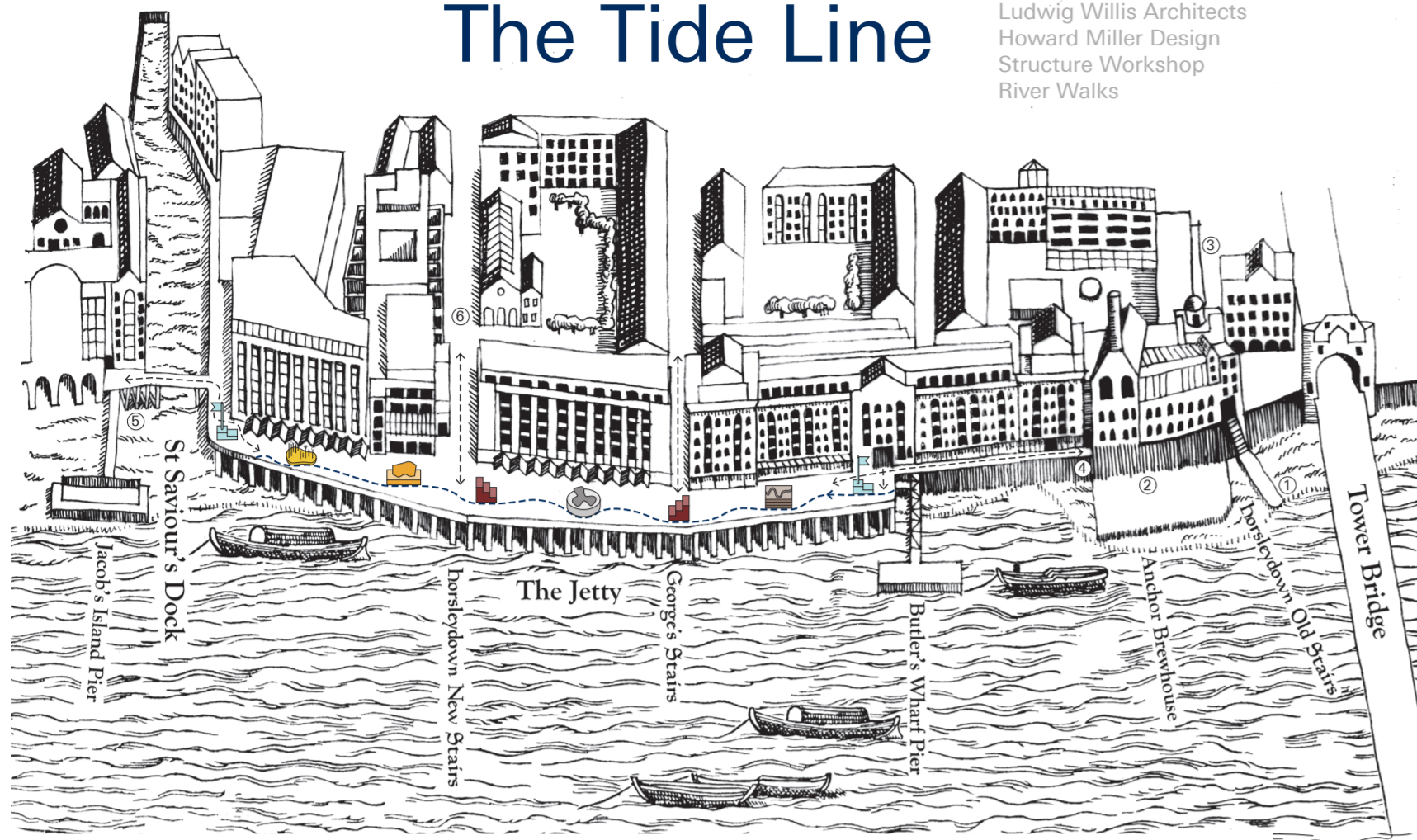


The Tide Line

Ludwig Willis Architects
Howard Miller Design
Structure Workshop
River Walks



Shad Thames Trail

- ① Horselydown Old Stairs
- ② Anchor Brewhouse
- ③ The Anchor Tap
- ④ Maggie Blake's Cause
- ⑤ St Saviour's Dock
- ⑥ Shad Thames Pumping Station

Tide Line Trail

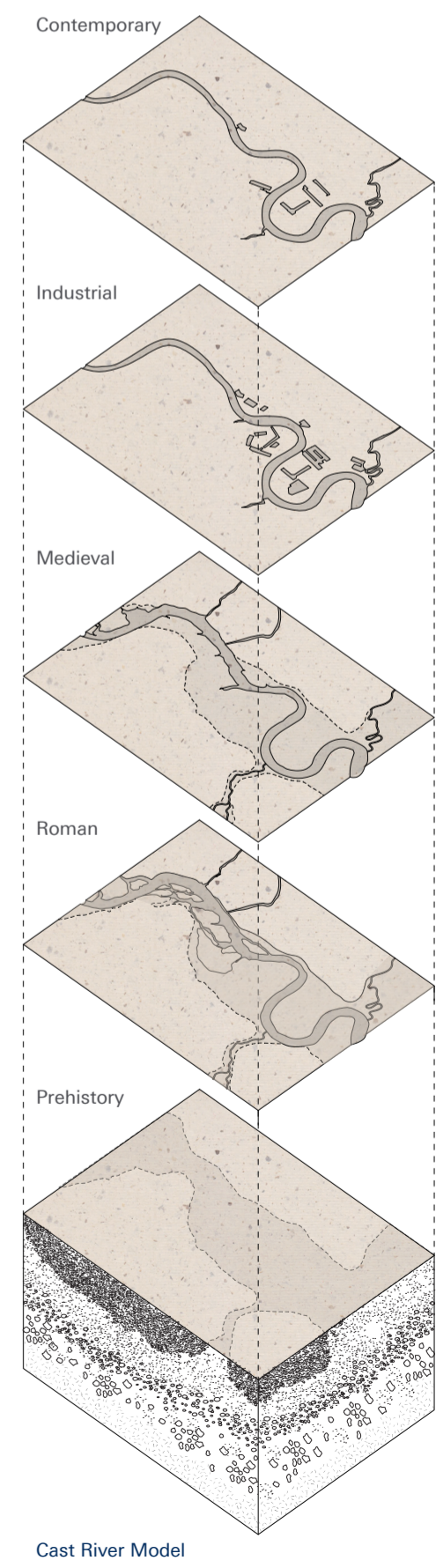
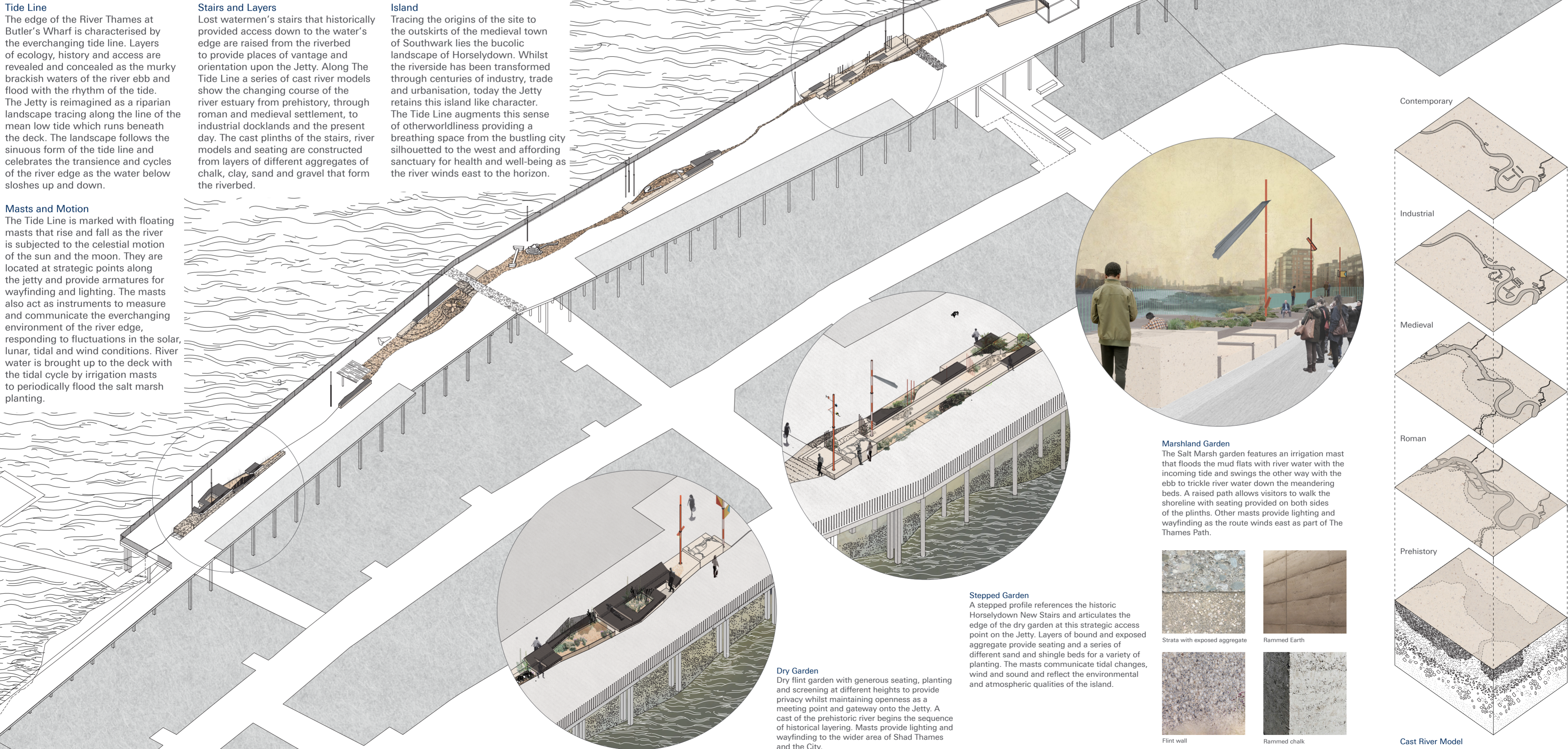
- View and Vantage
- Wayfinding
- Art and Community
- River History
- Ecology and Environment
- Nautical History

Tide Line
The edge of the River Thames at Butler's Wharf is characterised by the everchanging tide line. Layers of ecology, history and access are revealed and concealed as the murky brackish waters of the river ebb and flood with the rhythm of the tide. The Jetty is reimagined as a riparian landscape tracing along the line of the mean low tide which runs beneath the deck. The landscape follows the sinuous form of the tide line and celebrates the transience and cycles of the river edge as the water below sloshes up and down.

Stairs and Layers
Lost watermen's stairs that historically provided access down to the water's edge are raised from the riverbed to provide places of vantage and orientation upon the Jetty. Along The Tide Line a series of cast river models show the changing course of the river estuary from prehistory, through roman and medieval settlement, to industrial docklands and the present day. The cast plinths of the stairs, river models and seating are constructed from layers of different aggregates of chalk, clay, sand and gravel that form the riverbed.

Island
Tracing the origins of the site to the outskirts of the medieval town of Southwark lies the bucolic landscape of Horselydown. Whilst the riverside has been transformed through centuries of industry, trade and urbanisation, today the Jetty retains this island like character. The Tide Line augments this sense of otherworldliness providing a breathing space from the bustling city silhouetted to the west and affording sanctuary for health and well-being as the river winds east to the horizon.

Masts and Motion
The Tide Line is marked with floating masts that rise and fall as the river is subjected to the celestial motion of the sun and the moon. They are located at strategic points along the jetty and provide armatures for wayfinding and lighting. The masts also act as instruments to measure and communicate the everchanging environment of the river edge, responding to fluctuations in the solar, lunar, tidal and wind conditions. River water is brought up to the deck with the tidal cycle by irrigation masts to periodically flood the salt marsh planting.



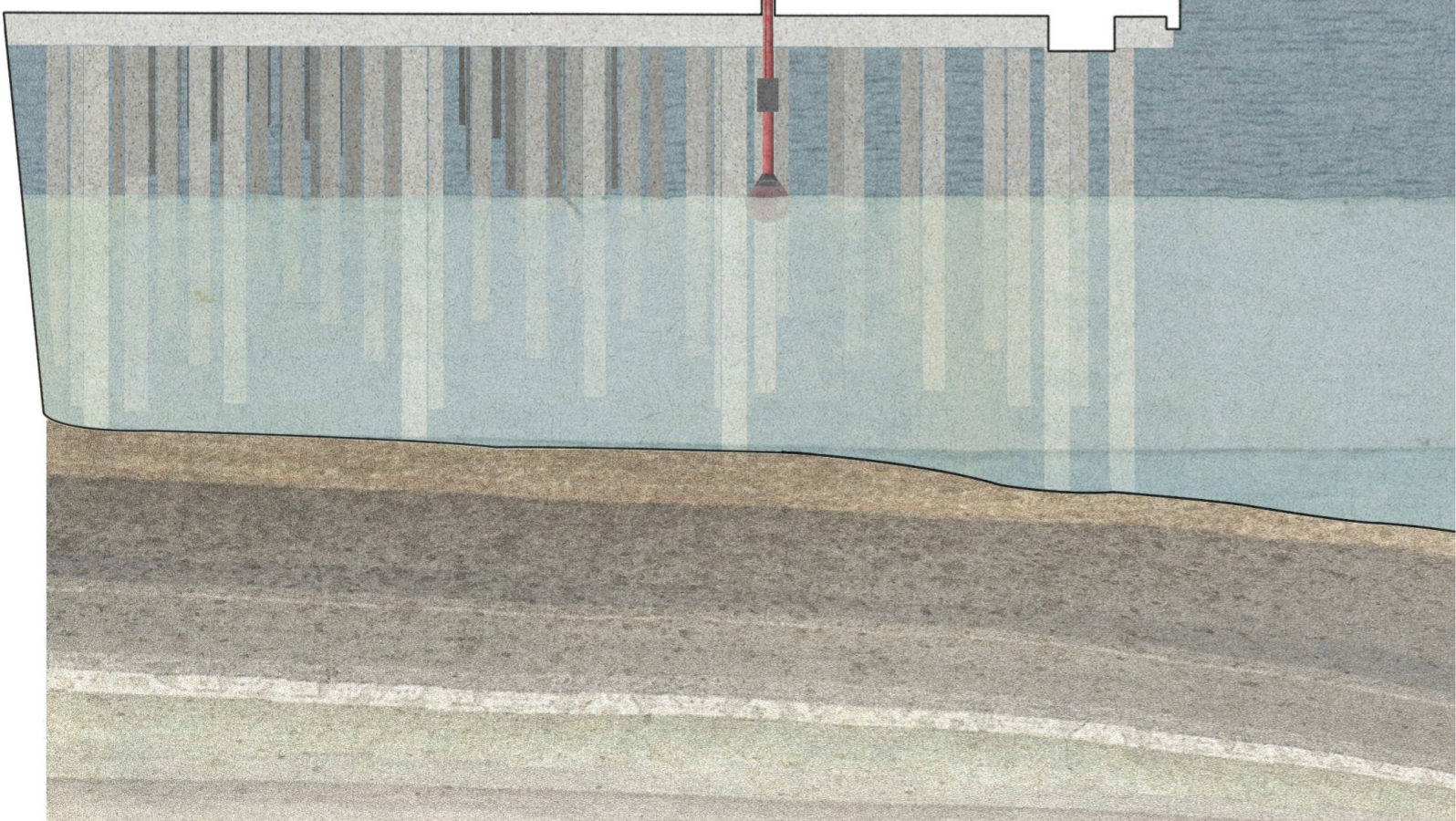
Marshland Garden
The Salt Marsh garden features an irrigation mast that floods the mud flats with river water with the incoming tide and swings the other way with the ebb to trickle river water down the meandering beds. A raised path allows visitors to walk the shoreline with seating provided on both sides of the plinths. Other masts provide lighting and wayfinding as the route winds east as part of The Thames Path.



Dry Garden
Dry flint garden with generous seating, planting and screening at different heights to provide privacy whilst maintaining openness as a meeting point and gateway onto the Jetty. A cast of the prehistoric river begins the sequence of historical layering. Masts provide lighting and wayfinding to the wider area of Shad Thames and the City.

Stepped Garden
A stepped profile references the historic Horselydown New Stairs and articulates the edge of the dry garden at this strategic access point on the Jetty. Layers of bound and exposed aggregate provide seating and a series of different sand and shingle beds for a variety of planting. The masts communicate tidal changes, wind and sound and reflect the environmental and atmospheric qualities of the island.

Cast River Model



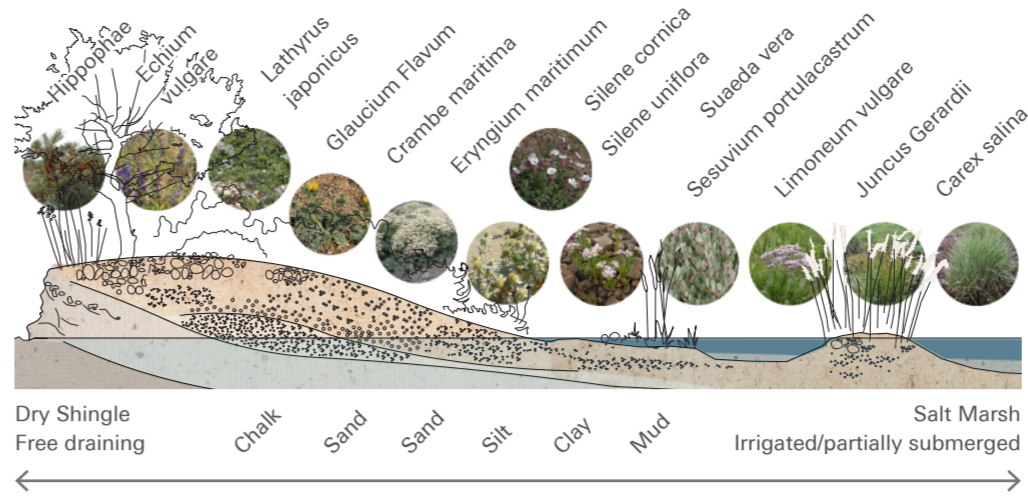
Implementation

The Tide Line is a vision of a place to transform the Jetty at Butler's Wharf and is conceived as a rich and coherent concept to raise funds and support in order to realise the transformation. As such, the proposal can be read as a kit of parts that can be implemented over time as and when funding becomes available. Whilst phasing would be guided by the project stakeholders, a possible sequence could be:

- Placemaking - Wayfinding masts; watermen's stairs; cast river models.
- Installations - Weather Shelters and lighting; art and education fund raising
- Infrastructure - Planting and irrigation masts; seating and plinths.
- Adoption - Railings and services.

The Design Team will work closely with Trusts and consultants to develop the particulars of the river estuary ecology, lighting, graphics and wayfinding.

The Tide Line



Ecology and Landscape

The brackish water of the Thames Estuary, from the mud flats to the coastal shingle, sustain a specific ecology of plants and flora. The Tide Line landscape is irrigated with river water and native species of planting that thrive in dry shingle or salt marsh. The global history and riverside location of the Wharf provides a context for responding to the ubiquitous challenge of climate change, which threatens opposing catastrophes of both drought and flooding. The archipelago of planting includes dry islands, with free draining sand and gravel and contrasting marshlands of mud flats.

Materials and Maintenance

A robust palette of materials is used throughout. Cast plinth elements are formed using local and recycled aggregates from the Thames Estuary bound with lime. Locally coppiced Sweet Chestnut timber is used for seating. Weathering steel forms edges for the planting beds and filigree steel profiles are used to create a new balustrade, maintaining views across the river.

Sustainability and Energy

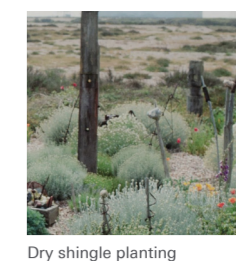
Through simple, integrated low energy solutions, including recycled materials, natural irrigation and solar energy the proposal is inherently sustainable. Solar, lunar and terrestrial weather shelters generate energy with photovoltaic panels and form educational installations that harness energy from the sun, moon, tide and wind. The solar powered lighting is mounted on masts where required and provided at specific levels and locations.

Consultation and Events

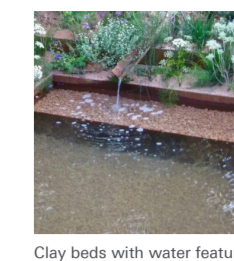
The Tide Line is to be developed through an imaginative and inclusive design process that engages stakeholders and the local community in a dialogue through workshops and events. The consultation process presents an opportunity to explore themes of environment and ecology that manifest in the landscape, which in itself is envisaged as a setting for education. The Tide Line can be read as an extension of the Shad Thames Trail and an opportunity to explore and reveal the history of Horselydown. Local and historic finds from propellers to coins are embedded within the layered landscape.

Planting

The planting is adapted to the dry, barren shingle banks and the brackish submerged mud and silt of the estuary. The mud flats are planted with rushes and sedges like Carex Salina and Juncus Gerardii interspersed with colonies of Sea Purslane and Samphire. In the dry shingle, Sea Holly, Yellow Horned Poppy and Sea Bindweed hold together the shale. Further along the bank Sea Buckthorn and Pinus Mugo provide shade and encourage pollinators and birds.



Dry shingle planting



Clay beds with water feature

