

**TOPIC**

Châteauroux is currently split into two sections by railway lines, with a historic town centre that lacks vitality and suburban districts that are changing fast. Despite the presence of structuring elements (stations, superstore, business park), this sector lacks an attractive identity, largely because of its railway activities.

In order to give this site a new identity as the Station District, the urban links and interfaces need to be improved in a space that is fragmented by infrastructures, with the objective of extending the city centre to this new district.

CONURBATION

Situated in the centre of France, at the intersection of major axes, Châteauroux is the biggest town in the Indre Department and possesses a regional scale industrial and business nucleus. The town is seeking to reinforce its economic fabric by encouraging new inward investment through the conversion of former industrial sites into tertiary amenities. Alongside this policy, they are implementing schemes to enhance the town's existing advantages and potential in order to reinforce its identity.

SITE

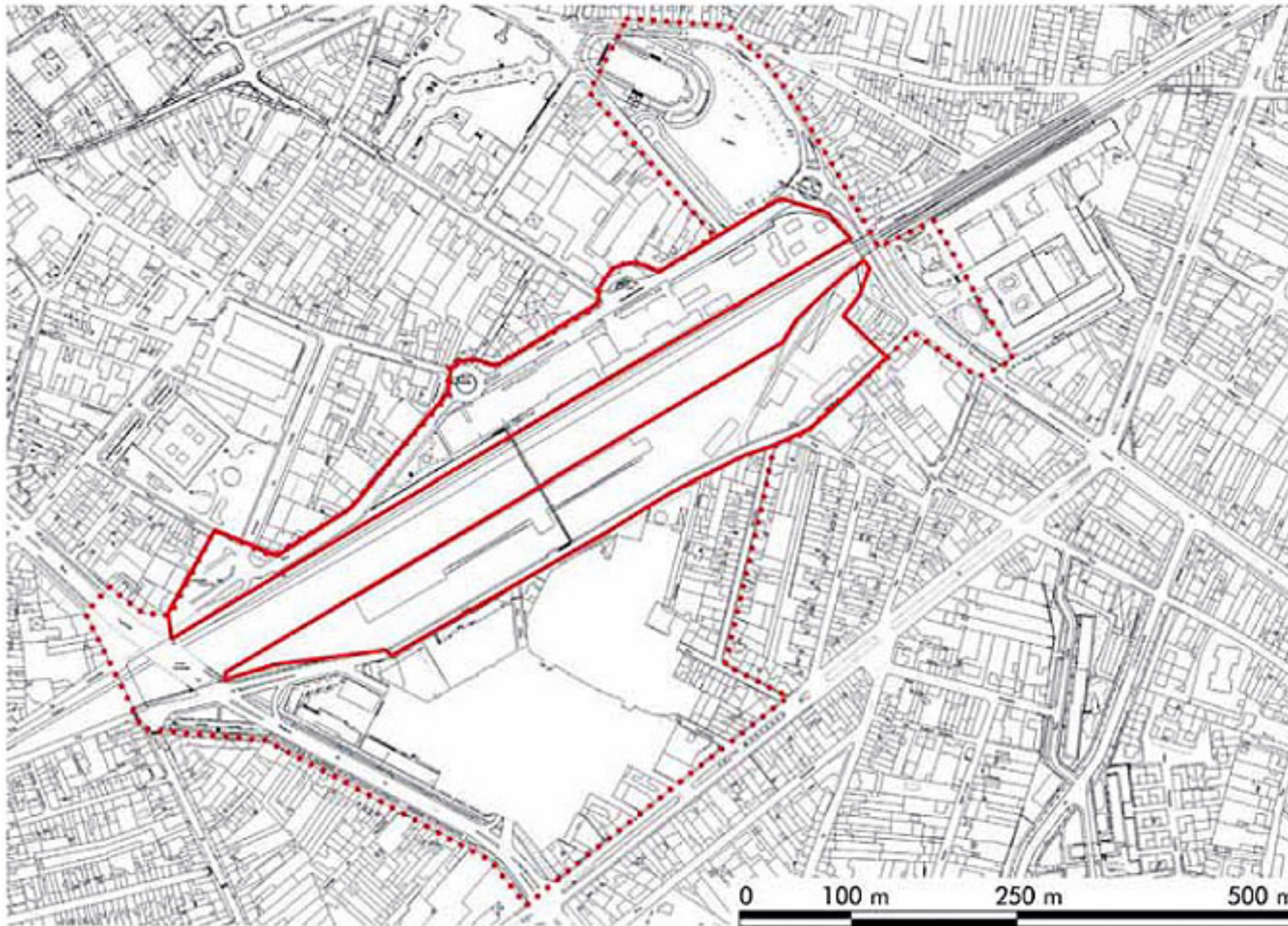
The Station sector is in a central position in the town but its links with the surrounding districts are poor. Although close to the historic centre and a shopping centre, it is nevertheless characterised by the presence of low-status logistical activities which generate environmental problems and reinforce the split between the northern and southern parts of the town created by the railway lines.

Population : 50.000

Location : Station sector

Study area : 26 ha

Project area : 7.8 ha



PROGRAMME

The scheme involves the construction of 100-200 dwellings employing innovative typologies to create an attractive city-centre urban habitat. Local shops and amenities will need to be included to complement the shopping centre and city-centre businesses. In the long run, tertiary activities could be incorporated into the future constructions.

Redesigned public spaces, improved railway crossings and reorganised parking arrangements should give the district a positive image.

ISSUES

Social / functional

Promoting an urban mix and a mixture of uses between the population of the future district and other users. Improving links between districts and crossings should lead to an enhanced and integrated structure for the intermodality inherent to this site.

Sensitive

Reinforcing the district's identity through innovative building typology and high-quality landscaping of public spaces, in order to promote a greater sense of local identification with the district.

Sustainability

It is essential for the scheme to take account of the environmental problems caused by the railway and to improve green transport facilities.

