

# Welcome

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We are very pleased to welcome you to this consultation event today.

The Radcliffe Science Library (RSL) site is being redeveloped to create modern library facilities open to all Bodleian readers; flexible spaces for study, collaboration, exhibitions and public events; and a new Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) Collections Teaching and Research Centre (CTRC), which will provide high-quality storage for University collections, as well as facilities for their display, digitisation and preservation. In addition, the new Parks College will be integrated into these refurbishment plans, creating a new dining hall, common room, study areas and offices for college members.

As well as the main RSL buildings, the redevelopment will include the adjoining buildings (the western wing of the Inorganic Chemistry Lab and Abbot's Kitchen) and their connecting spaces. Overall, the project will create accessible and modern spaces with high quality facilities that can be used flexibly for quiet study, group meetings, and public events.

The project forms a unique partnership that brings wide-ranging mutual benefits and efficiencies by allowing the sharing and exchange of knowledge, space and resources among all building users – college students, staff and fellows, library readers, and museum visitors – as well as creating new opportunities for public engagement.

This event will show you:

- The site and its location
- The use of the buildings and the proposed floor plans
- The treatment of the existing bookcases
- Sustainability and maintenance works
- The new link building and the proposed landscaping
- How the proposals relate to the wider Science Area
- How the proposals will impact existing trees
- The next steps and the current timeline

## Your views...

There is a feedback form available today, and we would be grateful if you would please complete and submit it to us by 20 October 2019 either in hard copy or by email to: [public.consultation@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:public.consultation@admin.ox.ac.uk).

Thank you for attending.



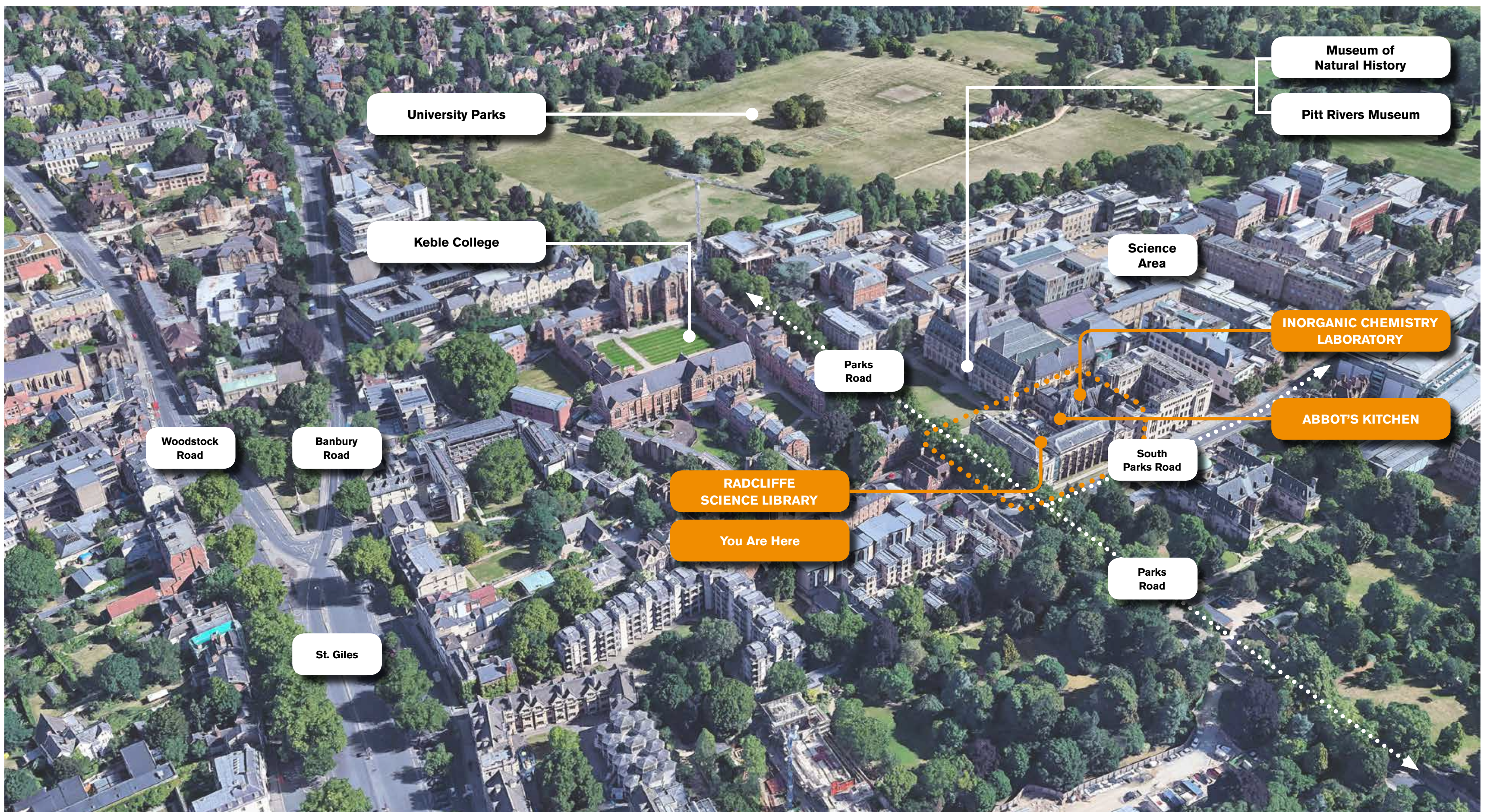
Abbot's Kitchen and the Radcliffe Science Library





# Site

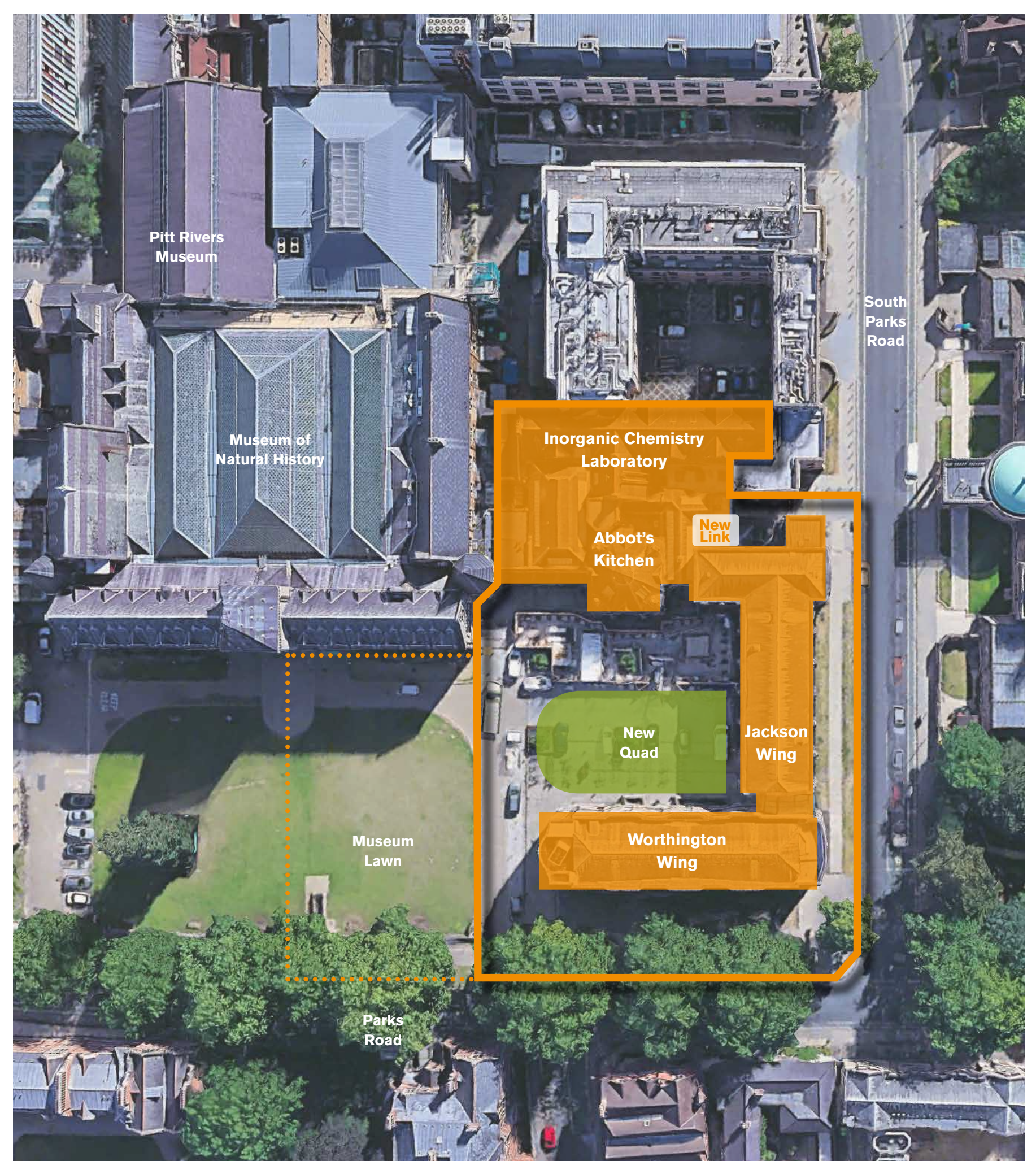
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Aerial view of the Science Area, imagery © 2019 Google



View from museum lawn (top) and view from Parks Road (bottom)



Site plan, imagery © 2019 Google

Orange dotted line indicates the outline of the basement levels



The Radcliffe Science Library redevelopment project integrates the University's ambitions to upgrade its science library facilities and create a new museum collections centre, with the proposals for a new graduate college: Parks College. The three partners – the library, museums and college – will each have some allocated spaces and some shared spaces in the refurbished buildings to meet their various needs.

The site includes the historic Jackson and Worthington Wings of the Radcliffe Science Library (RSL), the Abbot's Kitchen, and the west wing of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory (ICL). These buildings are arranged around a courtyard alongside the Grade I listed University Museum of Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museum. This courtyard area will become the public face and front door of the new college, providing an important space for arrival, external amenities and public engagement.

## Second Floor (Top)

The historic RSL will remain in the building, located on the second floor, and will continue to be accessible to all Bodleian Library readers. The refurbished facilities include open shelving for the book collections, formal and informal reading rooms, and group study spaces. The area is served by a help desk and self-checkout facilities. There is also a new lift located in a new link building to improve accessibility. This is shown in more detail on Board 7.

## First Floor

The first floor accommodates the Parks College administration spaces, which are distributed throughout the Worthington Wing and the western end of the Jackson Wing. The eastern end of the Jackson Wing will be home to a Common Room, and leads to a Lounge, Function Room and Dining Hall in the ICL through the new link building. These are shown in more detail on Boards 5 and 7.

## Ground Floor

The main entrance for Parks College is located on the ground floor of the Jackson Wing, and the ground floor of the Worthington Wing houses the main entrance hall and staff areas for the RSL and the Collections Teaching and Research Centre (CTRC). A second entrance to the College will be provided through the Hooke Entrance on South Parks Road. There will also be a Governance Meeting Room located in the Abbot's Kitchen, with support and back of house spaces located in the ICL.

## Lower Ground Floor

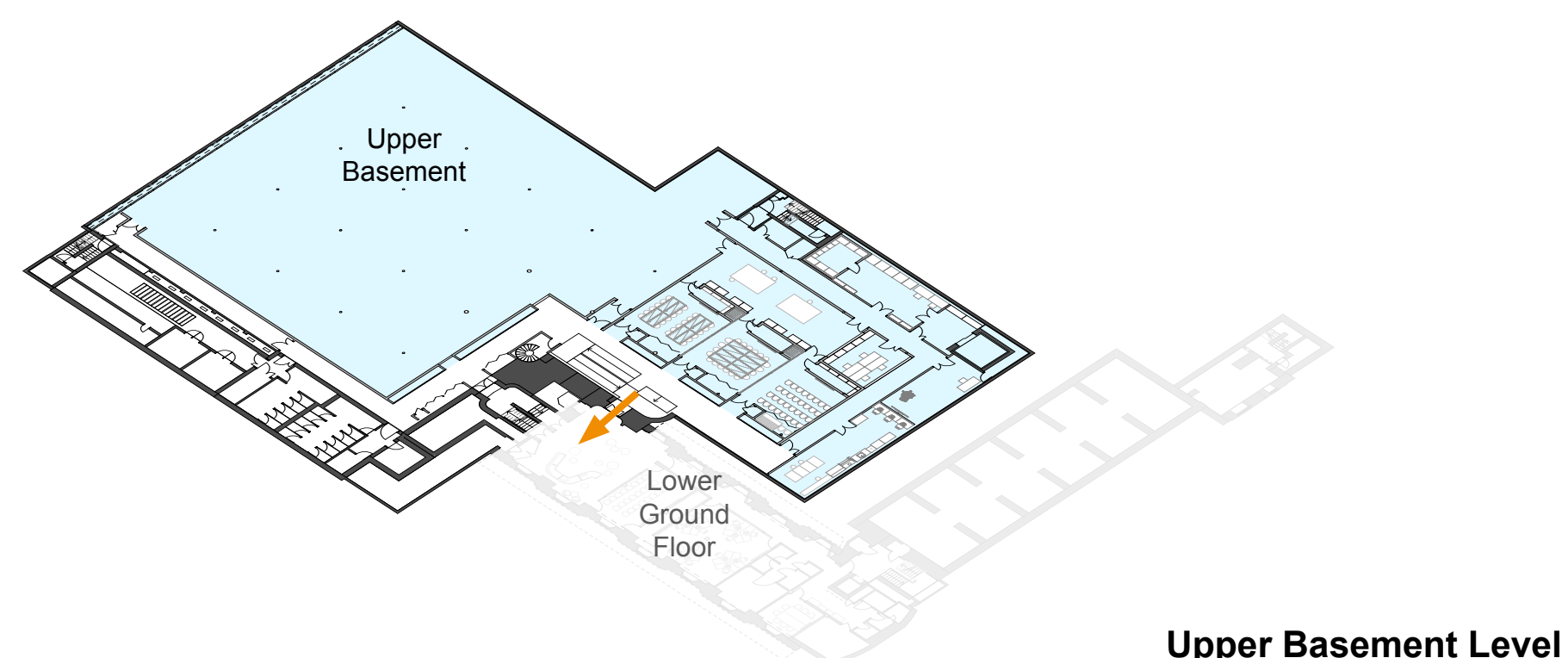
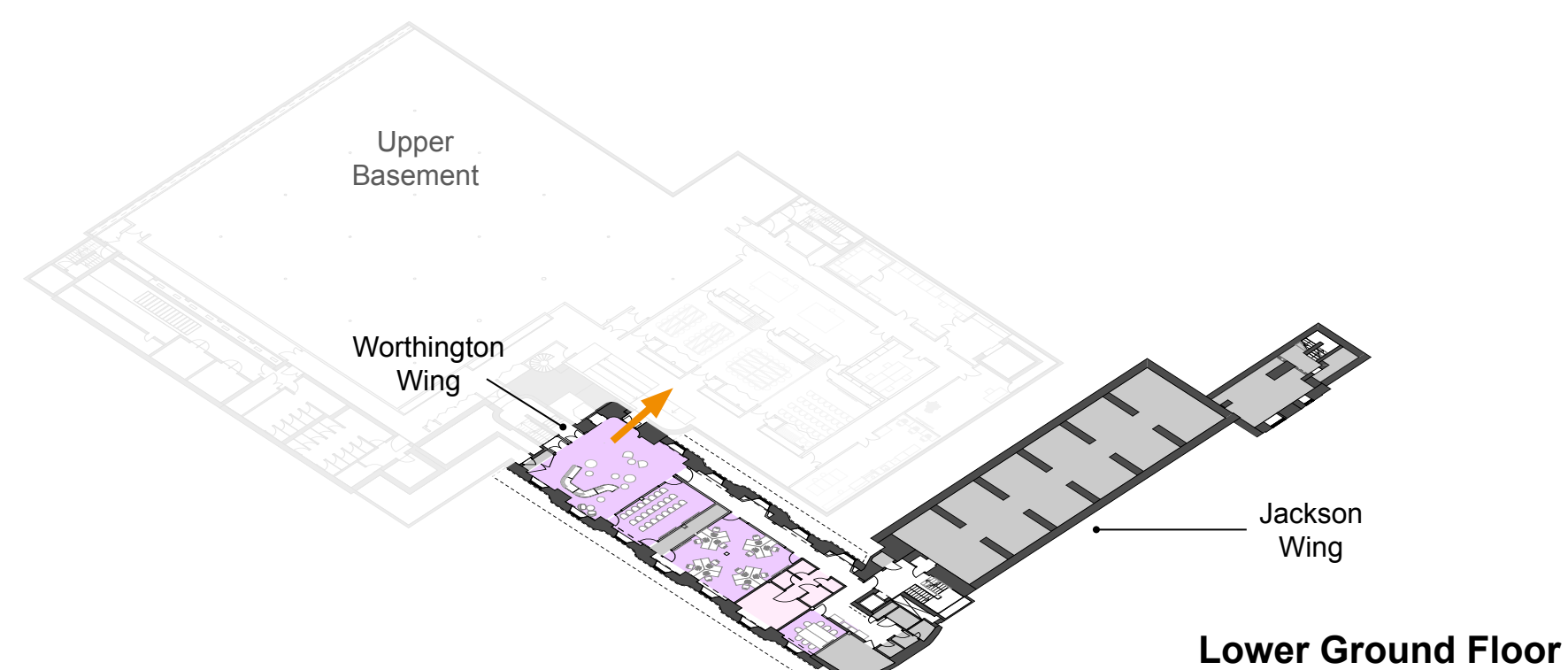
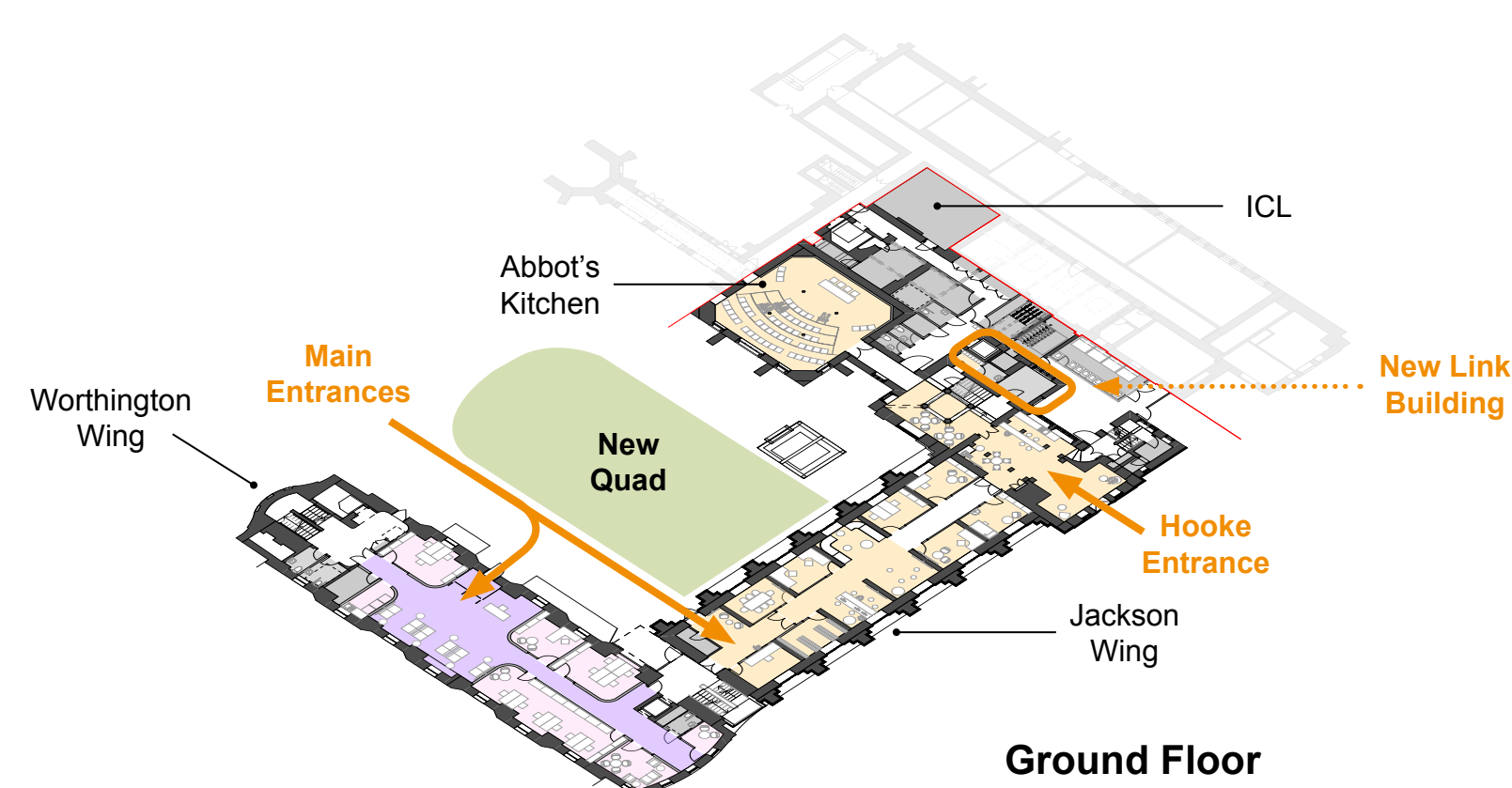
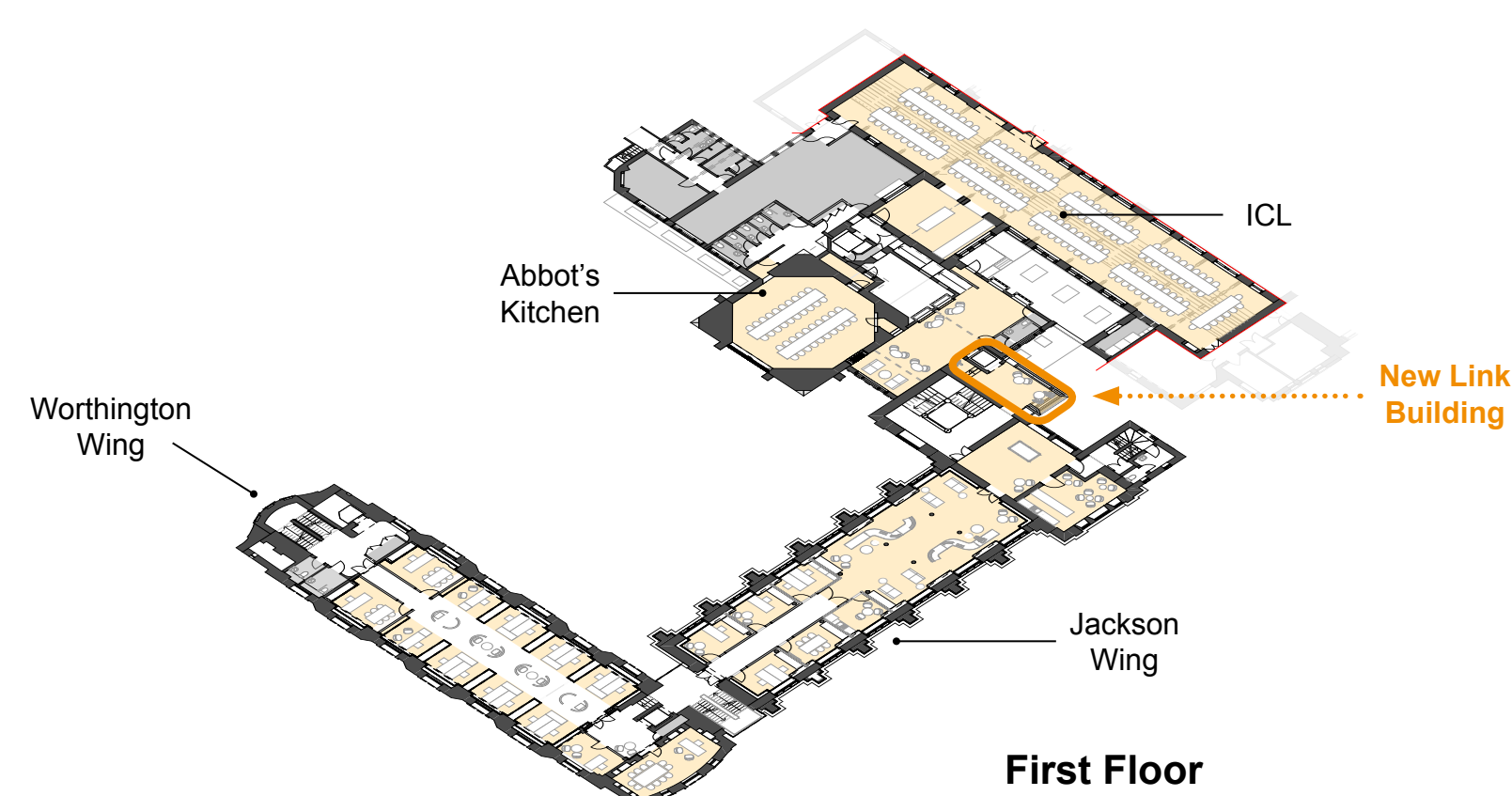
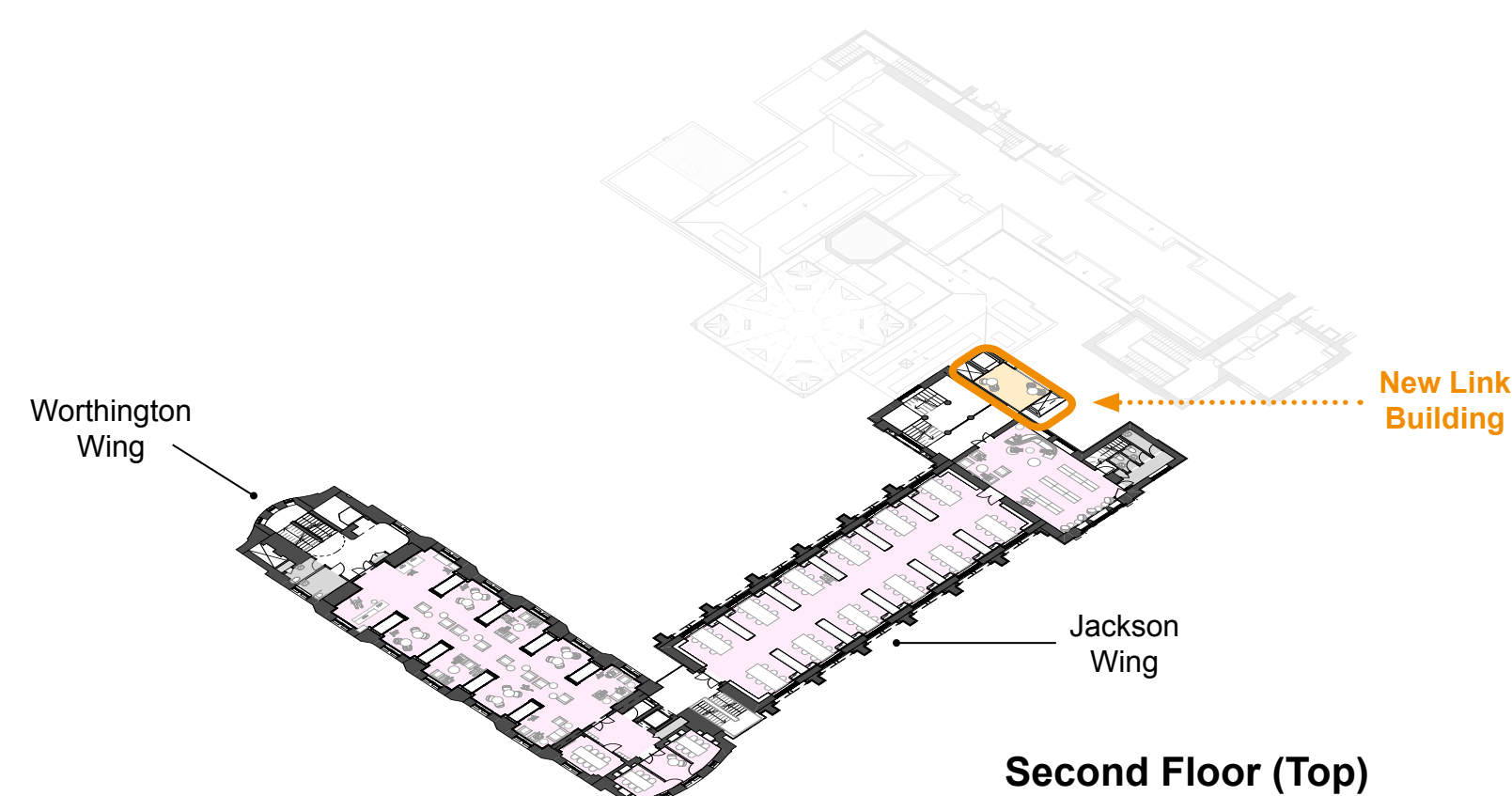
The lower ground floor provides access to the two basement levels below and accommodates a digital innovation hub, shared study areas, and breakout spaces located near to the CTRC.

## Basement

There are two basement levels. The upper basement level includes the CTRC and support spaces, shared teaching spaces and collections dense storage. The lower basement level includes a plant room, service lift and further collections dense storage that will remain largely unchanged.

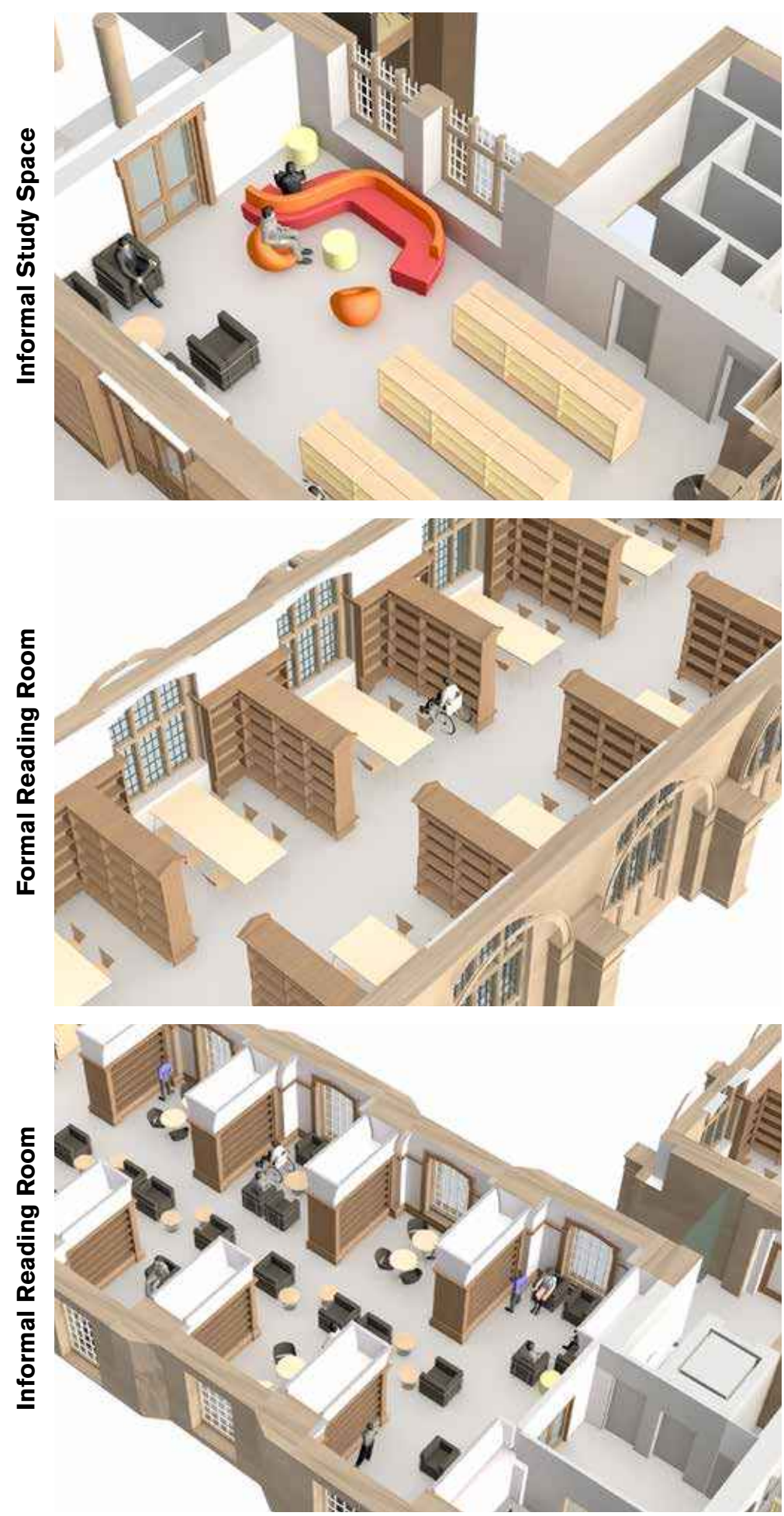
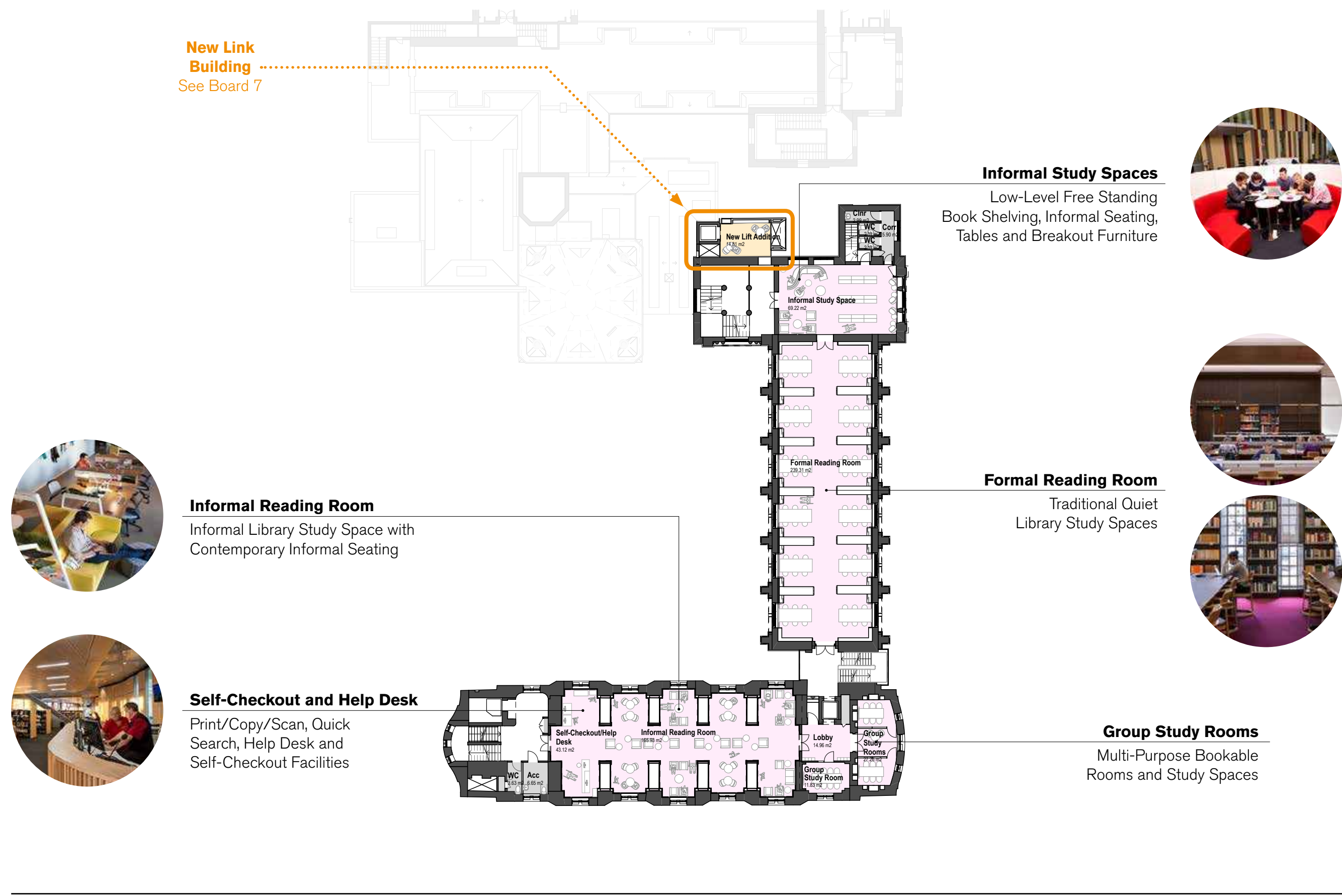
## Key

- College
- Library
- Museum
- Shared
- Back of House

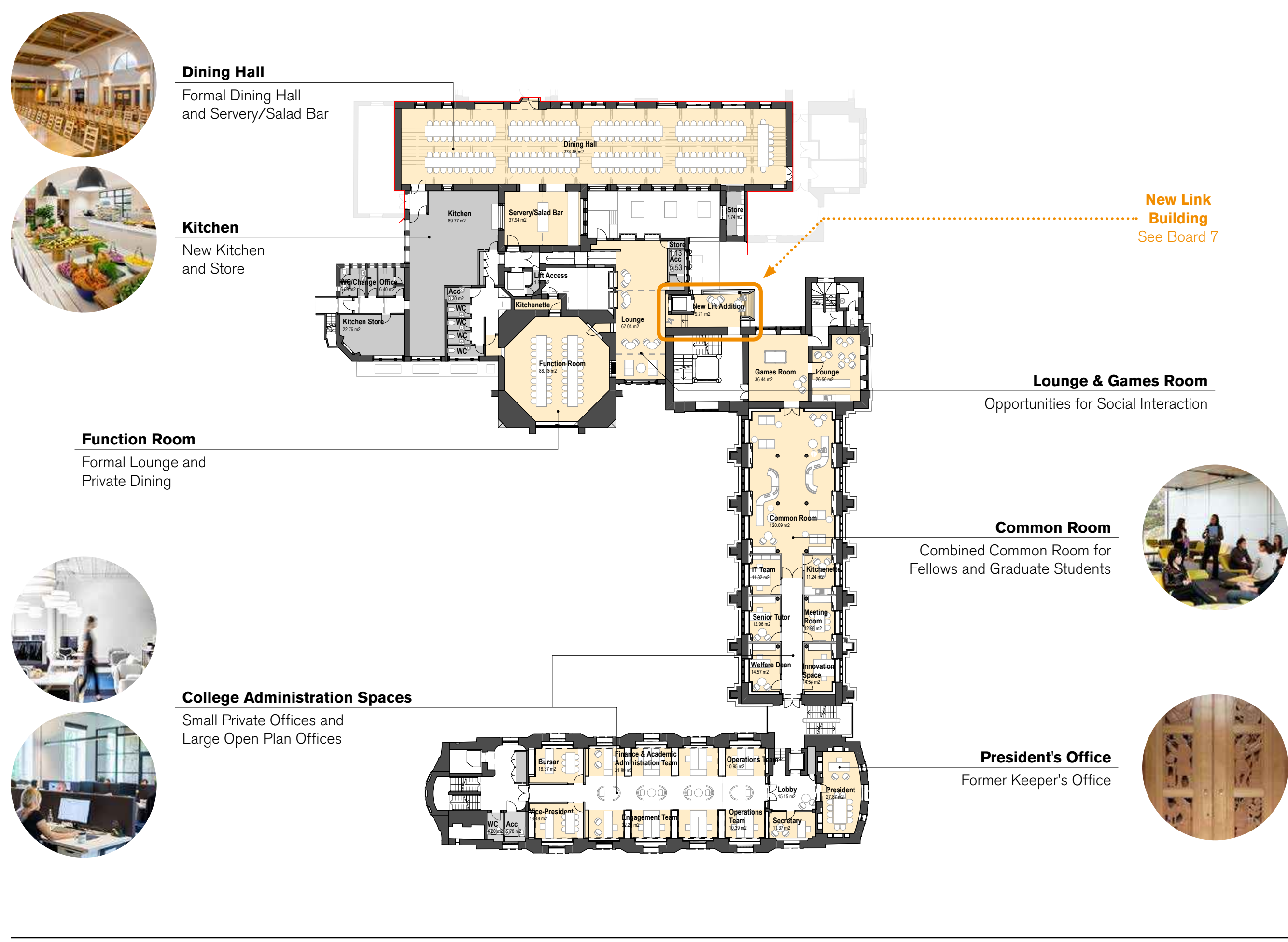




# Floor Plans



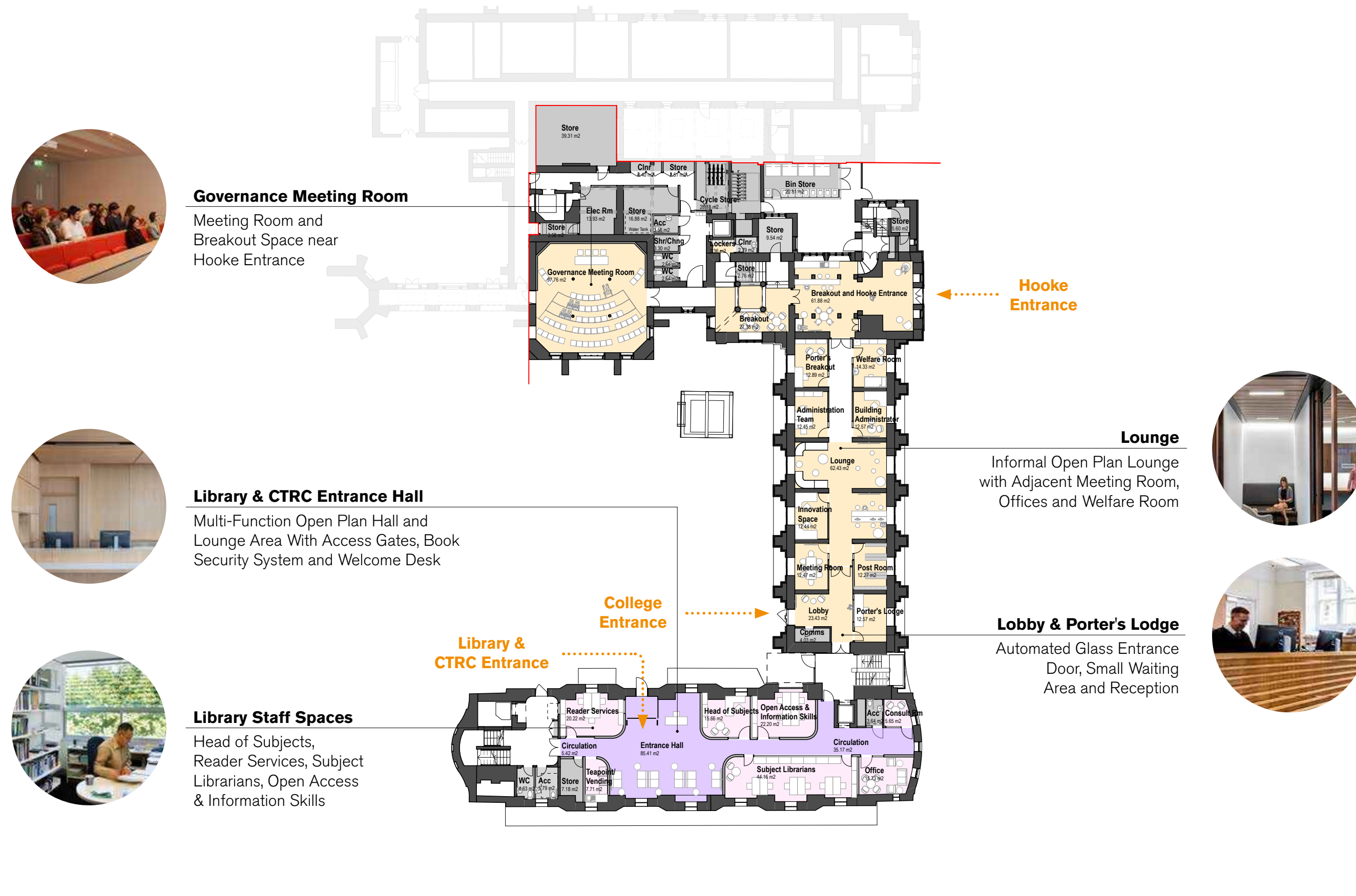
## Second Floor



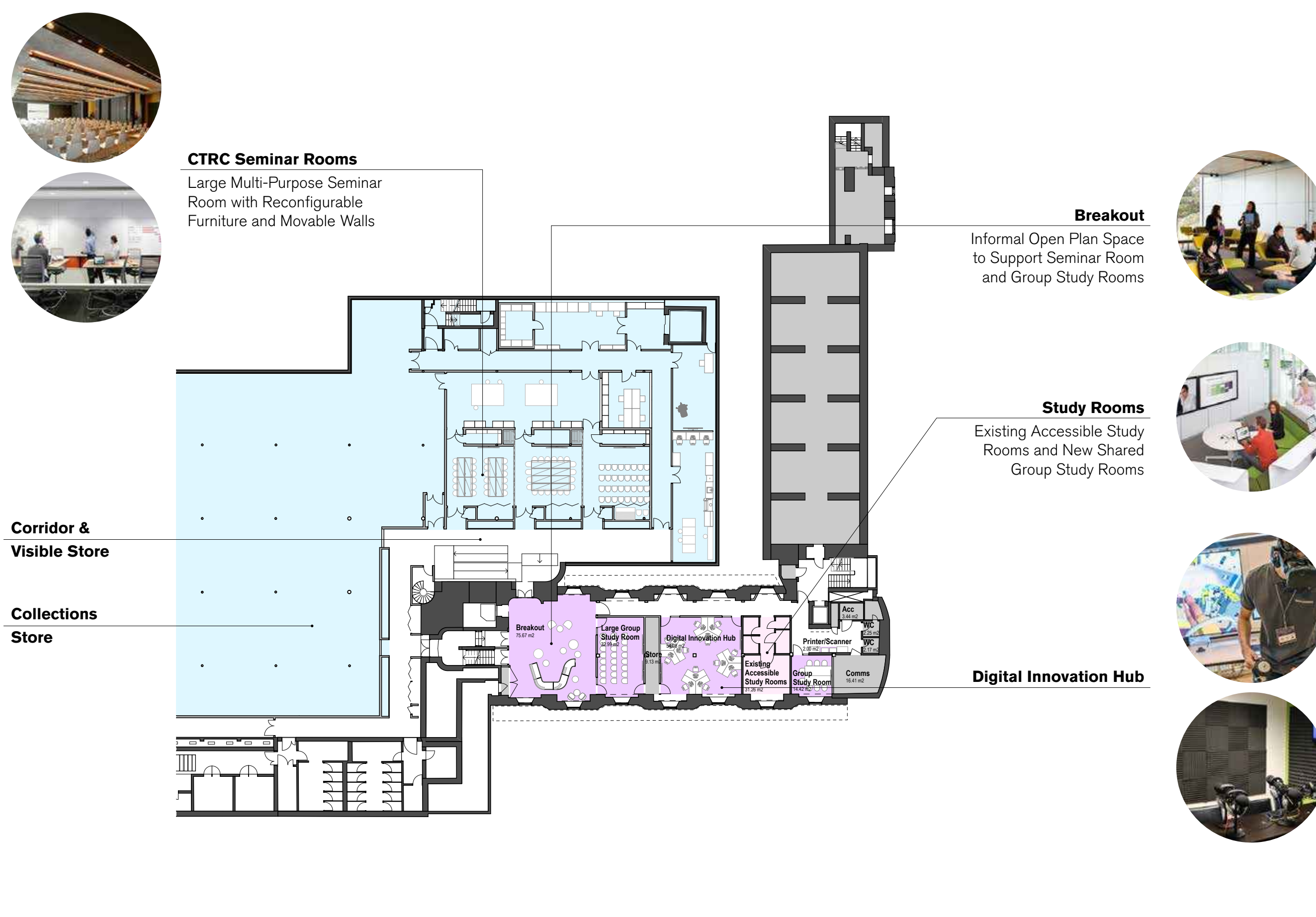
## First Floor



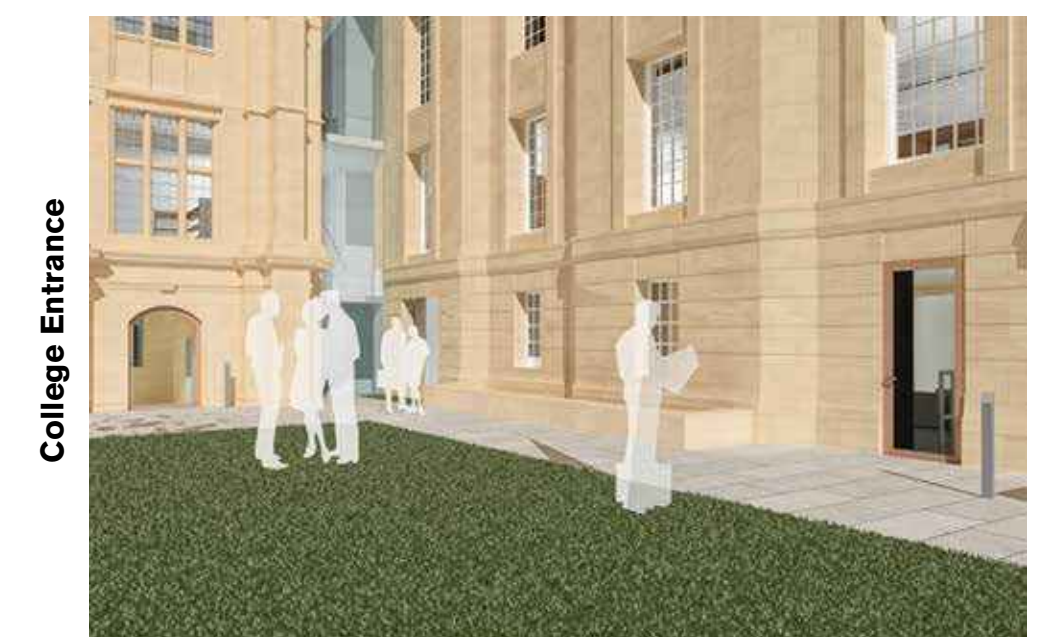
# Floor Plans



## Ground Floor



## Lower Ground Floor and Upper Basement Level





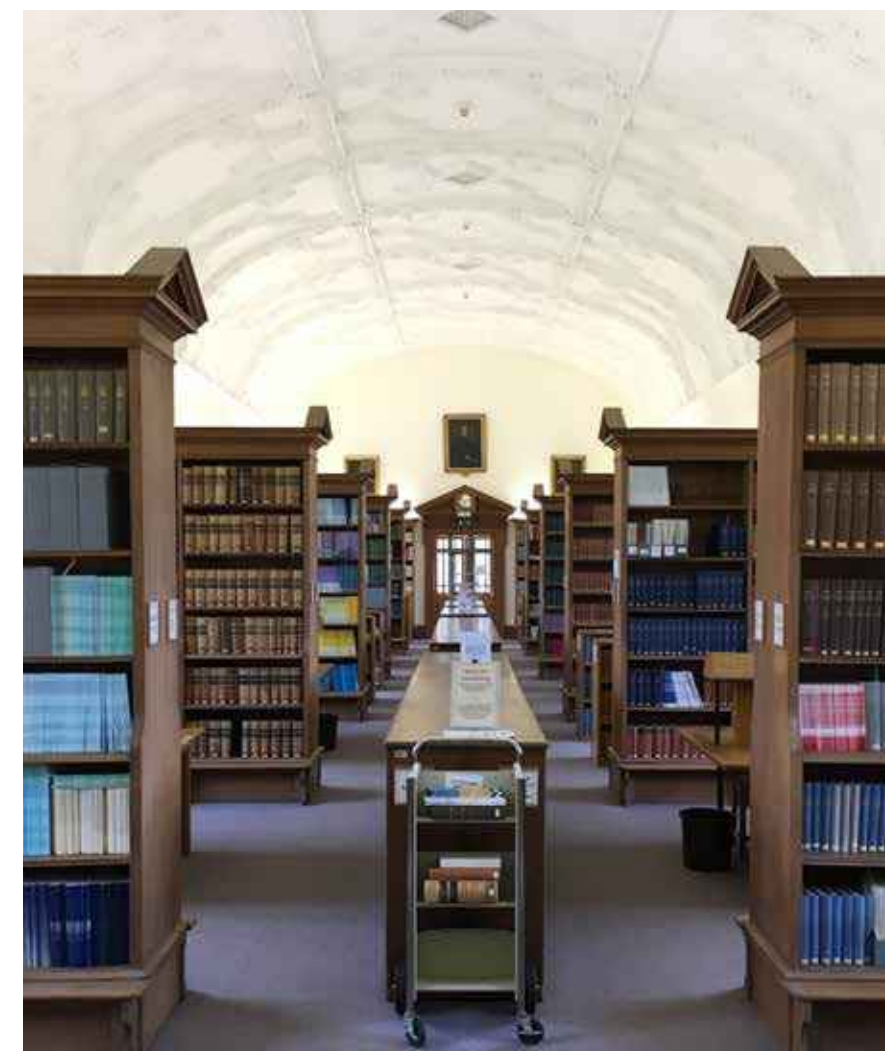
# Building Adaptations

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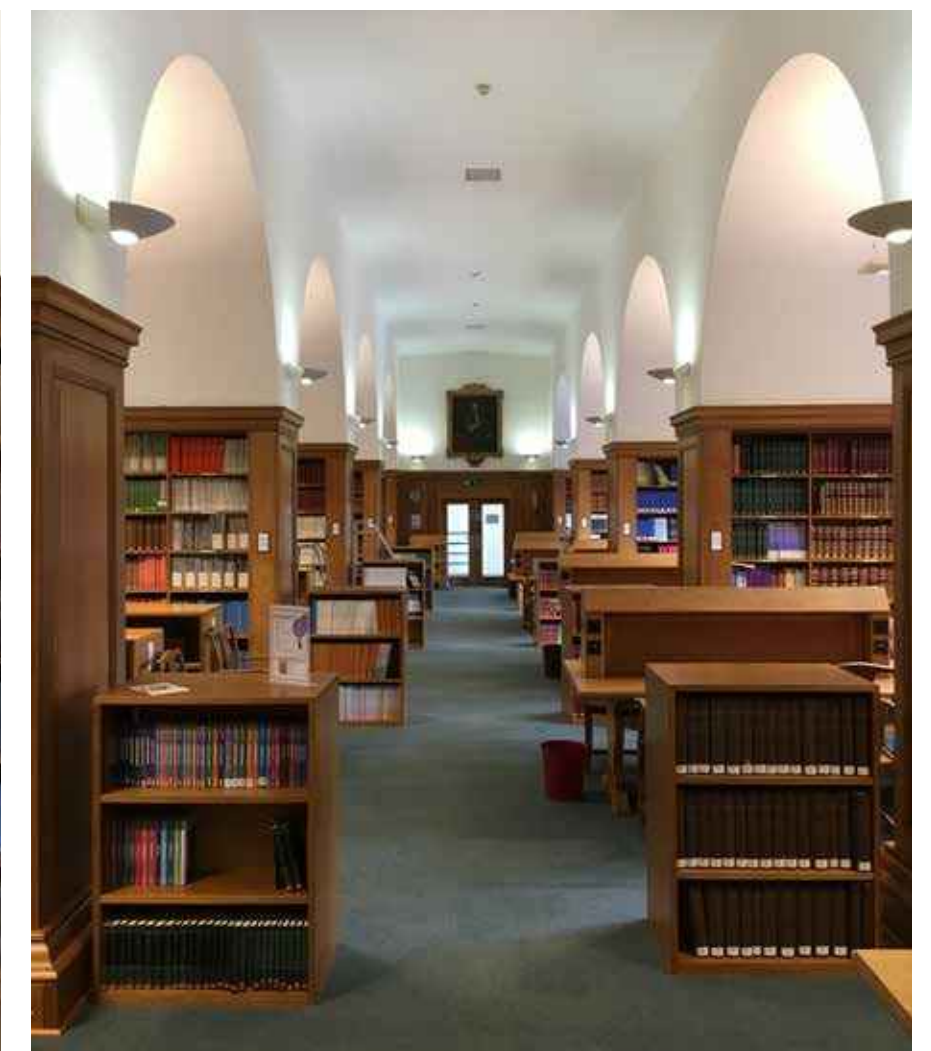
## Existing Bookcases

The existing bookcases and wall panelling are important to the history of the RSL and for the future of Parks College. They contribute to the character and significance of the reading rooms and so those on the second floor will be retained. These are shown in the recent photographs to the right. The second floor will continue to be the home of the RSL.

On the first floor a small proportion of the existing bookcases will be removed or remodelled, whilst retaining the existing wall panelling. Through these works, these historic rooms will be able to better adapt to the changing demands of the twenty-first century and will remain in use for generations to come.



Jackson Wing in 2019



Worthington Wing in 2019

## Sustainability

Making heritage buildings sustainable is often as important as preserving their history and helps to ensure that they are comfortable and well used. The existing buildings benefit from good natural daylight and natural ventilation through opening windows.

Opportunities to reduce energy consumption include new energy efficient mechanical and electrical services, new insulation in roofspaces, and new secondary glazing to existing windows. The photograph to the right shows an existing window in the Worthington Wing, which will be retained.

Together these measures will improve the thermal and environmental performance of the existing buildings, and will help to protect the important heritage fabric.



Worthington Wing in the 1930s

## Maintenance Works

The basement floors were completed in 1975 and almost half a century later their external waterproofing protection has failed. Essential maintenance work is now needed to safeguard the building and the museum collections that will be stored there in the future.

Following a public information event in June 2019, planning and listed building applications were submitted for these works in August 2019. It is anticipated that these maintenance works will commence in April 2020, ahead of the main construction works. These works will include the removal of asbestos and internal fittings in the two basement floors, and alterations including airtightness and vapour control works. Externally the work focuses on a new external waterproofing system that will be applied to the top of the underground concrete slab and to the outside of the underground concrete walls. In order to carry out this work the contractor will need to fully remove the courtyard landscaping and part of the lawn. These will then be reinstated after the completion of the works.

Further information on the maintenance works planning applications (references 19/02152/FUL and 19/02153/LBC) is available from Oxford City Council.



Basement in the 1970s



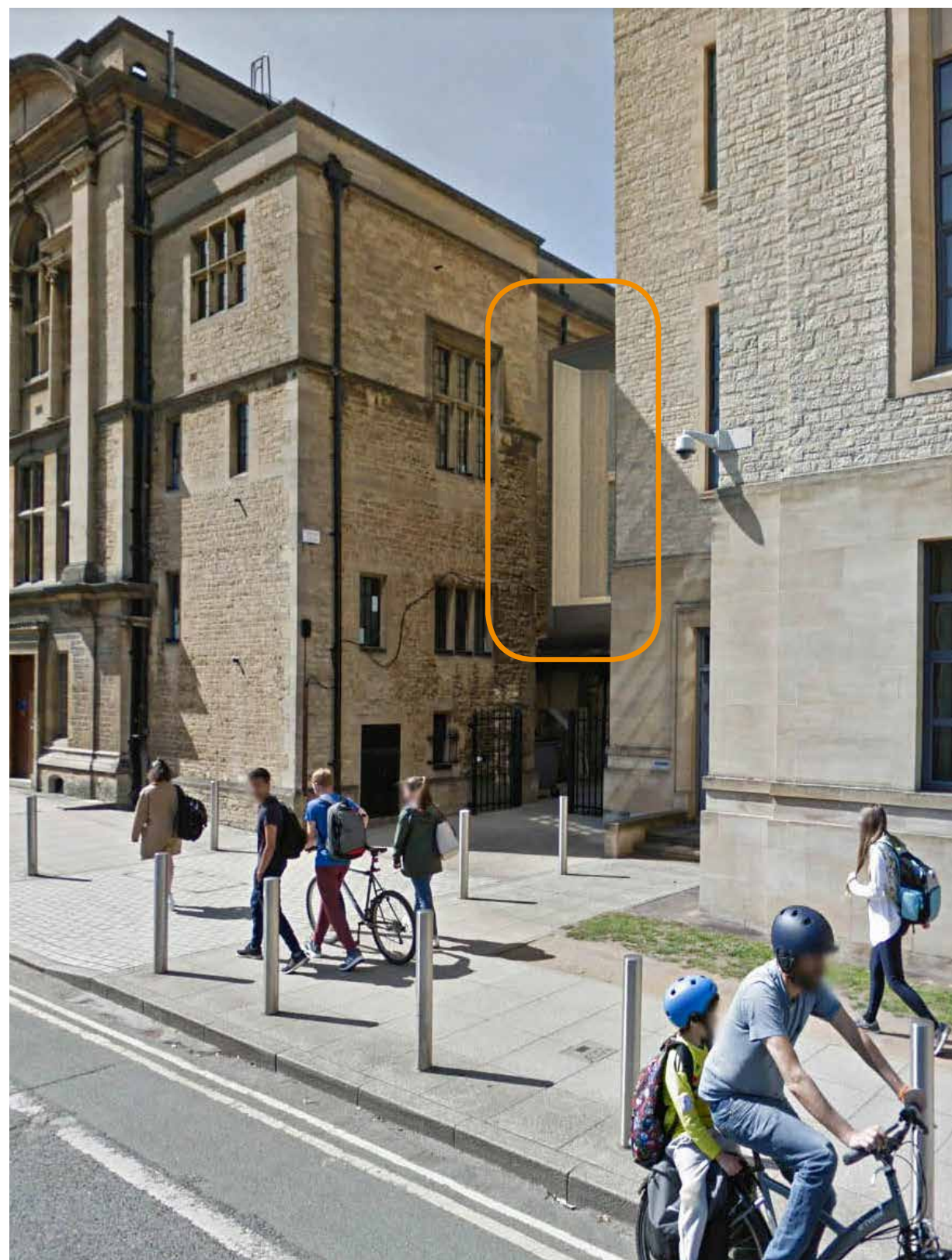
Basement in 2019



# New Link Building



View 1 - South elevation



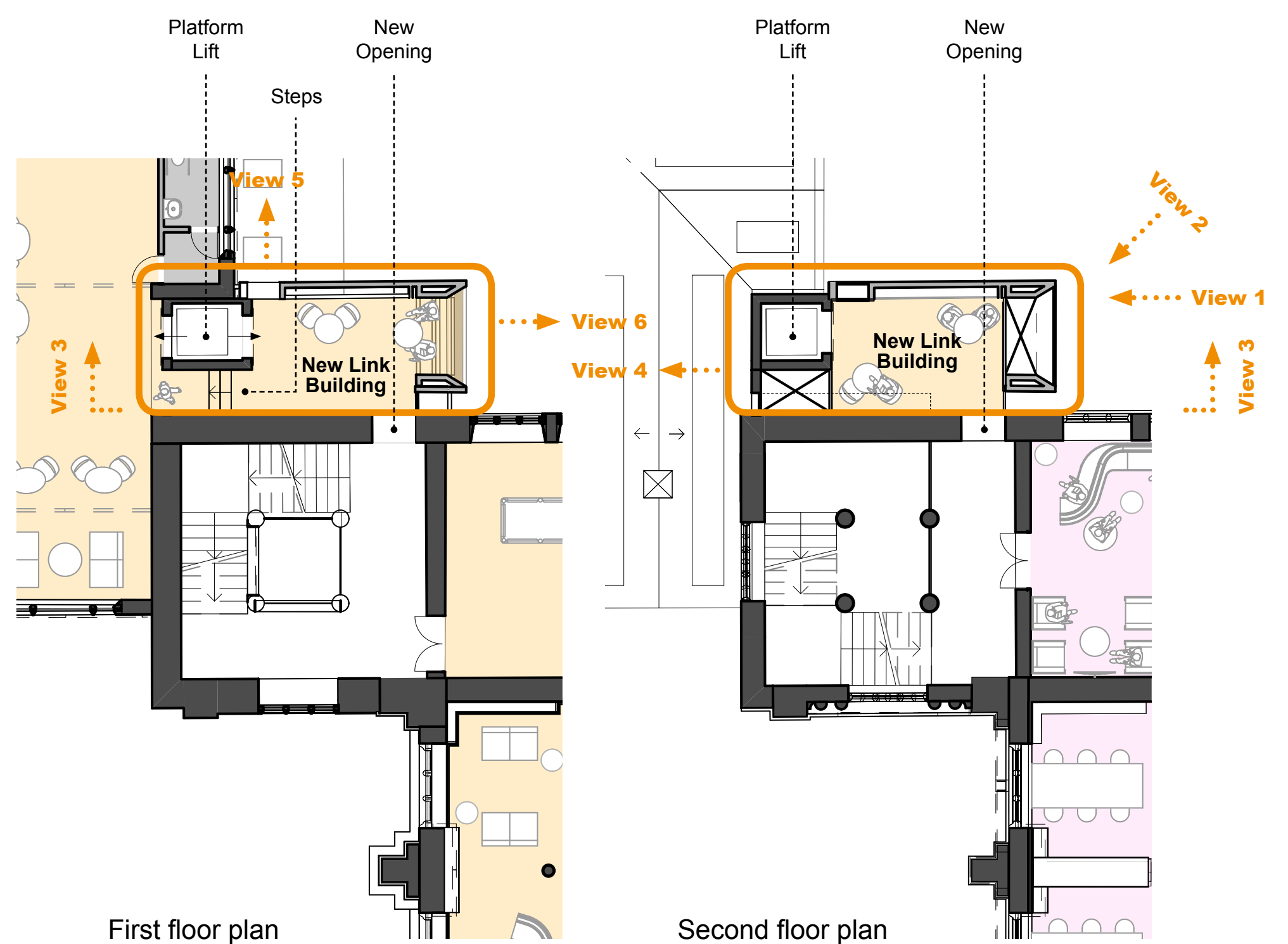
View 2 - Looking from South Parks Road



View 3 - Section through new link building

There is currently no accessible route between the Jackson Wing of the Radcliffe Science Library and the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, and so the proposals include the addition of an accessible platform lift in a new lightweight contemporary link to improve circulation and connectivity between the two buildings. The new link will sit above an existing single-storey stone structure in a small service yard accessed from South Parks Road. This location was chosen so that the link would be set back from the street and largely hidden from view by the taller buildings around.

The new link will be a high quality structure with windows and skylights that frame key views of the adjacent heritage buildings and offer glimpses into the college whilst respecting the adjacent buildings. Inside, the link will accommodate a platform lift and steps between the two buildings. There will also be a digital display wall showcasing college research activities and an integrated wooden seat that conceals low-level heating and louvres through which the space will be naturally ventilated.



First floor plan

Second floor plan



View 4 - Looking out towards the Abbot's Kitchen



View 5 - Looking out towards the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory



View 6 - Looking out towards the Jackson Wing



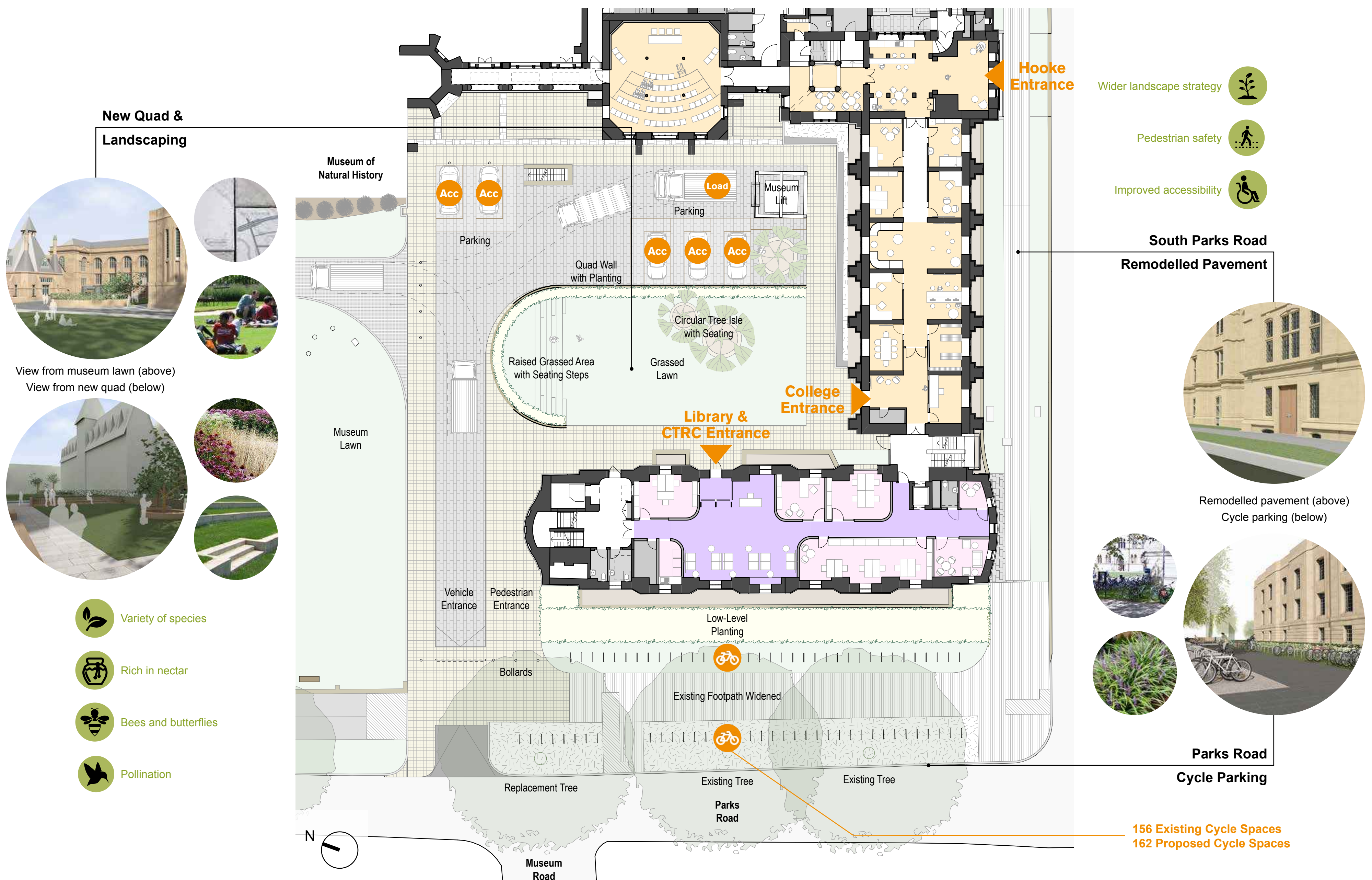
# Landscaping



The proposed landscaping centres on a new quad that complements the surrounding heritage buildings. It includes hard and soft landscaping, open green space, biodiverse planting and outdoor seating. There will be opportunities for public engagement with research and to host outdoor events and seminars.

In order to realise this, and in accordance with the University's transport and sustainability strategy, the number of parking spaces in the courtyard are reduced, and more cycle parking is added by moving cycle stands from the courtyard to the front of the site on Parks Road. Together these moves create a new outdoor space that focuses on the person and not on the car, a space that is clearer and safer for all users, and that is better connected to its wider context.

The new quad will be accessed from Parks Road, with a clear pedestrian route marked by high quality hard landscaping and clear signage. On the left, this route will open towards the museum lawn and, on the right, a low-level wall and planting will lead visitors alongside a new lawn towards the college entrance. Beyond the new lawn there will be a small area for deliveries and parking alongside the existing museum lift enclosure.





# Science Area

In 2012 the University produced a masterplan for its Science Area, incorporating buildings along South Parks Road and in the Keble Triangle. The policies and principles of the masterplan are supported by the City Council.

The masterplan is designed to create a holistic vision for the future development of the Science Area in terms of access, services and landscape. It sets standards and principles for new developments as they come forward and ensures that development does not happen in a piecemeal fashion.

Several projects are now underway as part of this vision, including:

## New Buildings

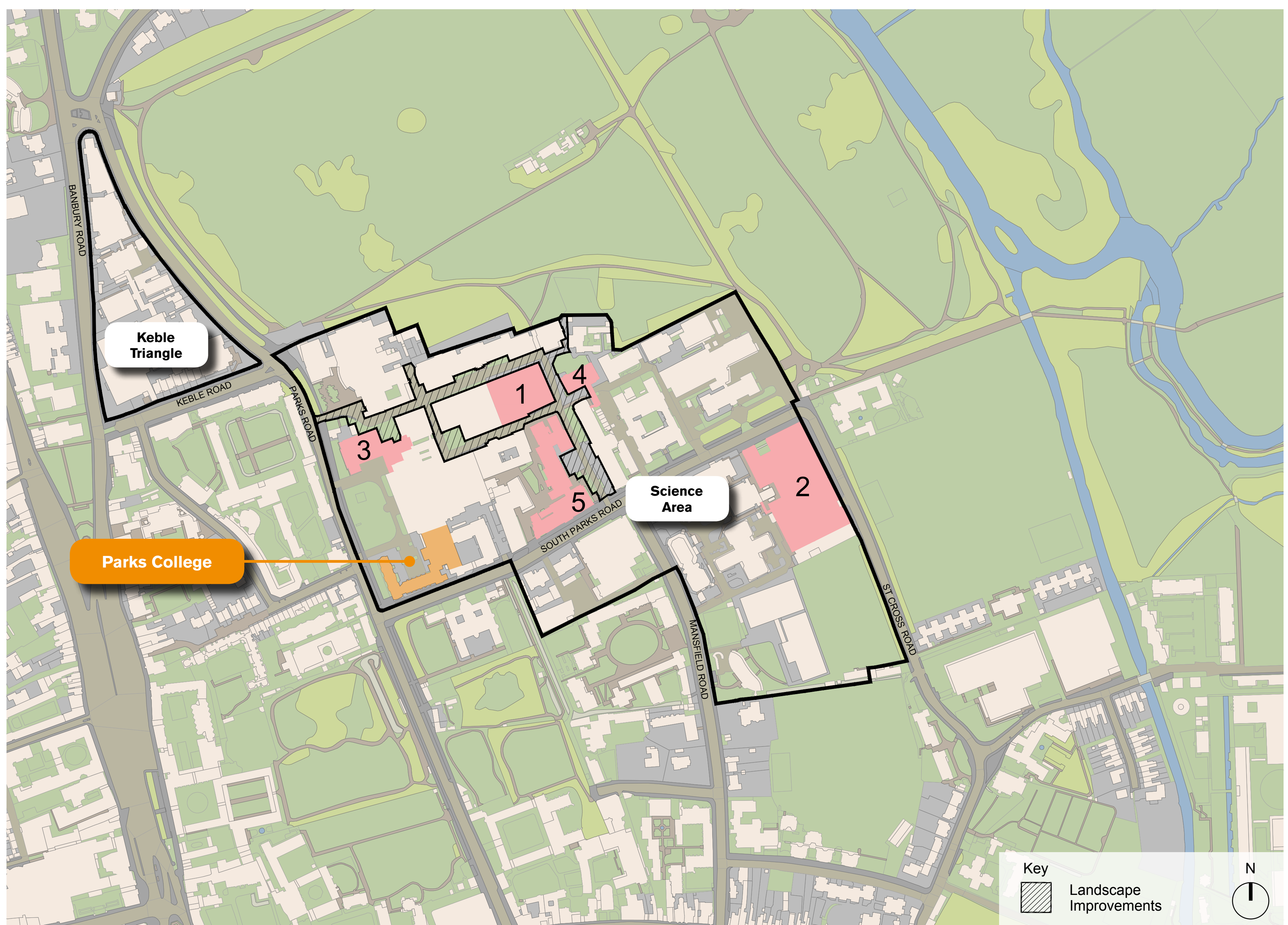
1. Biochemistry.  
*Under construction. Due for completion December 2020.*
2. Tinbergen Building Redevelopment.  
*At design stage. Due for completion 2024.*

## Major Refurbishment

3. Robert Hooke Building. Refurbishment of Basement Space.  
*Under construction. Due for completion January 2020.*
4. Rex Richards Building. Energy Storage Lab.  
*Under construction. Due for completion January 2020.*
5. Dyson Perrins Building. Refurbishment of Former Teaching Labs.  
*At design stage. Due for completion 2021.*

## Infrastructure

- Landscape Improvements in the Centre of the Science Area.  
*Currently scheduled to start January 2021.*
- Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades in the Science Area.  
*At feasibility stage.*



Science Area and the Keble Triangle



# Science Area

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## How does Parks College relate to the Radcliffe Science Library?

The RSL is the main science library of Oxford University and is located in the heart of the University's Science Area. It is located on the corner of Parks Road and South Parks Road, near to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. The museum was established in 1860 to draw together scientific studies from across the University of Oxford. Then, in 1861, the RSL moved into the museum in order to make it more accessible to researchers.

These fundamental principles of drawing together different disciplines and widening engagement with research and collections are central to Parks College and so it is fitting that this project will be located at the front door of the Science Area bringing together the new college, the historic library, and the museums.

## How then does Parks College fit with the University's strategy for the Science Area?

The Science Area masterplan's prime objective and academic vision is for its continued use for scientific activities, both teaching and research. The Parks College proposal will create exceptional new spaces for teaching, study and research, in line with this objective, as well as facilities for public engagement and social interaction.

The Parks College proposal also aligns with the masterplan's objective to create a safe, pedestrian-friendly and attractive low-traffic public realm, by retaining only one third of the existing parking, which will be entirely for disabled and operational use. This is in line with the University's Central Area Parking Strategy, adopted in 2019.

The project is also committed to supporting sustainable travel through delivering a welcoming, pedestrian priority space and providing additional cycle parking at a rate of at least 1 space per 2.8 staff. This is almost double that required by the City Council.

## How will we minimise disruption and ensure effective coordination across multiple projects in the Science Area?

In bringing forward these developments, the University is mindful of concerns around the potential cumulative effects on the level of disruption and congestion during site works across the Science Area. To address these we are implementing:

- Fortnightly neighbourhood meetings for Science Areas projects involving regular dialogue with all departments, divisions and building managers.
- A team of four programme managers in the University's Estates Services department work together to ensure the coordination of logistics across projects.
- All contractors working on University projects meet together with the Capital Projects team every six weeks to discuss site health and safety and logistics and ensure a coordinated approach.
- Construction traffic management plans are compiled by our contractors for approval by the City Council. These include keeping pedestrians safe, minimising vehicle movements and ensuring effective signage.
- DfMA (Design for Manufacture and Assembly) methodology is adopted and off-site manufacturing and construction techniques are utilised to reduce deliveries, traffic movements and workforce on sites.
- Project specific websites are hosted by the University and provide project information on all projects.





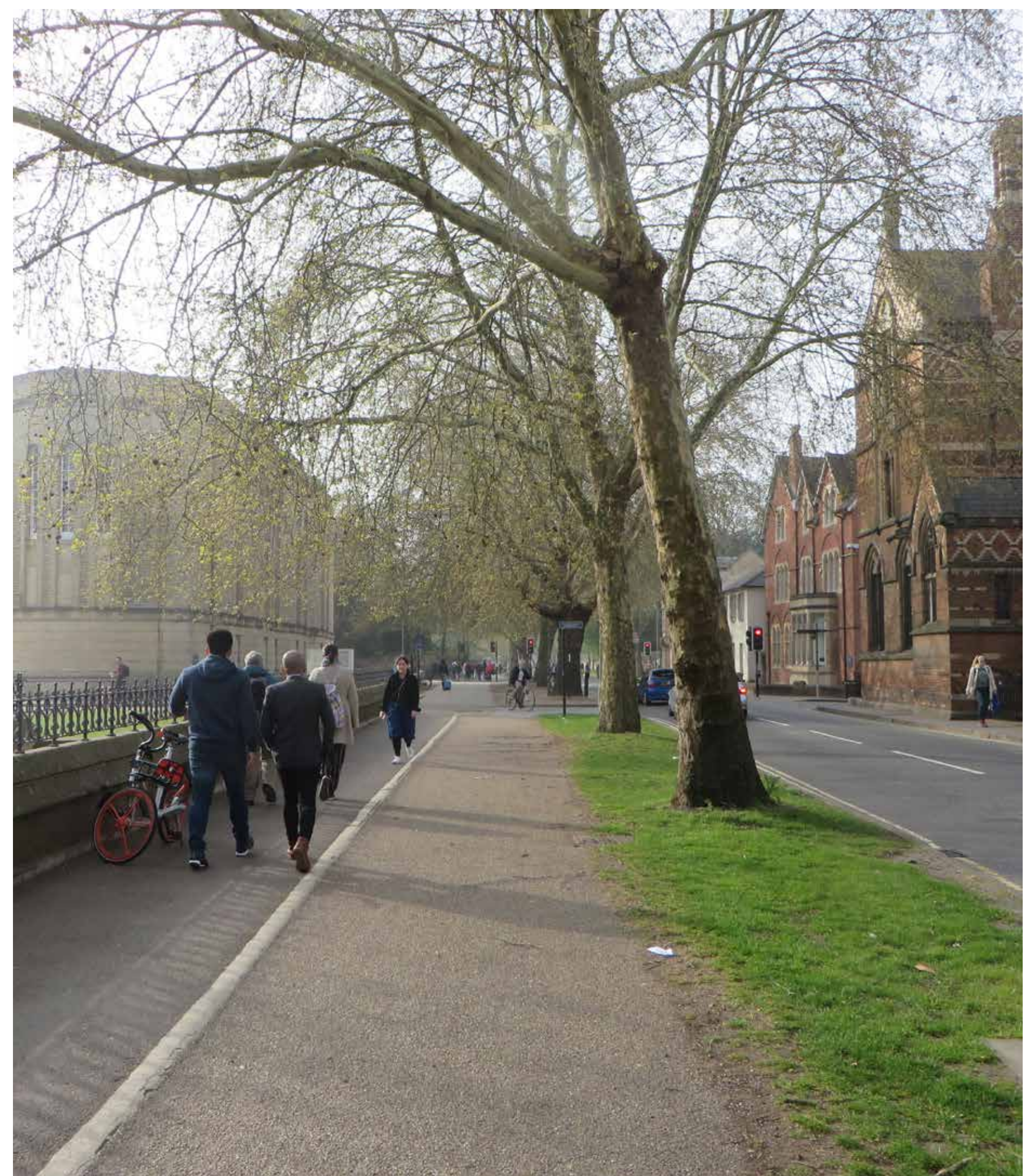
## Parks Road

The existing plane trees along Parks Road were planted in the late 1970s, after the construction of the basement, to recreate the tree-lined avenue that had been there before. Their roots are concentrated mainly in the grass verge and under the cycle and foot paths.

In order to carry out the underground maintenance works it will be necessary to remove a significant portion of the root systems of the three trees closest to the basement walls. A professional arborist was appointed to carry out tree surveys and has considered options for retaining the trees, including relocating them or a major reduction so that the remaining root systems could support them.

However, since their survival cannot be guaranteed in the longer term, we propose to remove the three trees affected and to replace them (after the underground works) with new plane trees that maintain the continuity of the tree-lined avenue. Root barriers will also be installed to protect the new trees from any future works.

These works are included in the maintenance works planning applications (references 19/02152/FUL and 19/02153/LBC).



Plane trees along Parks Road

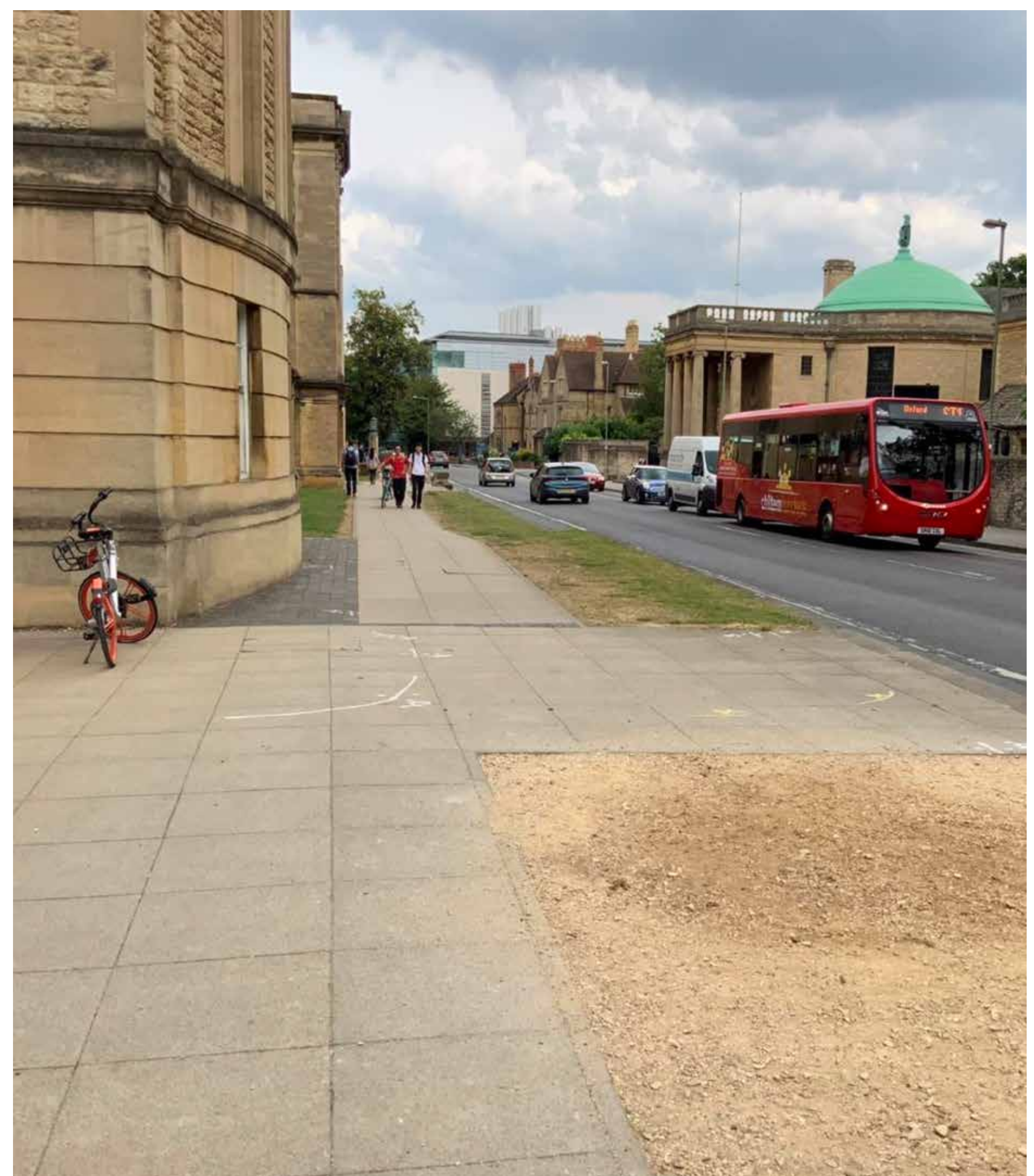
## Wider Tree Planting Plan

The removal of these trees provides an opportunity to look at a wider scheme to manage the trees along Parks Road and South Parks Road. Although this is not part of the Radcliffe Science Library redevelopment project, the University Parks team are currently working with stakeholders to form a cohesive plan to allow the tree-lined avenues on these roads to be renewed over the next 25 to 50 years.

This plan aims to replace existing declining trees and to plant new trees in such a way that any future works do not affect the health and longevity of the trees.

The proposed replacement of the three plane trees will be the first stage in this long-term plan and will offer opportunities to reduce the impact of underground services and structures on the trees and to future-proof the avenue for many years to come.

The University is fully committed to conserving and enhancing its tree collection and strives to exploit any potential planting opportunities to ensure that the urban treescape is protected for future generations.



Areas for potential planting along South Parks Road



# Next Steps

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## 2019

### October

- Public consultation event on 4 and 5 October
- Feedback from event reviewed by the University
- Expected decision on maintenance works applications

### November

- Concept design proposals developed
- Consultation with local planning authority
- Internal maintenance works begin

## 2020

### January

- Submission of planning and listed building applications

### April

- External maintenance works begin on site
- Expected decision on planning applications
- Main construction works begin on site

### December

- Expected completion of maintenance works

## 2021

### September

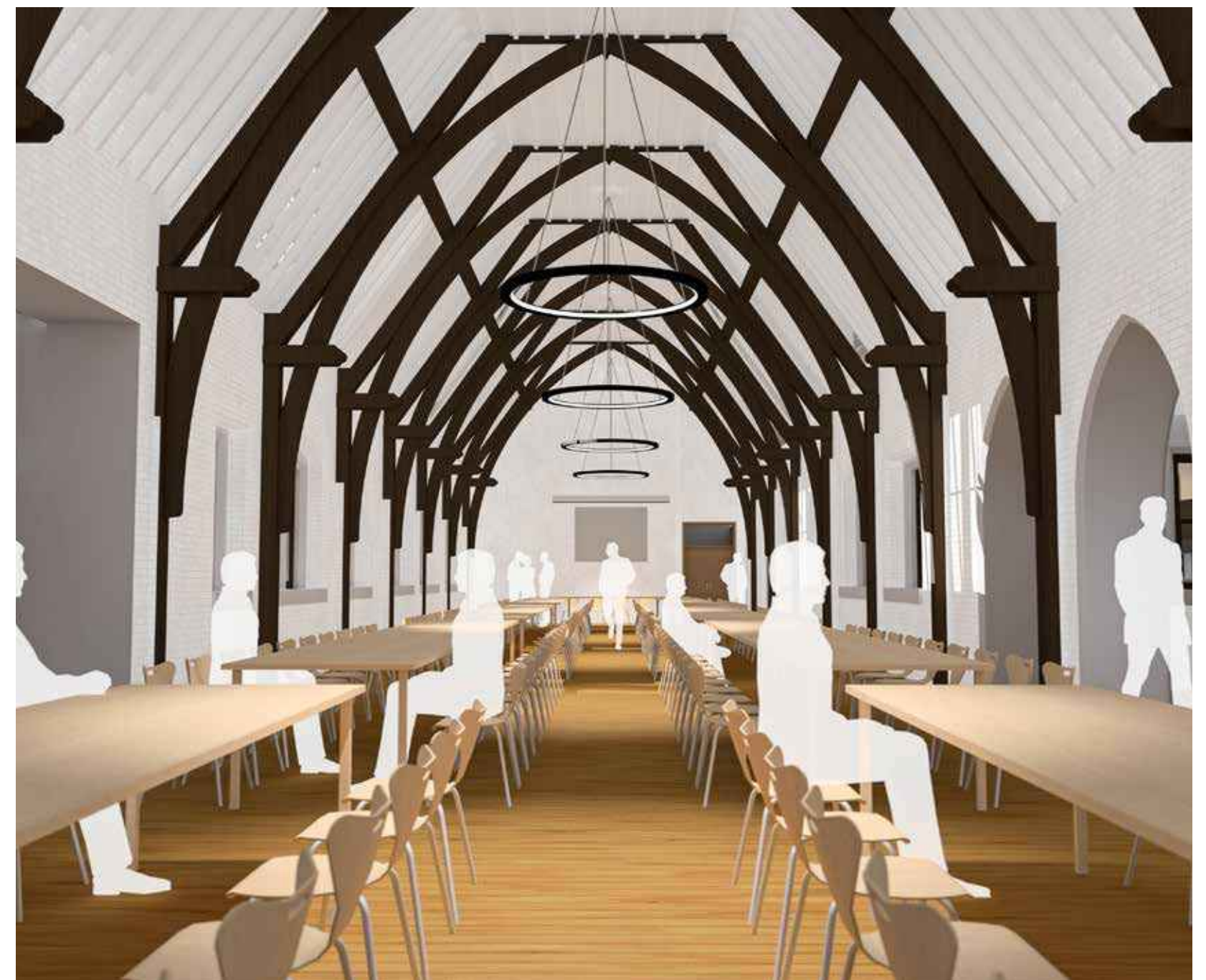
- Expected completion of main construction works

### October

- Parks College opens for admissions



Common room on the first floor of the Jackson Wing



Dining hall on the first floor of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory



Aerial view of Parks College