

Welcome

Welcome to this public consultation event regarding the refurbishment of the Gibson and Harkness buildings to create the new Oxford Institute of Digital Health. We hope that you will find the following consultation boards informative, if you have any questions please ask a member of the project team at the event or via email:

public.consultation@admin.ox.ac.uk

We welcome your comments and feedback on the proposals. All comments will be reviewed and considered by the Design Team ahead of the submission of a planning application in early 2024. Please submit all comments either at the event or online on the following website by 12 December:

<https://estates.admin.ox.ac.uk/article/oxford-institute-of-digital-health-consultation-event-28-november>

Thank you for your input.

The Oxford Institute of Digital Health (OIDH)

The rapid development of digital technologies is a catalyst for a fundamental shift in both how we live, and how we manage our health. The digital transformation of health systems has the potential to deliver leaner, greener, and more person-centred services, which can:

- Improve access and choice
- Reduce inequalities
- Reduce harm and improve patient safety
- Empower the public to consider health at their pace
- Improve quality
- Reduce costs
- Increase value and reduce waste
- Deliver personalised medicine using risk prediction driven by AI.

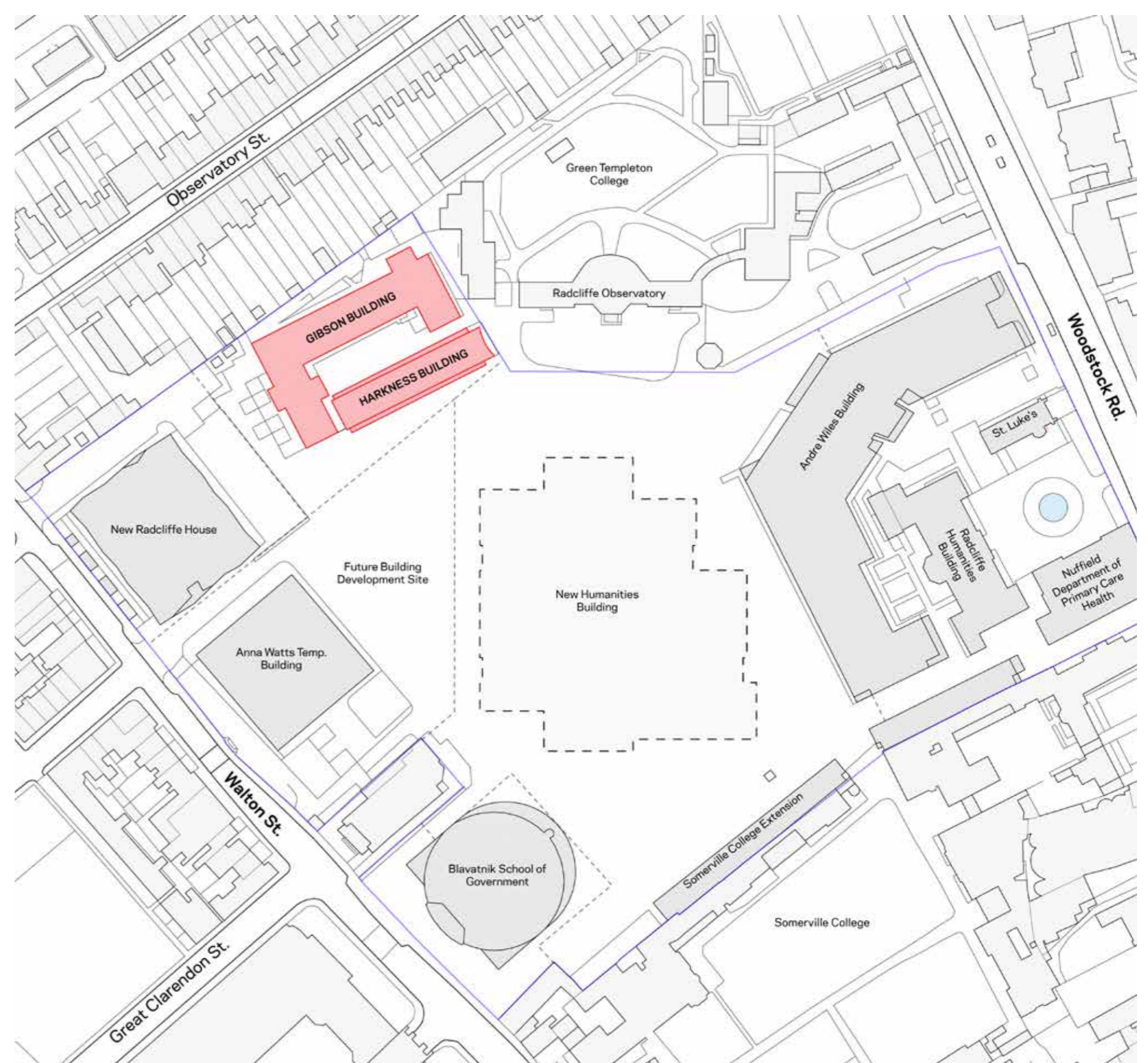
However, there are challenges as healthcare has not yet undergone the radical transformation seen in other industries. Problems such as digital inequalities, digital harms, and the low adoption of some technologies persist and require solutions, alongside consideration of ethical, legal, and social issues.

The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences is set to establish the Oxford Institute of Digital Health (OIDH), a state-of-the-art centre that will merge its existing research groups and offer additional, purpose-built teaching facilities.

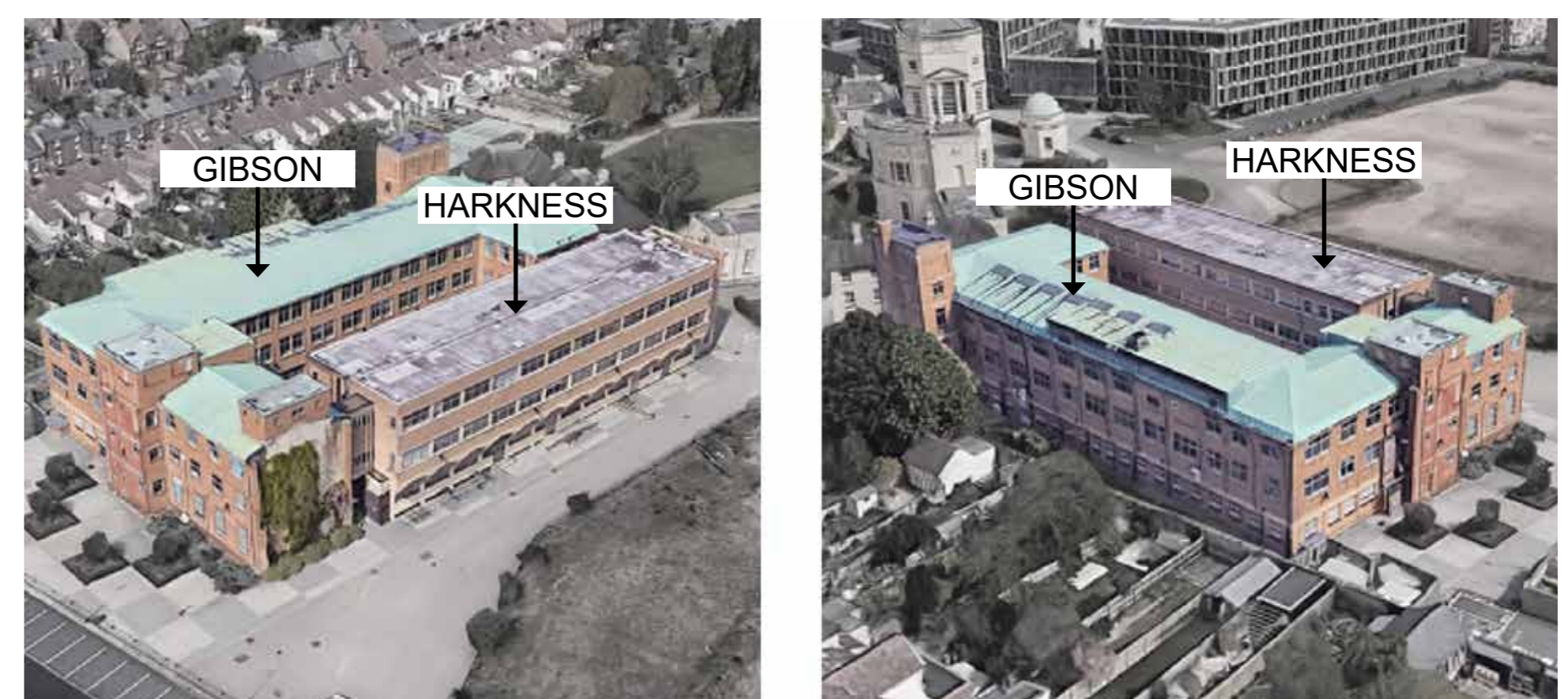
The proposed refurbishment of the Gibson and Harkness Buildings at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in Oxford aims to provide the new Institute with a home that consolidates office based research and teaching in one place promoting collaboration and cross disciplinary work.



Illustrative view of the proposal as seen on approach from Walton Street, with indicative massing of future development on right



Location Plan showing the project location within the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter



Aerial photos showing existing Harkness and Gibson Buildings

Vision

Shared Goals

The refurbishment is to create new, innovative, and consolidated space for the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, maximising the potential of the buildings in terms of usable area, and drawing the two buildings together as one. The business case for the building states:

“The department strongly believes that a sense of place, space and innovation in design can bring the best researchers together to motivate and create the best research, that the teaching environment plays a key part in delivery of teaching and impression on those being taught, with the joining of both research and teaching together strengthening outcomes for both disciplines.”

Through visioning workshops key enablers and design drivers were identified, namely:



Identity

A design that creates a unified identity for the OIDH, communicating the forward looking character of the Institute’s research, while celebrating the adjacent grade 1 listed Observatory rather than competing with it.

Belonging & Diversity

A welcoming and permeable landscaping and ground floor that offer views into teaching facilities from outside and forms an inviting, easy to find transition between public outside, a semi-public central courtyard and more private institute dedicated walled garden in the north. Integrating the central courtyard as internal usable space will be a key enabler to form a collaborative and accessible hub for the institute.

Flexibility & Growth

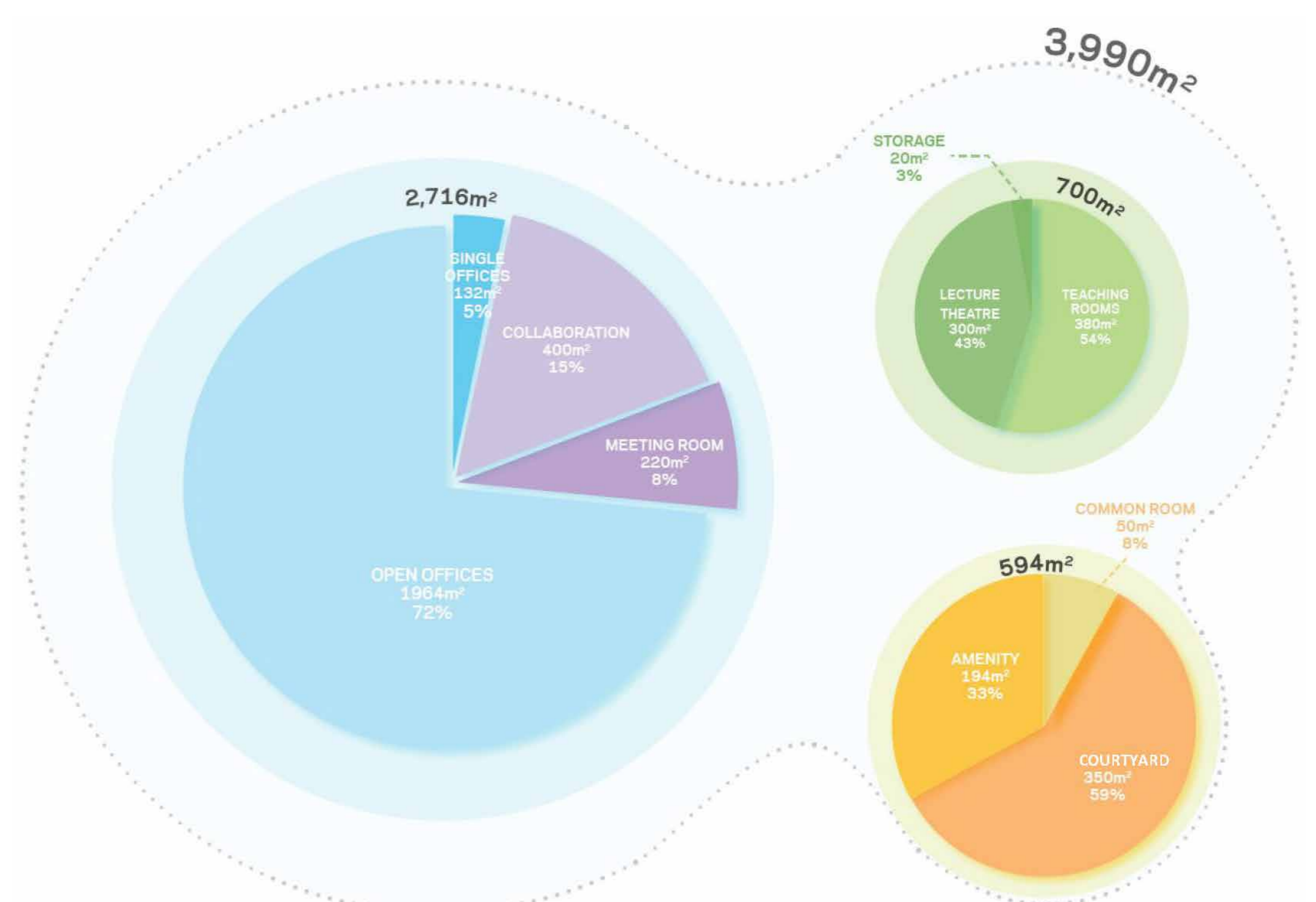
Zoning and correctly locating functional space types such as teaching, shared collaboration space, focused working and research space is key to allow each floor to be used efficiently and remain adaptable for future change in requirements, working methods and use patterns. Teaching space aims to become a visible and accessible resource for the wider University helping to connect the Institute with the ROQ and its other University departments.

Wellness & Productivity

Retention and refurbishment of the buildings (rather than demolition and reconstruction) reduces construction-caused emissions and embodied carbon significantly, while allowing the building fabric to be upgraded to EnerPHit* standard, providing thermal comfort, reduced energy consumption, and optimised access to daylight and views. Covering the courtyard significantly improves the form factor (amount of building envelope that can lose or gain heat) of the building. Providing a variety of teaching and work environments incorporating plants and healthy materials will promote wellbeing and productivity.

*EnerPHit is a certification for outstanding energy efficiency in refurbished buildings by the Passive House Institute https://passiv.de/en/03_certification/02_certification_buildings/04_enerphit/04_enerphit.htm

The Oxford Institute of Digital Health will be a dynamic, interdisciplinary hub for digital health teaching and research which will address these critical challenges and identify how we can harness these innovations to improve health and health care.



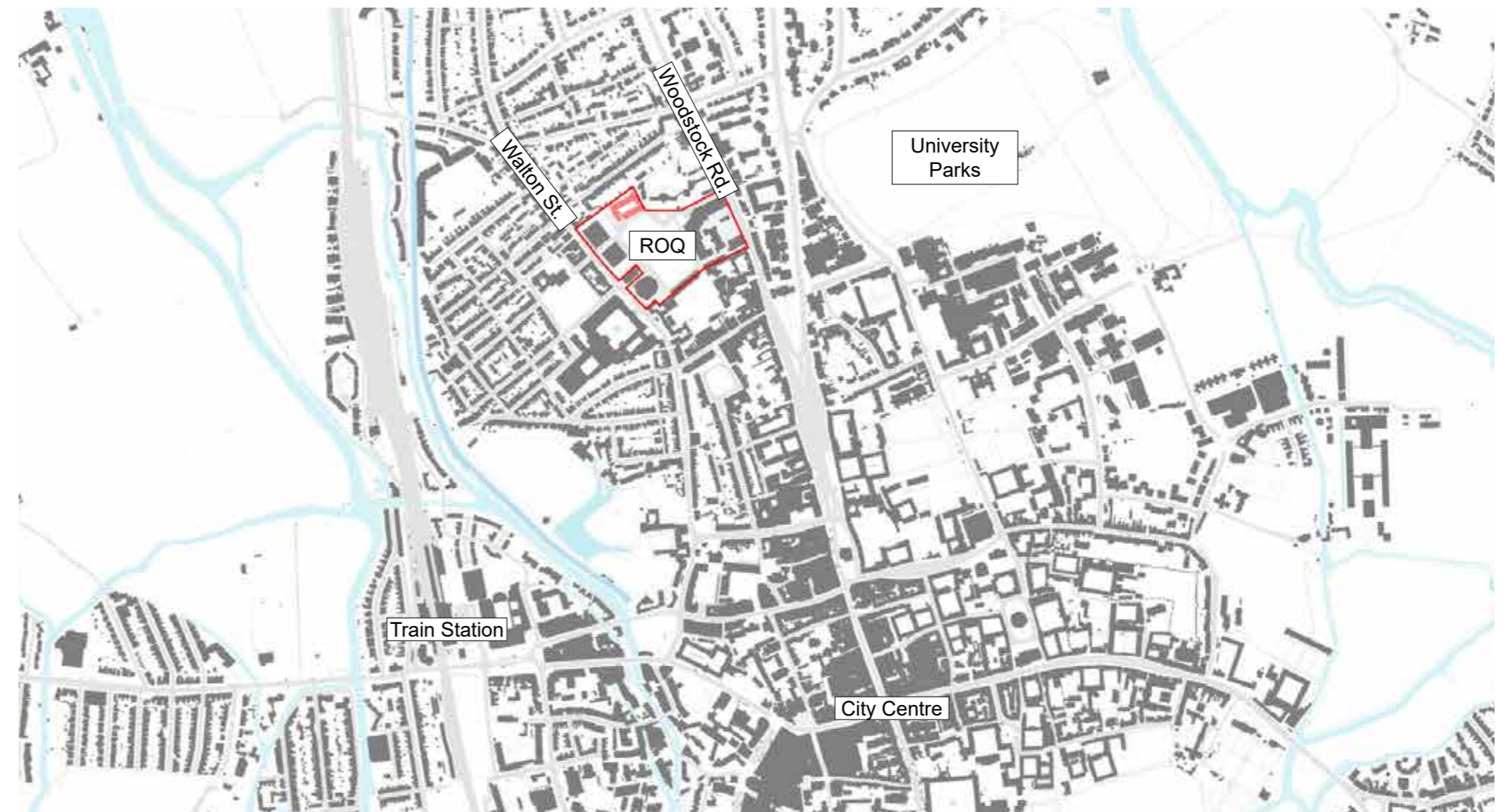
Building schedule of accommodation showing space types and approximate areas required

Site and Context

Site Location & History

The new OIDH will be in one of the most prestigious locations in Oxford – the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ). Given the status of the site the proposal needs to consider the unique historical surroundings, which include the Grade 1 listed Radcliffe Observatory, residential properties to its north, and new neighbouring buildings - the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities (under construction), Andrew Wiles Building (Mathematical Institute) and future projects on the site of the temporary Anna Watts Building.

The ROQ is bounded by Woodstock Road to the east, which also forms one of the main thoroughfares into Oxford and Walton Street to the west with a series of shops and food & drink establishments. The area is well served by public transport and cycle links, making it easily accessible for alternative methods of transport.



Area map showing location of the ROQ and the site in relation to Oxford city centre



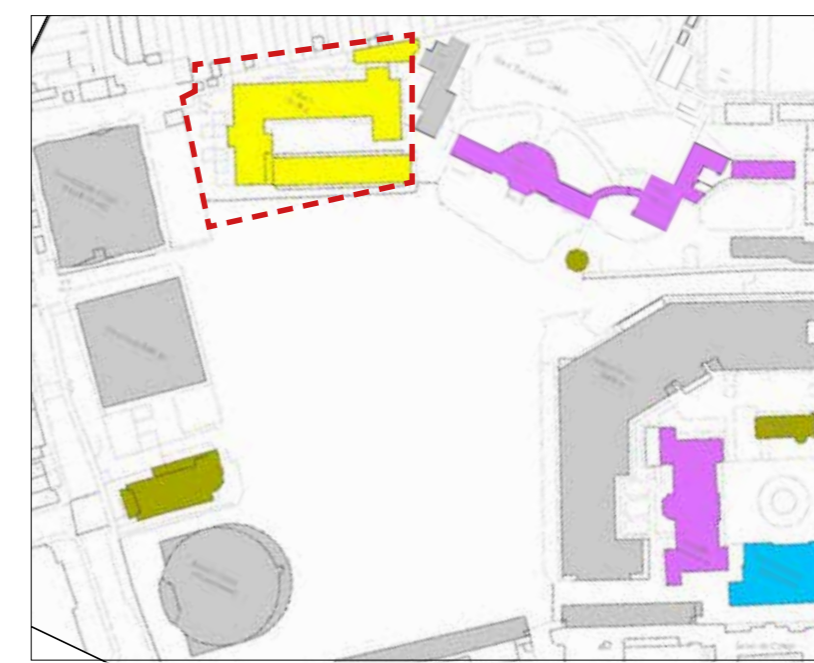
1775



1875



1970



Present Day

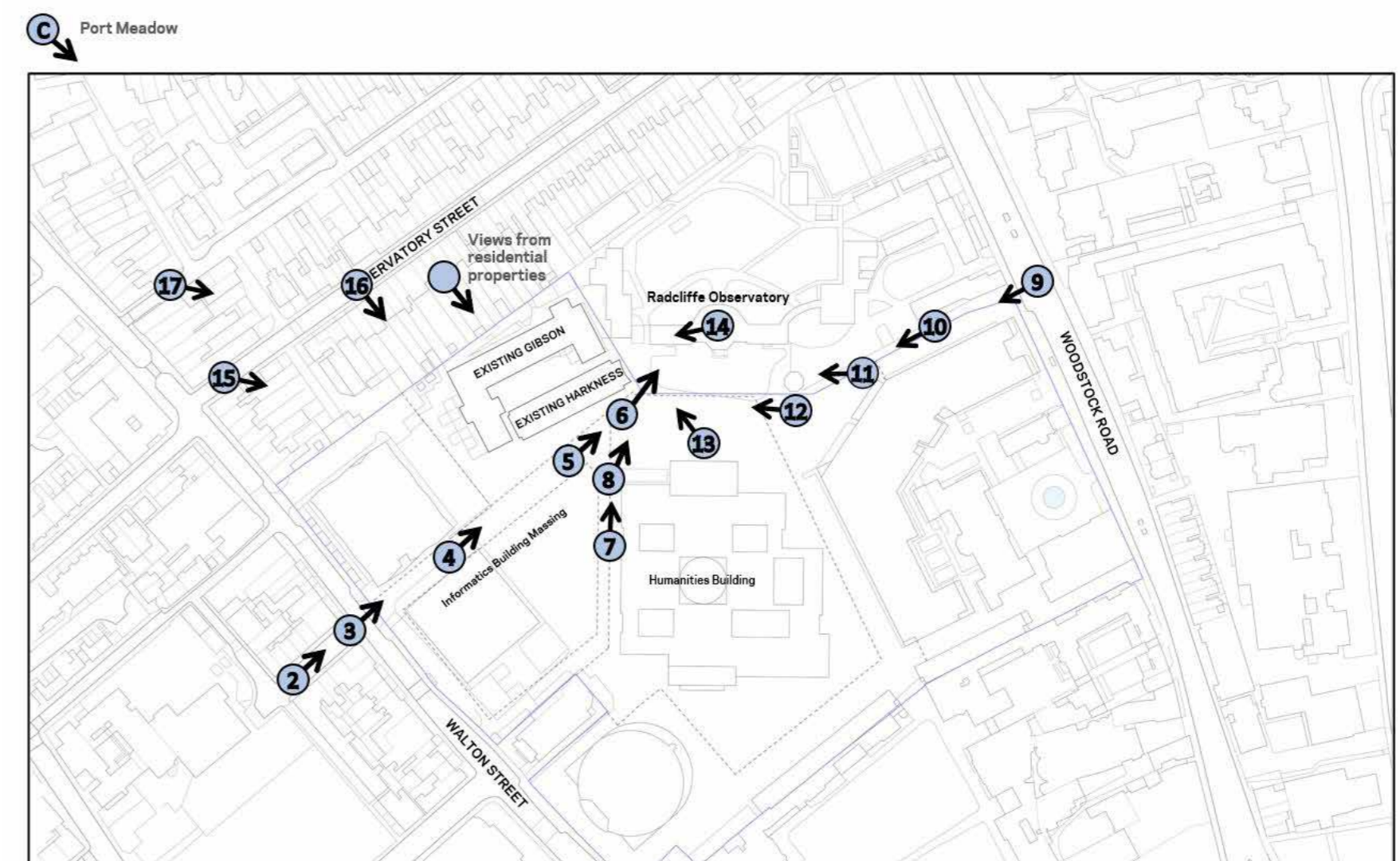
Pre - 1775
1775 - 1875
1875 - 1924
1939 - 1970
Post - 1970

Maps showing the historic development of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, with the site marked in red

Local Views

Throughout the site-assessment process and design of proposals key views are being tested to understand the impact of the existing buildings as well as any design proposals on the setting of the Radcliffe Observatory, on important approach routes/views and on long-distance contextual views including:

- The view from the Observatory tower, which overlooks the roofscapes of the existing buildings.
- Views from Walton Street where the Observatory serves as a prominent focal-point as you approach the existing buildings.
- The approach from Woodstock Road needs to carefully consider the interface between the external landscapes proposed as part of the Humanities development, and the visual legibility through the site as one approaches the buildings.
- Contextual views from St. George's Tower and Castle Mound where glimpses of the existing building are visible.

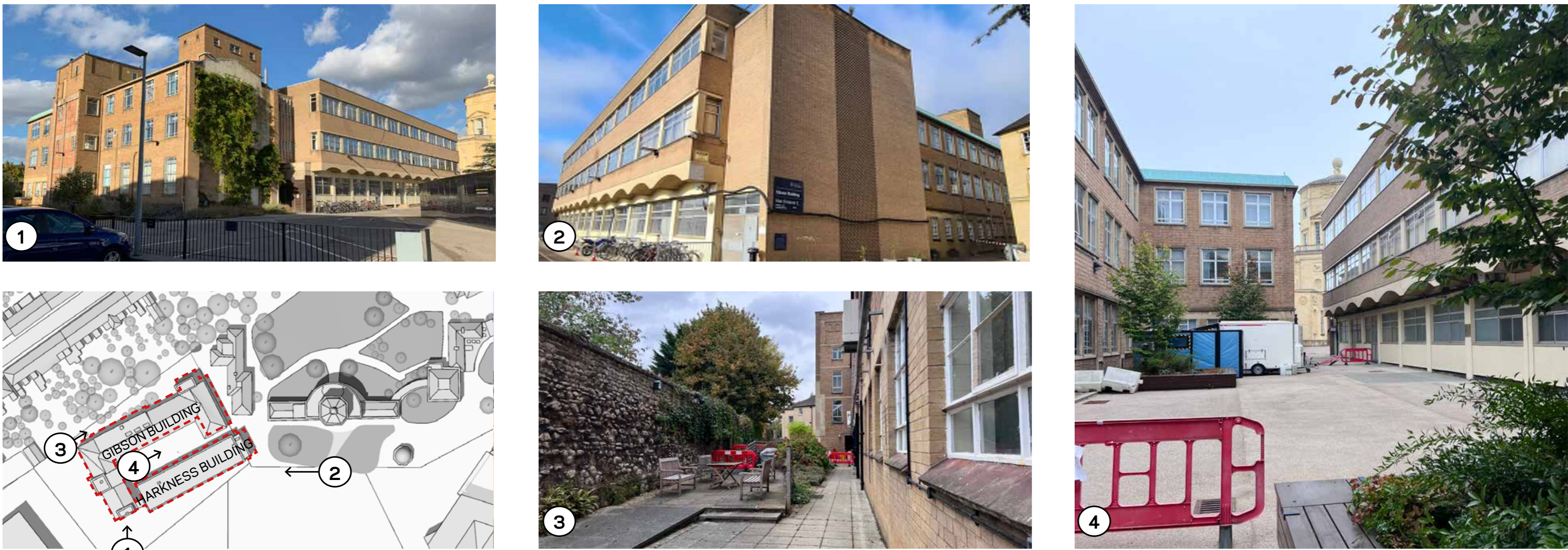


Location plan showing local and wider views that are being assessed



Examples of view study testing: 3) Walton Street approach, 11) Woodstock Road approach, 14) View from the Observatory, A) St. Georges Tower, B) Castle Mound

Site and Context



Site photos of existing building

Existing Buildings and Use

Construction and Use

The Gibson Building is currently fully occupied by the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and the Department of Theology. The Roof Level is used as plant space and the basement is currently not in use due to the presence of asbestos.

The Gibson Building was built in 1945 as a single storey building and extended upwards by two floors in the 1950s. Prior to demolition of the Radcliffe Infirmary its west wing continued across what is now the access road from Walton Street, with scars for the demolition still visible (see Photo 1 above).

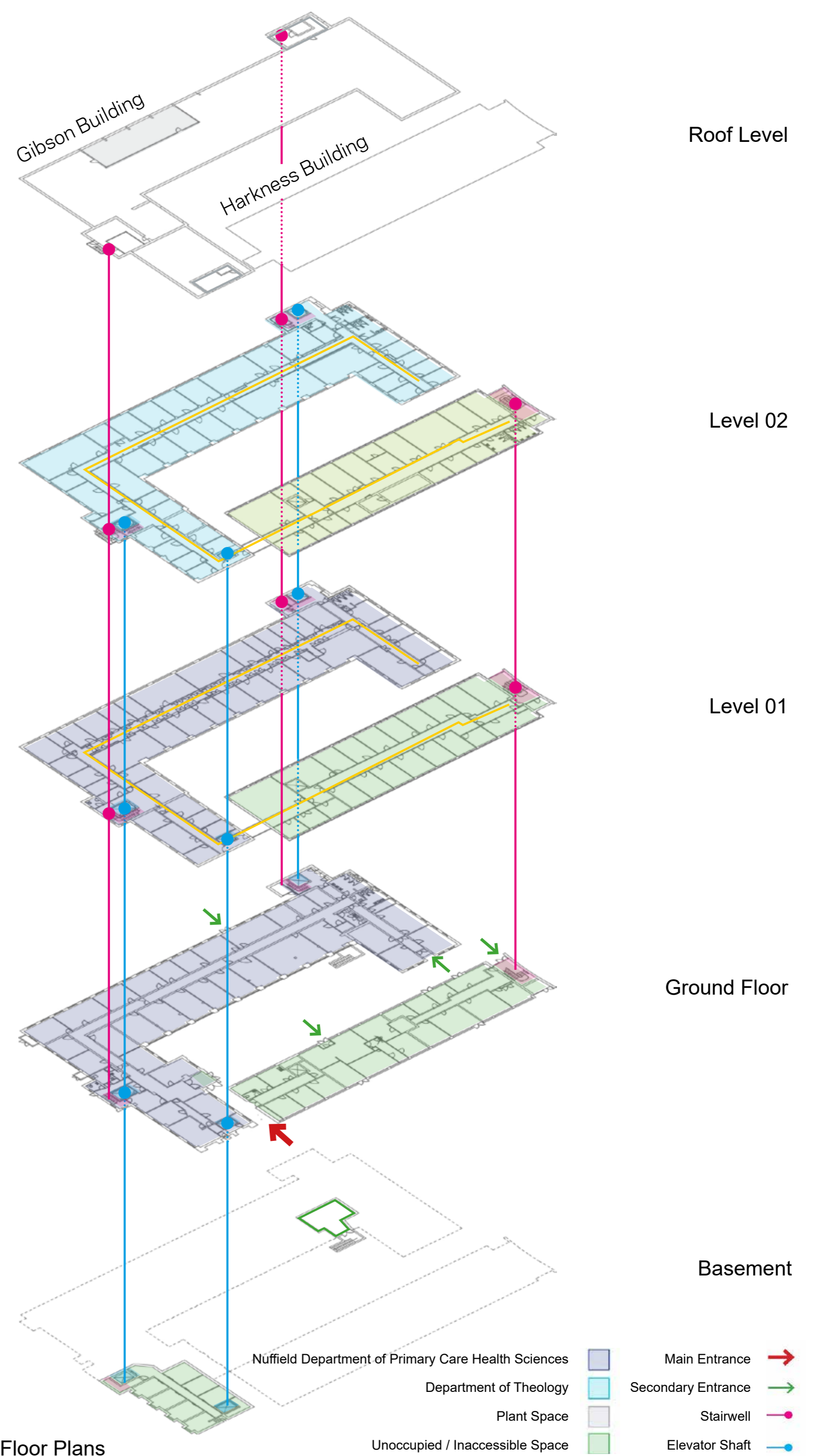
The Harkness Building was constructed in the 1970's and is currently not in use due to the presence of asbestos. It has three stories, with its ground floor set back, and the upper floors extend out with a cantilevered design. Its construction with no internal columns makes it particular suitable for refurbishment/re-use.

Access

The existing main entrance to the Gibson building is to the southwest, accessible through an external corridor between the two existing buildings. The Harkness building is accessible from the courtyard and by an external stair at the east of the building.

The primary circulation routes in the Gibson building are provided by two stair and lift cores, located to the west and northeast corners. Each core consists of a single stairwell and a lift core. The Harkness building relies on a single stairwell located to the east for circulation.

The two buildings are linked at first and second floor above the external approach to the Gibson building entrance. Floor levels are not fully aligned and 3-5 steps negotiate the change in level south of the Gibson stair and lift core.

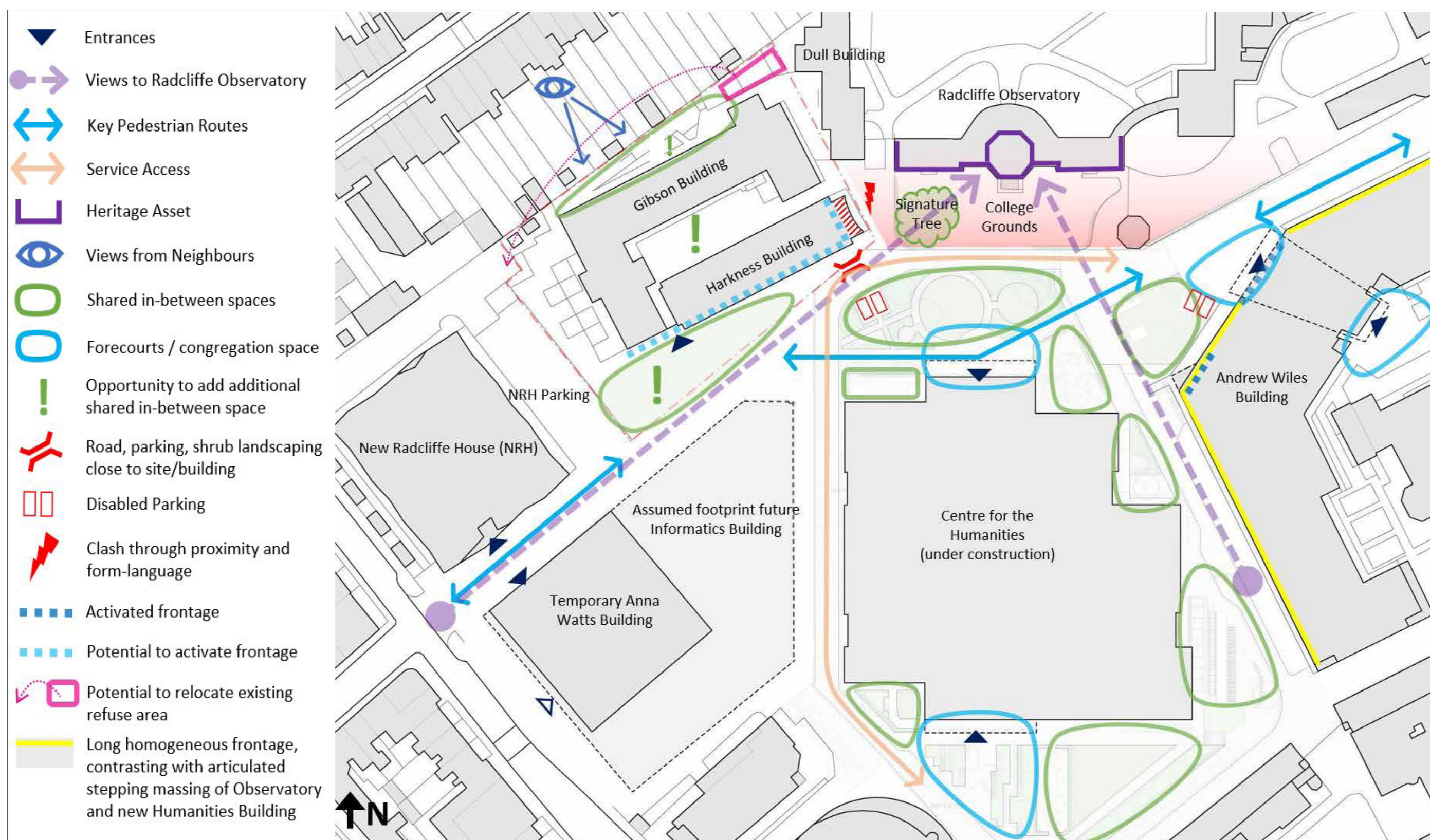


Existing Building Floor Plans

Opportunities & Constraints

To fully understand the value of the existing buildings and their impact on the wider location the project team has in detail evaluated the opportunities and constraints of the site. This assessment focused on finding a design approach that:

- creates a functional home and identity for ODH
- makes best use of existing resources - investment and embodied carbon of existing structure,
- improves the setting of the Radcliffe Observatory and the character of the ROQ



Site plan illustrating opportunities and constraints for redevelopment of the Gibson and Harkness Building into the ODIH

Assessment of possible entrance locations

Maximising Value

As part of the assessment process various scenarios have been tested including retention and refurbishment of existing buildings and their partial or full demolition and replacement.

Demolition Impact

To achieve the required floor area, partial or full demolition of the existing buildings would require replacement structures on the site or increased height of retained buildings, with associated

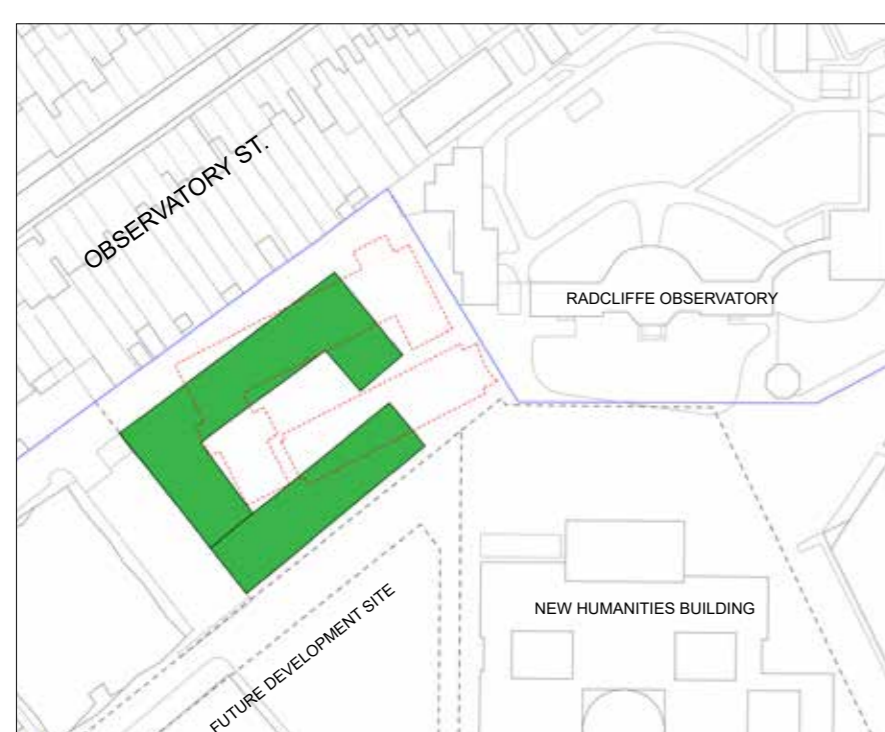
significant additional construction cost, duration of construction, and increased carbon emissions when compared to a refurbishment.

Refurbishment Opportunity

While demolition and replacement of the existing buildings could possibly benefit the Radcliffe Observatory setting by increasing the distance to the Observatory, reuse and refurbishment equally offers the opportunity to significantly improve the Observatory and ROQ setting.

Those measures include façade improvements, enabling a better performing envelope and contextual appearance, limited demolition of the free-standing staircase feature closest to the Observatory, and replacement of the scarred southwest corner where the two buildings meet.

Retaining the footprint of the existent buildings further offers the change to create a new shared landscaped space along the east/west route through the ROQ, benefiting all.



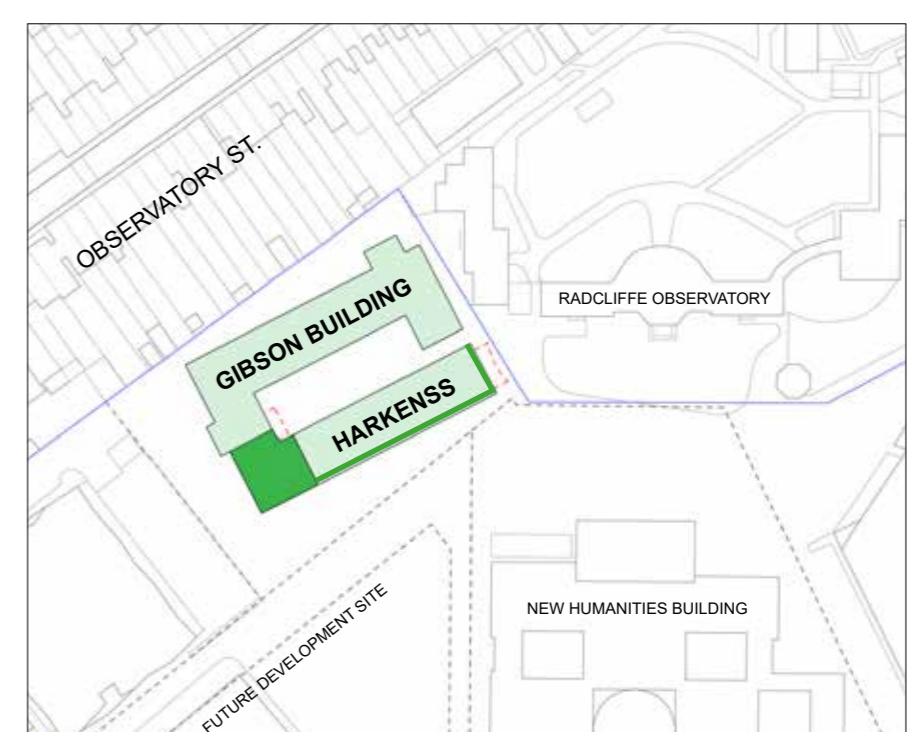
Full replacement of Harkness and Gibson Building
 + new optimised building
 + increased distance to Radcliffe Observatory
 - high cost and embodied carbon emissions
 - narrow approach route to Observatory



Full replacement of Harkness Building
 + increased distance to Radcliffe Observatory
 - new building lacking connection to retained Gibson
 - high cost and embodied carbon emissions
 - narrow approach route to Observatory



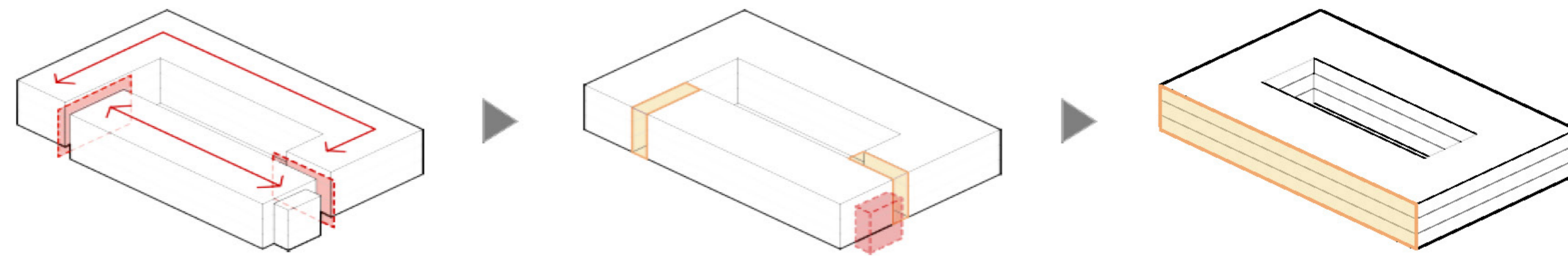
Partial replacement of Harkness Building
 + increased distance to Radcliffe Observatory
 + potential for improved, shared public space
 - new building lacking connection to retained Gibson
 - high cost and embodied carbon emissions
 - compromised New Radcliffe House car park



Repair of S/W corner and demolition of Harkness stair
 + reduced interference with Radcliffe Observatory setting
 + potential for improved, shared public space
 + potential to better connect both buildings
 + use of existing buildings reduces carbon and cost
 + new facade improves appearance

Studies illustrating options assessed for reuse or replacement of the existing buildings

Design Concept



Existing

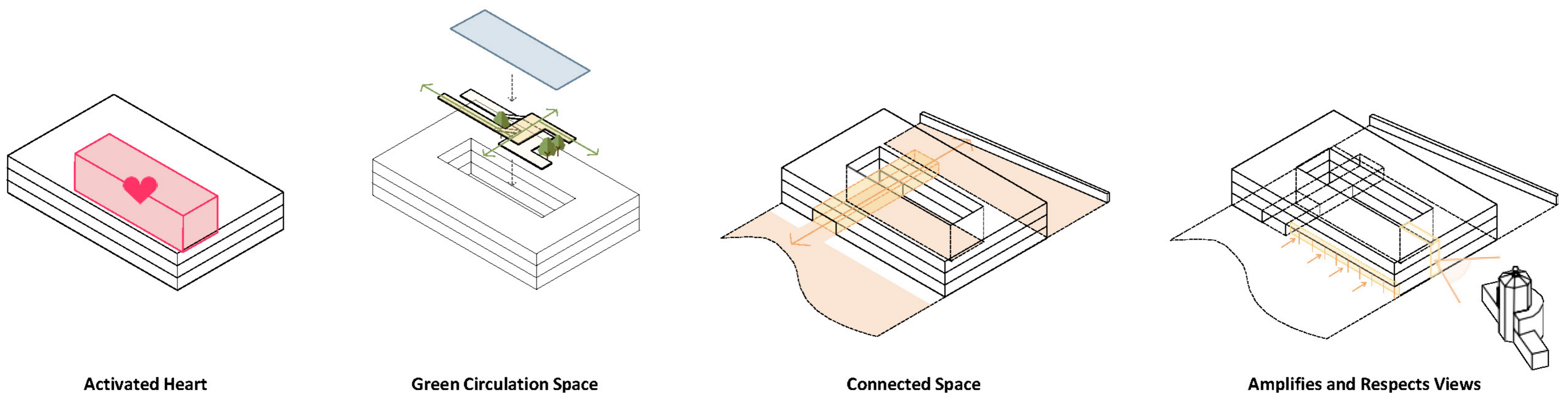
Flows are separated across the two buildings

Step 1

Connecting the two buildings and removing unsightly staircase

Step 2

Unifying the two buildings and creating a single identity



Activated Heart

Green Circulation Space

Connected Space

Amplifies and Respects Views

Design Concept

The proposed design seeks to unify the two buildings by improving connections and through the repair of the south (public space) facing elevation, replacing its fragmented southwest corner and over-cladding the existing Harkness building while maximising re-use of existing fabric.

Seeking to form an inviting and permeable entrance the ground floor allows views into teaching facilities while focusing arrival onto a prominent link between public outside, semi-public central courtyard and the existing rear private walled garden.

A glazed roof allows the courtyard to become the hub for the institute, with interspersed levels inserted to host shared space, and improve connectivity.

Highlighting a framed entrance off-centre towards the approach from Walton Street (rather than at the crowded central square / east corner) enables the design to create an additional landscaped focal point along the important thoroughfare through the ROQ, taking advantage of the building footprint that angles away from the approach route.



Illustrative concept section through building showing link from ROQ through to the external garden



Early concept visual of a new covered courtyard space



Early concept visuals demonstrating arrival experience - entering the building, arriving at the courtyard, and continuing through to rear walled garden

Interior Design

Interior Design

Zoning teaching space (ground floor) and research offices (upper floors), and utilising the courtyard for shared space, allows floor plates to be designed efficiently for adaptability and future change.

Teaching spaces become a visible and accessible resource for the wider University helping to connect the Institute with the ROQ and its other University departments.

The building entrance leads via a prominent link to a shared roofed courtyard, alongside the existing main vertical circulation core. From here, levels can be accessed via lifts or stairs within the courtyard. Visible at arrival, the link continues under the Gibson Building to the northern landscape walled garden, adding legibility to the arrival experience and connecting the central shared spaces to nature.

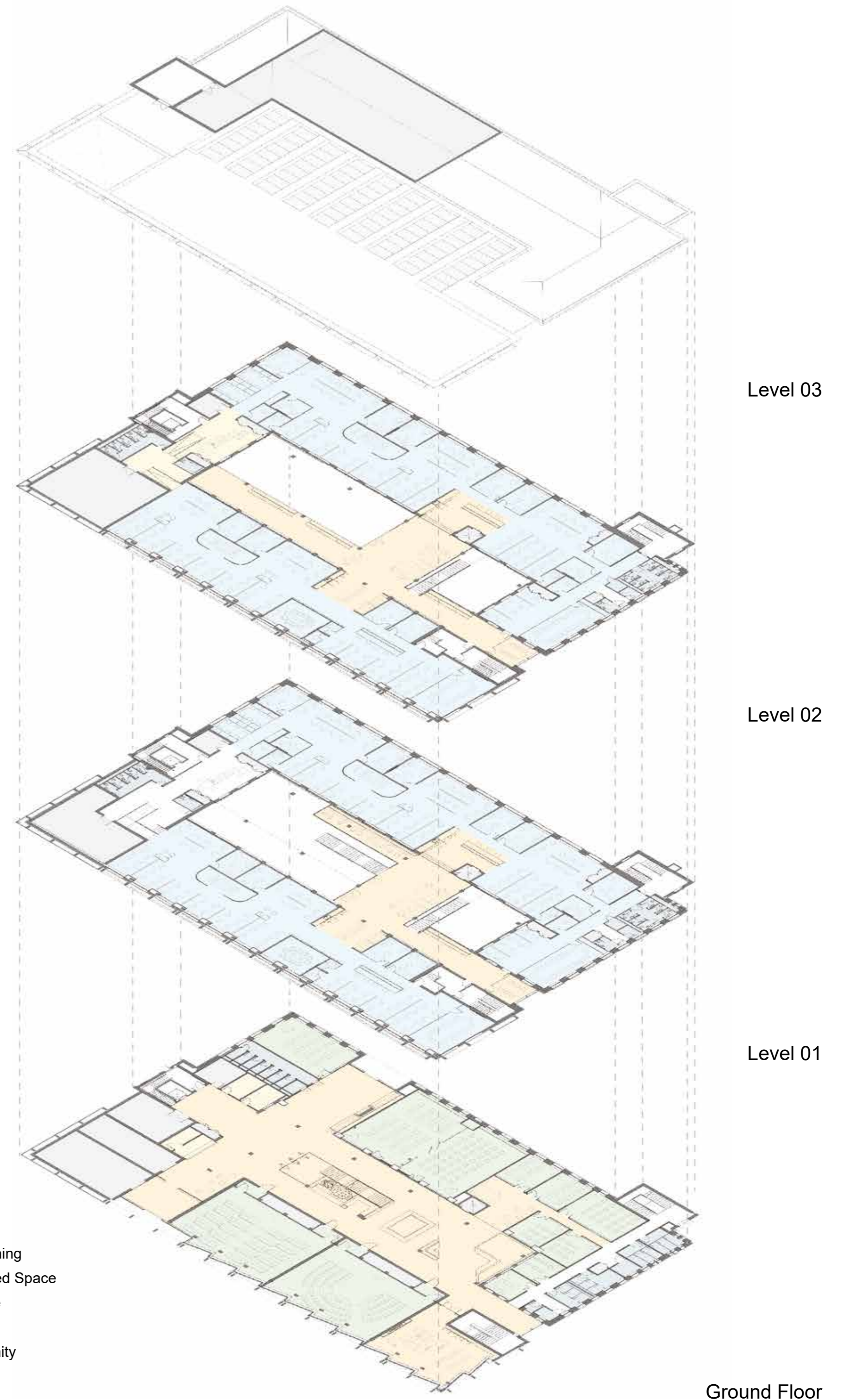
Covered Courtyard

The ground floor of the courtyard provides congregation space for students arriving and exiting teaching spaces. Wide bridges and balconies at Level 1 and 2 connect research offices centrally and provide shared collaboration and break-out spaces. An additional lift helps bridge the level difference and ensures equal access.

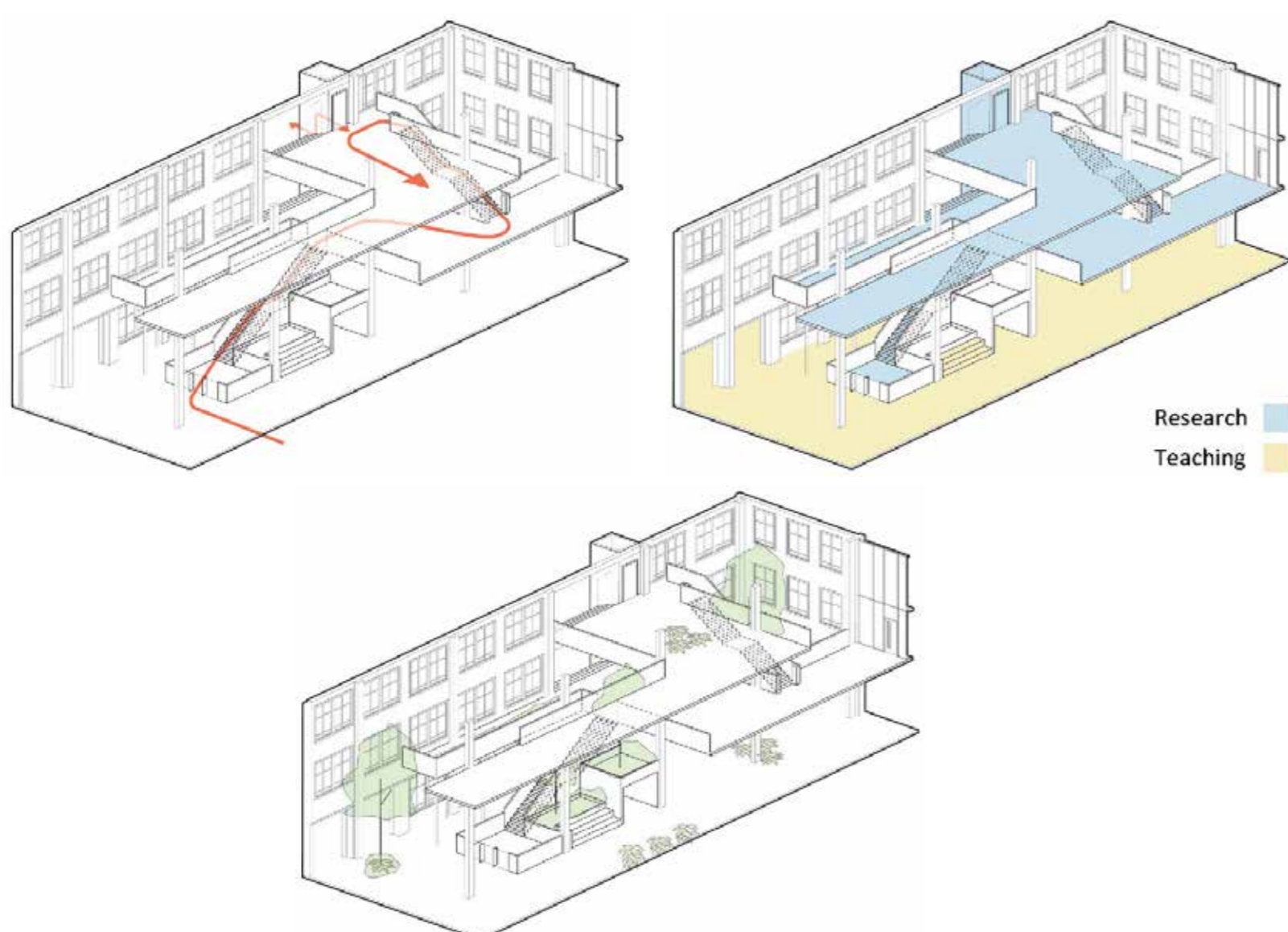
Within the courtyard and on upper floors the design enables strategic views towards the Observatory connecting occupants to the location and adding to a sense of place.



Proposed ground floor plan



Stacked plans demonstrating proposed buildings functional arrangement



Covered courtyard concept diagrams showing use allocation, circulation routes and potential for adding plants to improve connection to nature.



Illustrative view of central courtyard space

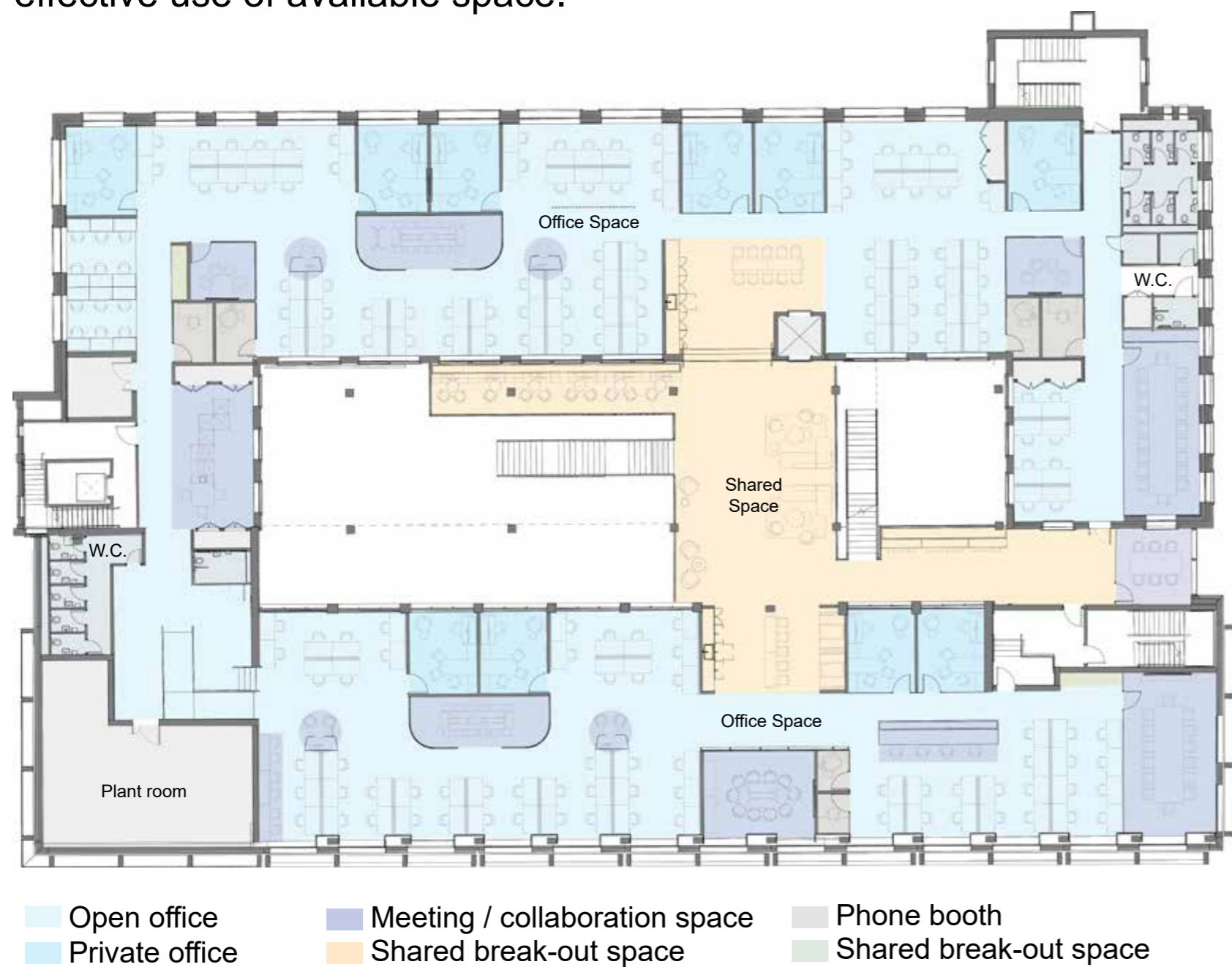
Interior Design

Office Based Research - Upper Floors

The inside of the two upper floors of the Gibson and Harkness Building will be modified to create better connections across the buildings, to allow more daylight in by reducing the number of walls and rooms, and to provide a rich choice of work and research environments that are inclusive to differing needs, preferences and tasks.

The provision of shared working areas allows the project to reduce the number of dedicated desks and offices, while interspersed quiet rooms, 'phone booths' and alcoves allow for quiet working and private phone/video-conference calls.

The new layout also allows for more efficient circulation compared to traditional empty corridors accessing separated rooms, ensuring effective use of available space.



Proposed research floor plan (1st Floor)

Interior Material Palette

The refurbishment of the internal spaces aims to employ healthy materials that are low in embodied carbon and natural both in composition and appearance. Extensive use of timber, natural stone as well as cork and felt is being explored.

To limit the amount of new material required, ceilings are only proposed within teaching areas and small office/meeting rooms where they help to provide the required acoustic performance.

Within open office areas the structure will be exposed and painted to increase the perceived height of the open plan spaces, with suspended acoustic baffles and lighting helping to achieve a neat appearance and good performance.



Ground / Teaching Floor Finishes

Upper / Office Floor Finishes

Typical Finishes Palette



Focus

Heads down, quiet, solo work to absorb and process complex pieces of information.



Collaborate

Working with others to advance and create new ideas.



Learn

Building knowledge through acquisition, transfer and application of information.



Socialise

High quality relationships foster social cohesion, risk-taking and innovation.

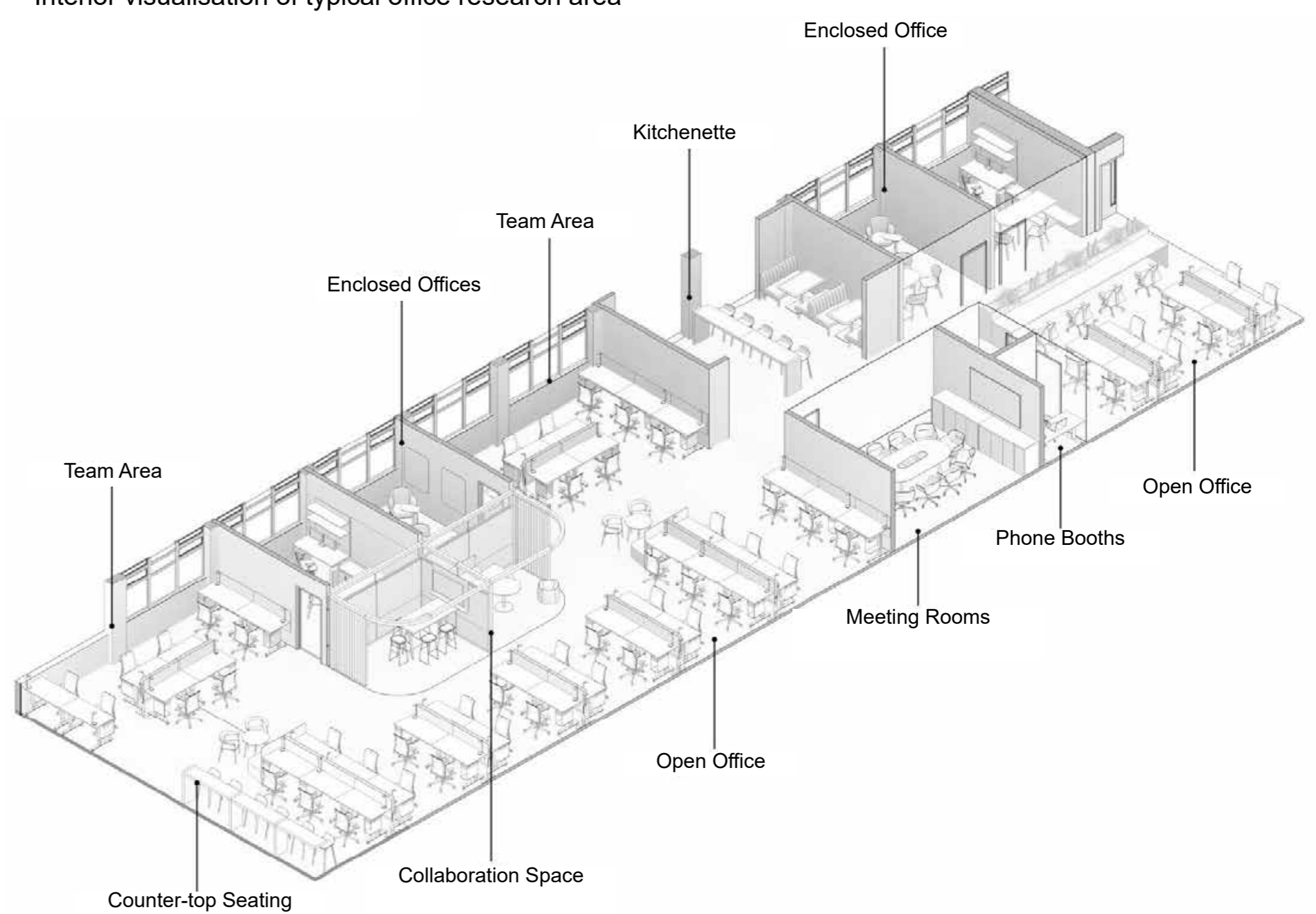


Rest

Respite, recovery, and restoration are essential for creativity and productivity.



Interior visualisation of typical office research area



Interior axonometric of typical research floor and types of spaces



Enclosed Offices

Break-out spaces



Enclosed meeting and quiet working spaces

Collaboration spaces

Build examples of envisaged look & feel and types of spaces

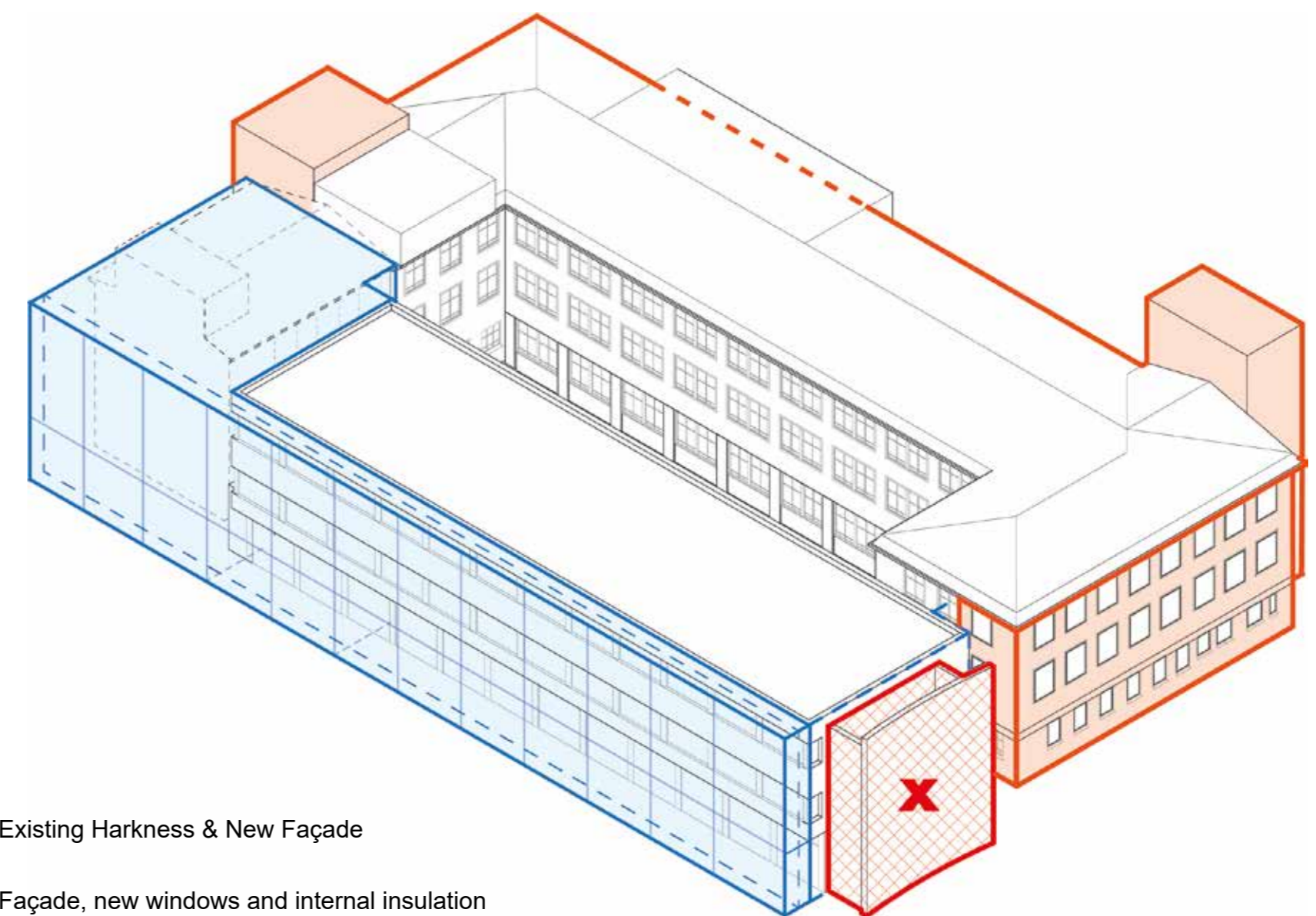
Exterior Design

Envelope Design Approach

The Gibson Building's existing brick façade and patinated green copper roof add to the character of the area. The strong horizontal banded appearance the existing Harkness Building, its curved stair close to the Observatory, and set-back ground floor with arched cantilevers have a negative impact on the setting of the Observatory and character of the wider Quarter.

Proposals therefore seek to retain the external appearance of the Gibson Building by only replacing windows and adding high-performance insulation to the inside of the walls, roof and ground floor slab.

To help upgrade and unify the appearance of the south facing elevations, the proposals add a new façade to the outside of the Harkness Building and the to be rebuilt southwest corner.



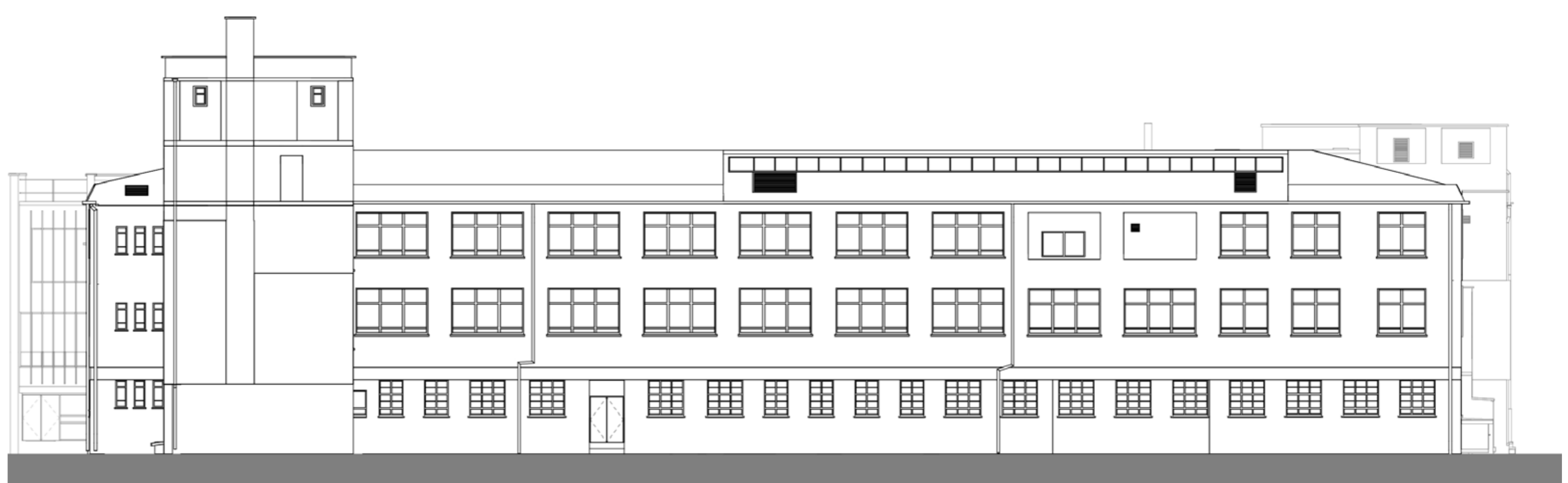
Overclad Existing Harkness & New Façade
Retained Façade, new windows and internal insulation

Retained Gibson Façade

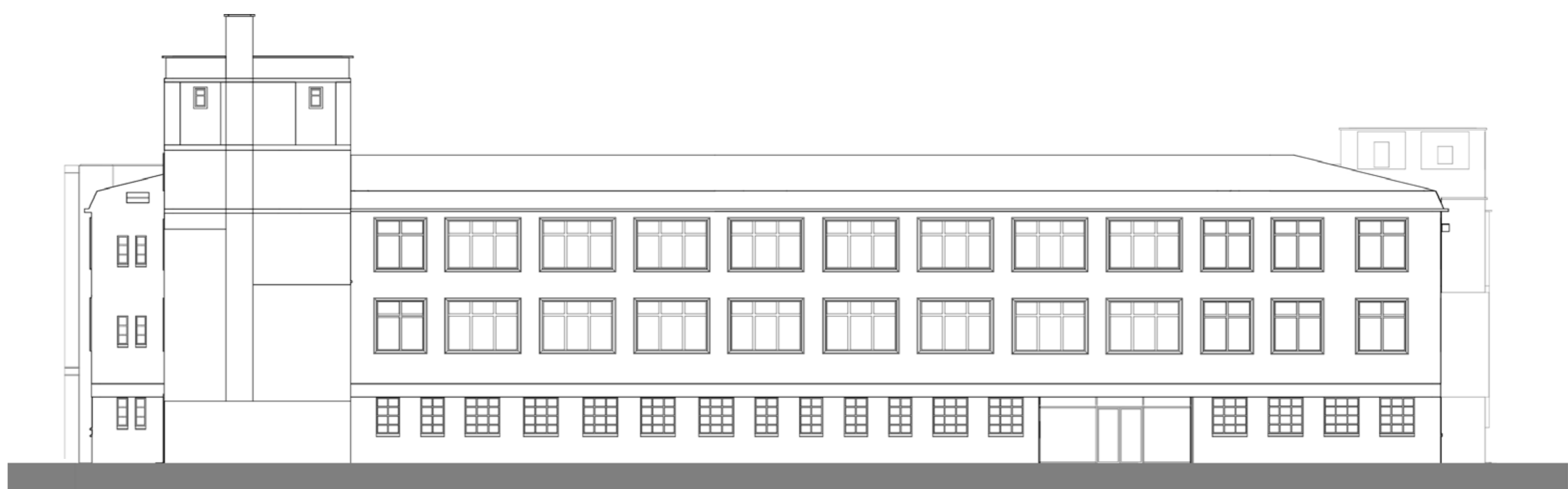
Proposals for the refurbishment of the external walls of the Gibson Building seek to retain its character but repair and clean up years of modifications and clutter. Redundant drainage pipes will be removed and brick work repaired. Windows will be replaced with matching gridded but high-performing new windows that are set back to align with a new insulation layer on the inside. The increased window reveals will articulate the façade better. Existing reconstituted stone window reveals will be extended inwards to resolve the increased reveal depth, and new reconstituted stone reveals added where the current façade is lacking them on the north façade. Localised bricked-up windows will be re-instated. The existing dormer facing the residential properties on the north side will be removed, with new dormers containing new mechanical plant to be placed on the courtyard side of the roof where they cannot be seen from surrounding properties.



Photos of existing Gibson Building façades



Existing north elevation



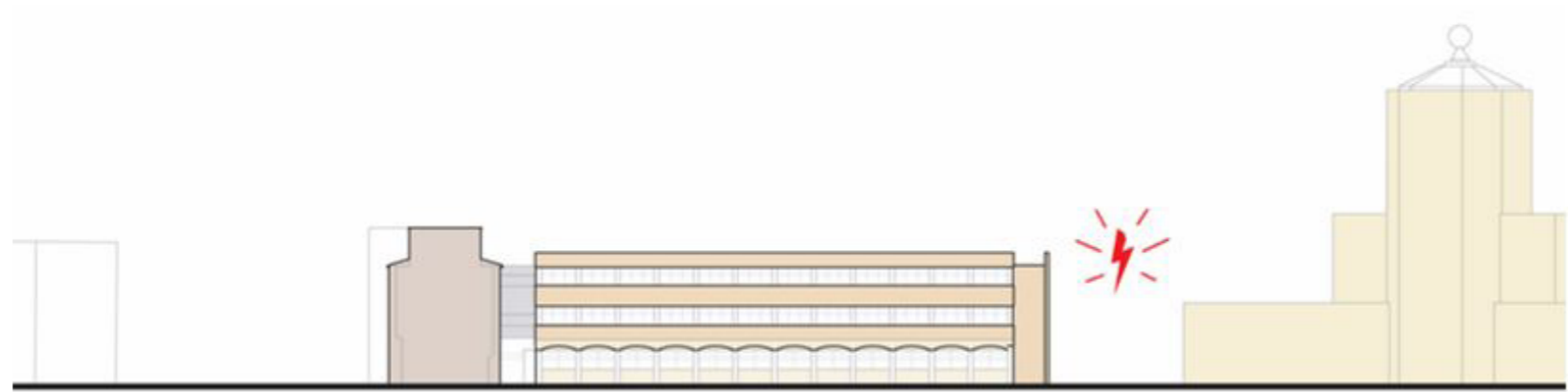
Proposed north elevation

South Facade Design

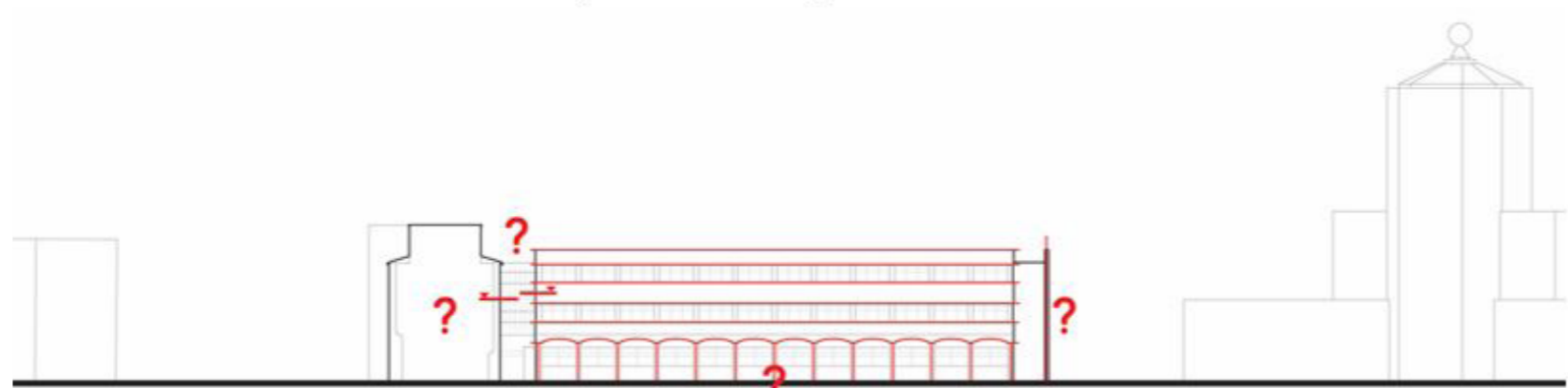
The strong horizontal articulation of the existing Harkness Building, its curved expressed stair-core close to the Observatory, and non-structural arched projections are out of character within the historic context of the Observatory and therefore have a negative impact on the setting of the Observatory and the wider Quarter.

The proposed south façade design of the new OIDH seeks to complement the Radcliffe Observatory such that it:

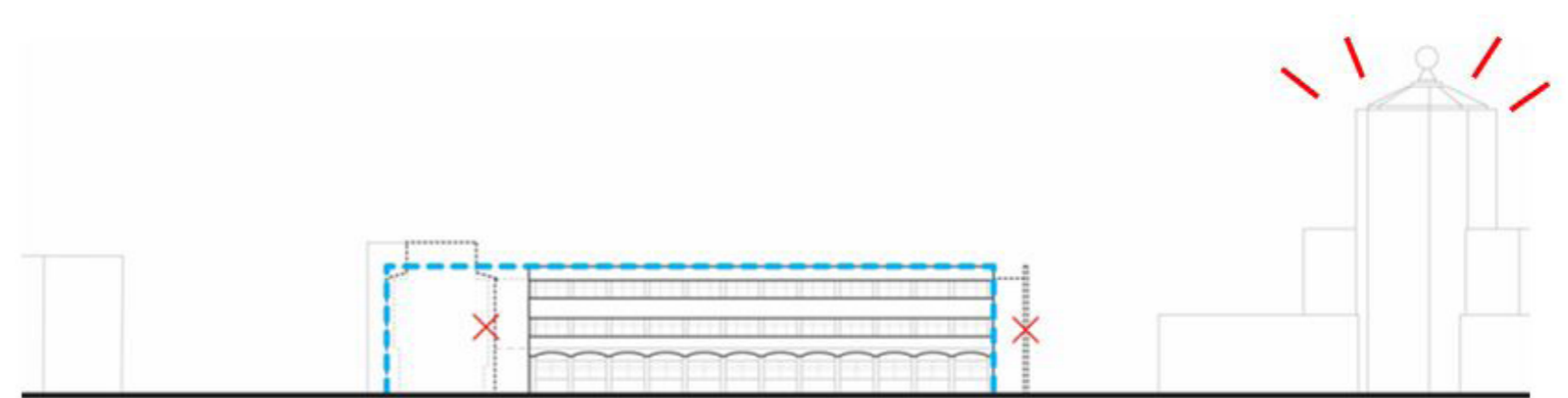
- **celebrates instead of competes** with the expressive Observatory,
- creates a **refined but understated** appearance matching the transformational background role digital technology can play in improving people's health.



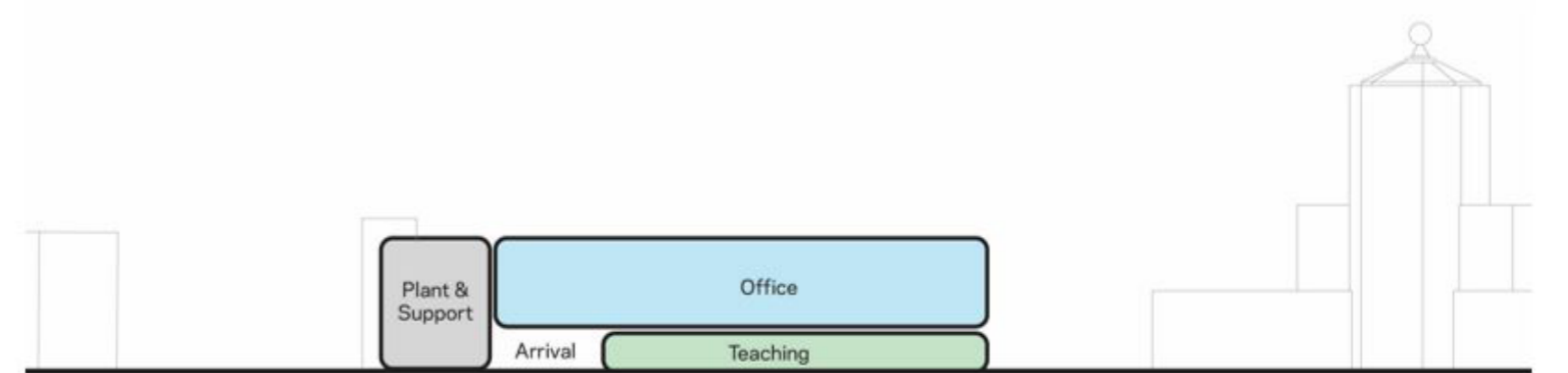
- Current clash of architectural styles, materiality and tone



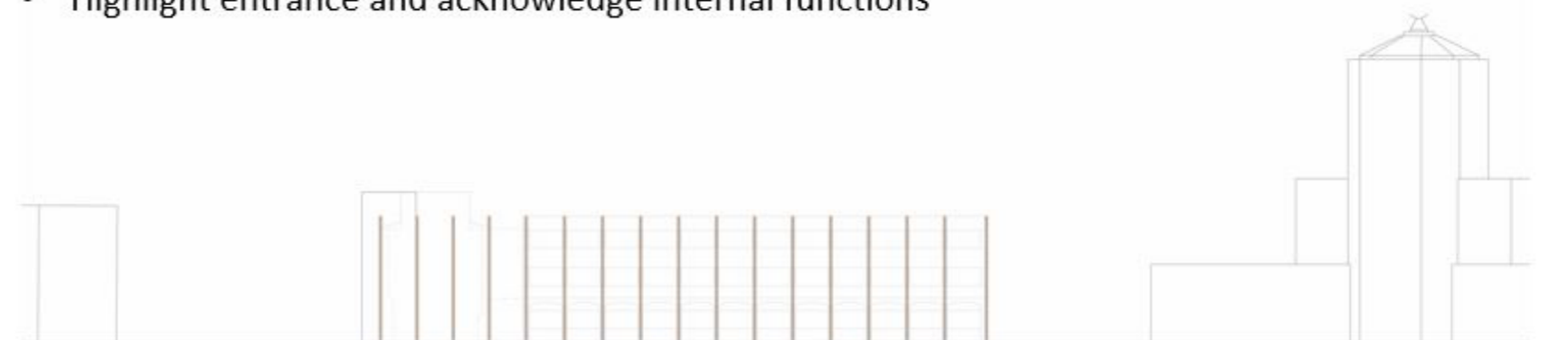
- Inconsistent form language, scarred Gibson Building frontage, unresolved floor level difference



- Part-demolish, repair, and unify appearance to express single, elegant but understated identity
- Allows Observatory to stand out, matching Digital Health's sophisticated but understated role



- Highlight entrance and acknowledge internal functions



- Harkness Building structure serves as organising base module; maximise structure/fabric retention



- Subtle vertical hierarchy introduced to articulate/break-down length and differentiate functions
- Horizontal string course / cornice differentiating open ground and articulating roof edge
- Alternating horizontal louvres shade extensive glazing, unify & express digital forward-looking identity



South Elevation

Facade Character & Identity

The overall design follows the department's desire for an appearance that communicates the innovative but understated character of their work, which seeks to improve healthcare and people's lives in the background without dominating. Equally the design could also be seen as a transition, a portal, between the historic setting and deep knowledge characterising its location, and the forward-looking research and teaching within.

The new frontage is restrained in its composition, making use of natural stone alongside glass and timber, to not compete with the ornate horizontally layered Observatory. At times reflecting its surrounding the mostly uniform elegant stone framed elevation aims to feature subtly in the various approach views, allowing it to complement and enhance the distinctness of the Radcliffe Observatory and ROQ.



Illustrative view of proposal as seen when approaching from Walton Street

Exterior Design

Facade Build-up

Retaining the existing structure and its substantial horizontal brick bands/lintels as support, the unifying façade design to the Harkness Building aims to re-provide maximum glazing celebrating the unique views to the Quarter and Oxford skyline beyond.

Windows will be replaced with large triple glazed units. The solid brick faced wall areas will be over-clad with insulation protected by reflective glass cladding.

A limited amount of stone clad solid wall will be added alongside each existing column to improve the thermal performance and break the strong horizontal banded appearance.

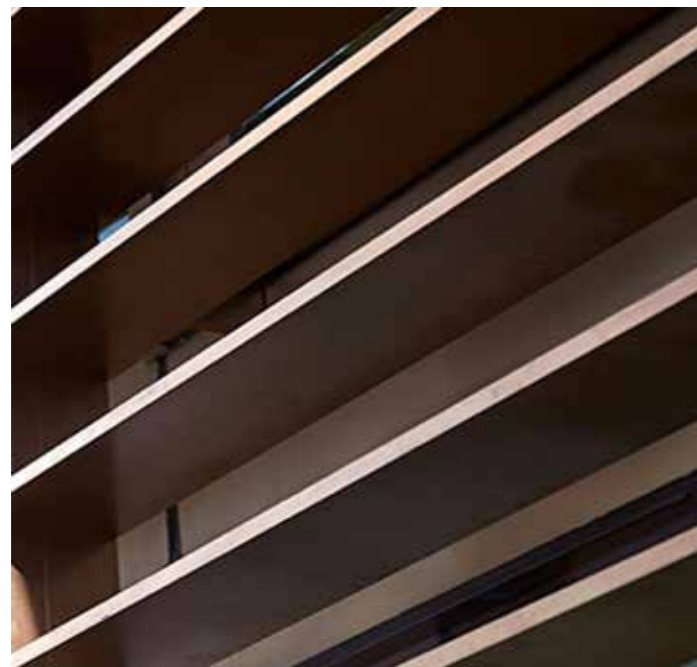
Shading Screen

To ground the design in its historic context, manage solar heat gain, and add depth and shadow play to the façade, finely detailed Clipsham stone frames/porticos with staggered dark bronze shading louvres, are proposed as a self-supporting structure added slightly proud of the re-clad façade.

The composition of the new shading screen responds to the existing structural frame while grouping modules to subtly articulate the building's frontage with the entrance and an adjacent solid portion being unique and highlighted.



View of entrance and ground floor teaching spaces as seen when approaching from east



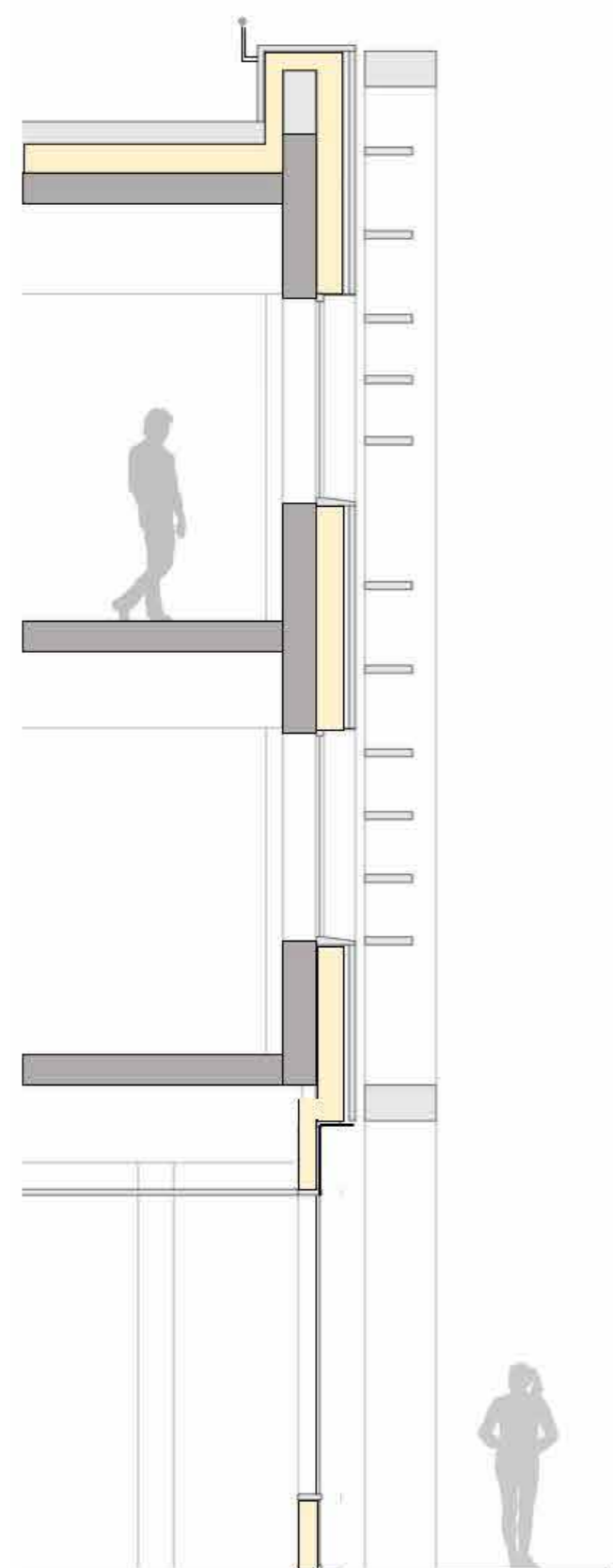
Example of bronze metal louvres



Clipsham stone used for stone pillars at Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College



Example of stone cladding as proposed for walls adjacent to the main entrance



Facade section, with the existing structure shown in dark grey, and close up elevation of the re-clad Harkness Building



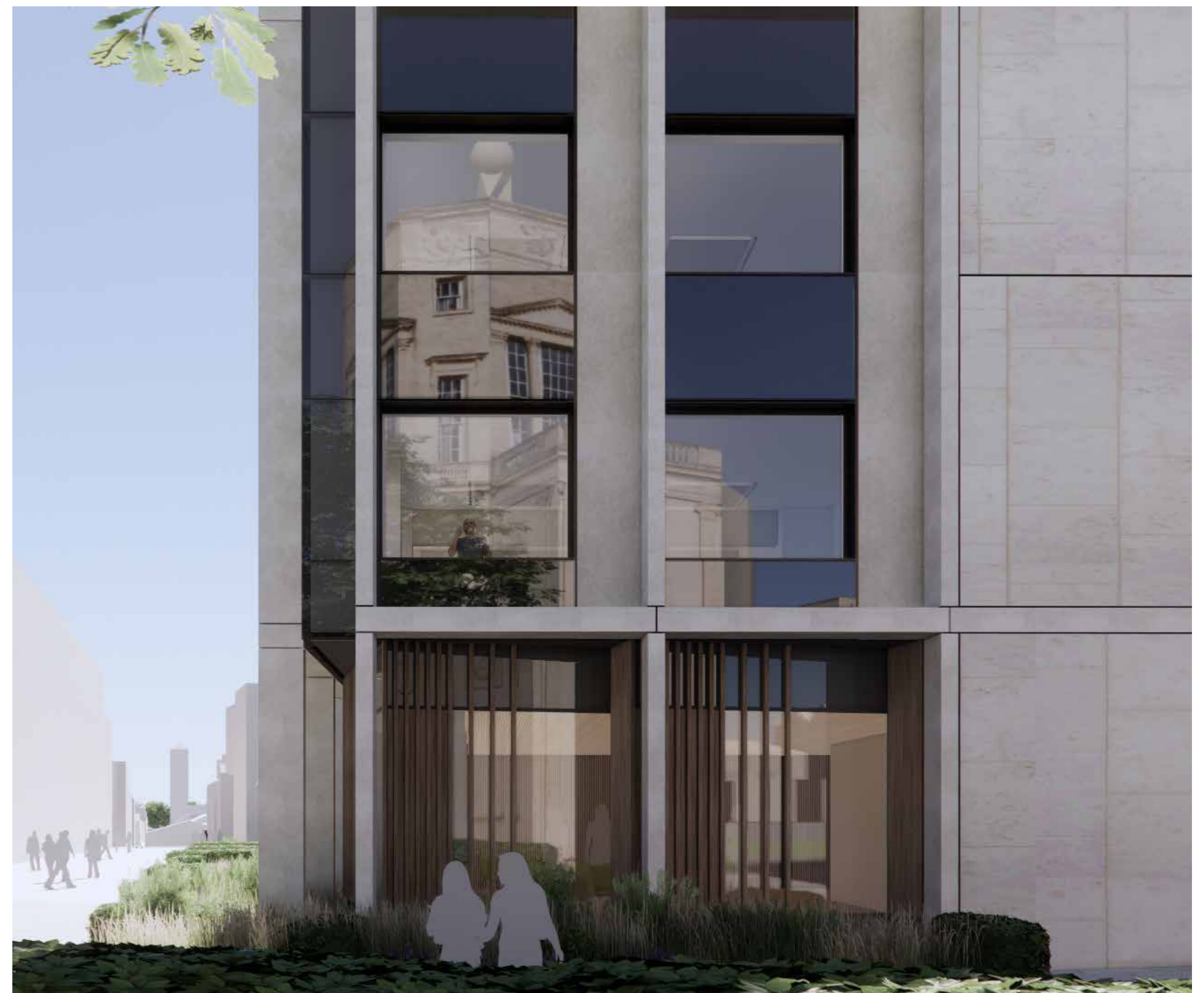
Exterior Design

Groundfloor Teaching Space Facade

At ground the design proposes removal of the existing walls and replacing them with a pleated frontage closer to the line of the upper floors. This helps to increase internal space but still retains shaded and set back portions for extensive new glazing.

The angle of the folds aligns in plan with the approach from Walton Street to the Observatory and general urban grid north and west of the site. Through this adjustment the frontage conciliates between the building's orientation (a remnant of the old hospital complex still visible in the southeast of the ROQ) and its immediate surrounding. Simultaneously the faceting breaks the flatness and resulting reflections of the ground floor glazing, giving greater chance to see into the building, teaching and shared spaces.

Transitioning from the outside to the inside is marked by a change in materiality, moving from predominantly stone and glass to extensive use of timber, helping to generate an animated, healthy study and work environment. Glimpses of this use of timber are planned by introducing timber to the folded ground floor facade, where its use is supported through the protection by the overhang, sheltering it from exposure to rain.



Close up of east elevation where stone and reflective glass are proposed to replace the current curved brick clad stair tower of the Harkness Building



Top: Reflective glass used at St Antony's College and the Blavatnik School of Government. Bottom: Use of timber screening at Blavatnik Institute and example of green wall on stone



Extensive glazing at ground level will allow the entrance and teaching spaces to become visible at dusk and dawn, especially in the winter months



View from the north entrance of the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities (currently under construction, foreground landscaping simplified)

Roof Design

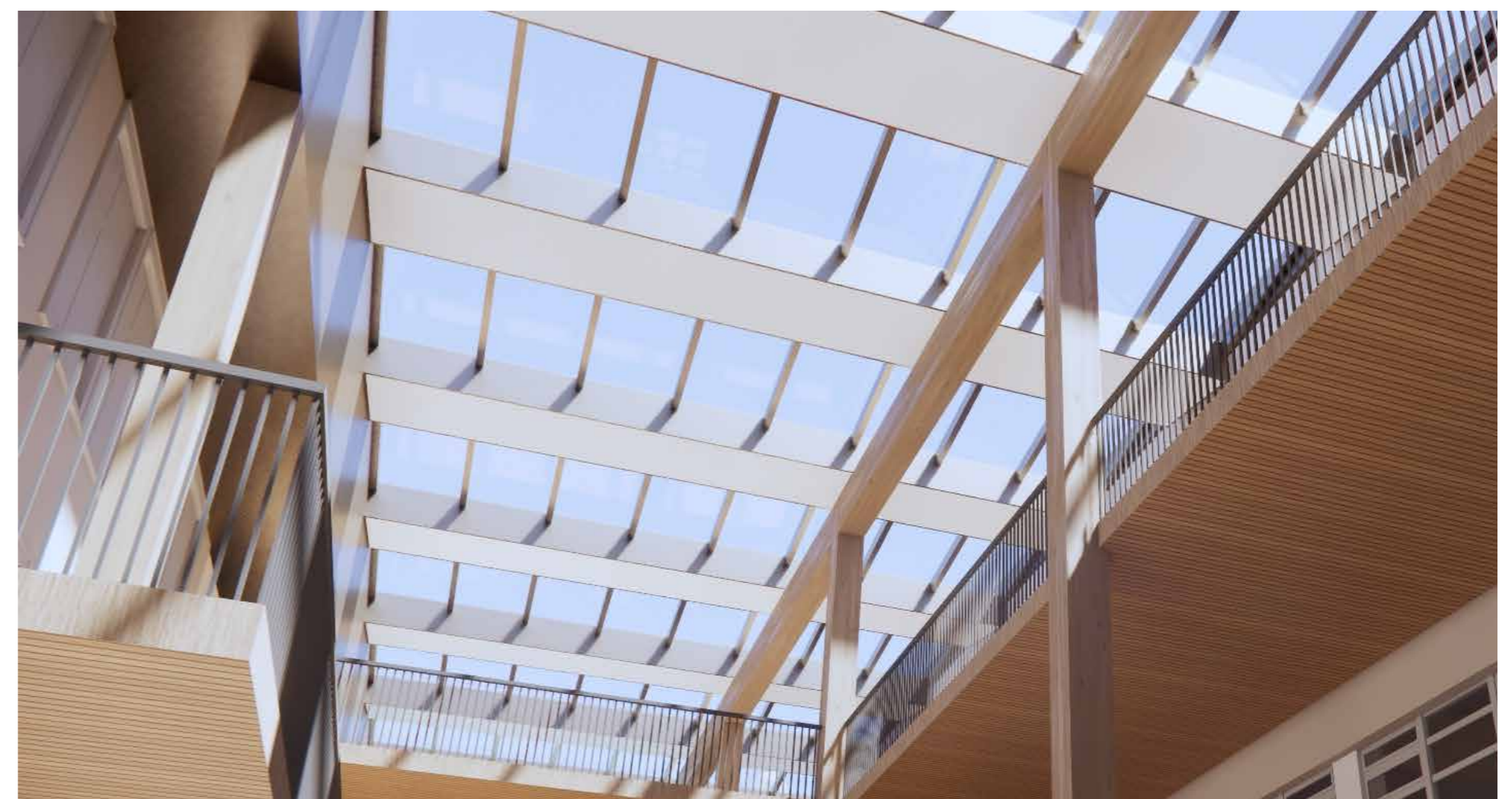
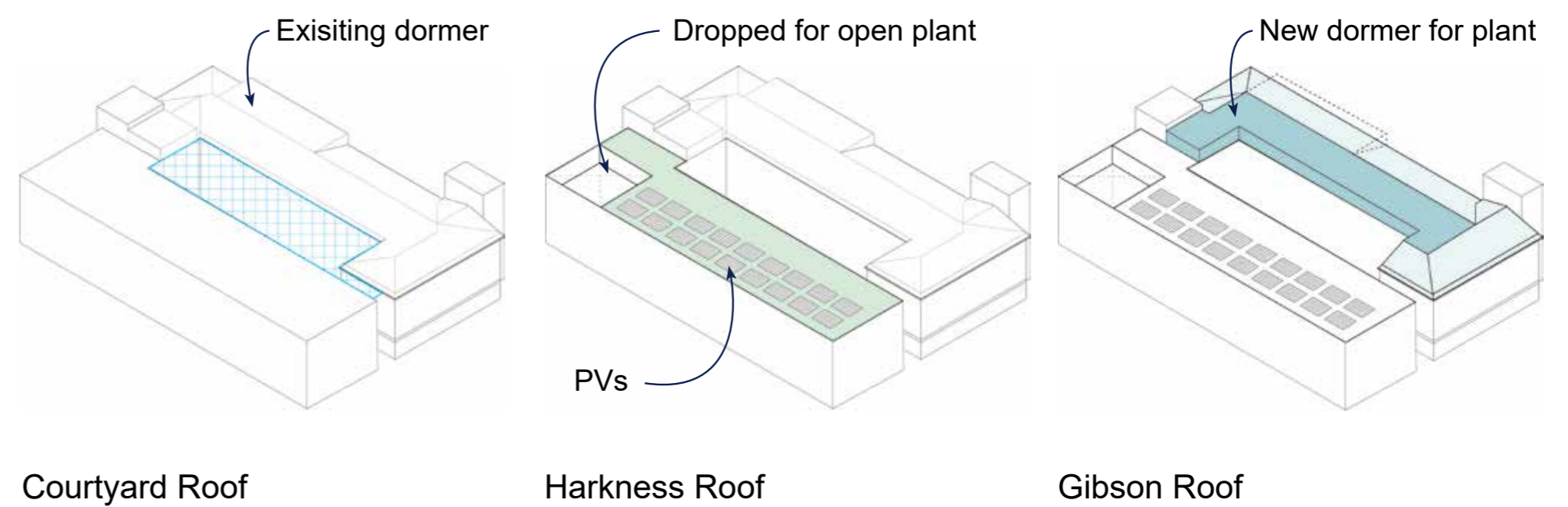
The refurbishment of the Gibson and Harkness Buildings is also an opportunity to improve their prominent roof scape visible from the tower spaces of the listed Radcliffe Observatory.

As described on board 6 and 7, proposals seek to cover the space between the buildings with a glazed roof to create an enclosed internal courtyard. To balance incoming daylight and excessive solar heat-gain the courtyard roof limits glazing to approximately 50% of the area, broken down into a series of north/south running glazed strips offering ample view of the sky from inside.

The existing unsightly Harkness Building roof will be rebuilt to host a neat array of photovoltaics above reconstituted stone pavers.

The characteristic green patinated copper roof of the Gibson Building will be modified along the courtyard edge to house a new dormer to provide additional space for necessary modern air-handling plant that enables low energy heating and cooling of the building.

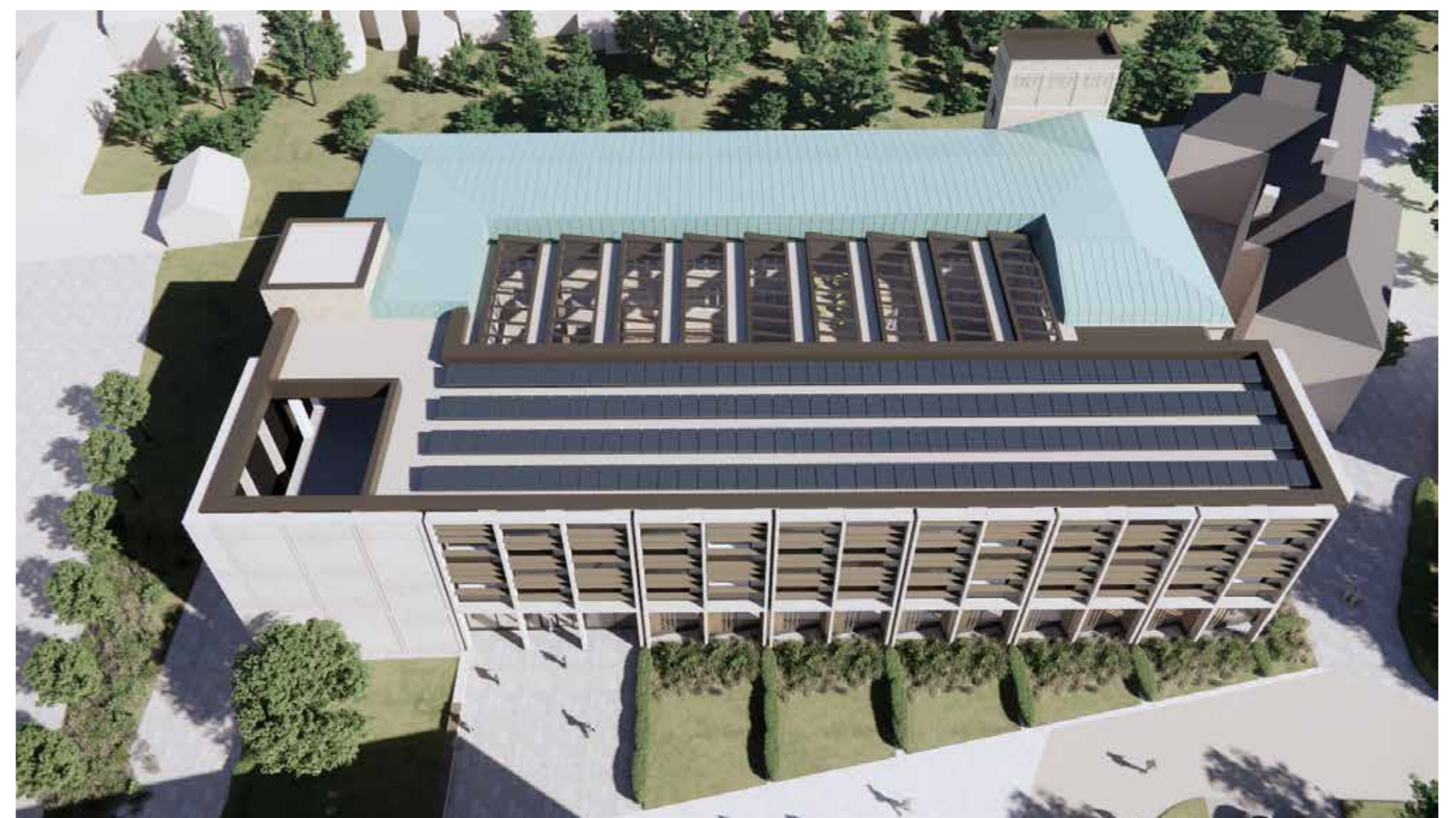
The team is investigating if this will enable removal of the existing unsightly dormer on the north side facing the residential properties, resulting in a improved coherent roof form. New roof elements will be finished in matching pre-patinated green copper.



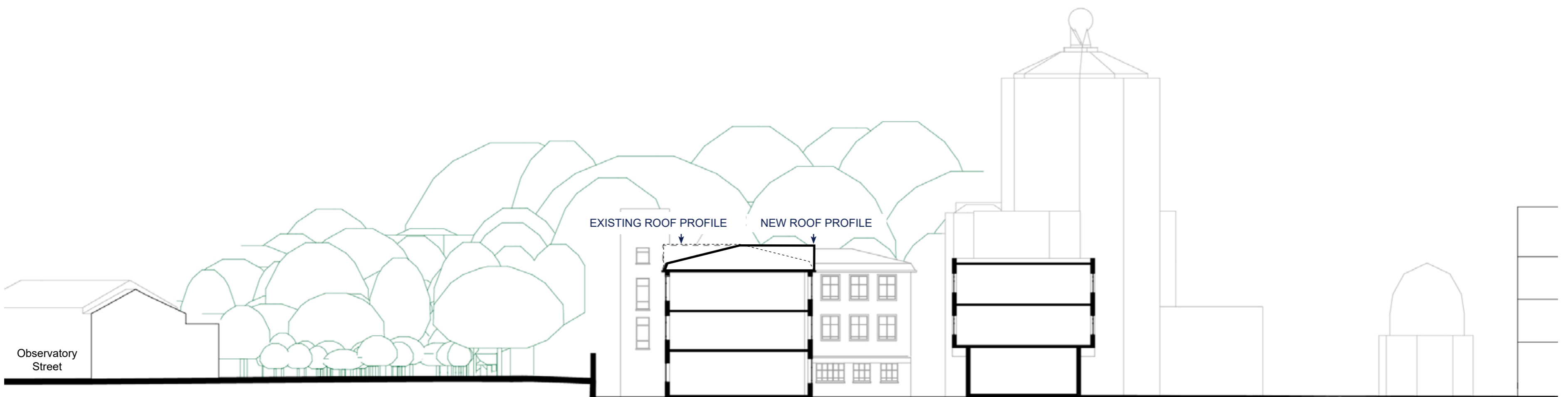
View of proposed courtyard roof from within the courtyard



View of proposed roof scape as seen from the top of the Observatory



Aerial view of the proposed roof composition



Section running north/south showing the refurbished buildings in relation to nearby residential properties on Observatory Street

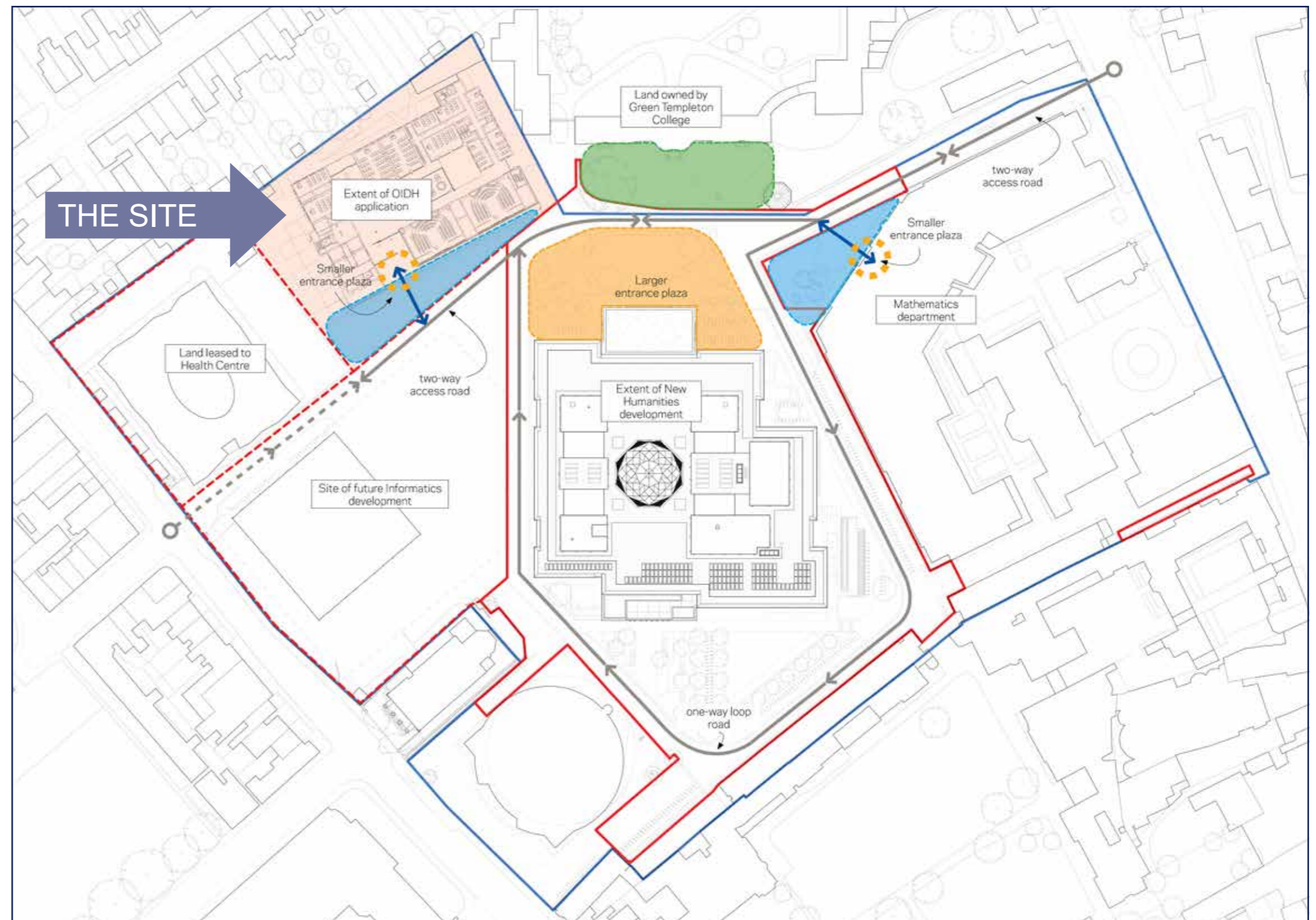
Landscape Context

The existing external public realm consists of a perimeter of mostly hard landscape with some small trees and planting areas arranged within courtyard areas and to the western edge of the Harkness and Gibson buildings.

A rear private courtyard exists to the rear of the buildings and adjoins to the campus boundary wall.

A central courtyard lies between the existing Gibson and Harkness buildings. Although this is currently an external space, it is proposed that this will be transformed into an interior atrium as part of the refurbishment.

The site is currently accessed via a pedestrianised street, with all vehicles accessing the campus from Woodstock Road. This is to remain.



Access Strategy

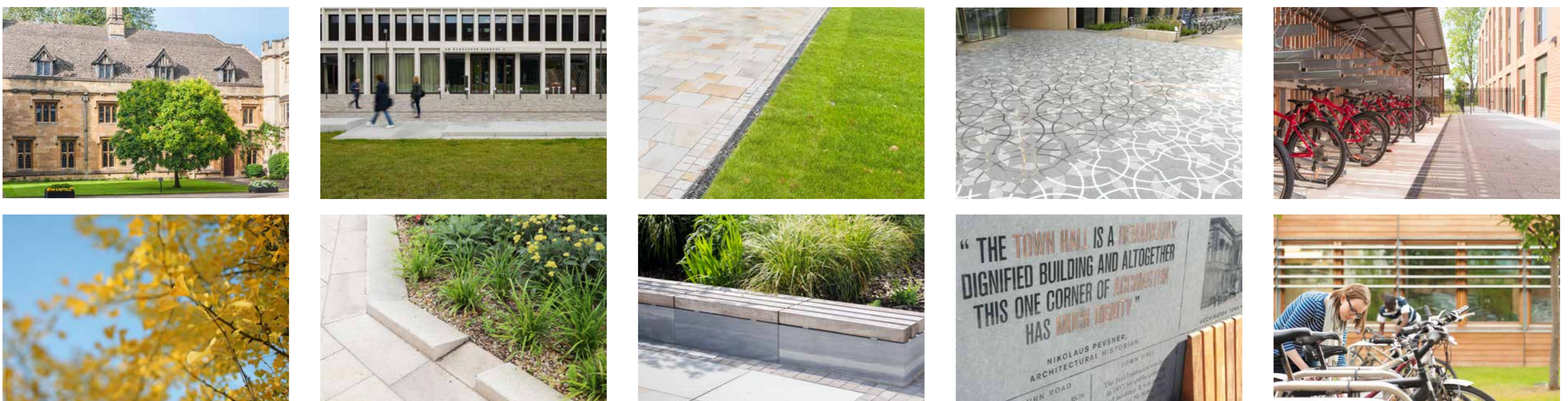
The goal of creating a car-free campus is central to the objectives for the proposed public realm. This, however, must be balanced carefully with the requirements for inclusivity, accessibility for all, and the day-to-day requirements of a University campus.

The diagram (right) illustrates the proposed campus access strategy. The area zoned in green identifies cycle parking facilities for both staff and students. This will consist primarily of Sheffield Hoops, with some additional two-tier covered units to ensure capacity requirements.

Areas zoned in yellow and purple illustrate locations for bin stores and sub stations, respectively. Access to these is proposed from Walton Street, via the adjacent New Radcliffe House car park. This allows for servicing without using pedestrian areas. Accessible parking is to remain outside the main entrance as currently catered for.



Precedent Images

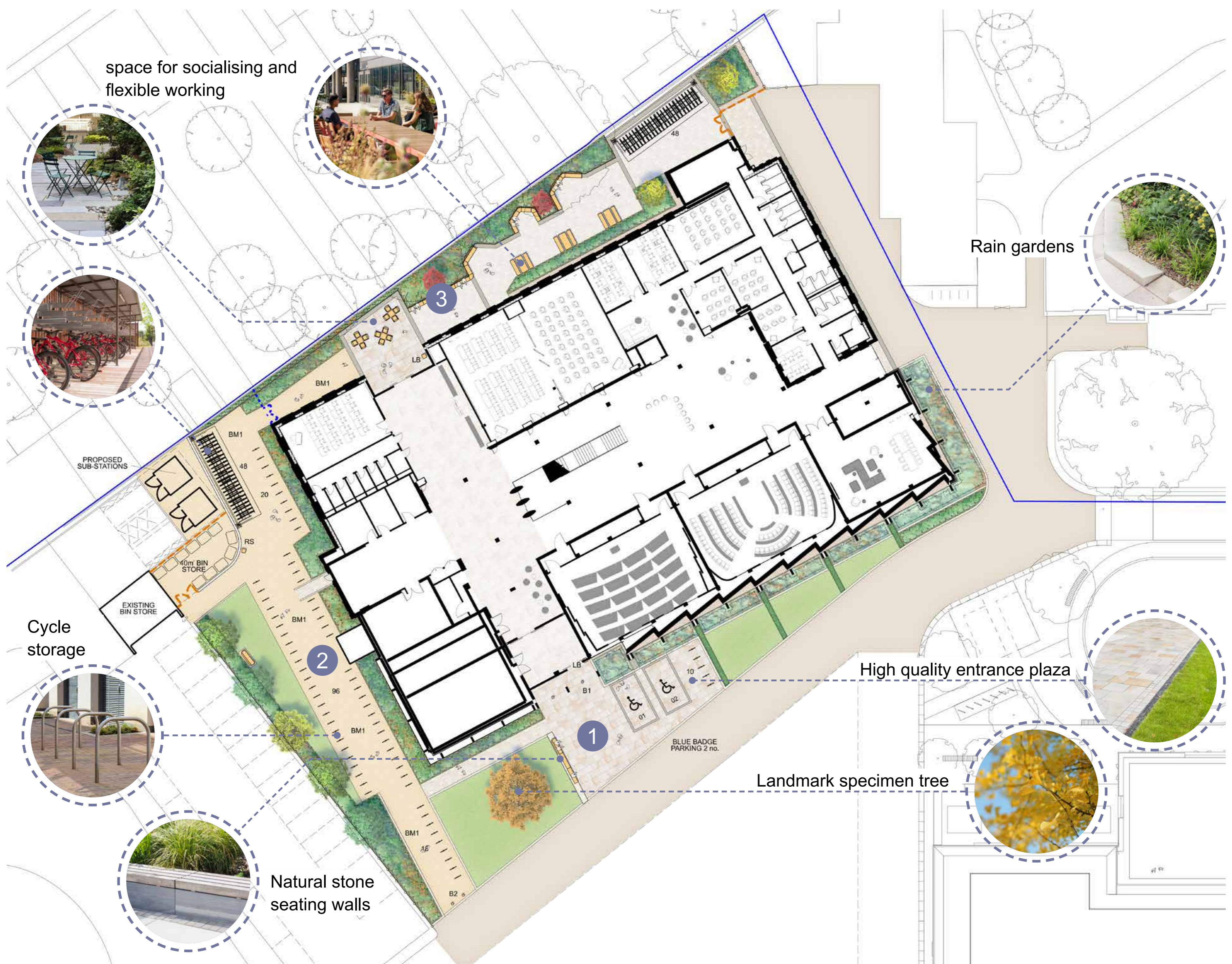


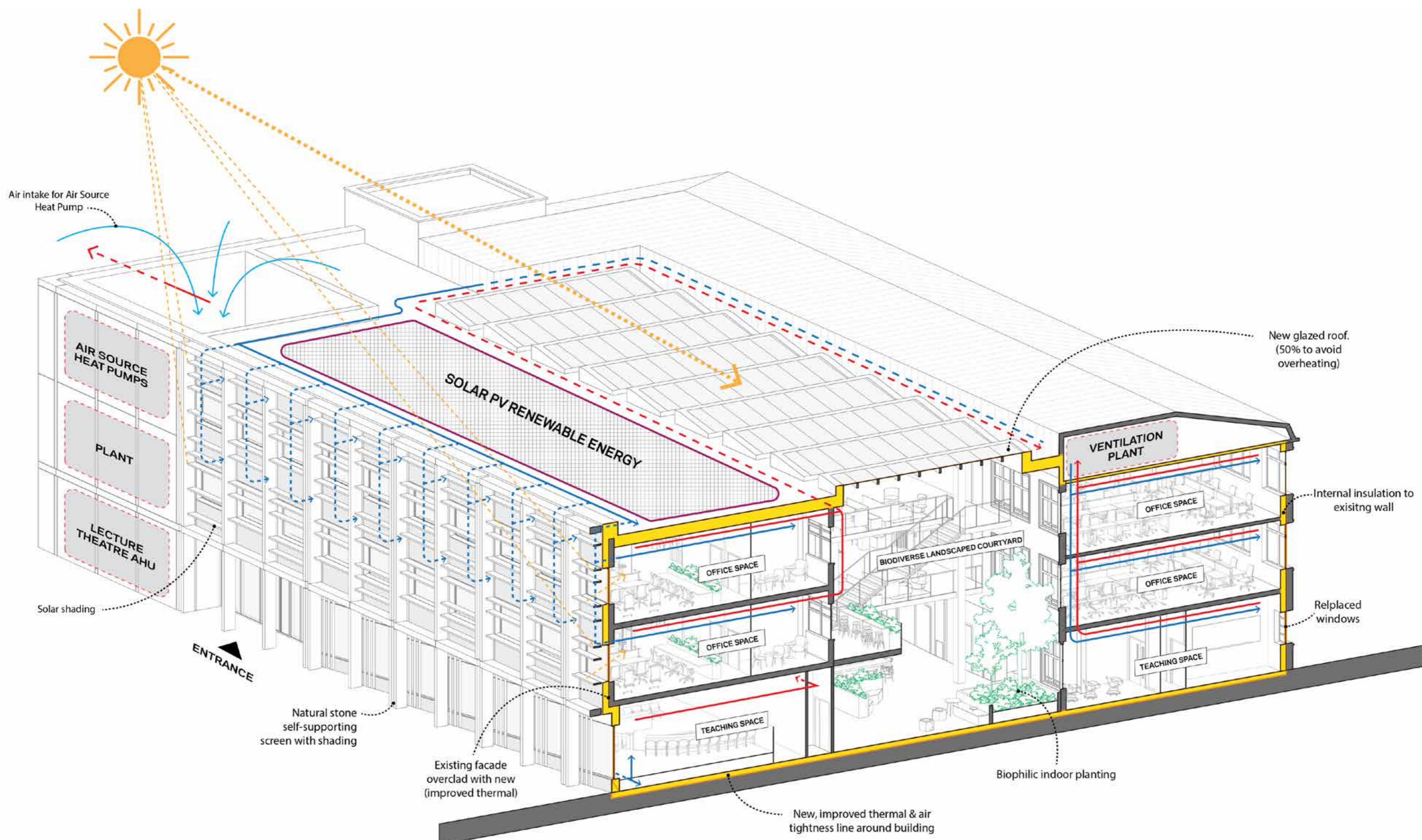
Summary

The design of the public realm aims to create an attractive and contemporary design which responds to the setting of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

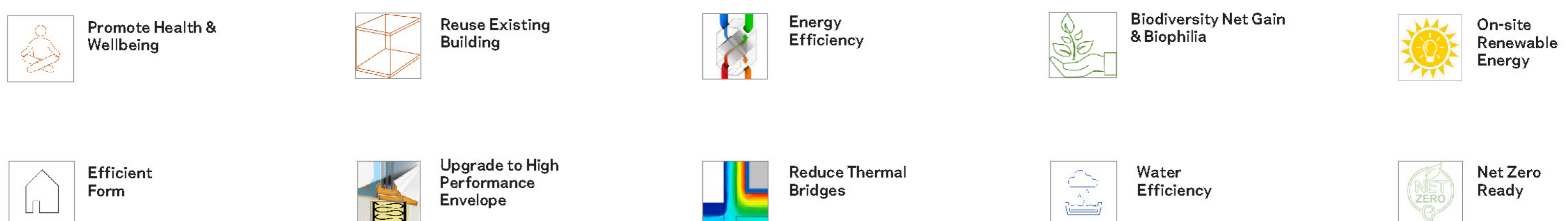
The external landscape will include the following key areas, identified on the masterplan below:

- 1 A high quality pedestrianised entrance plaza, comprising an open lawn area, a large landmark specimen tree, seating, cycle parking facilities and sustainable water management.
- 2 An expansive, convenient and tree lined cycle parking area with close connections to the faculty main entrance, for use by staff and students.
- 3 A private walled garden for use by staff and students, with a range of spaces for socialising, flexible working and bicycle storage facilities.





Perspective section through the OIDH proposal illustrating sustainability interventions throughout.



Project sustainability goals

In line with the University of Oxford's Sustainability Design Guide, the Institute of Digital Health will take a holistic approach to sustainability, ensuring that each aspect of the building responds not only to the local policy and context of the building, but with understanding of its regional, national, and global impact and responsibility to mitigate its contribution to the climate emergency and extinction crisis, whilst positively facilitating the health and wellbeing of users.

The design team have collaborated to identify areas of improvement for the building's current structure and proposed new sustainability initiatives that foster a healthy and wellness-centred space while promoting environmental benefits. Below outlines the current sustainable design interventions:

- Designed to EnerPhit Standard (a certification scheme for highly energy efficient refurbishments)
- A new high performance, lightweight courtyard roof improves the building's thermal efficiency, eliminating insulation and air-tightness needs for inner courtyard walls.

- Introduction of new biophilic landscaping to the internal courtyard to form an inspiring, creative space that brings in natural daylight, views, and benefits of passive design to nurture good health and wellbeing.
- Careful reuse and refurbishment of the existing structure, lift/ stair cores and building façades, with insulation upgrades that improve envelope air tightness and thermal performance.
- High performance facade insulation to minimise thermal bridging.
- Reduced overall building energy demand and integration of energy generation through photovoltaics.
- Re-utilising waste heat through ASHP heat exchangers and using passive solar gain and shading features to control unwanted thermal gains.
- Low carbon in operational energy with all-electric, energy efficient systems.

Timeline

The timeline below sets out the completed and next steps for the project.

Following this public consultation event and consideration of feedback received, it is planned to submit a planning application in March 2024 for the refurbishment of the Gibson and Harkness Building, and associated landscaping.

2023

November

- Workshop with Oxford Design Review Panel (ODRP) ✓ Complete
- Public Consultation Event

December

- 5th Pre-Application Meeting with OCC

2024

March

- Submission of planning application

July

- Assumed planning application approval

May

- Proposed commencement of asbestos removal works

September

- Proposed commencement of main construction works

2025

November

- Opening of new building

