Arts Building - Background and Vision

Schools of Media, Art and Design / Music and Performing Arts

- Students' access points
- Visitors' access points
- Students' primary pedestrian route
- Visitors' primary pedestrian route
- Building One - Site Boundary

Campus buildings
1.Building One - Arts Building
2.Powell
3.Maxwell Davies
4.St Gregory's Centre for Music
5.Johnson
6.Coleridge
7.Ramsey
8.Anselm

0 50m

View from the Bakehouse Wall looking South

View of the existing site looking West

Creating outstanding facilities

The Arts Building is intended as the first building realised from the University's Estate Strategy (Building 1). It will house courses run by the School of Media, Art & Design and School of Music & Performing Arts currently located at the Broadstairs campus. It will provide the opportunity for new courses and new collaborations between the two schools. It is ideally located next Maxwell Davies, Powell, Anselm and the St Gregory's Centre for Music, home to the other courses run by the two schools. The specialised facilities within the building will significantly improve the student experience.

The proposed building is sensitive and respectful to the surrounding residential and heritage context and enhances the cultural capital held between the University and the city of Canterbury. It will provide 2615m^2 of contemporary creative arts facilities.

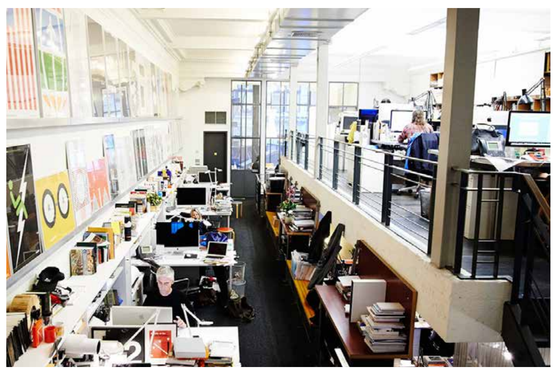
The brief includes:

- High specification computer labs and teaching spaces
- Workshops and studios
- Photography studios and darkrooms
- Live performance, rehearsal, exhibition and teaching space
- Recording studios, mixing suites, practice and edit rooms

There is a significant need to develop the Christ Church estate to allow the continued delivery of outstanding higher education and research, and to safeguard the University's economic and social contribution to the region. The creative industries within the region are growing faster than the economy as a whole and the University is creating courses to respond to the skills needs identified. The University needs to update and modernise its facilities in order to meet the changing demands of students, deliver evolving approaches to teaching and learning and to incorporate new technologies.

Proposed Estate Master Plan Illustrative sketch

Illustrative recording facilities



Illustrative design studios

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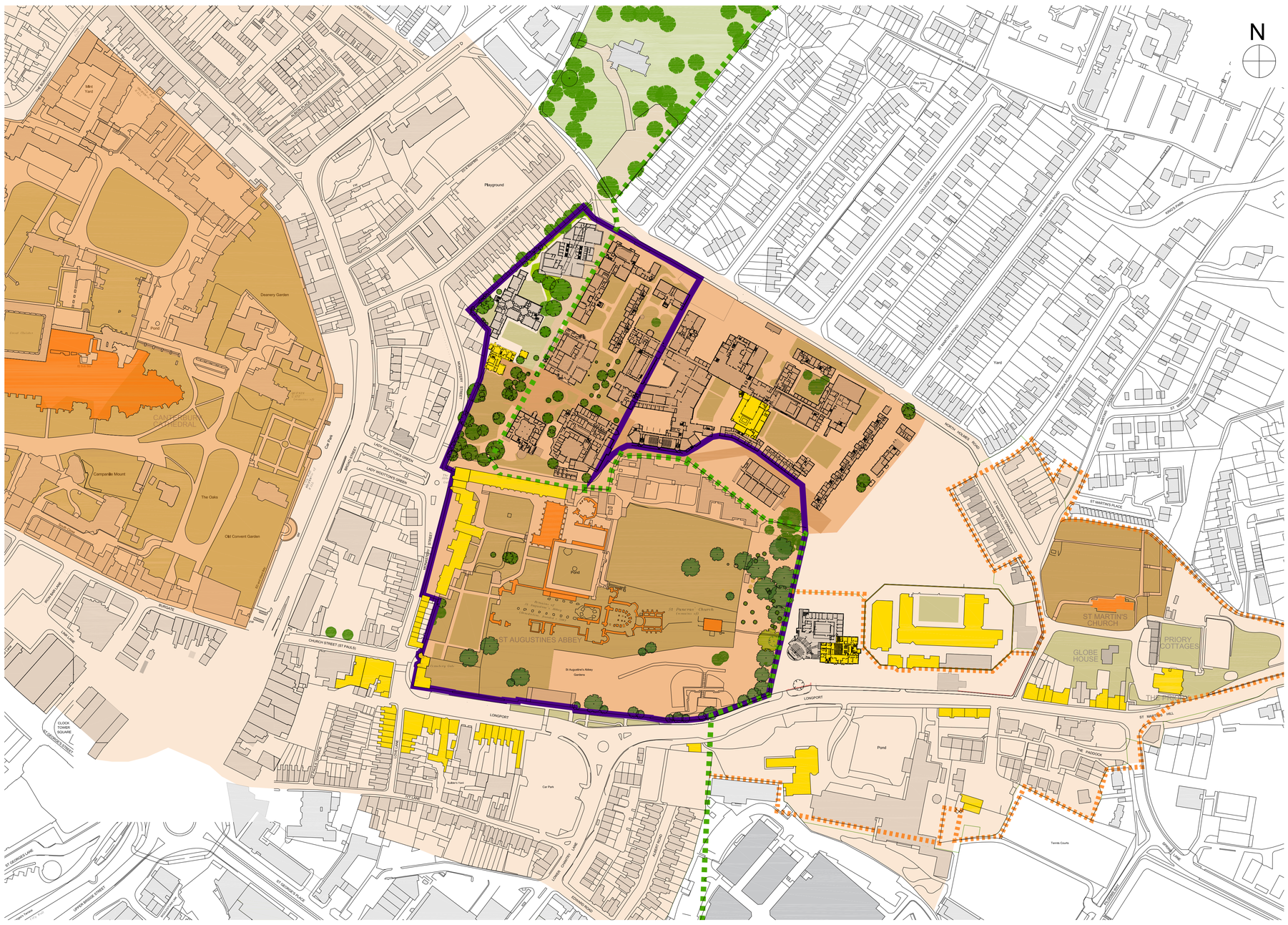
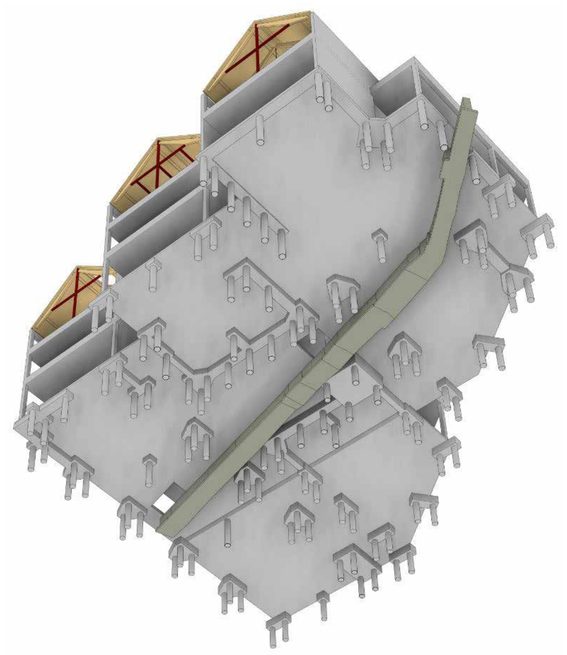
Arts Building - Heritage and Archaeology

Canterbury Christ Church University





Foundation designs that respect the archaeology

Working with the historic context

The Arts Building sits within the buffer zone of the Canterbury World Heritage Site and within the Scheduled Monument of St Augustine's Abbey.

Archaeological remains of special significance lie within the site, some at relatively shallow depth, as attested by a series of archaeological fieldwork projects undertaken within the North Holmes Campus grounds over a period of 33 years. Of particular significance is evidence of Bronze Age settlement, Anglo-Saxon craftworking and occupation associated with the outer precinct of St Augustine's Abbey.

The proposed Arts Building and associated infrastructure have been designed to have as little impact as possible on the remains below the ground. It retains in-situ the footings of the Abbey precinct wall discovered during preliminary investigations, which are celebrated through the building design. The foundation design has been developed to minimise any further disturbance and the programme for any remaining archaeological field work required to permit the development is currently in discussion with Canterbury City Council and Historic England. The University will then submit an application for Scheduled Monument consent.

The Abbey precinct wall exposed and recorded during archaeological evaluation trials

Cross sectional view through the building with the Abbey wall passing underneath

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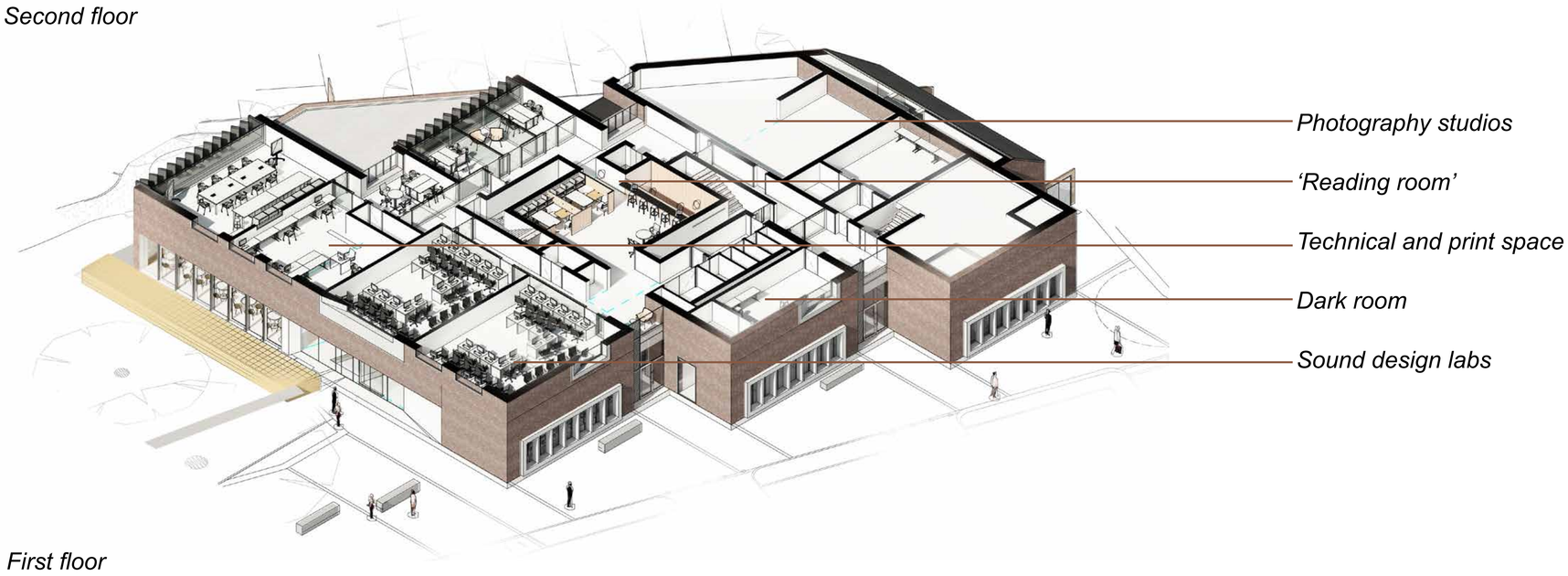
Arts Building - The Proposed Development

Second floor



First floor

Ground floor

Cut-away axonometric views through the ground, first and second floors

The building content

The building will house the specialised facilities that the schools require covering music practice, rehearsal, recording and performance on the ground floor. On the first and second floor studio spaces are provided to house courses in graphic design, web design, multimedia design, digital media, illustration and photography. A focus of all of these courses is digital and thus there are specialised rooms using Apple Mac (MAC) computers for sound design and the digital elements of the art, media and photography courses.

The exhibition and live performance spaces are located at ground floor for easy public access. These spaces will also be used as teaching spaces and areas where peer criticism of student work can be conducted. A café sits next to the entrance with access to a timber deck through the glazed façade which overlooks the Johnson garden.

Stairs are arranged to dynamically bridge the Abbey precinct wall at the upper levels of the building, enveloping open learning hubs at first and second floor. A void at each level looks over the ground floor exhibition space and offers a view to the Abbey precinct wall exposed through glazed panels in the ground floor slab.

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Views directed towards the Cathedral

A top floor workshop space

Open learning space at the top floor

Cut-away view through the central volume

View of the reception and exhibition space

View of the café from the entrance

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Arts Building - Appearance

Axonometric view looking North East

Axonometric view looking South West

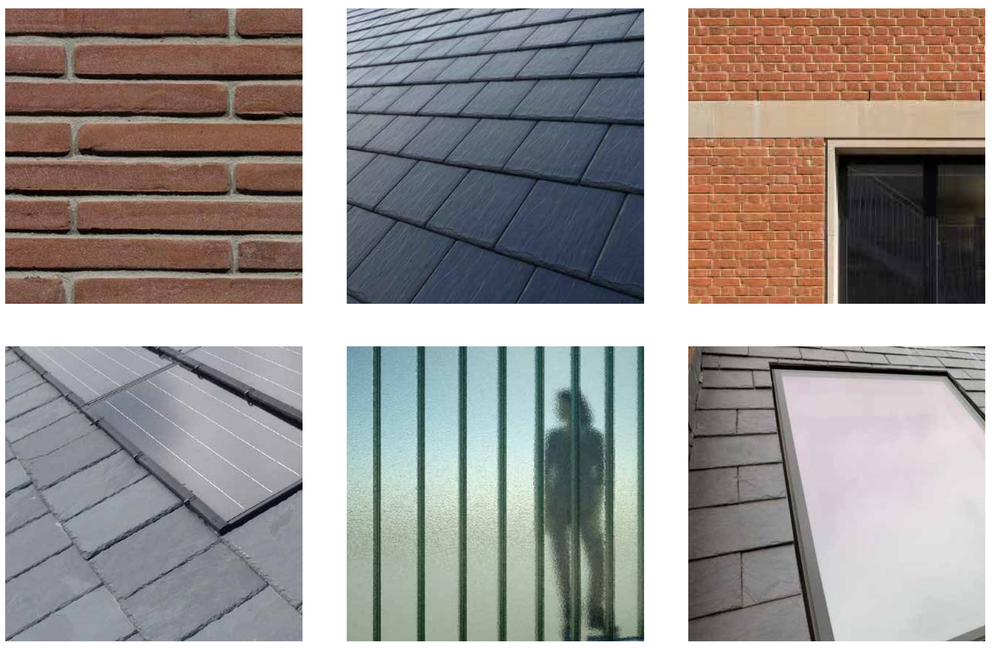
West elevation

Materials palette sympathetic to context

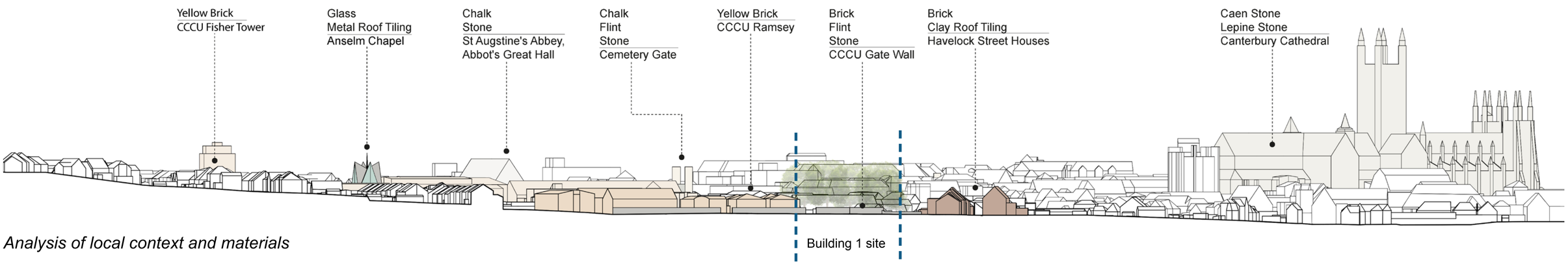
The internal layout and external form of the building are configured to respect their relationship with the neighbouring properties in Havelock Street. The music facilities are arranged on the ground floor in mechanically ventilated enclosed spaces with “room in room” construction with high sound insulation levels. The façade facing Havelock Street uses fins to direct the view from the building towards the Cathedral and to avoid overlooking. The height and set back of the building are being developed to meet the Building Research Establishment guidance on daylighting. The activities within the rooms facing the neighbouring properties are chosen such that they will close down at the end of the teaching day at 7PM. After this time, activity and self-directed study will continue within the centre, eastern side and ground floor of the building.

A review of materials in the surrounding area, illustrated below, identifies a wide variety of colours and textures. The three main volumes proposed are constructed with a red/ brown brick, harmonising with the tone and colour of nearby buildings. Window reveals will be articulated with reconstituted stone. A large picture window on the south façade will announce the entrance to the building from the newly landscaped precinct. More traditional and formal materials are utilised to the east side of the building where it sits within the Abbey precinct; softer, smooth metal and timber detailing to the west facade, representing the outer, less formal area beyond the precinct wall.

Environmentally the building is designed to achieve a BREEAM “Excellent” rating and the University is currently exploring the whole-life cost benefit of exceeding that target. Passive measures of orientation, insulation and natural daylighting have been maximised and integrated photovoltaic solar cells are proposed for the southern roof slopes.



Indicative materials proposed - brickwork, natural slate, reconstituted stone window surrounds, photovoltaic solar cells, obscured cast glass, flush rooflights



Analysis of local context and materials

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Arts Building - Townscape and Views

Illustrative view positions on plan

A sense of place

The design for the proposed Arts Building celebrates its sense of place within the buffer zone of the Canterbury World Heritage Site and the Scheduled Monument of St Augustine's Abbey. Through the design features within the building and external landscaping the building will help illustrate the rich history of the World Heritage Site to students, staff and visitors.

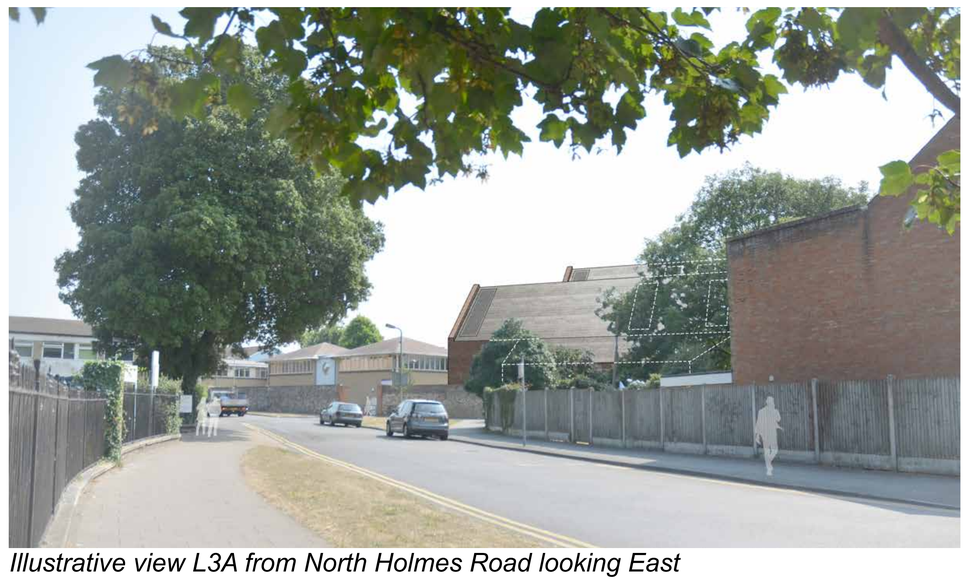
A number of views have been selected to illustrate the new Arts Building in context with its surroundings. Five local views are illustrated opposite. The form of the building along the north south route from Gate 1 create a lively and attractive frontage offering views of the activity within the Arts Building. The roof forms are designed to sit within the context of the surrounding buildings.

East elevation

Sketch view of the main entrance looking North

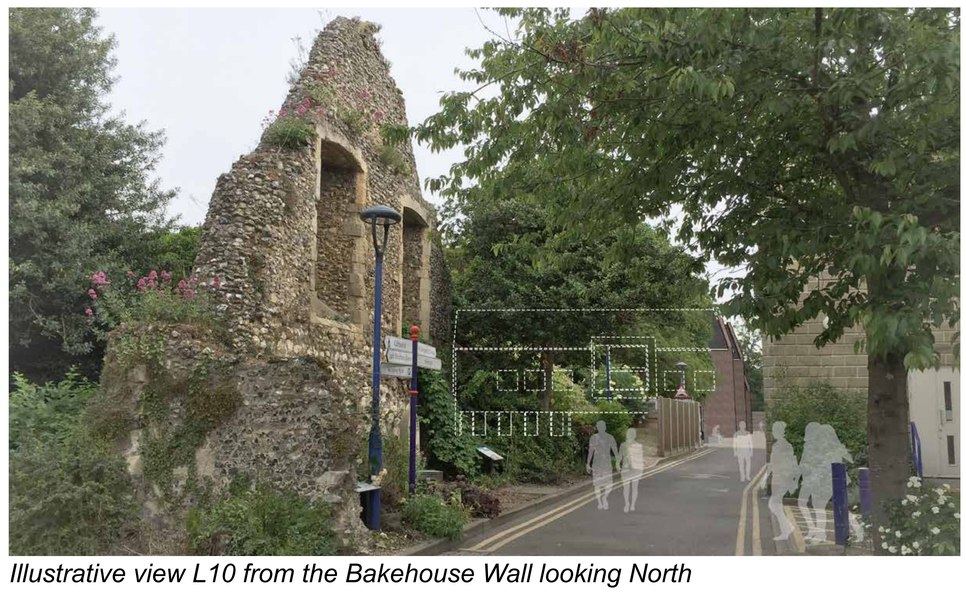
Illustrative view M2 looking North across the St Augustine's Abbey mound

Illustrative view L2 looking South East towards Havelock Street houses



Illustrative view L3A from North Holmes Road looking East

Illustrative view L5 from North Holmes Road looking West



Illustrative view L10 from the Bakehouse Wall looking North

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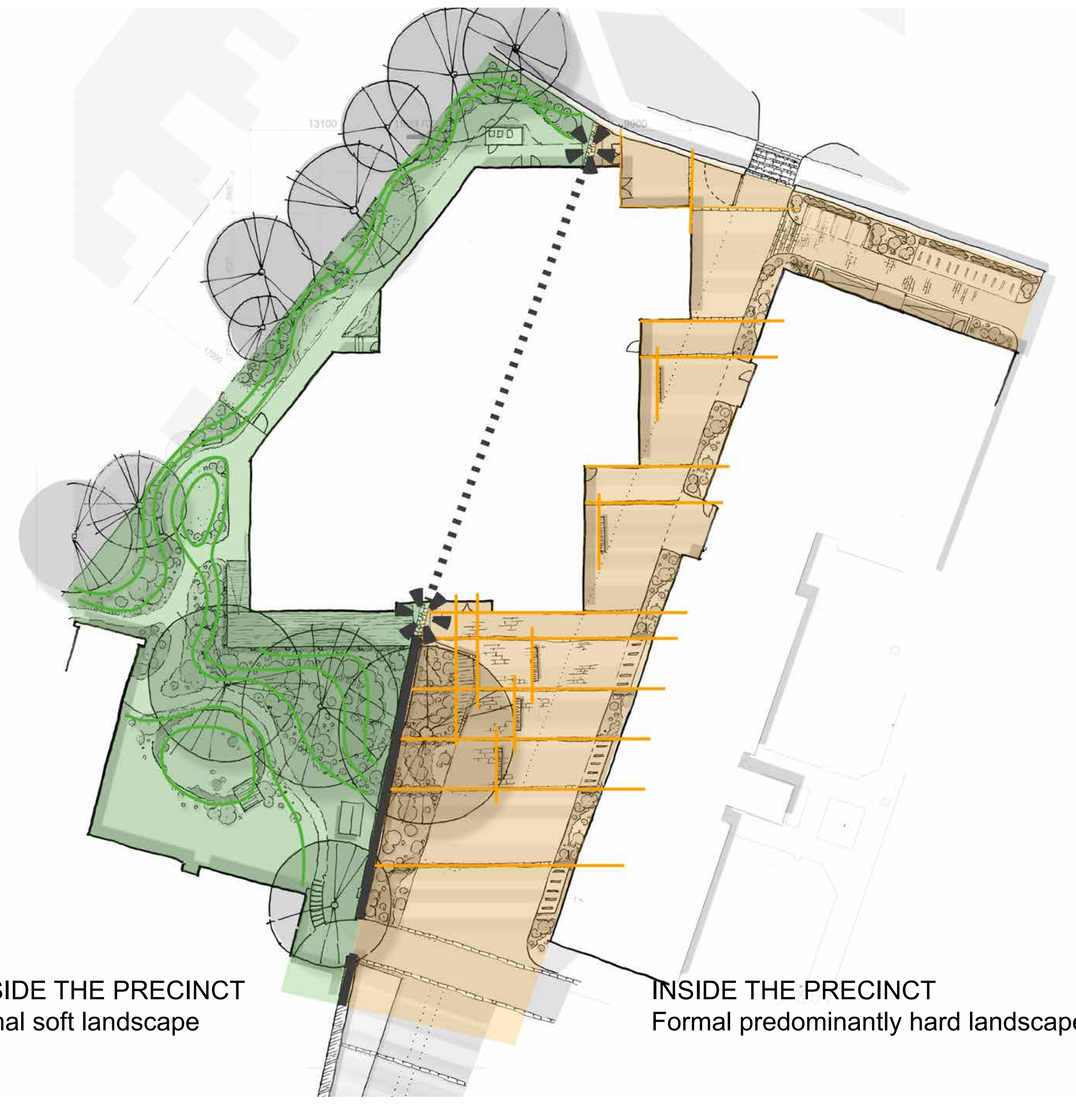
Arts Building - Landscape and Access

Canterbury Christ Church University



OUTSIDE THE PRECINCT
Informal soft landscape

INSIDE THE PRECINCT
Formal predominantly hard landscape

Responding to the Abbey precinct wall

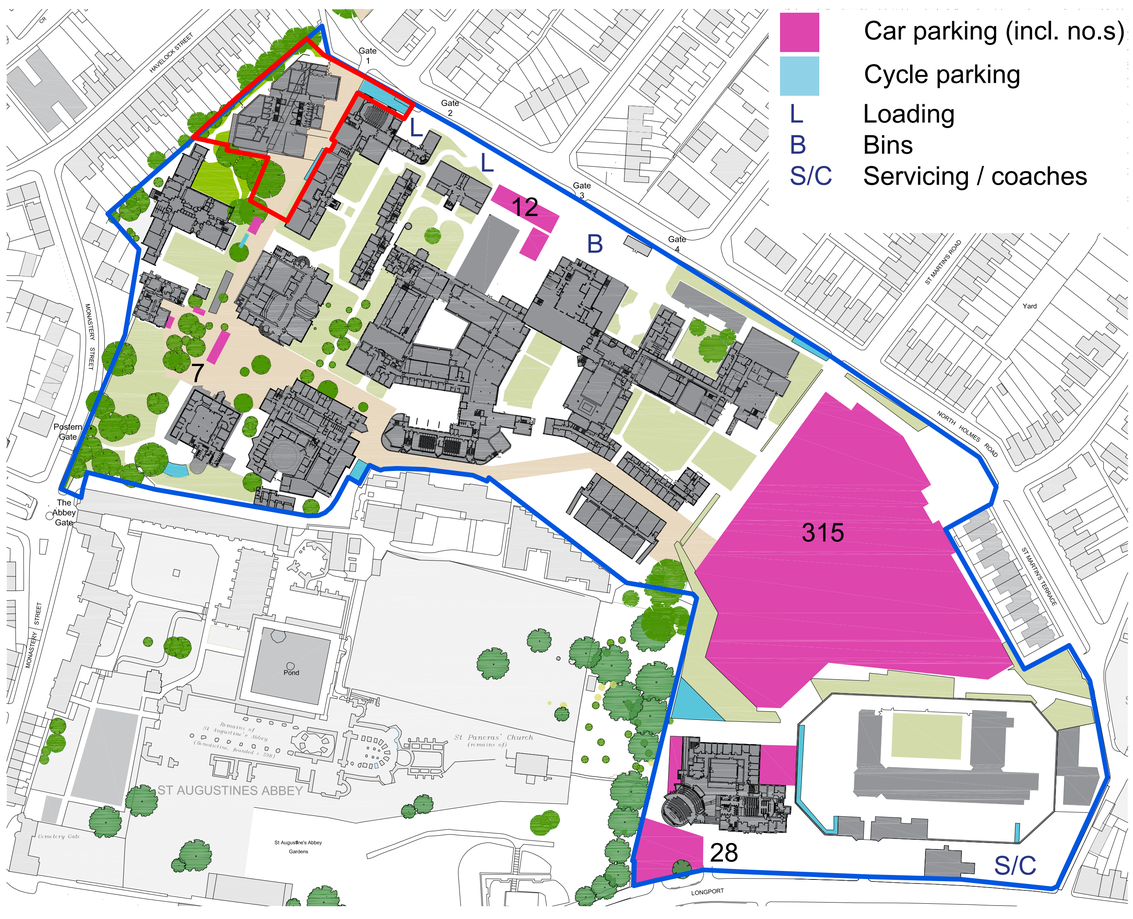
The presence of the Abbey precinct wall is both reflected and celebrated within the building and its surrounding landscape, so that the building provides an interpretation of the site's history to those occupying and using the space. Externally the landscaping is more crisp and detailed within the shared surface to the eastern Abbey side of the wall and softer with more wild planting to the external western side. There are cues to the presence of the wall within a change in the building façade treatment. It is proposed to expose a section of the wall beneath glass within the main reception, reflect it subtly through the floor treatment within the exhibition space and use a varying digital projection to signify its passage through the building.

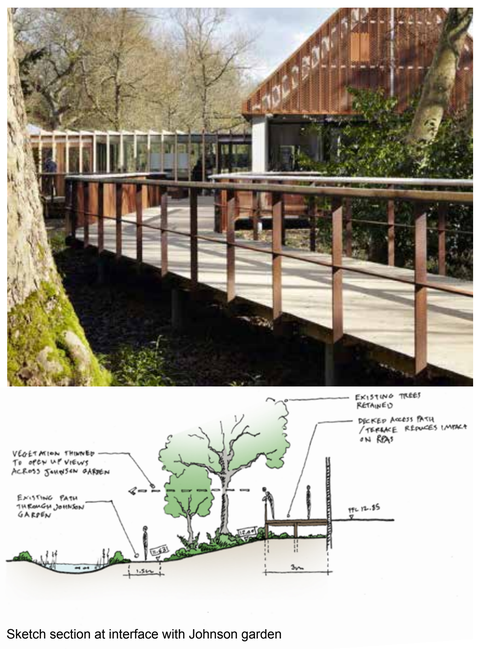
The removal of the 'blue' car park will reduce vehicle movement and allow for a shared surface that prioritises pedestrians and cyclists. The external ground levels will be designed to ensure that all new routes into and around the building are accessible to all users.

Covered cycle parking will be located to the north of the Ramsey building along with a smoking shelter.

Disabled parking bays will be located to the south of the new Arts Building, in the area currently occupied by the gardeners' compound which will be relocated.

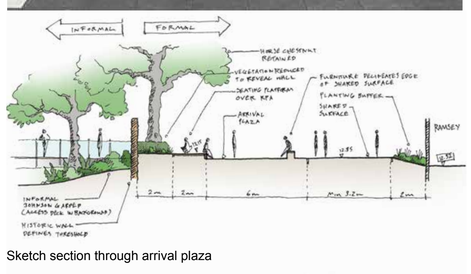
The path between the building and the gardens to the rear of houses in Havelock Street will be normally closed and used only as a means of escape or for access by small maintenance vehicles and platforms. A lay-by is provided for deliveries to the café.



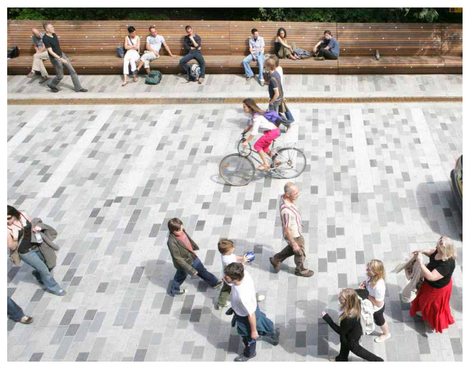


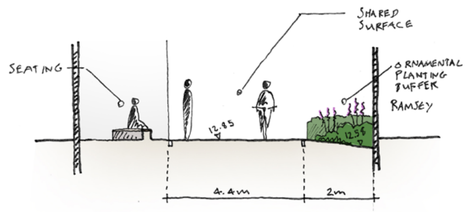
Sketch section at interface with Johnson garden

Sketch section through Havelock Street boundary



Sketch section through arrival plaza

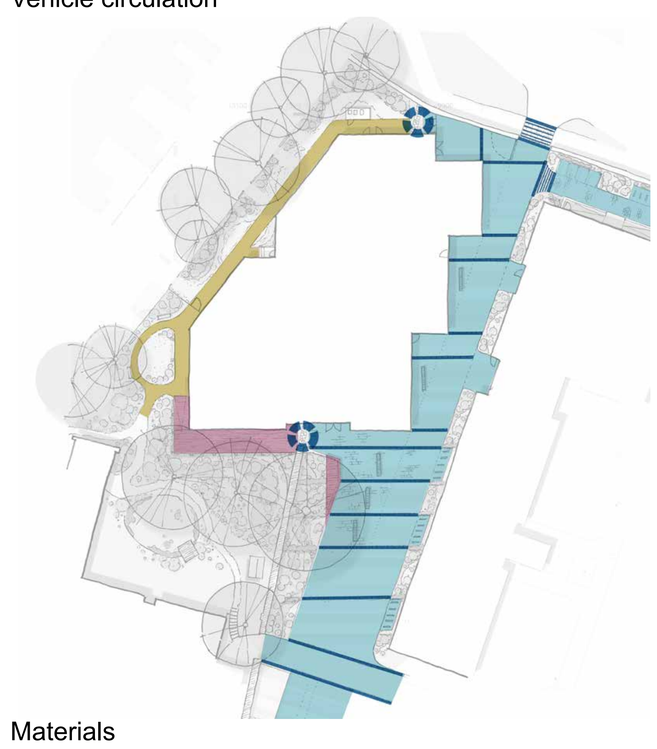




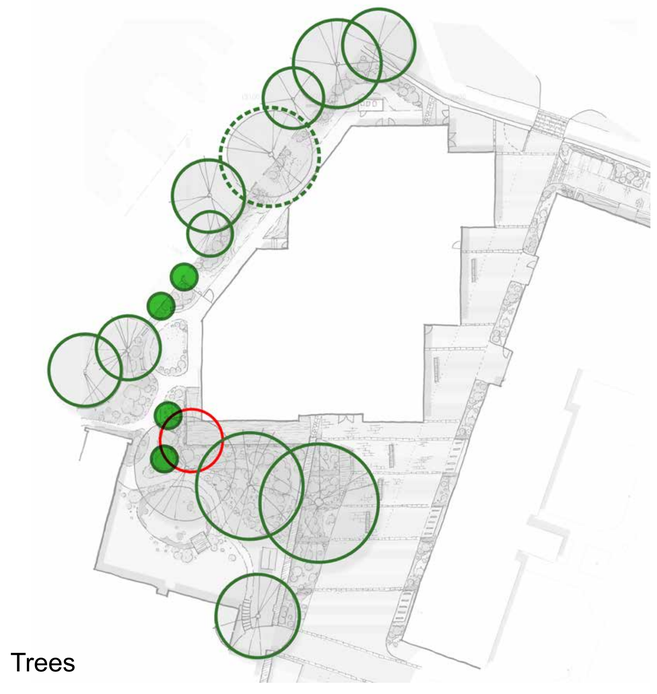
Sketch section through North South route shared surface

Pedestrian/cycle circulation

Vehicle circulation



Materials



Trees

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Arts Building - Next Steps

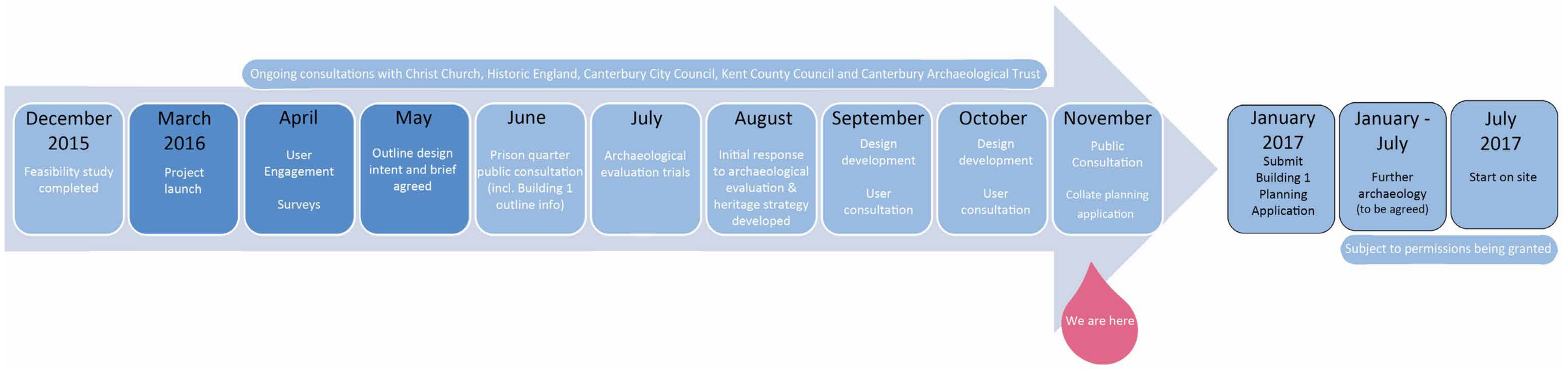
Canterbury Christ Church University

Contact us

Your views will play an important role in shaping our designs. We would be interested in hearing what you think of our proposals. Feel free to note down some thoughts on post it notes and stick these on the relevant boards. You can complete a questionnaire today or take one home to fill out and send back to us.

The timeline below illustrates progress so far and our target Planning submission date.

For more information:
Email: EstateMasterPlan@canterbury.ac.uk
Web: www.canterbury.ac.uk/about-us
Tel: 01227 922322



Sectional view through the entrance, reception, exhibition space and studios and open learning spaces above

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Prison Quarter - Overview

The Prison Quarter lies at the southern end of the North Holmes Campus and includes the former Her Majesty's Prison Canterbury which was acquired by the University in 2014.

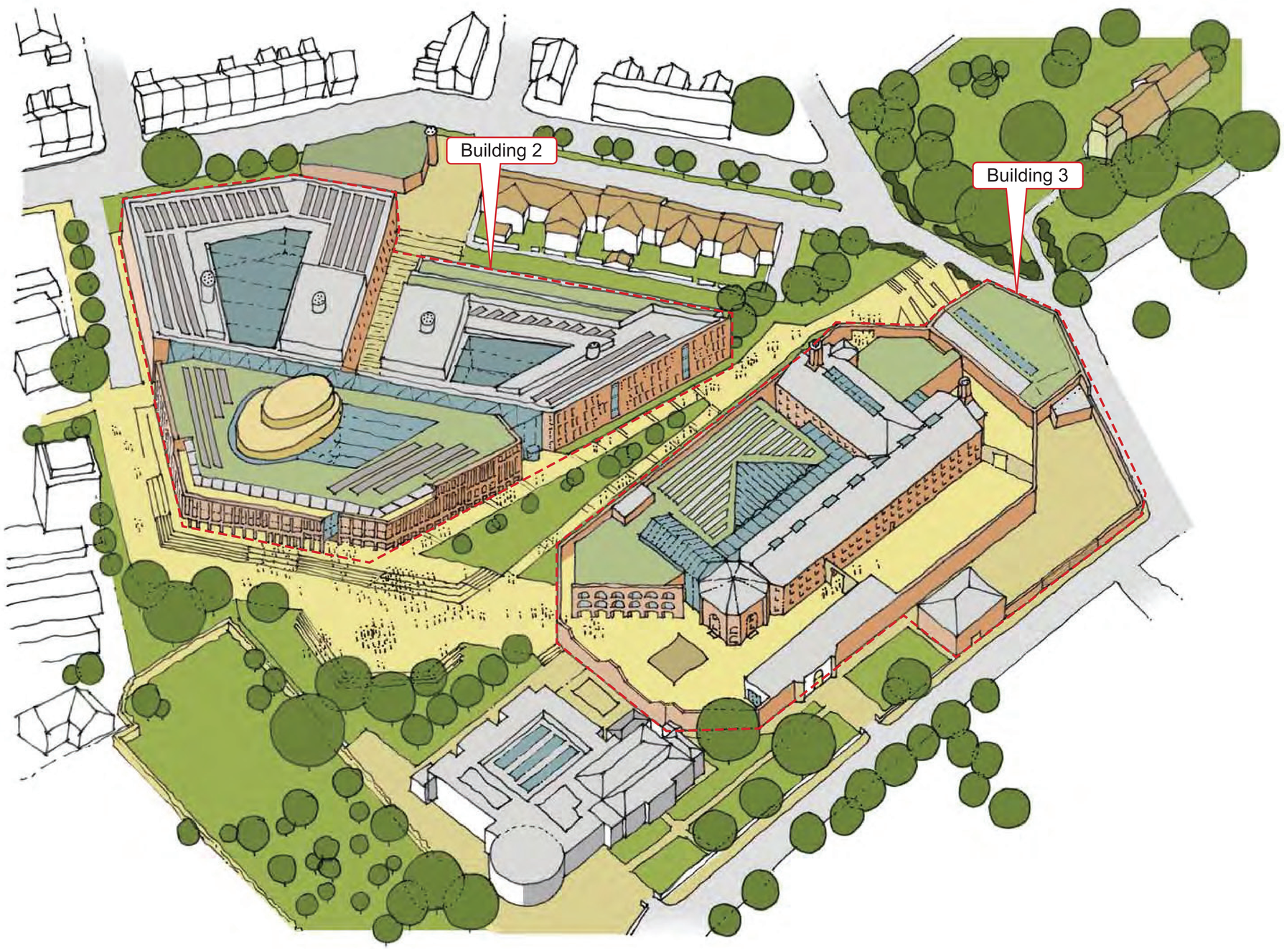
The former prison and land to the rear will be transformed into a new teaching and learning block (Building 2) and a new student hub, food village and heritage centre within the converted prison (Building 3).

The proposals for the Prison Quarter will enable the University to extend its offering in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and will open up visual and physical links between the three elements of the Canterbury World Heritage Site: Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church.

In June 2016, we consulted residents and stakeholders on our proposals for the Prison Quarter. We have listened carefully and used this feedback to finalise our design proposals.

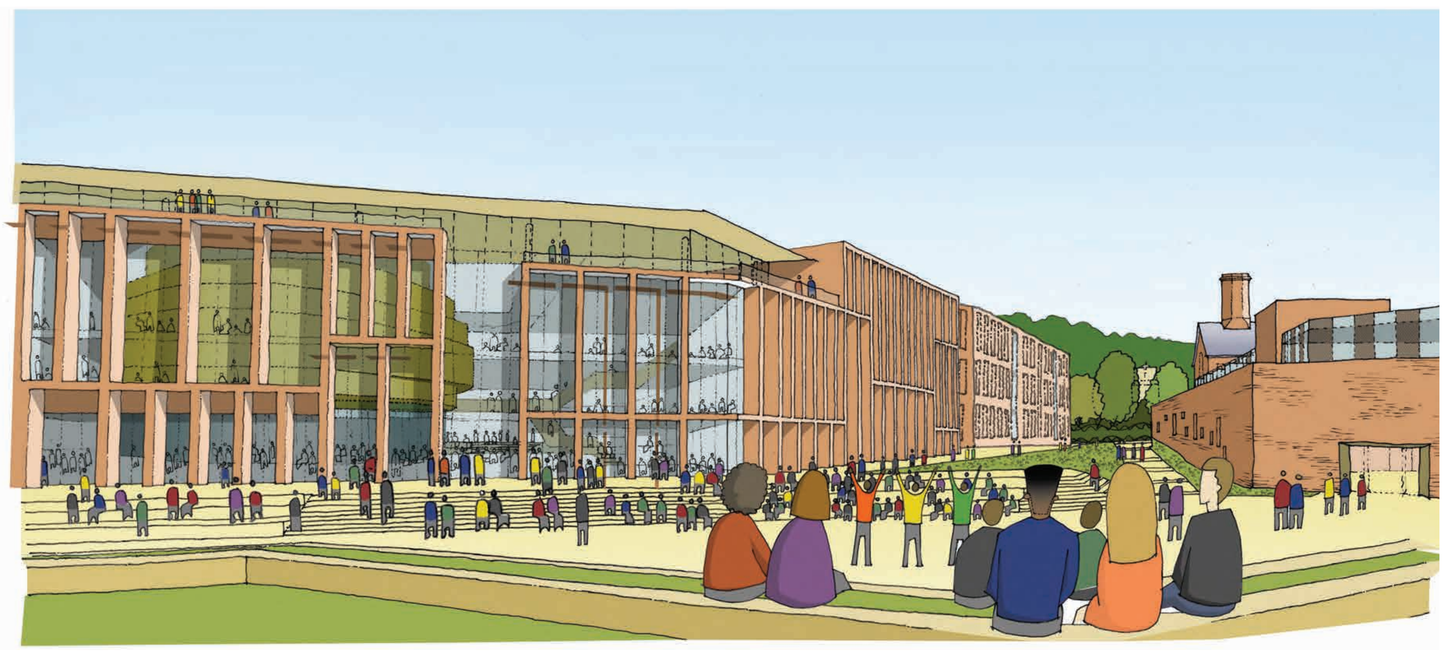
The planning and listed building consent applications were submitted to the city council in September 2016 (**CA//16/02081** and **CA//16/02082**). The applications followed a series of pre-application meetings with the city council, Historic England and Kent County Council.

Aerial View Illustrative Sketch



Student Hub illustrative sketch

Abbey Square illustrative sketch



St Martin's Steps illustrative sketch

A view across St Augustine's Abbey illustrative sketch

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Prison Quarter - Responding to Your Suggestions

Canterbury Christ Church University

The final design has evolved in response to suggestions and comments received from local residents and stakeholders.

Landscaping at St Martin's Steps

Comments were made about the landscaping opposite St Martin's Church and its impact on the setting of St Martin's Church which is Grade 1 listed. The proposed landscaping around the former prison is restrained and characterised by hard surfaces in keeping with the historic use.

A number of people remarked that the landscaping at St Martin's Steps should create a more rural environment given the proximity to St Martin's Church and churchyard. As a result, the area around St Martin's Steps has been enriched with hedges and perennial planting to create a more sensitive transition from the churchyard into the Prison Quarter.

Southern elevation of Building 2

The southern elevation of Building 2 running alongside St Martin's Steps previously featured a saw tooth edge with projecting window bays.

It was felt that the projecting elements of the elevation cluttered the view of the Cathedral from the churchyard.

As a result, this elevation is now flush which allows the Bell Harry Tower to be the focus of the view from St Martin's Church.

Prison boundary wall

Our initial proposal involved a modest lowering to the outer prison wall on North Holmes Road.

A number of people, including parishioners of St Martin's Church, felt that the high outer prison wall isolated the church from the rest of the World Heritage Site and that our proposal to lower it did little to change this or the view of the World Heritage Site from the churchyard. We were keen to balance the importance of retaining the character of a high prison wall with addressing the isolation of St Martin's Church from the other areas of the World Heritage Site.

As a result, we agreed with the council that a reduction in the wall to its 1808-1948 height was appropriate. This helps to create a better visual connection between St Martin's Church and Canterbury Cathedral, improves the setting of the churchyard and still retains the character of the former prison.

In response to comments from council planning officers, we also removed the green roof from the kitchen block and replaced it with a flat ballast roof set below the parapet and brick screen to better reflect the harder material palette within the prison walls.

Find out more

Full details of the planning and listed building consent application, including the drawings and supporting reports, are available to view on the council's website. We are hoping to gain planning consent by the end of 2016 in order to make preparations to start on-site.

Existing view from St Martin's Churchyard

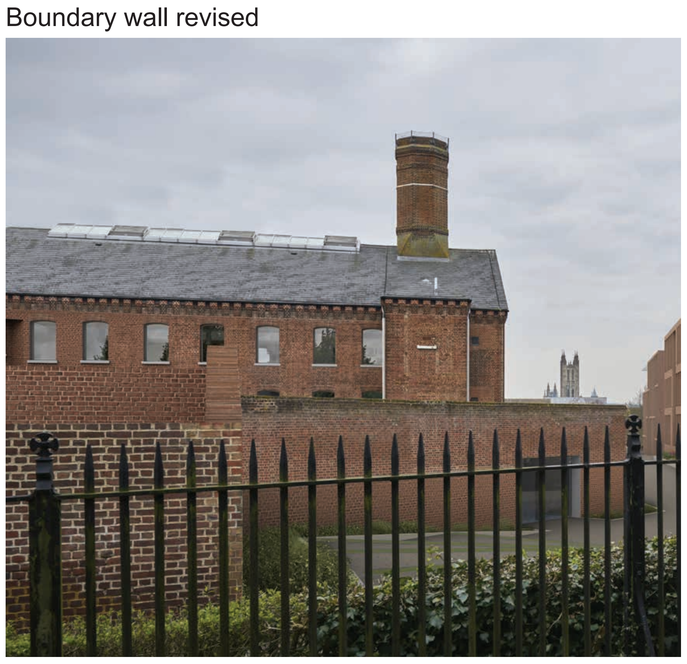
Illustrative sketch of proposed view from St Martin's Churchyard

Existing view from St Augustine's Abbey

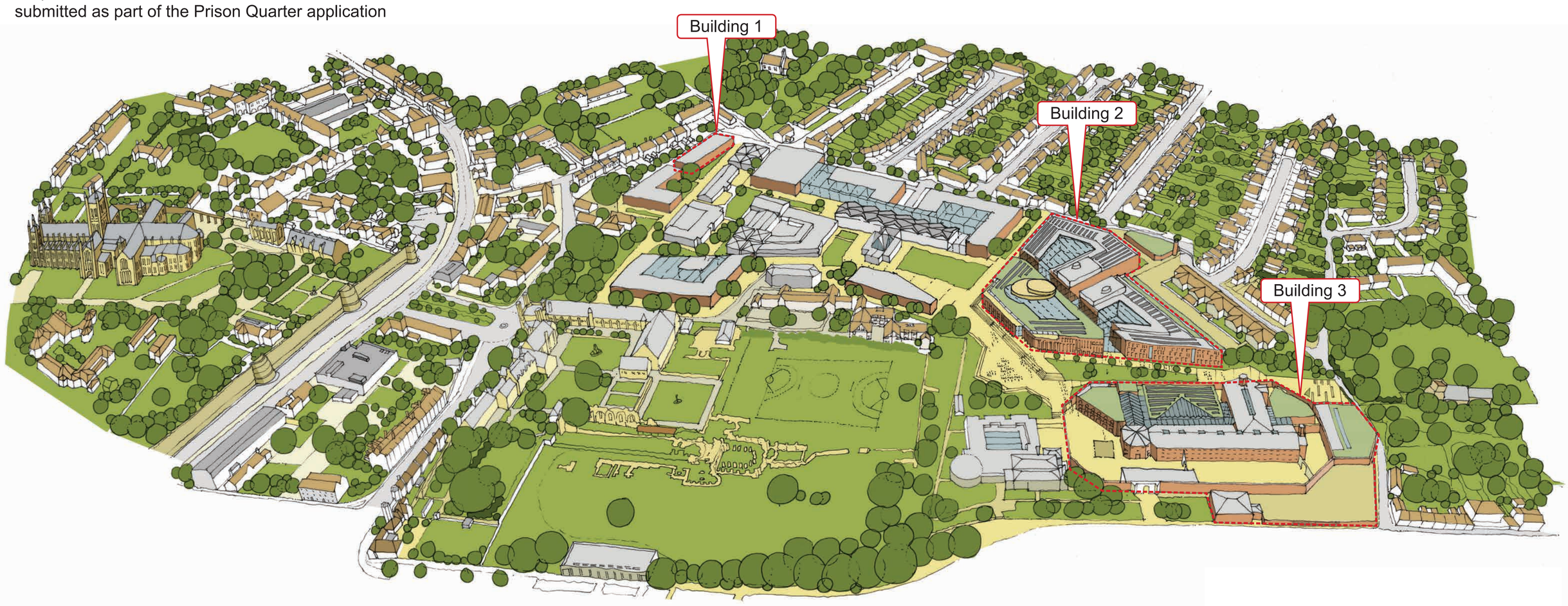
Illustrative sketch of proposed view from St Augustine's Abbey

Boundary wall as submitted

Boundary wall revised



Proposed Estate Master Plan illustrative sketch submitted as part of the Prison Quarter application



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If you would like to get in touch with the University's Estate Master Plan team, there are several ways:

Email: **EstateMasterPlan@canterbury.ac.uk**
Tel: **01227 922 322**

Web:**www.canterbury.ac.uk/about-us**

BDP.