

CABINET

11 July 2023

STATUE OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Report of the Leader of the Council

Strategic Aim:	A Special Place	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: N/A	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr Gale Waller, Leader of the Council.	
Contact Officer(s):	Penny Sharp, Strategic Director for Places	psharp@rutland.gov.uk 01572 758160
	Robert Clayton, Head of Culture & Registration	rclayton@rutland.gov.uk 01572 758435
Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the request from the Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland to allow the use of Council land in the grounds of Oakham Library for the siting of a memorial statue to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
2. Determines whether land to the front of the library (option 1) or the rear of the library (option 2) may be used for this purpose.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Cabinet to consider the request from the Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland to allow the use of Council land in the grounds of Oakham Library for the siting of a memorial statue to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 In late 2022 Dr Sarah Furness, the Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, launched an appeal for funds to create a large bronze statue of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Lord-Lieutenant commissioned Hywel Pratley, a member of the Society of Portrait Sculptors, to create the statue. The size of the statue would be around 7ft 6in on a 5ft limestone plinth, totalling 12ft 6in or 3.8m tall.

- 2.2 No funds have been requested from, or given by, Rutland County Council.
- 2.3 Oakham Town Council committed £5,000 towards the cost of the statue at their Full Council meeting on 11th January 2023. The balance of the £125,000 costs associated with the statue are being met by private subscription.
- 2.4 Installation of the statue would introduce a significant new piece of public artwork to Rutland's County town. If approved, a high-profile unveiling event will be organised, which may result in significant publicity and additional footfall to the County in the short, medium, and long term.
- 2.5 The grounds of Oakham Library are owned by Rutland County Council, and as such a formal decision is required by Cabinet to allow the use of the land for this purpose ahead of the determination of the planning application. No restrictive covenants, byelaws or similar constraints have been identified pertaining to the site. The grounds are presently maintained by Oakham in Bloom as part of the sensory gardens around the library.
- 2.6 The proposed design of the statue has evolved during the fund-raising period, and now incorporates depictions of the Queen's corgis, on a raised plinth to ensure they do not present a trip hazard to pedestrians. Details around the planning, design and access issues arising from the installation are not included in this report, as these matters will be considered by the Planning Committee if the use of the land is approved.

3. LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Lieutenancy has submitted a planning application (2023/0593/FUL), proposing that the statue is sited in the grounds to the front of Oakham Library, adjacent to the mini roundabout at the junction of Burley Road, High Street, Mill Street and Catmos Street. A site plan and imagery are attached in Appendix A, with full documentation available on the Council's planning portal.
- 3.2 Installation in the proposed location may limit options for future changes to the Oakham town centre layout, in particular any mitigations of issues around the mini-roundabout junction.
- 3.3 Alternatively the statue could be situated at the rear of the library, in the area currently occupied by Oakham in Bloom peacock statue.
- 3.4 The Lord-Lieutenant's position is that the site to the rear of the library is insufficiently prominent and would not be acceptable as an alternative.
- 3.5 Officers have assessed the potential impact of the statue on road users approaching the junctions at the front and the rear of the library. Both of the potential locations are set far enough away from the junctions to have no visibility impact on road users. The statue locations have also been determined to have no detrimental impact on the established trees in the area.
- 3.6 If the statue is sited at the front of the library, the sensory garden on the footprint of the statue would need to be removed, although the other gardens to the front of the library would remain.
- 3.7 If the statue is sited at the rear of the library, the existing peacock display would

need to be uplifted and relocated to an alternative setting, which would need to be agreed with its owners, Oakham in Bloom. The peacock was originally sited at HMP Ashwell and so has previously been successfully relocated.

3.8 Option Impacts

Option 1 – Front of the Library	
Prominence / Visibility	Highly prominent location, easy for visitors to find, closely adjacent to town centre and Market Place, and visible from the High Street.
Future Proofing	Restricts potential improvements to the High Street / Burley Road / Catmose Street / Mill Street traffic junction. Future changes to the highly constrained roundabout would have limitations or would require the relocation of the statue.
Environmental Impact	Installation would require removal of the sensory garden beds on the proposed location. There would be no impact on the trees on the site.
Highways User Impact	The location of the statue would not impede visibility for highways users.
Pedestrian Impact	The location would not restrict use of the footpaths around the library, as it will be located entirely within the existing footprint of existing sensory garden beds. A plinth has been designed to reduce any potential trip hazards.
Economic Impact	Erection of the statue may generate significant publicity and additional footfall to the County in the short, medium, and long term. The location to the front of the library is more prominent than at the rear, which may increase its profile and impact, however the site is near a busy junction which may reduce dwell time and appreciation.

Option 2 – Rear of the Library	
Prominence / Visibility	Less prominent location, harder for casual visitors to find, partially enclosed by a screen of trees in a less well-visited part of the town centre and not visible from the High Street. However the site is not a significant distance from the town centre.
Future Proofing	No impact on future improvements to traffic junctions.

Environmental Impact	Installation would require removal and potential relocation of the peacock statue on the proposed location. There would be no impact on the trees on the site.
Highways User Impact	The location of the statue would not impede visibility for highways users.
Pedestrian Impact	The location would not restrict use of the footpaths around the library, as it will be located entirely within the grassed area where the peacock is situated. A plinth has been designed to reduce any potential trip hazards.
Economic Impact	Erection of the statue may generate significant publicity and additional footfall to the County in the short, medium, and long term. The location to the rear of the library is less prominent than at the front, which may reduce its profile and impact, however the area is more peaceful with established seating away from the town centre thoroughfares which may contribute to a more reflective experience.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Lord-Lieutenant has circulated promotional material regarding the proposed statue.
- 4.2 Oakham Town Council have considered the proposal and have committed £5,000 towards the cost of the statue but have declined to take on ownership responsibility.
- 4.3 Oakham In Bloom have expressed support for the installation of the statue.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Lord-Lieutenant has requested that Rutland County Council allow use of the land at the front of Oakham Library to enable the statue to be erected in a high profile, prominent position in the County Town of Rutland. If this is not agreed, and the Lieutenancy does not choose to site the statue to the rear of the library, an alternative option may be for the statue to be sited at a location on land owned by Anglian Water, on the banks of Rutland Water. No decision would be required from Cabinet if this option were to be pursued, as the land is not owned by the County Council.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No County Council funds have been requested or allocated to support the creation of the statue.
- 6.2 Ownership liability, including insurance and maintenance of the statue would remain with the Lieutenancy. As such there would be no net impact on the Council's financial position.

6.3 Alternative uses for the site have not been explored, however it is unlikely that any uses would be identified which would generate significant net revenue to the Council.

6.4 There will be a small one-off cost for preparing the appropriate legal documentation.

7. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Cabinet may determine the most effective use of Council assets, including the use of land by third parties where this is deemed appropriate.

7.2 Erection of a statue on the site to the front of the library may limit the potential for alterations to the public realm and highway in the area. Changes could be made in the future to improve the accessibility and safety of pedestrians and vehicles in the area of the roundabout. However, at present there are no agreed schemes for such works.

7.3 Installation of public art works may result in increased levels of visitation and spend in the local economy however no work has been undertaken to assess the potential value of such an uplift.

7.4 Consideration of planning issues will be undertaken by the Planning Committee should use of the land be agreed.

7.5 If agreed, the appropriate legal documentation would be entered into with the Lieutenancy to allow the use of Rutland County Council land. Rutland County Council will not own or maintain the statue. Ownership, insurance and maintenance responsibility will remain with the Lieutenancy.

8. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant risks/issues were found. A copy of the DPIA can be obtained from the report author.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant risks / issues were found. A copy of the Assessment can be obtained from the report author.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The proposed site at the front of the library is close to one of the town centre CCTV cameras. The site to the rear of the library does not presently have CCTV coverage. As with any public monument or building there is a potential for vandalism or damage to be perpetrated on the asset. Responsibility for any rectification would fall to the Lieutenancy.

11. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 No health and wellbeing implications have been identified.

12. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 This report sets out the request from the Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland to allow the use of Council land in the grounds of Oakham Library for the siting of a memorial statue to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 12.2 Cabinet is requested to consider the proposal and determine whether the use of the land either at the front or the rear of the library should be approved ahead of the consideration of planning application 2023/0593/FUL by the Planning Committee at a date to be agreed.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

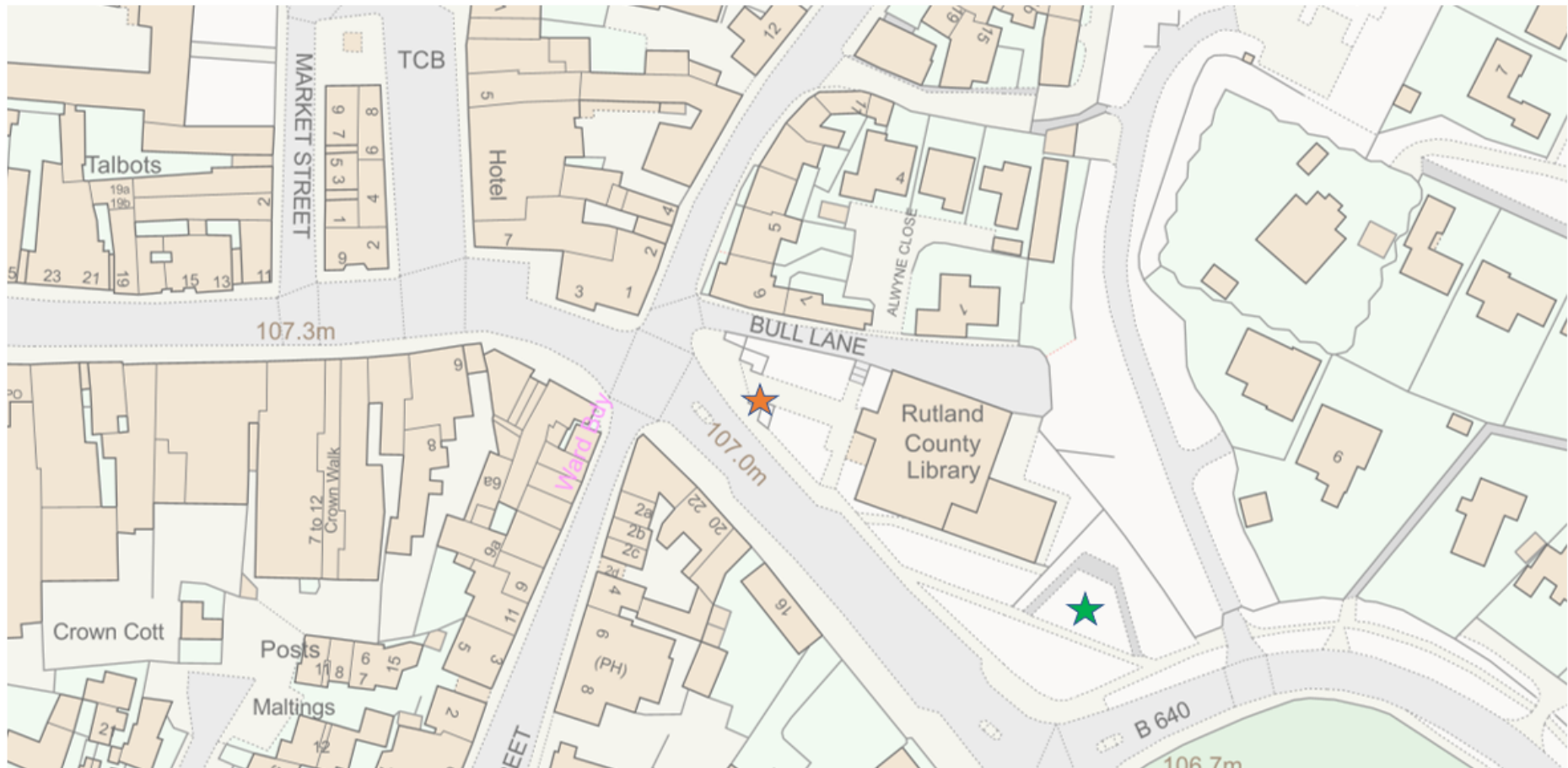
- 13.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

14. APPENDICES

- 14.1 Appendix A – Site Plan and Visuals

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

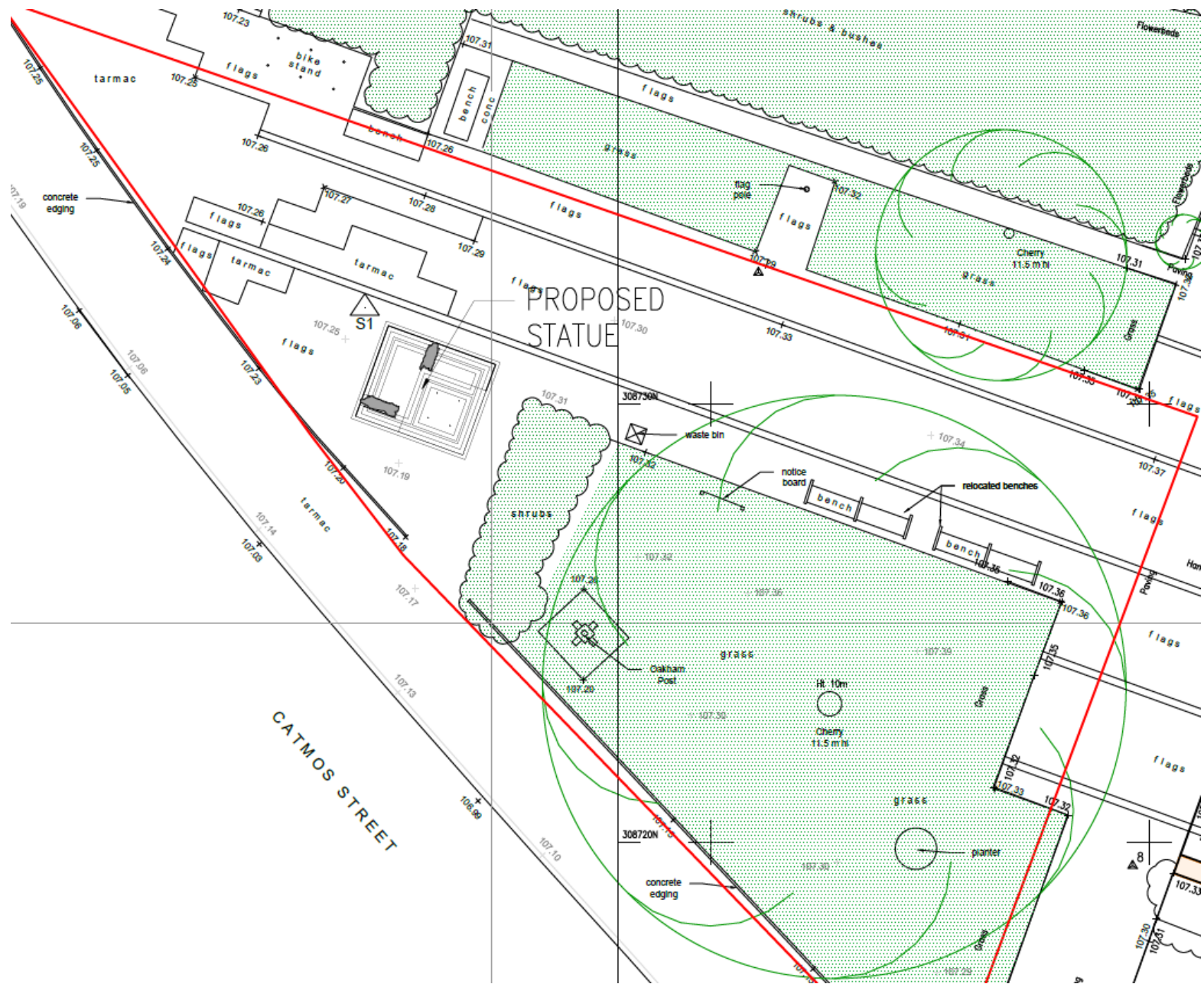
Appendix A. Site Plan and Visuals

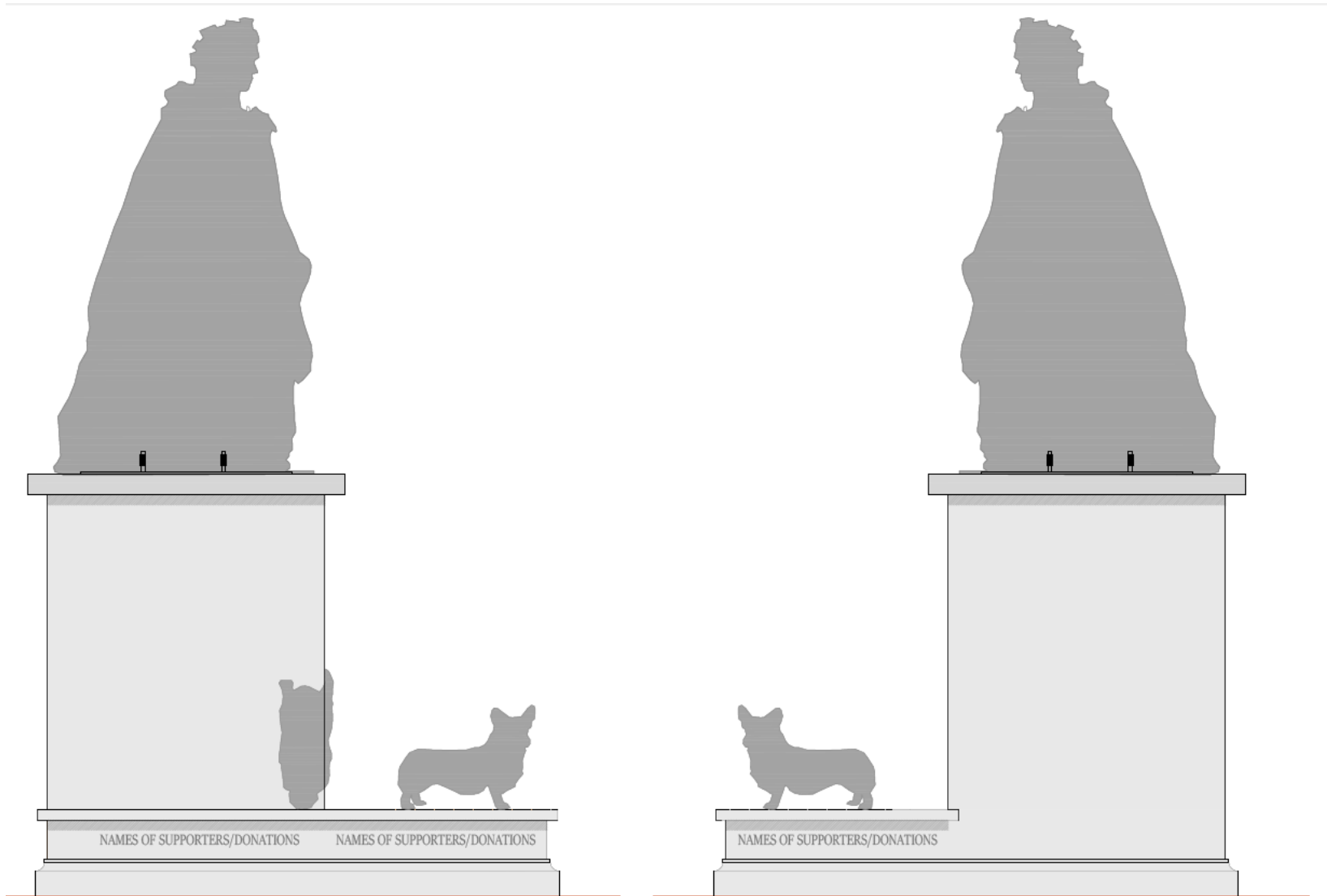


Statue Proposed Location

★ Option 1

★ Option 2





NORTH EAST ELEVATION

SOUTH WEST ELEVATION