

Princes Circus

Public Realm Proposals

Introduction

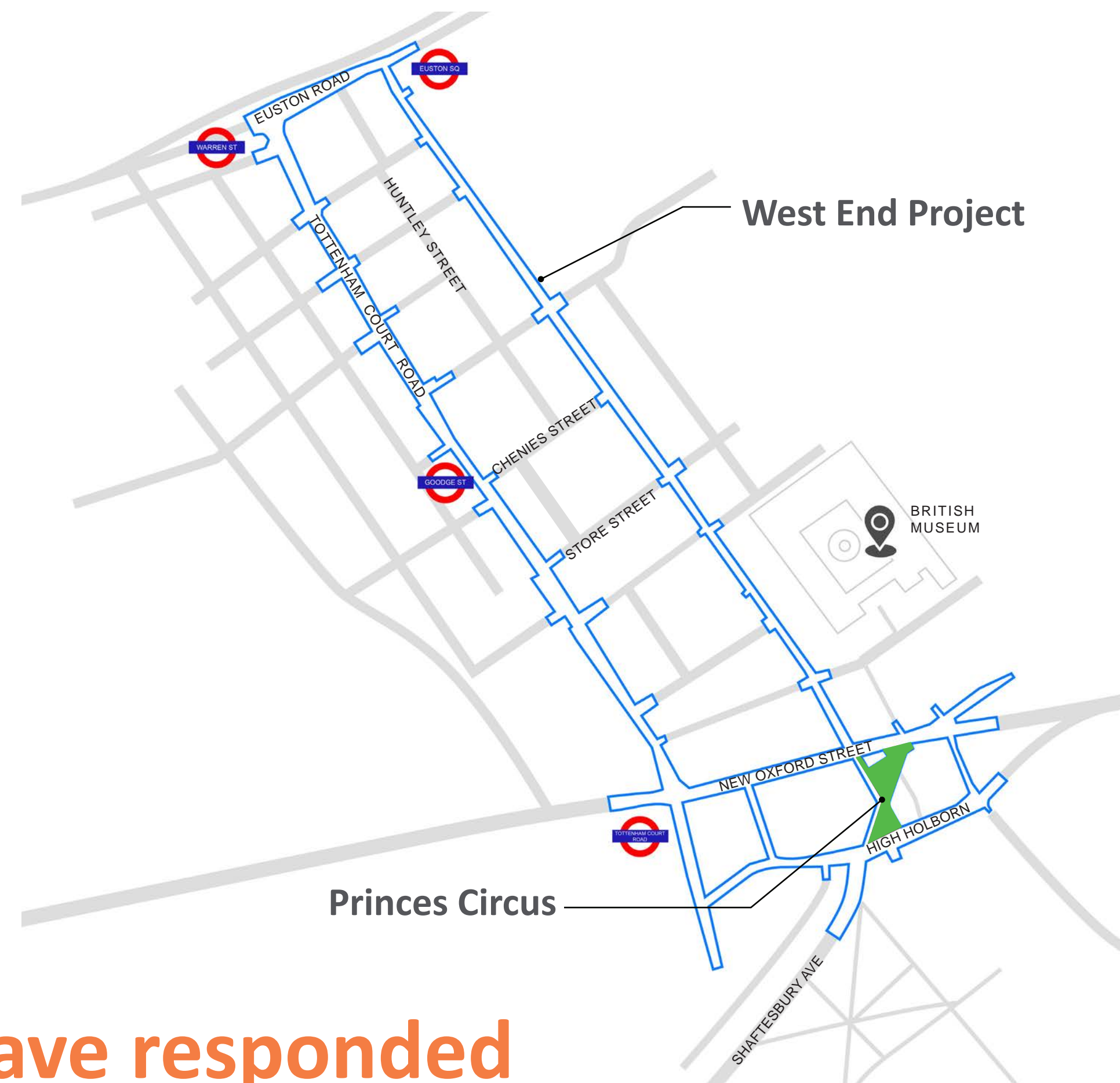
The West End Project is Camden Council's £35 million scheme to deliver exciting improvements to the heart of Camden's busy West End. Major changes underway include Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street/Bloomsbury Street becoming two-way to traffic, reducing congestion and air pollution, speeding up bus journeys and providing new and safer provisions for cyclists.

One of the most significant transformations is the creation of new and regenerated public and green spaces. Including Princes Circus, a radical project that removes sections of Bloomsbury Street and Shaftesbury Avenue to create a larger and traffic free public square. The project will improve pedestrian and cycle safety with widened footways, new crossings and routes. There will be range of seating opportunities, new distinctive planting and improve the setting of the surrounding important buildings and monuments.

Camden Council has consulted with residents, businesses and local interest groups to create concept ideas and understand local issues. The following designs have been developed from these ideas following further technical studies and survey work.

For more information or to comment on the proposals please email us at westendproject@camden.gov.uk, get in touch via LinkedIn, Twitter or Facebook or call our 24 hour telephone number: 0845 3308 743. Deadline for feedback is 31st August 2018. There is also a project information drop in available at The Building Centre 26 Store St, Fitzrovia, London WC1E 7BT – for the latest opening times see our website: www.camden.gov.uk/westendproject

To deliver the West End Project we are working in phases to keep disruption to a minimum. The transformation of Princes Circus is expected to be complete by spring 2020.



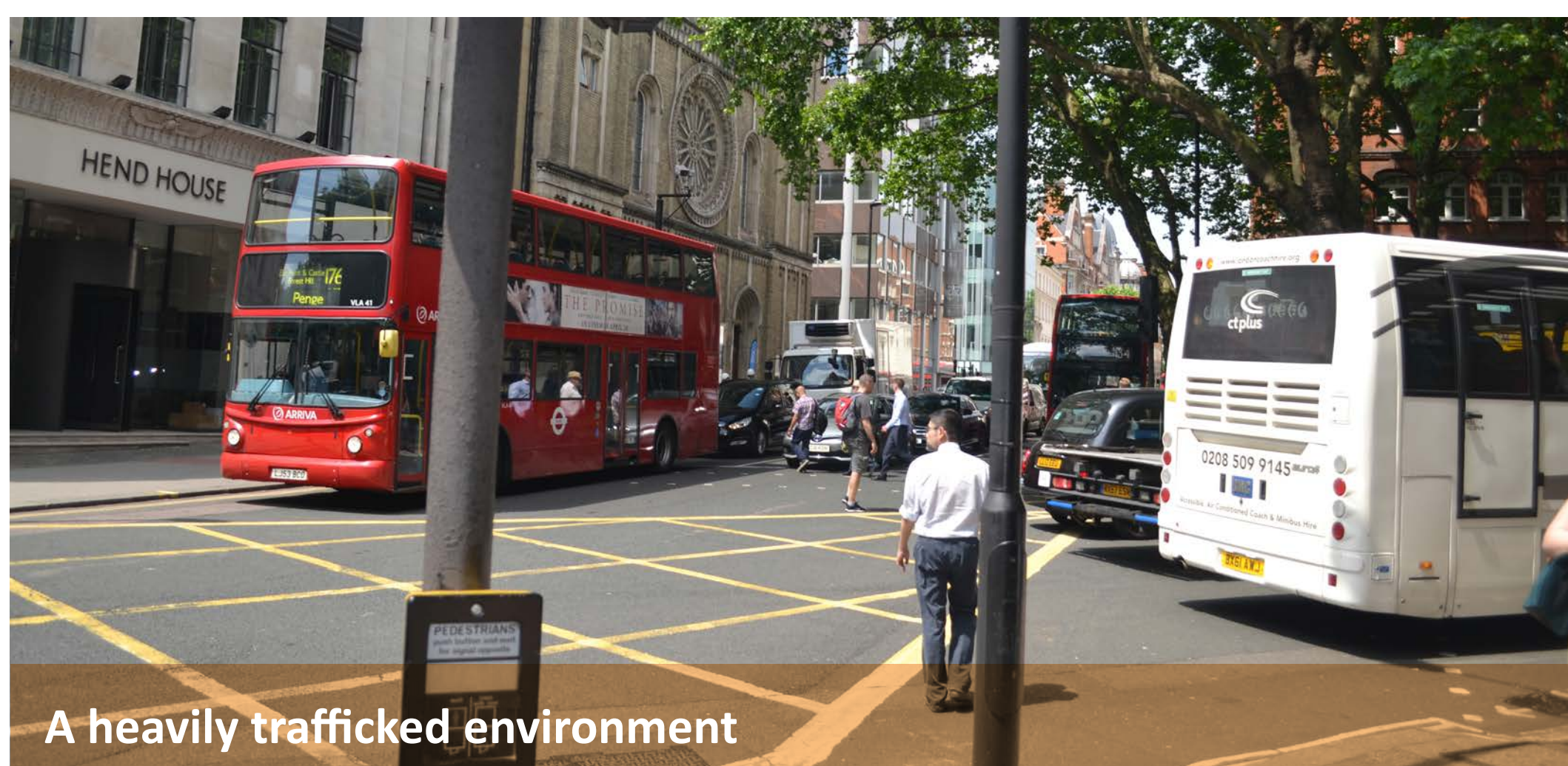
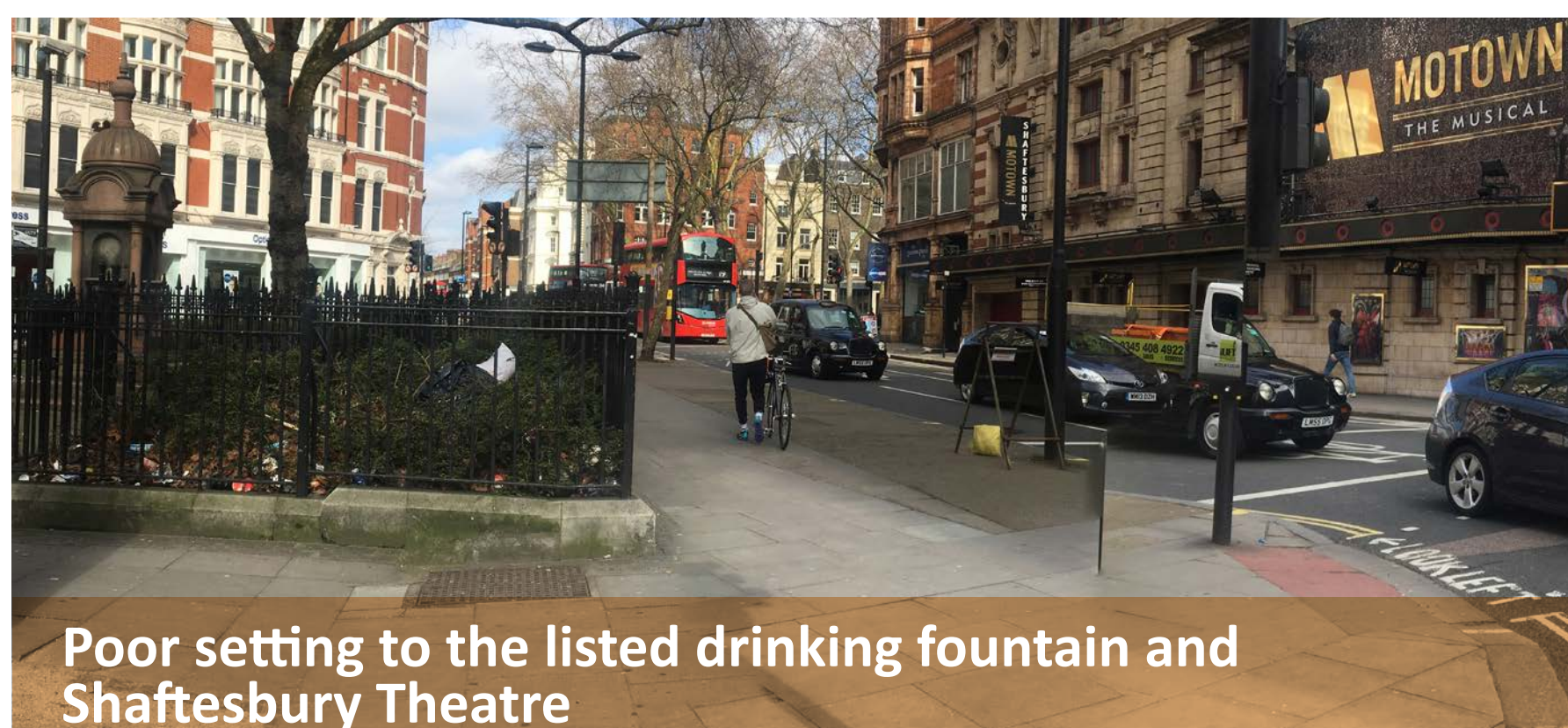
What you told us?

- The pedestrian and cycle environment is busy and feels dangerous.
- The space lies on a key route to the British Museum and Covent Garden and needs circulation space outside key buildings such as The Shaftesbury Theatre.
- The architecture and trees in this area are remarkable and the trees need retaining, although they cast a lot of shade which needs consideration.
- The existing space provides limited opportunities to stop and dwell.
- The space should feel safe and discourage anti-social behaviour.
- The existing High Voltage electricity station has a raised vent shaft that needs to remain and be sensitively integrated into the design.
- The existing space has poor legibility.
- The listed drinking fountain should be sensitively incorporated into the new layout.
- The space should use high quality materials.

How we have responded

- To provide wider pavements and areas for socialising and congregation.
- To create a new cycle connection that reduces potential conflicts with pedestrians and vehicles.
- To create a high quality multi-functional public square that celebrates the remarkable qualities of the existing environment and its location that is used and enjoyed all year round.
- To successfully accommodate a range of different uses, promoting the space as a place to relax, sit, easily move through, eat and socialise.
- To retain the existing mature trees as much as possible, whilst ensuring natural light into the space.
- To adopt a high quality and coherent material, furniture and planting palette that supports identity whilst considering comfort, robustness, buildability and long term maintenance.
- To introduce as much planting as possible to reinforce identity, enhance well-being and provide protection from the road. Planting will enhance biodiversity and incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs).
- To seamlessly integrate the electricity sub station by creating a high quality raised seating platform.
- To provide a new setting to the listed fountain.
- To create a safe and welcoming night-time environment celebrating the special qualities of the space.

Existing space



The Vision

A FANTASTIC NEW PUBLIC SQUARE THAT
CELEBRATES WHAT MAKES PRINCES CIRCUS SPECIAL

AN
'ANCIENT WOODLAND'
IN THE CITY



A REMARKABLE
COLLECTION OF
BUILDINGS

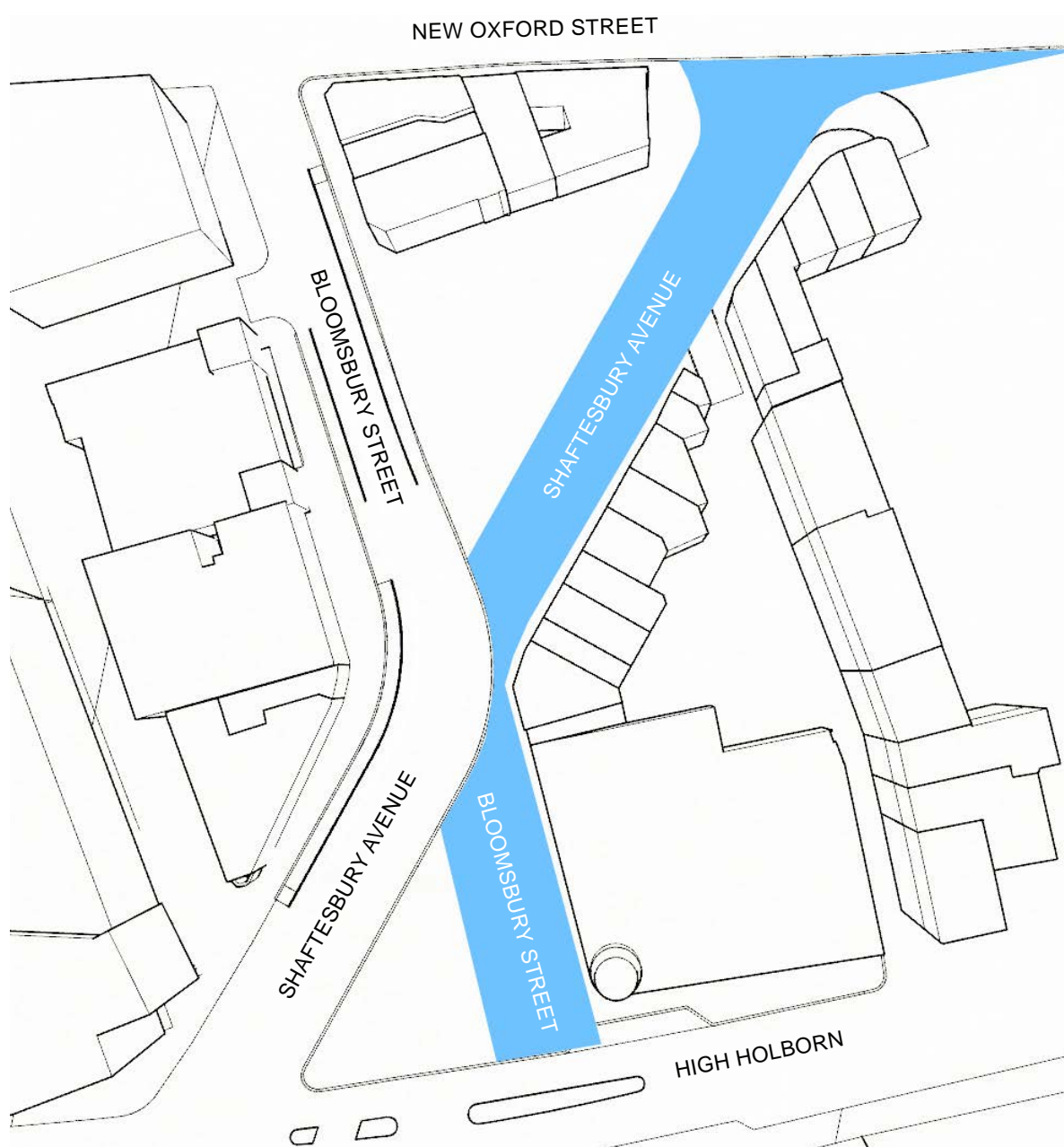


THE TRIANGLE
A DISTINCTIVE URBAN
FORM

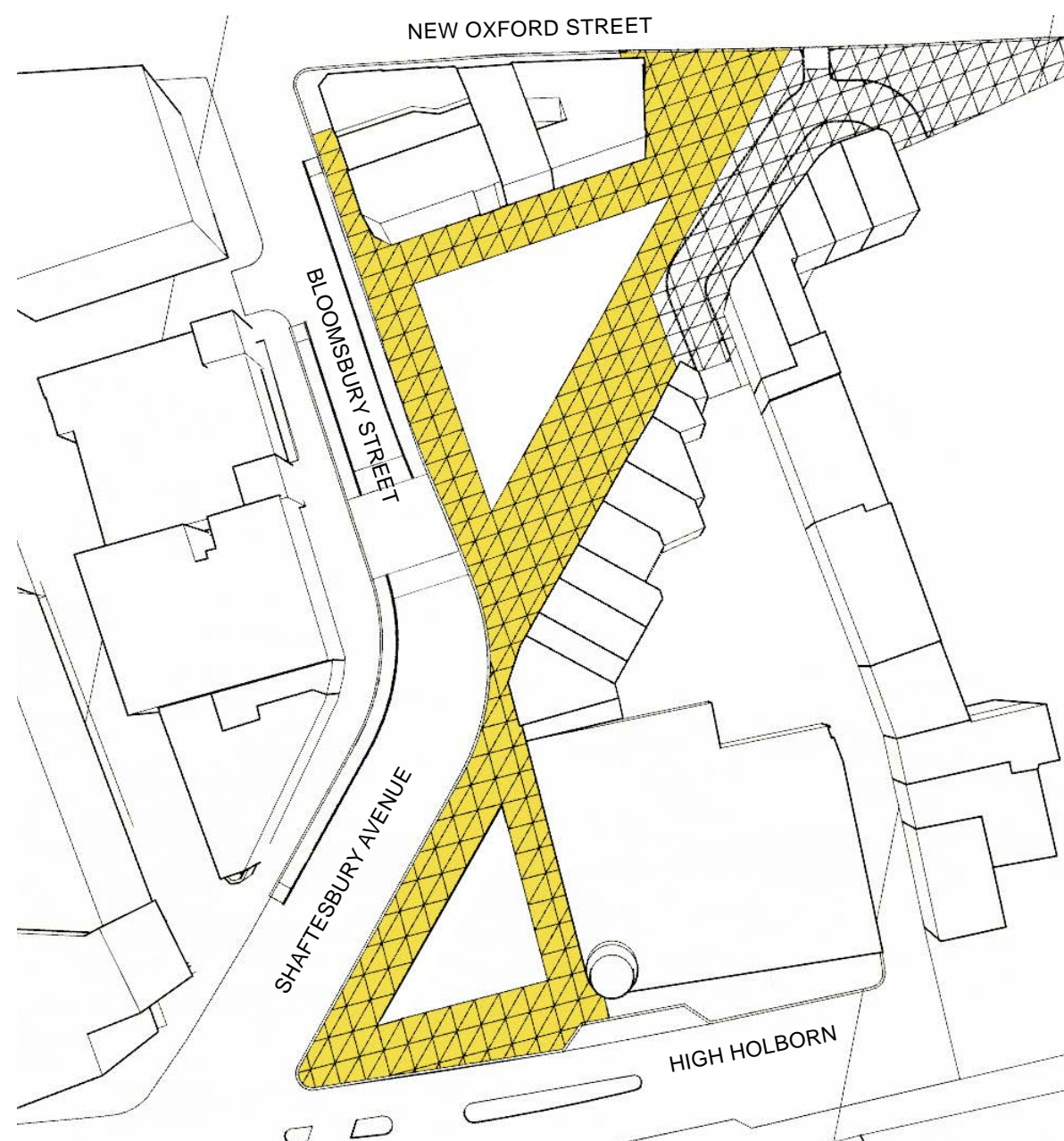


Key Principles

Remove Shaftesbury Avenue and
Bloomsbury Street



Create unimpeded space for
pedestrian movement



Create gathering
spaces



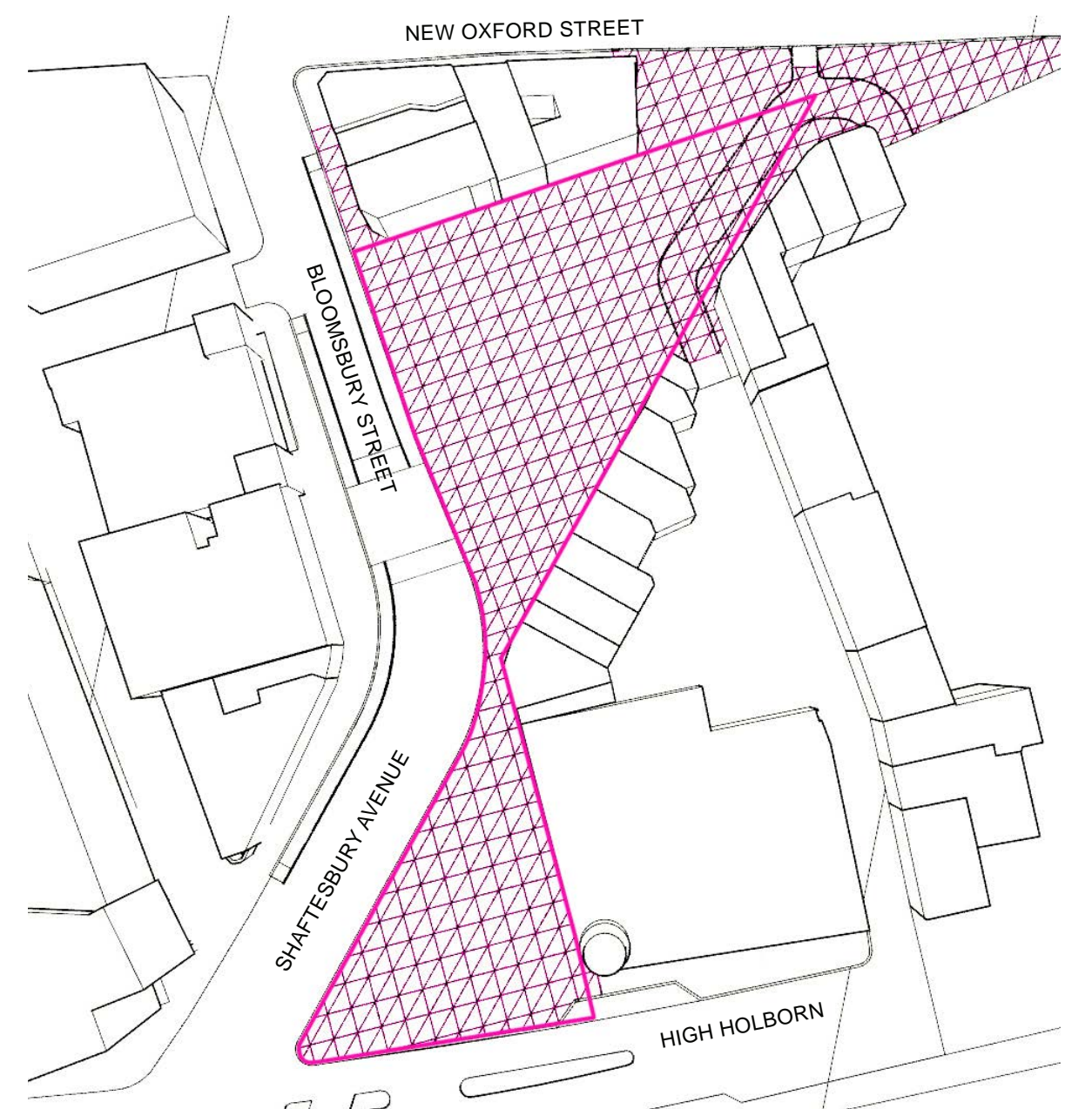
Introduce lots of seating
opportunities



Create a strong green identity
(a place of escape)



Interpret geometry to create a
unified and special identity



Proposed Plan



- 01 Wide pavement for pedestrians
- 02 Signalised pedestrian crossings
- 03 'The Woodland Glade' - A place to sit and relax
- 04 Decked seating platform over electrical substation
- 05 Clusters of individual seats
- 06 Long seating edge
- 07 Al fresco seating/spill out
- 08 Vehicular and cycle route defined by low kerb
- 09 Shade tolerant and biodiverse planting
- 10 Existing trees retained
- 11 Listed drinking fountain relocated onto new seating plinth
- 12 Trees to be removed
- 13 Potential new drinking fountain location