



Creating a campus for the future



Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Chris Brink.

Newcastle University's mission

To be a world-class research-intensive university, to deliver teaching of the highest quality and to play a leading role in the economic, social and cultural development of the North East of England.

Building on solid foundations

Newcastle University is embarking upon one of the most significant periods of development in its 170-year history.

By 2010, a massive £200 million investment in its estate will see the exciting and vibrant transformation of Newcastle University's buildings, infrastructure and public spaces, creating a campus for the twenty-first century. Superb new facilities will enhance Newcastle University's position as one of the leading teaching and research institutions in the UK.

The University has existed as a seat of learning in Newcastle upon Tyne for more than 170 years. Occupying a 50-acre site opposite the Civic Centre and close to the commercial and cultural heart of the city, the University is one of the major landowners within Newcastle's compact city centre.

Today's University is a forward-looking, dynamic community of more than 18,000 students and 4,500 staff. Our international reputation for excellence in research and teaching is underpinned by our mission to play a leading role in our city and region. The next two years will see a manifestation of this through the extensive development of the Haymarket-facing perimeter of the University's main campus, extending from Barras Bridge, along Percy Street to St Thomas' Street.

Encouraging more community involvement in the University's activities by creating a 'Cultural Quarter' – a focal point where 'town and gown' meet and interact – is an important part of our mission. The development of the Barras Bridge site will provide a gateway to our diverse range of cultural attractions and facilities. Here, bordered by the digital media centre Culture Lab, the Hatton Gallery, Northern Stage theatre, a soon-to-be-built Northern Writers' Centre and the Great North Museum project, the new Student and Administrative Services Building will become the University's new 'front door'.

Meanwhile, we are working in collaboration with a range of partners and strategic initiatives, helping to extend the University's influence and further reinforce our ties with the city, region and beyond. These include Newcastle City Council, the Regional Development Agency, One

NorthEast, INTO, The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the International Centre for Life, Newcastle Science City, the Great North Museum project and the Campus for Ageing and Vitality, amongst others.

Building the knowledge economy

The University's relationship with the city of Newcastle upon Tyne has been brought into focus more sharply than ever with the arrival of the new Vice-Chancellor, South African-born Professor Chris Brink, in 2007. His vision is to reinvent the notion of Newcastle as a civic university, driving forward the economic, social and cultural development of the North East of England.

'The old economy launched by the Industrial Revolution is being superseded by the knowledge economy', says Professor Brink. 'We would like knowledge, in the North East, to play the role that coal once did, and with that, we set ourselves a demanding but exciting ambition.'

In pursuit of this vision, the University's Estate Strategy has identified a number of priority areas for investment, which include improving the quality and fitness for purpose of our buildings in support of the business needs of the University, improving our public spaces through landscaping and signage, and creating a more sustainable environment for the future.

Building on success

Significant investment in improving the campus and facilities is not a new concept. Developing the estate has always been regarded as an integral part of the University's commitment to providing a high-quality environment for work, study, cultural activities and leisure.

The University has a strong track record of delivering flagship developments such as the multiple award-winning Devonshire Building and the University Sports Centre, as well as an extensive programme of building refurbishment. Meanwhile, work to open out the campus and improve disabled access has already been completed, with the landscaping of the Claremont and Percy Quadrangles.



Building for the future: major developments

Creating a campus to serve the needs of the University for the twenty-first century is a vast and complex task. Newcastle University is embracing this task through the most ambitious and wide-ranging programme of capital development in its history.

The development of the University's main campus is set to dramatically transform its interface with the city. Work is already well under way on the Great North Museum project, where the existing Hancock Museum building, at the junction of Claremont Road and the Great North Road, is being extensively refurbished and extended.

The main University campus is set to undergo the most intensive period of development, with the construction of the new purpose-built Student and Administrative Services Building and the Northern Writers' Centre, on Barras Bridge, opposite the Civic Centre.

Work to build a new home for the International Centre for Music Studies is taking place behind the students' Union Building. At the same time the development of INTO Newcastle University, including new teaching facilities and accommodation for international students, is going ahead on the site of the former Line West, Joseph Cowen and Old Forge Buildings, between St Thomas' Street and the Haymarket. INTO is a joint venture between the University and Espalier, a private developer, designed to support growth in international student numbers.

Moving north from the centre of campus, the Medical Sciences New Building will house the Centre for Bacterial Cell Biology and the Institute of Health and Society, on a site adjacent to the University Sports Centre and close to the Northern Institute for Cancer Research. Elsewhere, planning permission has just been granted for a new £4.8 million accommodation block at Castle Leazes Halls of Residence.

The University is also involved in a number of major building projects outside the main campus. On the

site of the former Scottish & Newcastle Brewery, Newcastle University Business School has just been announced as the first tenant for the £200 million Downing Plaza development, while at Newcastle General Hospital, to the west of the city centre, work is underway on the Campus for Ageing and Vitality.

Developing our identity in the city

When it comes to attracting the highest-calibre students and staff, strengthening Newcastle University's identity has been highlighted as imperative in enabling us to be competitive and maintain our position as one of the UK's leading universities.

The Newcastle University Campus Masterplan, a blueprint for the future development of the University estate, produced by Farrells, identified the relationship with the city as being key to establishing a clear identity for the University, which architect Sir Terry Farrell termed 'putting a face to the place'.

The improvements to the Haymarket-facing perimeter of the campus, and specifically the development of the new Student and Administrative Services Building, are focused on creating a welcoming and impressive new 'front door' for the University. Extensive landscaping and the identification and development of pedestrian routes through the campus will further strengthen the relationship between the University and the city.

Together with the creation of new purpose-designed teaching and learning facilities in new and extensively renovated buildings by 2010, Newcastle University is set to be one of the most desirable destinations in the UK for students and staff.

The relationship with the city is key to establishing a clear identity for the University. As it seeks to attract and retain the highest calibre of staff and students, putting a 'face to the place' is critical.

Sir Terry Farrell, BArch 1961, Hon DCL 2000, architect of the University's Campus Masterplan

Below: aerial photo of the city and Newcastle University campus, highlighting some of the areas under development.





Developing the campus of the future: the projects

Student and Administrative Services Building

Total investment: £35 million

Architect: Bond Bryan Architects

Construction: April 2008 to October 2009

Expected opening date: January 2010

This flagship new building will bring together the University's award-winning student and administrative services in one location, resulting in a more integrated service for students and staff, and providing some of the best student facilities to be found anywhere in the UK.

Situated on Barras Bridge, facing the Civic Centre, the five-storey, glass-fronted building will create a welcoming 'front door' to the University. A visitor centre on the ground floor will provide information and serve as a first point of call for visitors to the campus.

The building will house all the main student services in open-plan accommodation, including the Careers Service, Accommodation Office, Student Wellbeing Service and Student Progress Service, the Marketing and Communications Directorate and the Development and Alumni Relations Office. It will also house a range of administrative functions, including the Executive Office, Human Resources, Finance and Safety Offices.

The proximity of the new building to the Union Society will give students access to all their services in a single location, supporting the University's strategic objective of providing an excellent all-round student experience.

A number of environmentally friendly features have been designed into the building. It will generate about 10 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources and further reduce its carbon footprint by virtue of highly efficient building fabric, glazing, heating, lighting and IT facilities, and a design that makes an air conditioning system unnecessary.



Top: front elevation of the Student and Administrative Services Building.

Above: rear elevation of the Student and Administrative Services Building from the Arches.

One of the more interesting challenges for the architects of the new building has been the need to incorporate a pressure relief shaft from Newcastle's underground transport system, the Tyne and Wear Metro, into the designs for the building. The solution: interactive work stations are to be added on the ground floor, while the circular shape of the shaft will be echoed in meeting rooms on three of the five floors above.



The Great North Museum Project

Total investment: £26 million

Architect: Farrells

Construction: March 2007 to December 2008

Expected opening date: Early 2009

The University is taking the lead in the development of the Great North Museum (GNM) project in partnership with Tyne and Wear Museums and Newcastle City Council. This exciting project involves the extension and total refurbishment of the Hancock Museum to create a flagship visitor attraction for the region, as well as a valuable research facility for scholars of natural history, archaeology and classics.

The new museum will bring together the Hancock's internationally important collections, owned by the Natural History Society, with the major Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon collections of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, previously housed in the University's Museum of Antiquities, and the Greek and Etruscan collection from the University's Shefton Museum. Ethnographical collections from the University's Hatton (art) Gallery will also move into the new museum, while the Hatton itself, also part of the overall GNM project, will remain in its existing location at the centre of the University campus.

When it opens early in 2009, the Great North Museum project will boast stunning new galleries designed by Casson Mann, a library, purpose-built exhibition space for 'blockbuster' touring exhibitions, an education suite, a shop and café.

The Great North Museum project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, TyneWear Partnership, One NorthEast, the European Regional Development Fund, Newcastle University, Newcastle City Council, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Wolfson Foundation and the Northern Rock Foundation.

The Northern Writers' Centre

Total investment: £5 million

Architect: Bond Bryan Architects

Construction: December 2009 to December 2010

Expected opening date: January 2011

This purpose-built £5 million venue for writers and readers of all ages forms part of the University's 'Cultural Quarter'. Located on the University campus, facing the Great North Museum project on Claremont Road and adjacent to Northern Stage, the Northern Writers' Centre will be a hub for writers and writing activity, providing a performance space for live literature events, workshop space for projects with adults, young people and children, as well as a studio space for writers.

The first project of its kind in the country, the Northern Writers' Centre is a collaborative partnership between the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics and New Writing North, the development agency for literature in the North East. The Centre will build on the North East's unique literary strengths, becoming an important addition to the region's vibrant arts scene.

The International Centre for Music Studies

Total investment: £4.5 million

Architect: Howarth Litchfield Partnership

Construction: January 2008 to December 2008

Expected opening date: Early 2009

The construction of a new building to house the International Centre for Music Studies will support the development of Newcastle University as one of the leading research and teaching centres for creative practice and theory, both in the UK and internationally.

Located behind the students' Union Building, the new building will provide purpose-built facilities including new practice rooms, teaching space, IT suites and flexible recording and studio space.



Above: rear extension of the Great North Museum project.



The discovery of Roman pottery (above) next to the site of the new music building led archaeologists who carried out an initial evaluation of the site to suggest that it may have been one of Newcastle's earliest city suburbs. Because a cellar is being created in the new building to make space for a soundproof music room, the archaeologists were able to explore several metres below pavement level. Roman artefacts are not usually found so far away from the original city centre (near the Castle Keep), so the pottery was one of the more unusual discoveries during the excavation.



Left: Castle Leazes accommodation block.

Right: front elevation of INTO Newcastle University Centre.

Below: the Medical Sciences New Building.



INTO Newcastle University

Total investment: £34 million

Architect: FaulknerBrowns

Construction: April 2008 to April 2010

The INTO development is the provision of new student accommodation and teaching facilities for international students arriving in the UK. INTO is a university-based initiative offering international students new and higher-quality standards of preparation for undergraduate and postgraduate study in the UK.

This major project involves the demolition of Haymarket Lane Workshops, Line West, Joseph Cowen and Old Forge Buildings, the refurbishment of the Porter Building and the construction of a new building to provide residential and teaching facilities for up to 500 students.

The Medical Sciences New Building

Total investment: £29.8 million

Architect: FaulknerBrowns

Construction: March 2008 to November 2009

The University's renowned Faculty of Medical Sciences has committed to building a new hub for world-leading research. The building will house the Institute of Health and Society and the developing Centre for Bacterial Cell Biology on the site of the former Transport House and Old Brewery, adjacent to the University Sports Centre.

The scheme will provide much-needed space for new research laboratories, as well as seminar and meeting rooms and open-plan areas to bring research groups together under one roof. The facilities will be linked by a 'Forum' that will provide excellent space for social interaction, nurturing relationships that are crucial to the advancement of medical research.

Castle Leazes Accommodation Block

Total investment: £4.8 million

Architect: Howarth Litchfield Partnership

Construction: June 2008 to September 2009

A new student accommodation block at Castle Leazes Halls of Residence will provide an additional 98 study bedrooms over seven floors. Two self-catered flats per floor, with en suite facilities and shared living spaces, will house seven students each, as well as offering the potential to accommodate up to 14 students with varying disabilities.

The new block will be built in keeping with the architectural design of the existing buildings at Castle Leazes.



Left: the Campus for Ageing and Vitality – Science Village Square.



Left: three new University buildings for the Campus for Ageing and Vitality.

Bottom: the £200 million Downing Plaza development will be home to Newcastle University Business School.

Newcastle University Business School

Commercial pre-let

Architect: Ian Simpson Architects

Construction: September 2008 to July 2010

The University is taking a 22-year lease on 100,000 square feet of accommodation for its Business School at the £200 million Downing Plaza development.

Downing Plaza's landmark buildings have been designed by Ian Simpson Architects and are all clad in modern iconic materials including steel and glass, forming a stunning gateway to Newcastle's Science City Masterplan.

The Downing Plaza development is being built on the former Scottish and Newcastle Brewery site, opposite St James' Park, in the city centre. The area has been earmarked for the creation of Newcastle 'Science Central', the ambitious science, business and education complex in which the University is a major partner with One NorthEast and Newcastle City Council.

The Business School expects to move into its new home in 2010.

Campus for Ageing and Vitality

Total investment: £24.6 million

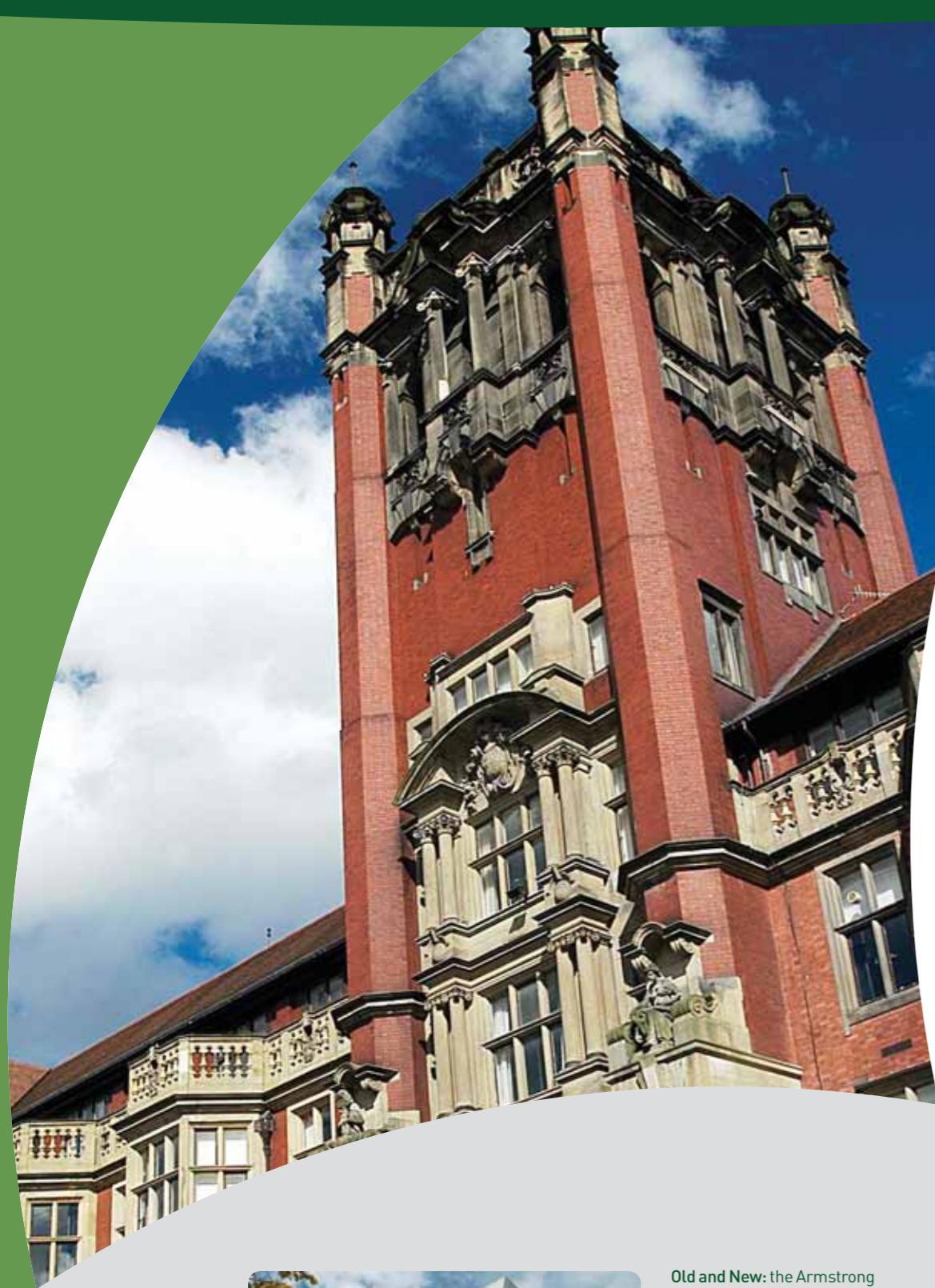
Architect: Dewjoc

Construction: Ongoing

The Campus for Ageing and Vitality, a substantial development at Newcastle General Hospital, will provide Newcastle with a world-class research centre dedicated to the study of how we grow old, how we can stay healthy and active as we get older and how we can combat age-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

Three new University buildings form part of a wider master plan for the Newcastle General Hospital site, and will deliver commercial, health and research developments as part of Science City. The £7.5 million Edwardson Building for the study of brain ageing was completed in December 2007, with the £5.1 million Clinical Ageing Research Unit due for completion at the end of 2008. A £12 million investment has been set aside for a Translational Research Building, which is currently at the feasibility stage.





Old and New: the Armstrong Building (above) and recently built Devonshire Building (left).

Turning the vision into reality

Managing change during this exciting programme of development is an essential part of the process for the University.

Over the next two to three years, our campus will undergo a dramatic transformation, and it is inevitable that there will be some disruption. We recognise that we have a responsibility to our staff, students and visitors, as well as to the city, to do our utmost to restrict the levels of inconvenience to their daily business.

Minimising the effects of the work upon our teaching and research activity to ensure the continuity of the University's business will be a priority, as will promoting the health and safety of students, staff, visitors and members of the public who use the campus. The University is also conscious of its impact on the people of Newcastle and the city environment during this period of major development and construction.

We are investing in signage and temporary displays designed to help explain the work in progress and guide pedestrians and traffic around campus during the construction period. Hoardings erected around the main

areas of construction work will serve to promote the University's identity, create interest in the developments and ensure that the campus remains as safe and pleasant an environment as possible while building work is carried out.

Newcastle University is proud of its heritage and is committed to creating a campus for the future with the best buildings and facilities – a campus that will support our mission to deliver world-class teaching and research, and position the University, the city and the North East of England to lead the growth of the twenty-first century knowledge economy.

For up-to-date information about these projects, see www.ncl.ac.uk/about

Newcastle University will aim to minimise disruption to staff, students and visitors during this major period of development work on campus, and we apologise for any inconvenience at this time.



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