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Mary Immaculate College Landscape Masterplan

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Introduction

Our client

Mary Immaculate College (MIC) college was established in 1898 and since 1991 has since been academically linked with the University of Limerick, offering accreditation to academic programmes across the Limerick and Thurles Campuses.

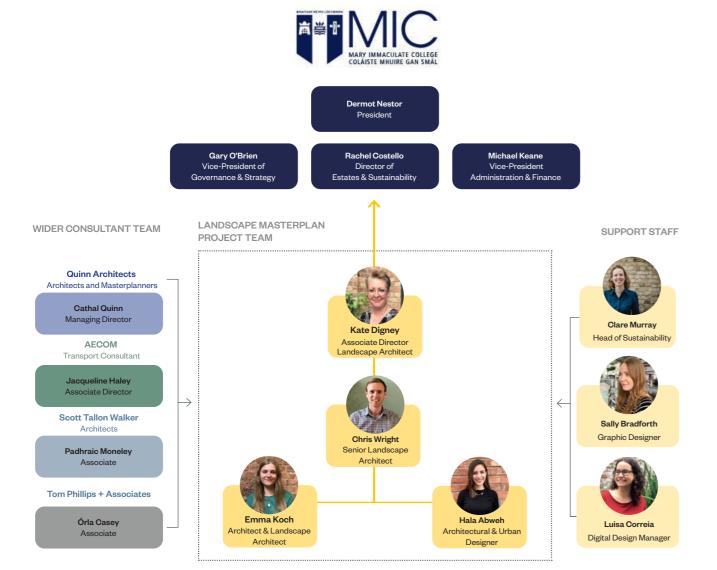
MIC is an inclusive and diverse institution with specialisms including Education and Liberal Arts. With a reputation as a teaching establishment that prioritises professional and pastoral care, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere is a key quality of campus life.

Our brief

MIC published a 2022-2042 Masterplan with ambitious proposals for the development of the Limerick and Thurles campuses over the twenty year period. Proposals for a new Library/ Learning Resource Centre at the heart of the campus have also recently been submitted for planning approval. Our brief to develop a new landscape masterplan for the MIC Limerick campus includes the integration of the Library/Learning Resource Centre proposals and consideration of the 2022-2042 Masterplan by Quinn Architects.

Sustainable design and MIC's sustainability aspirations sit at the heart of the new landscape masterplan; the creation of a 'Green Campus' will affirm health and well-being as a key priority for the benefit of students and staff across the campus.

The role of the landscape masterplan is to highlight and celebrate existing landscape and historic assets whilst creating a clear 'vision' for the campus future, alongside the architectural vision for new built teaching facilities. MIC Limerick external spaces have a vital contribution to make in the creation of a better campus 'place', embedding social value, sustainable design and climate change resilience into a new green heart of the campus community.



Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, founded in 1898, is a third level Catholic College of Education and the Liberal Arts.

The College community promotes excellence in teaching, learning and research at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It seeks to foster the intellectual, spiritual, personal and professional development of students within a supportive and challenging environment that guarantees the intellectual freedom of staff and students.

In particular, the College seeks to foster in its students a spirit of justice and compassion in the service of others, together with an openness to the religious tradition and values of each individual.

The College promotes a sense of identity enriched by an awareness of its Catholic tradition, the cultures, languages and traditions of Ireland and its special commitment to the Irish language.

Mary Immaculate College respects cultural diversity. It strives to promote equity in society and to provide an environment where all have freedom and opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Mission Statement from MIC Strategic Plan 2023

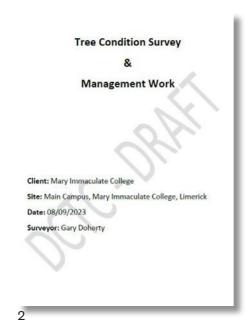


Key Contextual Sources

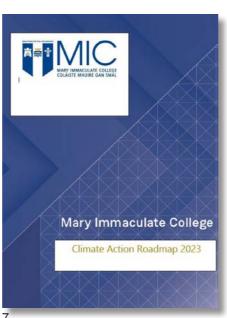
The landscape proposals outlined within this document have been collated further to site study and observation undertaken in tandem with a client team briefing and site walkover. The baseline understanding of the MIC Limerick site has also included discussion with co-consultants working on campus proposals plus interrogation of supporting documents detailed below. This review seeks to ensure a complete and coordinated understanding of both the

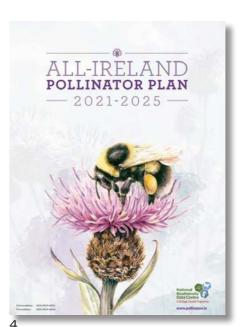
baseline condition and emerging architectural proposals such as the Library/ Learning Resource Centre by Scott Tallon Walker Architects.







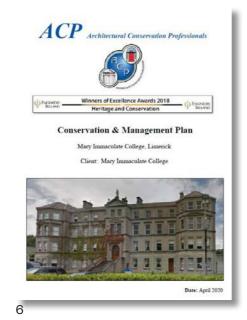






- 1 MIC Limerick Library Design and Access Statement by Scott Tallon Walker Architects
- 2 Tree Condition Survey and Management Work by Gary Doherty
- 3 MIC Limerick Arboricultural Survey and Report by Gary Doherty
- 4 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 by National Biodiversity Data Centre
- 5 MIC 2022-2042 Masterplan by Quinn Architects
- 6 Conservation and Management Plan by ACP Group
- 7 MIC Climate Action Roadmap 2023 (privileged document)
- 8 MIC Strategic Plan 2023







Understanding the Campus

Wider context

The college is located directly south of Limerick city centre, offering shops and main railway and bus stations within a 20-minute walk. The college covers three sites; the central campus, the John Henry Newman Campus (accessed via a pedestrian crossing over the South Circular Road) and Courtbrack student accommodation, a satellite site to the west.

The campus has good levels of accessibility, with the 304 bus route (Limerick City PSO bus network) adjacent to the John Henry Newman Campus and within 250m walking distance of the Foundation Building. There are two cycle stations under the Transport for Ireland (Tfl) cycle hire scheme at the campus, one placed along Summerville Avenue and one towards the John Henry Newman Campus. There are some local amenities towards Punches Cross to the east that are comfortably accessible by foot.

KEY

- Main roads
- Cycling routes
- TFI cycle station
- Railway
- MIC Campus
- MIC John Henry Newman Campus
- MIC Courtbrack accommodation
- Limerick city centre
- Industrial area
- Woodlands
 - Greenspaces and parks
- Publicly accessed greenspaces
- College
- Medical centre
- Church
- Sport grounds
- Local retail
- Bus stops





Nearby medium-scale industry



Ashbourne Avenue: Residential setting and scale of context (view facing east)



Summerville Avenue: Campus boundary wall fronting a residential setting (view facing west)

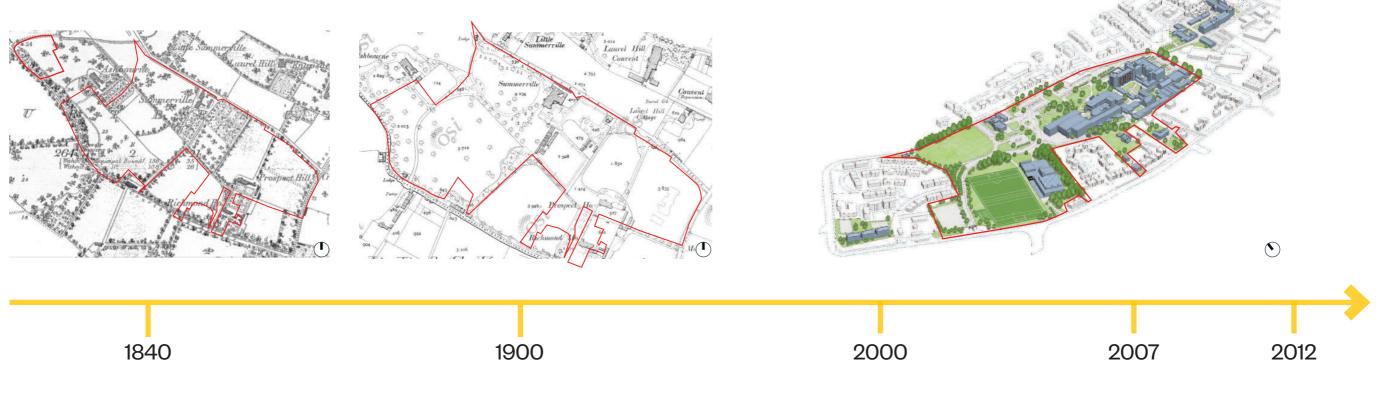


South Circular Road: Tree-lined frontage to main visitor arrival space at MIC Limerick campus (view facing north)

An Evolving Campus

Historical Context

MIC Limerick campus holds significant importance in the architectural history of Limerick. The college dates back to 1898 when the Foundation Building was completed. Before the establishment of the college, the site was occupied by several significant 'villa' houses and landscapes, some of which are now part of the campus and add to its historical importance.



The site before the establishment of the college, showing the significant 'villa'-style houses such as Summerville House and Richmond House with their walled gardens and landscaped grounds.

The map showing the foundation of the college with the footprint of the Foundation building evident. The 2000 Masterplan was the first formal 'vision' for the campus, identifying and locating the Tailteann and TARA buildings. Key masterplan principles included enhancing the campus's parkland character and improve connectivity using a design narrative of a *tsli* (way) running east-west across the campus.

Tailteann Sports Complex is completed and wins the 'Leisure Building of the Year' award at the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards in 2008. Lime Tree Theatre / Tara Building is completed.

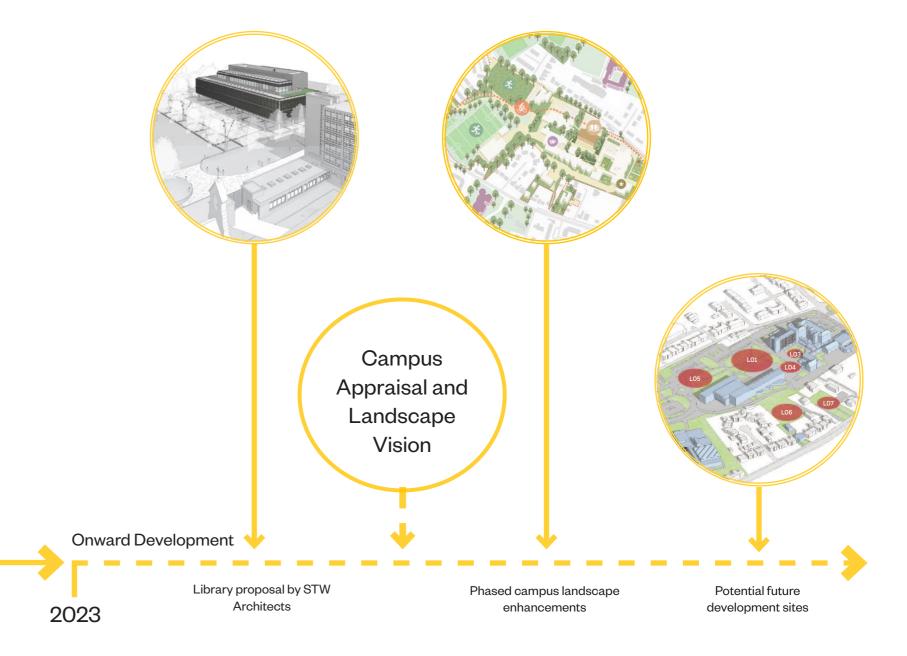
Current Context

The MIC Limerick campus is evolving to support a growing student population. Teaching facilities have been subject to architectural masterplan studies, and new buildings are being brought forward for delivery. The Lime Tree Theatre, constructed in 2012, is a 510-seat, state-of-the-art venue, quickly becoming Limerick's premier arts venue. This facility attracts the general public to the campus and integrates into the daily life of students. The landscape masterplan will review aspects such as access, circulation, parking, and the sense of arrival for both local people and students, while considering key architectural masterplan proposals that have been developed.



The 2022-2042 Masterplan, produced by Quinn Architects, outlines the architectural vision for the campus over a 20-year period. The Masterplan includes development objectives and identifies eight future development sites, including L01—the site for the new Library/Learning Resource Centre.

2022



The Historic Grounds

MIC Limerick was founded 125 years ago, with construction of the Foundation Building starting in 1899. Figures 01 and 02 show the original landscape setting, with open lawns, a simple gravel driveway, and limited ornamental planting. An established tree and hedge-line encloses the arrival space in front of the building.

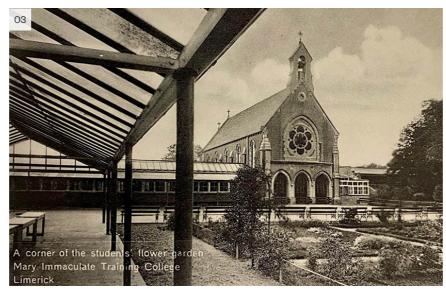
In 1906, the College Chapel was constructed, linked to earlier college buildings by a long glass corridor lined with music rooms. The original landscape setting featured a 'students' flower garden' (Figure 03) with seating and pathways through a garden of formal layout. A steel pergola/walkway offered shelter for outdoor sitting and views across the garden.

In the 1920s, formal sports facilities were laid out within the college grounds, including tennis courts, a quadrangle, and a large 'games court' to provide the benefits of outdoor recreation between classes. The college grounds were assigned clearer functions and purposes, with some signs of more gardenesque planted gardens. Mention is also made of the celebration of views across the games field from a newly constructed pavilion building. Within 20-30 years, the Chapel setting changed substantially, with the garden cleared away (Figures 06-08) and replaced by a new design dominated by hardlandscape materials, featuring a focal religious statue in a domed folly. This new design approach to the 'quad' arrived with the construction of the new residential block designed by Andy Devane, built in 1956 to support a growing student population.

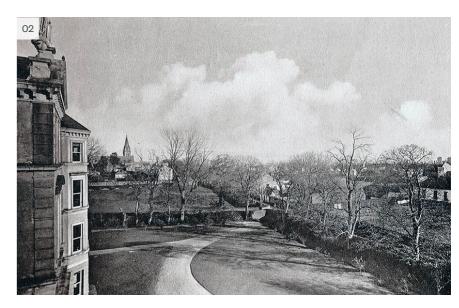
Figures 09 and 10 show a new education complex, including a library, lecture theatre, and teaching spaces, that opened in 1980. The striking building form, characteristic of 1970s architectural approaches, is shown set within an extensive, naturalistic landscape with parkland-style trees and lawns. Figure 09 shows a series of terraced steps running away from the hexagonal lecture theatre, addressing a ground-level change within the landscape, which was later resolved through the floor levels of the Tara Building. The presence of the terraced steps indicates consideration of the form and function of outdoor spaces associated with the building and the potential for seating in the late-afternoon sun.

- 01. Foundation building set within mown lawns with limited ornamental planting (c. 1900)
- O2. View from the Foundation Building showing the sweeping driveway
- 03. The 'students' flower garden' setting the Chapel (early 20th century)
- 04. College games are established on an organised basis (c. 1920's)
- 05. A quadrangle is set out in front of the Chapel in the 1920s
- 06. 1950's paved setting to Chapel with raised planters and seating
- 07. Aerial view to reconfigured 1950s 'quad' space
- 08. New seating walls provide a setting for the 1956 residential building
- New library, lecture theatre and education complex with terraced steps visible on right-hand side (c. 1980)
- 10. New library, lecture theatre and education complex (c. 1980)

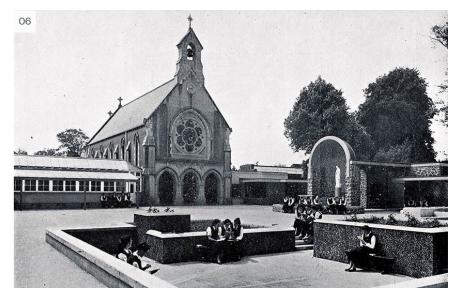




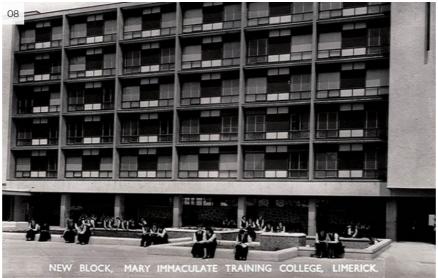
















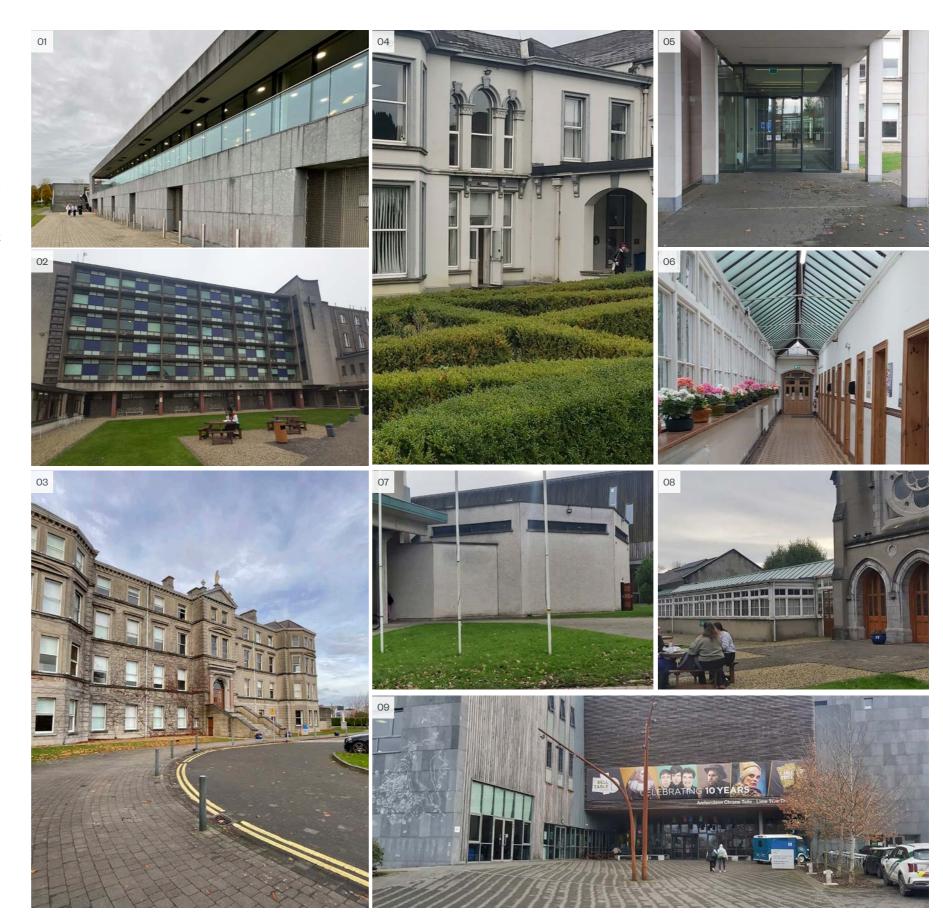
Campus Identity

Architectural Character

Architectural styles and building ages vary greatly across the campus; there are several notable buildings of heritage value, including the characterful Foundation Building, Summerville House, and Chapel. In contrast, the Tailteann Building and TARA offer contemporary value demonstrating a varied palate of architectural approaches. There are a number of protected structures identified in the latter pages of this report, including a brutalist residential block built in 1956 and distinctive lecture theatre. Site observations compared with historic photos show that many original landscape settings of the buildings have been lost over time as the campus has developed.



O1. View of Tailteann Building (Sports) facing northO2. 1956 Residential Block



^{03.} Foundation Building

^{04.} Summerville House with planted setting

^{05.} Colonnade main entrance

^{06.} View along the Lourdes Corridor

^{07.} Existing Library Lecture Theatre to be retained

^{08.} Chapel and Lourdes Corridor as seen from the Quad

^{09.} Modern architecture and arrival space at the Tara Building and Lime Tree Theatre main entrance

Landscape Character

The College grounds have evolved as the campus has intensified over the last 125 years. The success of the College has led to increasing student numbers, making it necessary to focus on teaching facilities and building resources to ensure the standing of the College 'offer'. The campus grounds exhibit diverse landscape characters, from established, large-scale naturalistic settings to hard landscape more civic spaces and fragmented remnant-spaces resulting from building extensions and new constructions. This has resulted in a mosaic of landscape spaces that lack coherence, but there is potential for enhancement to improve the Campus community's experience and create a more resilient character to address the impacts of climate change.

The key landscape spaces of quality within the campus relate to new buildings, generally dominated by hard landscape treatments, and pockets of naturalistic landscape, such as the woodland edge east of the Tailteann Building and the parkland between the Tara Building and parking areas near Summerville Avenue. The new masterplan approach should celebrate and reinforce these characters, better linking them into the campus environment and complementing them with new types of public realm routes and spaces.

















- 01. Modern entrance gates from Courtbrack Avenue
- O2. Small-scale interstitial spaces with challenging access arrangements between buildings of varying ages
- O3. High-quality parkland character at the heart of the campusO4. Contemporary approach to public realm design at the John
- 05. Woodland walk behind Tailteann building

Henry Newman Campus

- 06. Courtyards lacking function and access
- 07. Quad space lacking impact and quality of approach
- 08. Religious statue that has lost its historic setting

Uses

Buildings

The main campus generally includes the larger buildings and key teaching faculties, such as the College library. The Foundation Building contains the main reception of the college as well as the Music and Arts faculties. Primary recreational facilities include the Lime Tree Theatre and the sports facilities and grounds.

The John Henry Newman Campus consists of smaller buildings that contain classrooms, labs, and academic offices.



KEY

Foundation Building

Residential Building

Library (recreational)

Recreation Hall

Staff room

Halla (Auditorium)

TARA Building (recreational)

Tailteann Building (Sports)

Derelict vacant buildings

Offices and Services

Chapel

Landscape Uses

The campus landscape is dominated by two large, well-used sports pitches and a characterful central open parkland area with mature trees between pathways. Asphalted parking areas and access roads are abundant, particularly along the northern site edge. Smaller landscape spaces—courtyards, frontages, and arrival plazas—are used incidentally by students meeting and relaxing between lessons in dry weather. The Quad is a key collegiate space which, while having a modern appearance today, has a heritage legacy and is used for events including graduation ceremonies.

There are external spaces across the campus that would benefit from improvement and new or more defined uses. These include two redundant tennis courts, which have fallen out of use on the edge of the sports pitch, and some inaccessible derelict sites associated with land purchased on the southern edge of the campus. These pose opportunity for supporting the creation of a new greenspace network and movement corridors, as well as offering development potential to complement College objectives.

Limerick Town Centre Training pitch Parkland Limerick **Town Centre** Vehicular Main Entrance To Dooradoyle

KEY

Sports grounds

Parking

Courtyard and Plaza

Open Parkland

Buffer and Ornamental Planting

Landscape space without dedicated use

Inaccessible derelict sites

Site boundary

Topography and Key Views

The site topography rises towards the southeast of the campus with the most pronounced transition through the centre of the campus around the TARA Building, which features a stepped ground floor level exploited by the architectural design. The sloping ground makes level access challenging and external steps are used in several locations with a external lift giving level access to the existing library. Opportunity exists to better define and improve accessible routes for walking and cycling without the use of steps.

Whilst considering movement and the ease of arrival, topography offers benefits to be celebrated, including a sense of prospect and vantage points between different campus spaces. There are existing views from the parkland area to the historic landscape setting further west (currently overlooking an existing parking area) that could be better utilised within a new sequence of landscape spaces.

+00.00 Existing ground level Viewpoint location Key view Short stepped access Long stepped access Site boundary







Sloping route (part 1:12) rear of TARA Building - primarily for service vehicles only View west along sloping parkland topography towards the historic campus area - north-facing TARA Building elevation on the left with a long external staircase



An external access lift provides level access to the existing library



Key view facing south towards the Tailteann Building



Seating steps within the TARA Building utilising significant internal level changes



Key view west towards the Foundation Building through the John Henry Newman Campus

Movement and Access

The campus is bordered by roads and has Tfl bus stops within a 5 minute walk from the Foundation Building on O'Connell Avenue. There are two primary entrances to the College which are shared by pedestrians and vehicles: one off South Circular Road to the east at the Foundation Building and one off Ashbourne Avenue to the south. A further shared access to the John Henry Newman Campus is achieved off O'Connell Avenue. The main parking areas north of the campus can be accessed from both the west and east although parking management exists to prevent the parking from being used as a through-route. The coach park-and-ride facility arrives via Ashbourne Avenue with a drop-off location near the Tara Building.

There are constraints on pedestrian movement across the site, with a number of main routes including steeply sloping or stepped access (shown on the preceding page), 'dead end' routes, and gates typically locked from pedestrian access. This includes potentially valuable areas such as the woodland setting behind the Tailteann Building.

The vehicular route that provides service and emergency access southwards from the main parking area (towards the Chapel) is an example of a vehicular route negatively impacting the public realm. Asphalt and extensive yellow-lining to deter parking obliges the frequent footfall of pedestrians to cut across a space which is clearly characterised as highway. This bisects the campus grounds and impacts the legibility to key destinations such as the library and Quad. Vehicular routes are typically seen to be traditional in arrangement with up-stand kerbs delineating pedestrian footways, often ungenerous in width considering the volume of footfall.

On-site parking is relatively widely spread, and whilst generally conveniently located, it impacts the quality of arrival to the north and east of the main campus. There is an opportunity to reconsider parking arrangements to ensure a balance with the potential for prospective public realm improvements.

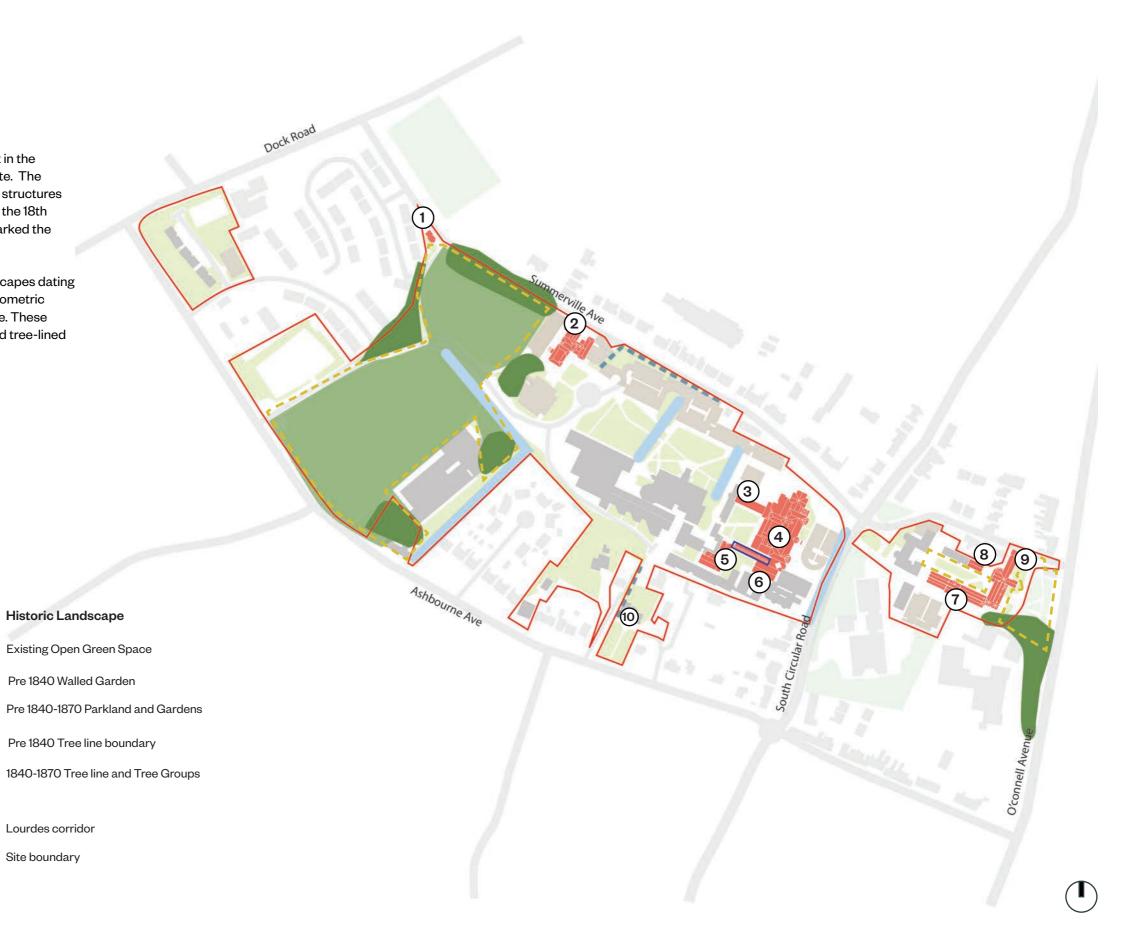




Historic Setting

The campus's historical importance is evident in the historic buildings and landscape existing on site. The MIC campus encompasses several protected structures such as Summerville House which was built in the 18th century and the Foundation Building which marked the establishment of the college in 1899.

The campus also encompasses historic landscapes dating back to before 1840 which were part of the geometric gardens of the 'villa' houses that existed on site. These properties were surrounded by stone walls and tree-lined field boundaries.



KEY

Protected Structures

1 Summerville Gate Lodge

(2) Summerville House

The Residential Block

4 The Foundation Building

5 The Chapel

The Recreation Hall

John Henry Newman Building

8 St Vincent's Hall

9 John Henry Newman Chapel

(10) Richmond House



Campus Development

The College was established in 1898 by Bishop Edward T. O'Dwyer and the Sisters of Mercy for the professional education of Catholic primary school teachers; this milestone was marked by the completion of the Foundation Building designed by Architect William Henry Byrne.

Since then, many alterations, extensions, and new buildings have been added to expand the college and provide students with suitable facilities and spaces. Recent changes include modifications to the entrance from South Circular Road and to the landscape on the John Henry Newman Campus.

Several buildings on campus date back to before the establishment of the college and were acquired later to be included on the campus such as Richmond House, Laurel Lodge and Mount St. Vincent.



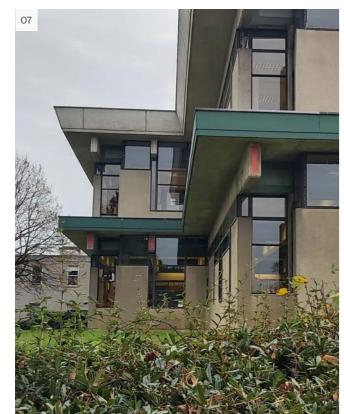
Key campus building development

- 1786 Summerville House was built but became MIC property in 1996. Richmond House was also built in the 18th century but was demolished later
- 1851 Mount St. Vincent became part of MIC property in 1919. Part of Gerard House was built at the same time and was acquired in 2001
- (11) 1861 - Mount St Vincent Chapel. It was renamed to John Henry Newman 1976 - Library and Octagonal Teaching Hall in 2017.
- 1870 Summerville Gate Lodge
- 1898 Foundation Building
- Site boundary

26



1786 - Summerville House



1976 - Library and Octagonal Teaching Hall



1898 - Foundation Building



2007 - The Tailteann Building



1956 - Residential Block



2010 - TARA Building

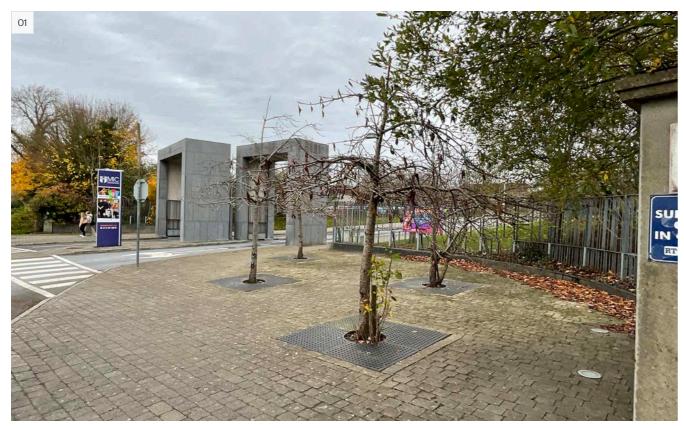
Boundaries and Security

Existing boundary conditions are generally arranged around the campus perimeter with varying character. The primary perimeter condition is a wall of approximately 2m in height, varying between historic, high-quality stone construction and lower-quality render finish.

Metalwork gates form an impressive feature on arrival at the Foundation Building, although the pier spacings offer a very constrained access width for pedestrians. A further formal gated entrance with stone piers exists at Summerville Gate Lodge. Distinctive boundary metalwork fencing has been incorporated as part of the John Henry Newman campus enhancements.

Within the heart of the campus, there are limited access control measures, and as such, once within the College grounds. pedestrian access is largely unfettered. The newly acquired College land to the south of Ashbourne Ave. is currently separated by a boundary condition and further inspection is required to confirm how these sites are secured. A high level of permanently locked and seemingly redundant access gates exists, not required as part of current access arrangements. Opportunities exist to rationalise and potentially remove some of these gates for improved legibility.





Main vehicular access is off Ashbourne Avenue, featuring striking access gateway elements



Vehicular access off South Circular Road with pinched pedestrian access gate



Pedestrian access off Ashbourne Avenue is within a wall with a rendered finish



Pedestrian access off South Circular Road

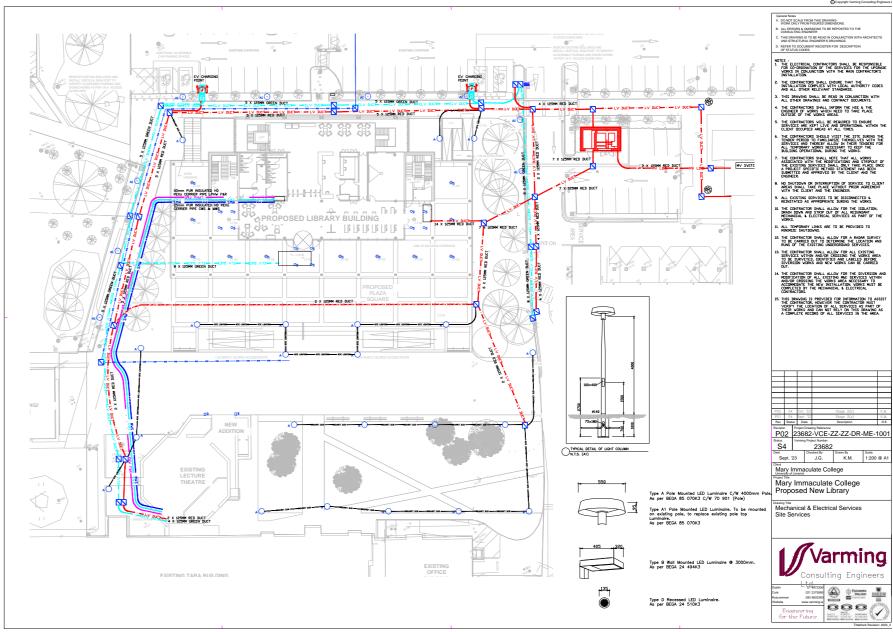


Underground Utility Constraints

Limited information is currently held regarding the extent, depth, and location of underground utility infrastructure with the exception of the MIC Library proposal (design team led by Scott Tallon Walker Architects).

The path of key utility corridors forms a constraint for tree planting and needs to be coordinated as phases of the landscape masterplan move forward through design. The ability to employ ribbed root barriers exists, isolating tree roots from underground utilities, subject to the acceptance of the statutory service providers.

Outline and detailed design should be informed by depths and alignments of existing utilities, with further co-ordination during technical design.



Plan showing utilities information around the proposed MIC Library building

Impermeable Surfaces

Impermeable hard-surface finishes comprise approximately 53% of the total campus area which is a significant proportion. Surface-water runoff from hardstanding contributes to flooding although no reported instances of localised flooding are known within the campus. Extensive underground drainage infrastructure is required to serve areas of impermeable paving and maintenance budgets must be allocated to ensure continuous function. There is scope to review and strategically reduce areas of impermeable surfacing and consider the introduction of SUDs (sustainable urban drainage systems) that can offer further benefits to placemaking, habitat creation and wayfinding.

Large extents of existing Campus buildings have flat roof constructions, with under-valued rooftop surfaces which pose a further asset for sustainable design. Building structures may be suitable for retrofitting blue (water attenuation) or green (planted) roof treatments which can both be coupled with photovoltaic systems for energy capture. Lightweight habitat features could be considered within flat roofs, enhancing biodiversity provision across the campus. Alongside rainwater harvesting, green and blue roof treatments could also be considered within the design of new buildings.



KEY

Permeable Surfaces

Impermeable Surfaces

Pitched Roof

Flat Roof

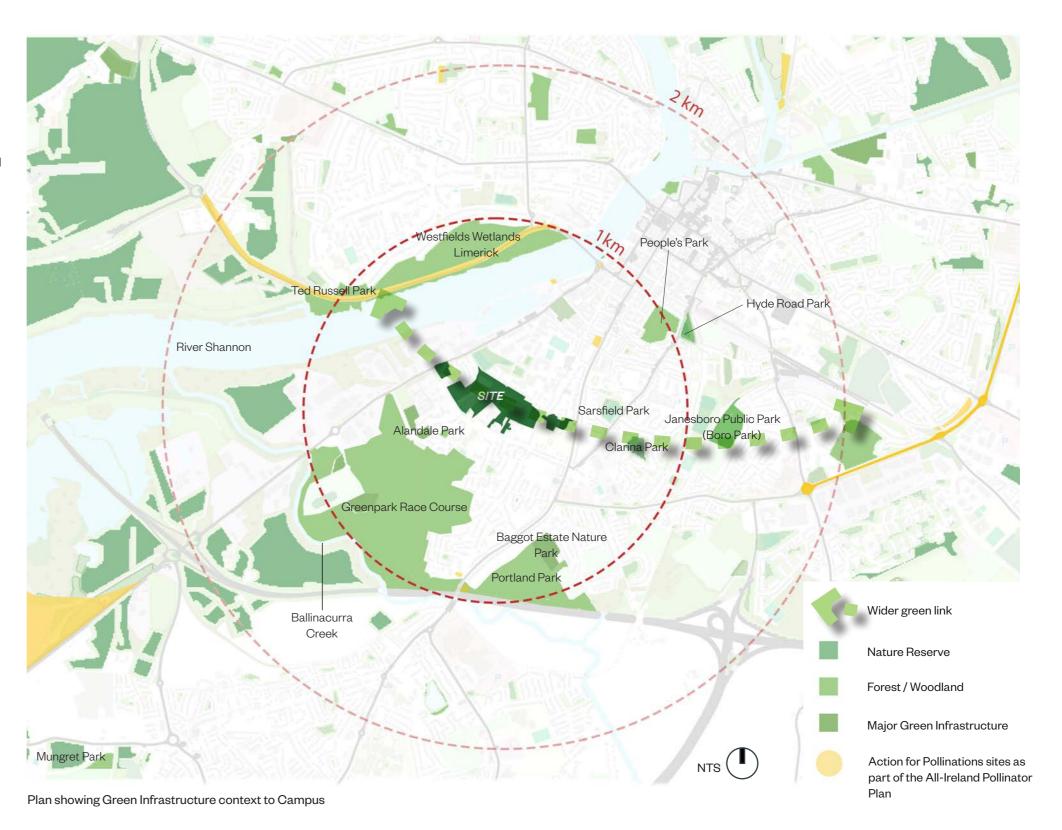
Rainwater harvesting location

Site boundary

Contextual Green Infrastructure

The Campus forms a large and significant ecological 'stepping stone' contributing to a mosaic of greenspace linking towards the River Shannon corridor. The sizeable greenspaces of Greenpark Race Course and Portland Park are in close proximity, offering habitat types including woodland, grassland and scrub towards the Ballinacurra Creek tributary of the Shannon.

The Campus's aptitude to form a corridor for wildlife and people is considered and exploited through these masterplan proposals.



Pollinator Plan

Limerick City and County Council is developing a wildflower meadow scheme around the city as part of its Climate Action Commitment and to celebrate Limerick's status as a leafy European city. Grass and wildflowers in these areas are allowed to grow until autumn, providing food for wild bees. In September, areas will be cut back and the cuttings removed to retain low-nutrient soil conditions; this will encourage native wildflowers to thrive in these locations. There is significant scope for similar 'no mow' interventions within the Campus site to increase habitat for pollinators and promote biodiversity.



Promotional material from the Pollinator Plan initiative



Campus Green Infrastructure

Trees and planting

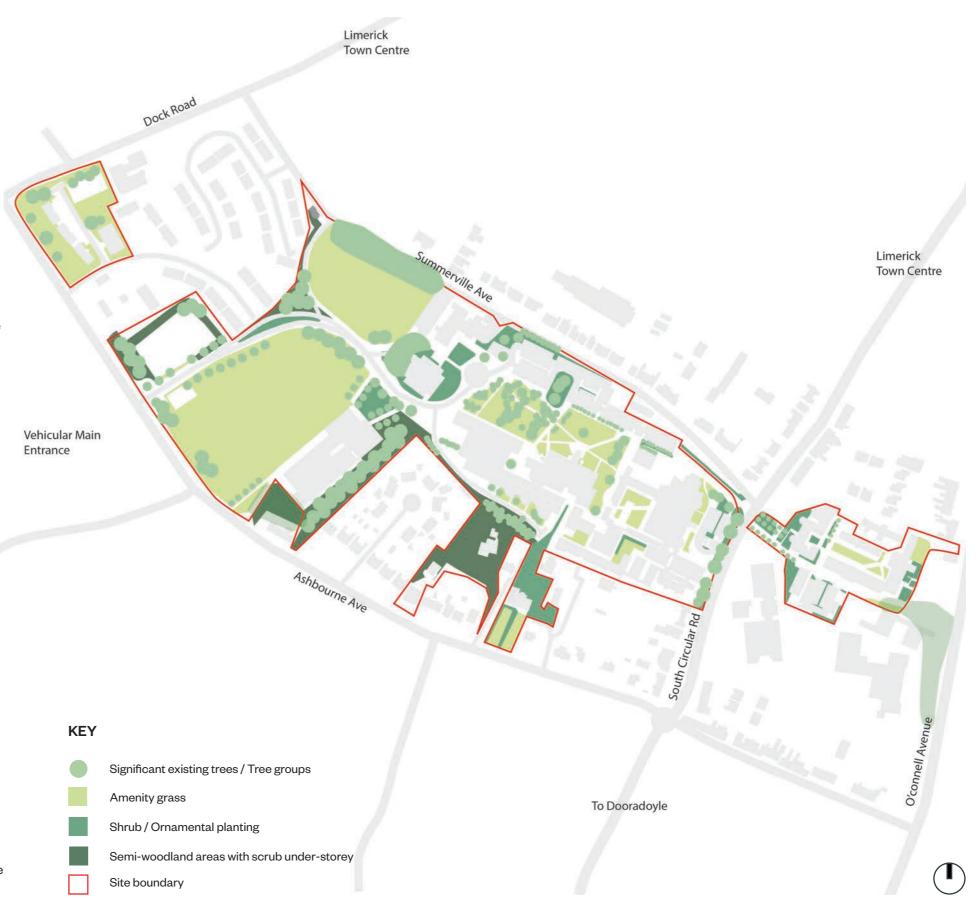
The Campus has a large and varied community of existing trees which frame routes, delineate boundaries and form a scattered arrangement within the central parkland area. Trees are typically native broadleaf species and vary in age, with recent planting ensuring a succession of canopy cover, while further opportunities exist. Larger, long-established trees are located within the central parkland, at the South Circular Road frontage and towards the historic landscape spaces towards Summerville Gate Lodge. Trees generally have a degree of clear-stem to ensure strong sight lines across outdoor spaces except within the informal woodland to the southern edge, which is less actively managed. Cherry trees set in hard-surfacing at the Foundation Building offer great spring colour but are a relatively small and short-lived species with more limited benefits - these could be reviewed within the new landscape masterplan.

There are moments of high quality planting within the campus where maintenance is prioritised, benefiting the public realm. The pedestrian connection to the John Henry Newman campus is a strong example, with trees and structural shrub planting framing the arrival route. In the main, planting exists as clipped single-species hedges or shrub mass with limited herbaceous or ornamental planting other than in very discrete areas.

Existing Ecological Value

The Campus lies within 1km of the River Shannon ecological corridor and site characteristics such as large amounts of open space, mature trees, and pockets of woodland fringes are likely to benefit wildlife species such as birds and bats. Mature tree cover offers good-quality habitat potential with additional benefit offered by areas of semiwoodland, less intensively managed around the campus fringes. Within these areas ruderal species have colonised with some offering wildlife benefit such as Ivy, covering boundaries and growing into trees. These areas with reduced access allow for undisturbed use by wildlife, away from corridors of post-top lighting along key routes. Amenity grass is a predominant condition that offers little diversity but reflects the needs and function of the Campus.

The mosaic of habitats and vegetation types within the campus has modest complexity only and site observations did not identify habitat types of high sensitivity, although the existing tree community offers strong potential for use by wildlife species. There are opportunities to introduce greater complexity of planting palettes and habitat types while also considering maintenance regimes and budgets.





- O1. Mature hedgerow buffer to carparkO2. Hard landscaping and lawn outside TARA Building
- 03. Open lawn within John Henry Newman campus
- O4. Avenue of trees towards the Tailteann Building
 O5. Planting within John Henry Newman campus
 O6. Open lawn adjacent to Courtbrack site
 O7. Parkland setting with mature trees

- 08. Historic woodland
- 09. Lawn and mature hedgerows to parking
- 10. Lawn within Quad
- 11. Pre 1840 Tree line boundary12. Formal hedgerow planting at Summerville House

Materiality

Hard Surfaces

The palette of hard landscape materials across the Campus has limited variety with predominant surface finishes being pre-cast concrete block paving (conventionally used for footways) and traditional black asphalt with a highway character. There are instances of unbound gravel footways through parkland at the centre of the campus which contributes to the character of this space whilst potentially negatively impacting the accessibility of the routes. Gravel dressing is also located in the Quad space in generous areas between lawn and unit paving. The type and quality of pre-cast concrete block paving units appear to be almost consistent across the campus and do not reflect the heritage or architectural quality of different Campus buildings.

As discussed in previous pages, hard-surface areas are large in size and occupy a high proportion of the Campus grounds. The TARA Building and Lime Tree Theatre have particularly generous 'plaza'-style paved thresholds with limited tree planting and little planting other than aprons of lawn. At the John Henry Newman Campus, a contemporary shared-surface vehicular and pedestrian route to/from O'Connell Avenue is particularly successful in creating a high-quality approach to pedestrian-focused public realm. Elsewhere, vehicular routes are designed as conventional highways with thermoplastic markings etc, offering the appearance that routes are part of the local authority road network.

The west-facing elevation of the Lime Tree Theatre has an interesting and artistic expression of an old map engraved into the finish of the building façade. This is a high-quality approach to creating enduring, place-specific public art, and one which is strongly supported.



















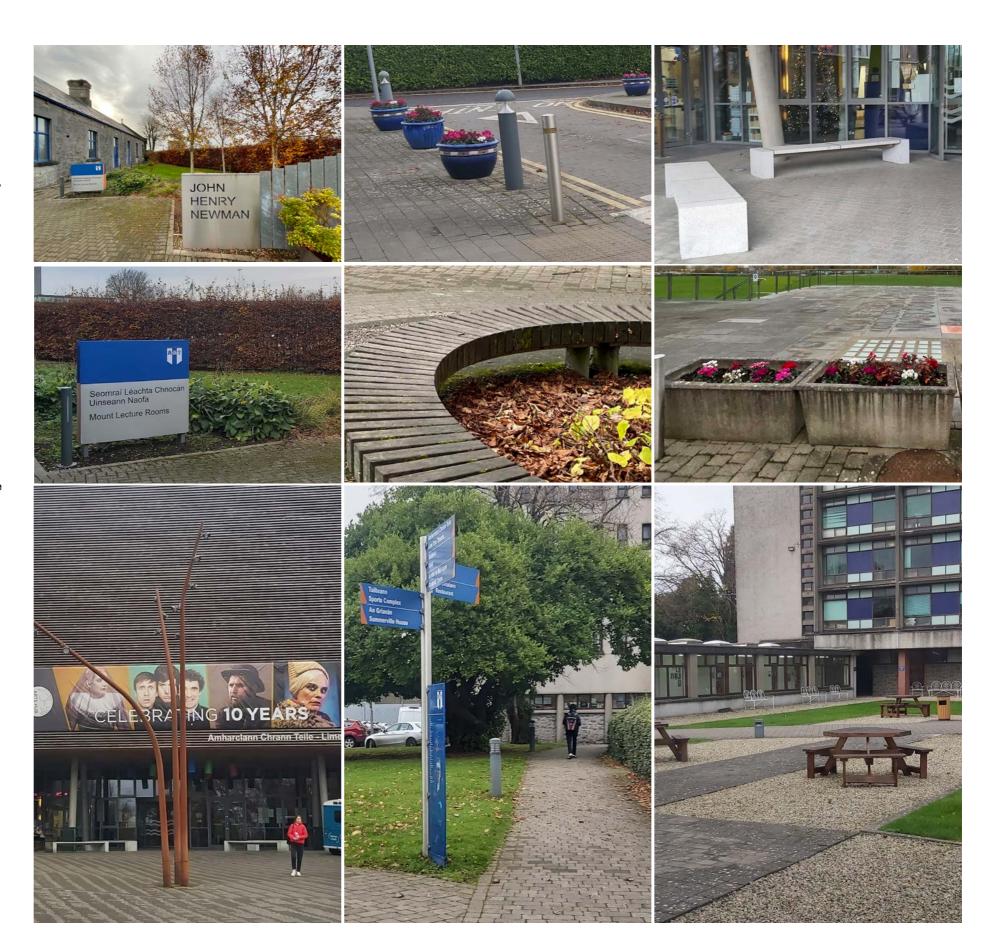


Furniture and Signage

Campus identity, manifested through signage, is clear and consistent and a modern palette of wayfinding and information signs aid legibility for students and visitors. The branding is effective and accessible with well-placed fittings that conform to a 'family' approach.

Palettes of street furniture and lighting appear to have evolved more incrementally in association with new Campus Building developments. Some include high-quality approaches, yet without the benefit of consistency across the Campus. A range of seating styles and materials exist, offering varied levels of inclusive access. A varied provision may challenge management and maintenance and replacement units are likely to be sought across a wide range of suppliers. Levels of robustness and suitability vary with some styles being less appropriate for a public realm setting.

Lighting styles vary with a range of highway-style column lights, feature columns associated with the TARA Building and Lime Tree and areas of low-level illuminated bollards. There are several instances of building-mounted units, which vary in style yet contribute to reducing clutter in the public realm spaces. The campus would benefit from a more coherent strategy for delivering safe pedestrian routes and lighting.







Strengths

The key points on strengths are summarised as follows:

- Canopy cover provided by large and mature trees of generally native broadleaf species, in part reinforcing historic field boundary patterns.
- An arrangement of internal courtyard spaces set deep into the Campus, offering opportunities for specific function and character with uniting qualities.
- High-quality built form from both historic and contemporary design periods, providing a strong backdrop for the landscape setting.
- Clear boundary definition to the Campus perimeter with a strong presence of greening and clear gateway entrances.
- A framework of existing greenspace present as sports pitches, strategic tree groups, and the central parkland setting.



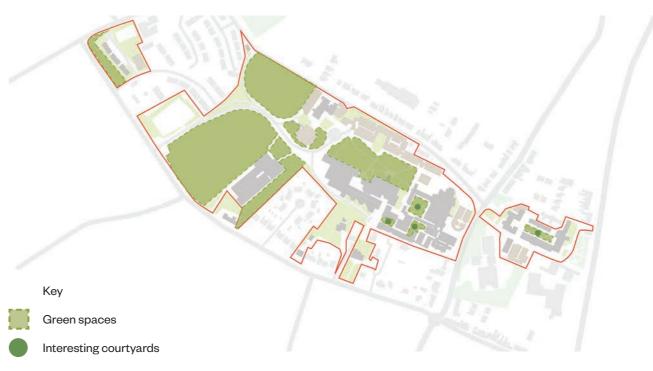
Existing Historical Assets and Parkland Character



High quality buildings



Open green spaces and interesting courtyards



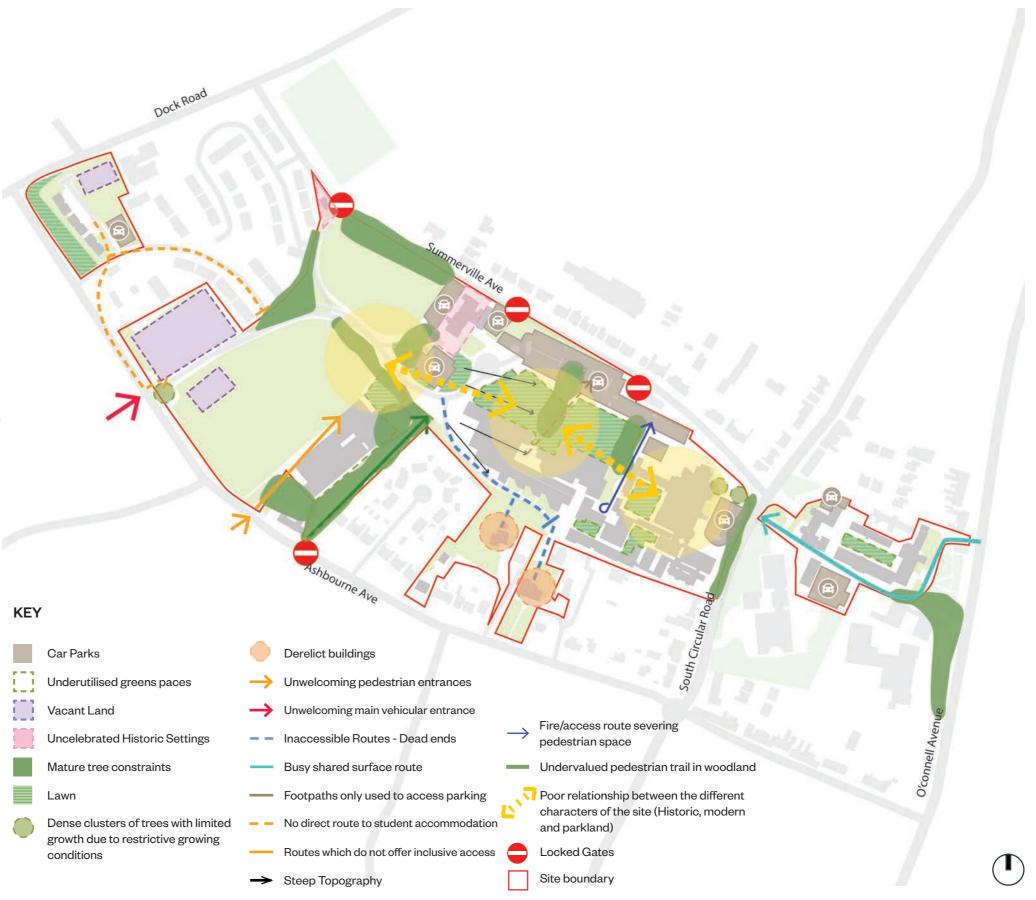
Perimeter boundary wall with historic stone sections



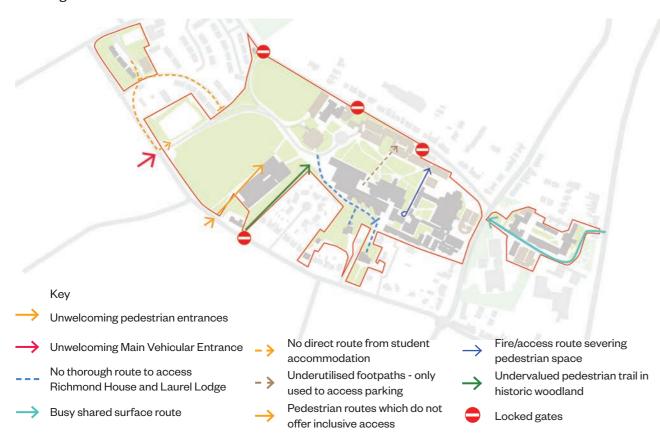
Weaknesses

The key points on weaknesses are summarised as follows:

- Locked redundant gateway entrances do not contribute to a coherent appearance of the Campus or legibility of access for pedestrians.
- Ashbourne Avenue 'satellite sites' purchased lack defined uses in their current condition and have a dilapidated character (pending redevelopment). They form 'dead ends' for pedestrian access.
- Redundant tennis courts and temporary parking areas off Ashbourne Avenue entrance do not strengthen the sense of arrival at the Campus.
- Generous parking expanses dominate the northern periphery, and roads appear as adopted highway routes, particularly inappropriate where pedestrian footfall is greatest
- Historic settings to Summerville House and Summerville Gate Lodge are not adequately celebrated or allowed adequate 'breathing space'.
- Steeply sloping topography creates a challenge for inclusive access.
- Under-exploited woodland periphery with pedestrian routes.
- Poorly defined relationships between varying character areas within the Campus grounds.



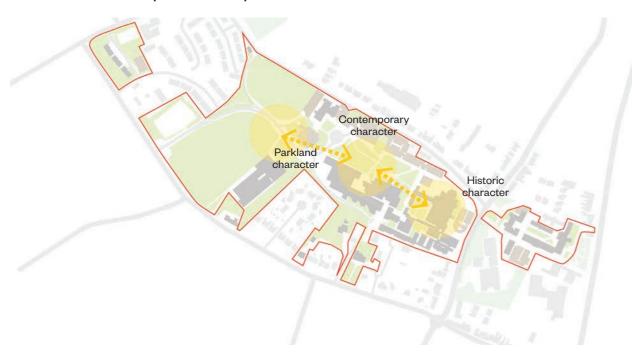
Challenges with access and movement



Under-utilised open spaces and buildings



Under-valued relationship between Campus character areas



Under-exploited landscape setting



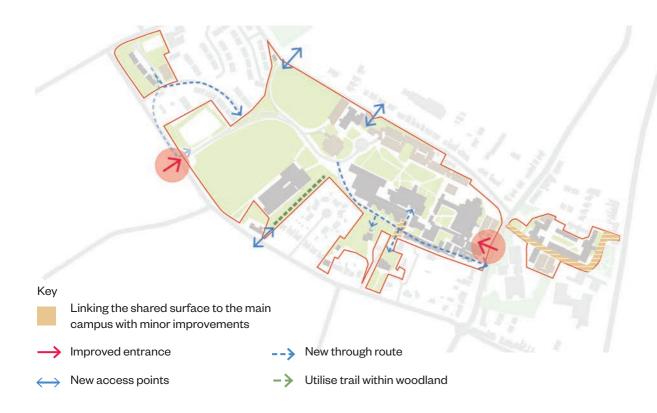
Opportunities

The key points on opportunities are summarised as follows:

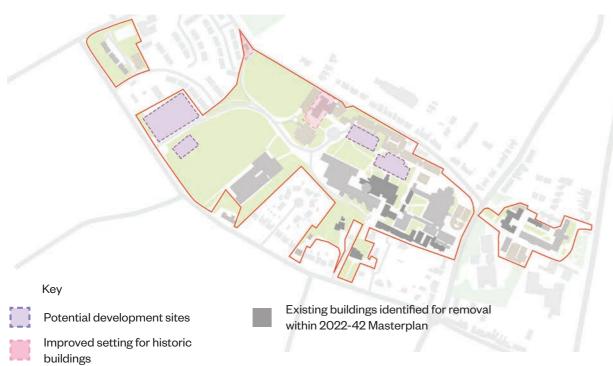
- Recently purchased satellite sites along Ashbourne Avenue offer opportunities for improved north-south pedestrian movement and clarity on legible movement.
- Highlight and reinforce the arrival point for guests and visitors at Foundation Building, celebrating the heritage asset whilst improving wayfinding to the main colonnade.
- Creation of a new southern-edge access route providing for refuse and deliveries away from the main Campus 'heart' and arrival spaces; employing a shared-surface section for pedestrians moving to/from the proposed international students' accommodation building.
- Exploit opportunities for new building forms with strong place-making considerations - increasing natural surveillance, active frontages, and safe pedestrian spaces.
- Aggregate and consolidate parking provision to reduce the extent of impact, creating new buffer to historic Summerville House.
- Creation of a new high-quality landscape strategy which delivers a spinal route through the Campus, linking and defining a new sequence of external amenity spaces.
 Partner sustainable design measures to strengthen the spine, including biodiverse planting for pollinators, sustainable urban drainage, large species successional tree planting and safe/convenient routes for walking and cycling.
- Placing climate-change resilience at the heart of the Campus, celebrating heritage whilst setting out a roadmap for strengthening place-making for future generations of students.



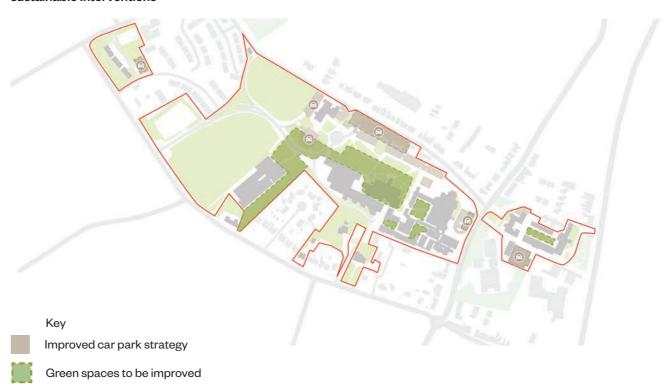
Improved access, movement and wayfinding



Improved existing campus and potential of new developments



Improved landscape: defined usable green spaces creating new high quality public realm and opportunity for sustainable interventions



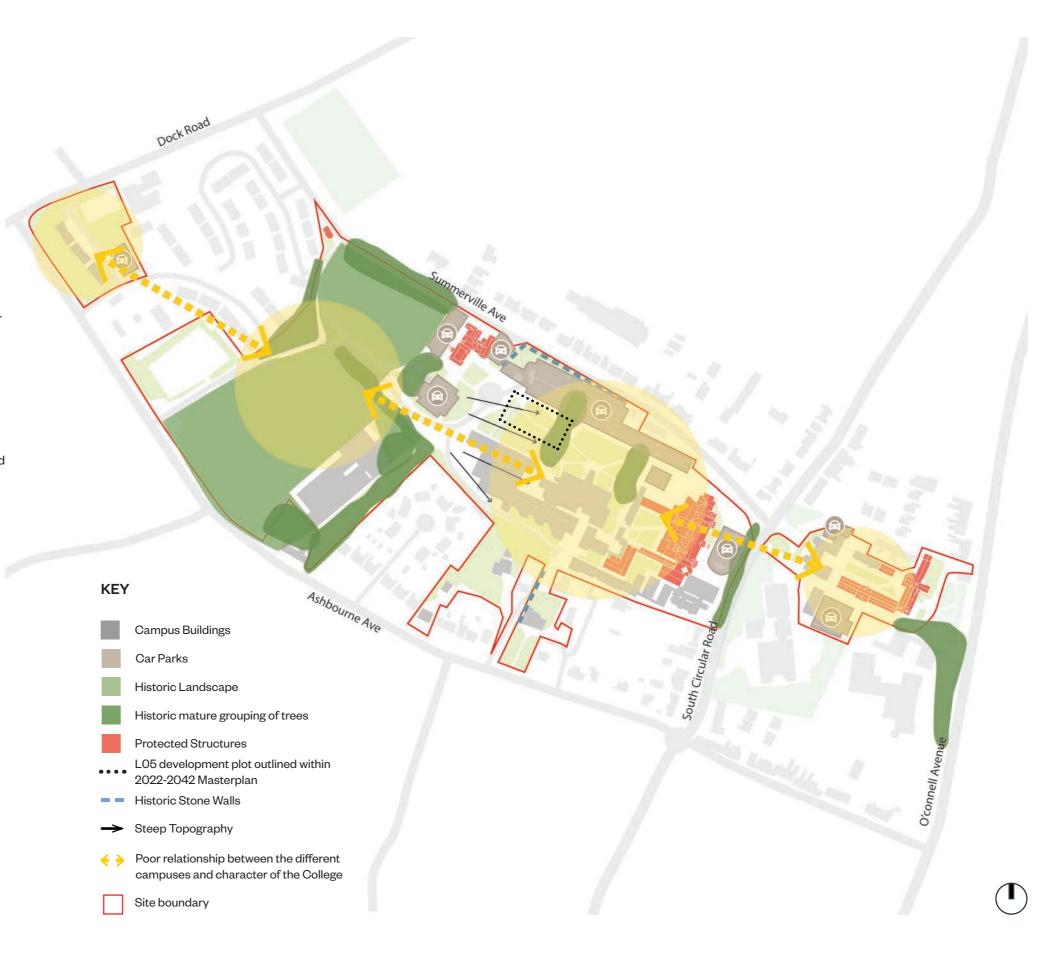
Improved relationship between the different character areas through a landscape spine



Threats

The key points on threats are summarised as follows:

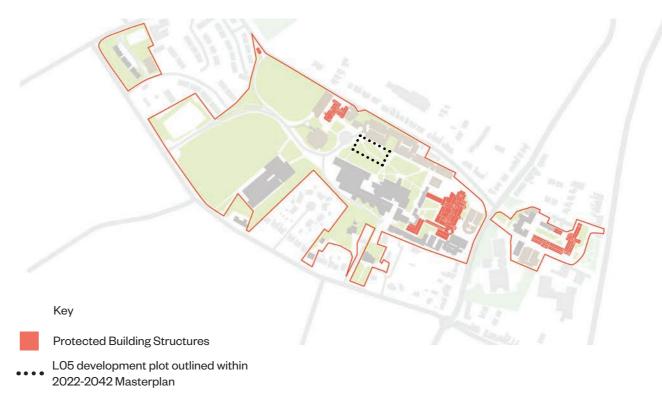
- The need for high-volume and convenient parking locations needs to be balanced with the aspiration to enhance the quality, functionality, and sustainable 'offer' of a revitalised Campus public realm. The current 'park and ride' offer also places constraints in the form of a generous, well-located set-down/pick-up point.
- Character areas of the Campus are experienced in relatively discrete areas with little sense of coherence or connection in the current condition.
- Existing steep topography creating high ground in an east-wards direction needs to be addressed in order to achieve convenient pedestrian and cycle linkages through the Campus.
- Building development opportunity LO5, identified within 2022-2044 Masterplan by Quinn Architects, needs to consider the objective of preserving the central parkland whilst positioning a footprint that respects both parking needs and sloping ground levels.



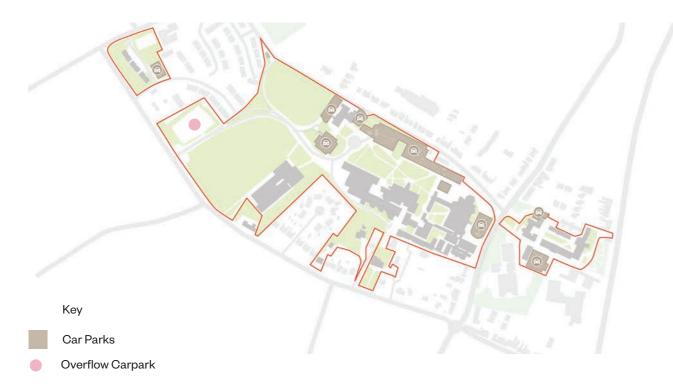
Existing landscape and topography



Protected building structures



Parking



Segregated pockets of openspace





Landscape Vision

An tslí 'The Way'

This concept was initiated in the original 2000 Masterplan for Limerick MIC which set three key principles:

- The creation of a memorable and satisfying environment for teaching, learning, and socialising.
- Enhancement of the public image of MIC while creating a system of access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians that is safe, efficient, and welcoming.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the parkland character of the site, while making the optimum provision possible for car parking, consistent with the encouragement of alternative strategies to minimise demand.

The masterplan described the role of internal routes (*An tsli*) forming east-west linkages connecting facilities such as the Chapel and teaching faculties. Routes were envisaged to vary in character and scale with social and informal, programmable space enabling 'random encounters'. The TARA Building was subsequently developed on the axis of the Lourdes Corridor seeking to deliver a 'way' connecting to the main entrance colonnade. Improved landscape design proposals could now realise this strategy, which is currently part-complete.

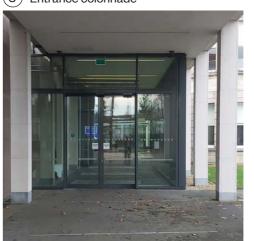
A series of new landscape 'ways' will develop and more fully realise the *An tsli* narrative across the campus. The 'ways' can deliver improved movement routes and corridors of distinct character - whilst also addressing issues of sustainability, inclusive design, and celebrating heritage. The already successful pedestrian connection to John Henry Newman Campus is a high-quality example with a shared-surface treatment that could extend as a new representation of an arrival doormat at the Foundation Building and main entrance colonnade.

The 2000 masterplan principles of creating memorable landscape spaces whilst safeguarding the parkland character at the heart of the site resonate with the emerging landscape vision and are progressed within the following strategic vision pages.

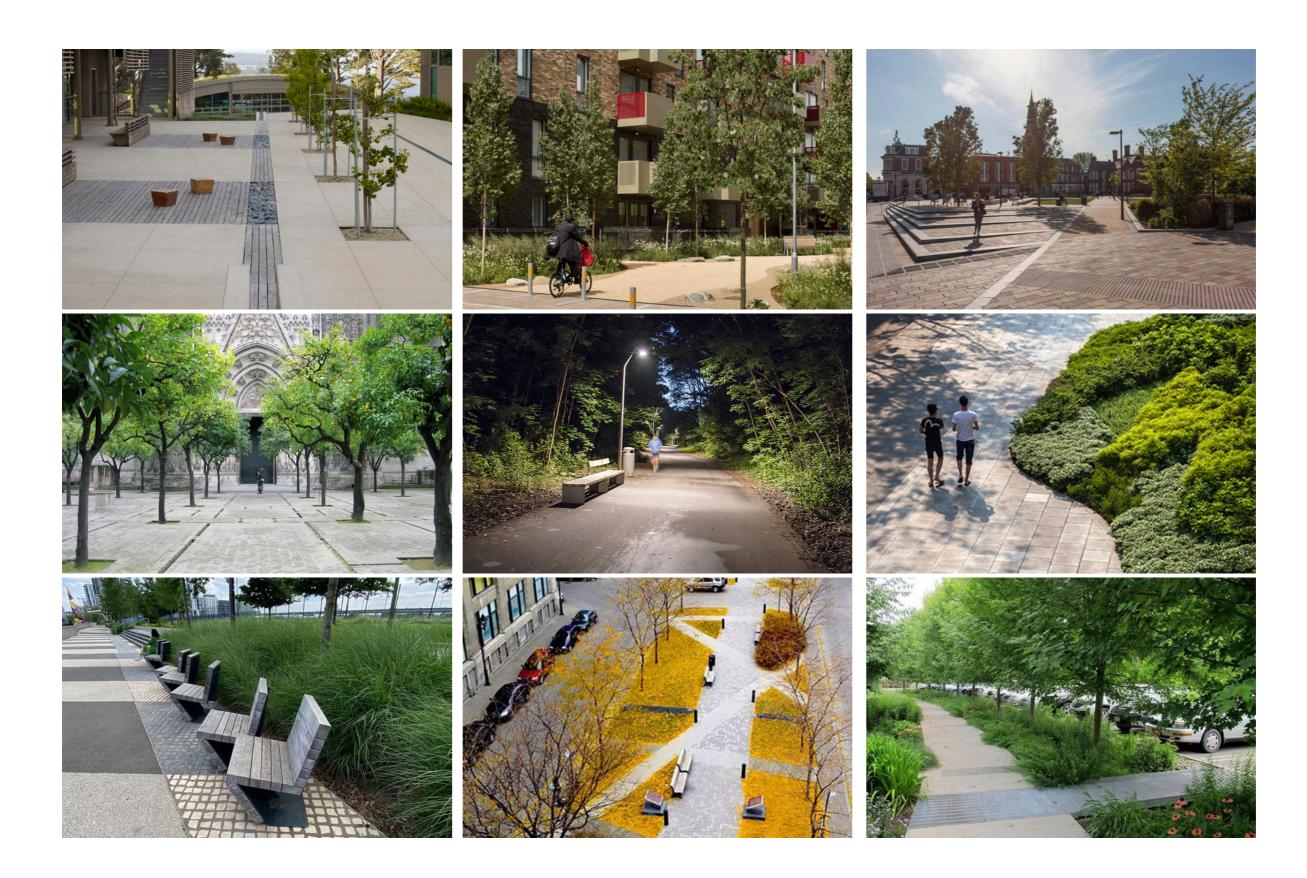












Landscape Concept

The objectives of the landscape concept are:

- To improve and enhance the relationship between the different parts of the existing Campus, putting pedestrian (and cycle) movement at the heart of the new layout.
- Introducing new north-south pedestrian routes linking to the Ashbourne Avenue 'satellite sites'.
- Preserving historic landscape assets and reinforcing Campus identity, appropriately extending the 'breathing space' around Summerville House and the Foundation Building.
- Celebrating existing landscape features, protecting mature trees and parkland character, introducing new canopy cover with a greater diversity and climate change resilience.
- Isolating service and emergency access along the strategic southern corridor.
- Putting pedestrian and cycle access first ensuring vehicular routes are appropriate but do not detract from the Campus public realm.
- Realising the objective of 'Greening the Campus' - creating a diversely planted setting which responds to maintenance budgets and skill-sets whilst addressing sustainable design features such as plants for pollinators, sustainable urban drainage, etc.
- Exploiting every inch of external space for the benefit of Campus life and healthy functioning with potential to engage student / teaching population with new outdoor functions. New potential outdoor 'social hub' to replace sunken car park west of TARA Building as a new piece of public realm space, uniting parkland, TARA, and Summerville House.



Reinforcing the College Identity

- Strengthening relationships between different campus character areas using enhanced landscape design.
- Preserving and protecting the historic landscape setting, celebrating existing features, protecting mature trees and the established parkland character.
- Celebrating historic buildings and improving their settings - taking influence from the high-quality landscape design treatment at John Henry Newman Campus and drawing this approach through to the Foundation Building (while also ensuring adequate parking quantum and ease).
- Creating a new 'hub' to the west of the campus drawing out the parkland heart to create an arrival / social space that celebrates Summerville House and relocates the sunken car park which negatively impacts the existing layout.
- Creating a new coherent approach to landscape materiality and quality across the Campus, ensuring ease of management and maintenance while defining key character areas. Retaining existing high-quality signage features.



Landscape Concept

Navigating the Campus

- A clear hierarchy of routes through the campus with pedestrian and cycle priority over vehicles conveyed through design and material selection.
- Rationalisation of car parking to reduce dominance while maintaining required number of spaces by seeking parking along Southern boundary, as shown in 2022-2042 Masterplan.
- Main pedestrian spine connects the campus in an east-west direction while new north-south routes increase convenience and permeability within the Campus.
- A shared surface 'service route' shown in orange with permeability to South Circular Road with revised arrangements for park and ride facility. The southern route collects requirements for deliveries and refuse collection, taking these vehicles away from the Foundation Building entrance off South Circular Road.
- A new way-finding strategy that uses hard-landscape materials, lighting, street furniture, and planting to convey routes.
- · Review of existing gateways which could be opened or removed to improve clarity and permeability.

Cycle Parking

Access Routes*

Site boundary

Routes*



^{*}subject to further analysis of existing routes

Improved Entrances

Main Pedestrian Spine

Shared Surface Routes

New buildings with active frontages strengthening

the main vehicular gateway

Shared Surface Junctions

Cycle Route

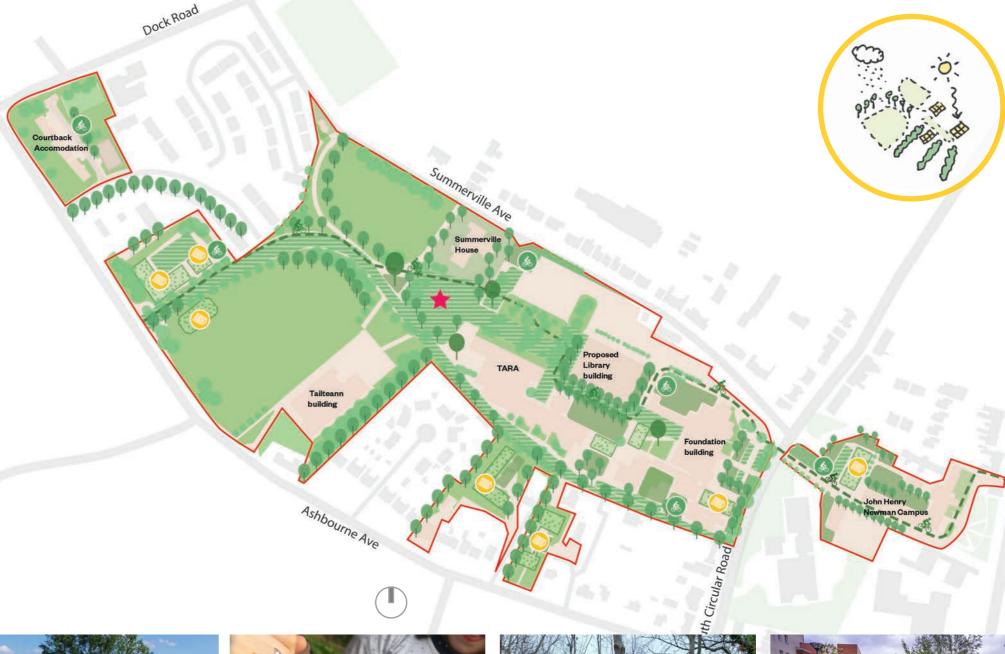
Car Parking

Secondary Pedestrian Routes

KEY



- Targeting aims stated within the MIC Climate Action Roadmap 2023 combining macro aims (encouraging sustainable transport) and micro details (such as the segregation of waste for bins in the landscape).
- Reducing impermeable surfaces across the Campus through strategic removal of impermeable surfaces in favour of planted sustainable drainage interventions.
- Promoting active travel with increased cycle parking in convenient, well over-looked locations and cycle routes along generous, uncluttered spaces.
- Seeking opportunities for renewable energy such as PVs on flat roof areas and solar-powered lighting.
- Targeting opportunities for rainwater harvesting within new buildings and combining water resources to promote re-use of water for maintenance and plant irrigation.
- Reducing the impact of climate change through the introduction of large-canopy species with diverse benefits such as cooling and wildlife enhancement.
- Considering sustainability when selecting materials, regarding sourcing and durability.
- Adopting a wildlife-friendly approach to lighting design with motion-sensors and down-ward directional units.
- Engaging the Campus community to design landscape spaces which reflect demand and need.



KEY

Permeable Hard Surfaces

Permeable Green Spaces

Green Roofs

Impermeable Surfaces

Proposed Trees

— Cycle Route

S Cycle Parking

Solar Panels

Site Boundary



Low-intensity, low-weight options for exploiting Connecting sextensive flat roof areas to create new types of habitat and learning



Connecting syllabus topics with outdoor field study



Woodland management to promote biodiversity with great natural place-making qualities

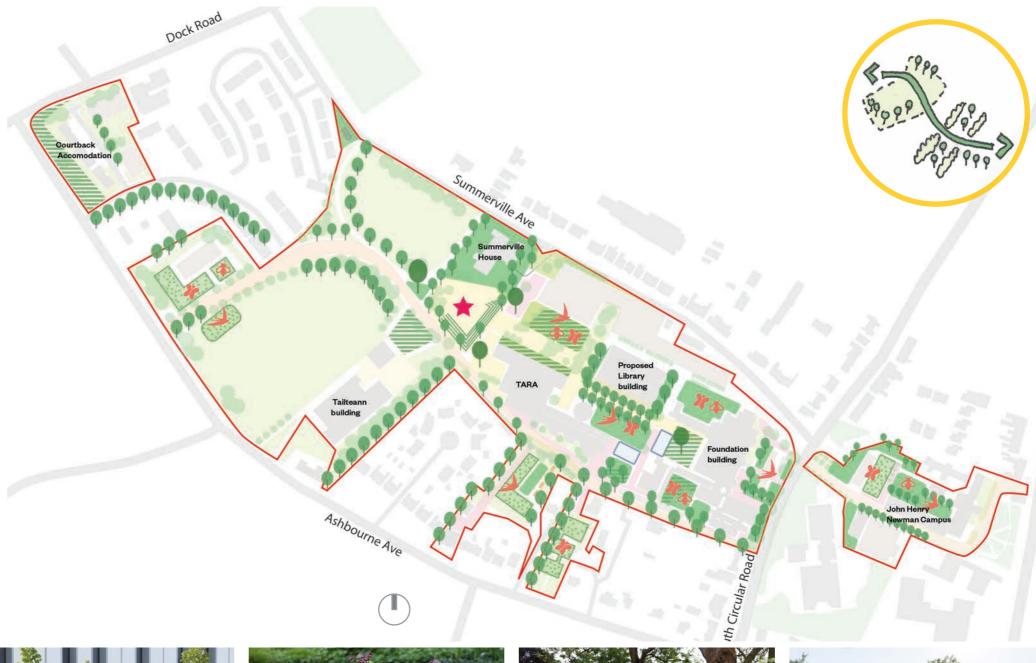


Cycle routes delineated by sustainable urban drainage features with biodiverse planting

Landscape Concept

Greening the Campus

- Realising one of the key themes from the MIC Climate Action Roadmap 2023.
- Improving the ecological and biodiversity value of the site through a range of interventions that span from 'gold' standard planting in key celebratory areas to changing management approaches to achieve quick and easy wins.
- Reviewing scope for existing flat roof areas to have habitat features retro-fitted. Delivering more spaces for wildlife alongside habitat connectivity across parts of the Campus with extensive built form
- Exploiting run-off from existing, extensive hardsurface areas currently served by intensive underground drainage infrastructure. Using planted attenuation features to frame routes, soften parking and reinforce new place-making qualities.
- Integrating a new planting strategy across the Campus with a hierarchy from trees down to seasonal bulbs. Palettes to include Irish natives alongside climate-change resilient species with planting devised to consider pollinators, nightscented climbers, edibles and seasonal interest during the academic calendar.
- Placing habitat structures in subtle or overt locations coordinated with lighting and architectural proposals—insect hotels, bird and bat boxes, log piles and hibernacula.



KEY



Proposed Green Spaces

Green Roofs

Proposed Trees

Site Boundary

Enhanced Biodiversity

New tree planting with diverse and resilient species



Moments of high-value, intensive planting to mark and celebrate key spaces and routes



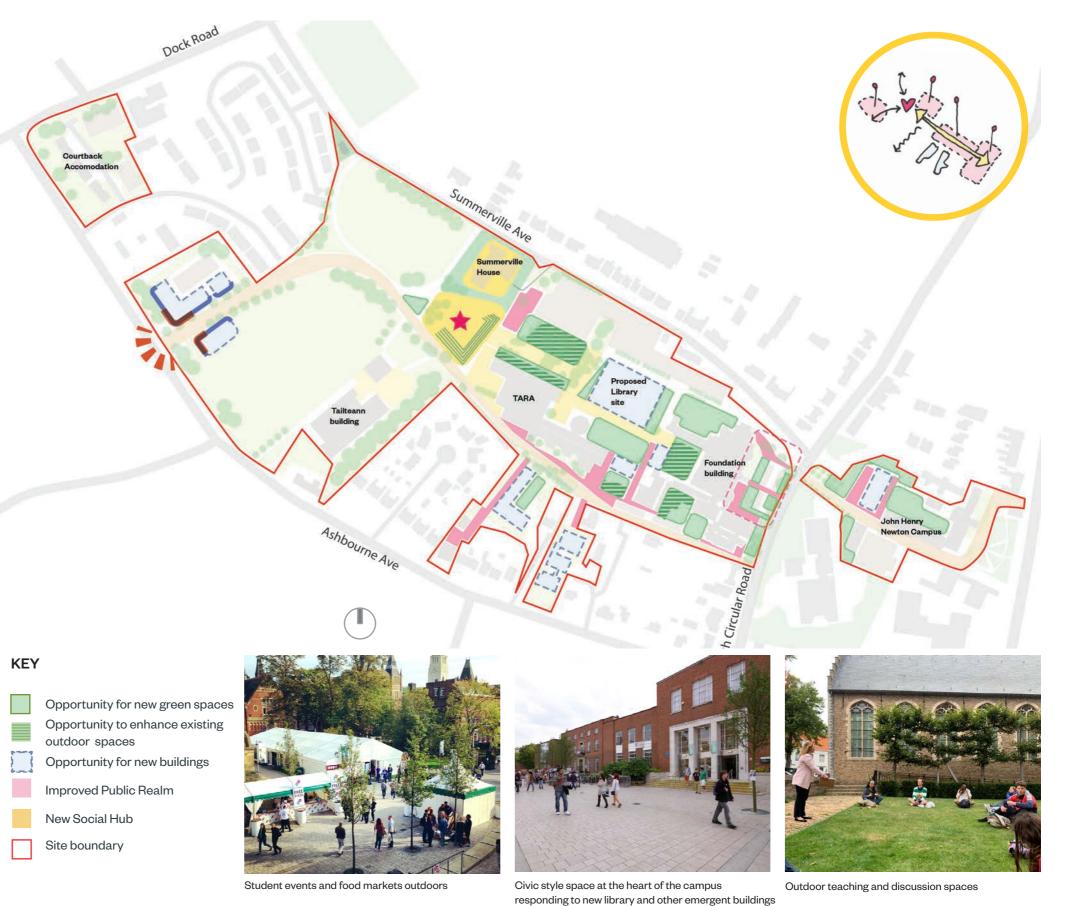
Changing management priorities to allow space for nature whilst ensuring safe routes and spaces



Connecting Campus life with the natural environment with benefits for health and wellbeing

Exploring New Opportunities

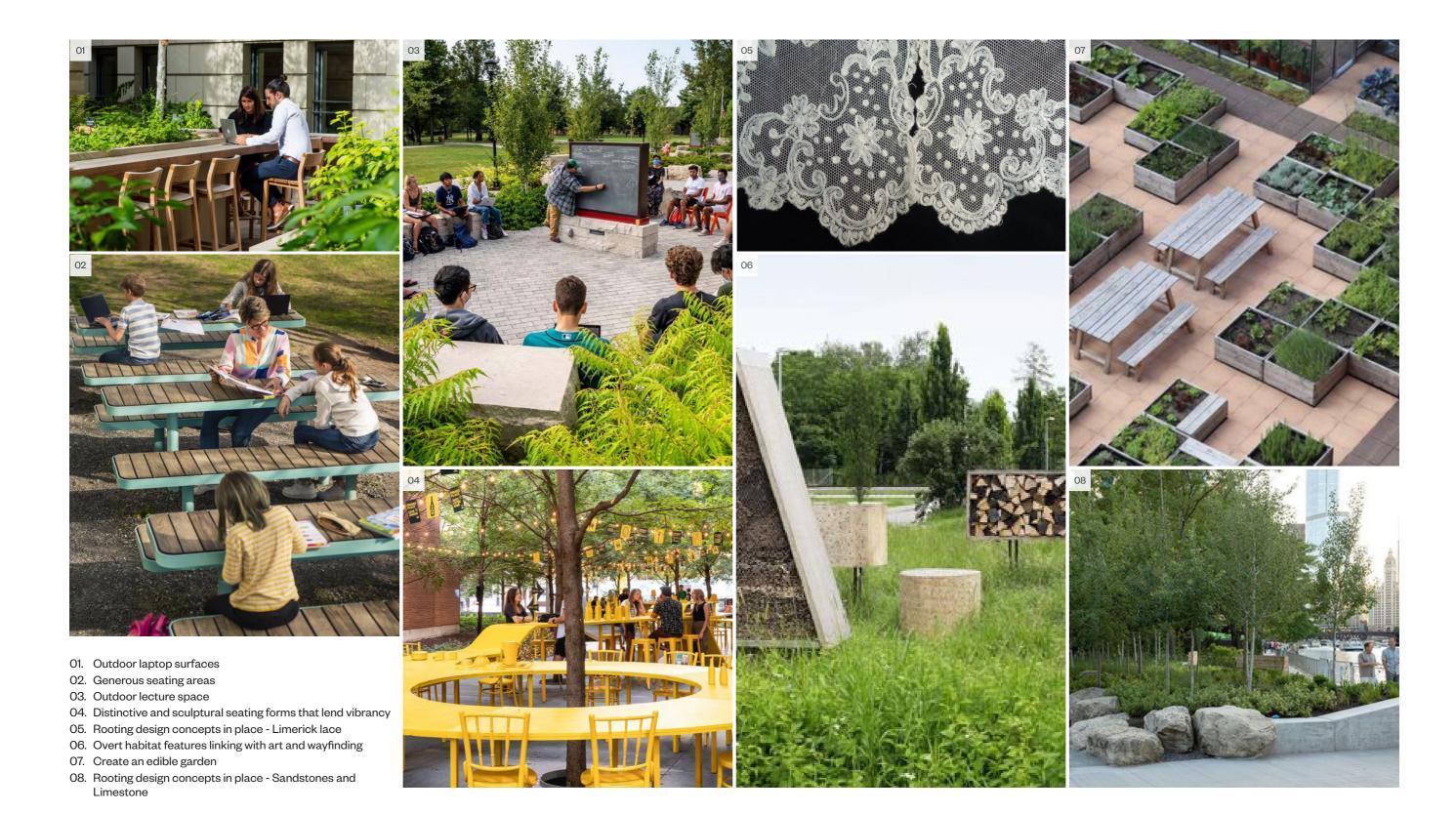
- The endurance of the College is significantly driven by the quality of teaching and building facilities within the Campus. The 2022-2042 Masterplan identified potential development sites within the Campus and the ambition is to ensure external spaces can be promoted so that they complement, support and augment teaching resources to their full potential.
- Spending time outdoors has been proven to improve physical and mental health and well-being; a new network of high quality landscape spaces will encourage students and staff to engage outdoors between lectures, creating a vibrant and engaging public realm.
- New building forms will influence pedestrian movement and aid permeability with new routes improving north-south flow. The two satellite sites towards Ashbourne Avenue will usefully cluster maintenance/refuse management while adding natural surveillance along an improved southern perimeter route, currently afforded little overlooking.
- There is opportunity within the Courtbrack
 Accommodation site for the redevelopment of the
 parking area and redundant tennis court. It is critical
 that these developments prioritise pedestrian
 movement and present active frontages onto the
 arrival route.
- Short term improvements and meanwhile use could be considered alongside a phased approach to delivery. Technology within public realm spaces will also promote use such as wireless charging and Wi-Fi provision, alongside improvements to seating, planting and programming of events in outdoor spaces.

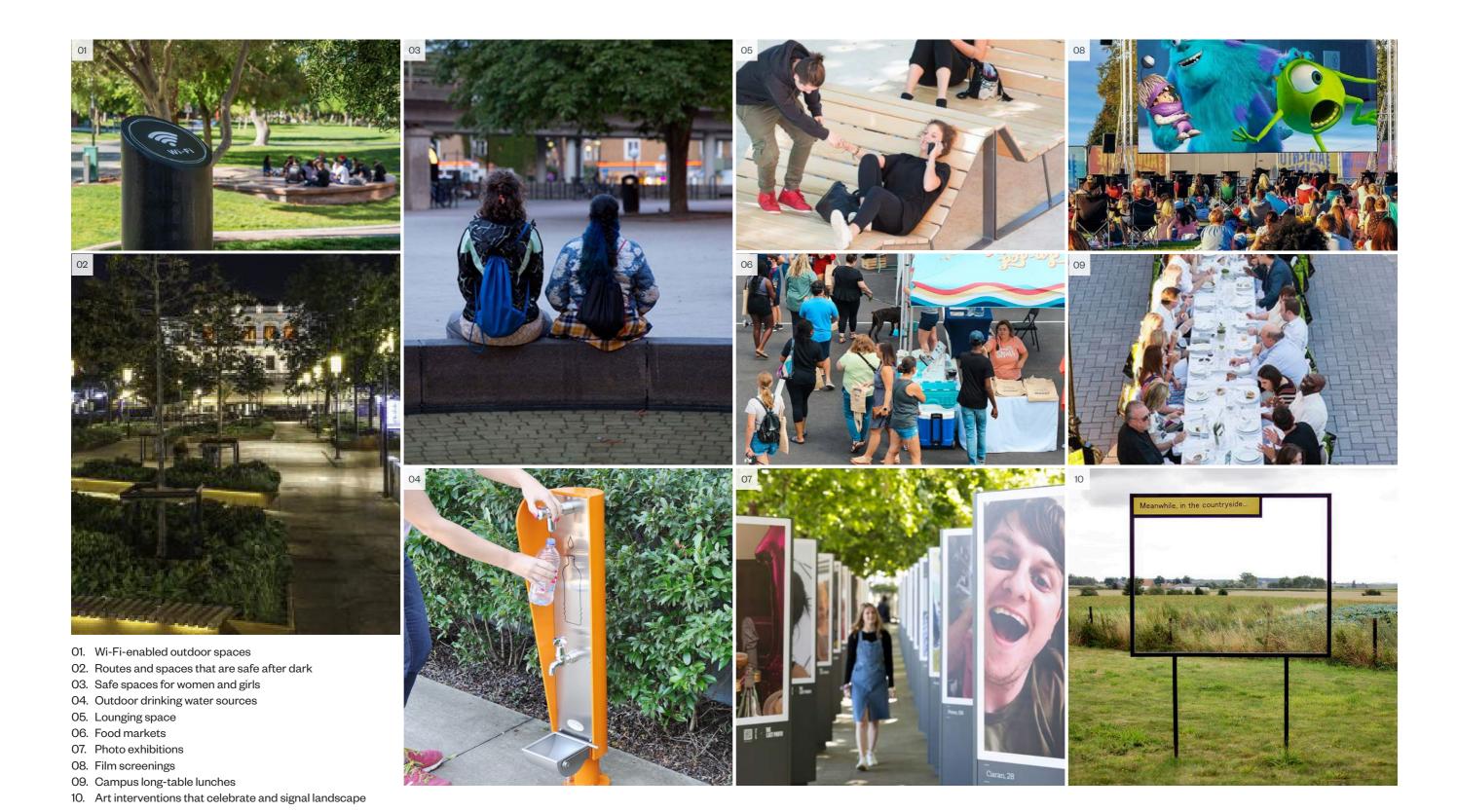




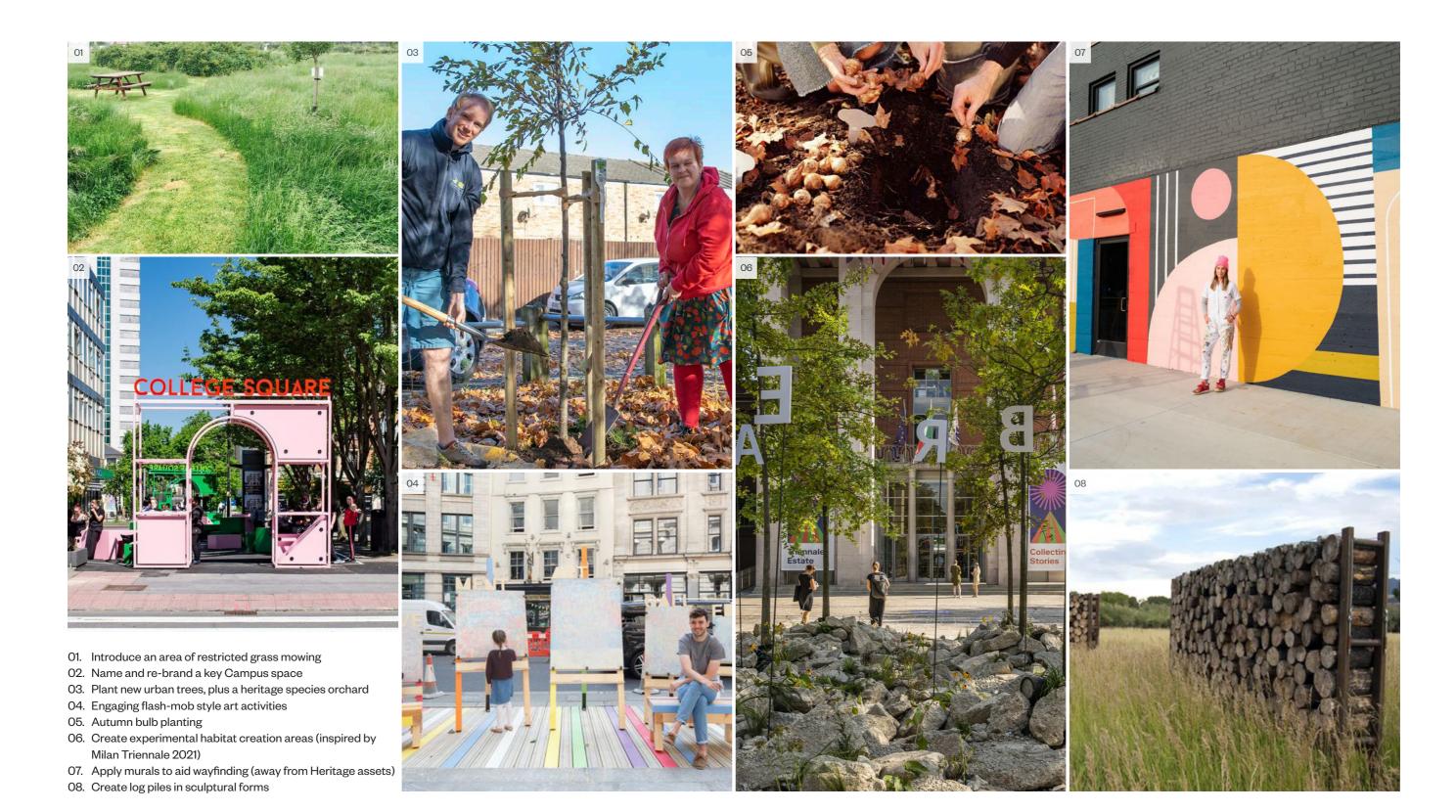
Connecting with people

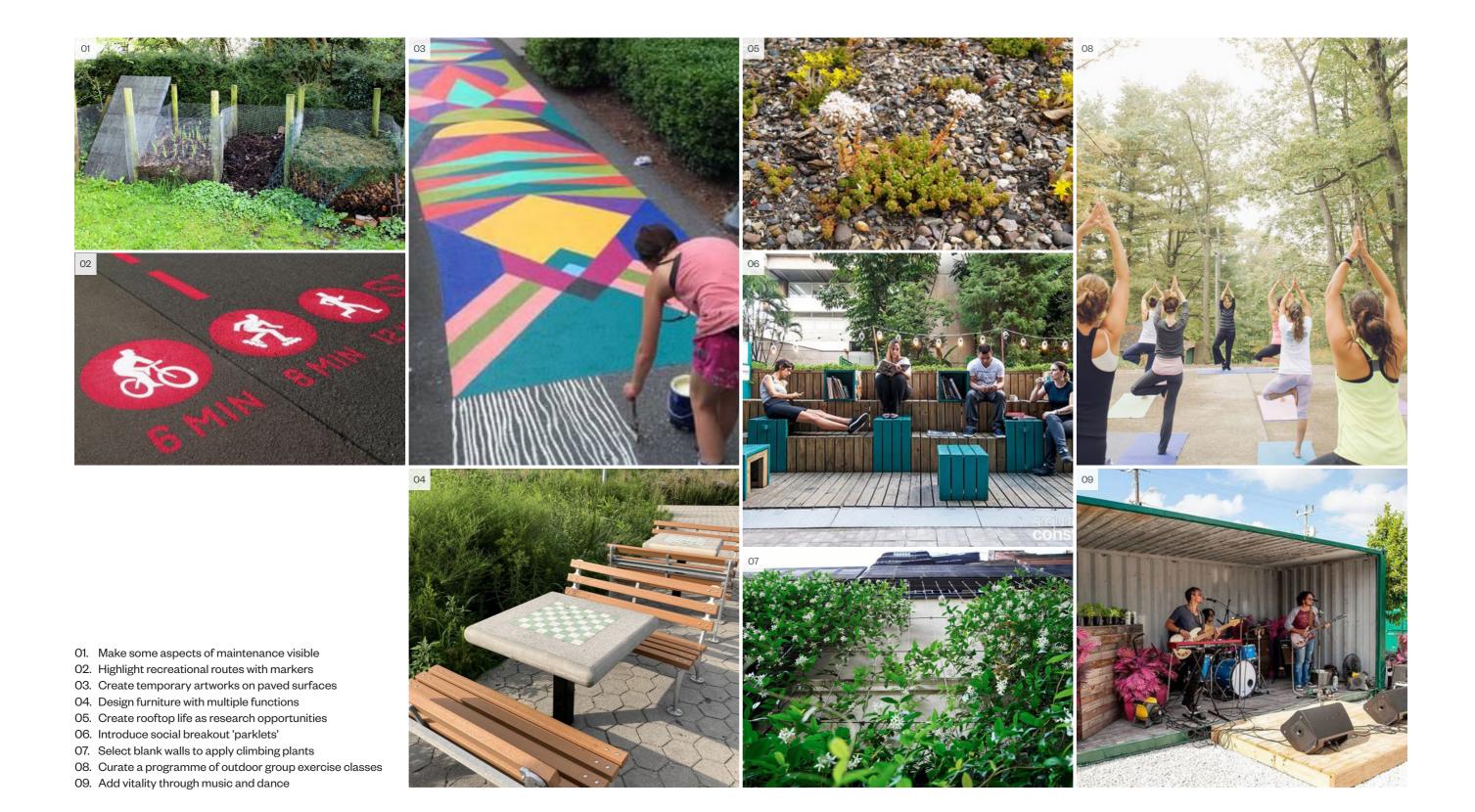
Socially Vibrant Campus Space





Campus 'Quick Wins'







Landscape Masterplan



Landscape Masterplan

The sketch bird's-eye view depicts a new series of spaces across the Campus conceived within the landscape masterplan. The new 'ways' form routes and spaces of distinct character, responding to the movement and clusters of



Sketch bird's-eye aerial to show emerging landscape masterplan 'vision' for the Campus (NTS) Proposed buildings shown indicatively in blue

67 Mary Immaculate College Limerick - Landscape Masterplan Report (DRAFT issue 14.02.24)

Campus - Eastern Spaces

The landscape-led quality of the Campus should be evident from the point of arrival with the high-quality design and palette of materials implemented at the John Henry Newman Campus extended towards the heritage setting of the Foundation Building.

A new series of key spaces emerges to the east of the Campus which is described as follows:

Foundation Way:

- Creating a pedestrian-friendly arrival space with essential parking (for key staff, visitors and inclusive parking bays)
- A new planted setting for the Foundation Building
- Improved wayfinding and sense of arrival at the main entrance
- Tree planting with large-species canopy cover and seasonal value
- Sustainable drainage interventions

Chapel Way:

- A new southern through-route which 'collects' back of house servicing and access while respecting new north-south pedestrian desire lines and cycle route to South Circular
- A planted character, integrating parking along the southern boundary
- Creation of new amenity spaces enhancing the setting of the Chapel building
- Pedestrian and cycle focussed design with a shared-surface, slow speed environment

Library Way:

- A key corridor for pedestrian movement, generous in scale and width to prevent conflict with cyclists arriving at the heart of the Campus
- Strong linking with new Quad improvements creating an enhanced front 'doormat' to Chapel with high quality trees, planting and active uses
- Strong tree-lined paths aiding wayfinding and legibility with access for all
- · Formal and informal meeting spaces with opportunities for socialising and structured teaching
- 01. Shared-surface route to 'Chapel Way'
- 02. Parking on site fringe softened by trees and planting
- 03. Revealing new active landscape spaces within the setting of 06. Library Way a corridor for movement offering the Chapel
- 04. Creation of new planted public realm setting to the historic Foundation building
- 05. Pavilion style building completing the Quad with a permeable ground level
- spaces for socialising, outdoor learning and teaching



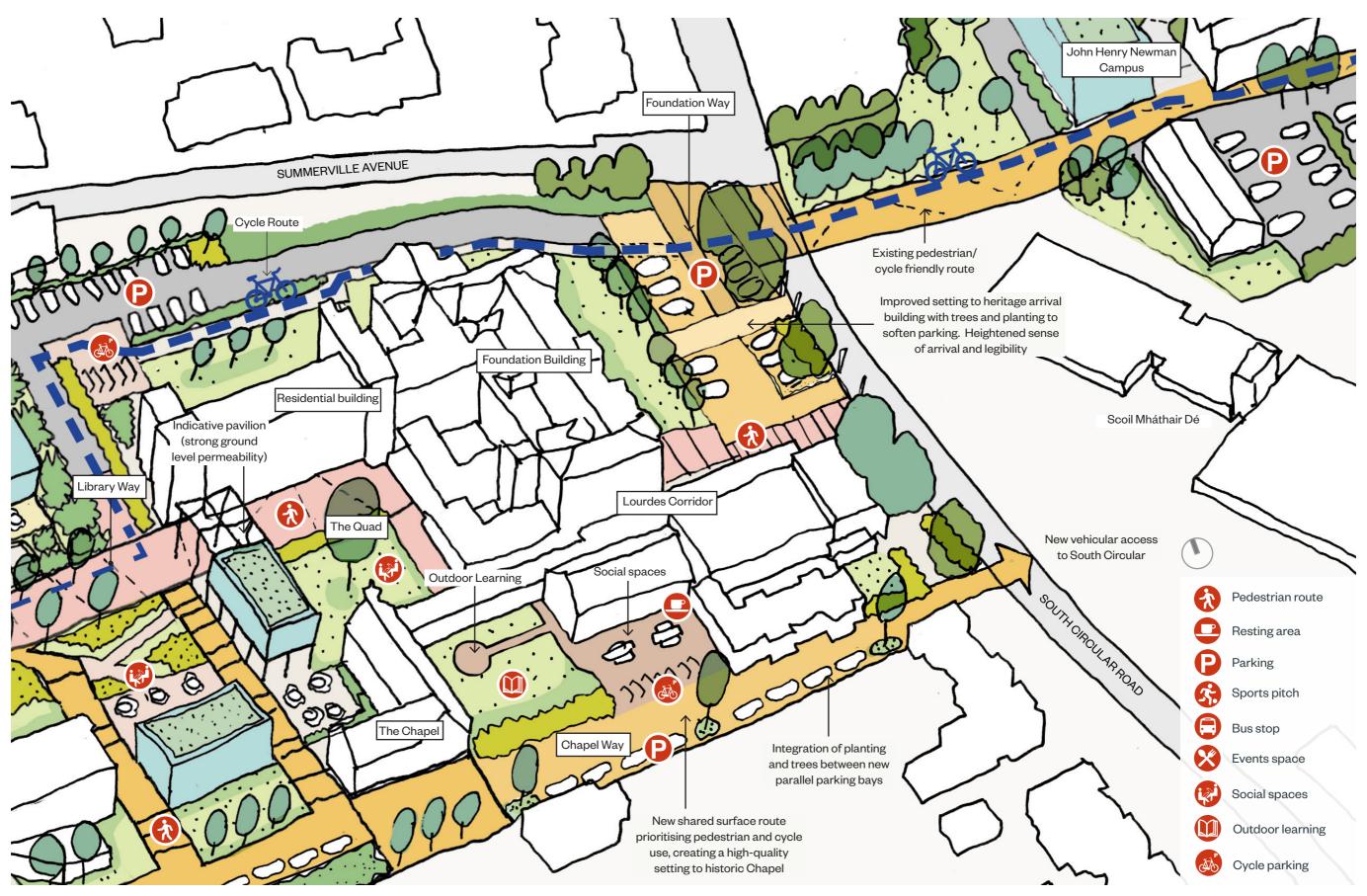












Sketch bird's-eye aerial view to show key spaces to east of Campus (NTS) Proposed buildings shown in blue

Campus - Central Spaces

The existing landscape parkland character at the heart of the Campus is to be celebrated and reinforced. The proposed Library Way will run as a thread through the centre of the Campus, connecting heritage built assets with historic landscape spaces to the west.

New landscape spaces to the centre of the Campus include:

Parkland Way:

- Preserving the current immersive quality and feeling of connection with the natural environment
- Inclusive access routes with firm surfaces of generous width and regular seating
- · Low level lighting to avoid wildlife disturbance
- New tree planting to reinforce character while preserving sight-lines and sense of safety
- Introduction of increased biodiversity with climate change resilient species

Summerville Square:

- A wholly new public realm space with strong views facing west towards historic landscape Campus spaces
- Flexible use allowing for programmed events, day-to-day use and 'green room' style use for theatre and sporting events
- Integration of permeable paving and sustainable urban drainage interventions to ensure a planted framework for the space
- Strong visual connection with historic Summerville House with improved and extended landscape setting

Tara Way:

- Re-using existing public realm space with key interventions to include additional planting, trees and associated sustainable urban drainage features
- The space 'collects' pedestrian movement arriving via the Tailteann Building and directs them into the heart of the Campus via Parkland Way / Library Way
- Strong connection with new Summerville Square
- O1. Space for socialising and sitting outdoors, set amongst
- 02. Wide generous movement routes framed with trees
- O3. New clusters of tree planting to extend and enhance parkland tree canopy cover
- 04. Improved planted setting for Summerville House
- 05. Gant-style seating / steps for gathering in west-facing location
- 06. Library Way primarily a paved space with generous sitting and gathering spaces



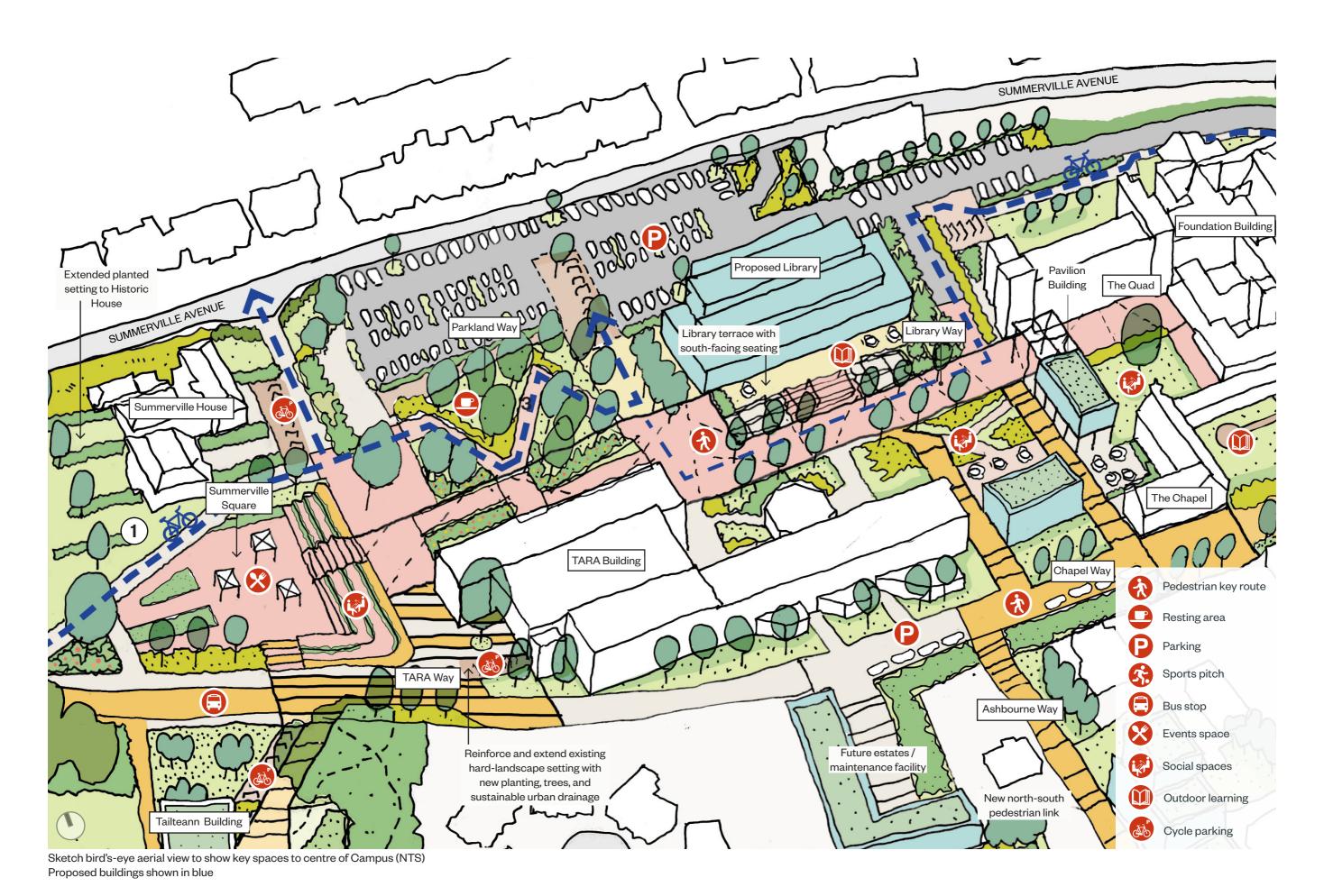












Campus - Southern Spaces

The existing landscape parkland character at the heart of the Campus is to be celebrated and reinforced. The proposed Library Way will run as a thread through the centre of the Campus connecting heritage built assets with historic landscape spaces to the west.

New landscape spaces to the centre of the Campus include:

Tailteann Plaza:

- Preserving the existing hardscape with new planted edges to reduce impermeability and aid wayfinding
- Creating new active spaces with seating and strong surveillance from adjacent landscape spaces

Woodland Way:

- Creating improved access through alternative management techniques, increasing biodiversity
- Introduction of teaching and social spaces set within a natural habitat
- Improved wayfinding and access control measures

Ashbourne Way:

- A new north-south desire line created with new accommodation introduced along Ashbourne Avenue
- Tree-lined pedestrian route with lighting and strong legibility while preserving a domestic character
- Connecting into Chapel Way shared surface, allowing inclusive access into the heart of the Campus

- O1. New insertions of soft landscape to Tailteann Plaza
- O2. Opportunity to actively manage woodland space to create safe routes and teaching spaces
- O3. Exploiting landform to integrate sustainable urban drainage interventions along Ashbourne Way
- 04. Spaces designed to offer rest and relaxation as well as playful qualities
- 05. Inclusive access routes for all
- 06. Tree lines with wayfinding qualities incorporating diverse species



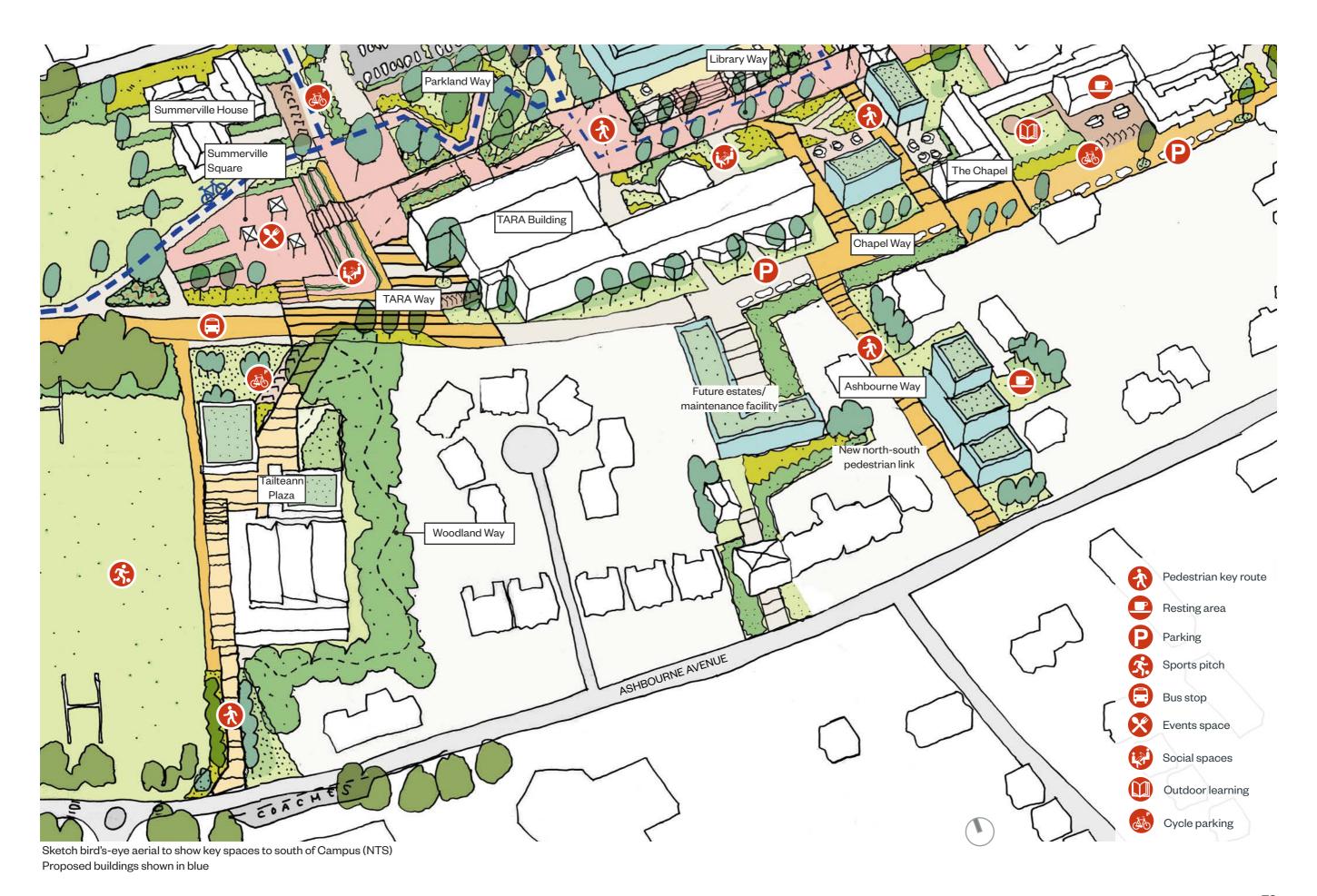












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