



**CATEGORY** urban-architectural  
**TEAM REPRESENTATIVE** Architect/Urban Planner/Landscaper  
**LOCATION** Mannheim – Stadteingang Nordost  
**POPULATION** 330.000  
**STRATEGIC SITE** approx. 180 ha  
**PROJECT SITE** to be defined by participants  
**SITE PROPOSED BY** City of Mannheim  
**OWNERS OF THE SITE** Institute for Federal Real Estate: BImA, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, private ownership, City of Mannheim  
**WEITERE BEAUFTRAGUNG**  
 Feasibility study, urban master plan



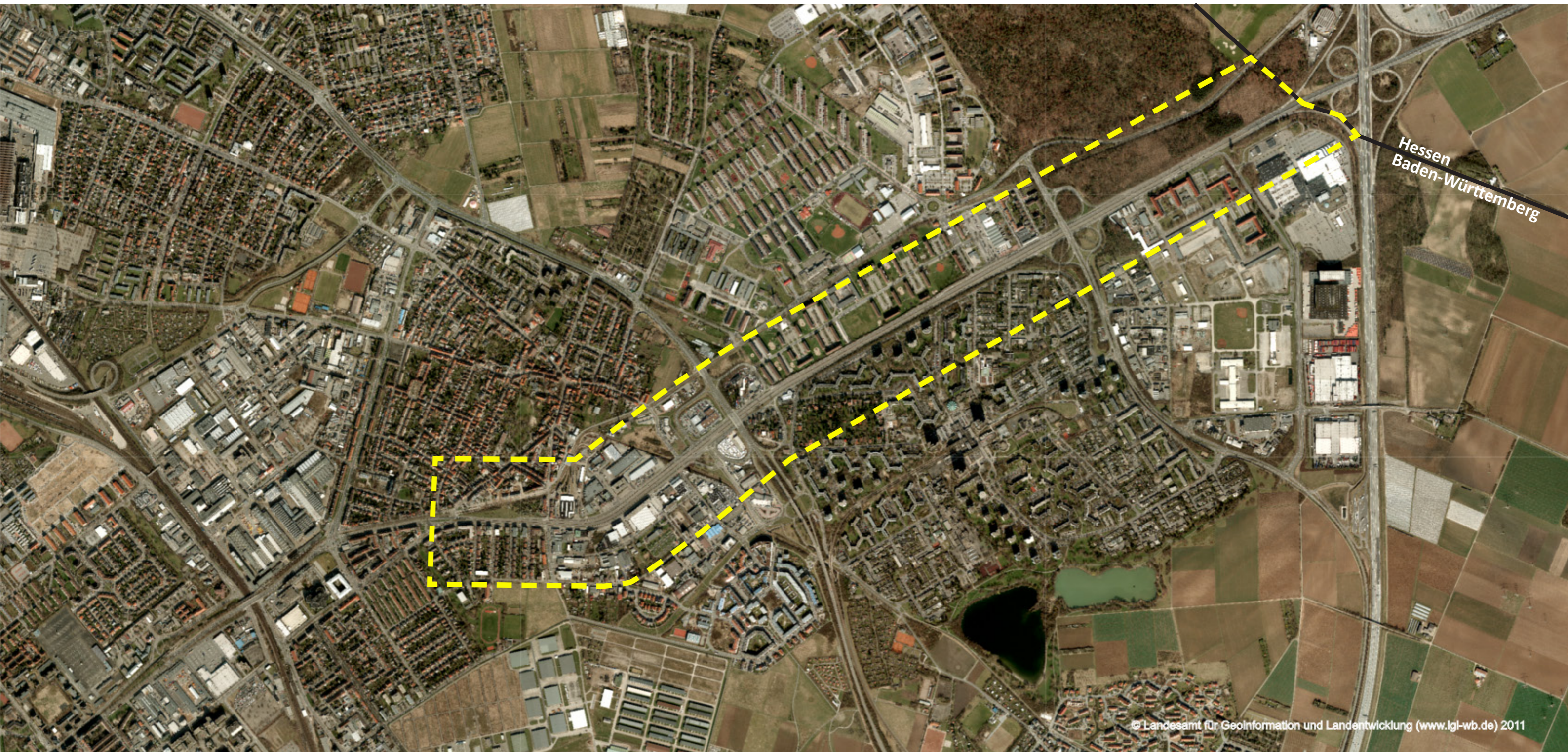
## HOW THE SITE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADAPTABLE CITY?

In June 2010 the US Military Command responsible for Europe announced that the military site would be closed in stages by 2015. The closure of Taylor Barracks and Benjamin Franklin Village now opens up the opportunity to initiate positive changes in Mannheim's development at strategically important points and further expand its urban self-concept as a strong European city. The north-eastern approach to the city is to be reconfigured and the areas along the B 38 given a new character. Particular potential is to be seen in the development of an "Engineering Mile" along the B 38 between the city centre and autobahn access at Viernheimer Kreuz. It forms the backbone of the future Mannheim development corridor.

## CITY STRATEGY

The promising gateway situation on one of Mannheim's main arterial roads is currently characterised by underdevelopment. The conversion sites provide an opportunity to reconceive the development corridor: the approach to the city can be redefined and cross-links between the neighbourhoods improved. Uses, development and landscape structure should define a worthy entry situation in which the street and perimeter elements enter into a spatial symbiosis of high-quality design. In the interests of sustainable development, the spatial barrier effect of the B 38 is to be diminished and the interlinking of the individual neighbourhoods and uses improved.





### SITE DEFINITION

The study area is highly accessible (individual motorised and public transport) and characterised by heterogeneity and a low standard of design. Small-scale housing and commercial areas alternate with large structures over a length of approx. 3 km. The uses are automotive-related or turn their back on the noise-intensive roadway. There is no visible relationship between the buildings and the transit route. The conversion areas can be used to provide a strong impetus for step-by-step improvement of the essential qualities of the local area. The autobahn character of the B 38 and in part circuitous and fragmentary connections is, however, a barrier to spatial interconnection.

### ADAPTABILITY: MAIN ELEMENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

Innovative technologies are to be attracted to Mannheim with the aid of the "Engineering Mile". The demands made on the location differ significantly from those of 'classical' commercial areas. The Taylor Barracks site, immediately adjoining the B 38, should also follow this programme, while the Benjamin Franklin Village site bordering on the north side with its 2,000 dwelling units (currently vacant) is to be redeveloped as a new urban district with an emphasis on residential uses. Innovative architectural and programmatic ideas are being sought for development of the areas adjacent to the B 38.

In terms of networking the goal is to create short routes and seek solutions that offer scope for new forms of mobility and promote non-motorised traffic. A high degree of bicycle convenience should support the trend towards eco-friendly mobility. Additional potential will result from the integration into a broad open space system of green corridors. Within the scope of the competition proposals should be prepared that provide answers to the formulated planning goals within the existing landscaped areas, open space and reserves. For this purpose the study area should be surveyed and analysed in a first stage to identify the options for possible planning and creative interventions, which may also be selective.



## Käfertal Centre

Historic town centre  
Mixture of small-scale residential and commercial development  
**Focus:** Cross-linking and design of B38/urban fringe



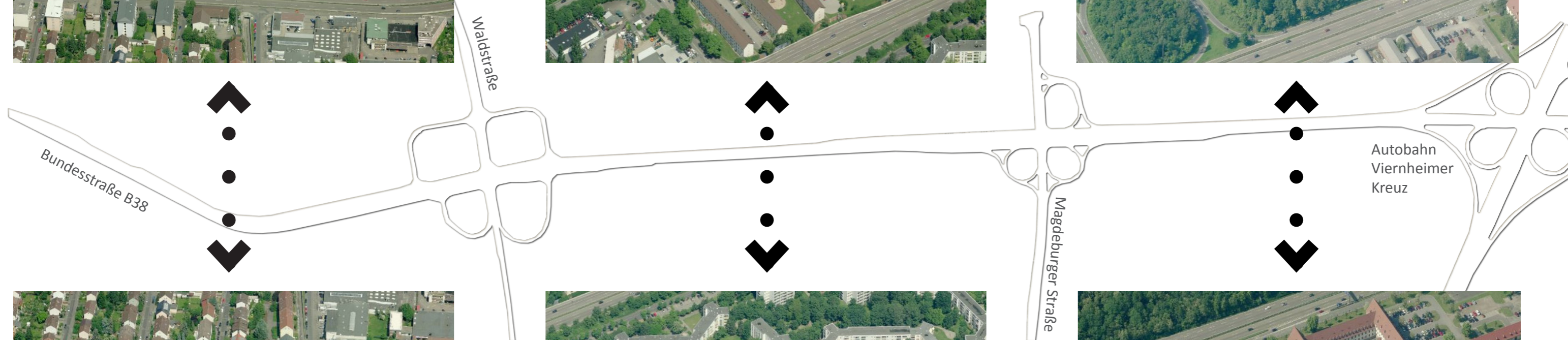
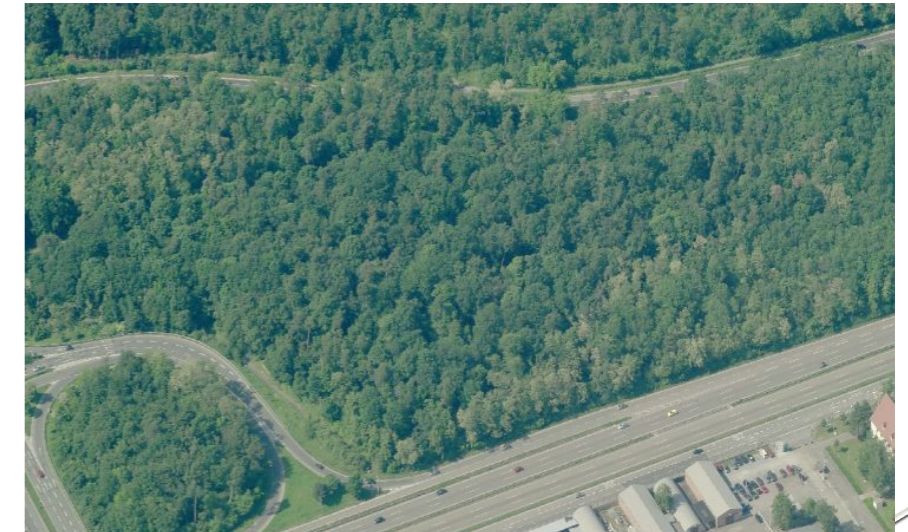
## Benjamin Franklin Village

Conversion site  
Former residential area to be redeveloped  
**Focus:** Reprogramming: reserve areas/development along B38; cross-linking



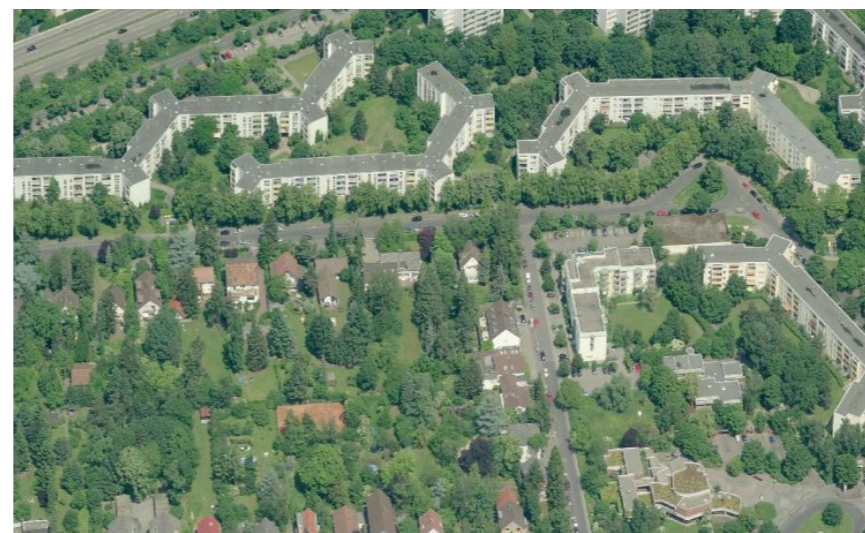
## Käfertaler Wald

Recreation area  
Woodland with landscape, nature conservation and FFH areas  
**Focus:** Interconnection of open spaces



## Käfertal South/Southeast

Heterogeneous area characterised by industrial/commercial uses with some residential  
**Focus:** Cross-linking and design of B38



## Vogelstang

Major housing estate from the 1960s/70s with centre and diverse infrastructure  
**Focus:** Design/upgrading/densification of area on B38  
Cross-linking with Benjamin Franklin Village



## Taylor Barracks

Conversion site  
Innovative commercial area/open space to be redeveloped  
**Focus:** Reprogramming: reserve areas/development to the south of B38  
Campus worth preserving





B38 Magdeburger Straße, in a eastward direction



B38 Sudetenstraße, in a westward direction



B38 Sudetenstraße in a eastward direction



B38 Vogelstang Benjamin Franklin Village, in a westward direction