



UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER

# Our Campus Development: What Next?

September 2017





# Our history

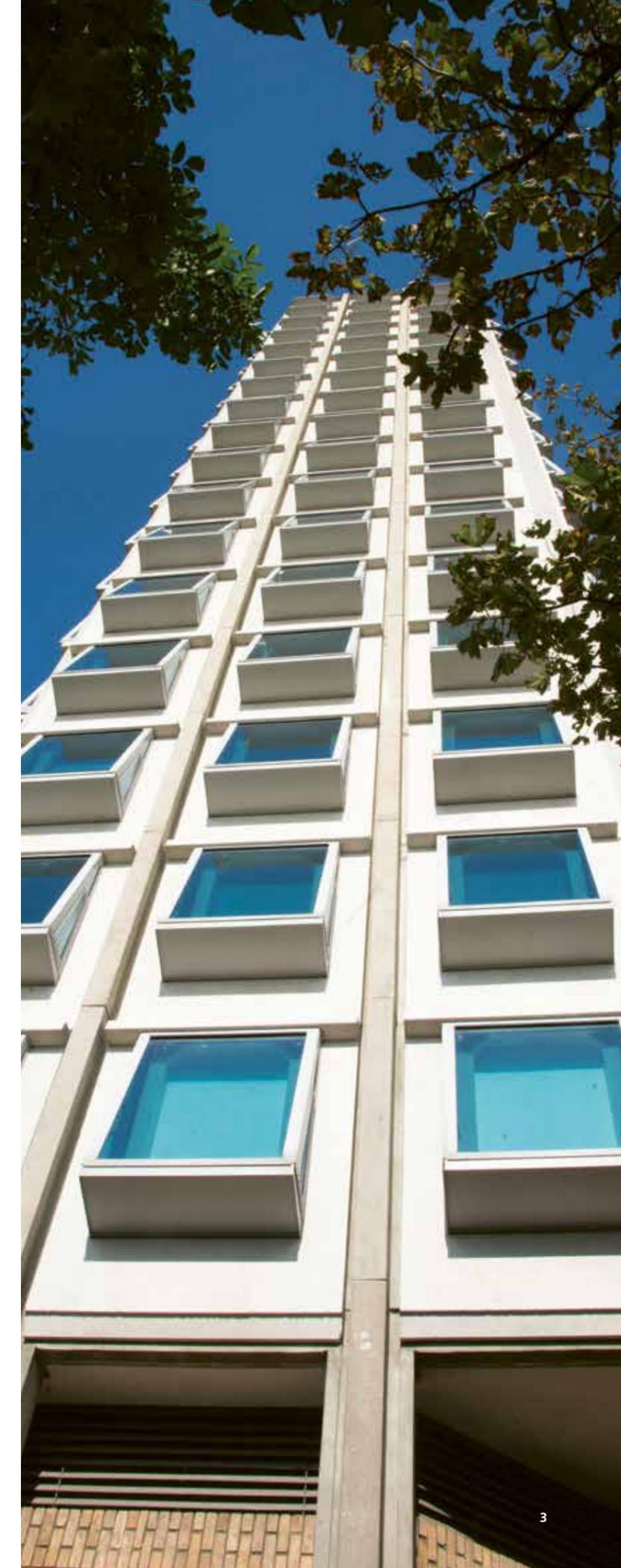
## Heritage

Established in 1921 as Leicestershire and Rutland University College, the University of Leicester was awarded its Royal Charter in 1957. Currently, it is placed in the top 1% of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The site that the University is located on was donated by Thomas Fielding Johnson, who wanted to help create a lasting memorial to the people who made sacrifices in the First World War. The University's motto – Ut Vitam Habeant: 'so that they may have life' – is a reflection of this proud heritage.

The University of Leicester has been home to many esteemed individuals throughout the years, such as Sir Alec Jeffreys – the geneticist who discovered DNA fingerprinting in the 1980s, renowned poet Philip Larkin and, more recently, the team behind the discovery of King Richard III.

However, no one is more famously associated with the University of Leicester than David and Richard Attenborough. David and Richard, who were educated at the adjacent grammar school, were both made Distinguished Honorary Fellows of the University in 2006.



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Through our campus development we will preserve the special character of our University while upgrading our facilities to deliver a welcoming and cohesive campus experience – and establish a distinctive and high-quality environment that fosters collaboration and achievement.

We sit at the heart of one of the UK's most diverse and dynamic cities. We have been inspired by how our city and surrounding areas have changed in recent years and we want to play our part in their continued development.



# Our estate

## Central campus

Although the architecture of the campus dates back to 1837, the majority of buildings were constructed in the 1960s and 1970s. The skyline of the central campus is dominated by three distinguished buildings; the Engineering Building, Attenborough Tower and the Charles Wilson Building.

## Charles Wilson Building

Named after the University's first Vice-Chancellor and opened in 1966, the building is an example of Brutalist architecture designed by Sir Denys Lasdun.

## Attenborough Tower

The 18-storey Attenborough Tower houses several departments within the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. The building was designed by Sir Philip Dowson.

## Brookfield

Brookfield was originally built as a small country house in 1876 and later became the residence of Thomas Fielding Johnson. In more recent years it has been used by the Charles Frears Nursing College and, currently, the University's Postgraduate Teaching Centre.

## Engineering Building

This was the first major building by celebrated British architect Sir James Stirling. It comprises workshops, laboratories, offices and lecture halls.

Completed in 1963, the Grade II\* listed building is recognised nationally and internationally as one of the most significant buildings of the 20th century. It has recently been listed as one of the top ten examples of England's post-war buildings.



# Our progress so far

We have not been standing still. Over the past few years, we have undertaken significant projects that support the vision that we have for the University of Leicester's estate.

## Engineering Roof

In 2015, we began a project to undertake works to replace the roof and glazed facades of the Engineering Building to preserve its use well into the 21st century.

The work involved replacing each of the 2,500 glass panels of the unique 45-degree, patent-glazed, diamond-shaped roof, designed to provide north light to the Engineering research laboratories and workshops.

## Centre for Medicine

The project's purpose was to create a state-of-the-art academic research and teaching facility and provide a coherent space for staff and students. At the time of completion, it was the largest Passivhaus building in the UK.

The Centre for Medicine is the largest single investment in medical teaching and applied research by any UK university in the last decade. It is a hub for students, academics, health service partners and research teams to come together and meet the healthcare challenges of the future.

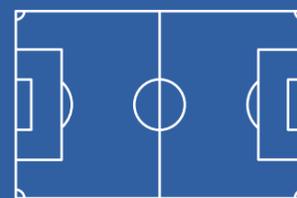
## Fielding Johnson Square

In 2016, the redevelopment of Fielding Johnson Square was completed. Formerly a car park, the area between the Students' Union Building and the David Wilson Library has now been sensitively landscaped to provide an outdoor events space for the enjoyment of our University community and Leicester residents alike.

The 1,000m<sup>2</sup> space has been designed to host events such as Christmas markets, open days, graduation receptions and much more. Its design is purposefully clutter-free and provides unobstructed access routes between surrounding campus buildings.

# Did you know?

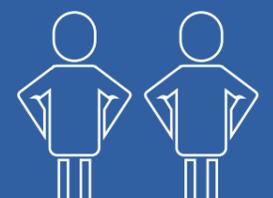
The total area covered by the University's estate equates to **95 hectares**. This is equivalent to **114 football pitches**.



Our estate currently consists of **110 non-residential buildings** and **191 residential buildings**.



Our central campus is located just one mile south of the city centre. It supports a population of around **20,000 students** and **4,000 staff**.

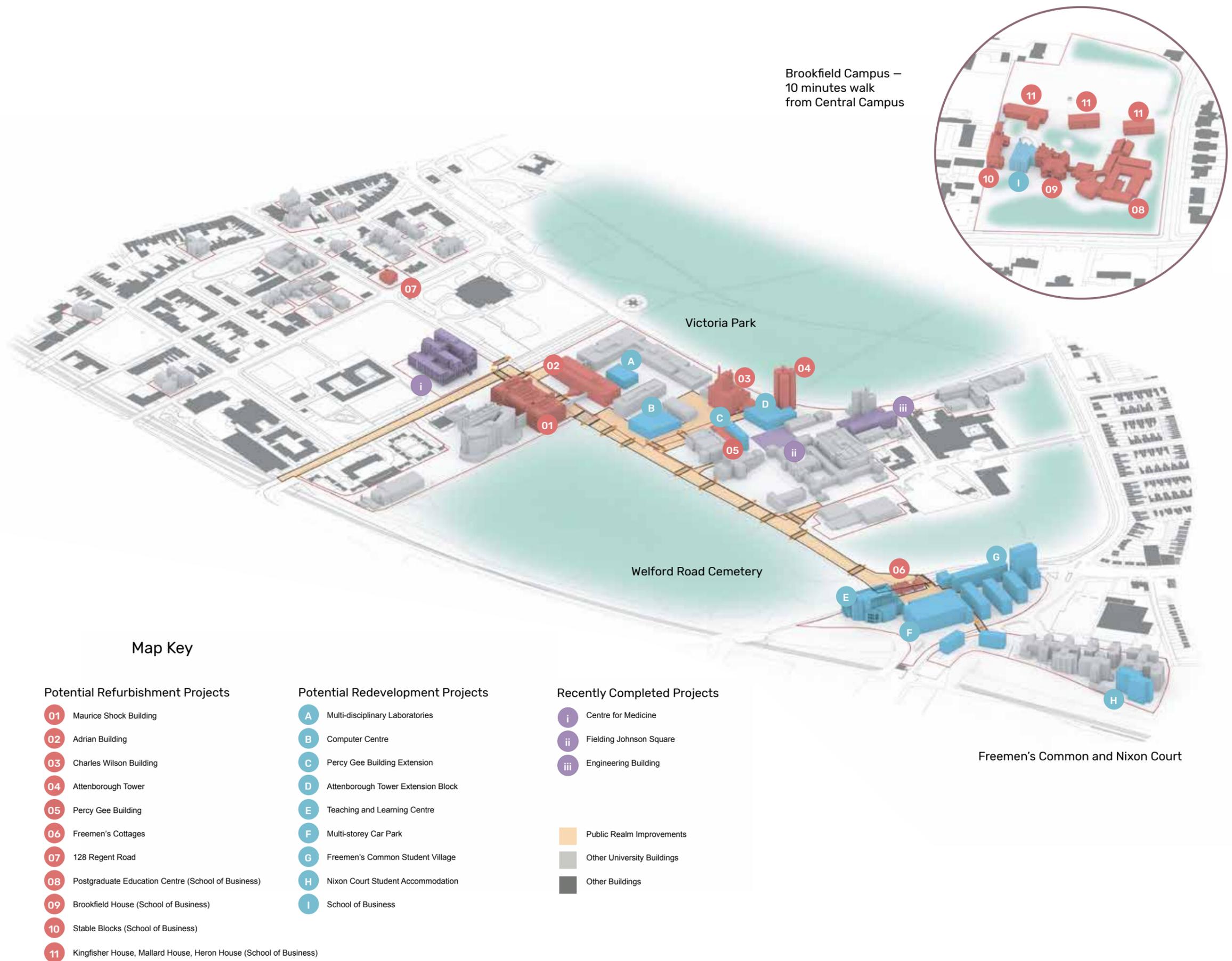


# Our vision for the future

We are developing a strategy that paves the way for us to transform our estate and ensure that we create a campus fit for the second century of our University.

- Transform the current facilities to create a contemporary, flexible and high-quality environment that inspires collaboration, achievement and wellbeing.
- Create the right conditions for the delivery of world-class academic activities.
- Attract top-level staff, students and partners.
- Engage with the local community and create an institution the city of Leicester will be proud of.
- Preserve the special character and heritage of our University whilst setting the foundations for a long-term, prosperous future.

We have been working hard to ensure that our next stage of campus redevelopment can progress.





Artist impression of the Percy Gee Building development



Artist impression of Brookfield development



Freeman's Common

## Upcoming projects

During July 2017, we undertook consultations with students, staff, local stakeholders and members of the public about our development proposals for the Percy Gee Building and Brookfield.

### Percy Gee Building

Designed by T. Shirley Worthington, the Percy Gee Building houses our Students' Union. It is an accessible and thriving multi-purpose building and one of the main hubs of our campus.

Between 2008 and 2011, the Percy Gee Building underwent an award-winning redevelopment. We are now developing proposals to extend and enhance the East Wing.

Our proposals seek to complete the modernisation of the building and deliver an extension to match the quality of the rest of the building and the new Fielding Johnson Square. This consists of:

- Doubling the amount of social learning space.

- A new façade and entrance to the East Wing of the building that improves accessibility and connects to Fielding Johnson Square.
- A brand new spacious food court.

### Brookfield

We have developed proposals to upgrade our facilities at Brookfield to provide a new home for our School of Business.

Currently split across a series of buildings, the new proposals will enable our School of Business to be based on one site, creating an outstanding environment for students, staff and visitors.

The proposals will bring Brookfield back to its former glory through modest

extension and refurbishment. This consists of:

- Renovating the whole site and bringing Brookfield House back into use.
- Replacing the extension to Brookfield House.
- Upgrading existing office space and facilities.

### Freeman's Common

The existing student residences at Freeman's Common are coming to the end of their life. This presents an exciting opportunity for us to look at this area as a whole and how it could be redeveloped to provide a better range of accommodation.

We will be appointing a development partner to work with us on this project and will consult with the community as soon as plans are further developed.

In summary, our ambitions are for a redeveloped Freeman's Common to provide:

- A greater range and quality of student residences, offering the opportunity to accommodate more students in purpose-built accommodation and reduce pressure on more traditional housing stock in the local area.
- A new Teaching and Learning Centre, which will provide a flexible new academic space and add to the quality of the University's teaching space.
- Significant car parking provision, which will at least maintain the number of car parking spaces that are currently accommodated on the site.

Importantly, the proposals will protect the historic Freeman's Cottages and look to create new and improved landscaped areas and pedestrian and cycling routes to connect this area of our campus better with the surrounding communities.

### Student residences

We will be embarking on a major programme to upgrade many of our student residences, ensuring that we have the quality of accommodation required to continue to attract the best students. We will be starting with Mary Gee Residences on Ratcliffe Road.

### Central campus

The Maurice Shock Building, Charles Wilson Building and Attenborough Building are all in need of major refurbishment. We envisage large scale refurbishment of these buildings to

ensure that they are fit for the future. This will be a major undertaking and we will need to relocate staff and students while we complete these works. The creation of Multi-disciplinary Laboratories is a key priority and we are currently looking into location options. The Adrian Building is in need of refurbishment as part of the overall masterplan.





Artist impression of Space Park Leicester

## Space Park Leicester

We will invest in Space Park Leicester to further enhance our reputation as a world class centre for teaching and research in Space and Earth Observation science. This will be achieved with a £13m investment from Local Growth Funding through the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) alongside a £10m venture by the University.

Space Park Leicester will provide a state-of-the-art facility where:

- Industry and academia can collaborate and exploit opportunities in space education and innovation.
- Technology for harnessing and developing satellite data and space technology will be housed in a purpose-built environment.
- A community of businesses, R&D partners, international institutes and academic experts will have direct access to leading university research and state-of-the-art equipment.



Artist Impression University Road, Entrance 2

## Public realm

We are looking to improve the public spaces located on campus to provide a seamless 'one campus' feel. This long-term vision has already begun with the development of the areas around the Fielding Johnson Building and David Wilson Library.

Working closely with Leicester City Council, new public realm and landscaped spaces will be created, not only for students and staff to enjoy, but also for the wider Leicester community. Pedestrian and cyclist routes will be enhanced across the campus to make better links with local communities and the city centre.

We are currently exploring options to make University Road a safer and more pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

## Movement around our campus

As part of our campus development plans, we are thinking carefully about how our staff and students will travel to and around the different parts of our estate. We share a responsibility to promote sustainable travel, but also to make provision as part of our plans to keep traffic moving for bus and car users and work to ensure a pleasant and safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

### Encouraging sustainable transport

The University will continue to support measures to encourage sustainable travel choices as part of its Sustainable Transport Plan. We have invested considerable resource in these measures, which focus on:

- Encouraging the adoption of sustainable modes of transport by making investments, such as improvements to pedestrian and cycling routes and crossings.
- Discouraging commuting by car.
- Where car journeys are necessary, discouraging single-occupancy journeys.
- Introduce additional electric car charging points across campus.

For specific development proposals that we bring forward, such as at Freeman's Common, we will consider whether we can make changes or upgrades to improve the surrounding environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

### Staff and student parking

We appreciate that this is an often contentious issue. We will continue to discourage our students from bringing their own cars to university with them and will only provide parking permits to students under exceptional circumstances.

Staff parking permits are designated to specific car parks. We intend to develop a new multi-storey car park as part of the redevelopment of Freeman's Common to ensure that our level of car parking provision is maintained.





## Have your say

Our campus development project is progressing well.

We are committed to ongoing, constructive dialogue with staff, students, the local community and members of the public throughout the development process.

We held consultations on Brookfield and Percy Gee in July 2017. There will be many more opportunities to comment on proposals going forward.

Throughout the development of our campus, you can get in touch with the University of Leicester Estates Consultation Team using the following channels:

**e:** [info@uolestates.co.uk](mailto:info@uolestates.co.uk)

**t:** 08456 026 473

**FREEPOST** – UoL Estates

For news and all of the latest information on our plans, please visit our website:  
[www.le.ac.uk/campus-development](http://www.le.ac.uk/campus-development)

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