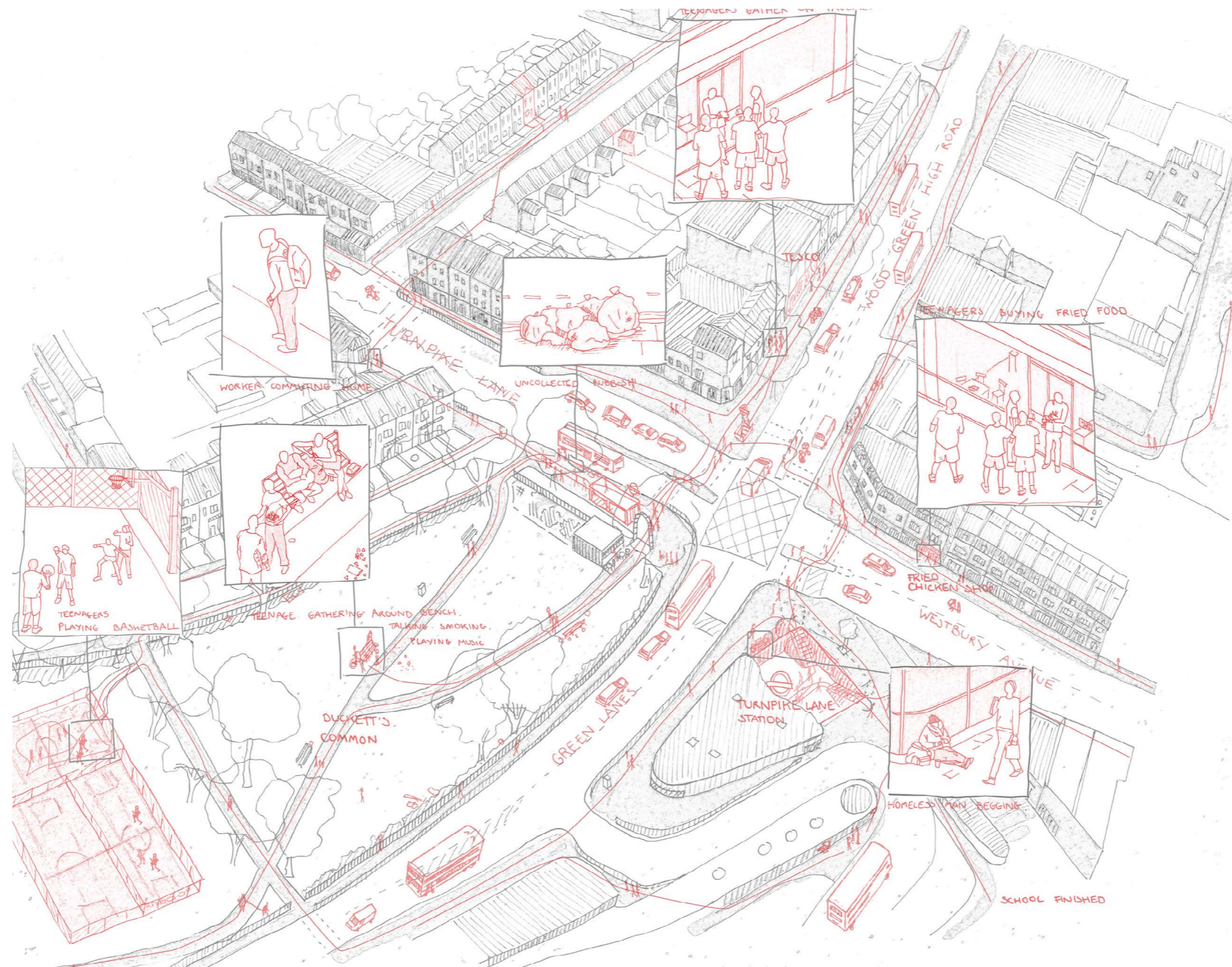
Care also present but often unacknowledged in informal settings – fast food restaurants, bus shelters, streets, homes. These structures have a continued daily presence and are publicly accessible for users.





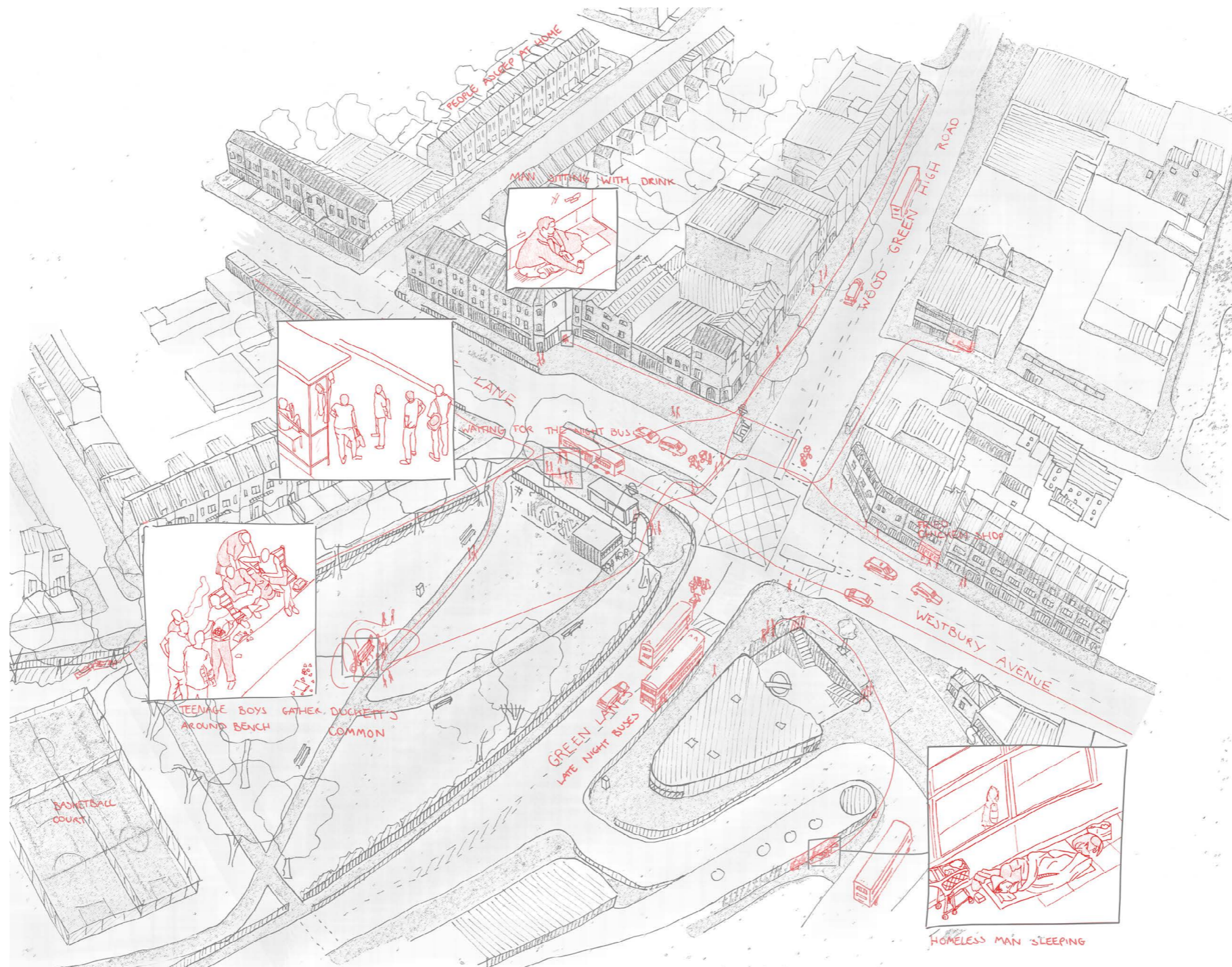
Duckett's Common at 13.00





Dockett's Common at 18.00





Duckett's Common at 00.00





*Clarendon Works Development, Wood Green, 2019, replaced a Youth Centre, a Nurery and a Nursing Home.*

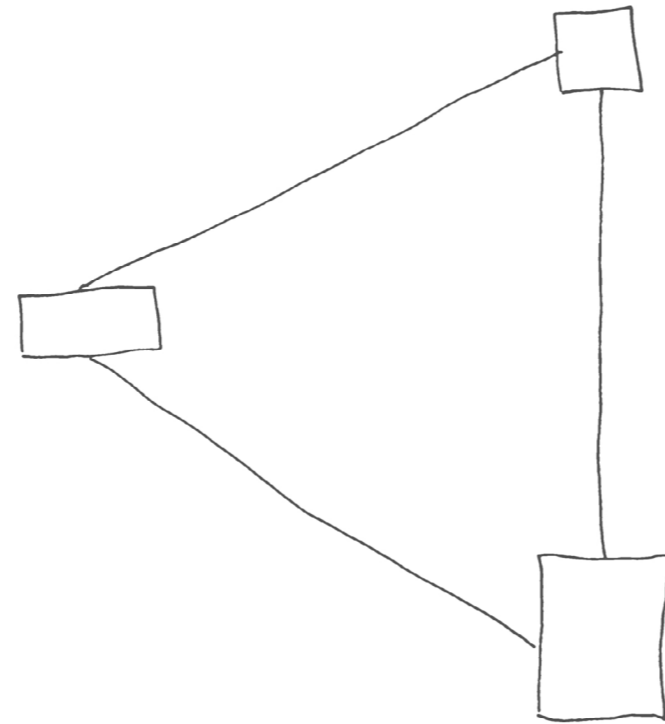
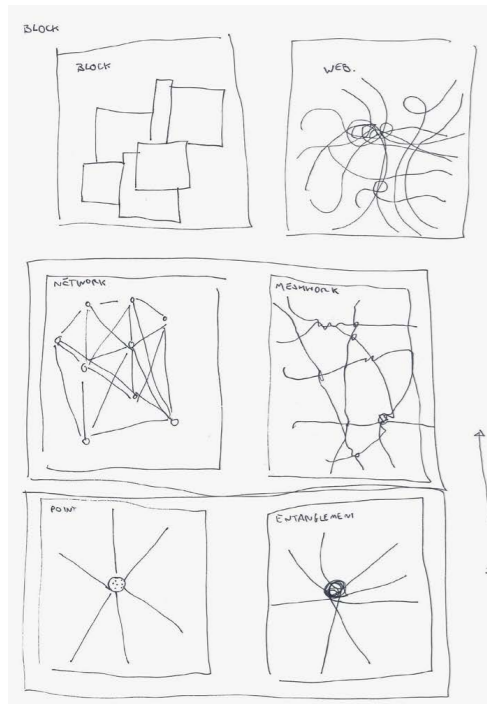
## SITE RESEARCH CONCLUSION

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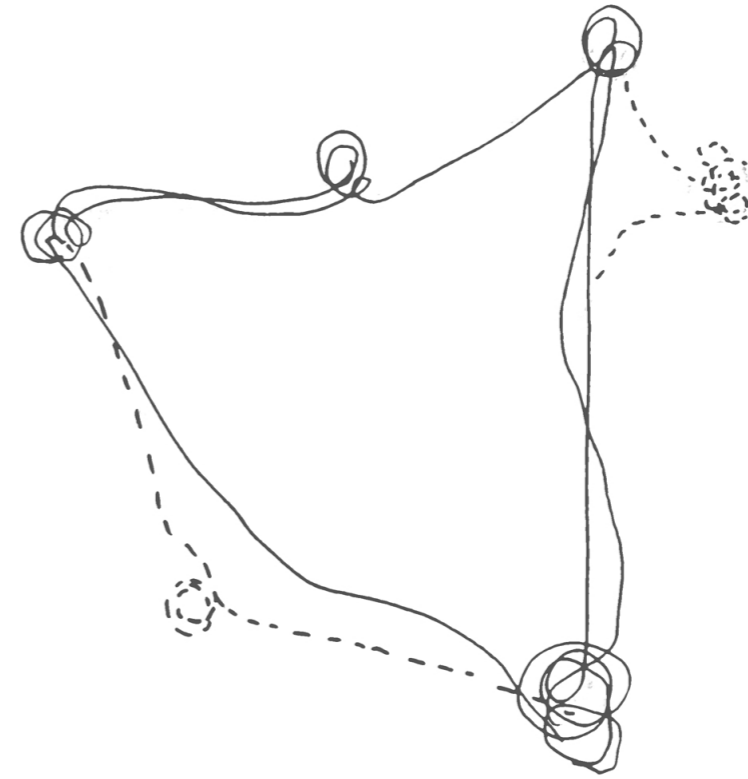
- Extending care into public space
- Forming relations and opening resources up to other caring groups
- Maintaining daily access

# THEORIES OF CARE

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EXISTING NETWORK: Buildings, as blocks, are connected by lines of travel, representing roads, pavements, or public transport with the blocks acting as nodes in a network.

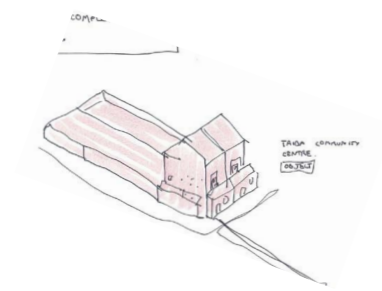
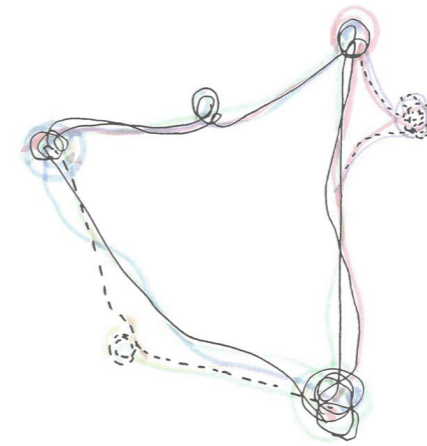
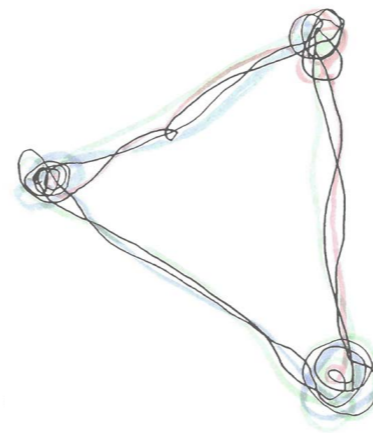
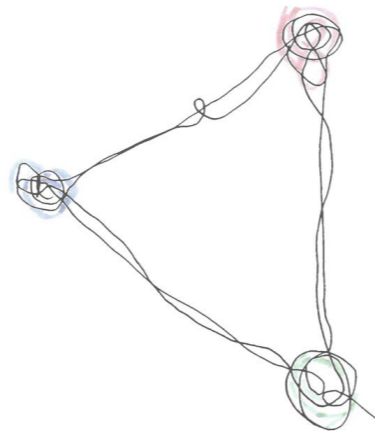
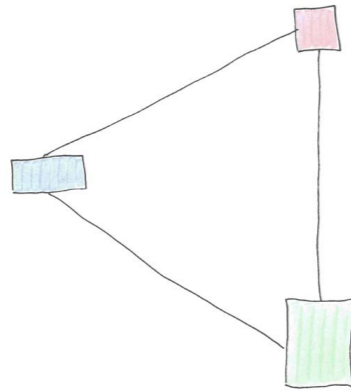


PROPOSED MESHWORK: Buildings or places are where a variety of trails are entwined, forming a knot, where things are brought together to make new associations.

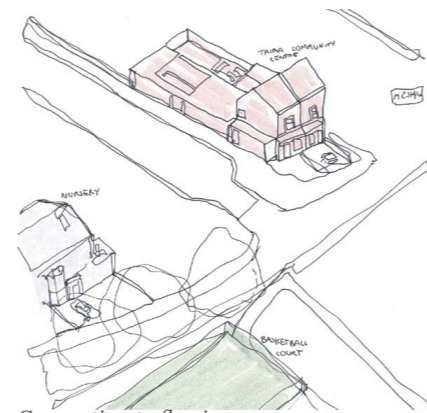
## SPACE FOR CARE AS MESHWORK

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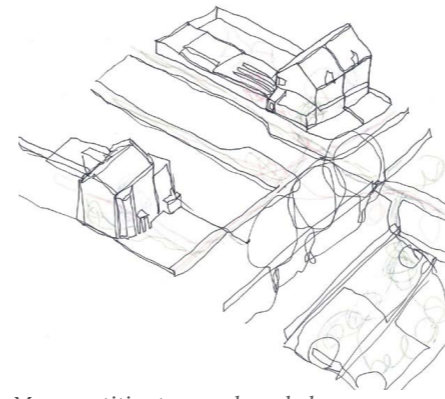
Examining Theories of care as a web and Tim Ingolds understanding of making as a meshwork.



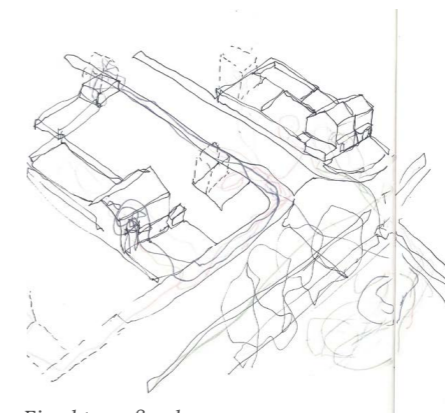
Existing network



Connecting to flowing



Mono-entities to complex whole

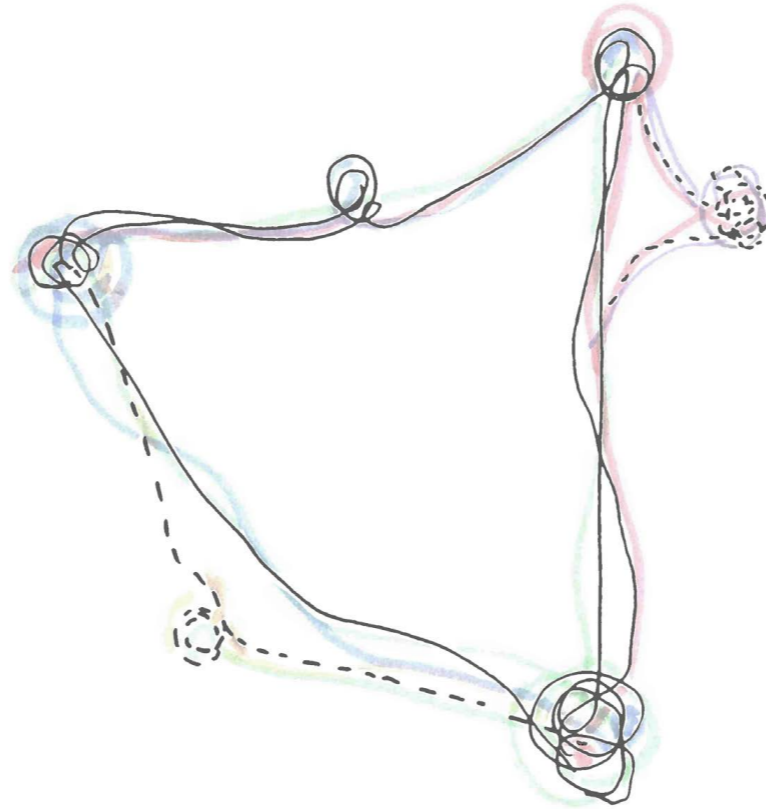


Fixed to unfixed



# THE MESHWORK

A DESIGN PROPOSAL

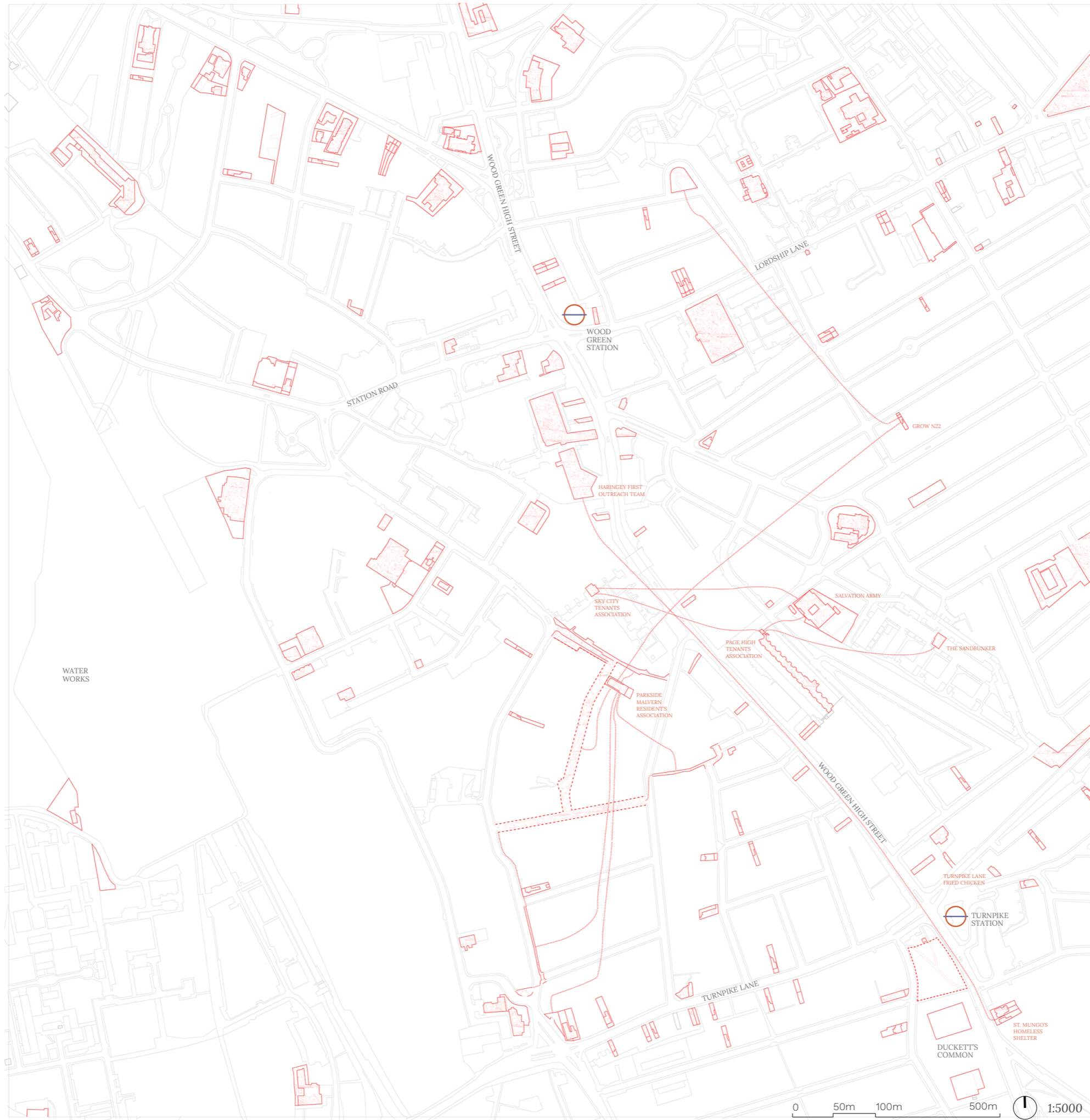




## DESIGN PROPOSAL

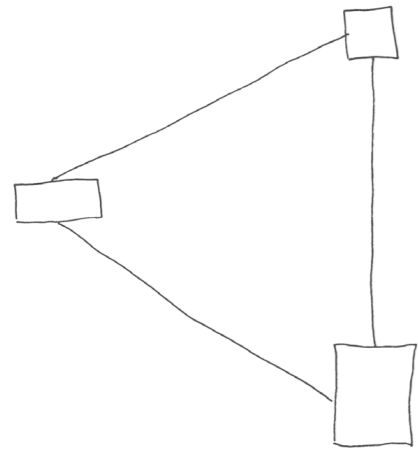
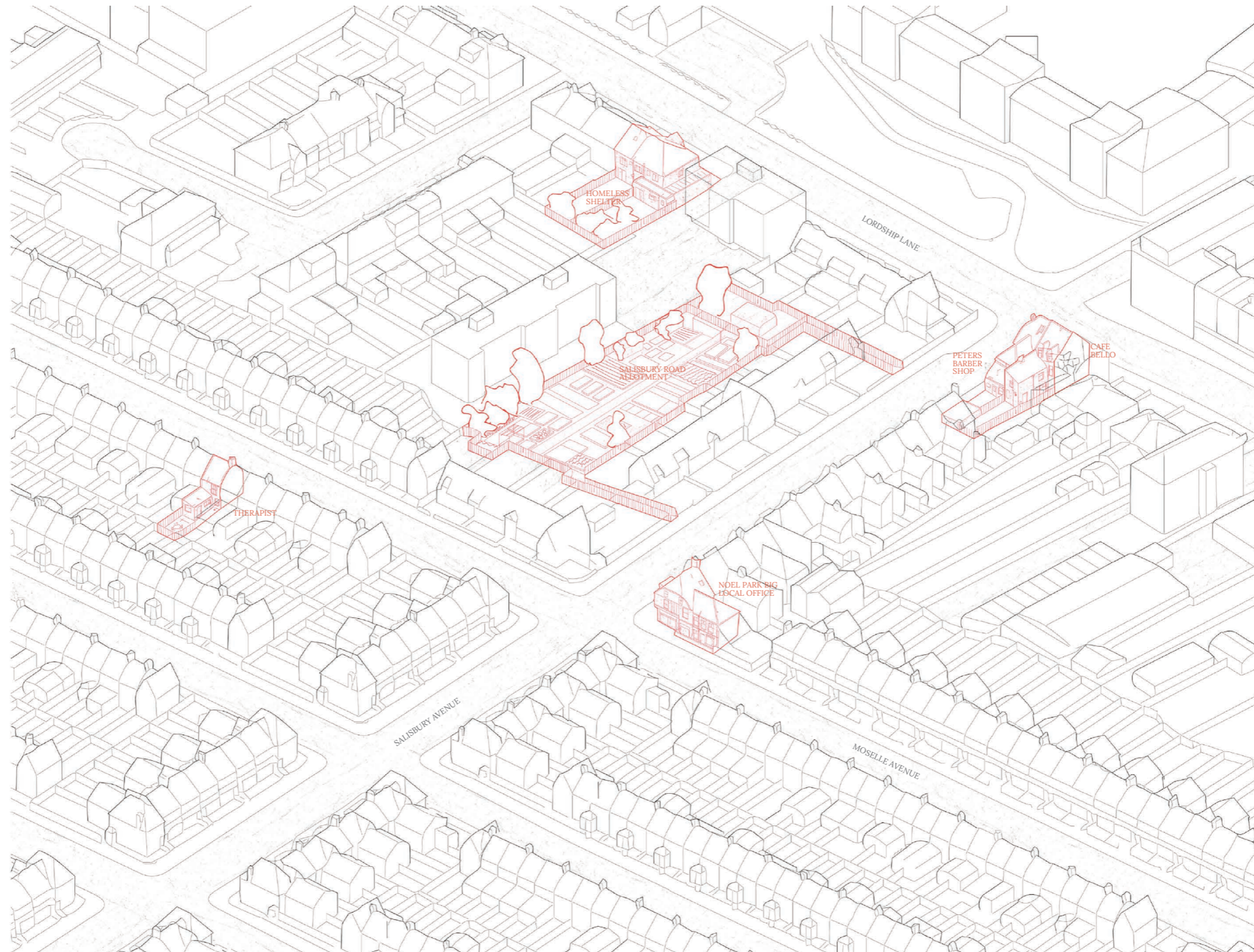
By delving into a collection of existing caring resources in Wood Green, we can begin to see how loosening boundaries of care can open up a vital collection of spaces for caring practices. The development follows the strain of neglect in Wood Green, taking existing buildings and lifelines into account, allowing small funding to reconfigure the site in phases. It is woven into the existing, rather than demolishing and replacing.

 Demolition 2017 - 2032





# THE SITE



## THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR SPECULATIVE INTERVENTION

The site contains a homeless shelter, community cafe, barber, Noel Park Big Local and a therapist. The existing is de-maintained, there is a lack of engagement between existing facilities and the public, despite these groups caring for people who would benefit from feeling integrated into their communities.

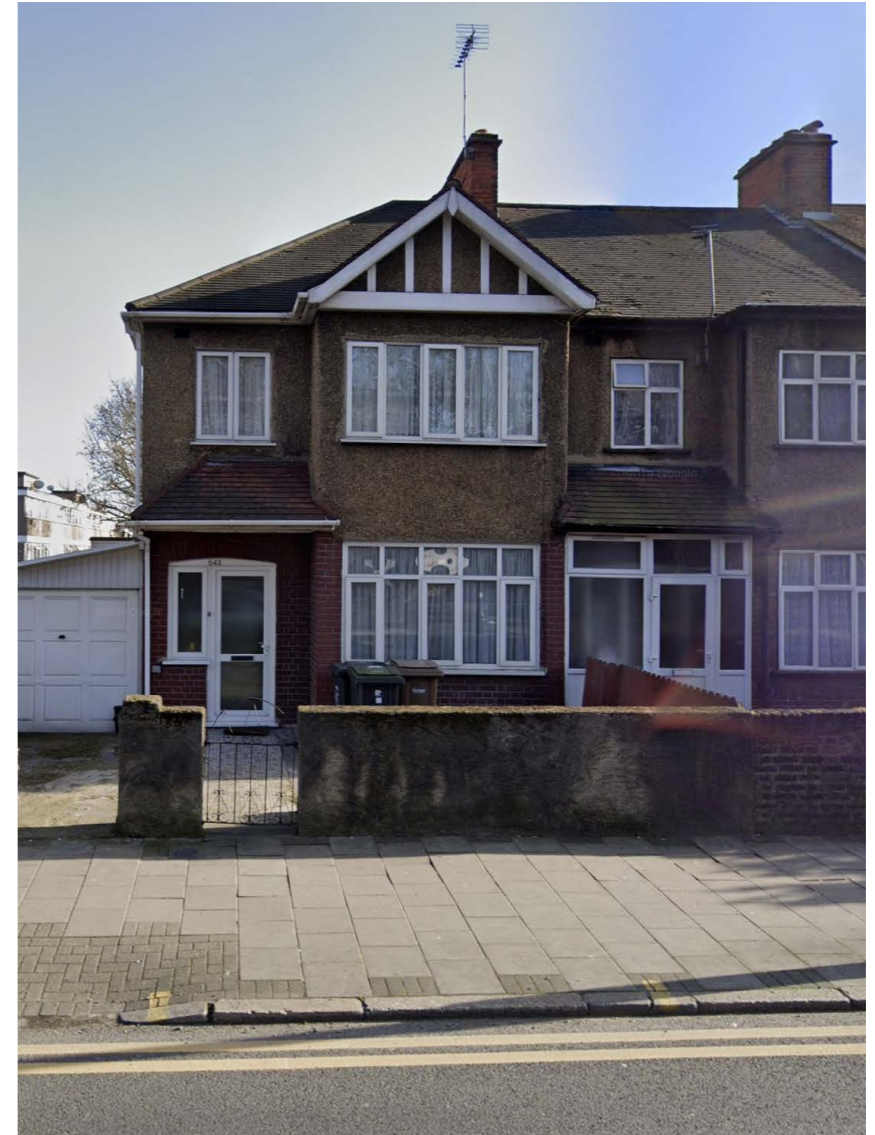




Cafe Bello and the Barber Shop from Lordship Lane



Noel Park Big Local Offices from Salisbury Road



Homeless shelter from Lordship Lane

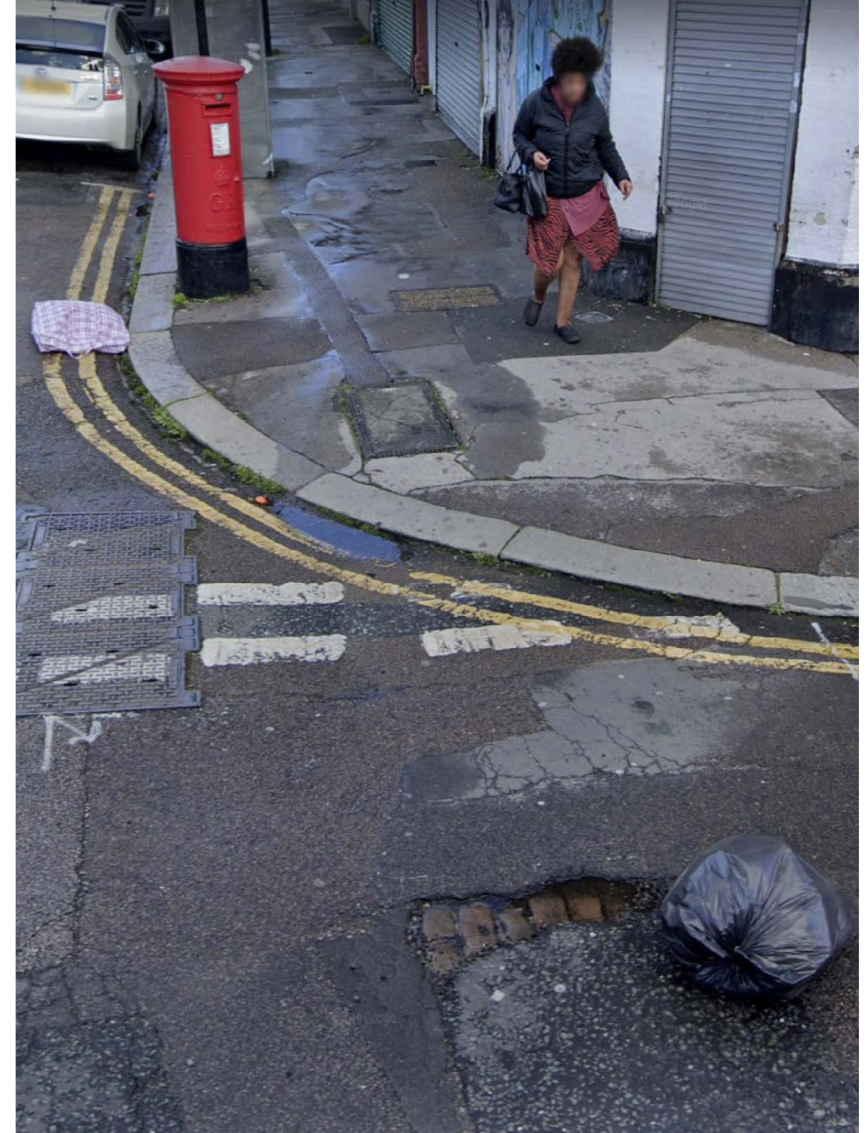




Salisbury Road



Lordship Lane



Salisbury Road





*The homeless shelter garden*



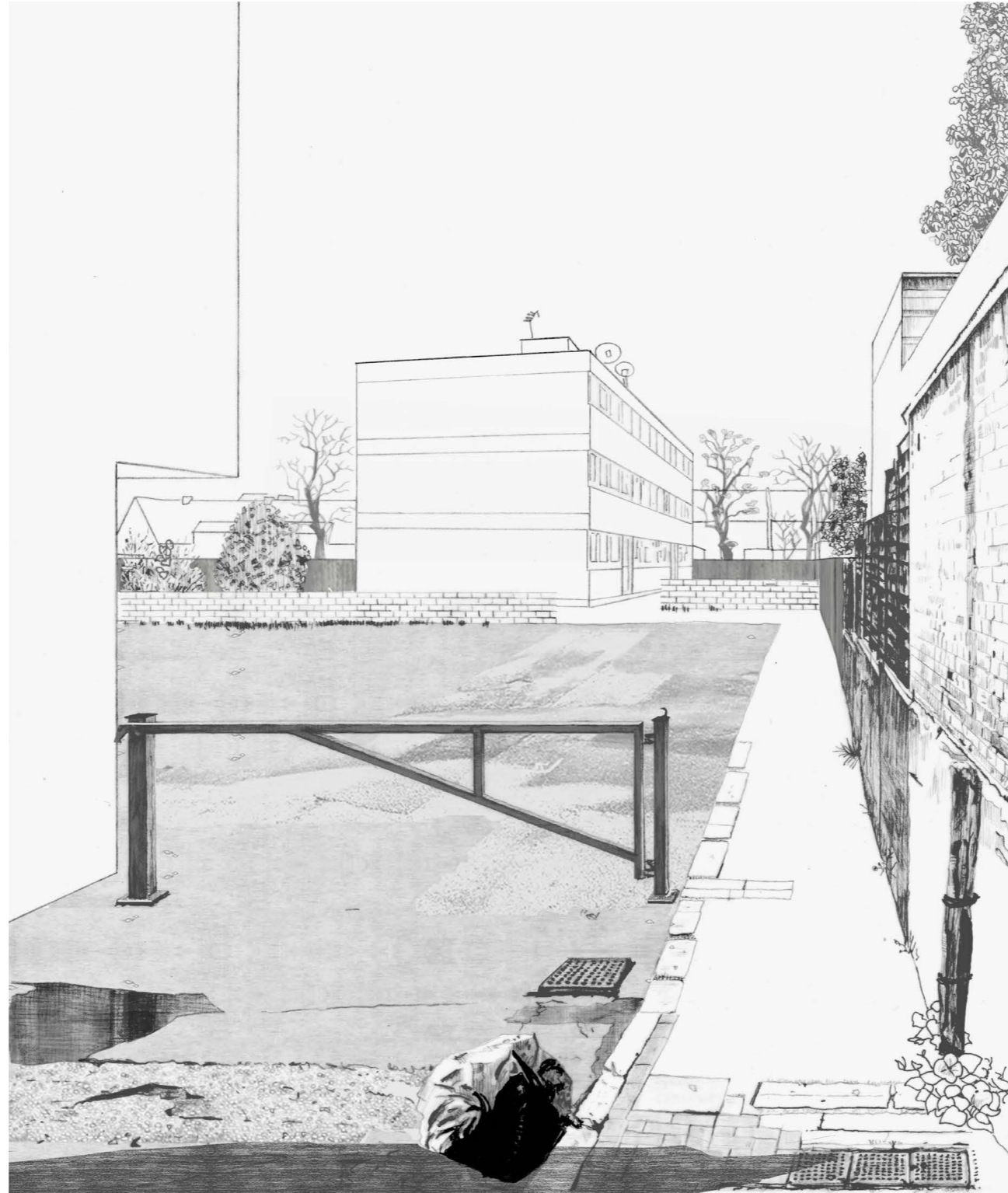
*Plot beside the Community allotments*



*The barber shop garden*

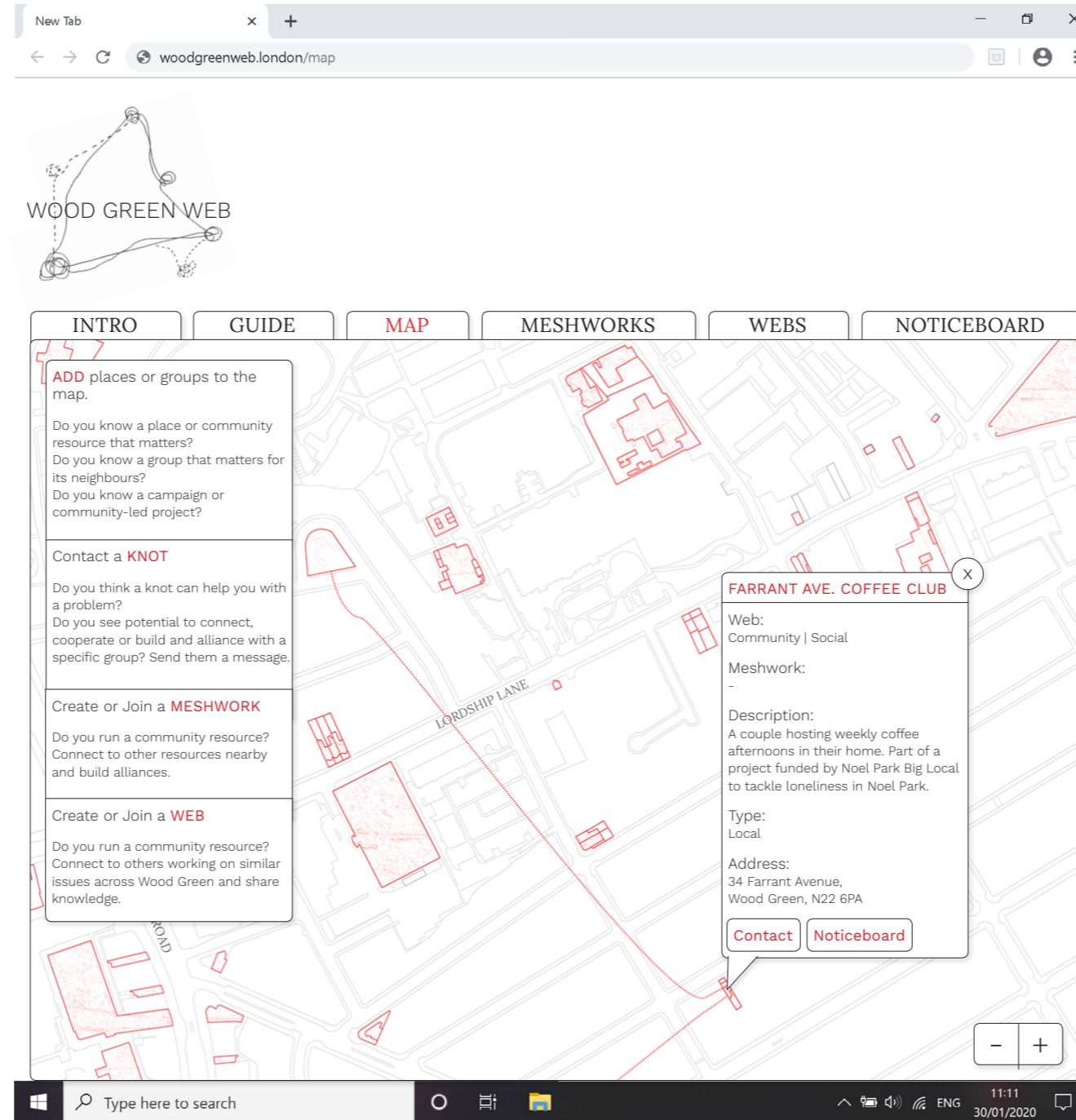


# SURFACE



*Existing view of Lyndum Court from Lordship Lane*

Areas being neglected are highlighted as points for intervention, these sites dot the interiors of Wood Green's blocks, as private enclosed gardens, cul de sacs and forgotten pockets of greenery, offering a place from which one could build a supportive framework. It follows the strain of neglect and austerity, taking the diversity and character of the existing sites into account.

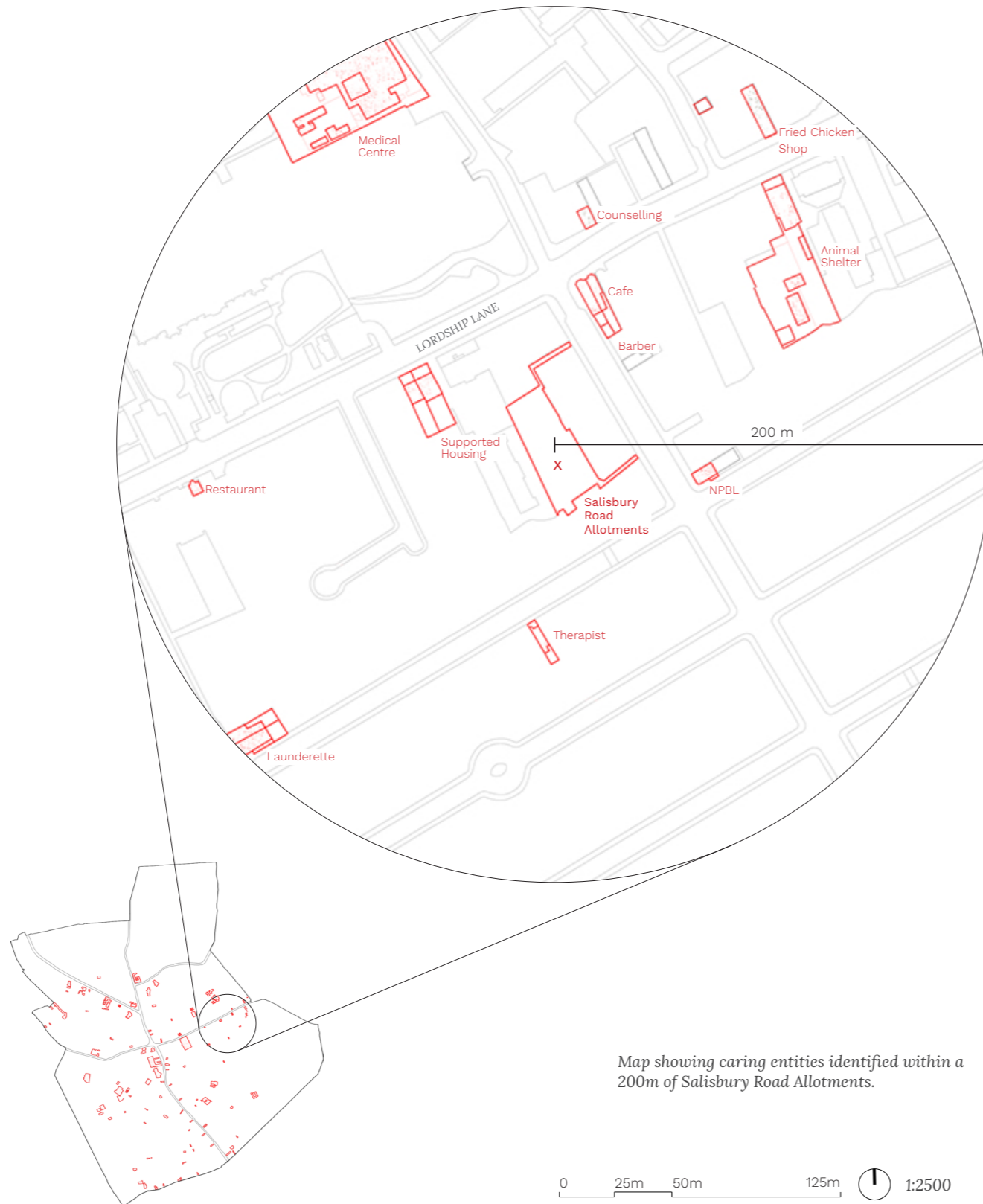


Wood Green Web neighbourhood website

## WOOD GREEN WEB

Existing caring entities in Wood Green share their location, resources, skills and upcoming events on a neighbourhood website. Wood Green Web neighbourhood website aims to 1) make Wood Greens caring entities more visible, 2) share specific knowledge between groups working on similar issues, 3) to connect, cooperate and build alliances.

References: JustMap Grassroots Network: [justmap.carto.com](https://justmap.carto.com/); Neighbourhood Planners London: <https://www.neighbourhoodplanners.london/>; Community Food Growers Network: <https://www.cfgn.org.uk/map/>



<p><b>CARE: THERAPIST</b></p> <p>Spaces: Living Room (sofa, armchair, coffee table) 10 sqm, Toilet 1.5sqm, Garden (table chairs) 18 sqm</p> <p>Capacity: 4</p> <p>Users: 25</p> <p>User Groups: Private individuals with mental health issues</p>
<p><b>CARE: SUPPORTED HOUSING</b></p> <p>Spaces: 8 single rooms, 1 shared kitchens, 4 shared bathrooms, Communal living room, Reception, Office</p> <p>Capacity: 8 homeless people, 2 carers</p> <p>User Groups: Single, homeless, male ex-convicts</p>
<p><b>LEISURE: ALLOTMENTS</b></p> <p>Spaces: Community Garden and Allotments 1017 sqm</p> <p>Capacity: 30 plots</p> <p>Users: 55</p> <p>Intergenerational Gardening Club</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY: TENANTS &amp; RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION</b></p> <p>Spaces: Office (tables, chairs, shelves, computers) 30 sqm, Storage 5 sqm, Toilet 1.5 sqm, Kitchen 1.5 sqm</p> <p>Capacity: 6</p> <p>Users: 8</p> <p>User Groups: Local Community</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY: CAFÉ</b></p> <p>Spaces: Seating Area (tables, chairs, sound system) 17 sqm, Kitchen (oven, grill, 3 fridges, freezer, sink, dishwasher, stove, coffee machine, dishes, cutlery, hot plate) 17sqm, Toilets 3 sqm, Garden (derelict) 52 sqm</p> <p>Capacity: 20</p> <p>Users: 200</p> <p>User Groups: Local Community, Albanian Community, Foster Children Cooking Club, Elderly Social Club</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY: BARBERSHOP</b></p> <p>Spaces: Barbershop 42 sqm, Outdoor space 42 sqm</p> <p>Capacity: 8</p> <p>Users: 50</p> <p>User Groups: Local Community, Local Boys</p>

List of meshwork resources.

To build a meshwork, an existing caring group, in need of support, reaches out to other groups within a three minute walk / 200m.



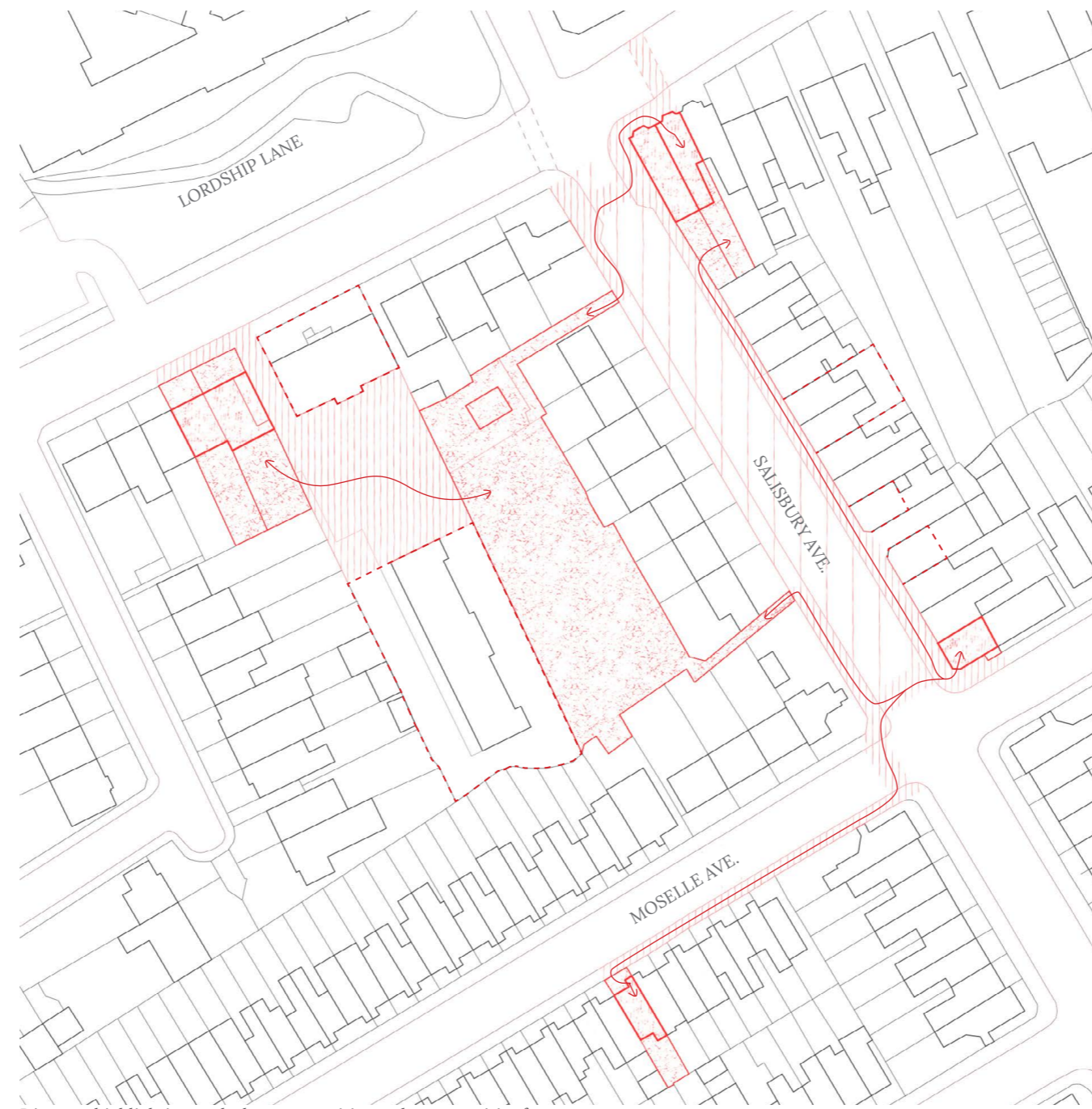







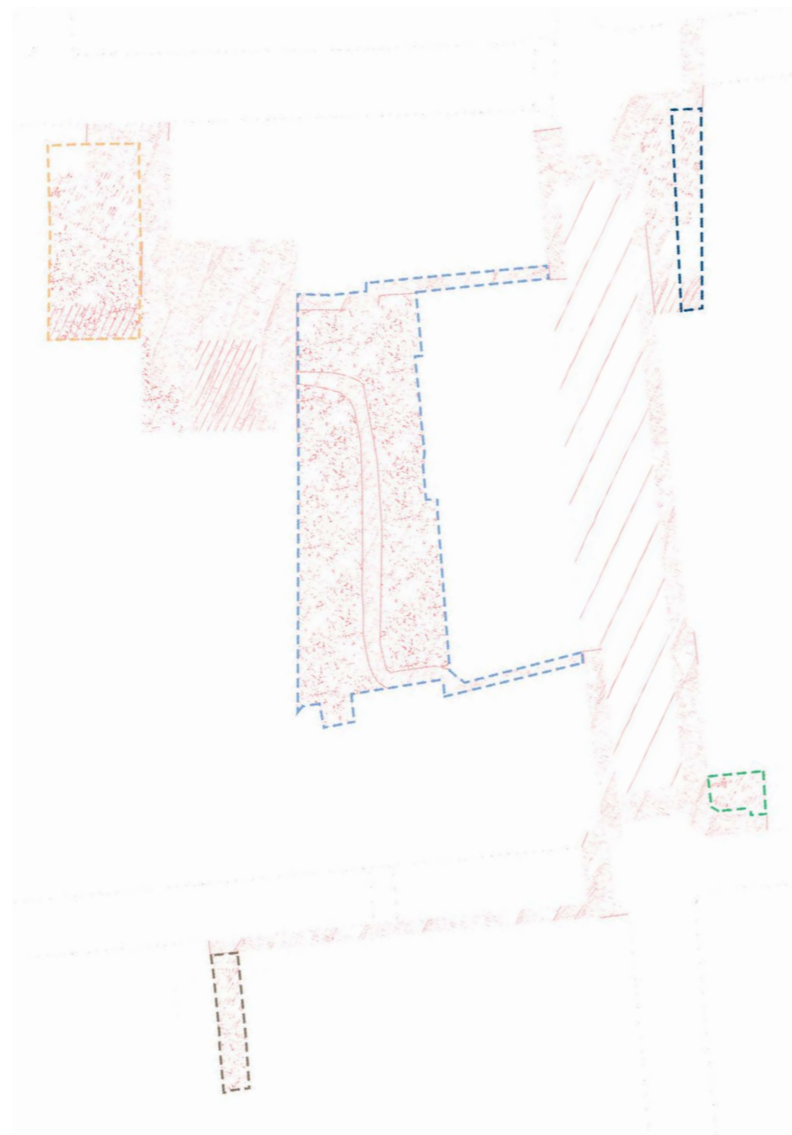
Diagram highlighting paths between entities and opportunities for new flows or knots. This shows the potential to stitch individual entities into a meshwork.



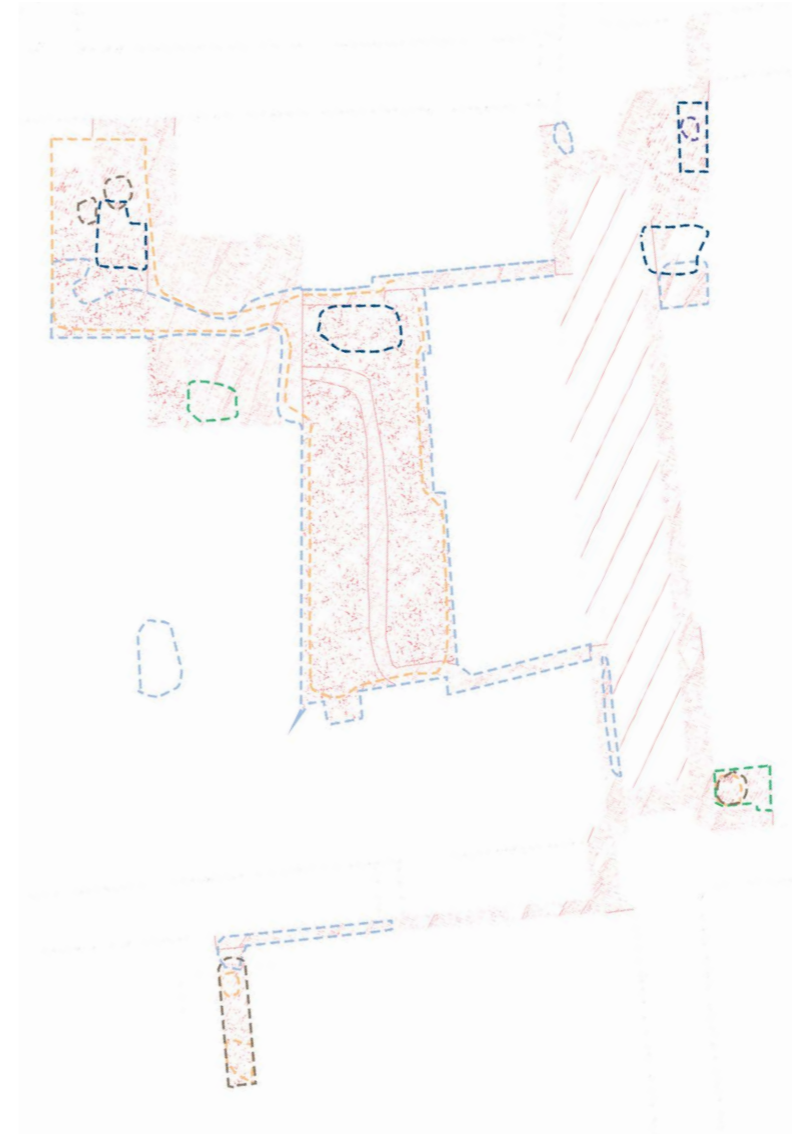
## MAPPING COLLECTIVE SURFACES

Incentivised by opportunities for support, growth and resilience, they agree to collectivise. They move from individual entities towards a complex whole.

-  Existing bounded resources
-  Map the flows of circulation that connect existing resources
-  Map the public surfaces between resources to be stitched into the meshwork
-  Map public surfaces with that can be temporarily inhabited for events.
-  Identify opportunities for future expansion and entanglement



Although physically connected, the inhabitants of the meshwork begin by continuing to inhabit their original bounded sites.



Over time boundaries become increasingly porous, and the meshwork operates as a complex whole.



**TENURE OPTIONS:**  
 Shifting of use has implications on ownership. Direct private rent and freehold sales prevent the flexibility of the meshwork. Hence, the establishment of a Community Land Trust is recommended to manage the shared surface.  
 2. Community Land Trust - Existing owners maintain the freehold of their plot and lease their shared space to the Meshwork Community Land Trust. They manage the property for you still get a small monthly income.





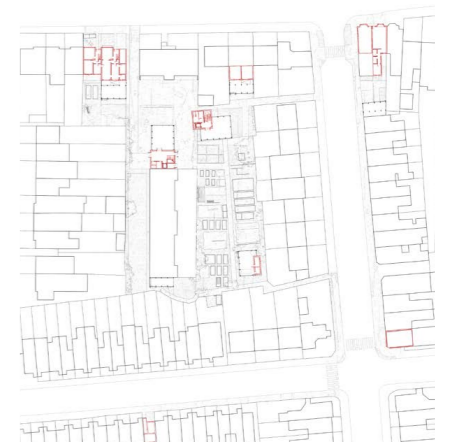
*View of proposed surface from Lordship Lane*

Areas being neglected are highlighted as points for intervention, these sites dot the interiors of Wood Green's blocks, as private enclosed gardens, cul de sacs and forgotten pockets of greenery, offering a place from which one could build a supportive framework. It follows the strain of neglect and austerity, taking the diversity and character of the existing sites into account.



View of proposed surface from Lordship Lane

Areas being neglected are highlighted as points for intervention, these sites dot the interiors of Wood Green's blocks, as private enclosed gardens, cul de sacs and forgotten pockets of greenery, offering a place from which one could build a supportive framework. It follows the strain of neglect and austerity, taking the diversity and character of the existing sites into account.

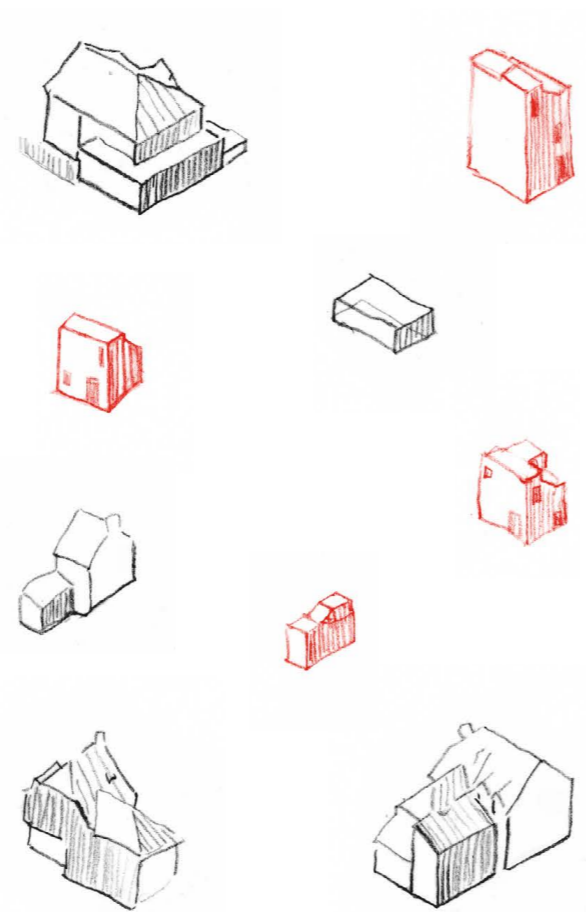


This surface could accommodate a maximum of 690m<sup>2</sup> of new space for care.

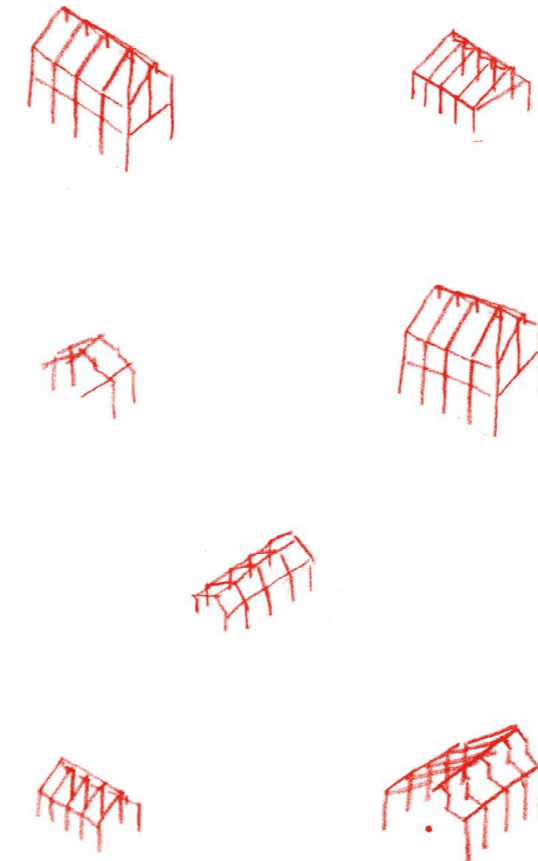


# CONCEPT

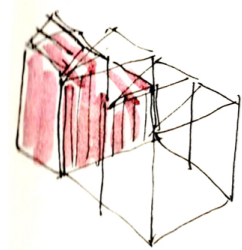
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*Knots as a service core, providing circulation, water, energy, gas and basic facilities. They are points from which to adjoin or expand, recalling the existing terraces.*



*Frames as space to be inhabited by community care, an extrusion of existing structures, growing beyond old boundaries and separations.*



## KNOTS AND FRAMES

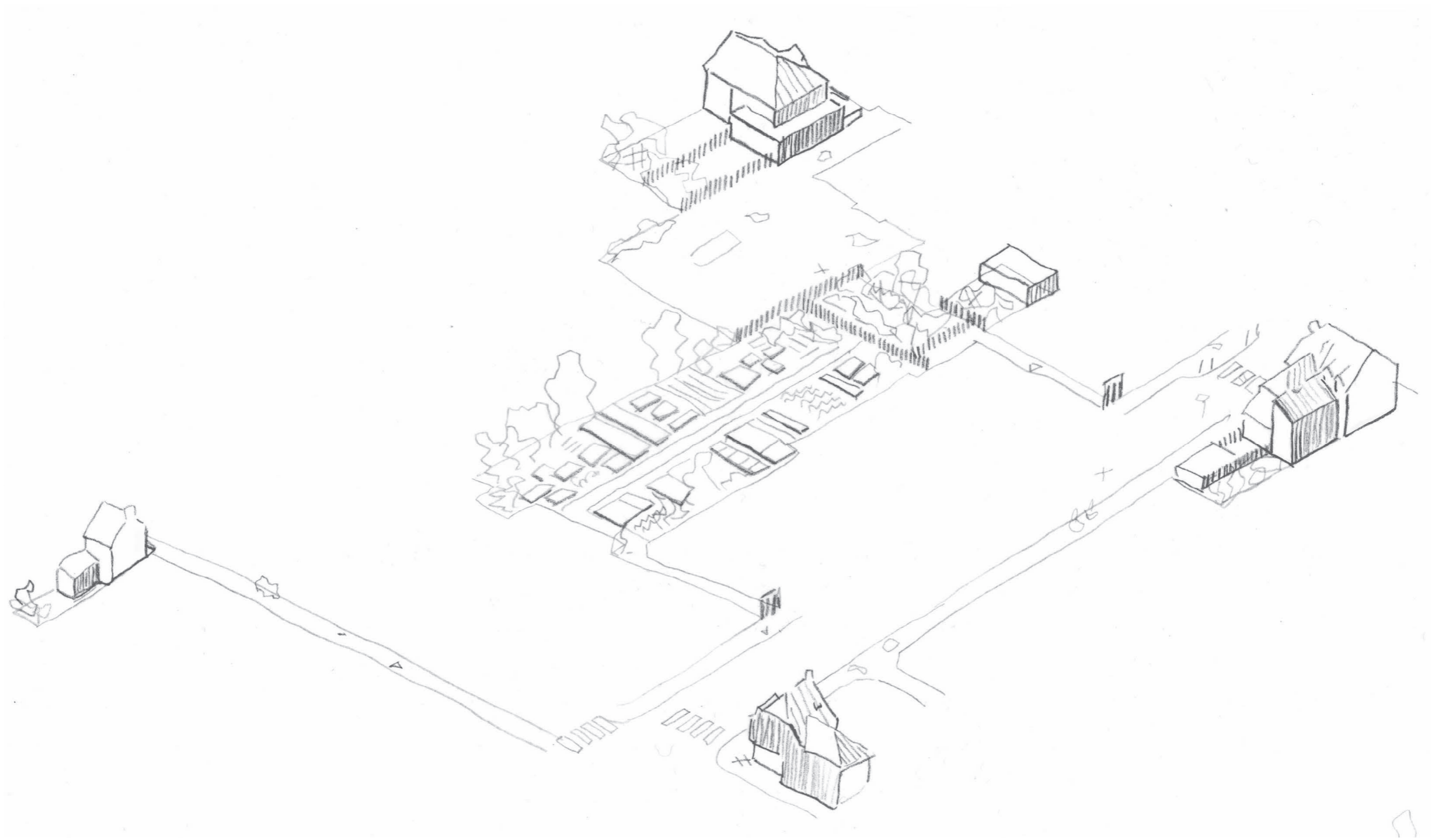
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1. A knot hosting basic resources. It has basic facilities that can be used as rooms at the beginning and become space for extra facilities as capacity increases in the future. It provides circulation for future frameworks.

2. Framework are extrusions of the existing buildings, an in-between climate, mediating outdoor and indoor and blurring the boundaries of care and public space. Crossing boundaries.



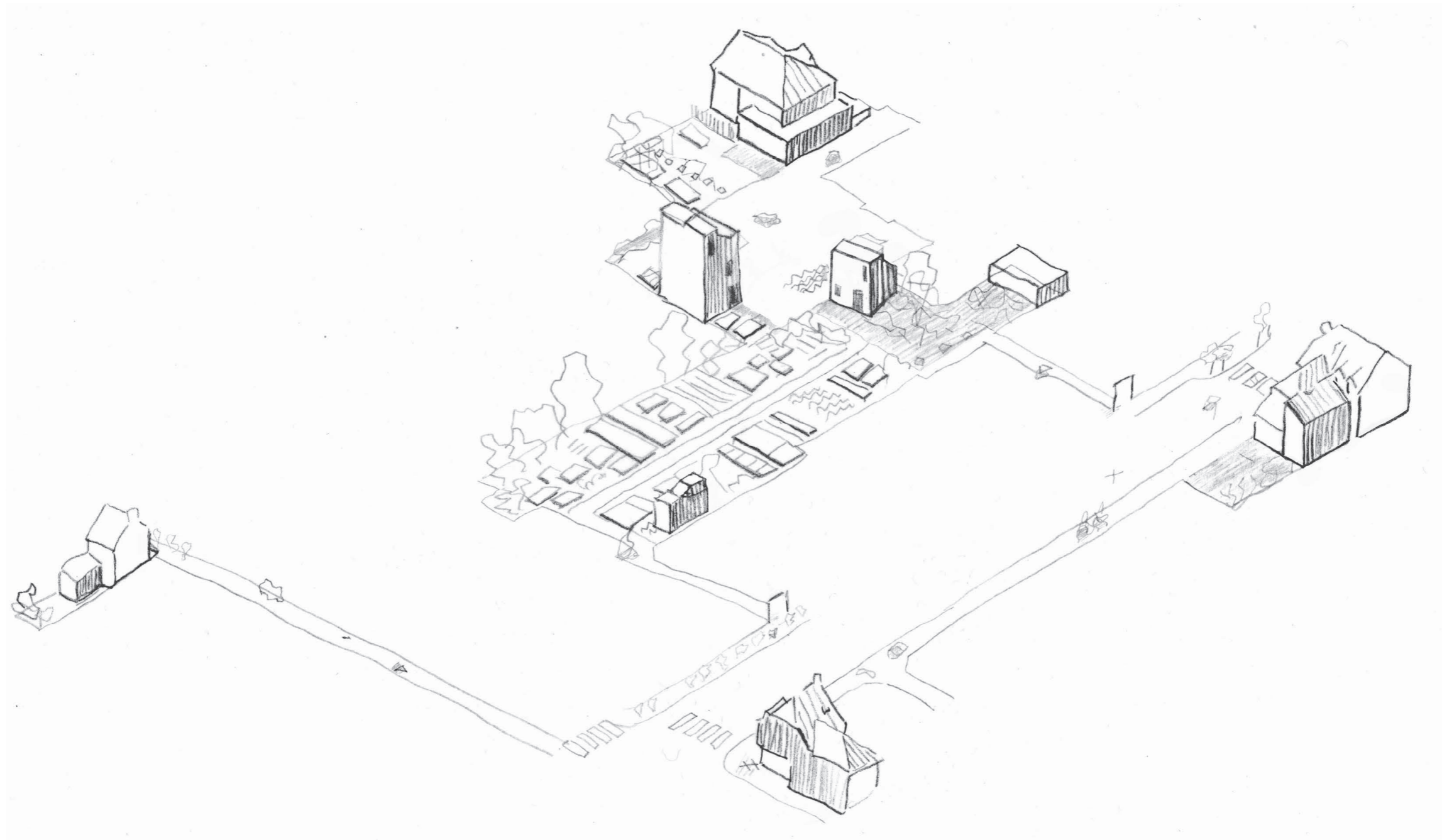
*View showing pitched, terraced housing in Wood Green. Photo taken from Shopping City.*



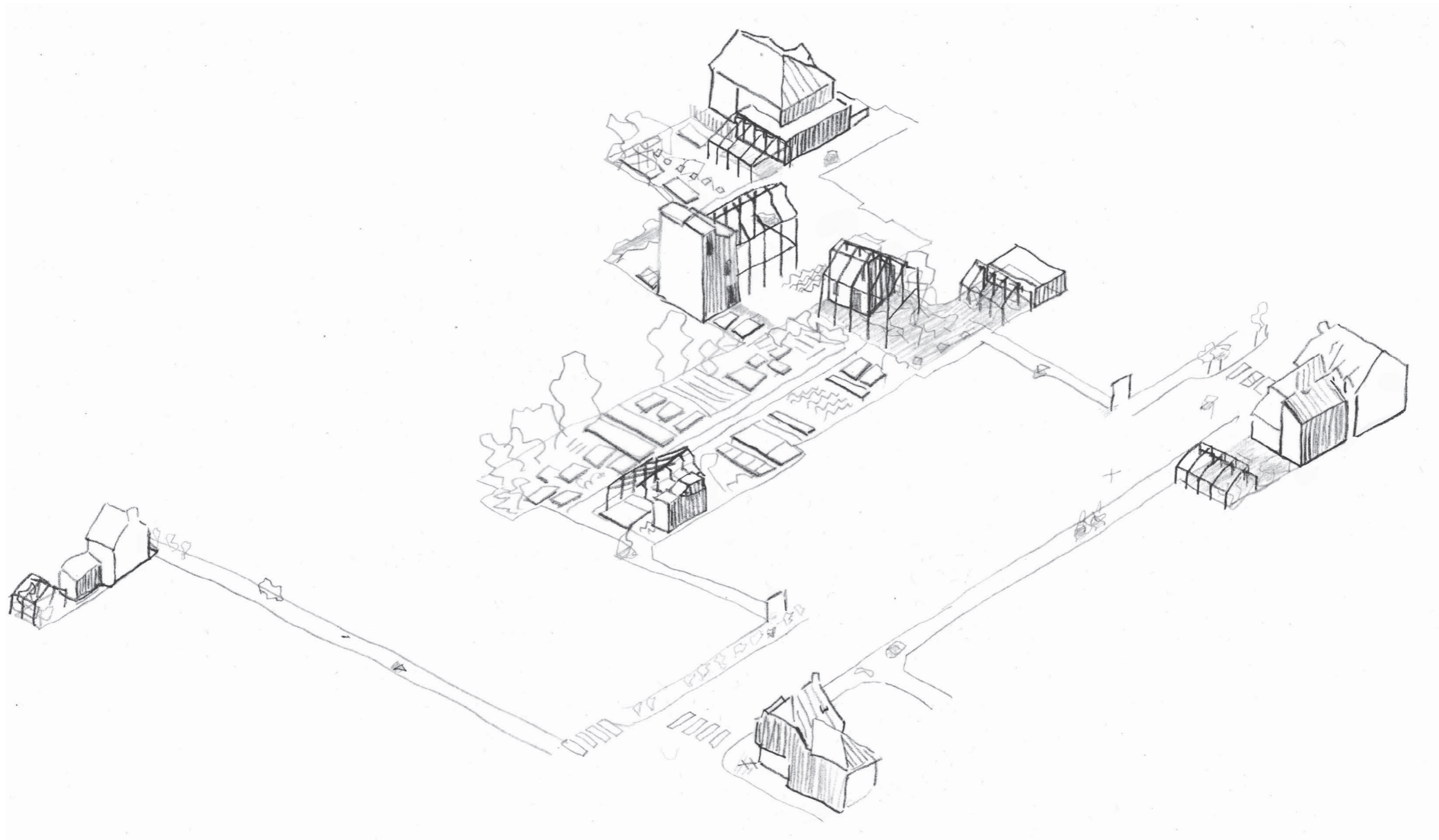
## SEQUENCE

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1. A landscape of separate underfunded resources.  
Separated by walls, fences and demaintained  
surfaces.

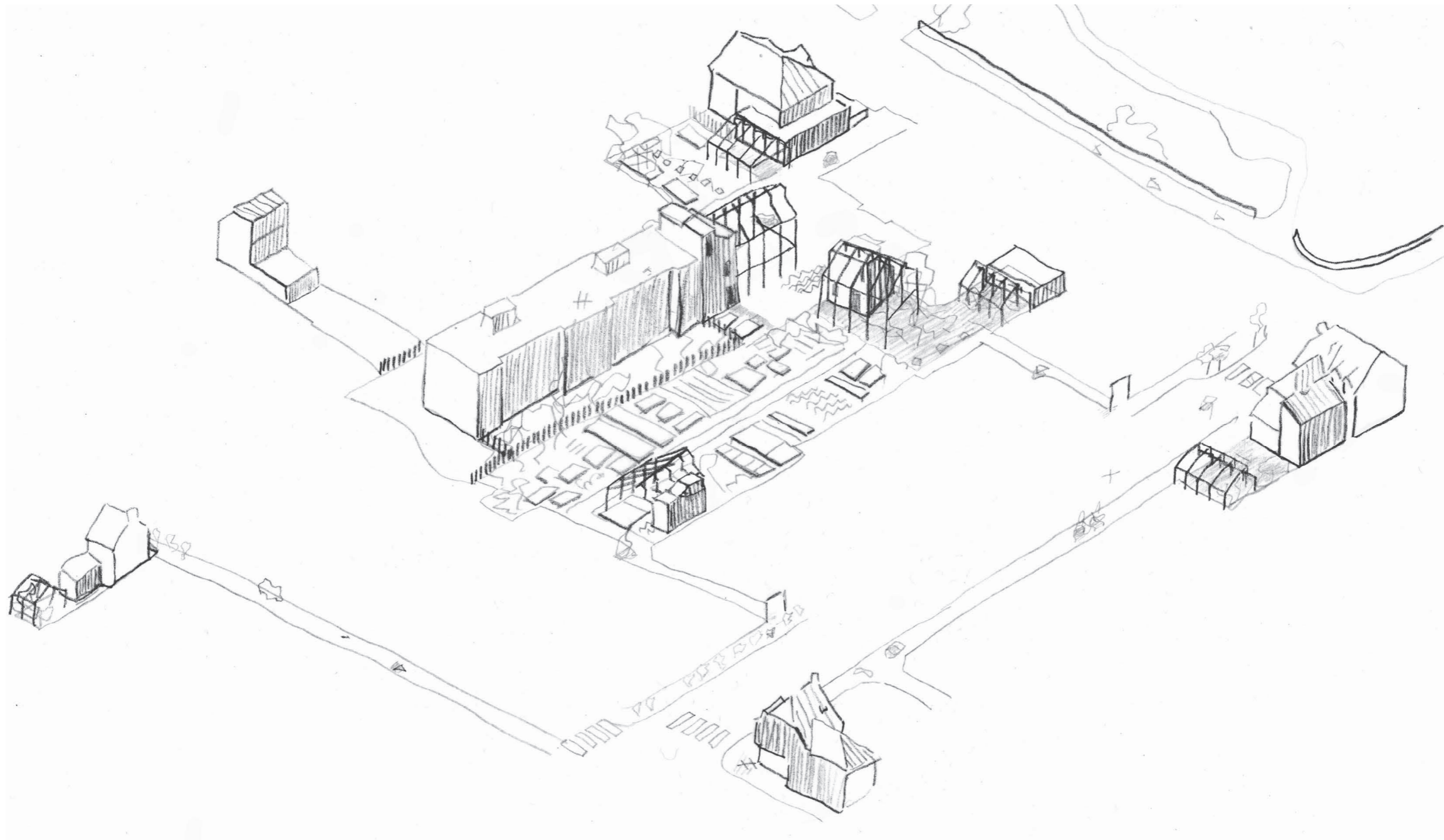


2. The cores, or knots, are the first structures, appearing as guardians of the landscape to come. They are followed by a network of paths created through the demolition of fences and walls, the filling of potholes and cracks and the clearing of vegetation. The knitting together of previously neglected space.

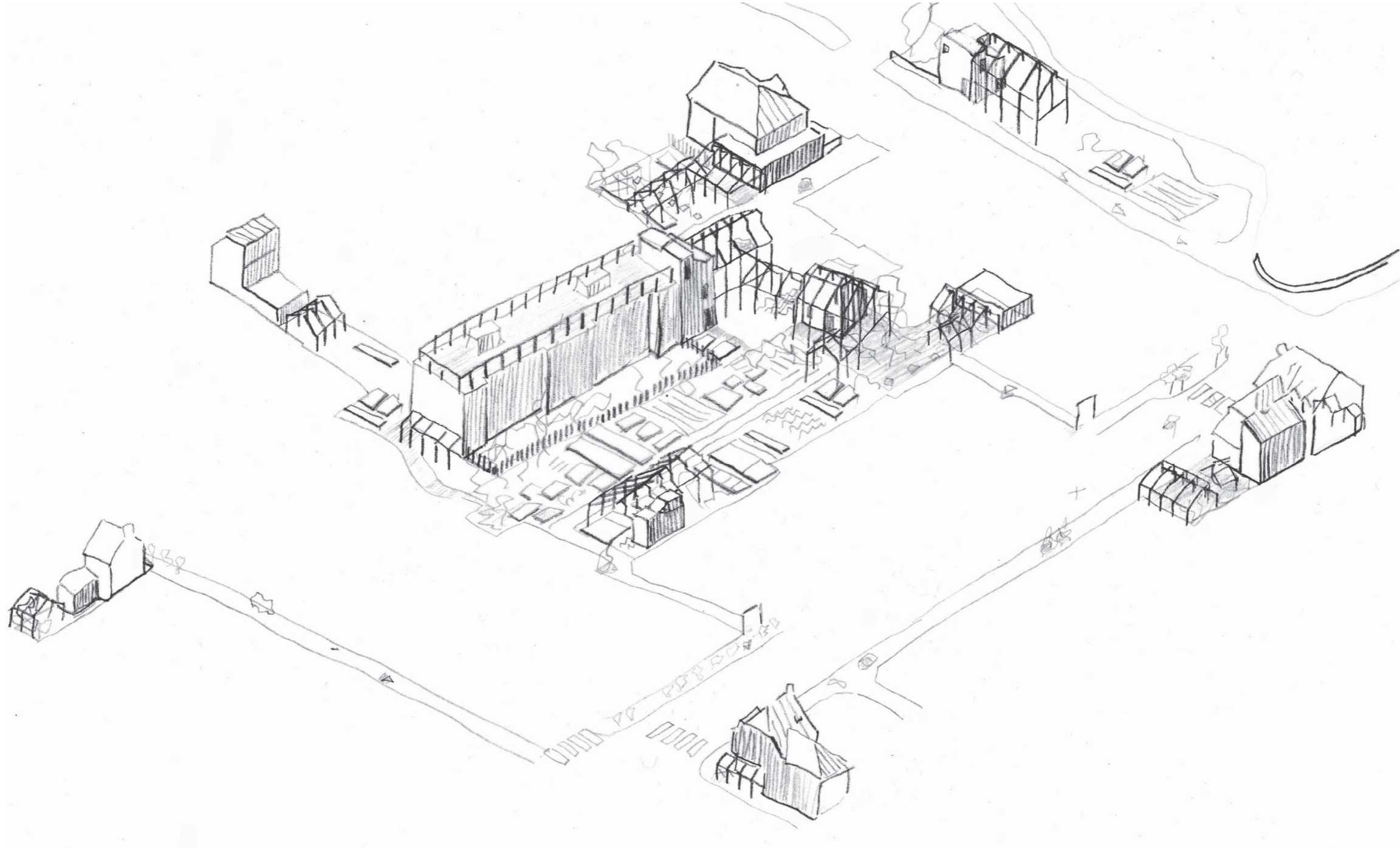


3. As funding becomes available, frames extrude from both existing and proposed structures. The cores begin to fade into both the existing caring institutions, and existing public space, melding them together.



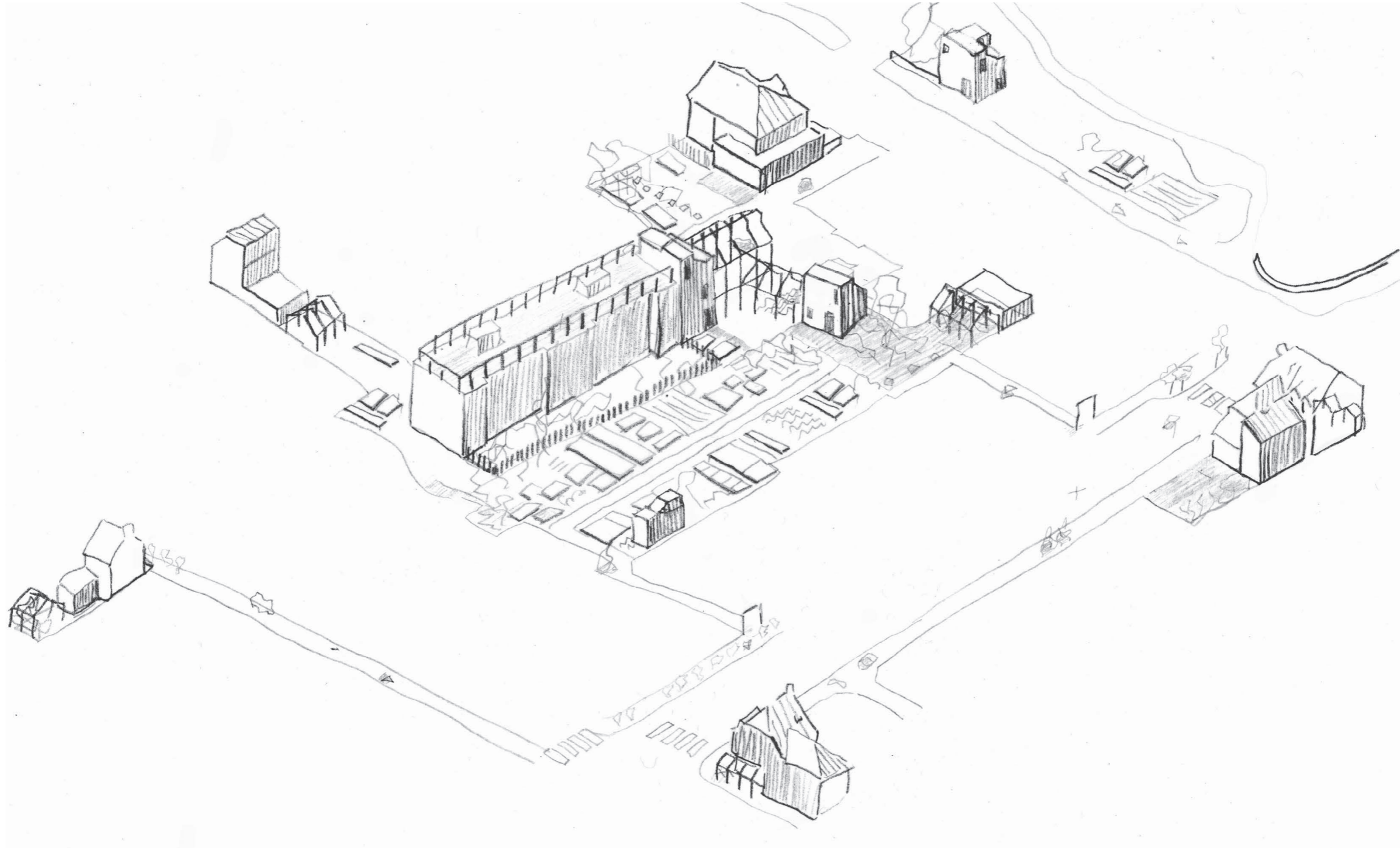


4. As walls are demolished and new institutions join, opportunities for new relationships open up.



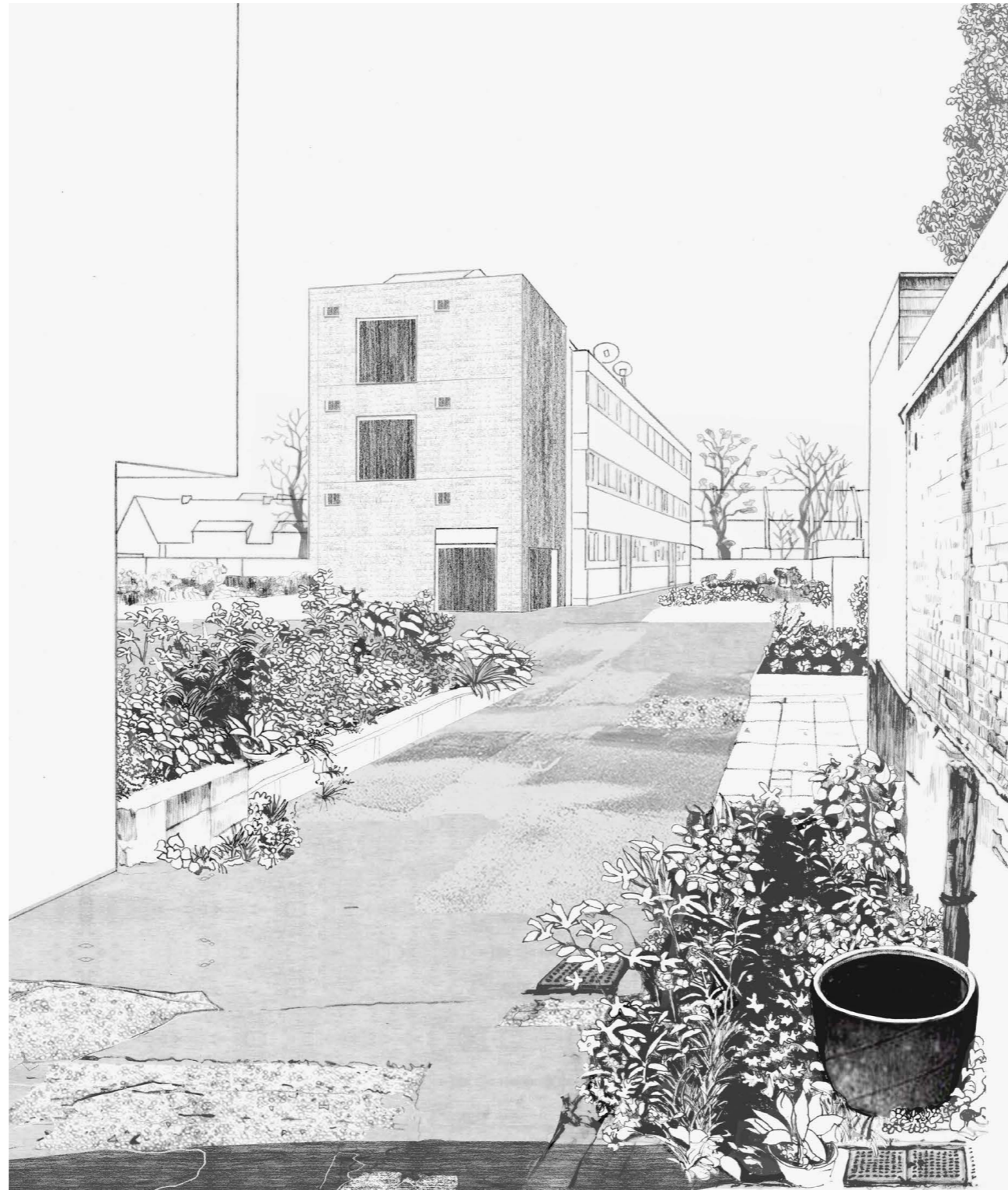
5. Changes in ownership result in the shifting of framework, to accommodate shifting relationships. The frame attaches and expands.





6. The requirement for the meshwork decreases. The frame is deconstructed and reconfigured within other meshworks in Wood Green. The cores remain to mark the cohesive public surface left in its wake, open to future reinvention in new forms of publicness.

# THE KNOT



*View of coree from Lordship Lane*

The core acts as the first guardian of the meshwork, to observe and support the meshworks growth.

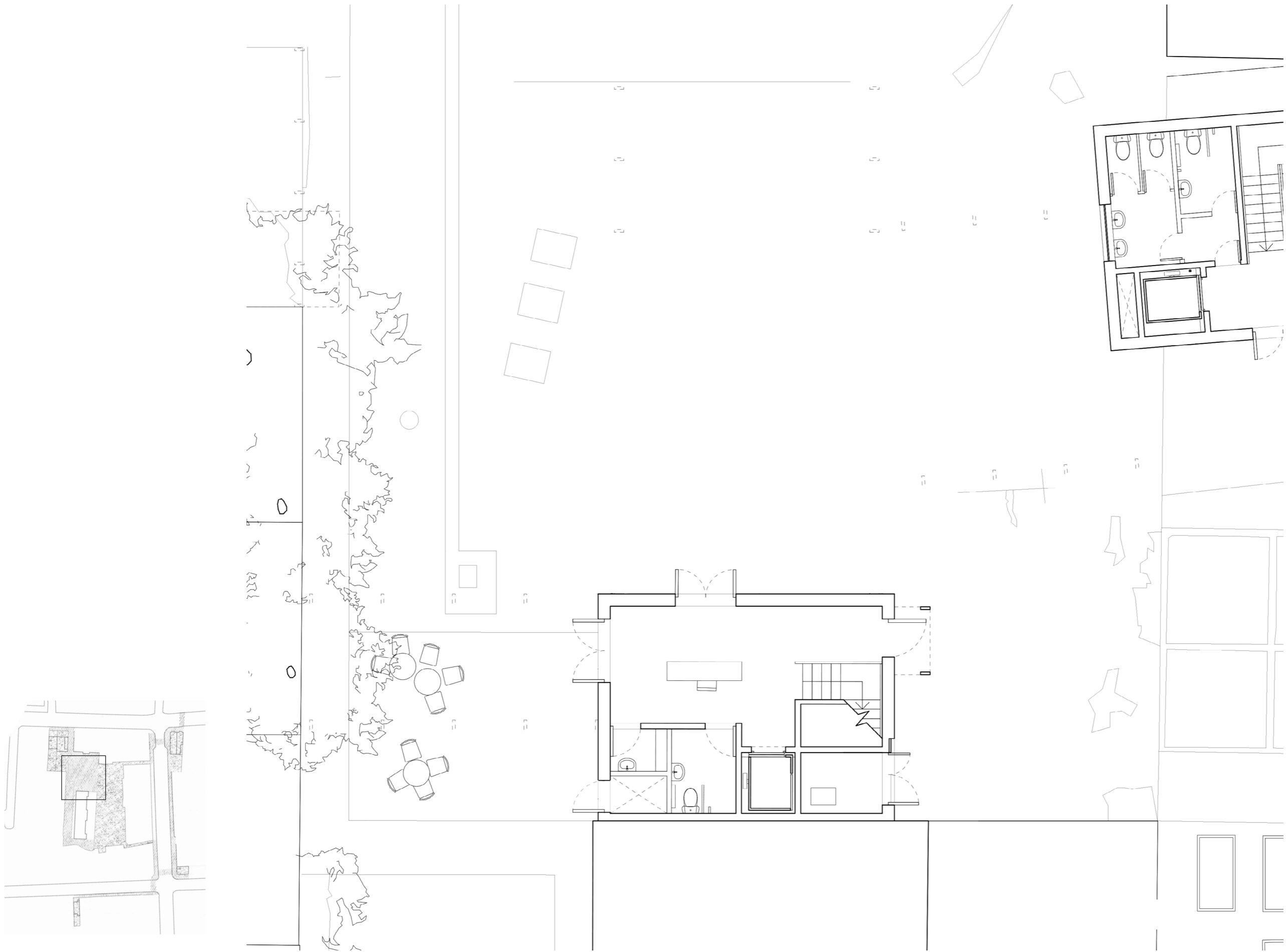




- 1. Homeless shelter
- 2. Salisbury Road Allotment
- 3. Barber
- 4. Cafe Bello
- 5. Noel Park Big Local

## MESHWORK SITE PLAN

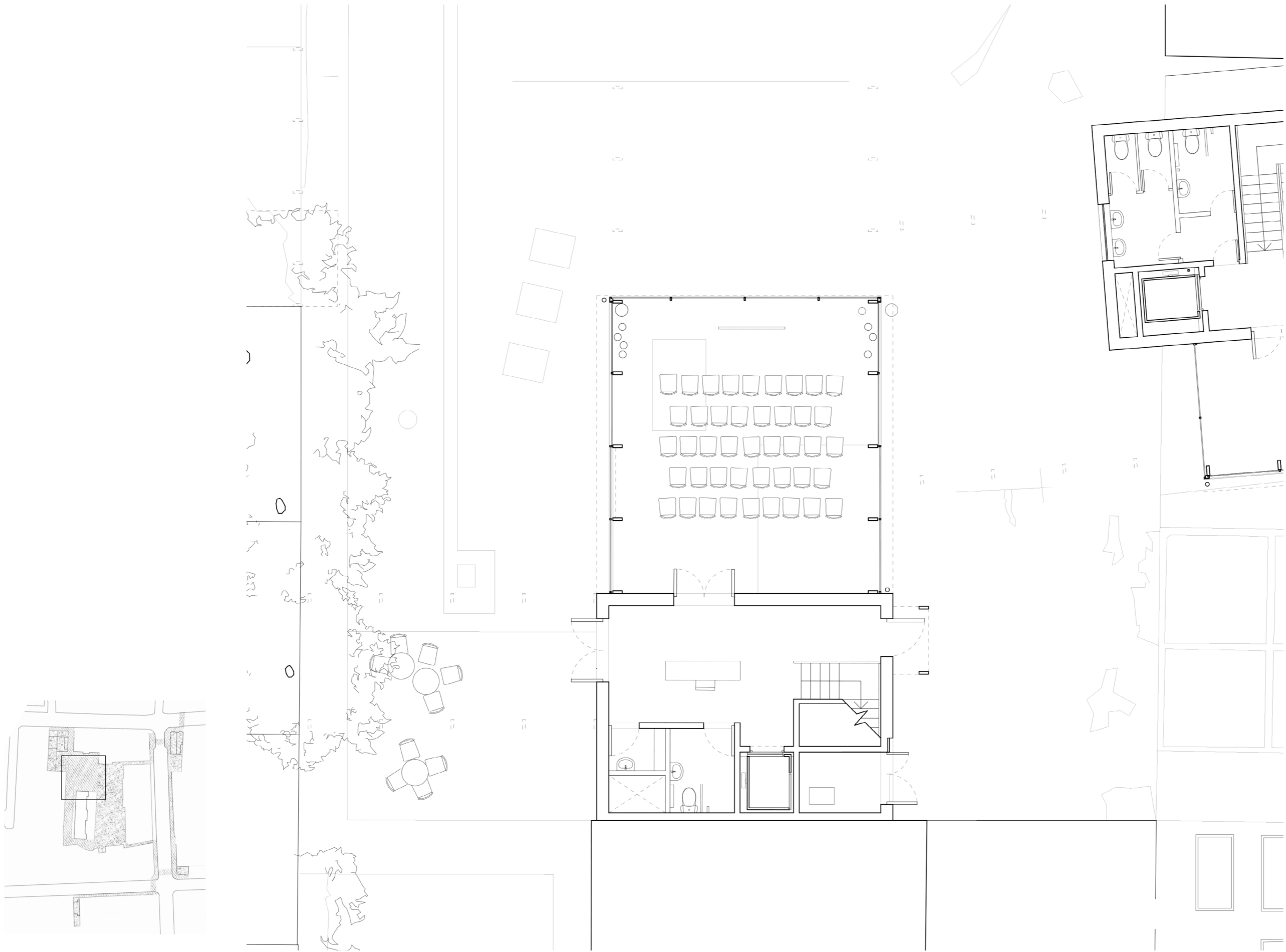
Buildings and additions are placed to retain and activate existing connections on the site.



## KNOT PLAN, GROUND

It's base provides shelter and an orientation point for the first users

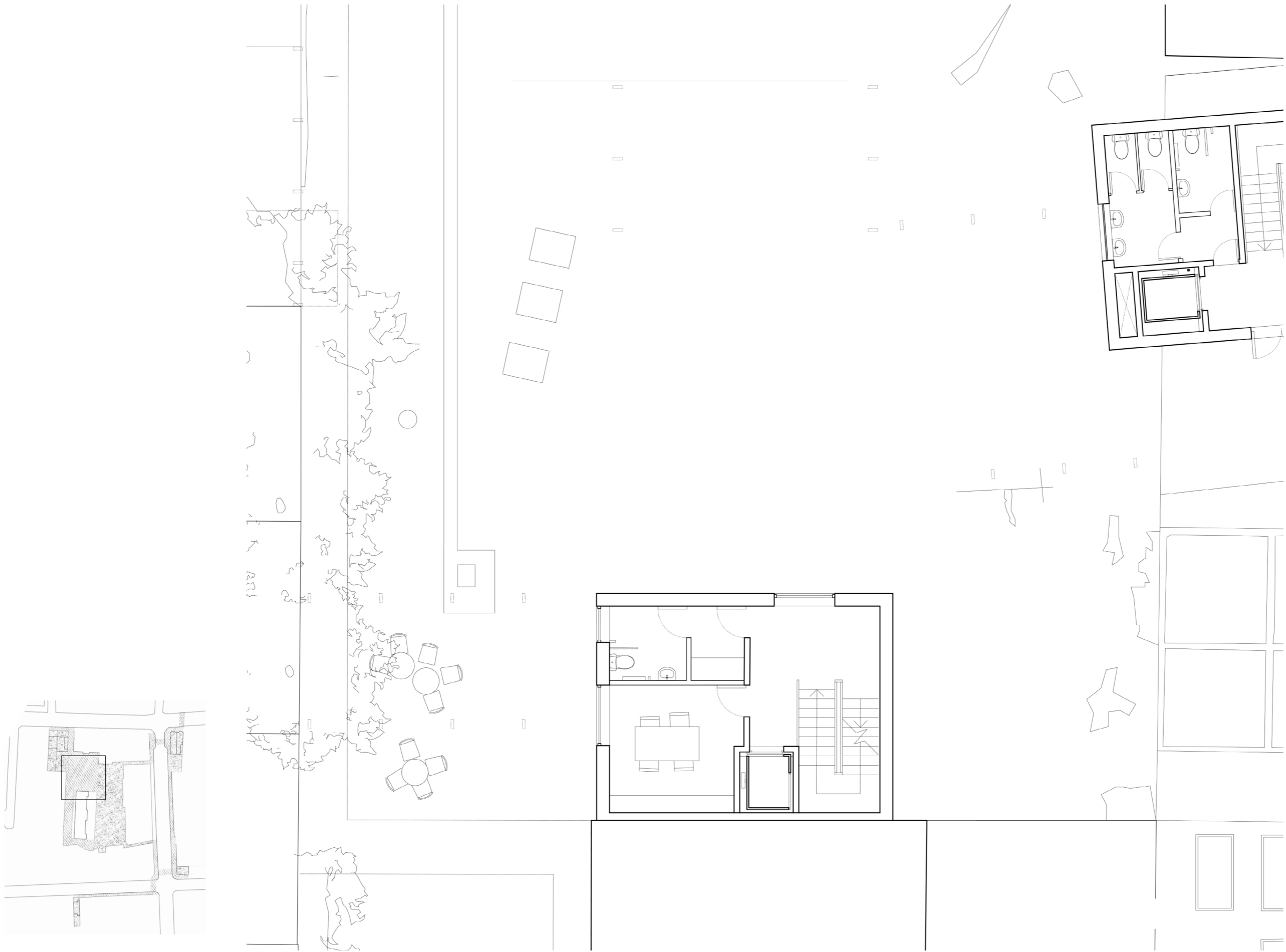




## KNOT/FRAME PLAN, GROUND

It's base provides shelter and an orientation point for the first users

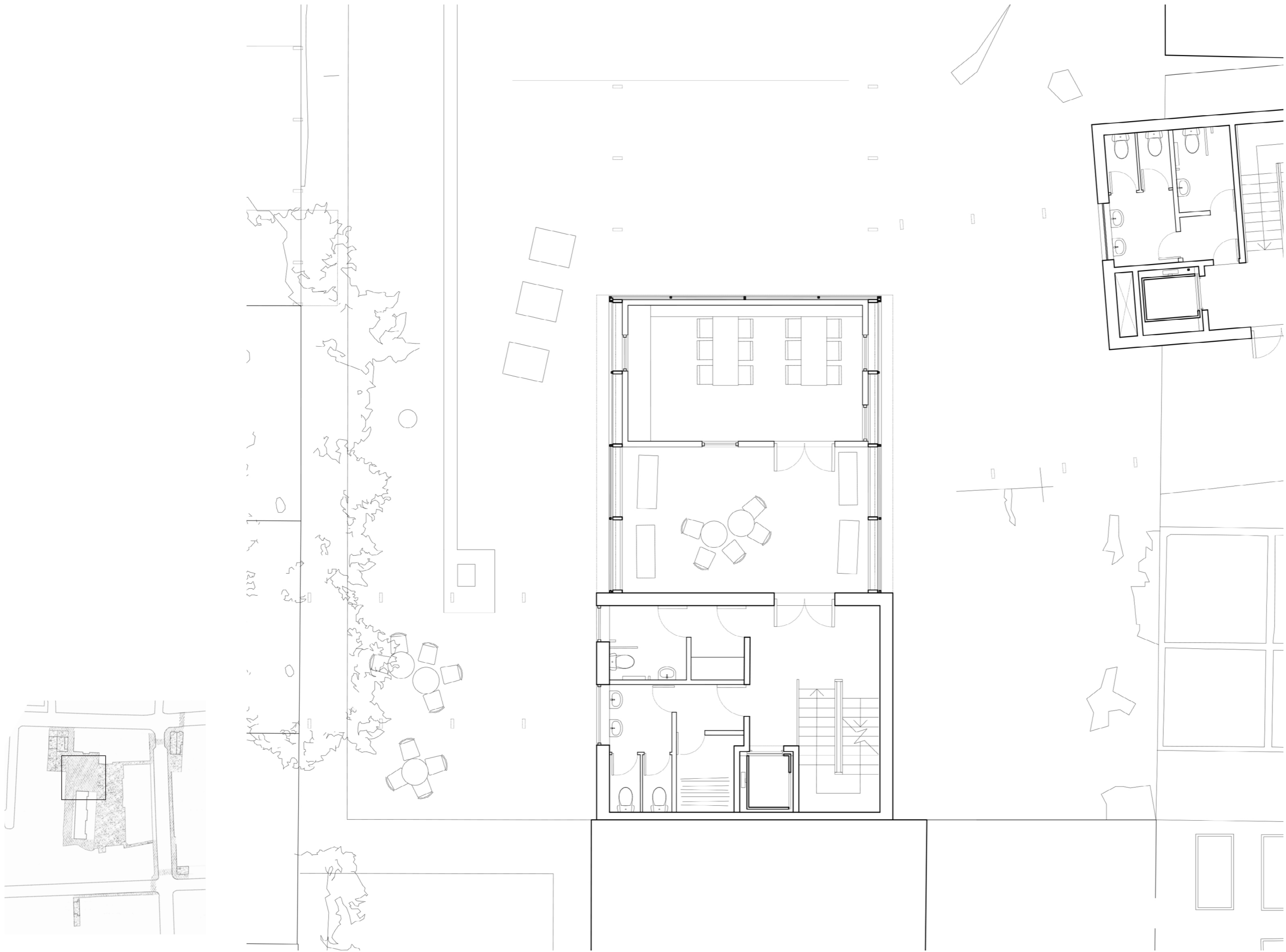
0 1m 5m 1:100 @ A3



## KNOT PLAN, FIRST

The upper floors provide meeting points from which to configure the rest of the meshwork.



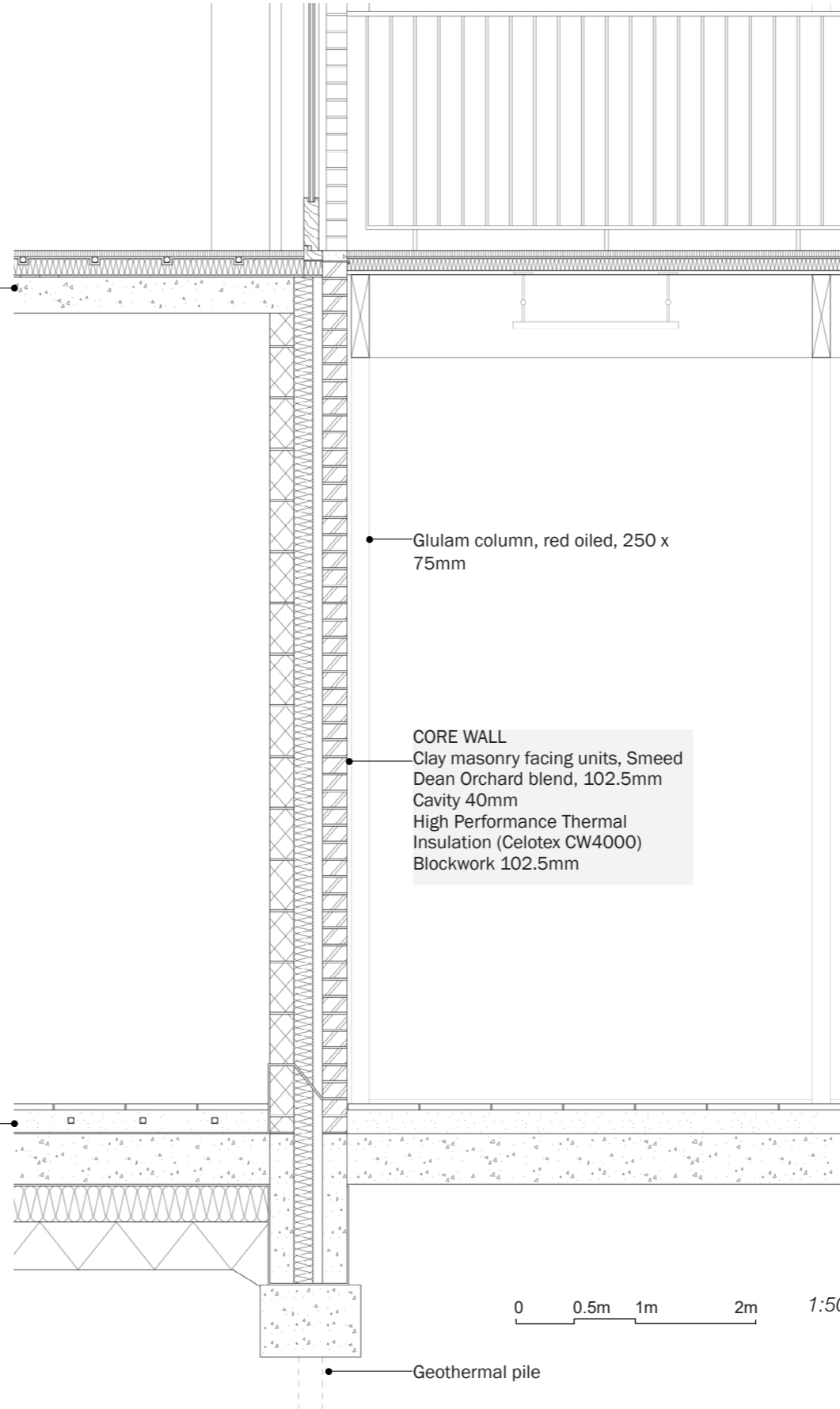


**KNOT/FRAME PLAN, FIRST**

These can later be reconfigured into extra facilities to support the frame.

0 1m 5m 1:100 @ A3

CORE UPPER FLOOR  
 'Engineered' pine woodblock flooring, 50mm  
 Aluminium Heat Diffusion Plate, 5mm  
 Heating Pipework fitted at 300mm centres, 80mm  
 Polythene Separation layer  
 Reinforced Concrete Slab 150mm



Glulam column, red oiled, 250 x 75mm

CORE WALL  
 Clay masonry facing units, Smeed Dean Orchard blend, 102.5mm  
 Cavity 40mm  
 High Performance Thermal Insulation (Celotex CW4000)  
 Blockwork 102.5mm

CORE UPPER FLOOR  
 Rubble Tiles, polished 50mm  
 Screed with underfloor heating, 100mm  
 Polythene separation layer  
 Reinforced concrete slab, 150mm  
 Damp proof membrane  
 Compression resistant thermal insulation, 150mm

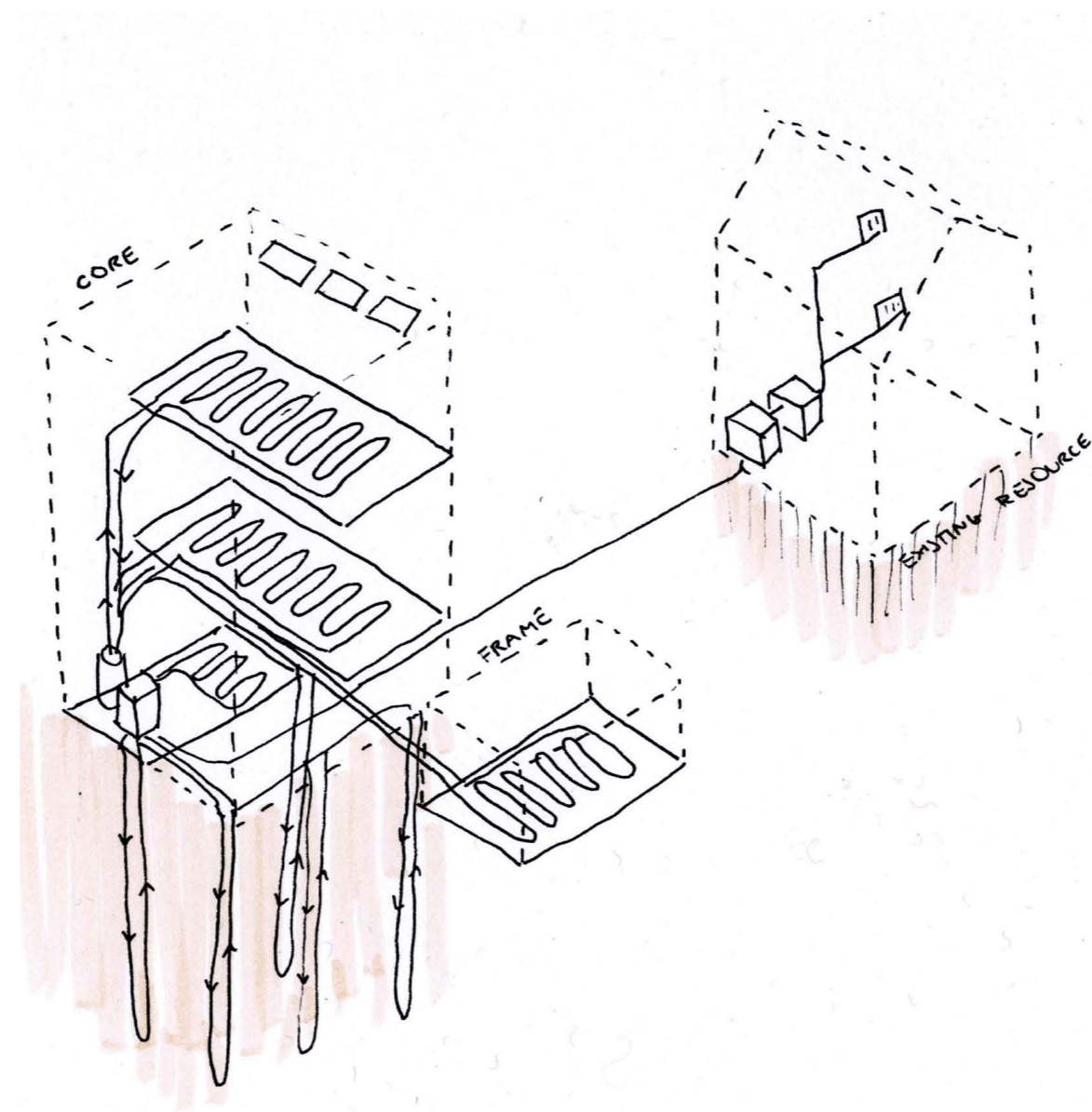
0 0.5m 1m 2m 1:50

Geothermal pile

## CORE CONSTRUCTION

Before the frame is built the core can be used to plan the growth of the frame in the meshwork.

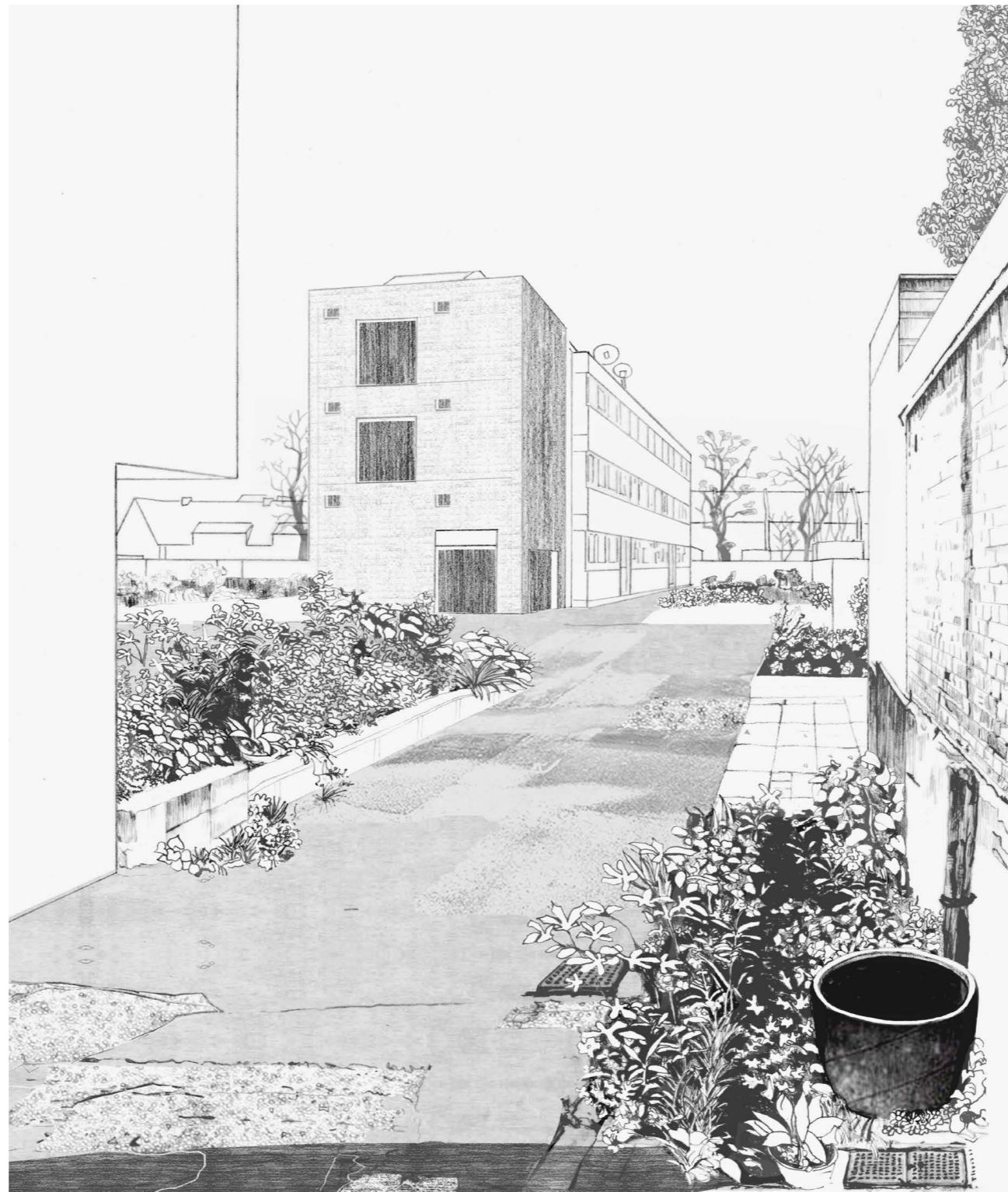




## GEOHERMAL PILES

As a rule of thumb, most small diameter geothermal pile installations will achieve 30 watts of heating and cooling energy per metre depth of soil. Consequently each pile within the knot is enough to heat and cool a well insulated 4m x 4m room.

1. Thermal energy for the heat pump is collected by liquid within geothermal piles within the foundation of the Core.
2. Energy is pumped to a heat exchanger.
3. Heat exchanger transfers energy from ground loop to water loop for underfloor heating or cooling.
4. The charged mixture is pumped to the rooms, travelling vertically through the circulation space in the core, and horizontally through pipes embedded in the floor. The pump is powered by a PV cell.



*View of coree from Lordship Lane*



# THE FRAME



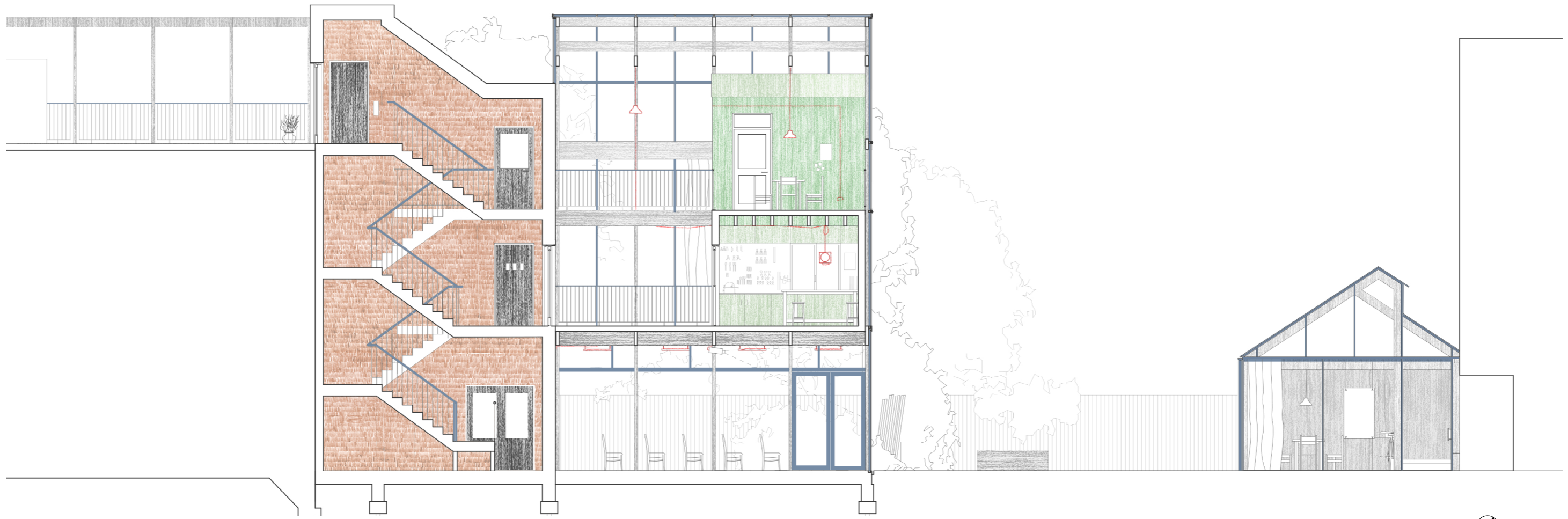
*View of the frames from Lordship Lane*

The frame takes its cue from the core and surrounding existing structures, reading where to attach and gain support, or where to leave breathing space. Urban public space meshes with the lowest level of the frame.

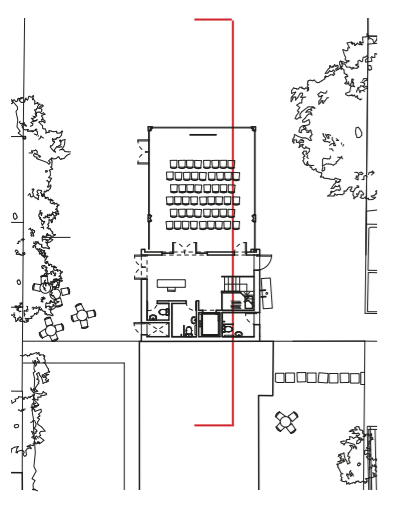


Sketch of the ground floor of the frame

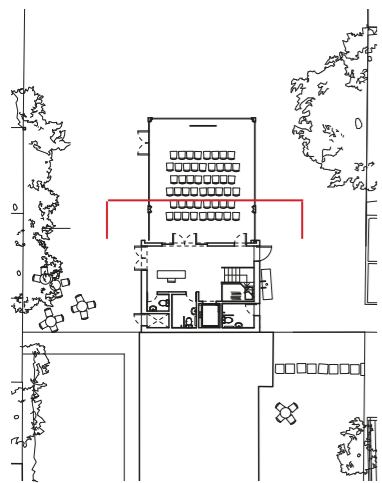
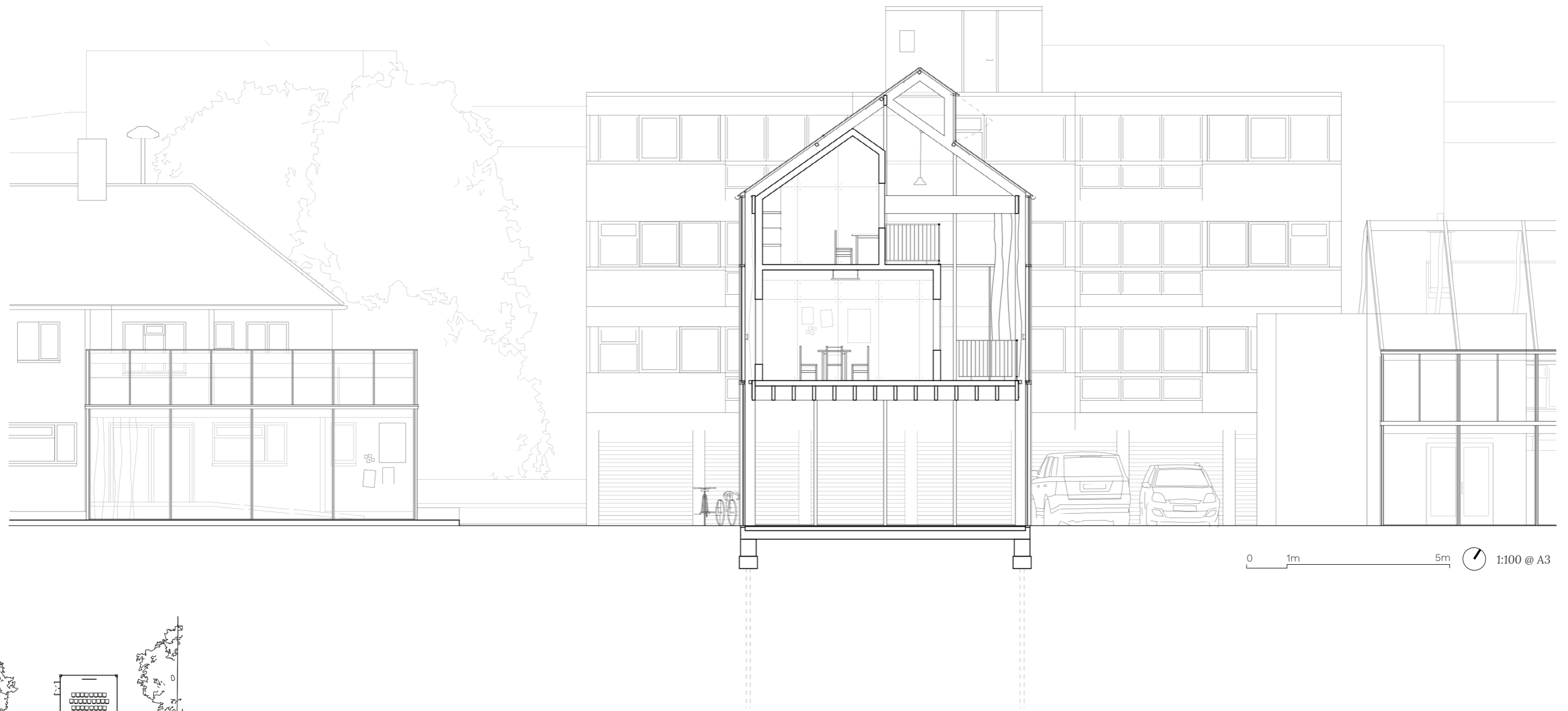




0 1m 5m 1:100 @ A3



FRAME SECTION

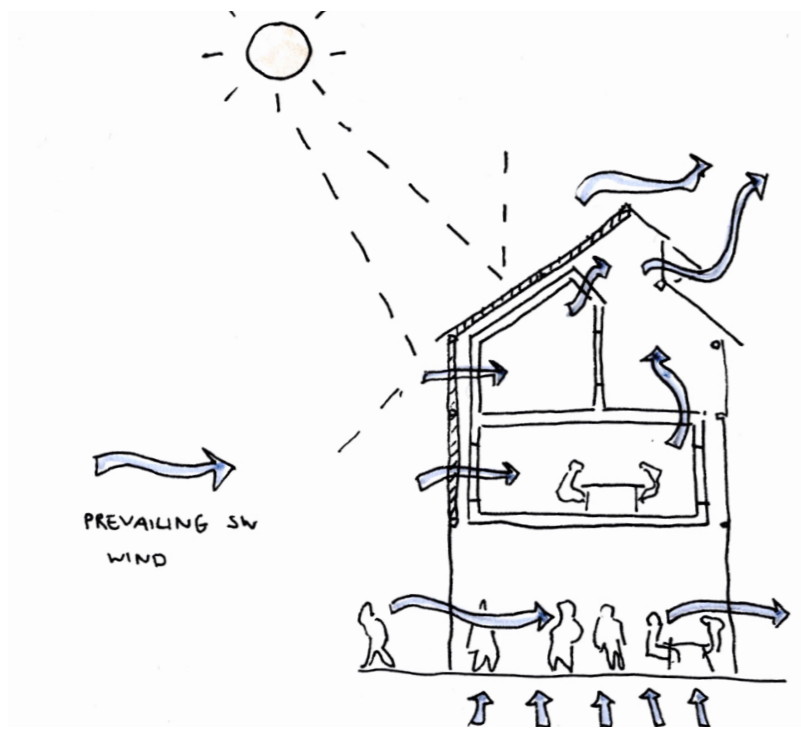


FRAME SECTION

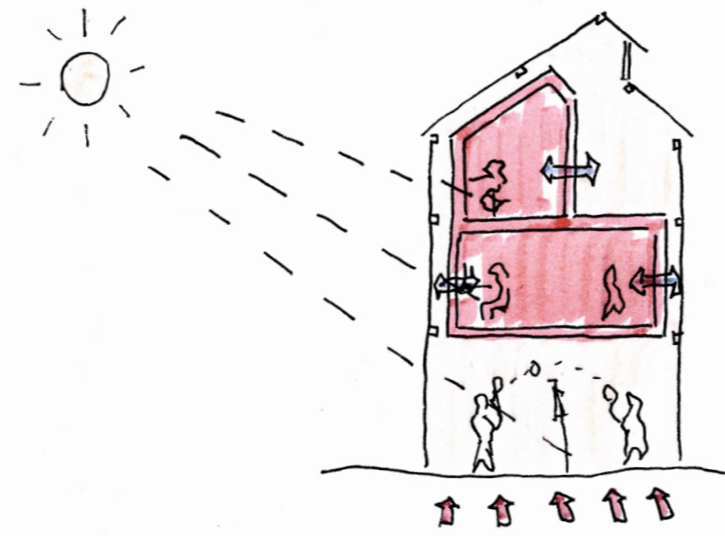




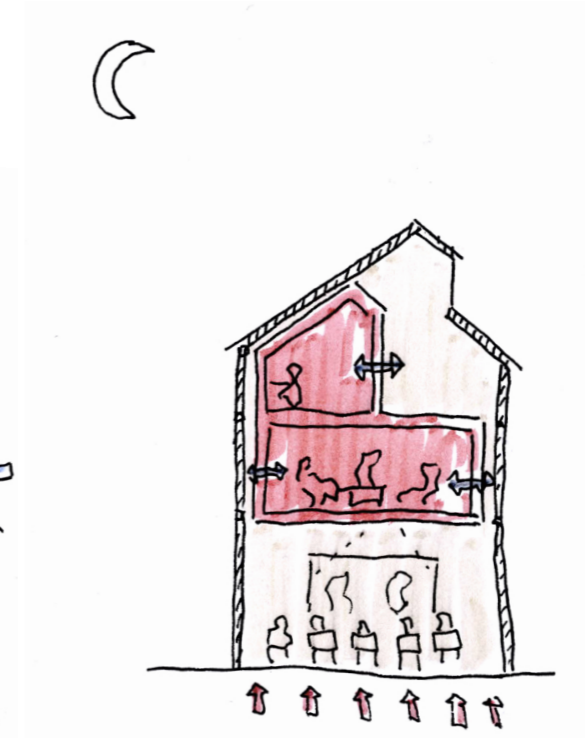
Sketch illustrating an upper room.



SUMMER DAY - Blinds down and vents open. Cooling radiation from the ground. Ventilation through Stack affect.



WINTER DAY - Blinds open and vents closed. Internal rooms ventilate within the frame. Radiation from the ground.

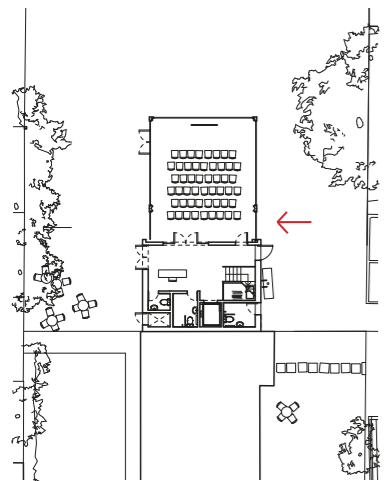


NIGHT - Blinds closed and vents closed. Internal rooms ventilate within the frame. Radiation from the ground.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

The frame provides a supportive environmental skin to insulate and protect the internal activities.

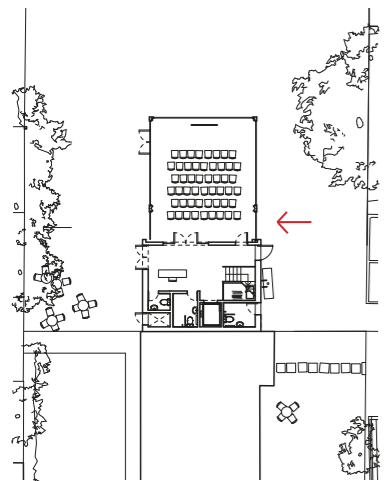




View through the ground floor of the frame in summer

The pavement flows through the frames undercroft. Columns and shifting facades, set amongst tarmac, pavements, grass and trees. Allowing those displaced from private space to enjoy public space sheltered from the weather.





View through the ground floor of the frame in winter

The pavement flows through the frames undercroft. Columns and shifting facades, set amongst tarmac, pavements, grass and trees. Allowing those displaced from private space to enjoy public space sheltered from the weather.





View through the first floor of the frame



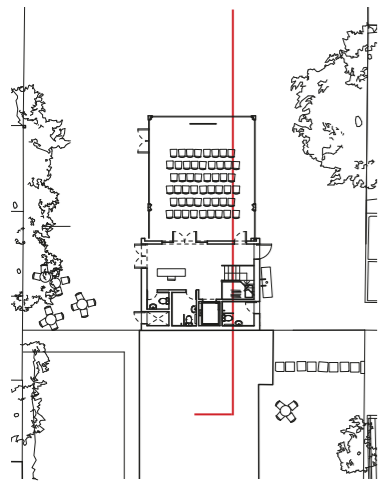
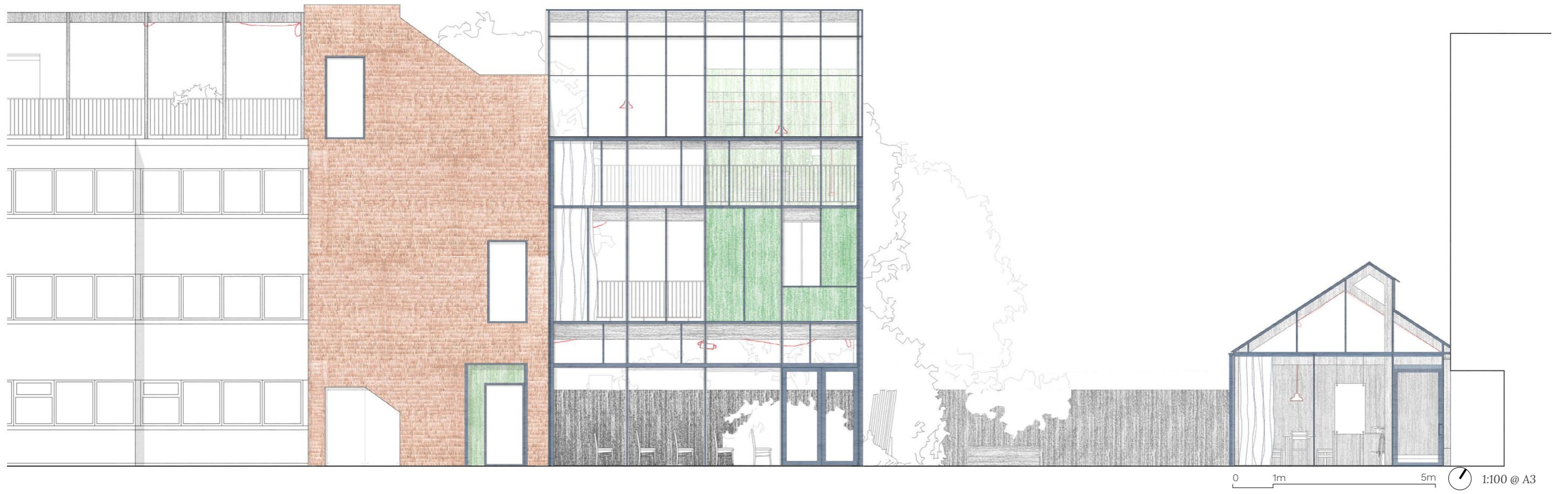
*View from the Knot's configuration room*

## ROOM INTERIOR

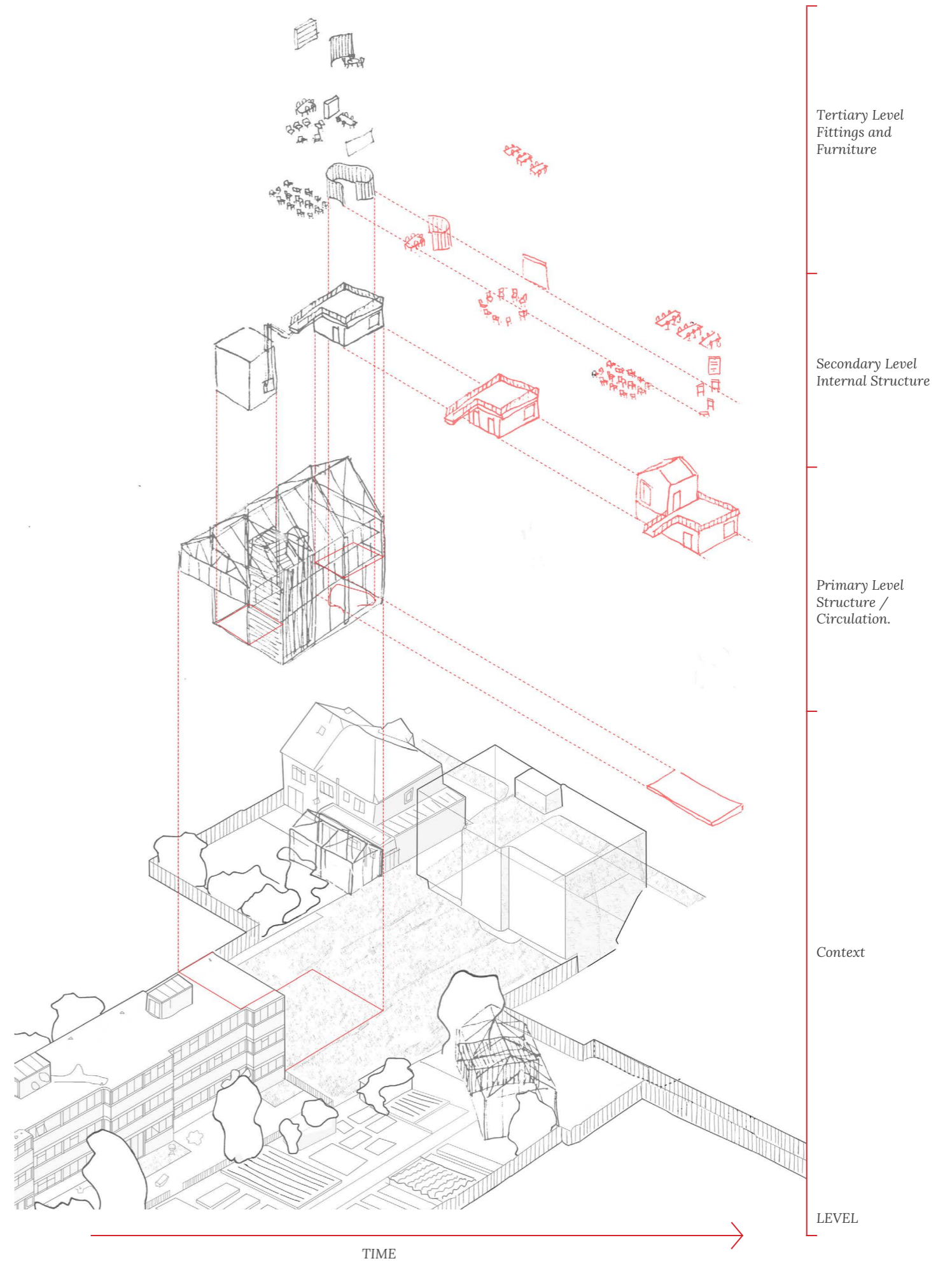
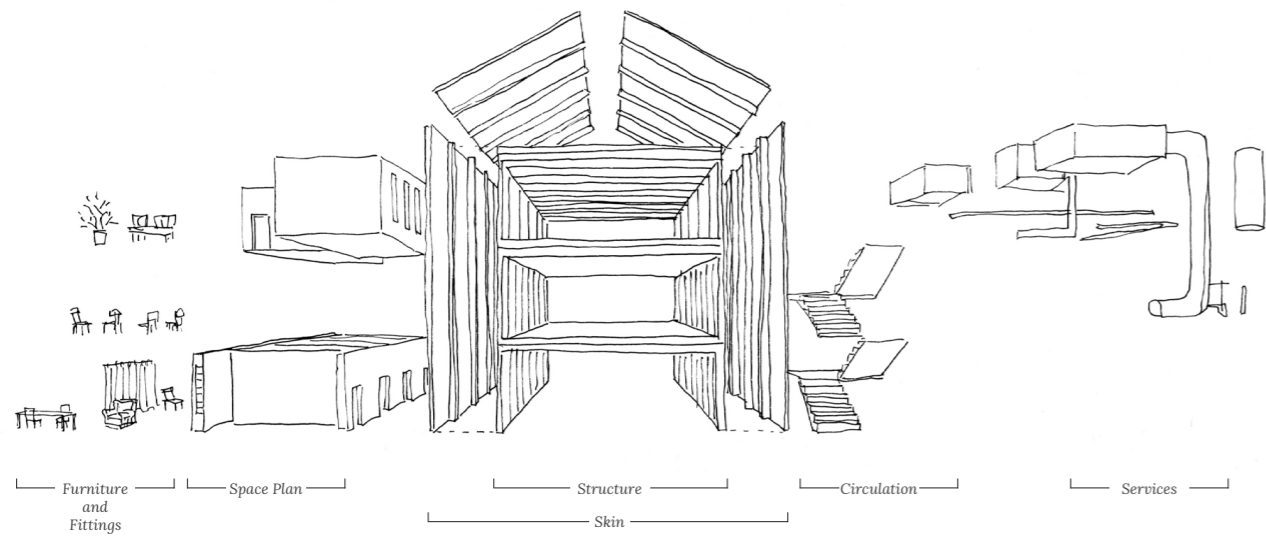
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The configuration of the meshwork becomes clearer from the upper floors of the frame





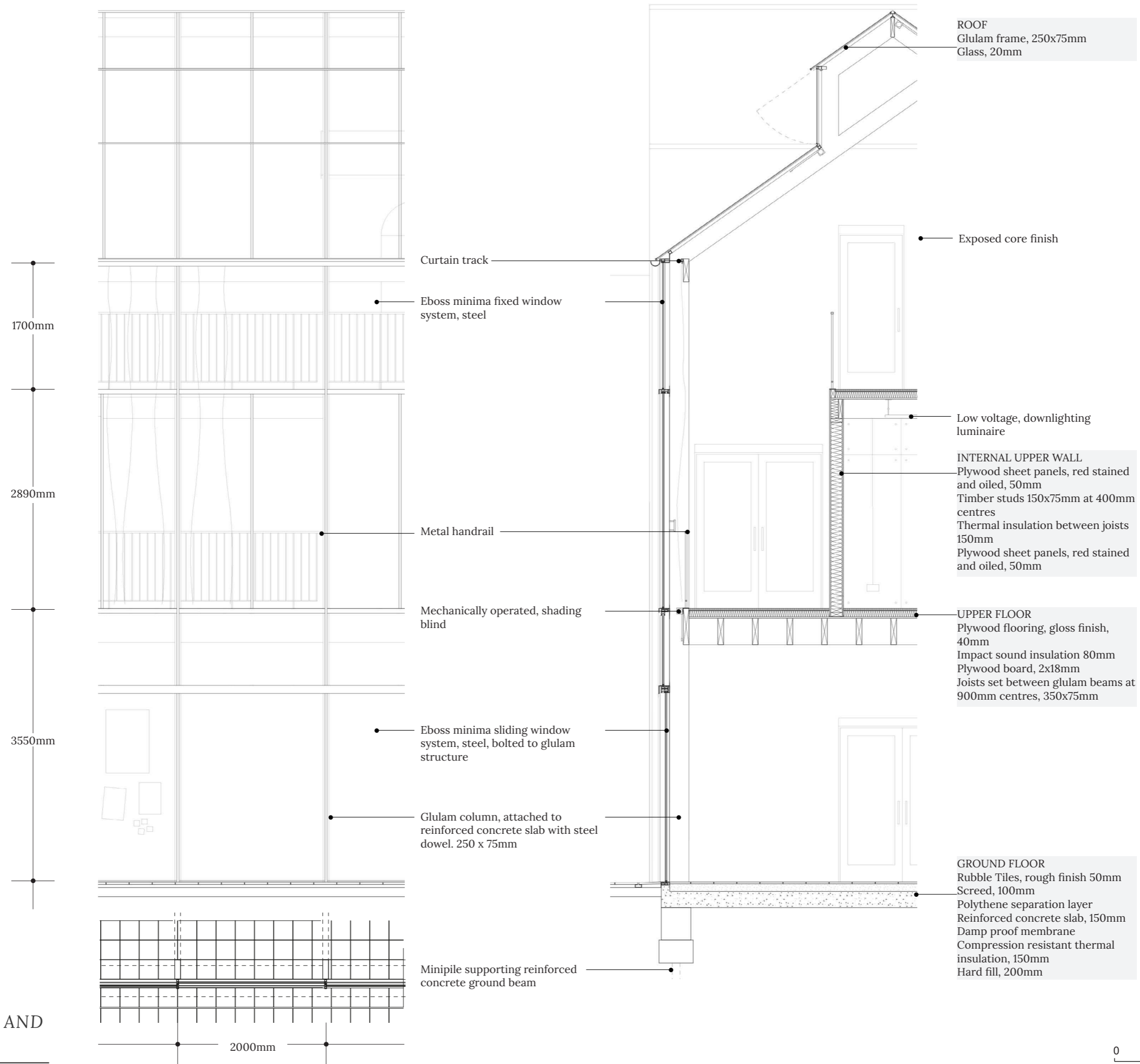
FRAME ELEVATION



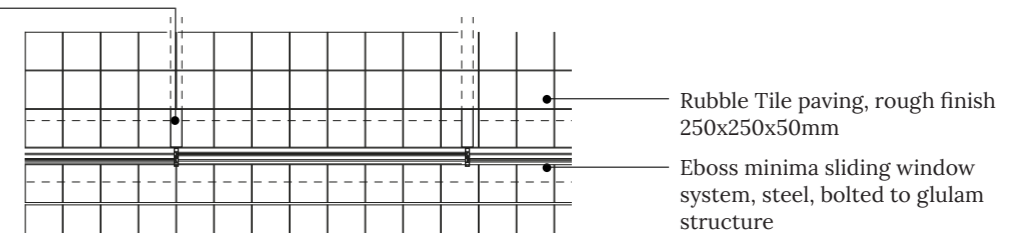
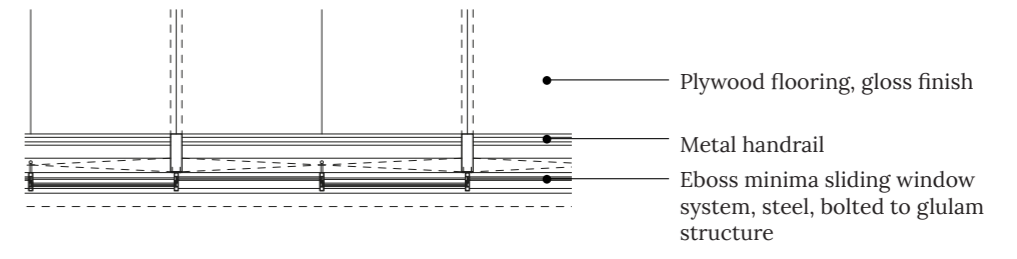
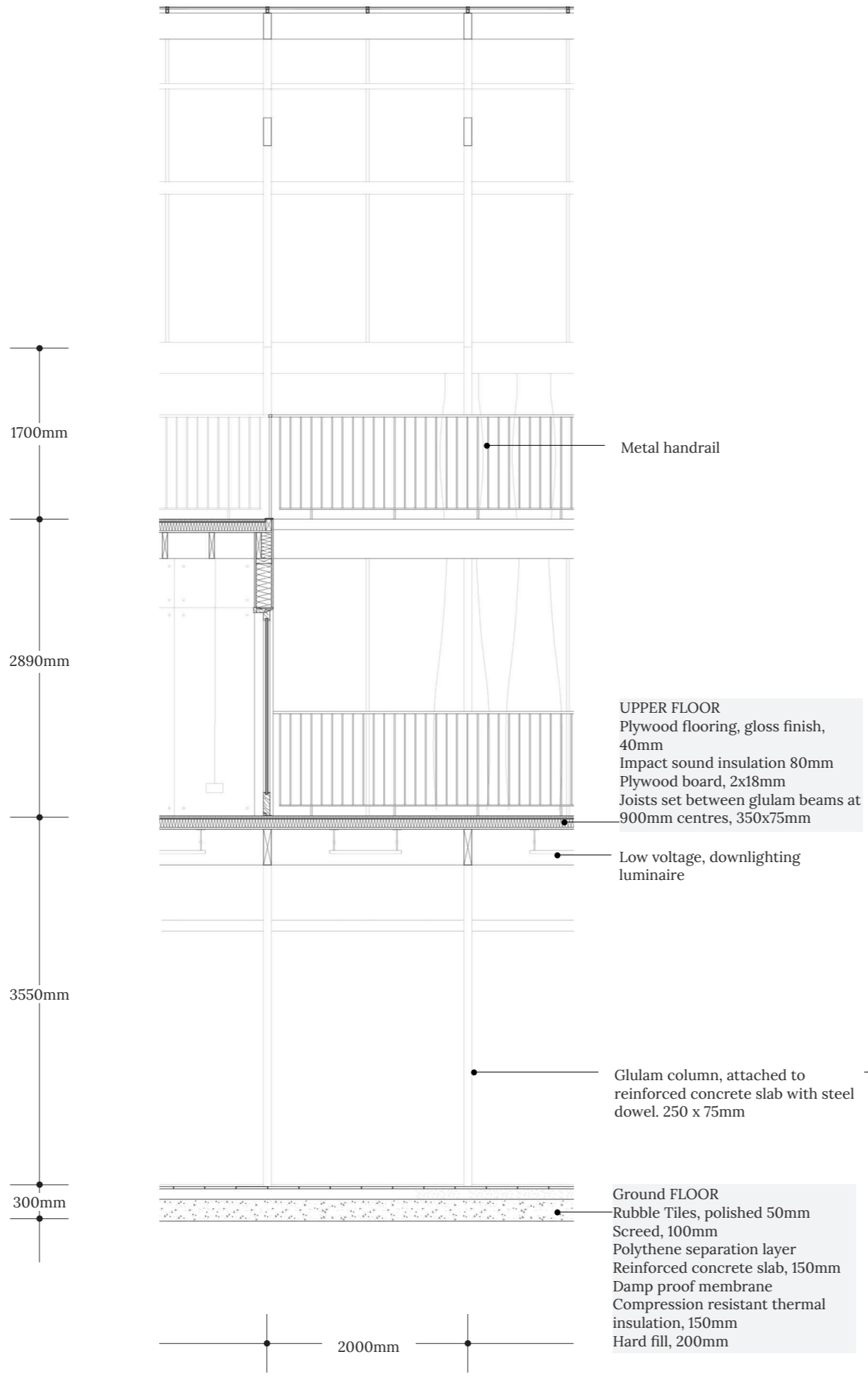
## UNFIXED FRAMEWORK

The structure, circulation and basic facilities are designed by the architect, and provided by the local authority. It responds to the capacities and needs on site. The structure can be left uncovered, be extended or removed and erected elsewhere over time. When more space is needed, the structure is covered with a skin. Floorplates can be added or removed and modules inserted in response to needs. Furniture and fittings can be easily reconfigured.



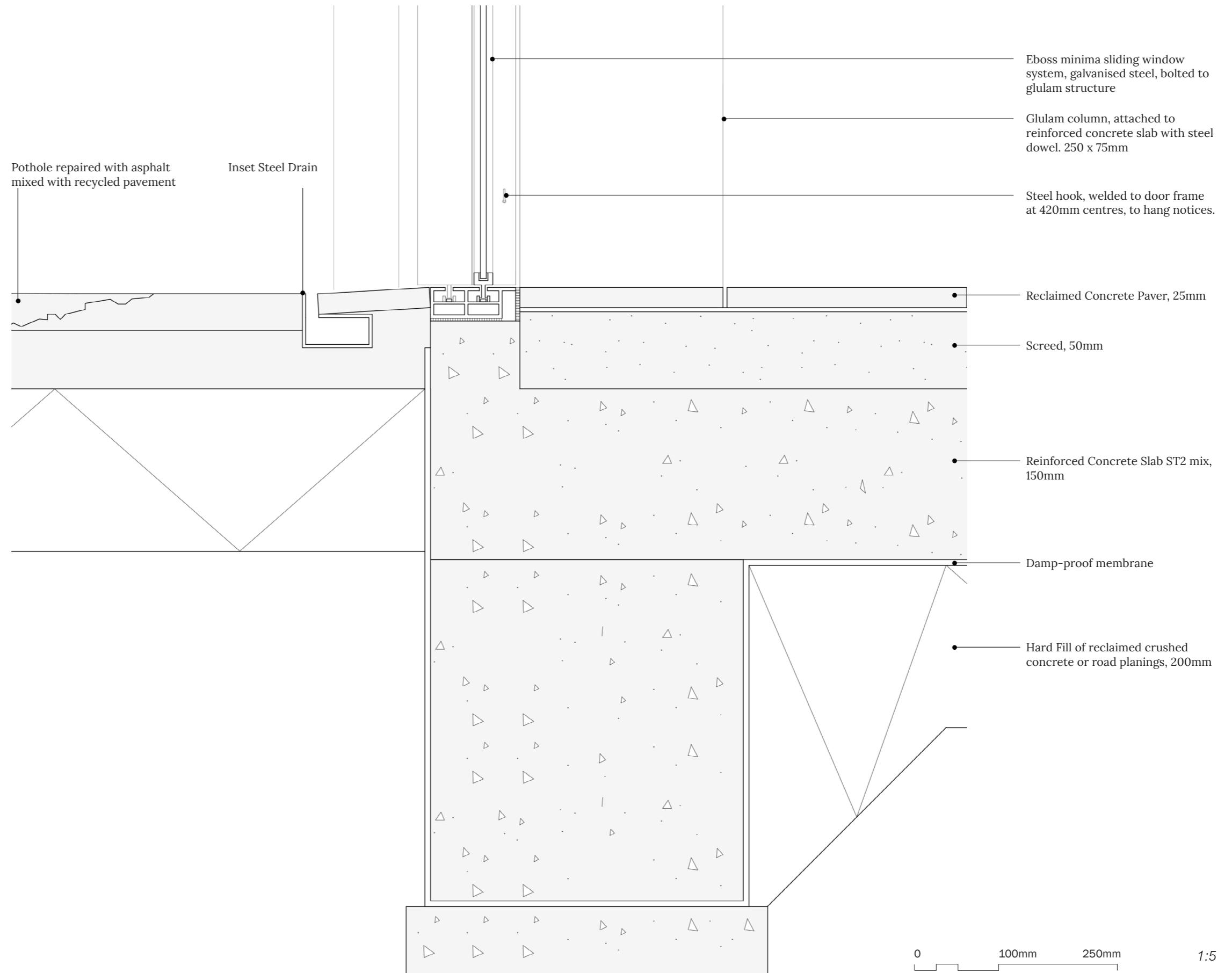


ELEVATION, SECTION AND PLAN OF FRAME

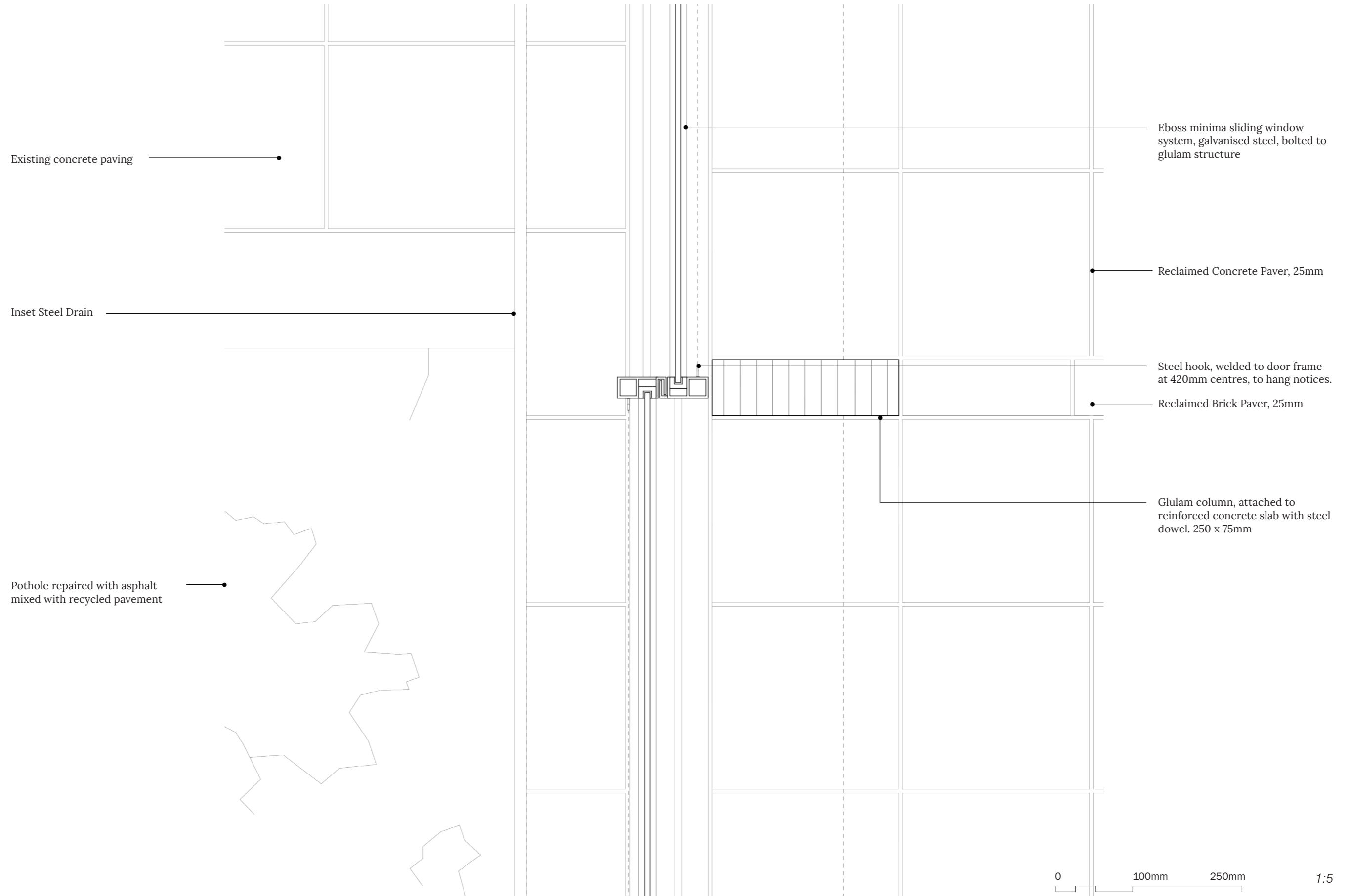


INTERNAL SECTION AND PLANS OF FRAME





THRESHOLD SECTION  
DETAIL



THRESHOLD PLAN DETAIL

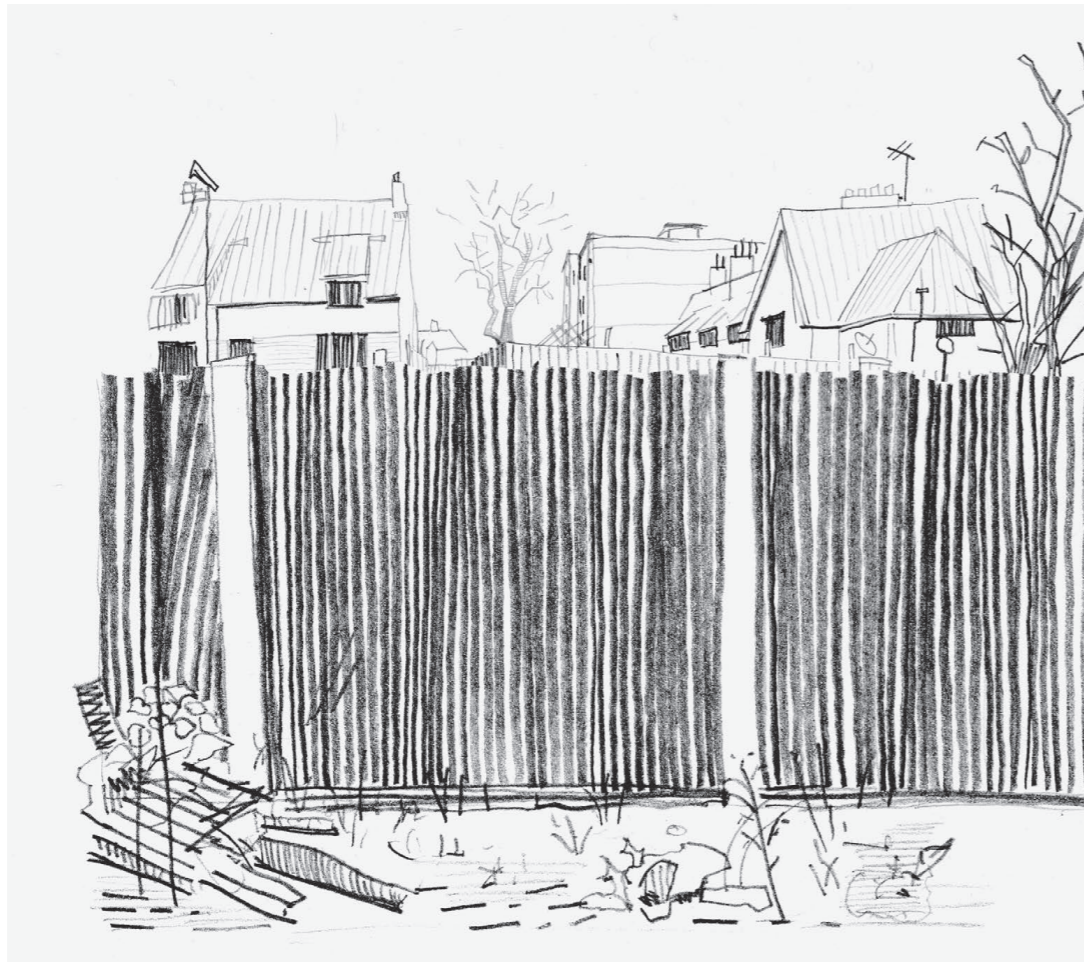




*View of the frames from Lordship Lane*



# THE EXISTING



*The neglected garden of the existing barber shop.*



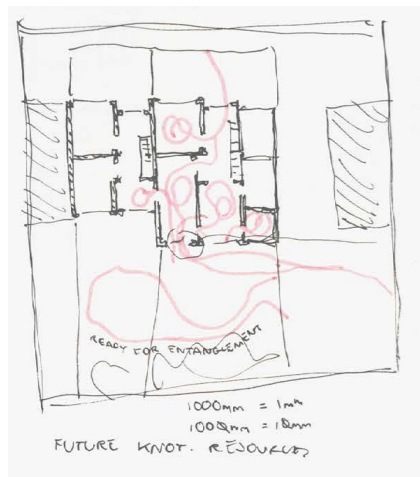
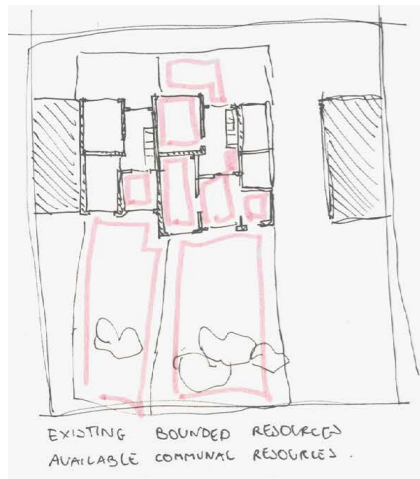
*The garden woven into a wider meshwork of care.*

In relation to the existing, the frame negotiates points of attachment and distance, expanding the horizon of care for inhabitants, whilst protecting their right to privacy, respite and light.



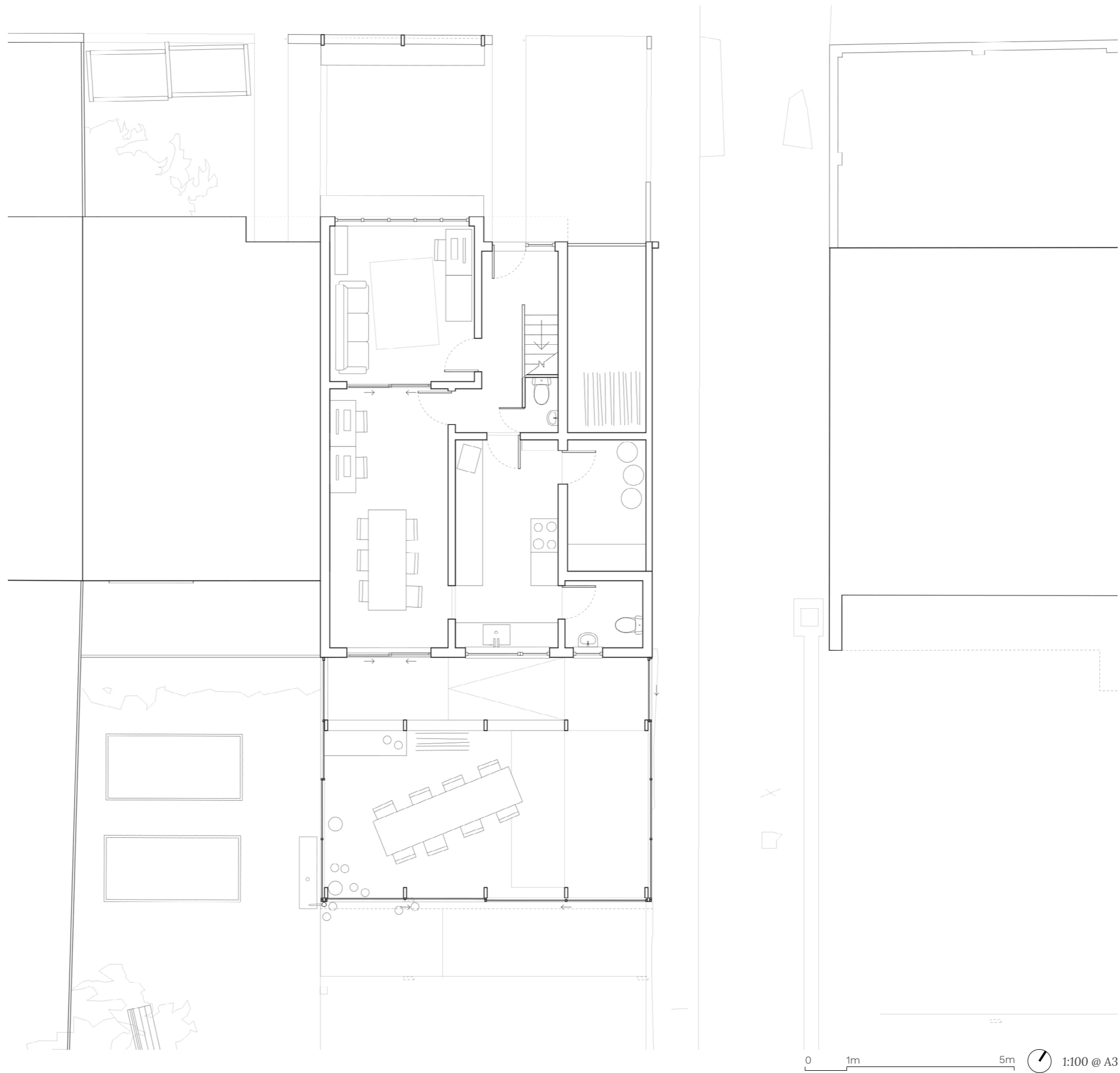
*POLYKATOIKIA: A precedent – this model of urban densification in Athens, Greece saw developers tempting homeowners to redevelop their plots to higher densities through homeowners receiving both a new home and a minimum of one extra apartment, either to keep or sell on, as an incentive*

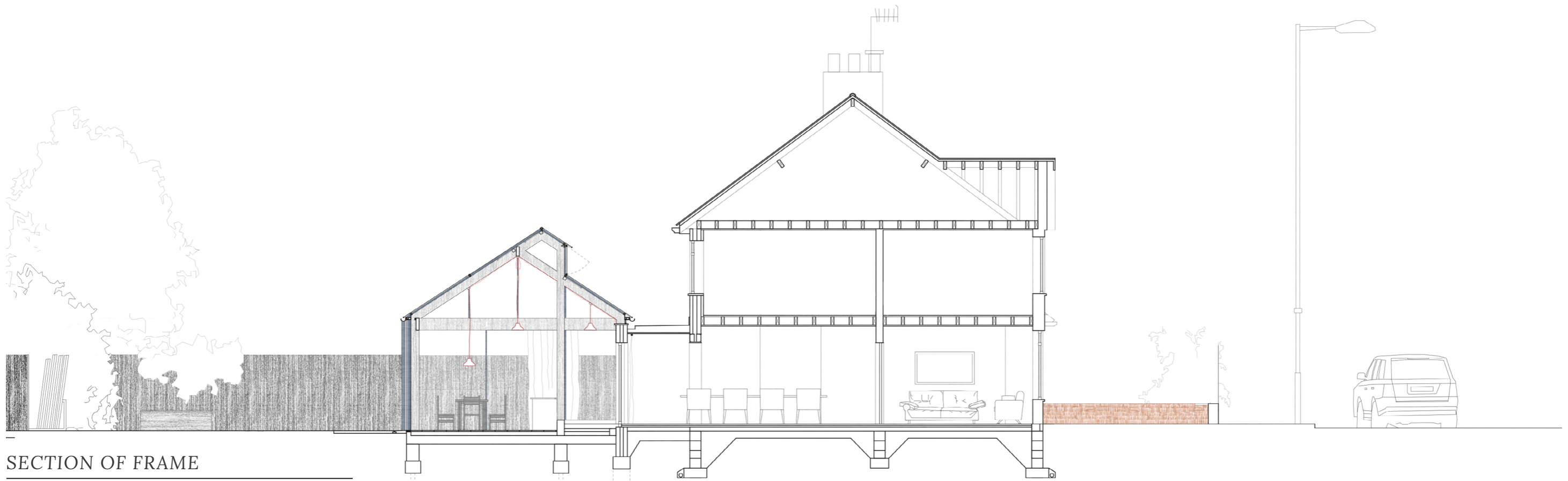




## HOMELESS SHELTER GROUND PLAN

The frame provides a supportive environmental skin to insulate and protect the internal activities.





SECTION OF FRAME

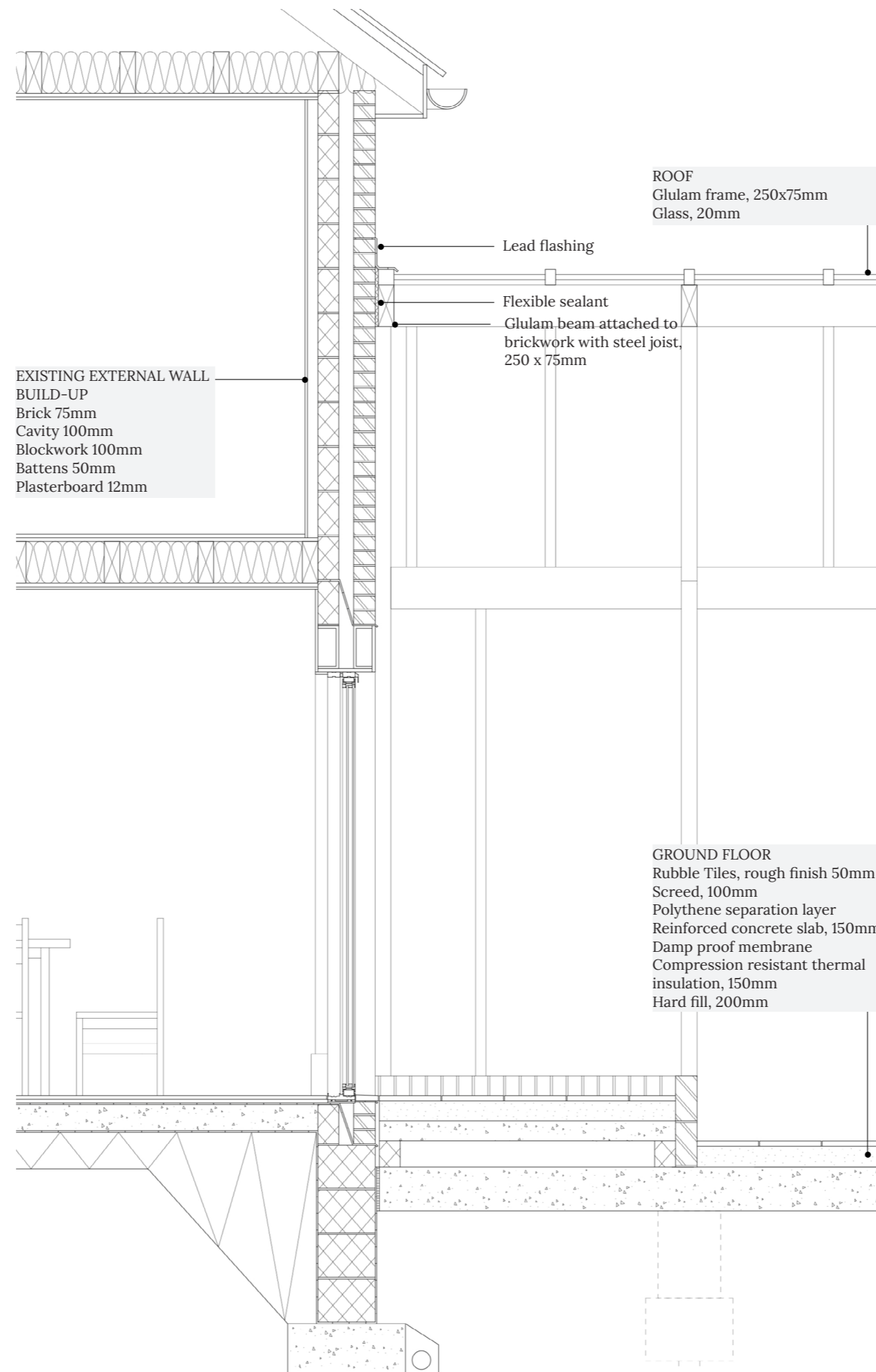
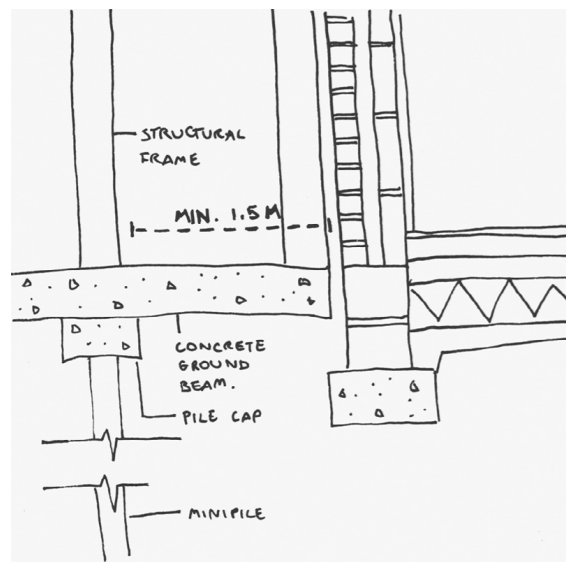
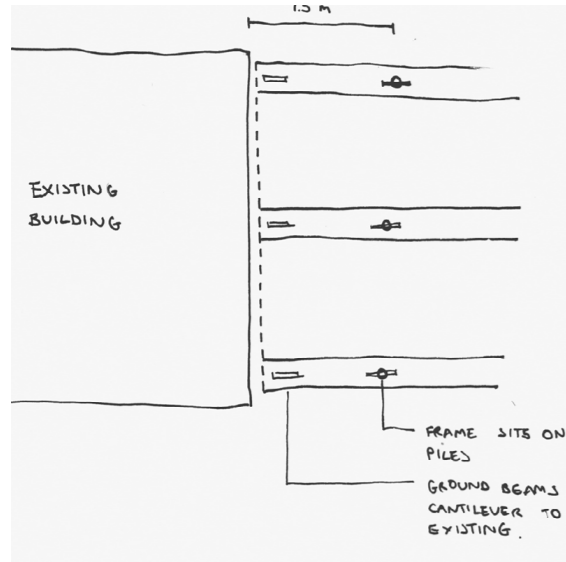


ELEVATION OF FRAME

0 1m 5m 1:100 @ A3





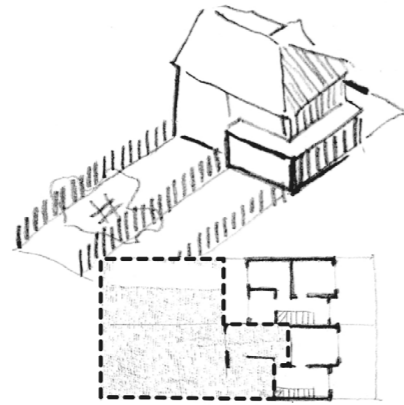


0 0.5m 1m 2m 1:50

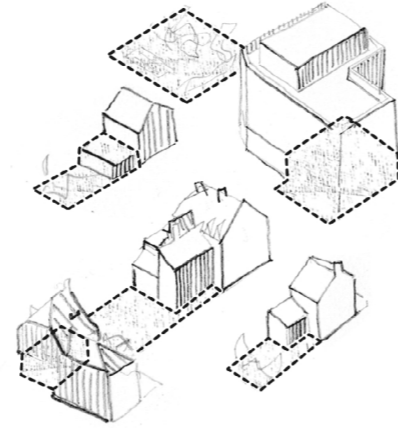
EXISTING CONSTRUCTION



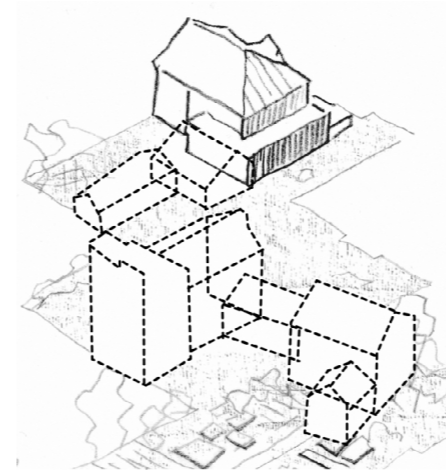
# UNFIXED FRAMEWORK



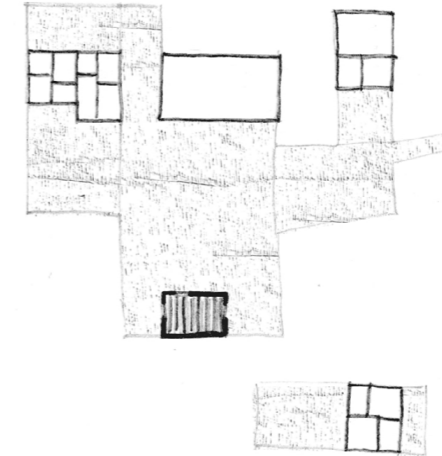
Carers identify their spare space...



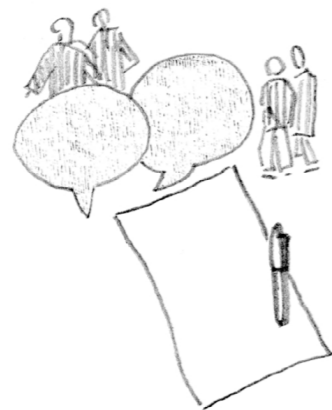
... and add it to the Meshwork Surface Database.



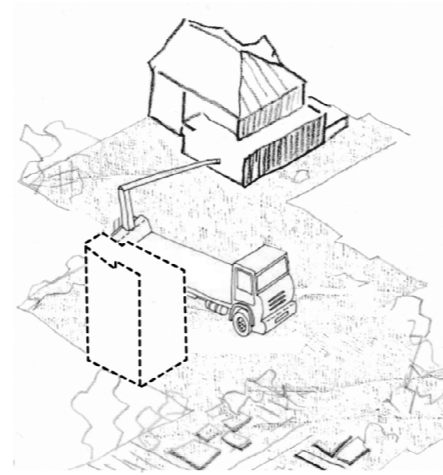
A rough maximum massing is agreed with neighbours and the Town Council...



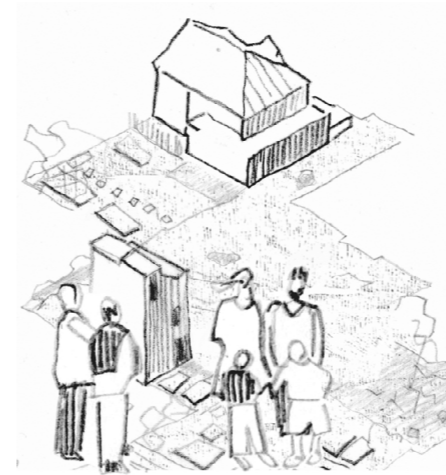
... and the location of the Knot is agreed



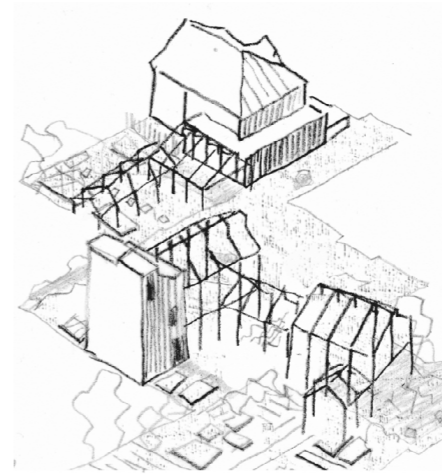
An agreement is signed with the Meshwork Land Trust



The site is prepared and the Knot purchased



The site is ready to be occupied by new and existing inhabitants

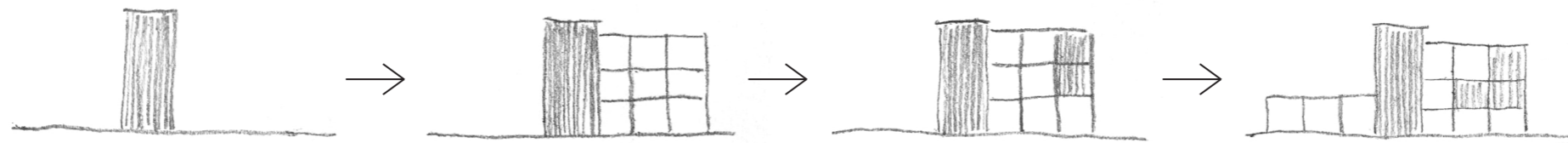
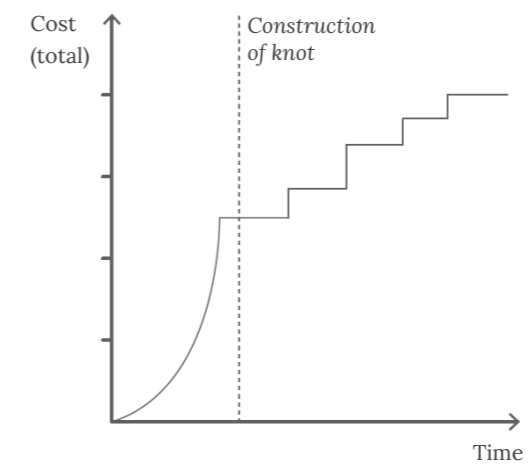


Over time, as needs change frames are added, modified and exchanged across meshworks in Wood Green.



The project adopts the approach of Elinor Ostrom in her book *Managing the Commons*, as utilised by the pro-development campaign *London YIMBY*. This approach stipulates that the best way to make decisions and manage common resources is to keep decision-making circles as small as possible. To this end, the project co-opts the existing spatial structure of Wood Green to form a decision-making hierarchy that enshrines individual carers control over the provision of new resources. This hierarchy is explored in the speculative neighbourhood.

## HOW IS THE MESHWORK NEGOTIATED?



## INFRASTRUCTURAL INVESTMENT

The knot enables future development and growth with less private investment. Community groups and NGOs can apply for funding or raise funds themselves to build and enhance their spatial provisions (focusing on social care)

The process is overseen by a semi-public body that acts as a subsidiary of the Town Council. This would be partly funded by CIL contributions from larger developments within Wood Green. As it stands, If the town adopted a Neighbourhood Plan it would stand to gain 25% of such contributions, as opposed to 10% without.

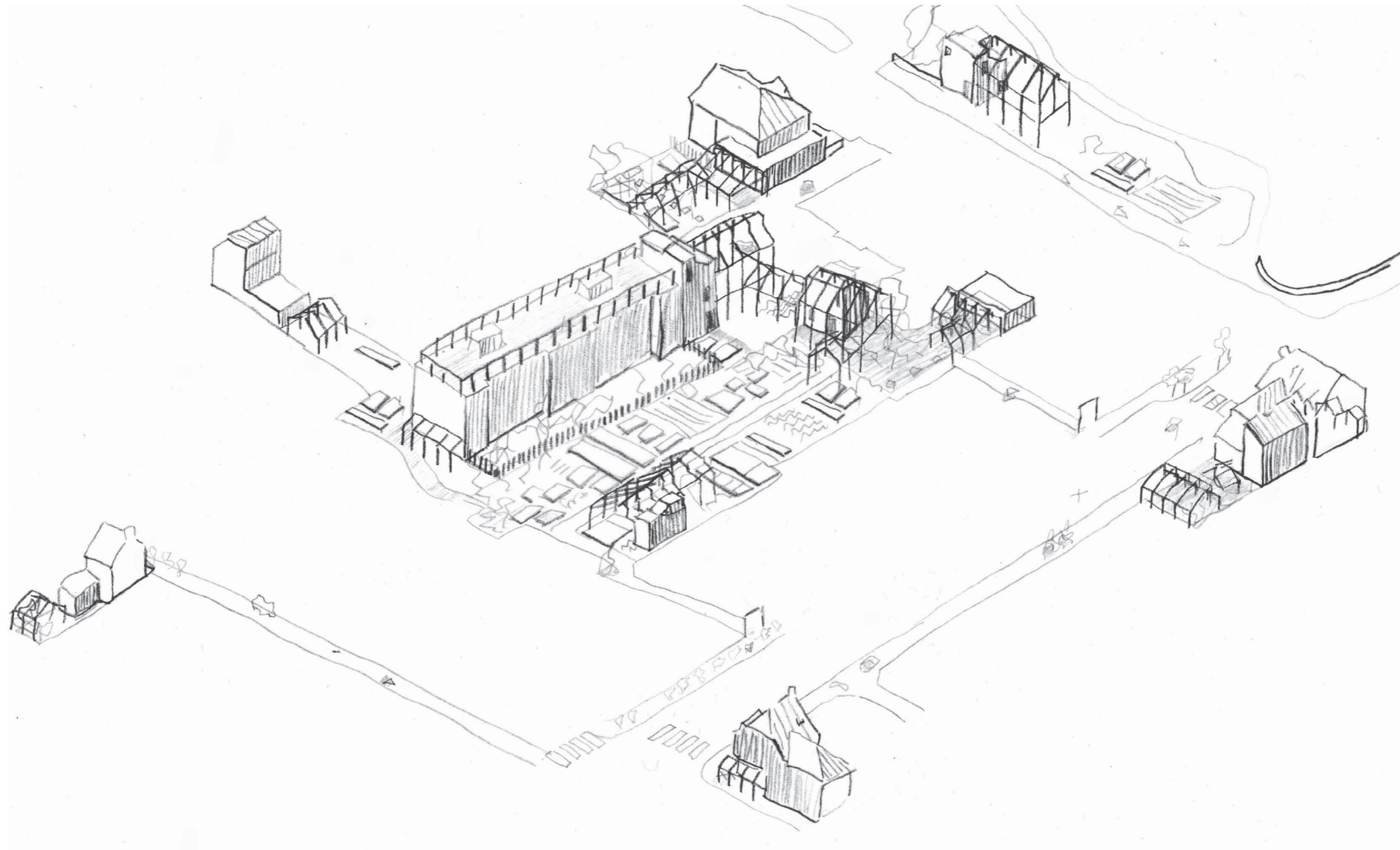




SECTION ACROSS  
MESHWORK

0 1m 2m 5m 10m

1:200 @ A3





## PROLIFERATION AND CONNECTIONS

In 50 years, perhaps the intervention becomes common care infrastructure. What kind of urban relationships arise? Perhaps bottom-up municipal territories develop, rooted in the care people take for their neighbourhood. Perhaps diverse meshworks replace existing institutional blocks, or they take on larger scale endeavours, such as hospitals or civic centres. How could the meshwork reconfigure the known social structures of those who care, those who are deprived and the spaces they occupy.



Meshworks of Care







View through the frame in summer