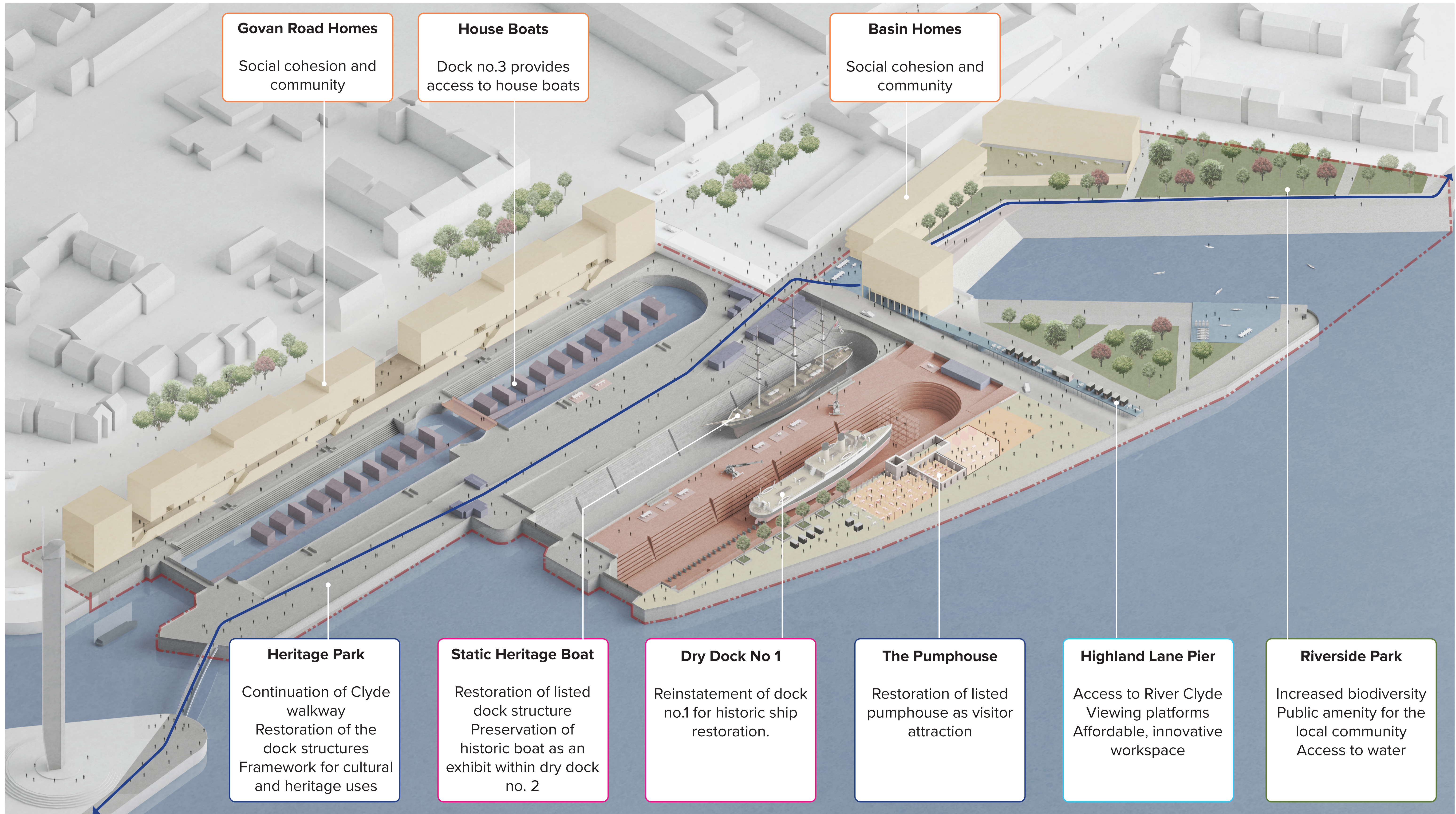


Reconnecting the River City: a collective endeavour to create a new vision for the Govan Graving Docks



Govan Graving Docks vision overview

This case study will describe how a truly collaborative, strategic partnership approach, working with the city council and community, has helped to smash through inertia, to regenerate and reconnect the Govan Graving Docks, a site of national importance, located west of Glasgow city centre.

Site history - The Govan Graving Docks are an evocative piece of Scotland's shipbuilding history. Built in the River Clyde's heyday, the Category A listed docks were used to repair and maintain ships up until their closure in 1988.

Key issues - Since then, a contentious planning history has resulted in numerous proposals for the site which has remained vacant, derelict, and disconnected.

A new approach - O'DonnellBrown were engaged to develop a new community-led vision which would reconnect the site with the city as part of a wider masterplan. Rather than starting with predefined architectural proposals the approach has been to listen and design with empathy, creating a new co-authored vision and development framework which balances new homes alongside cultural and heritage uses.

Two years of extensive conversations, presentations and workshops have resulted in a massive turnaround in the Govan Graving Docks development, bringing about major shifts in both client and community perspectives and yielding a proposal that will open up the site to the city, metaphorically and physically.

The Govan community now looks forward to living alongside a riverside park, with one of the three existing dry docks restored and used for historic ship repair, visitor facilities embedded in the remaining Grade A listed Pump House, affordable local workspace, new homes, and new accessible pathways and cycle routes creating which will create active travel routes across the site.

Something of this scale and ambition could only be realised through a truly collaborative, strategic partnership approach, working with the city council and community, conservation and heritage organisations and the team are now ready to undertake this transformation over the next ten years, drawing on diverse sources of public, private and community funding and management. It represents a huge change from the traditional development model as well as a major step forward for Glasgow's green and community infrastructure.



Govan Graving Docks in their current state

Urban Strategy: Reconnect

New pedestrian and cycling routes would reanimate the site and strengthen connections between surrounding sites on the river front, helping to form the 'Riverside Loop'.

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