

# Queen's University Belfast

## Green Flag Management Plan 2025-27



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## **Introduction**

Queen's University Belfast recognises its responsibility to ensure environmental and socially responsible practice in all our teaching and research activities and in the management of our infrastructure and buildings.

In 2020 the University's Vice-Chancellor set down the Vision for the development of the University to work towards to 2030 and beyond. The Vision is of a:

'Global research-intensive university, generating internationally leading research coupled with outstanding teaching and learning, focused on the needs of our society, locally and globally.'

The delivery of the corporate plan, which provides the roadmap for the delivery of this vision, commits to social and civic responsibility, which includes embracing the UN Sustainable Development Goals across all our activities whilst transitioning to a zero-carbon society. For more information click [here](#).

This Management Plan outlines Queen's University Belfast commitment to sustainable management of the Lanyon Main Site (incorporating University Square) for the local community, and for the environment. This plan will be used in conjunction with a range of policies and procedures and will include detailed annual action plans which will be continually updated.

## **Context and Site Setting**

Queen's University Belfast was established in 1845 by Queen Victoria, making it the ninth oldest University in the UK. Today, Queen's is one of the leading universities in the UK and Ireland, providing world-class education underpinned by world-class research.

The University estate is located primarily in South Belfast and now incorporates a significant part of the Victorian suburb which grew up around the Lanyon building. It covers an area of approximately 67 hectares, includes 250 individual buildings, 97 of which are listed. Of the overall buildings, 85% are situated within one of three adjoining Conservation Areas.

The Lanyon Main Site is located within the Queen's Conservation area. This green space is composed of formal gardens, listed buildings recognised for their rich architecture, and pedestrian areas. The Lanyon Main Site is used by the local community and hosts a range of events throughout the year. This includes staff, student and community events.

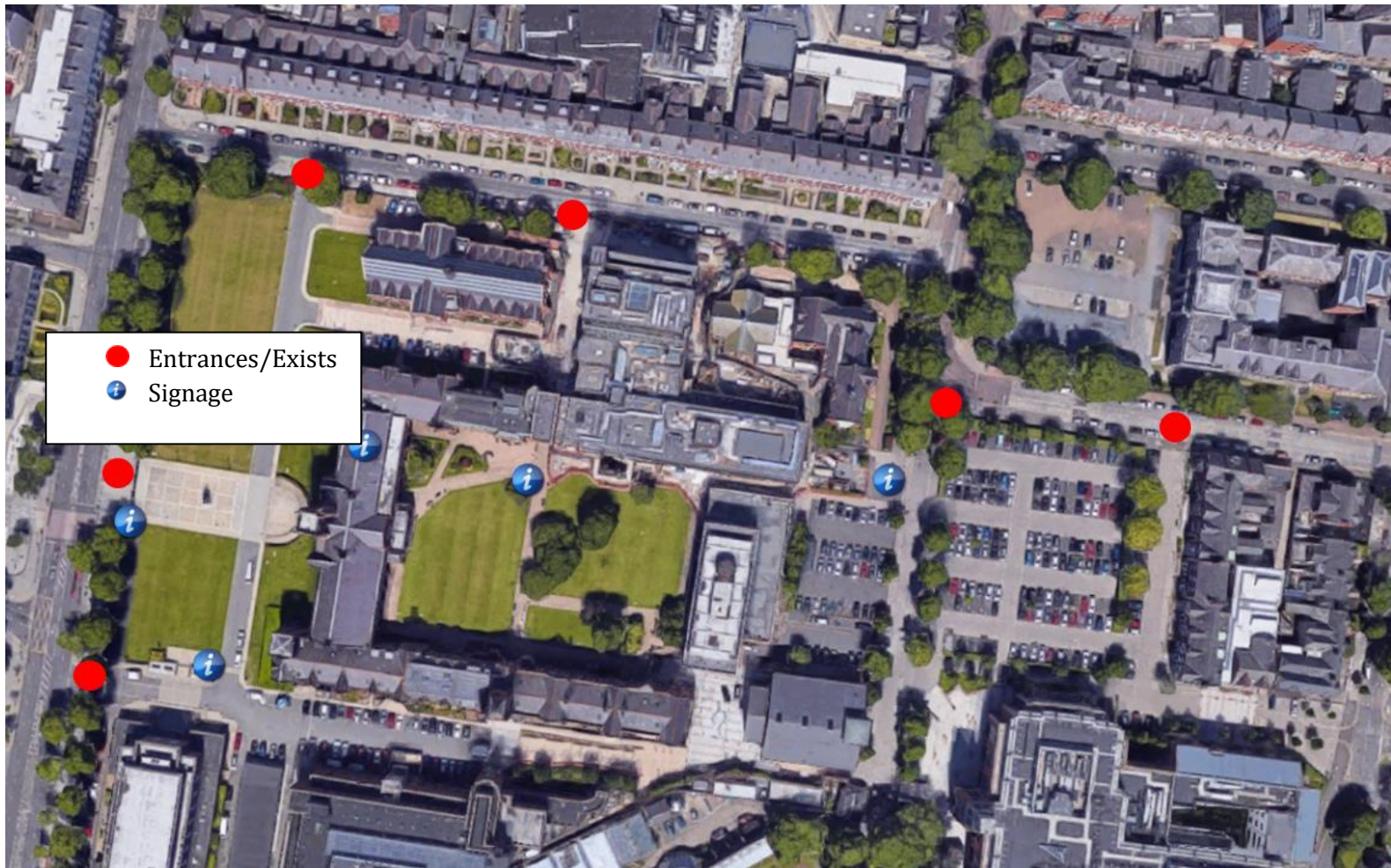


Figure 1. Map of the Lanyon showing the entrances/exits to the Lanyon Main Site, and the position of signage.

# 1. Welcoming Place

## 1.2 Welcome

The Lanyon Main Site (incorporating University Square) consists of several well-maintained open green spaces comprising of lawns, flower beds and borders, in an otherwise densely populated urban area. A considerable proportion of the site is pedestrianised. The green space is set against the impressive Lanyon building, a Grade A listed building maintained and preserved to the highest standards. The Lanyon Main Site has been designed to ensure the site is both visually striking and welcoming. A number of buildings are located within the site and are used for teaching, office space, research, meetings and functions. Several of the buildings that are located on the Lanyon Main Site are of significant architectural merit.



Figure 2. The Lanyon Main Site is open to the public seven days a week.

Operational staff such as security, grounds and gardens, catering and portering are often the first point of contact for external visitors orientating themselves around the site. They are friendly, approachable and helpful.

There are a number of facilities and information services which are open to the general public throughout the year. These include the Welcome Centre and gift shop, art gallery, cafes, seating areas and interpretation signage highlighting the natural and historical heritage and importance of the site.

### 1.2.1 Good and Safe Access

There are four main entrances to the Lanyon Main Site, as well as a number of pedestrian access points throughout the site (highlighted in the map in Figure One). The site can be accessed twenty-four hours, seven days a week by all pedestrians and cyclists, not just Queen's staff and students. Vehicle access is restricted to certain areas of the site and controls are in place during business hours.

The site has excellent accessibility to main routes, local residential areas and to Belfast City Centre.

The University's Lanyon Main Site is just 0.9 miles (15-minute walk) from Belfast City Centre. There are two main vehicular routes on to the Lanyon section of the site and University Square as well as several pedestrian and cycle routes.

Further information on access to the University from a wide range of locations and transport methods can be found [here](#).

There are a number of transport options available within and surrounding the Lanyon Main Site providing excellent access. These include pedestrian, vehicle, bus, train and cycling options.

### 1.2.2 Pedestrian and Vehicle Access

The Lanyon Main Site has a mixture of pedestrianised space and vehicular routes. A considerable proportion of the site is pedestrianised. The pathways are clearly marked and well maintained throughout the year. Shared access between pedestrians and vehicles is managed to minimise potential conflict and ensure the safety of all pedestrians walking through the site.

Vehicle access on site is carefully managed to reduce potential environmental and safety impacts. There is pedestrian right of way throughout the site, an enforced speed limit of five miles per hour is in place and signposted throughout and separate 'pedestrian only' areas are located near loading areas. A 24/7 Security presence on the site ensures that vehicle use on the site is monitored and managed.

### 1.2.3 Cyclist access and Provision

The University has in place a range of facilities to encourage and facilitate cycling across the University.

A number of secure, covered stands and open sheffield stands are provided on the Lanyon Main Site. Shower and changing facilities are also available to staff as well as bike pumps and discounted cycle locks. The city-wide Belfast Bike Hire scheme is also located on the Lanyon Main Site opposite the entrance to the McClay Library.

A new Bike Hub is now located on campus, managed in partnership with Freedom Cycles. The hub lease bikes to students, sells refurbished bikes and provides bike maintenance services. Further information can be found [here](#).

In partnership with Belfast City Council and Department of Infrastructure the University has installed a new, all-inclusive, cycle parking infrastructure at Queen's University Belfast main car park. It can hold 55 bikes and contains a battery charging cabinet for e-bikes.



Figure 3. Launch of new all-inclusive, cycle parking infrastructure in October, 2024.

### 1.2.4 Train and Bus Access

Translink provides a number of public transport options in close proximity to the Lanyon Main Site. This includes trains from Botanic Station (5-minute walk), and a number of bus routes, all of which provide direct access to the centre of Belfast, and the major bus and train centres for onward journeys.

The Lanyon Main Site is a major stop for the Official Belfast City Bus Tour as well as other bus tours operators.

### 1.2.5 Car Parking Provision

Parking is available in designated parking bays at a number of locations on the Lanyon Main Site. During the week and between the hours of 8am and 4pm parking is restricted to staff who hold a parking permit, issued by the University. A limited number of visitor spaces are available and on-street pay and display parking is available in the surrounding area. Disabled parking spaces are provided in accordance with legislative requirements.

A map providing an overview of parking on the main site, including the location of disabled parking bays and visitor parking bays, is available on the University [website](#).

Further information on parking provision is available [here](#).

## 1.3 Signage

The University is clearly signed from all major routes leading to the two main entrances of the Lanyon Main Site. Totem signage is located at each entrance on to the Lanyon Main Site and areas of high footfall.



Figure 4. Five information signs are found throughout the Lanyon Main Site.

There are two security gatehouses located at the two main public entrances acting as a welcome and information point for visitors and site users. These are attended by a member of the



University Security team from 8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. These entrances are located at:

- Botanic Avenue/ University Avenue
- University Square

Signage is also located throughout the site which highlights the sites architectural heritage. This includes a timeline in the PFC building which provides an overview of the history of the University. As part of the recent stonework improvements site hoarding has been used to promote the architectural heritage of the site, whilst also reducing the visual impact of the refurbishment works.

#### **1.4 Equal Access for All**

The Lanyon Main Site is open to staff, students, visitors and local community on a daily basis.

The University is part of the AccessAble initiative and a detailed guide on how to access the Lanyon Main Site is available via the AccesAble app or online. The detailed Access Guide lets you know what access will be like when you visit the Lanyon Main Site. It provides an overview of the route a person will use getting on to the site and the various buildings (including cafes and toilets) and also provides an overview of what facilities are available inside. The guide is available via the app or [online](#).

All operational staff on site e.g. grounds and gardens, maintenance, portering, cleaning and security are clearly identifiable by their uniform and staff lanyard. The security team have received accredited World Host training.

## 2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

The Lanyon Main Site provides people with an opportunity to enjoy an attractive green space, steeped in heritage within an otherwise densely populated area.

The health, safety and security of all users of the Lanyon Main Site is paramount to the University.

The Lanyon Main Site has a number of measures to ensure a safe environment these include:

- Provision of a wide range of facilities across the site for all users (e.g. cafes, toilets, seating etc.)
- 24 hour on-site security presence
- CCTV sensitively located at key locations
- External lighting, well maintained throughout the site

### 2.1 Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities

The Lanyon Main Site provides a range of facilities including toilets, café's, benches, Welcome Centre and Naughton Gallery.

#### 2.1.1 On-site Cafes

There are two café's located within the Lanyon Main Site, Junction (Main Site Tower) and Hope Cafe (McClay Library). These are operated by external University partners and are available to the general public. Further details on café provision can be found [here](#).



Figure 5. Image of Café Hope, located within the McClay Library, the Lanyon Main Site.

#### 2.1.2 Toilets

Public toilets are located in the Welcome Centre, adjacent to the Great Hall and in the café areas. These are regularly checked and cleaned.

#### 2.1.3 First Aid Facilities

There are a number of first aid facilities located around the Lanyon Main Site, including wall mounted defibrillators.

### 2.1.4 Seating

A number of benches have been placed throughout the Lanyon Main Site, providing areas for rest and contemplative reflection.

### 2.1.5 Welcome Centre

A Welcome Centre is located within the Lanyon Building and is Northern Ireland's Tourist Board Local Information Office for South Belfast. It serves as an information point for visitors and tourists, as well as offering a varied selection of souvenirs and gifts.

Staff within the Welcome Centre provide guided tours, which include viewing the Great Hall, Canada Room, School of Music and Quadrangle.



Figure 6. Image of the Welcome Centre.

### 2.1.6 The Naughton Gallery

The Naughton Gallery is situated on the first floor of the Lanyon Building and was established in 2001 to initially showcase the University's extensive permanent Art Collection. The gallery has since evolved to host a rolling programme of contemporary exhibitions, talks, screenings and special events. It has presented work by a range of local and internationally renowned artists.

The gallery is open six days a week, and admission is free. It has been recognised as one of the leading university galleries in the UK and Ireland, winning the Times Higher Education Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts in 2008.

## 2.2 Safe Equipment and Facilities

The maintenance of the Lanyon Main Site is managed by the University Estates Directorate. The Directorate has in place an externally accredited Health and Safety Management System which meets the requirements of OHSAS 18001.

A number of health and safety policies and procedures are in place to ensure the health and safety of all site users. These include:

- University Health and Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Major Incident Plan

- Accident and Incident Reporting procedure
- First Aid Policy
- COSHH policy
- Lone working policy
- Risk Assessment procedure
- Event Management Policy
- Asbestos Management Plan
- Legionella Management Plan
- Health and Safety Code for Contractors

A number of risk assessments have been completed for the various activities undertaken across the site. These are routinely reviewed and updated as necessary. All staff are provided with training in the risk assessments relevant to their area of work.

Regular health and safety audits are undertaken across the University. Policies, procedures and risk assessments are routinely reviewed. Health and safety performance is routinely reported to a number of University committees throughout the year.

Contractors using the site are required to provide evidence of their health and safety policies prior to undertaking work on site and are provided with a copy of the University's Health and Safety rules which they must adhere to. A BREEAM assessment is required for all construction contracts greater than £1million. Contracts of this value must also sign up to the 'Considerate Constructors Scheme'. Regular environmental, health and safety audits are undertaken of minor and major construction works by a consultant working on behalf of the University.

The University hosts a number of events at the site through the year. This includes the biannual graduation parties (during Winter and Summer) as well as student fairs, conferences, festivals and weddings. Such events significantly increase the number of visitors to the site. Health and safety guidance with regard to event management is provided to event organisers.

All cafes and food outlets on the Lanyon Main Site have a Food Hygiene Rating of 5.

### **2.3 Personal Safety**

A number of physical measures have been implemented at the site to enhance personal safety of site users. Security are present on the site 24/7 and a number of regularly monitored CCTV cameras are located throughout the site. All operational staff (i.e. security, porters, maintenance catering and gardening operatives) wear uniforms and carry identification, increasing their visibility to anyone who might need assistance.

Good external lighting is provided throughout the site, and shrubbery and hedges are well maintained to enhance personal security at nighttime.

The University security team have in place clear procedures in for reporting and managing any anti-social issues on site or any incident which contravenes law and order. The security team work proactively with the PSNI to reduce potential for such incidents on site and liaise closely with them in addressing any incidents which occur.

## **2.4 Control of Dogs**

In accordance with Northern Ireland Legislation, all dog owners are required to keep their dogs on their leads and remove their dog faeces. There are no current issues with dog control on site. Any incidences which do arise are addressed by the University Security team who will liaise with the local authority, Belfast City Council, as required.

Any dog faeces reported on site is reported via the Estates helpdesk online or by telephone. This will be assigned to the Grounds and Gardening team to be removed in a timely ma

### **3. Well Maintained and Clean**

The University takes great pride in ensuring the site is well maintained and clean. To this end several steps are taken to ensure the Lanyon Main Site is kept litter free and maintained to a high standard.

#### **3.1 Litter and Waste Management**

The University has a Waste Management Policy which commits to ensuring waste across the estate is managed appropriately.

The University has implemented several measures to reduce waste generated on site and ensure that where waste is produced that as much as possible is reused or recycled.

These include provision of internal bins, segregated for recycling (e.g. plastics, paper, metal cans, cardboard, food and general waste). Posters and signage are located throughout University buildings including cafes and public spaces to inform and promote the use of recycling bins.

A number of external litter bins are provided across the site. These bins are checked daily and emptied as required. During events such as Graduation, additional bins are provided and the frequency of collection is increased.

All members of the gardening team are required to pick up any litter they see throughout the day as part of their role. In addition to this, two members of staff collect litter and empty external litter bins throughout the University estate for four hours each weekday morning (including the Lanyon Main Site). During weekends the gardening team also pick up litter and empty bins across the University, including on the Lanyon Main Site.

Bulk waste storage e.g. Euro-bins and skips are where possible, kept away from the main pedestrian areas, but accessible to University staff. Bulk storage is segregated into plastics, metals, cardboard, food waste, glass and general waste. Further details on the measures taken to segregate waste across the site are provided in Section 4, Figure 8.

Chewing gum is removed as and when required using heat or water pressure. Problem locations are periodically reviewed. An external contractor is appointed to undertake removals.

#### **3.2 Horticulture Maintenance**

Horticultural maintenance is undertaken by the Gardening team. All gardening staff have at least seven years' experience in horticulture, with an appropriate qualification. New staff are provided with a staff induction and on-site training. All staff are trained to PA1 and PA6 on the Safe Use of Pesticides.

Green waste, such as cuttings and leaves, are collected and sent off site to an appropriately licensed contractor for composting. Brown waste is chipped, and re-used on-site.

Site inspections are regularly carried out by the Head Gardener. The inspection schedule depends both on the season and the University calendar. If the inspection reveals that a horticulture task, such as weeding, dead-heading, and cutting, needs to be completed, the work will be completed within an appropriate timeframe.

Figure 7 provides an overview of the maintenance schedule for Grounds and Gardens on the Lanyon Main Site.

Operation	Operational Overview
Grass cutting	<p>Amenity grass is mowed on a 10 day cycle – no grass is collected. Fine turf lawns are mowed twice weekly throughout the growing season with all trimmings boxed off. Grass is maintained between 20-30mm.</p> <p>Lawns and flowerbeds are edged every fortnight. Strimming around obstacles is undertaken fortnightly.</p> <p>Grass mowing on the Lanyon lawns site is carried out using cylinder pedestrian mower. Clippings are boxed off and removed to a green waste skip. A lawn maintenance schedule is maintained and reviewed by the Head Gardener.</p>
Hedge cutting	<p>Ornamental hedges are trimmed three times annually, in March, June and October. Shrubs are pruned to their natural form using established horticultural practices.</p>
Paths and hard standing	<p>Paths and hard standings are maintained to ensure they are in a safe condition free of moss, weeds and litter. During the winter months all areas are maintained in accordance with the University Winter Weather Plan.</p>
Weed-kill control	<p>The University is working to reduce chemical use for the control of weeds. All shrubberies and flower beds are bark mulched twice per year to reduce the need for chemicals, however, given the high-profile nature of the site it is not possible to completely remove the use of herbicides.</p> <p>CDA sprayers are used to reduce the amount of chemical and associated drift where chemical use is required.</p>
Litter removal	<p>Two contract staff undertake daily litter picks and empty litter bins across the University, for four hours each morning. Two Gardening staff are employed for four hours each weekend to undertake lift litter, ensuring the site is kept safe and clean.</p>
Leaf collection	<p>During the Autumn season, in order to maintain safe paths, steps and disabled ramps, leaf collection is carried out daily throughout the site. All leaf debris is returned to a green waste skip.</p>
Shrub beds	<p>The site has a number of mixed planted shrubberies. These are maintained weed free and observed for pest and diseases. Shrubberies</p>

	are bark mulched twice per year in order to suppress weeds and reduce chemical use.
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Figure 6. Overview of Horticultural Maintenance Schedule.

### 3.3 Arboricultural and Woodland Maintenance

Regular tree condition surveys are undertaken by a professional surveyor. This is provided to the Head Gardener who ensures appropriate remedial action is taken where required. The University uses the services of a professional tree surgeon for undertaking tree maintenance on site.

The University has continued to undertake an annual review of the University’s tree stock against the British Standard. The data is collected using GIS software on a hand-held device and provides detailed information on the condition of the University trees. Data will be used to identify where improvement and remedial works are needed and is accessible to the wider Estates team who can use it to inform future capital development plans.

Dead wood is generally removed from the formal areas of the Lanyon Main Site for aesthetic reasons, However, wood piles have been created in the wildlife garden to the rear of the McClay library.

### 3.4 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

Routine preventative maintenance checks are undertaken on the building and infrastructure across the site. For example, paving in the quad is routinely checked for cracks and breakings. Broken paving’s are repaired or removed by the University’s appointed Facilities Management contractor.

The University has in place a rolling Capital Plan which is periodically reviewed and updated. The Capital Plan details those areas requiring infrastructure improvements and projected spend associated with these. The plan is reviewed on a monthly basis by Senior Management, who review forthcoming projects and progress on current works. Significant investment has recently been invested into the Lanyon Building to improve the stonework.

Planned preventative maintenance is undertaken of key building fabric and services throughout the year and is managed by the Estates Services team. A bespoke maintenance plan for the Lanyon Building is currently being developed in partnership with a specialist architectural team.

Biannual (Summer and Winter) maintenance checks are undertaken in advance of Winter and Summer graduation. This includes, a visual review of paving surfaces, road surfaces, external stonework and timber work, street furniture which could pose a risk to the wide variety of site users.

The University have in place an in-house team for undertaking routine maintenance and preventative maintenance including fitters, joiners and electricians. An external contractor is also employed to undertake building and infrastructure maintenance under a measured term contract.

Graffiti and vandalism are not currently a major issue for the site. Where graffiti does occur it is removed as soon as possible by the University’s appointed contractor. Acts of vandalism which cause damage to property are cordoned off and made safe as soon as possible. Graffiti and damage



to property (e.g. benches and bicycle stands) or buildings and infrastructure can be reported and logged via the online estates help desk facilitated by 'Plan On' or reported to any member of staff including the Security team.

A number of pro-active measures have been taken to deter vandalism and graffiti issues. These include the 24/7 security presence on site.

Pro-active measures are also undertaken to prevent damage to buildings and infrastructure. For example, vehicle usage is prohibited in the paved quadrangle unless permission has been granted from the Estates Directorate for specific reason e.g. emergency access or event set up. Bollards are in place at these entrances to restrict access.

### **3.5 Equipment Maintenance**

Equipment is designed and specified to ensure that there are no exposed elements and to reduce the risk of harm or injury to the public from street furniture e.g. arms of benches do not have sharp edges and handrails have rounded tops. Such equipment must adhere to government 'inclusive mobility' guidance.

All machinery used for gardening maintenance is serviced annually by an external contractor. To comply with Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) all machinery is checked twice yearly to ensure safety is maintained. Machinery is also assessed, using a checklist, before each use by the operator to ensure it remains safe to use. Hand and arm vibration and noise are assessed at the time of purchase to ensure suitability for purpose. All hand tools have been switched to battery powered hand tools. This has reduced noise pollution within the Lanyon Main Site and reduce carbon emissions. Induction and training to enable safe working practises is compulsory for all gardening staff, ensuring they are competent in the use of all equipment and machinery.

Reactive maintenance requests are reported via an online help desk facilitated by 'Plan On'. These are managed by the Estates helpdesk. Requests are allocated to the appropriate section or contractor, for completion within a set timeline. This ensures that maintenance issues are dealt with efficiently and in a timely manner.

Estates staff and appointed building liaison officers are encouraged to be vigilant when walking around the site and report any problems and issues which they come across via the online help desk.

## 4. Environmental Management

### 4.1 Managing Environmental Impact

The University is committed to becoming a net zero university and world leader in environmental and sustainable activities, informed by research excellence within the University.

The Estates Directorate has in place an Environmental Management System certified to ISO 14001, implemented since 2007. Under the ISO 14001 the University has identified the most significant environmental impacts of its activities and ensured that objectives, targets, management plans and control measures are in place to mitigate and minimise environmental impact. This covers a wide range of impact areas including air, water, land, waste and resource usage. This ensures the University manages the environmental impact of the Estate, complies with environmental legislation and continually improves environmental performance. This includes the green space, buildings and infrastructure within the Lanyon Main Site.

Alongside the certified EMS the University operates several Environmental Policies including the following:

- Environmental Policy

Provides an overview of the University's commitment to minimising its environmental impact and embedding good environmental practices across the University.

- Net Zero Plan

The University's Net Zero Plan outlines the institutions plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. The plan outlines the actions the University has and will undertake to achieve this target. Key emission 18rea that will be addressed include scope 1 (heating, electricity) and scope 3 (student commuting (term-time and traveling to the university), staff commuting, procurement and capital goods).

- Travel Plan

The University Travel Plan outlines the University's commitment to increase the uptake of sustainable travel options. The University have undertaken a number of activities to increase the number of staff and students travelling by bus, car and bike. This includes providing financial incentives for public transport use and cycling as well as improving cycling infrastructure and provision. In 2018, the University was the first employer in the UK to achieve Gold in the Cycling UK's Cycle Friendly Employer accreditation, this recognised the efforts the University has taken to encourage cycling across the University.

- Waste Policy

The University's Waste Management Policy outlines the University commitment to reduce, recycle and divert waste from landfill. The University has an extensive recycling programme across the University including on the Lanyon Main Site and works closely with staff, students and the University waste contractor to continually drive improvements in this area.

- Staff and Student engagement programmes

A range of staff and student engagement initiatives have been implemented throughout the campus around the themes of sustainability. These projects aim to drive positive change across a range of sustainability topics: travel, waste, energy, procurement and biodiversity.

Local Sustainability Action Plan (LSAP) Programme commenced in October 2024. This staff programme aims to drive positive, sustainability change in individual schools and directorates via the creation of bespoke LSAP's.

Carbon Literacy Training, in collaboration with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, has been rolled out across the University since January 2022. This free, certified training provides the Queen's community to learn about the climate disaster, and how they can play a role in the solution.

The Sustainability Team within the University host a number of 'Climate Conversation' events which aim to inform, and inspire, our community on a range of sustainability topics – travel, sustainable construction, biodiversity and waste. A range of community engagement events are also hosted – this includes biannual litter picks, and a range of biodiversity initiatives across South Belfast.

## 4.2 Waste Minimisation

The University has implemented a number of measures to reduce waste generated on site and ensure that where waste is produced that as much as possible is reused or recycled.

Figure 8 summarises how waste is managed for the University, including the Lanyon Main Site.

Waste Stream	Management method
Brown Waste (tree cuttings etc.)	Chipped and used on site
Green Waste	Collected in Green Waste skip at Rugby Road waste centre and transported off site for composting by appointed waste contractor.
Furniture	Reused within University where possible via WARPit (University reuse website), offered to charity and then recycled
Plastic	Segregated at source for recycling, centrally stored at Rugby Road waste centre and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contract
Metals	Segregated at source for recycling, centrally stored at Rugby Road waste centre and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Cardboard	Segregated at source for recycling, baled at Rugby Road waste centre and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Paper	Segregated at source for recycling, centrally stored at Rugby Road waste centre and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Electrical	Segregated at source for recycling, centrally stored at locations throughout the University

	and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Batteries	Segregated at source, centrally stored at Rugby Road and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Glass	Segregated and stored in on-site 'beehive' transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor
Food Waste	Segregated at source (catering facilities) and some office areas. Stored in bins and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Waste Oil and Waste Cooking Oil	Stored in sealed container at Rugby Road, transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor.
Empty Chemical Containers	Segregated, triple rinsed, stored in sealed containers throughout the site and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor
Ink Cartridges	Segregated at source, stored in designated areas throughout the site, transported off site by appointed waste contractor and recycled
Books	Segregated at source, centrally stored at Rugby Road and transported off site for recycling by appointed waste contractor
General Waste	Stored in designated bins throughout the site, and in skips and Rugby Road. Transported off site for segregation by appointed waste contractor and recycled and recovered as appropriate.

Figure 8. Table summarises how waste is managed for the University, including the Lanyon Main Site.

Cafes (owned by external providers) on site are also required to comply with the University's waste policy, by providing facilities for recycling, including food waste.

The University has in place a number of external waste contracts which are regularly monitored from a legal perspective to ensure compliance with Duty of Care Requirements as well as from a contractual and financial perspective.

### 4.3 Chemical Use

The use of pesticides containing potassium and nitrates are kept to a minimum.

Mechanical techniques are used where this is feasible (e.g. location of area requiring treatment, extent of area, plant type). However, it has been difficult to find a viable alternative to chemicals, to eradicate weeds from hard surfaces, especially on pedestrian walkways to ensure the health and safety of site users.

Where chemicals are required a number of measures have been undertaken to keep chemical use to a minimum and reduce exposure to staff and students, well as reducing negative effects to the environment e.g. mulch is used on bedding to restrict weed growth, CDA sprayers are used to reduce the amount of spray used and associated drift.

All gardening staff are trained to PA1 and PA6 on the Safe Use of Pesticides.

All chemicals are appropriately stored in a 'Site Safe' within a secure store.

Given the expectation for manicured lawns at the Lanyon Main Site (in keeping with the architectural style) fertilisers are commonly used on the lawns. Over the past two years however there has been a policy to reduce the use of conventional fertiliser and move to more organic based products such as seaweed.

#### **4.4 Peat use**

In accordance with the University's environmental commitment, ongoing efforts have been made to limit the use of peat compost throughout the Lanyon Main Site. This included identifying actions which reduce the use of peat and reviewing alternative options. In 2022, the Lanyon Main Site became a peat free site. Continual efforts are being made to source peat free alternatives from suppliers.

#### **4.5 Climate Change Adaption Strategies**

Climate Change Adaption strategies are a key part of Queen's University [Net Zero Plan](#).

The impact of climate change on plant selection, irrigation techniques and building design etc. will be reviewed as best practice in this area develops.

## **5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage**

The site is rich with architectural heritage. Located within the site is the Lanyon Building, an iconic piece of Irish architecture and a landmark building within Belfast. The landscaping is maintained to a very high standard in keeping with the architecture.

### **5.1 Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora and Conservation of Landscape Features**

The University was established in 1845 and has a rich architectural heritage. The Lanyon Main Site is located within the 'Queen's Conservation Area'. Further detail on the sites architectural heritage is provided in Section 5.2.

The sites architectural heritage is reflected in the landscaping within the site. The site comprises a number of formal, manicured lawns, flower beds and herbaceous borders in keeping with the style of the medieval colleges of Oxford and Cambridge which influenced its design. Informal planting areas have also been provided on the site, away from the main Lanyon Building and are looked after by non-gardening staff and students with the support of the gardening team.

Maintenance is carried out consistent with best horticultural practices in all disciplines of gardening including trees, lawns, hedgerows, planting and landscaping.

#### **5.1.1 Trees**

A number of trees are located within the site. There are 16 species of trees including Magnolia, Lime, Chestnut, Maple and Prunus. The trees on the site sit within a Local Conservation Area therefore permission must be sought with Belfast City Council Planning Department before any works are carried out. The University trees are surveyed by an independent arboricultural consultant. All tree locations have been logged using GIS technology. Tree bases are maintained free from grass and weed growth to reduce potential damage to the base and strimming in this area is prohibited. Epicormic growth is removed annually.

A number of the trees on the Lanyon Main Site are particularly beautiful when in bloom and are appreciated by staff, students and visitors. In recent times these have attracted a lot of positive attention on social media. University Square has a long history of Magnolia trees in the front gardens. A replanting scheme has been ongoing over the past fifteen years to increase the number of Magnolias and replace those lost following construction works to improve disabled access.



Figure 9. The Lanyon Main Site contains a number of Magnolia Trees.

### 5.1.2 Lawns

In keeping with the architecture and heritage of the site there are a number of manicured lawns, 7600 m<sup>2</sup> in total. These lawns are carefully managed and maintained by the gardening team. A detail maintenance plan is managed by the Head Gardener.

A low chain runs around the lawns to restrict access and prevent degradation and impact from trampling. However, these chains are removed for key events such as Summer and Winter Graduation and exhibitions such as the annual careers fair. During these events marquees are often located on the front lawn and in the Quadrangle. During the summer month's staff and students are free to use the lawn for classes, study or leisure.



Figure 10. Image of the Lawns at the Lanyon Main Site.

### 5.1.3 Hedgerows

Over the last ten years several native hedgerows have been planted to enhance biodiversity around the University Campus. 90 linear meters of wildlife hedging has been planted at the rear of the McClay Library on the Lanyon Main Site. There are also 400 linear metres of Hornbeam hedging surrounding the main car parks. In 2022 50 linear metres of wildlife hedging (Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Holly, Beach, Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Crab Apple, Alder) was planted at Ashby Hill.

### 5.1.4 Planting and landscaping

It is the University's policy, that where possible, when planting new shrubberies/flower beds 80% of plant choice will be from the RSPB's approved plant list.

Throughout the site there are a number of plantings consisting of annual bedding, herbaceous borders and mixed shrubberies - this offers a wide range of plant species including pollinators and wild-life friendly hosts.

### 5.1.5 Wildlife Habitats

A wide range of habitats have been identified within the Lanyon Main Site and these include grass, herbaceous borders, hedgerows and trees. The University Campus supports and enhances local wildlife, providing vital foraging and shelter for species within an urban setting, and ensuring biodiversity is enhanced within Belfast.

Several bird boxes have been installed around the University estate including on the Lanyon Main Site and pollinator plants and shrubs are incorporated within planting schemes.

The University has six 'no mow' areas across campus. Our 'no mow' areas are only cut twice a year (April and September), ensuring our insects are provided with food and a habitat throughout the Spring and Summer period. In April 2024, a new 'no mow' area was established outside our Physical Education Centre, resulting in Queen's having over 7000m<sup>3</sup> of rich biodiversity grassed area. This action was taken as part of our commitment to becoming supporters of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.



Figure 11: Tree planting at Malone Playing Fields, February 2024.

### 5.1.6 Informal Planting

A wildlife garden has been created by staff at the rear of the McClay library. The garden provides flower beds and planters for staff to grow their own vegetables and flowers. This area is managed



by a team of staff located within the library in conjunction with the Gardening team who offer technical and labour support.



Figure 12 and 13. Image of the McClay Library Sound Garden.

Since 2023, interconnected biodiversity projects have taken place within internal courtyards located along University Square, entitled 'Pockets of Green Space'. These projects have been funded by Queen's Green Fund and are implemented in collaboration with staff in University Square and the Estates Directorate. Three courtyards have been completed to date.



Figure 14 and 15. Images of 'Pocket of Green Spaces' project along University Square.

### 5.1.7 Bulb Planting

Bulb planting has taken place throughout Queen's Campus on an informal basis for decades. Since November 2023 bulb planting has been used as a way to engage with staff, students and the local

community. In October 2023, over 7500 bulbs were planted, including 5000 bulbs planted throughout 7063m<sup>3</sup> of 'No Mow' biodiversity rich grass. Within Malone Playing Fields, a further 146 oak saplings were planted by students, staff and local community members.



Figure 16 and 17. Bulb planting in Riddel Hall with Queen's Gardener Keith.

### 5.1.8 Invasive species

The University has an ongoing programme of eradication/control of Invasive species. This includes the management of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam. Currently the Lanyon Main Site has no evidence of contamination, however continual checks take place.

### 5.1.9 Partnership with Local Environmental Organisations

The University works with a number of local environmental organisations and government to enhance and drive environmental improvements across the University including the Lanyon Main Site.

These include Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, RSPB, Sustrans NI, The Conservation Volunteers and Department for Infrastructure.

## 6. Conservation of Buildings and Structures

### 6.1 Sites Significance - National Local and Historic Importance

The University has a rich heritage, dating back to its establishment in 1845 and is the ninth oldest University in the UK. The centre piece and the enduring symbol of Queen's University is the original building, the Lanyon building, designed by the renowned Victorian architect Sir Charles Lanyon and completed in 1849. The Lanyon Building's front façade is instantly recognisable and is often seen on national banknotes, billboards and tourist posters promoting Northern Ireland.

Other buildings of architectural heritage and interest on the Lanyon Main Site include the Lynn Building, School of Music, Whitla Hall and Old Physics. The campus now contains over 100 buildings which are listed as being of special architectural and historic merit, a number of these are located on the Lanyon Main Site (incorporating University Square).

The University has spent millions in conservation projects on the Lanyon Main Site and is committed to investing in Northern Ireland's built heritage for future generations.

The Lanyon timeline has been developed to celebrate the 173 years of history since the University was founded. The timeline explores the development of the University across key achievements, progress and milestones made by the University and its continuing commitment to shaping a better world. An online version of the timeline is available [here](#).

More detailed information and background to the history and heritage of the Lanyon Main Site is provided in the proceeding sections.

## 6.2 Establishment of the University

Queen's is the ninth oldest University in the UK, founded by Royal Charter in 1845 (Figure 18). Founded by Queen Victoria, the Queen's University in Ireland, was designed to be a non-denominational alternative to Trinity College Dublin which was controlled by the Anglican Church.



Figure 18. Queen's University Belfast Royal Charter.

Its collegiate department, which provided University-style education, closed with the establishment of Queen's and four of its professors and many of its students transferred to the new college.

The most significant date in the early years of the University's life was 1908 when the three Queen's Colleges, and the Royal University (which replaced the Queen's University in Ireland in 1879), were dissolved and replaced by the Queen's University of Belfast and the National University of Ireland.

As an independent institution, governed by its own Senate, Queen's flourished. Increasing student numbers and new staff were accommodated in a number of new buildings and the academic

programme increased in range. Arts, Science, Law and Medicine were supplemented by Faculties of Commerce, Applied Science and Technology, Agriculture, and Theology.

Today, Queen's is one of the leading universities in the UK and Ireland, providing world-class education underpinned by world-class research.

### 6.3 Conservation Status

The University estate is located primarily in South Belfast and now incorporates a significant part of the Victorian suburb which grew up around the Lanyon building. It covers an area of approximately 67 hectares, includes 250 individual buildings, 97 of which are listed. Of the overall buildings, 85% are situated within one of three adjoining Conservation Areas.

The Lanyon Main Site is located within the Queen's Conservation area. The following buildings on the Lanyon Main Site have listed building status. These are:

- Lanyon Building (Grade A)
- Lynn Building (Grade B)
- School of Music (Grade B)
- Whitla Hall (Grade B1)
- Old Physics (Grade A)
- 1 – 31 University Square (Grade B1)

The site also contains a number of modern buildings which have been recognized as being of high architectural merit. These include the Main Site Tower and the McClay Library.

Figure 19 provides an aerial photograph of the University in 1919 and Figure 20 provides an aerial photograph of 2017.



Figure 19 and 20. Aerial image of the Lanyon Main Site in 1919 and in 2017.

The following section provides an overview of architectural heritage of the key buildings located on the Lanyon Main Site.

### ***The Lanyon Building***

The magnificent Lanyon building, the centre piece and enduring symbol of the University, is located on the Lanyon Main Site. Completed in 1849, it is now known as the Lanyon Building after its architect, the renowned Sir Charles Lanyon. His design borrows from the Gothic and Tudor character of the great medieval universities, and in particular from Magdalen College, Oxford. Lanyon's design reflects the culture of that time, using associations with historical architecture to command instant status and authority. The Northern Irish climate quickly weathered the sandstone and soft red brick, creating a timeless appearance, and the long front elevation suggested a certain prestige which reflected the goals of this new establishment.

As the University grew, the northern side of the Lanyon building, originally containing a museum and a number of lecture rooms, was slowly transformed for use by administrative services. An opportunity to reform this north wing came in 1975, when the new Administration building was built on the eastern side of the quad. Robert McKinstry carried out this project in 1986, creating a reception room, known as the Canada Room, and a new Council Chamber on the first floor.

Across the gallery from the Canada Room and Council Chamber lies the Naughton Gallery, another beautiful addition which came as a result of the restoration project in 2001. The gallery consists of one long, narrow room, which originally only contained service and storage areas. The room now makes a wonderfully bright, neat little gallery which allows visitors to see both touring exhibitions and the University's art collection.

Now in its 15th year, the Naughton Gallery can host up to eight exhibitions each year and is also involved in the co-ordination of commissions of new art works for the University. Consisting of purchases, bequests and gifts which have been collected since the foundation of the University in 1845, QUB's extensive art collection includes prints, paintings, works on paper, furniture, sculpture, silver and metalwork. The collection also features a beautiful hang of more than 40 portraits, which can be found in the Great Hall.

### ***The Great Hall***

The most dramatic space in the University, the Great Hall houses portraits of many inspiring and influential Queen's people. The Great Hall was inspired by the medieval great halls found in colleges in Cambridge and Oxford. Many of the intricate features originally planned for the hall were cut out due to budget constraints and were added during an extensive £2.5m renovation in 2002, which restored it to Lanyon's original plans. Further renovations in 2018/19 have further enhance this space.



Figure 21. Image of the Great Hall

### ***The Black and White Hall***

The Black and White Hall, can be found through the main doors of the Lanyon Building. The central statue of Galileo, by Pio Fedi, was installed in the hall in 2001 as part of the restoration of the adjacent Great Hall.



Figure 22. Image of the Black and White Hall.

### ***The Lynn Building***

In 1865, William Henry Lynn from the firm of Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon was appointed to design a library, the front section of which was constructed between 1866 and 1868 in a vibrant Ruskinian Gothic style. In 1911 it was extended to the east, also by Lynn, in a seamless transition with the distinctive cupola marking the join. As constructed, this building has the most marvellous open and galleried interior, almost chapel-like in its soaring proportions. A Grade B listed building it was restored and remodelled in 2015.

In 2018 the Lynn Building celebrated its 150-year anniversary. A number of events took place to celebrate this anniversary. Further information on the history of the building and the 150-year celebrations are available on the Queen's [website](#).

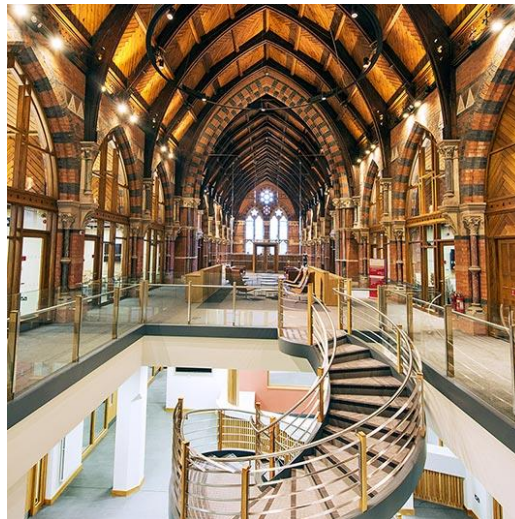


Figure 23. Image of the Lynn Building.

### ***School of Music – the Harty Room***

In the northeast corner of the campus, at the end of University Square, is the School of Music. A Grade B listed building it continues the Tudor style of the original buildings.

The Dining Room (now the Harty Room) was added in 1932-33; a central feature is the oak hammer beam roof, one of the finest of its type in Ireland.

It is now used for musical performances and events.



Figure 24. Image of the Harty Room.

### ***Whitla Hall***

A major Queen's benefactor was the distinguished Belfast physician Sir William Whitla.

The Sir William Whitla Hall opened in 1949, this is a Grade B1 listed building.

Prominently located on the main site, when built it was of such a strikingly modern design that it must have been quite a shock to those used to the prevailing Gothic conformity. The Whitla Hall is the most notable twentieth century addition to the campus, designed in 1936 and started in 1939, although not completed until after the war in 1949. It is the work of John McGeagh, and the most successful of his many contributions to the University. Despite the strikingly modern design, with clean and angular forms, the use of a warm red brick and of stone dressings blends well with the original buildings. The almost Georgian proportions and detailing of the Whitla Hall create a very subtle bridge between crisp Modernism and the historical style of the older buildings. The building was awarded the Ulster Architecture Medal by the Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA) in 1950.

The Whitla Hall is the venue for Summer and Winter graduation ceremonies, as well as a wide range of other notable events throughout the year.

### ***McClay Library***

The McClay Library has been recognised as a model for sustainable design. Completed in 2009 the library accommodates 2,200 reader spaces and houses 1.2 million volumes. Illuminated by a multi-storey open atrium, the impressive building includes IT training rooms, a Language Centre, Library and Computer support areas and a café, alongside the University's Special Collections and the impressive CS Lewis Reading Room, which is accessed through a hand-carved 'wardrobe' door.

The building has been extremely successful and as a result further work is now being undertaken to increase student capacity and services.

The building has achieved a number of awards including the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Award for Sustainability in 2010.



Figure 25. Image of the McClay Library

### ***The Main Site Tower***

Located opposite the Lynn Building is the Main Site Tower.

The redevelopment of the former Library Tower as a prestigious home for the School of Law involved retention of part of the Tower's structural frame and removal of the three upper floors. A three-storey building connects the refurbished Tower and the Peter Froggatt Centre (PFC), effectively creating a single building, within which a series of central atrium spaces provide light and natural ventilation.

The building integrates impressively with the adjacent Gothic and Tudor style library and music school.



Figure 26. Image of the Main Site Tower.

### ***The Lawn and War Memorial***

The lawn at the front of the Lanyon had a part to play during World War 2. The lawn was converted into an allotment for the cultivation of crops.



### ***The Quadrangle***

The Lanyon building is surrounded on two sides by grassy areas — the front lawn to the west and the quadrangle to the east.

The quadrangle is the great central space of the campus, with a remarkable homogeneity despite being the product of a century of building.

Only a short section of the south wing of the Lanyon Building is part of the original design, marked now by the diaper brickwork '1848' date.

In the centre of the south side is the 'old' Physics building with its tower and passageway, designed by W H Lynn in 1911, reflecting the Tudor Gothic of the original building. This contains a plaque with the arms of the Royal University of Ireland, the date 1881 marking when Queen's became a constituent part. It was only in 1933, to a design by W A Forsythe, that the middle section of the south wing connected the earlier blocks to create a continuous façade. All three sections are distinctly different and representative of their time, yet all blend together to create a mellow and distinctive character.

The north wing of the Lanyon Building was added by John McGeagh in 1951, with the first floor oriel window only added in 1963, again in a historicist style designed to blend with the original building.

By the early twentieth century, the north and east sides of the quadrangle had been completed in a variety of traditional styles. These buildings were subsequently demolished to make way for the Peter Froggatt Centre and the Administration building. Despite the very modern style of these buildings, their low height and use of red brick tradition maintain the scale and enclosure of the quadrangle.



Figure 27. Image of the Quadrangle.

### ***'New' Physics Building***

Moving back through the quadrangle and through the passageway of the south tower of the 'old' Physics building, it can be seen that the distinctive entrance tower of the 'new' Physics building is centrally aligned. Designed by John McGeagh in 1955 in a modern style, it was not constructed

until 1958 and then opened in 1962. It was recently refurbished in 2017. This is a large building, simply detailed but with good massing and a wonderful stairway in the entrance tower. Although distinctively different from the original buildings, and the prevailing Tudor detailing of practically every other building constructed right up until the 1930s, the red brick and stone detailing and the relatively low heights allow it to remain respectful, with a quiet grandeur.



Figure 28. Image of the Physics Building.

### ***University Square***

The great terrace of University Square was not built by Queen's but laid out as private residences and built-in portions from 1848 to 1853, with numbers 1-3 following in 1870. The owner was Jane Gregg and the architect for the overall layout was, once again, Charles Lanyon.

The recessed Doric porches, elegant proportions of the Georgian paned windows and warm red brick, combine to create the best formal terrace in Belfast, possibly Ulster. Most of the later variations of bays and dormers add to, rather than detract from, the overall composition. Most of the original railings were lost to the war effort but surviving fragments have been used to provide the source for new railings and plinth walls along the entire terrace, as part of recent accessibility improvements.

The flanking trees are also essential parts of the character of the street, and indeed of the whole Queen's setting.



Figure 29. Image of University Square.

### ***Ulster History Circle***

A number of the buildings at Queen's have a blue history circle plaque for persons who have made a significant contribution to society. The following are located on buildings within the Lanyon Main Site:

- Philip Larkin (Poet and Writer) - Lynn Library
- Professor Robert Mitchell Henry (Academic)- Lanyon Building
- Emma Duffin (Nurse) – University Square

## **6.4 Commitment to Conservation and Heritage Preservation**

Improvements to the University estate are managed through the 'Future Campus' Plan. This sets out the University's ten-year plan to develop and expand the Estate.

The Estates Capital Development Plan program tracks and manages the delivery of the Estates Strategy. The Directorate regularly reviews and identifies suitable projects which align with the strategy and preserves the architectural heritage of the site.

The University liaises closely with a number of statutory agencies in the management of the estates built heritage. These include the Historic Environment Division (Department for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs) and the planning department and building control sections within Belfast City Council.

Through the procurement process the University ensures that design teams and contractors appointed to undertake works on the University's listed buildings have the appropriate skills and knowledge in conservation standards to enhance and protect the architectural heritage of the buildings and infrastructure.

## **6.5 Conservation Improvements**

In 2018 a significant investment was made across the Lanyon Main Site to preserve and enhance the architectural heritage of the site. The University completed a £5.5 million restoration and improvement project of the Lanyon stonework. In 2015 a major refurbishment was undertaken of the Lynn Building and the Main Site tower. New builds on the site have also been designed to enhance and integrate with the architectural style and heritage, for example the design and construction of the McClay Library mimics and compliments the design of the Lanyon tower, whilst providing a modern and highly successful space for student study

Over the last 15 years £110 million has been invested in building and infrastructure improvements across the Lanyon Main Site (including University Square). These projects have been delivered by the Estates Directorate through the Estates Strategy and the Capital Development Plan by the Estates Directorate.

Key projects include:

- Lanyon Stone Work Repairs - £5.5 Million
- Refurbishment of the Lynn Library - £4 million
- Refurbishment and construction of the Main Site Tower - £18 million
- Construction of the McClay Library and David Bates - £50 million
- Refurbishment of New Physics and Old Physics - £9.6 million
- Stonework Repairs (various parts of the Lanyon) - £0.5 million
- Creation of the East West Link - £2 million
- Various Refurbishments University Square - £3million
- Refurbishment College Park £1.5 million
- Refurbishment and Repairs Whitla Hall- £0.8 million

In line with the University's commitment within the Corporate plan and through the delivery of the Estates Strategy and associated Capital Plan, the University will continue to invest in the University's buildings, preserving and conserving their heritage whilst also providing a world class teaching, research and community resource.

Forthcoming projects include further refurbishment of University Square and development of a bespoke maintenance plan for the Lanyon Building.

## **6.6 Sharing the History and Architectural Heritage of the Site**

The local community, staff, students and visitors can learn more about the architectural heritage of the site in a number of ways.

### **6.6.1 The Lanyon Timeline**

The Lanyon timeline was created in 2018 to celebrate key events in the history of the University since the construction of the Lanyon in 1847.

The timeline was originally used as hoarding around the restoration and improvement works to the South wing of the Lanyon and is now in place around works to the McClay Library. The timeline is also installed on the walls of the entrance foyer of the Peter Froggatt Centre on the Lanyon Main Site and is open for view to the public.

A digital copy of the timeline is available [here](#).

### **6.6.2 Walking Tours and Virtual Tours**

The University provides daily tours of the campus, including the Lanyon Main Site. These are available via the Welcome centre, an approved NI Tourist Information Point. A self-directed walking tour is also available from the Welcome Centre and content can be viewed [here](#).

In addition to this a virtual tour of the University is available on our [website](#).

Visitors can also be provided with access to the McClay library including the CS Lewis room.

## **7. Community Involvement**

### **7.1 Community Involvement in Management and Development**

The University is part of a large community including students who attend the University, staff who work at the University, local businesses, local residents, local schools, and University alumni.

The University Students' Union represents the student community on a wide range of working groups across the University and gives input to the development of university policies and development plans.

The Queen's Community Engagement team liaises with key internal and external stakeholders to promote community cohesion in the wider University area, and represents Queen's on key partnership groups, including local residence groups, businesses, partnership boards and networking forums. Further information is available on the community engagement [website](#).

### **7.2 Appropriate Provision for the Community**

The Lanyon Main Site is used by staff, students, local residents, schools and the general public for a wide range of uses throughout the year.

A summary of the facilities and events which are open to the community throughout the year are summarised below.

#### **7.2.1 Conferences and Function Rooms**

A wide range of meeting rooms and function areas facilities are available to staff, students and the general public and can be booked for use by via Events at Queen's.

The well-maintained landscaped grounds and historic built heritage are a key selling point for conference and meeting delegates. Further information on the various venues is available [here](#).

#### **7.2.2 Events**

The University hosts a number of events throughout the year which are open to the local community and wider general public. A full overview is available [online](#).



Figure 30. Summer Graduation in the Quadrangle.

### 7.2.3 SU Volunteer

The University runs a Volunteering programme for students which aims to provide volunteering opportunities for students which will benefit the local community whilst also helping students develop their employability skills. SU Volunteer has a network of over 400 charities and community groups which it connects student volunteers with. Further information is available on their [website](#).

### 7.2.4 Community Clean Ups

Over the course of the year, staff, students and local community come together to undertake litter pick and clean up the streets particularly in the residential areas immediately adjacent to the University.



Figure 29. Staff, students and the local community taking part in Queen's Big Spring Clean.

### 7.2.5 Supporting the Regeneration of Residential Areas

The University has supported the regeneration of alley ways in South Belfast. For example the University provided resources and gardening expertise in the development of the Rugby Road, Wildflower Alley and is supporting the development of a similar alleyway project in the vicinity.

### 7.2.6 Food Fairs

The QUB Campus Food and Drink Market brings together a fantastic selection of hot food stalls showcasing Northern Irish produce and foods from around the world.

Nominated in the 'Best NI Local Market' category at the 2017 Northern Ireland Food & Drink Awards, the markets are designed to raise the profile of local producers and their products, and are aimed at the University staff, students as well as the local community.

The markets take place on the Lanyon Main Site and Elmwood Site.

### 7.2.7 Open House Festival and European Heritage Days

Each year the University provides tours of a number of its buildings as part of Open House Belfast. The tours, which are open to the public, give an insight in to the heritage of the buildings, how they have been designed and how they are used.

The University also opens up its buildings to tours as part of the Open Heritage Belfast, as part of the European Open Heritage days.

### 7.2.8 Open Days

The University hosts a number of open days for prospective students. This provides students and their parents with access to a wide range of buildings across the University to help them determine where and what they choose to study.

### 7.2.9 International Festivals

A number of the buildings on the Lanyon Main Site are used as venues for a wide range of events these include the NI Science Festival, the International Belfast Festival and Imagine! Belfast – Festival of Ideas and Politics. These events are open to the public.

### 7.2.10 Chinese New Year Celebrations

Each year Queen's welcomes the Chinese Year with a series of events. This includes a dragon dance through the Lanyon Main Site as well as a series of cultural events and talks.



Figure 30. Chinese New Year 2022.

#### 7.2.11 Lennoxvale Tree Nursery and the Million Trees for Belfast Initiative

In November 2019, Queen's staff and student volunteers joined local residents, San Souci Resident Association and The Conservation Volunteers, to celebrate the opening of a new tree nursery at Lennoxvale.

The Lennoxvale Tree Nursery Project has transformed a vacant site into a flourishing tree nursery, which will grow native trees from locally collected seed - producing up to 1,000 trees.

Approximately 600 of these saplings have been planted within Queen's campus as part of the Million Trees for Belfast Initiative.



Figure 31. Planting of 400 Lennoxvale Tree Nursery saplings in Malone Playing Fields in November 2022.



## 8. Marketing

The Lanyon Main Site is marketed via the University website.

This provides a wide range of information in relation to the University including information on:

- [Campus and facilities](#)
- [Directions the University](#)
- [Architectural Heritage of the University](#)
- [Events](#)

The Lanyon timeline located in the Peter Froggatt Centre provides an overview of the history of the site and is open throughout the year to the general public.

The University undertakes considerable marketing across the globe to attract a wide range of staff and students and visitors to the University. The iconic Lanyon Building, built heritage, colourful and vibrant grounds and gardens are a key selling point in attracting staff, students and visitors to Queen's and indeed Belfast. This includes a range of recruitment events across the World and through the distribution of the University prospectus.

The University has a number of active social media accounts which promote and celebrate the positive environmental and social aspects of the high-quality green space provided on the Lanyon Main Site and its rich architectural heritage. These include:

- @QUBelfast
- @QUBstaff
- @greenatqueens
- @QUBEstates

## **9. Management Plan**

The daily management of the Grounds and Gardens within the University estate is managed by the Estates Directorate.

Estates Services co-ordinate the day-to-day management and maintenance of buildings, grounds and gardens. The Head Gardener is responsible for the day-to-day operational maintenance of the grounds and gardens and works with the environmental team and maintenance team to plan improvements.

Conservation of the built heritage is led by the Estates Planning and Development section.

Annual financial commitment is made through an allocation in the Grounds and Garden budget, for the day-to-day management of the grounds and gardens on the Lanyon Main Site. Commitment is also provided within the maintenance budget for the day-to-day management and maintenance of the buildings and infrastructure. This budget is overseen by the Head of Estates Services

Capital project funds are allocated through the Capital Plan for significant refurbishment and new build projects on the Lanyon Main Site. These projects are managed by a dedicated Estates Manager and overseen by the Head of Estates Planning and Head of Estates Development.

This Management Plan has been developed with input from a wide range of University stakeholders.

The associated action plan (Section 10) will be routinely reviewed and updated to guide the delivery of the Management Plan on site and ensure compliance with the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation.

## 10. Action Plan

This Action Plan has been developed to cover January 2019 onward

The Plan will be monitored quarterly, and progress will be reviewed annually. The action plan will be updated in December 2023 in preparation for the University's submission for Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation.

Key

PW – Paul Wallace, Head Gardener

SL – Sara Lynch, Estates Manager (Environmental)

RV – Rachel Vaughan, Environmental Officer (Graduate Intern)

NM – Naomi Martin

SP – Siobhan Purnell

JMcC – John McCann, Assistant Estates Manager (Transport)

Internal Comms – Internal Communications Team, MRCI Directorate

Theme	Action	Lead	Date	Budget	Progress
A Welcoming Place	Create herbaceous border at Vice Chancellors entrance to Lanyon Building	PW	Annual - September	£2,000	Complete
	Undertake Summer/ Winter bedding in advance of twice-yearly Graduation	PW	June/December Yearly	£3,000	Ongoing

	Undertake tree maintenance works as identified in tree condition surveys	PW	Ongoing	£2,000	Ongoing
Healthy, safe and secure	Undertake annual H&S training review	PW	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
	Review grounds /gardens maintenance risk assessments and COSHH assessments (as required)	PW	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
	Liaise with gritting contractor to ensure satisfactory service provided when required, in line with our service requirements	JMcC	Ongoing	£2,760	Ongoing
Environmental Management	Undertake annual review and management of invasive species and undertake any necessary remediation	PW	Ongoing	£1,500	Ongoing
	Work with local compost/bedding suppliers to find reduce peat use	PW	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
	Review use of chemical pesticides/herbicides for viable alternatives	PW	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
	Implementation of ISO 14001 Environmental Management System	SL	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
Heritage Management	Continue roll-out of Capital Development plan and planned maintenance programme to conserve, enhance architectural heritage on site.	Estates Planning/ Estates Services	Ongoing	See Capital Development Plan and PPM budgets	Ongoing

	Liaise with experienced heritage architects to develop a bespoke maintenance preventative maintenance plan on the Lanyon building	Estates Development/ Estates Services	June 2019 onward	TBD	Complete
Enhance Biodiversity	Review planting schemes to identify opportunities for enhancing biodiversity (e.g. native species, pollinators)	PW	Ongoing	Green Fund	Ongoing
	Build and install bird boxes on trees throughout the University (near staff offices) including the Lanyon Main Site	PW	Ongoing	£200	Ongoing
	Becoming Supporters of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and complete yearly biodiversity actions (no mow areas, wildflower areas etc).	PW & RV	2021 Onwards	N/A	Complete
	Plant a range of bulbs across the campus	PW	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
Community Involvement	Undertake twice yearly litter pick up events in the local community – engaging staff, students and local residents	RV/NM/SP	March/November Yearly	£200	Ongoing
	Work with staff and student community to create a number of biodiversity hubs across the University including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sky Garden (New Physics, Lanyon Main Site)</li> <li>• Pollinator Garden (DKB)</li> </ul>	PW/ RV/NM	April 2019 onward	Green Fund	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Garden (Elms Village)</li> <li>• Malone Garden</li> <li>• University Square Courtyard Gardens</li> </ul>				
	Liaise with Community Engagement team to identify opportunities to promote the Lanyon Main Site as a resource for the local community	SL	Ongoing	-	Ongoing
Marketing	Develop web page outlining the biodiversity features of the University including the Lanyon Main Site	RV	September 2019	-	Complete
	Continue to showcase what QUB is doing to enhance biodiversity on campus	Internal Comms Team	Ongoing	-	Ongoing