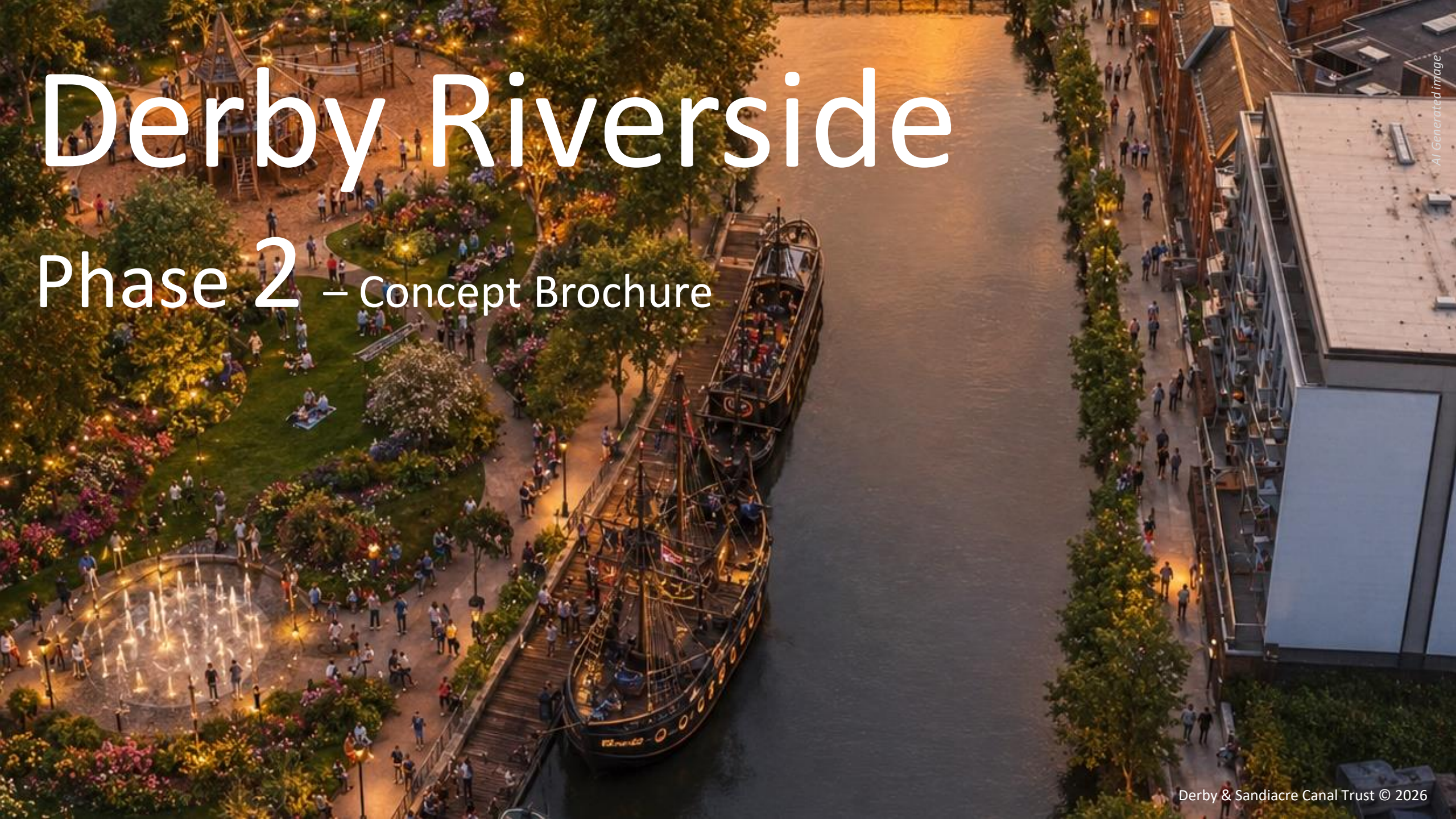




Derby Riverside

Phase 2 – Concept Brochure

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Derby Riverboat

The Derby Riverboat has been running since summer 2022. It carries around 2000 passengers a year, on a cruise which takes customers on a return trip to Darley Abbey Mills from the City Centre. The boat is fully electric. This section of the River Derwent in Derby is the most bio-diverse river in the UK. 97% of our customers rate us either good or excellent, based on our online survey.



Boat Station

Museum of Making

Work began on the new Derby Riverboat boarding platform in May 2026; it is expected to be completed in September 2026.

The platform will allow the boat to be fully wheelchair accessible when it is used in combination with the Outram's existing wheelchair lift.

The boarding platform will also re-establish the sight of boats moored up along the river in Derby City Centre.



Derby Riverside Phase 2

The Concept

The OCOR 2 flood defence project began construction in Derby City Centre in spring 2026 and is due to be completed in 2027. The project is primarily an engineering solution to prevent parts of central Derby from being flooded during a storm surge; it will include a pleasant, landscaped garden alongside Stuart Street in front of the wall.

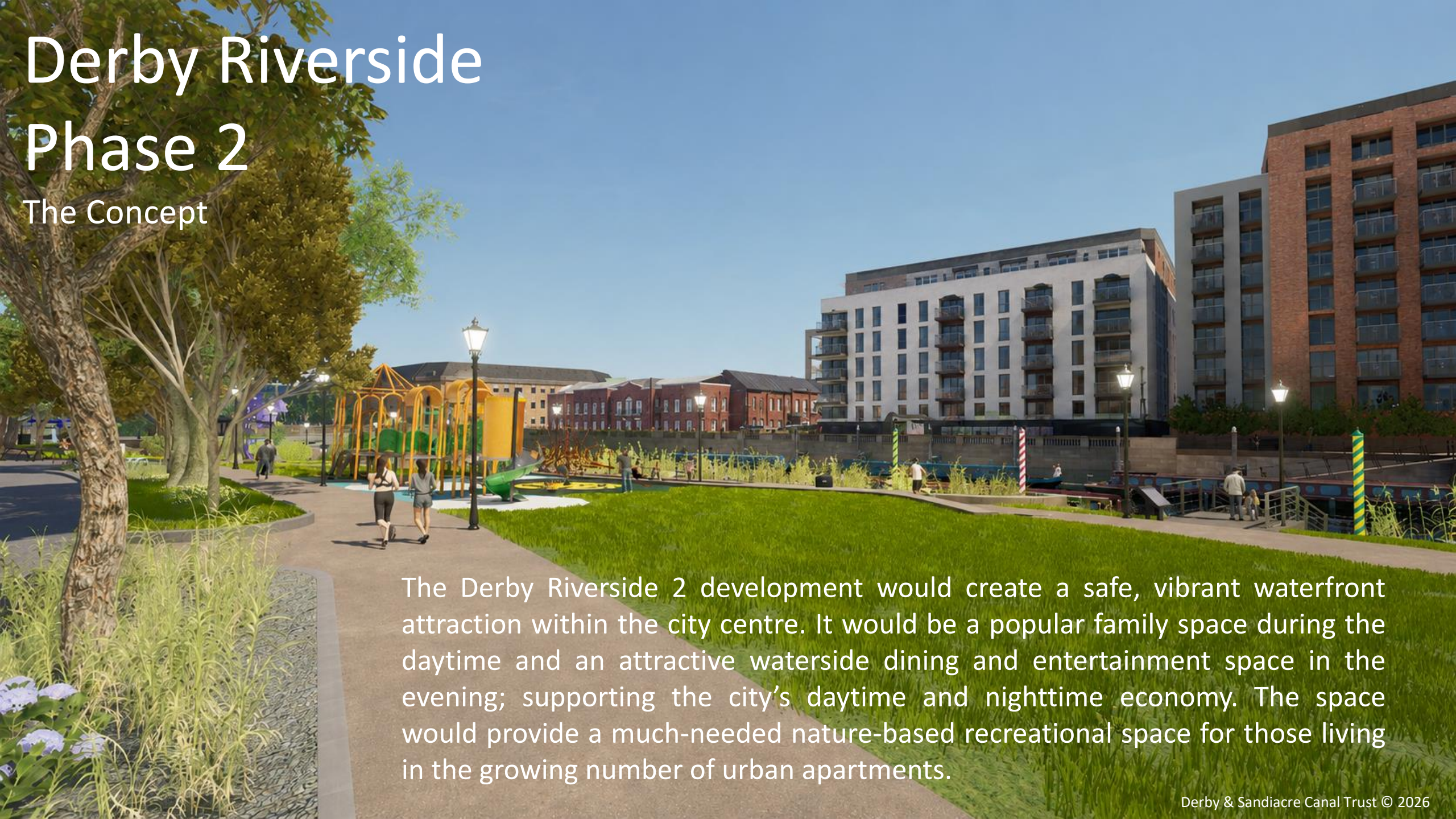
However, the Derby Riverside Committee believes that we have a once in a generation opportunity to create a “national destination venue” along the riverside. The proposal described in this document is to add several features to the riverside in central Derby with particular focus on enhancing the environment around Stuart Street. These gardens are referred to by all parties, as Erasmus Darwin Gardens.



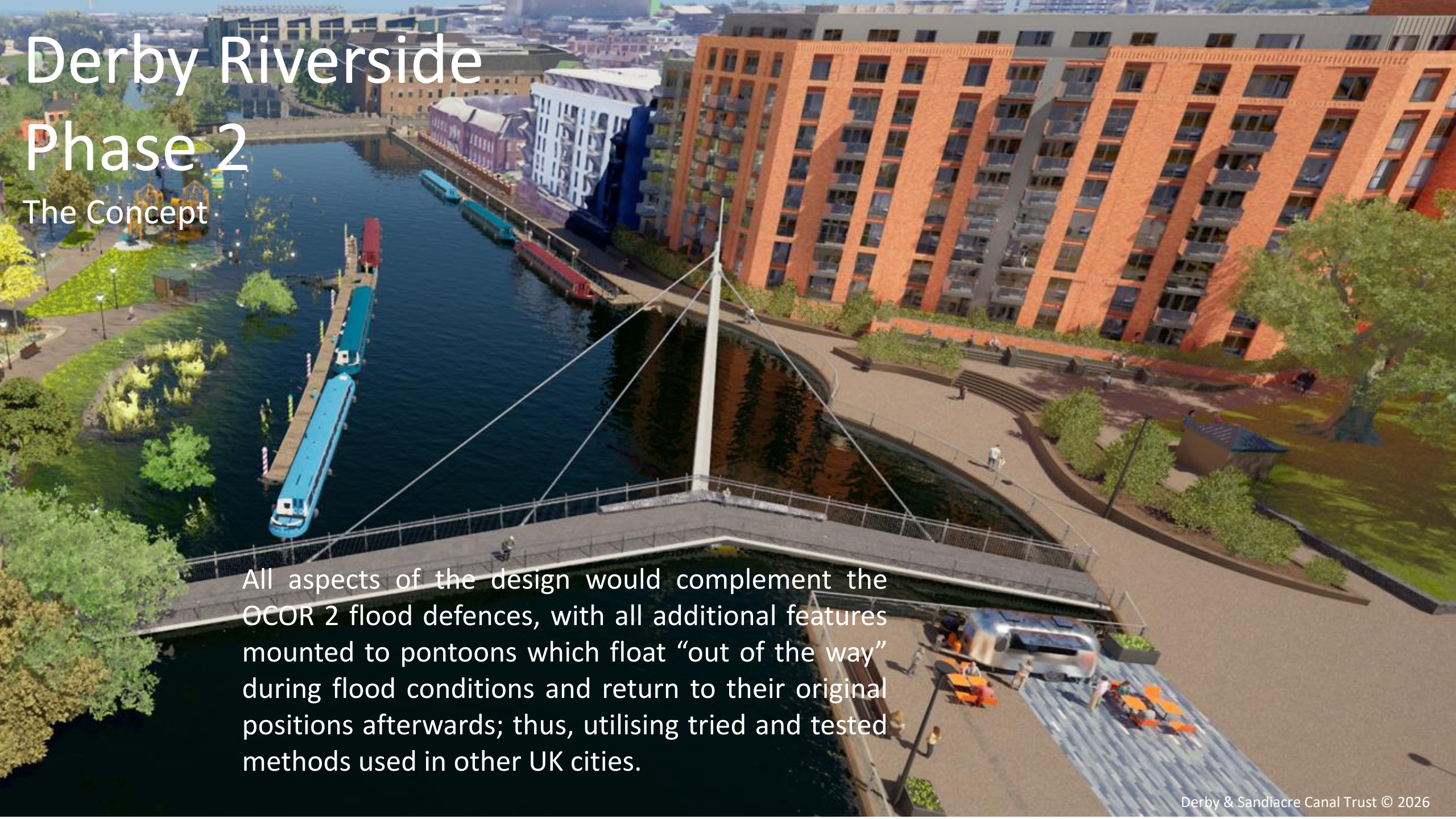
Derby Riverside

Phase 2

The Concept



The Derby Riverside 2 development would create a safe, vibrant waterfront attraction within the city centre. It would be a popular family space during the daytime and an attractive waterside dining and entertainment space in the evening; supporting the city's daytime and nighttime economy. The space would provide a much-needed nature-based recreational space for those living in the growing number of urban apartments.



Derby Riverside

Phase 2

The Concept

All aspects of the design would complement the OCOR 2 flood defences, with all additional features mounted to pontoons which float “out of the way” during flood conditions and return to their original positions afterwards; thus, utilising tried and tested methods used in other UK cities.

Phase 2

Erasmus Darwin Gardens

The geographical focus of Derby Riverside Phase 2 is the stretch of river between the Millenium Swing Bridge and Exeter Bridge.

The proposal is to further enhance Erasmus Darwin Gardens by adding specific, cost effective, features which start the journey towards Derby being able to recognise its full riverside regeneration potential.

The plan would involve installing 3 basic pontoons and 3 new boats along this stretch of river. An additional 3 food kiosks would be installed behind the Royal Standard pub.

Pontoon x3
Air B&B Boat
Restaurant Boat
Performance Boat

Boats x3
Air B&B Boat
Restaurant Boat
Performance Boat

An alternative option would be to put the pontoons on the opposite side of the river, but this would be approximately 3 times more expensive

Coffee Hut
(Run by Derby Museums?)

Pontoon x3
Air B&B Boat
Restaurant Boat
Performance Boat

Boats x3
Air B&B Boat
Restaurant Boat
Performance Boat

Erasmus Darwin Gardens
Themed Storytelling Demos
Planting (Trees & beds)
Street Lighting
Security Cameras
Boat EV Charging
Water Filling Points

Slipway & Nature Area

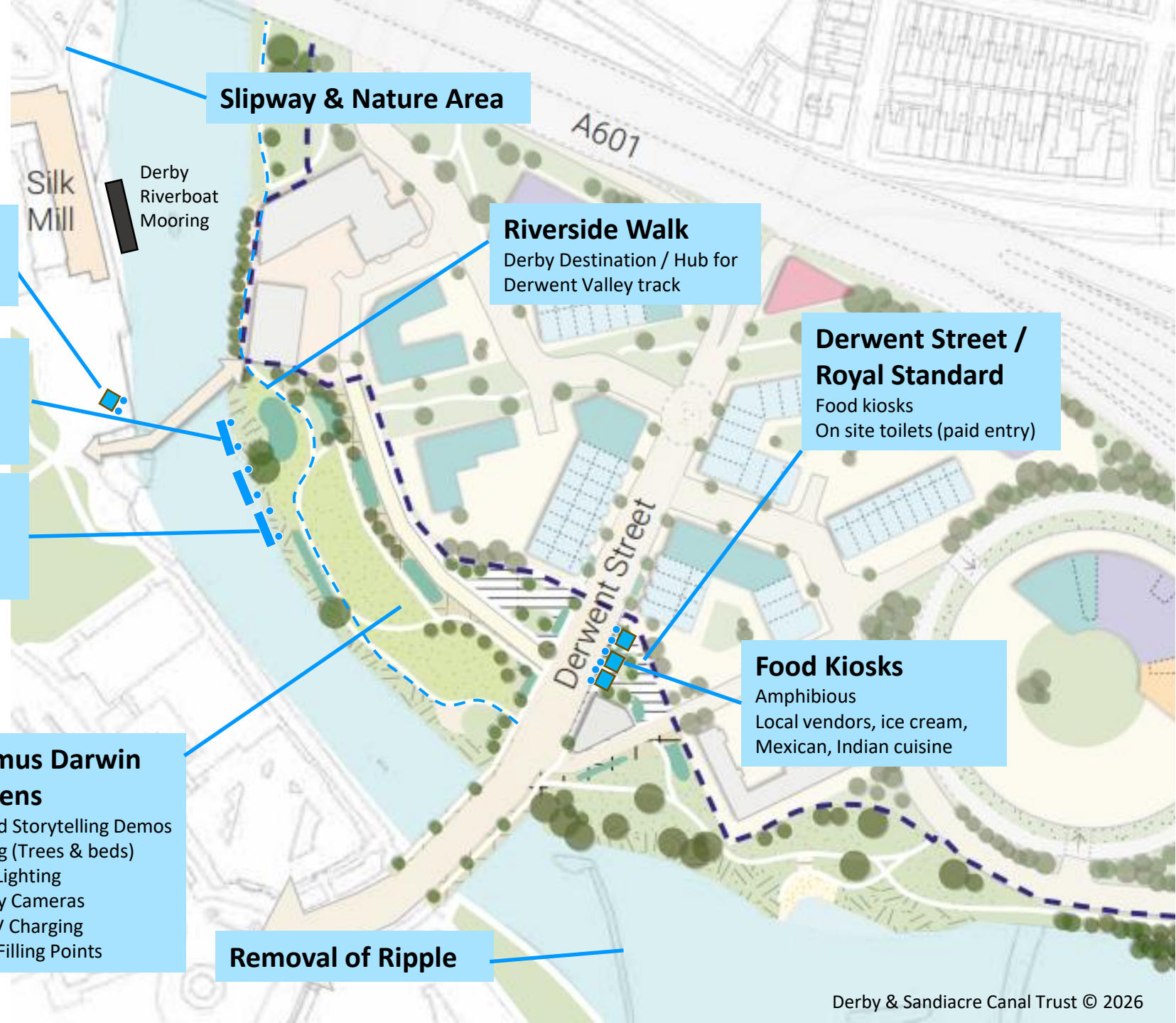
Derby Riverboat Mooring

Riverside Walk
Derby Destination / Hub for Derwent Valley track

Derwent Street / Royal Standard
Food kiosks
On site toilets (paid entry)

Food Kiosks
Amphibious
Local vendors, ice cream, Mexican, Indian cuisine

Removal of Ripple



Bringing Real Heritage back to life

Lucy Hardcastle (1771–1834) was a British botanist and teacher who ran a school in Derby. She was the author of *An Introduction to the Elements of the Linnaean System of Botany, for Young Persons*, published in 1830.

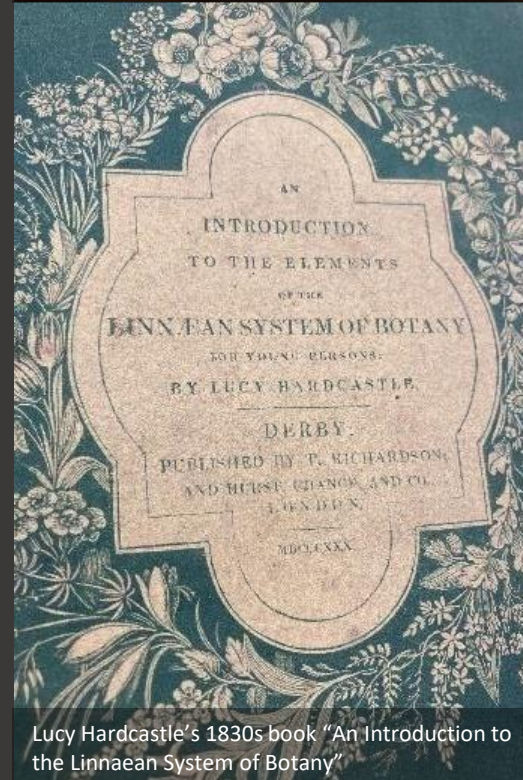
Benjamin Outram (1 April 1764 – 22 May 1805) was an English civil engineer, surveyor and industrialist. He was a pioneer in the building of canals and tramways.

Erasmus Robert Darwin (12 December 1731 – 18 April 1802) was an English physician. One of the key thinkers of the Midlands Enlightenment, he was also a natural philosopher, physiologist, slave-trade abolitionist and inventor. The Erasmus Darwin Museum is in Lichfield, and there are a number of exhibits there which show the broad variety of his interests including biology, engineering and literature. Derby is as much part of Darwin's story as Lichfield as he spent much of his life living and working near the riverside.

Samuel Plimsoll (10 February 1824 – 3 June 1898) was a British politician and social reformer, now best remembered for having devised the Plimsoll line (a line on a ship's hull indicating the maximum safe draught, and therefore the minimum freeboard for the vessel in various operating conditions). In 1867, Plimsoll was elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Derby



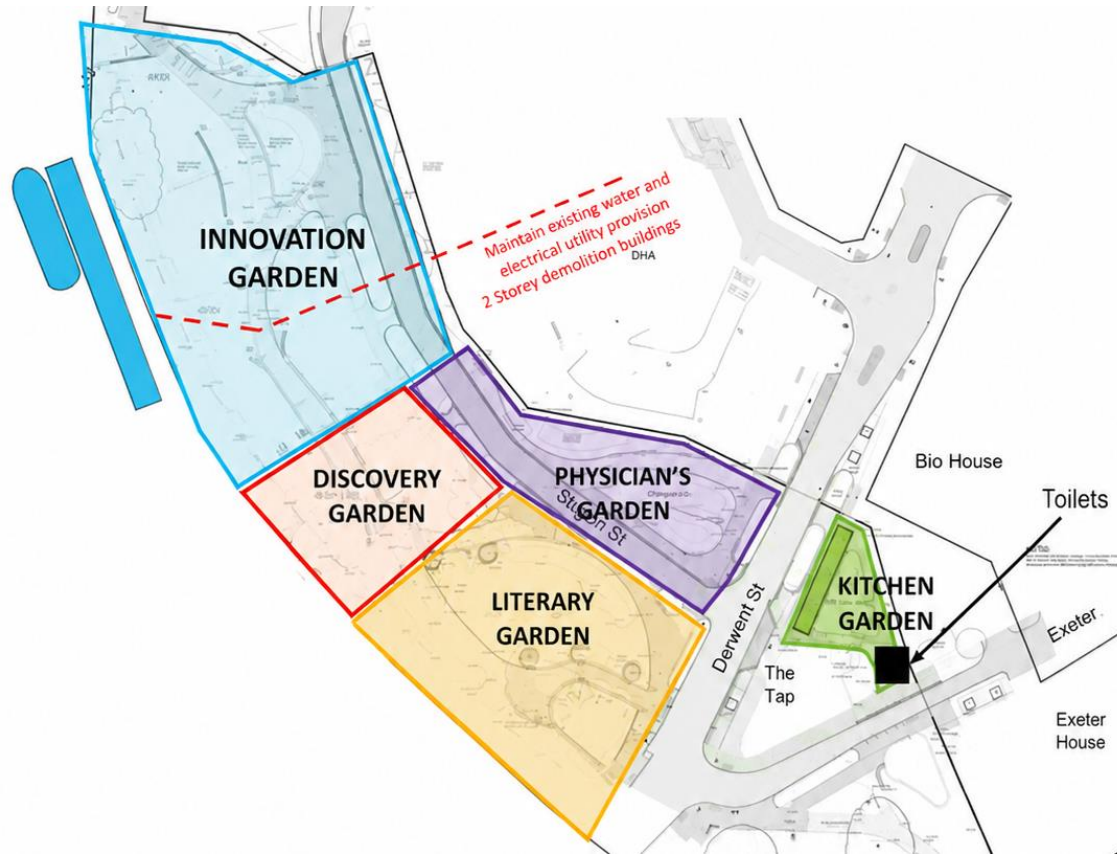
Erasmus Darwin lived in Derby and kept botanical gardens by the riverside



Lucy Hardcastle's 1830s book 'An Introduction to the Linnaean System of Botany'



Erasmus Darwin Theme



The Derby Riverside 2 Concept could also include additional features which further expand the educational benefits of visiting the garden using the theme of Erasmus Darwin. An Innovation Garden area could include STEM models of Erasmus Darwin Engineering ideas. The Kitchen garden could form the surroundings for an exciting cluster of food kiosks without outdoor dining. The physician's garden would explain how different plants can be used in medicine.



Restaurant Boat

Hardcastle Floating Restaurant

Based on assumptions of 46 seats, an average occupancy of 55% and an average spend of £27 with 320 trading days each year total revenue would be expected to be £552k per year.

With 4 full time staff and 6 part time staff, plus utility bills, insurance, licences and marketing, operating cost are expected to be ~£434k which gives an operating profit of £118k.



Self Catering Boat

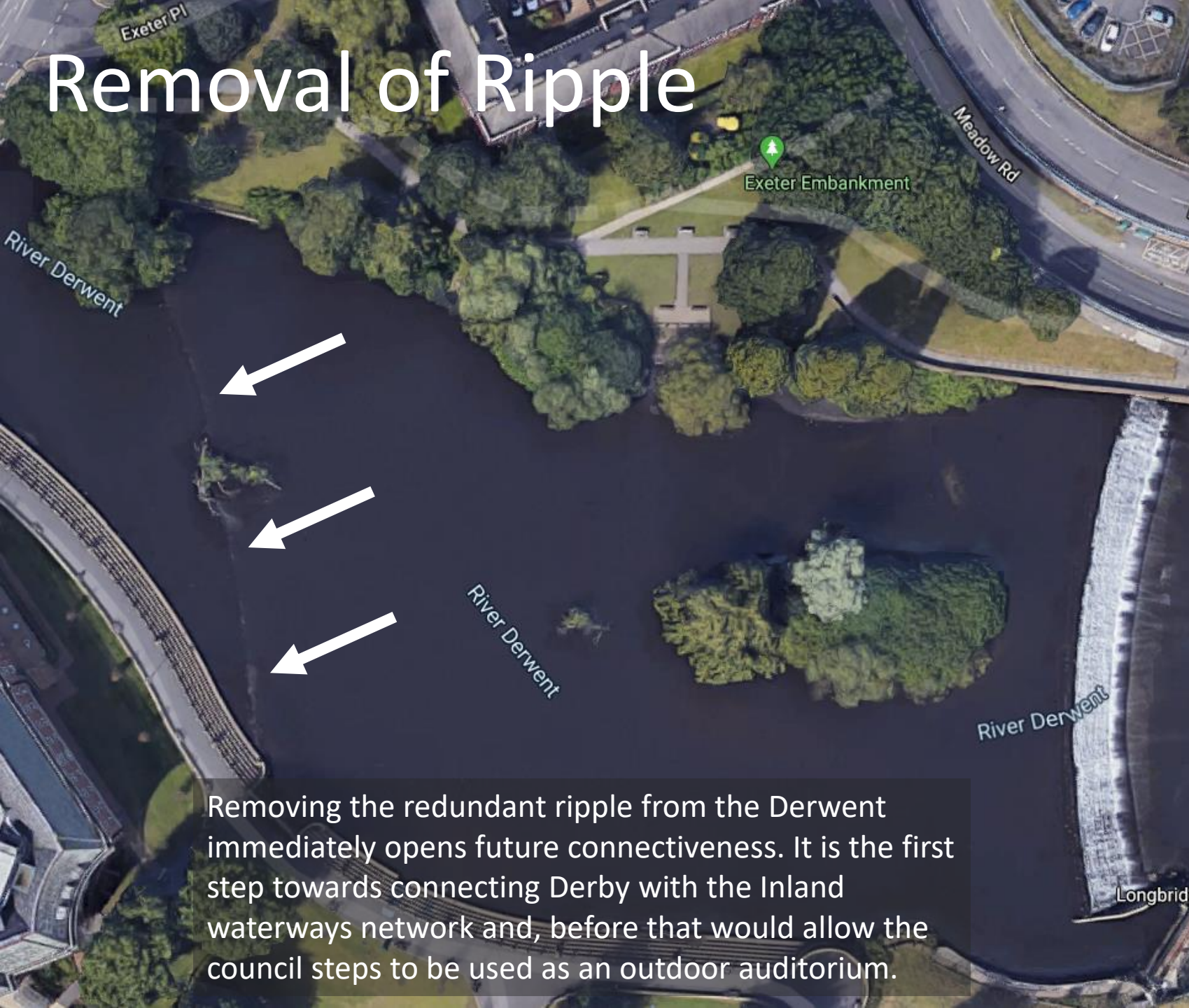
Nightingale Floating Hireable Accomodation

Features include

- Entire 70ft narrowboat
- Sleeps up to 8 guests
- Double bedroom
- Sofa bed
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Heating
- Wi-Fi
- Smart TV
- Outdoor seating area

Based on assumptions of £140 a night mid season and £175 peak season, a conservative occupancy of 45%; total revenue would be expected to be £35k per year. The operating costs would be around £21k per year, this boat would be expected to give a £14k a year profit.

Removal of Ripple



Removing the redundant ripple from the Derwent immediately opens future connectiveness. It is the first step towards connecting Derby with the Inland waterways network and, before that would allow the council steps to be used as an outdoor auditorium.



AI Generated image



Performance Boat

“Tempest” Floating Stage Venue

Total Estimated Annual Income

Source	Income
Ticket share	£34,560
Venue hire	£10,000
Café/bar profit	£14,000
Festivals	£8,000
Corporate hire	£5,000
Sponsorship	£15,000
Advertising	£4,000
Merchandise	£3,000
Total	£93,560

Derby Riverside would aim to improve the city's night time economy by improving safety and security by the river, working with public transport companies and local businesses and continuing to offer fresh evening entertainment.

Sowter Road Slipway

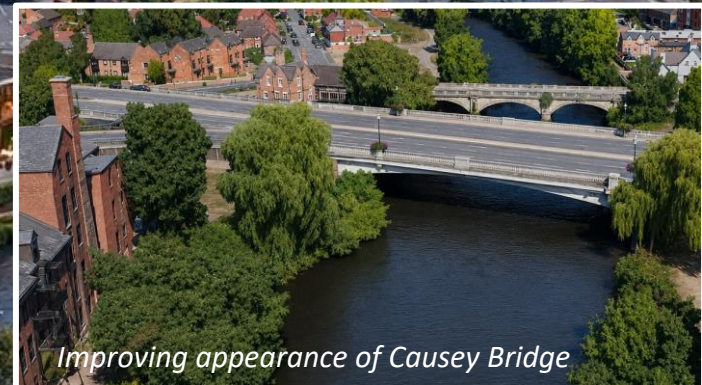
Introducing a slipway and an access driveway from Sowter Road would enable boats to be introduced and removed from the river; opening the opportunity of river festivals, as well as being able to maintain boats on the river more easily.

Future Riverside Living

City Road Riverside & other spin off developments



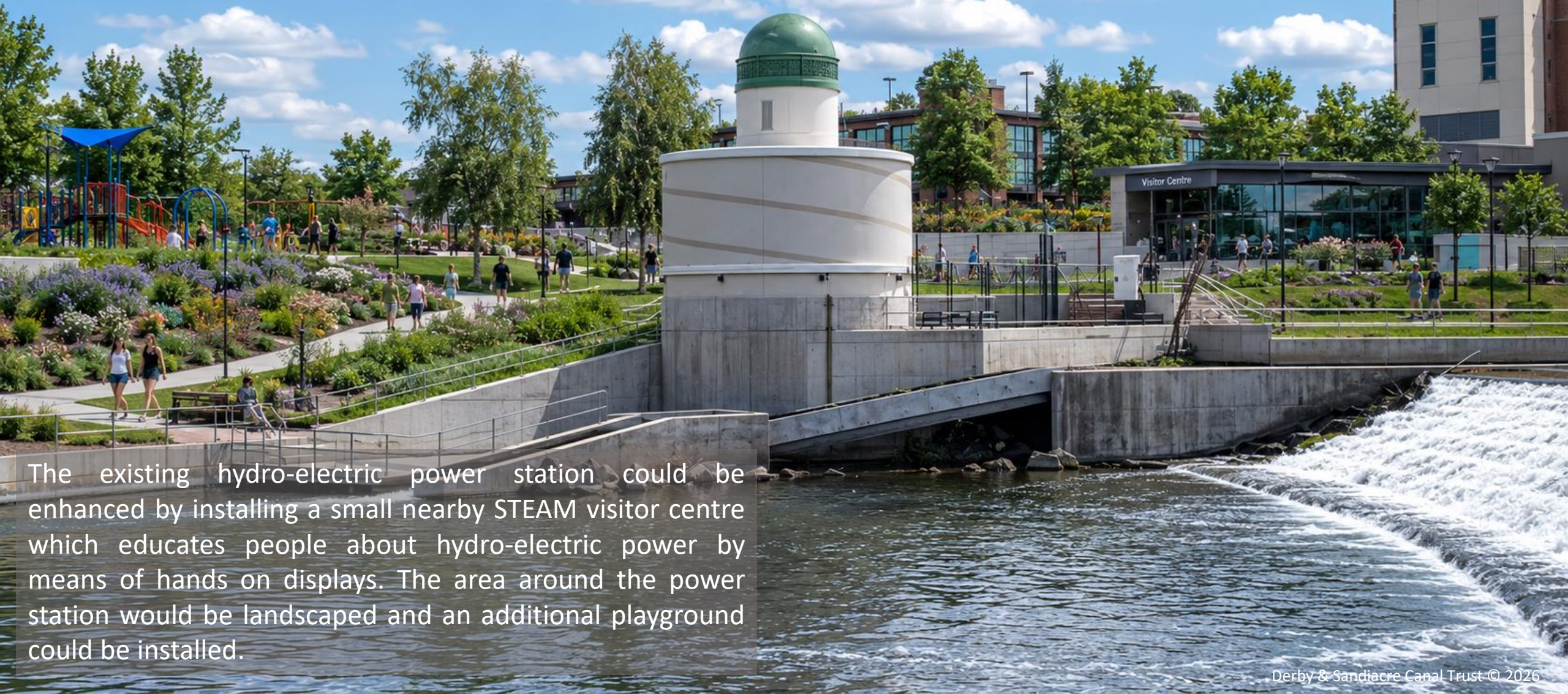
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Derby Riverside 2 will drive follow on private sector investment as pockets of land near the river become highly desirable for the development of new residential areas.

Future Enhancements

Hydro Electric Power Station



The existing hydro-electric power station could be enhanced by installing a small nearby STEAM visitor centre which educates people about hydro-electric power by means of hands on displays. The area around the power station would be landscaped and an additional playground could be installed.

Festivals and Outdoor Performances

Derby's new city centre waterfront would be an enabler for some unique national festivals. Some, supporting existing community groups and local charity events as well as some brand-new festivals. Transforming Derby's reputation as a city which makes the most of the beautiful natural asset at its heart.

Derwent River Festival (NEW) – May - Similar to the Shardlow Festival and would involve guest boats introduced via the new slipway.

Furthest From the Sea – June - Providing additional features enabling the expansion of this truly unique children's charity event.

Derby Feste – September – Derby Riverside would expand the range of street performances which could be hosted each year at Derby's headline festival.

Tempest Feste – October – A festival which utilises the floating outdoor performance stage to put on Derby Shakespeare Company performances



Five Case Model

Overview

Strategic - Strong alignment with regeneration, tourism and city centre objectives. Aligning with Derby City Centre Masterplan, East Midlands tourism strategy & River Derwent corridor regeneration. It also helps transition from a city with limited riverside activity to one which tastefully and effectively uses its natural asset.

Economic – The scheme offers direct, permanent hospitality jobs as well as providing jobs during the construction phase. Indirectly it will support the local hospitality sector including local hotels, restaurants, cafes and taxi services

Commercial – The scheme has multiple revenue streams, building in resilience and offering attractive opportunities for private operators

Financial - Moderate capital cost with potential for blended public/private funding and ongoing lease income

Management - Deliverable using established governance, phased implementation and effective risk management. Operation supported by strong voluntary sector managed through Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust. With appropriate governance, funding and commercial partnerships, the project has the potential to become a financially sustainable regeneration asset that delivers lasting economic, social and environmental benefits.



Existing Riverside

Landmarks and Visitor Attractions

Riverside Chambers – High quality office accommodation adjacent to river. Our proposals improve the amenity of the offices and give greater visibility to the Riverside Chambers offices, the Local Studies Library and the café on the ground floor.



The Royal Standard – This attractive and historic Derby pub which overlooks the river and Exeter Bridge works in synergy with this proposal.



Local Attractions

2027

Museum &
Art Gallery

Electric Daisy

Sadler Gate

Cathedral

St Mary's

Museum of
Making

Market Hall

QUAD

Derby
Riverboat

Riverside
Chambers

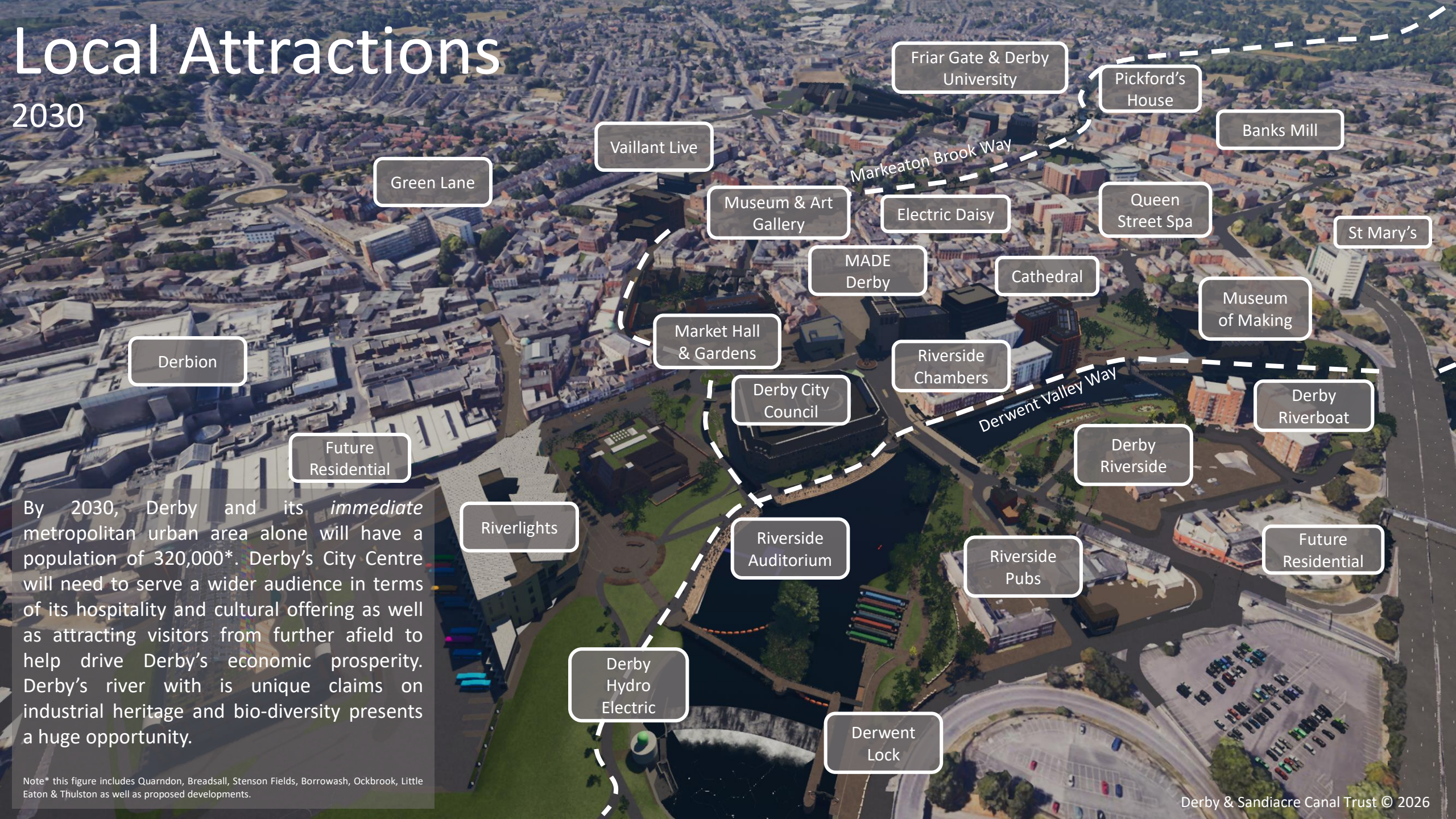
Derby
Riverside

Derby City
Council

Derwent Valley Way

Local Attractions

2030



By 2030, Derby and its *immediate* metropolitan urban area alone will have a population of 320,000*. Derby's City Centre will need to serve a wider audience in terms of its hospitality and cultural offering as well as attracting visitors from further afield to help drive Derby's economic prosperity. Derby's river with its unique claims on industrial heritage and bio-diversity presents a huge opportunity.

Note* this figure includes Quarndon, Breadsall, Stenson Fields, Borrowash, Ockbrook, Little Eaton & Thulston as well as proposed developments.

Future Context Map

MADE Derby & Cathedral One

Derby Riverside Phase 2
perfectly complements
proposed for the city including
the new waterside
developments from
Wavensmere and the MADE
Derby / Marketplace
redevelopment

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Additional Boats

Visiting Boats and further additions



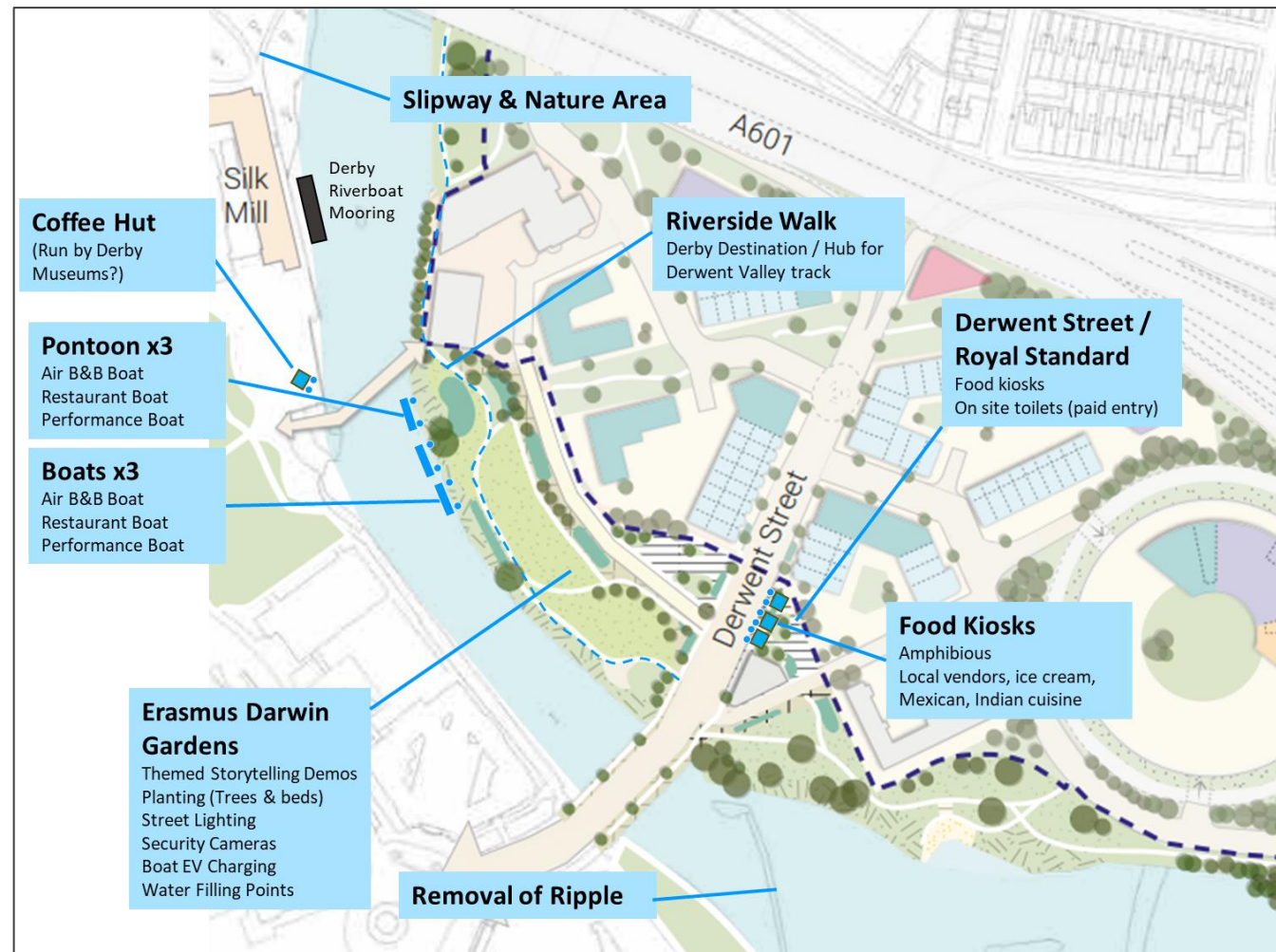
Additional Inland Waterways network boats could easily join the waterfront later. For example, successful café boats like Waltzing Matilda and Lola Café Boat



Derby Riverside Phase 2

Rough order of magnitude capital cost calculation

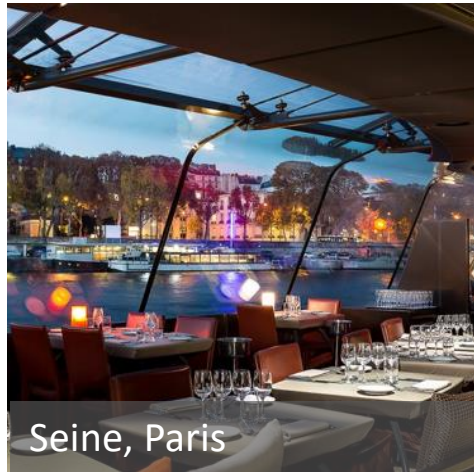
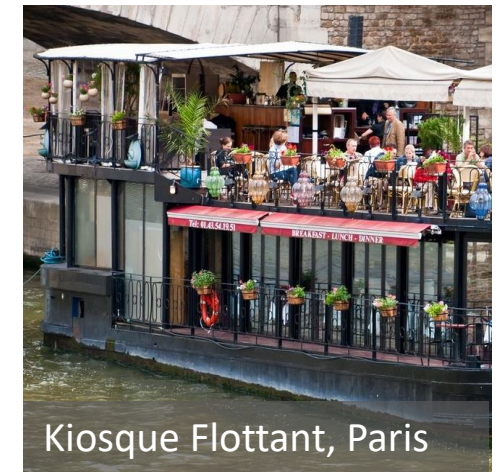
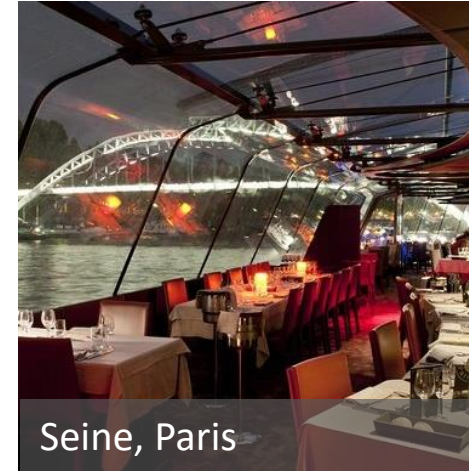
Feature	Quote Status	Qty	Estimated Unit Cost	Estimated Total
Accessible Boat Moorings (with Anti-Flood Measures)	Quote obtained	3	£55,000	£165,000
Food Kiosks (Amphibious / Anti-Flood)	Quote obtained	3	£16,000	£48,000
Interactive STEM Displays	No quote obtained yet	3	£6,000	£18,000
Victorian-Style Street Lamps	No quote obtained yet	20	£500	£10,000
CCTV Cameras	No quote obtained yet	10	£300	£3,000
EV Charging Points (including installation)	Quote obtained	4	£4,000	£16,000
Drinking Water Point (connected to existing services)	No quote obtained yet	1	£4,000	£4,000
Public Toilet Block (including groundwork and installation)	Quote obtained	1	£100,000	£100,000
Consultant Costs	Quote obtained	1	£50,000	£50,000
Removal of Ripple	No quote obtained yet	1	£100,000	£100,000
Restaurant Boat	Quote obtained	1	£180,000	£180,000
Performance Boat	Quote obtained	1	£100,000	£100,000
Self Catering Boat	Quote obtained	1	£100,000	£100,000



Estimated total capital cost = **£894,000**

Inspiration from elsewhere

Riverside Life in Derby in the future?





DERBY