

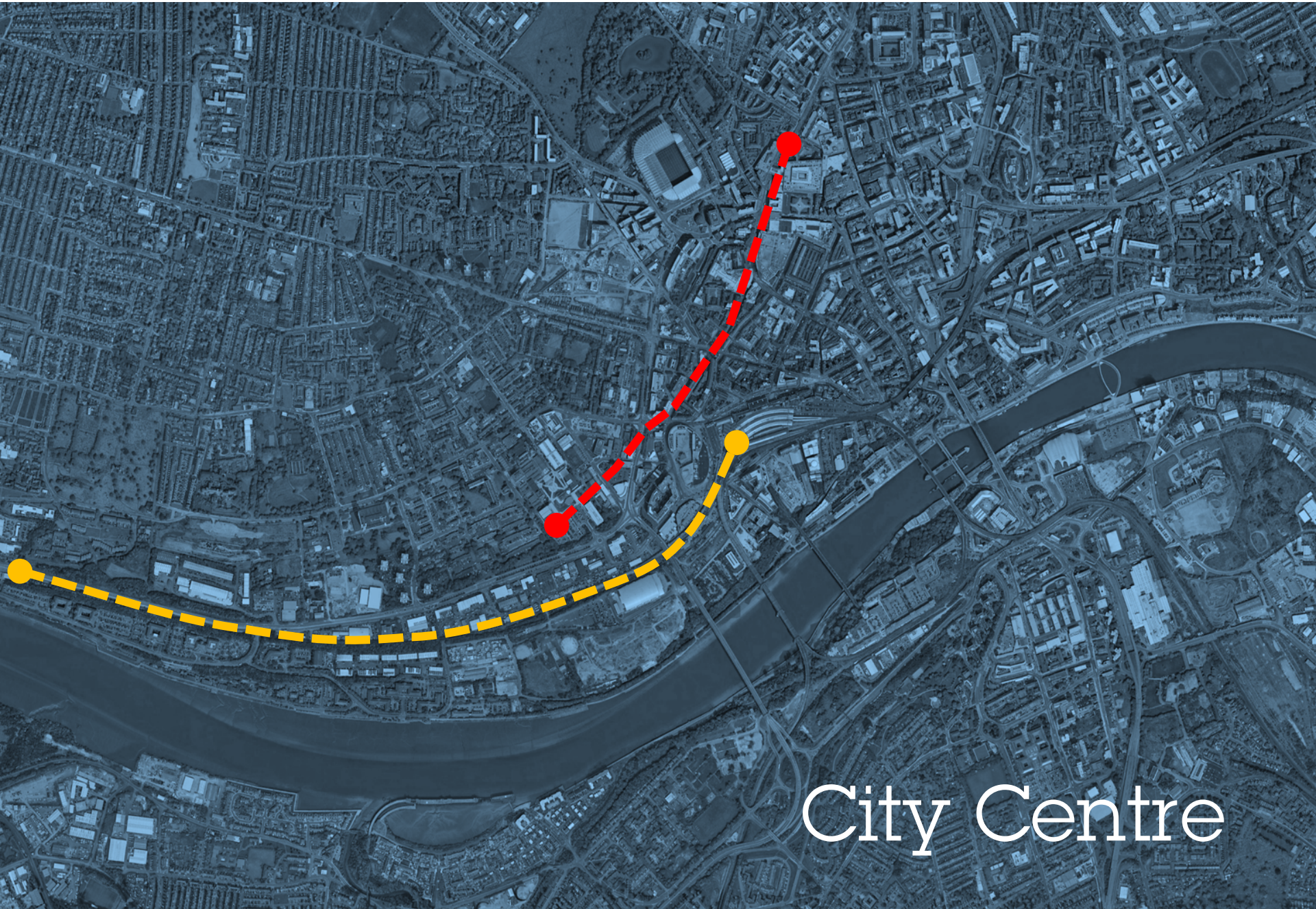
Good evening everyone. My name is Adrian Clarke. I work as a landscape architect for Wardell Armstrong, based in the city centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. Newcastle is my adopted home and it is a wonderful city.



Newcastle's Forgotten Spaces

Adrian Clarke
Landscape Architect
Wardell Armstrong

Newcastle is eminently walkable and tonight I will share some thoughts on two spaces which I walk past or through nearly every day. I call them Forgotten Spaces – perhaps they are, perhaps not. Both spaces are connections – links - which are so important in Making People Friendly Places, which is the theme of our conference.



City Centre

The first of these is the former Newcastle to Carlisle Railway Line, on which a train last ran in 1968. I call this the Wild Line.



Hidden but not Forgotten

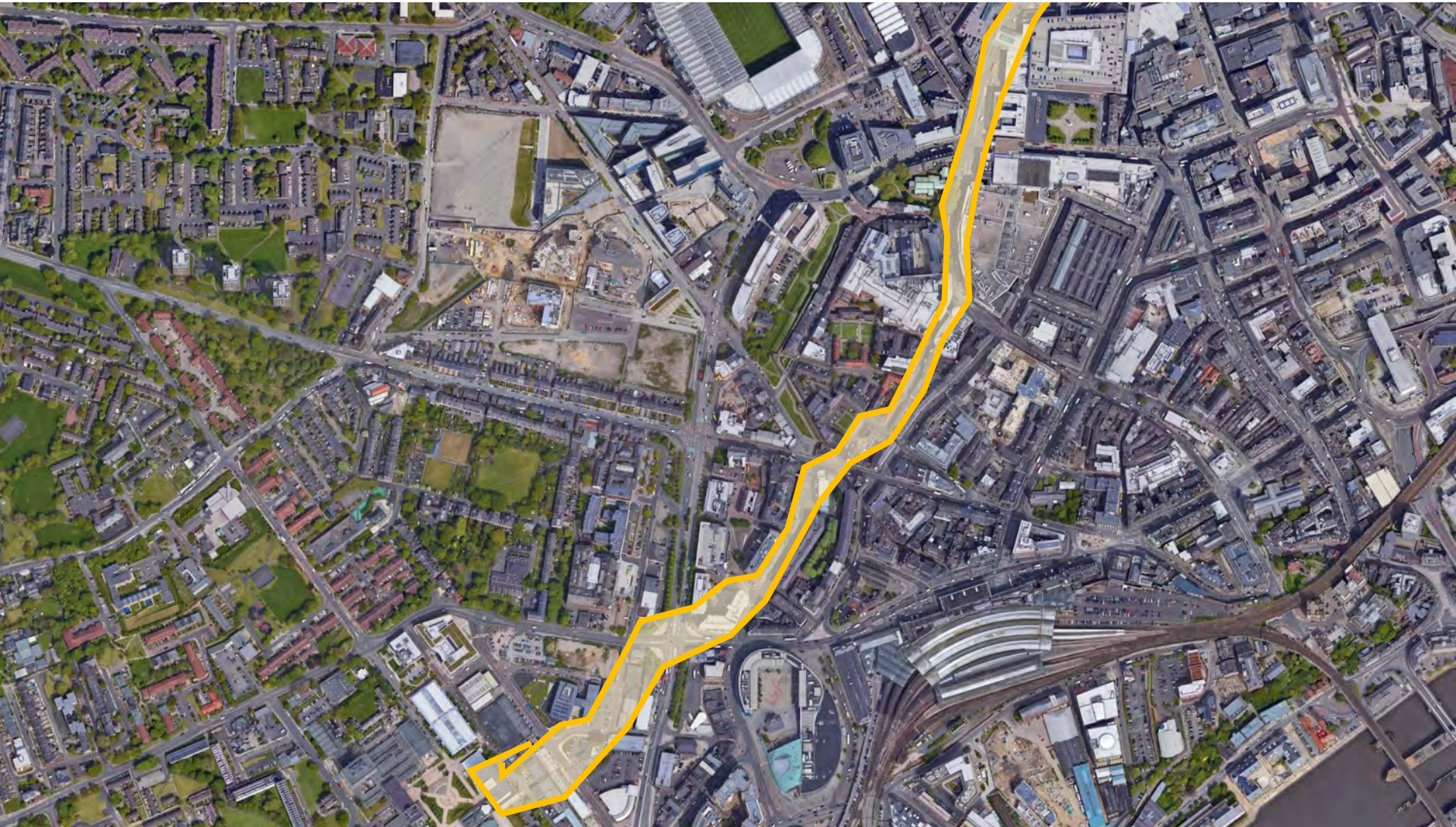
It runs right through the heart of the industrial landscape stretching westwards from Newcastle Central Station. It is visible, but not visited, but also not entirely forgotten, as I know through speaking to people. Within the next decade or two it would not surprise me if much if not all of this land is redeveloped and the Wild Line could provide a green, traffic free route direct to the heart of the city.



Like the High Line its charm lies in its character – reclaimed by nature. Not only would it provide a direct connection to the centre of town, its elevated location also provides fantastic views across the Tyne Gorge. Unfortunately the first 200m or so out of the station is still used by trains but I'm sure there is a way around that!

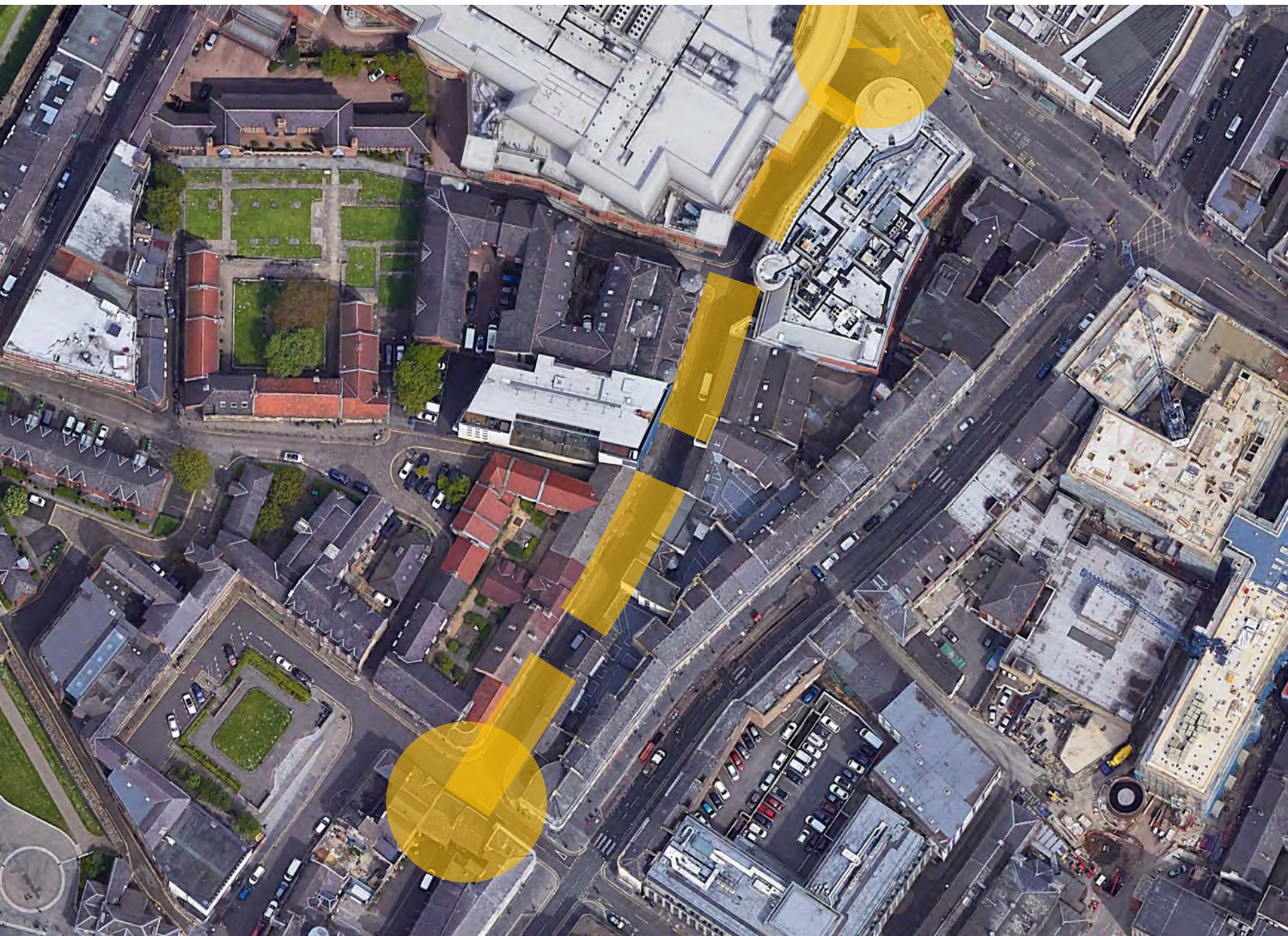


The second space doesn't really have a name but I call it the Back Lanes. It's not hidden but I think it is forgotten. Which is interesting as it is incredibly well used being the main route between the bus station and Newcastle College.



Not Hidden but Forgotten

My focus is on one particular part which is Low Friar Lane. It is a grotty, service road.. The occasional truck but lots and lots of people.



Like many streets it is ordinary, nondescript. Not hidden but forgotten. With a bit of care, attention, imagination and dare I say humour it could become a space which would transform the experience of its users and unlock the economic potential of current and future businesses which might make their home there. My inspiration for what might happen here is Superkilen in Copenhagen, particular for its playfulness, its life, vitality and colour. In fact there are many such streets in Newcastle and when they have stairs they are called "chares".



Thank you everybody for listening and for looking at my poster and for giving me the opportunity to reflect on some thoughts about these 2 very different places. The city can be a frustrating place, but walking around it is also neverendingly inspirational and thought-provoking.

Urban Design Post Session: Newcastle's Forgotten Spaces
 2019 Urban Design Group Conference: Making People Friendly Places
 Adam Clarke, Landscape Architect, Wardell Armstrong



North East England: Tyne-side



Newcastle upon Tyne: City Centre



Fmr Newcastle - Carlisle Line



Hidden Not Forgotten

- Increase Connectivity
- Support Regeneration and Urban Renewal
- Enhance Wildlife Corridors & Increase Biodiversity
- Create New Destinations



The Wild Line

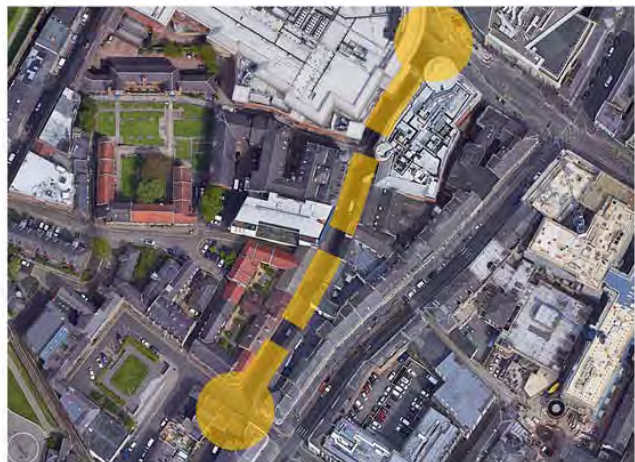


Inspiration: High Line, New York



Forgotten Not Hidden

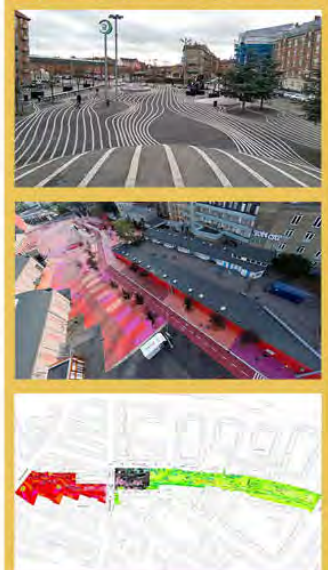
- Make Welcoming Spaces
- Unlock Economic Potential
- Have a Sense of Humour
- Temporary Urbanism in the Public Realm



The Back Lanes



Inspiration: Superkilen, Copenhagen



And as a landscape architect I look around and think not only is there so much work for us to do but also how much potential for us to make People Friendly Places an everyday reality.