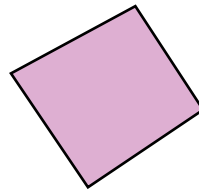
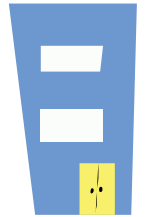
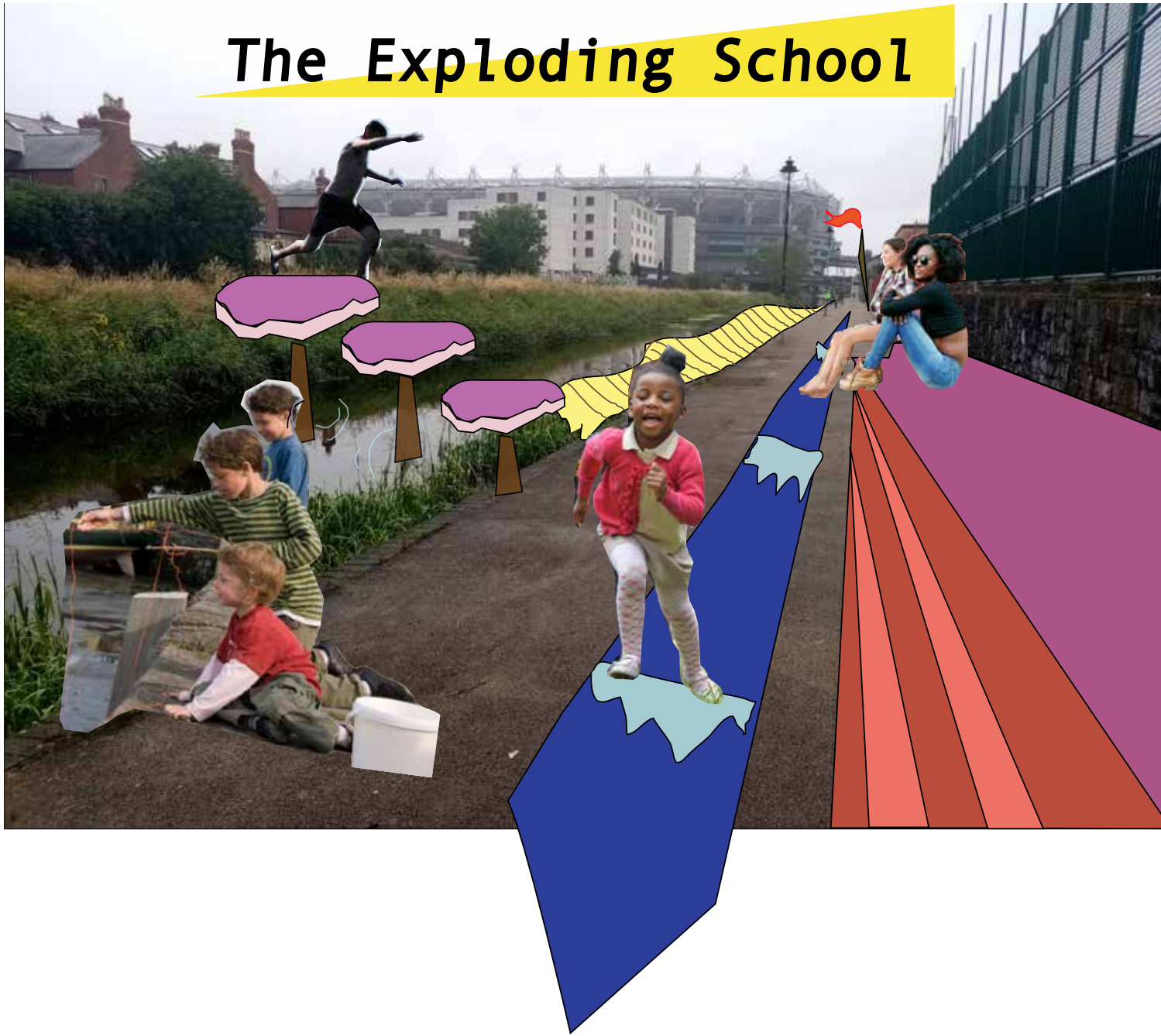


# Exploding School: The Potential for Outdoor Learning and Play Space in North Inner City Dublin



Rosaleen Leonard

# The Exploding School

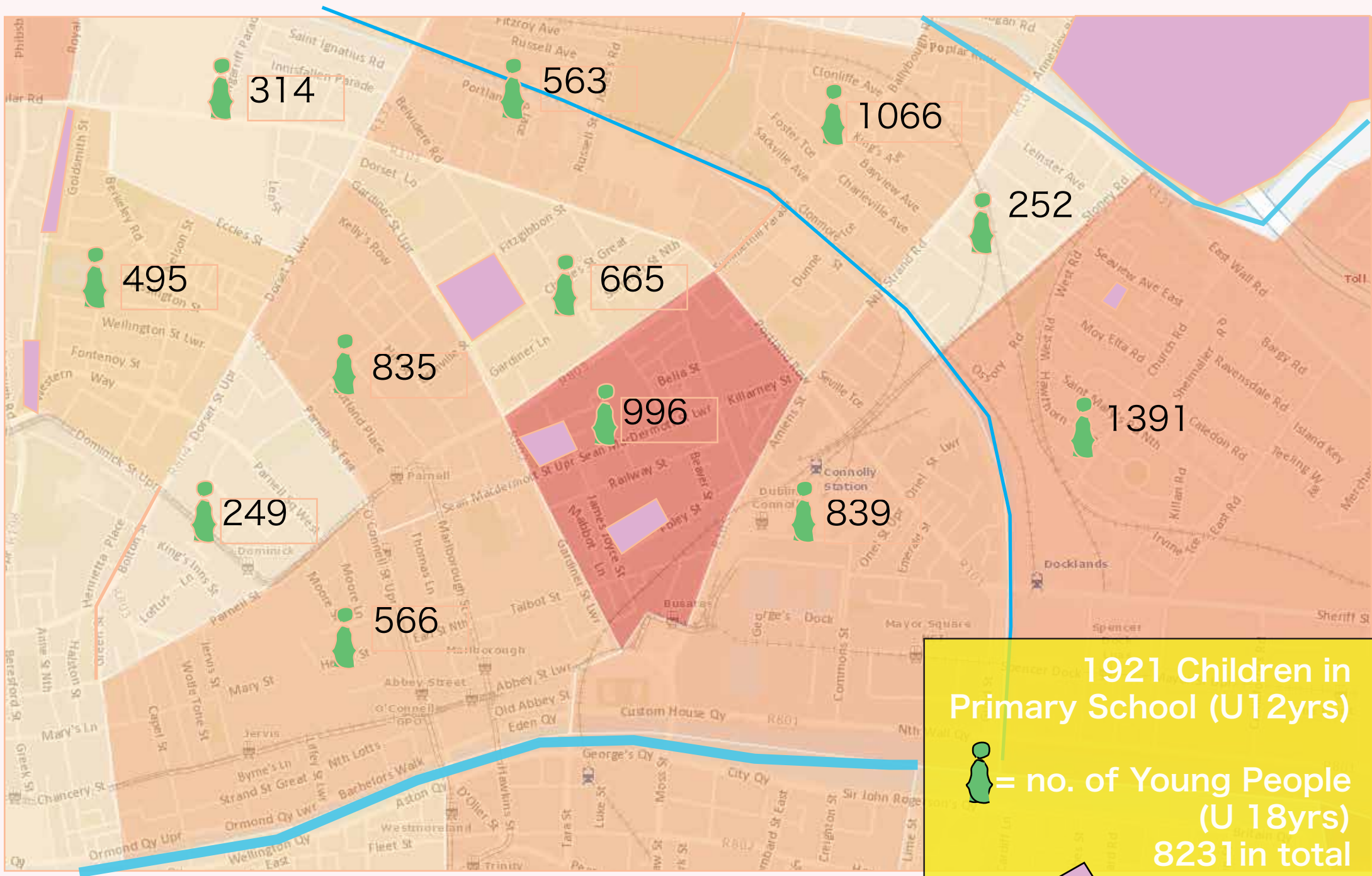


Visualising interventions into the Royal Canal site which ended up being my area of interest.

Ward and Fyon's concept of The Exploding School greatly informed my approach to the problem of a lack of outdoor space for schools and young people in the area.


The Exploding School refers to the process of embodied learning within the community and away from desk based teaching.

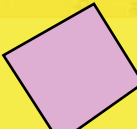
This idea builds on the belief that young people already understand much about their local environment and are empowered to change it. Through pedagogy based in the local environment a stronger relationship can form between the young people and their surroundings. In turn, Ward believes this process can open up discussion about who designs cities, and encourage young people to directly engage in this process through making and designing.

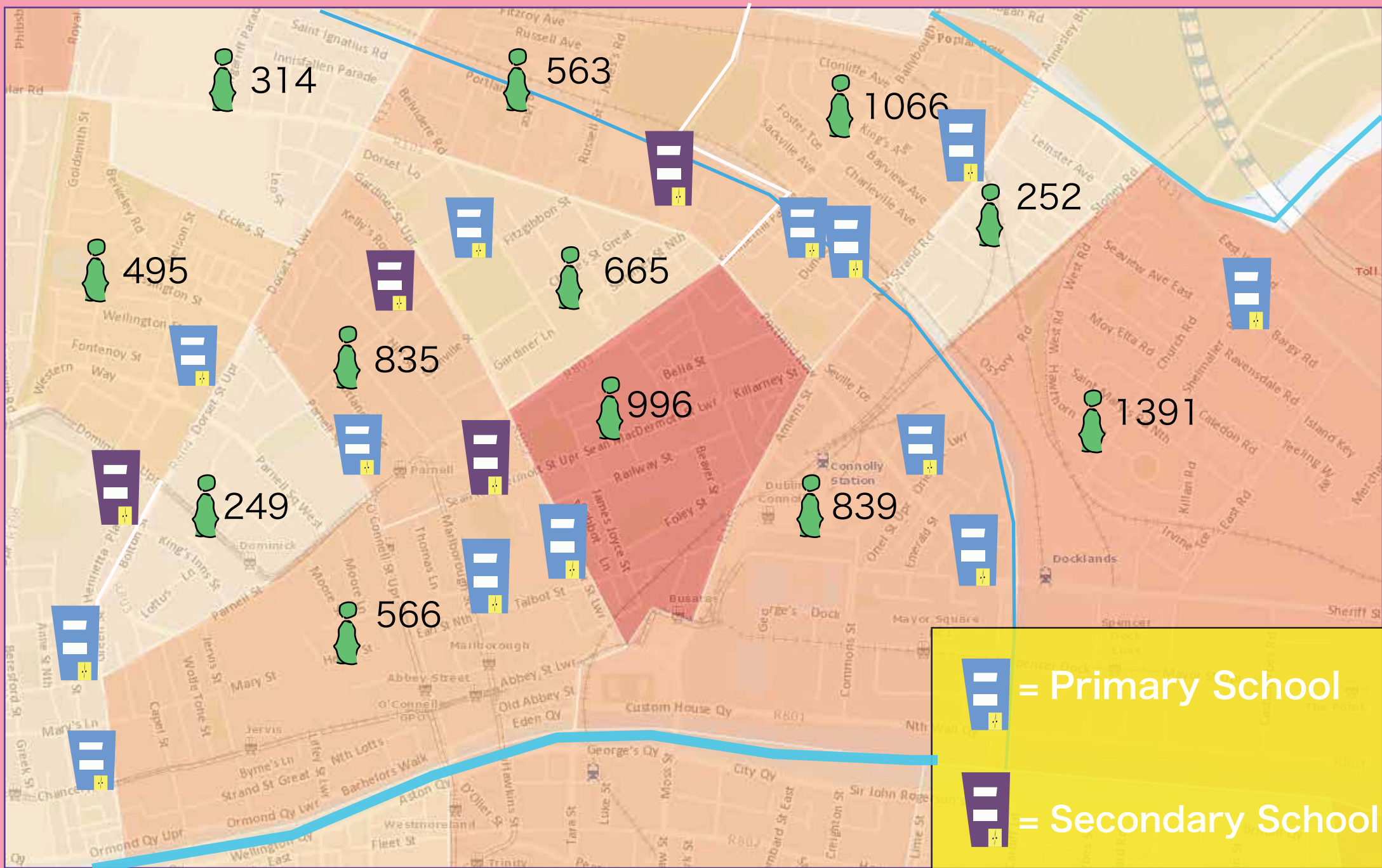


500 m

1921 Children in Primary School (U12yrs)

 = no. of Young People (U 18yrs)  
8231 in total

 = Public Park

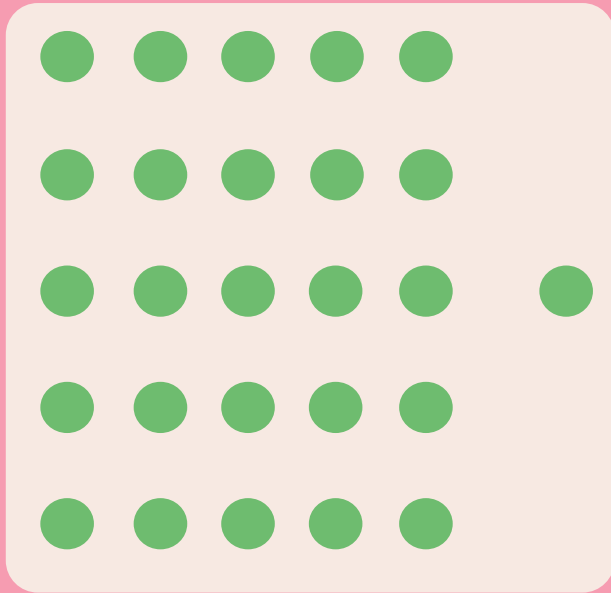


= Primary School

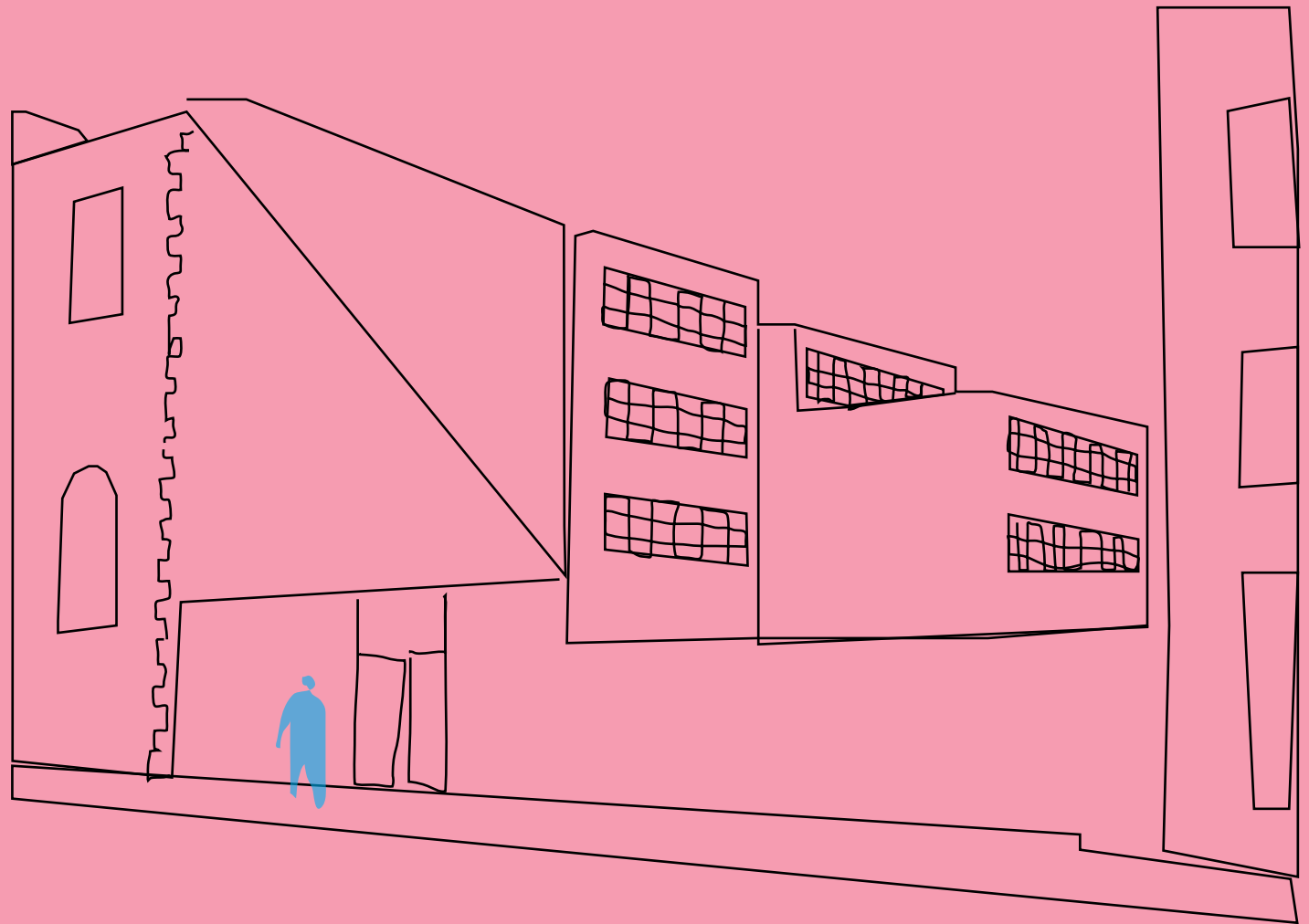


= Secondary School

500 m

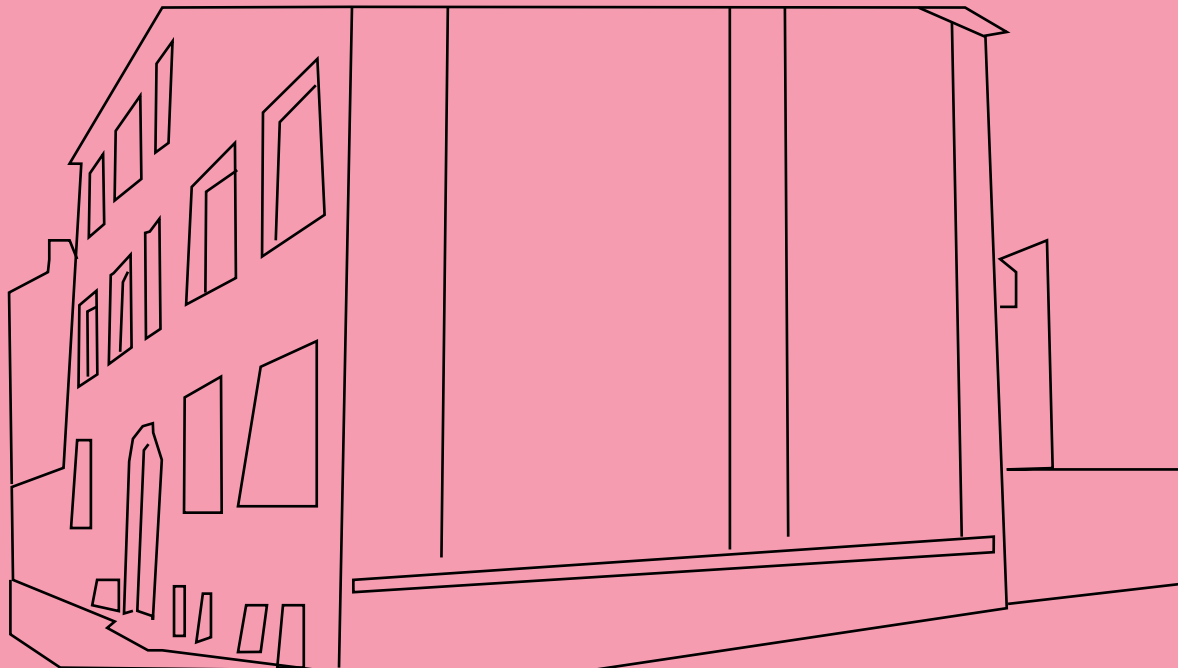
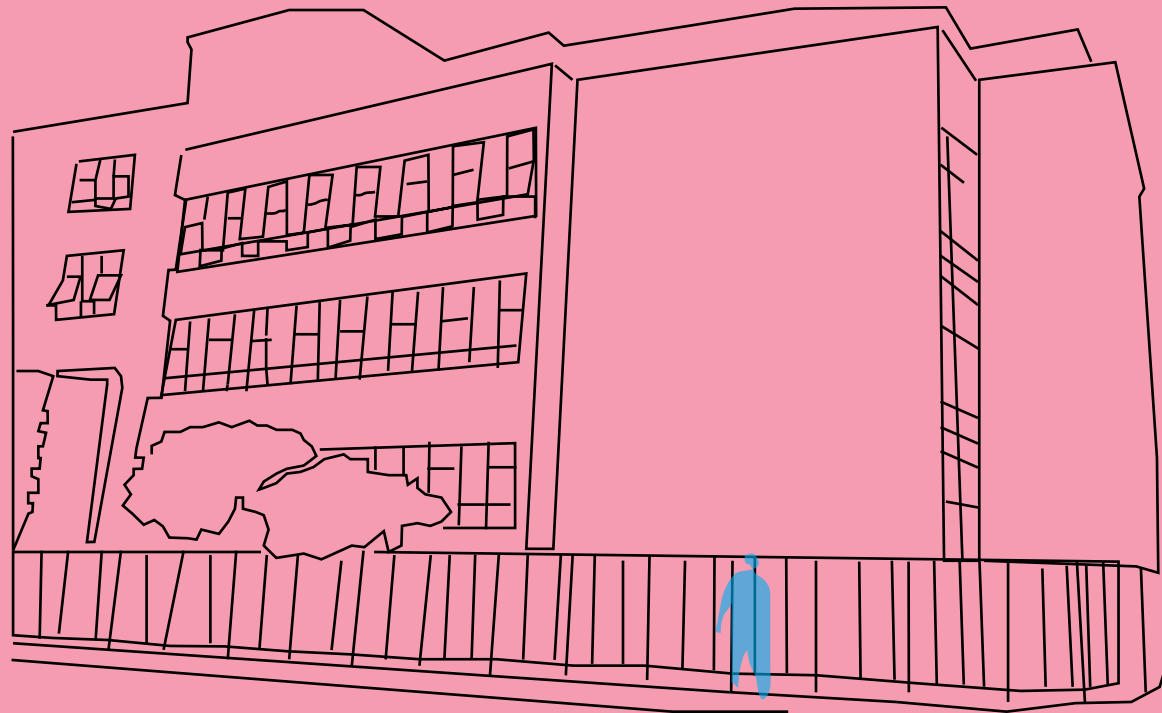


National spatial factors :  
25 pupils per classroom  
on average




Local spatial and socio-economic factors  
for schools interviewed :

- ★ 15% of students are homeless
- ★ High percentage living in apartments / flats
- ★ 90% of students' parents or students themselves born outside of Ireland, may have smaller local support networks



How might we



Create new shared spaces in this area for pedagogical and play opportunities?

Build on young people's playful nature, knowledge and interaction with the local environment

Move away from arguments about anti-social behaviour and view play as an opportunity for community building

Create new rituals outside of classrooms

Augment opportunities for everyone to participate in public life in the NEIC

# Initial research

Mixed methods  
Quantitative and Critical Methods

Mapping of local public parks using census data

Semi structured interviews with teachers and home school liaison officers working in the NEIC. Interviews with experts in fields of design and children's wellbeing (Suzanne and Laurence)

## Moving towards ideation

Ethnographic methods  
Embodied Learning

Participant observation of space – using it for travel and leisure



Co-creation workshops with young people living and going to school in the area

Final interview with design practitioner (Tara)



**Activity Pack for the Royal Canal Treasure Trail**

Start at the Ballybough Lock of the Royal Canal!

Along the way, you will see symbols on the walls and pavement. Each symbol represents a different task you will have to do when you are at that spot.

Remember to use your camera to record your journey!

Use your chalk to leave a game for someone to play here

Once you reach Dorset Street you are finished!

Use your clay to design a mini version of a place for people to sit down in this area!

It could be a bench, a seat, a place for just one person to sit or a place to sit with friends.

What do you hear when you stand in this place?

This sign means you have to look for something!

Wherever you see this sign, draw something on the wall or the pavement!

If you see this, you will need to make something!

Open up the flip side of this page to see what you need to find...

Write down what you can hear when you see this sign!

Royal Canal was built in the 1700's as a transport system and links River Liffey in Dublin to the River Shannon in Longford. canal was started at Phibsborough, with a staff of over 1000 ers! In 1796 you could travel from Dublin to Mullingar for 1 shilling canal boat. It would only take you 12 hours!

Find these plants along your way

Stinging Nettle / Neantóg

Hairy Vetch

Creeping buttercup / Fearbán

Red Valerian

Hairy Willowherb

Nettles sting but are filled with vitamins! Throughout Irish history they were used as medicine, food and tea.

Valerian was a very common medicine. It was used to send people to sleep!

Willowherb was sometimes called fireweed for its bright flowers. It was sometimes used to treat breathing problems.

