

02_masterplan design concept



key masterplan principles

Two Hearts

The Masterplan provides two “hearts” for the Grangegorman Urban Quarter. These two major activity centres—Upper Terrace at the Library, and the Arts Centre to the east—anchor a broad spectrum of social gathering places. The Upper Terrace is designated as the “Academic/Health Heart,” while the Arts Centre is envisioned as the “Social/Cultural Heart.”

Quadrangles and Green Fingers

In a contemporary interpretation of traditional collegiate “quads,” the configuration of the buildings on the site frames a pattern of enclosed courtyards, open spaces and plazas, creating distinct forms with strong individual identities. Main east-west pedestrian connective passages are crossed and extended by frequent fingers of north-south oriented green streets and sequences of other courts, forming a loose, continuous grid of communication in the Quarter. Smaller meandering paths move at mid-block/ mid-court intervals to trace intimate connections between outdoor rooms and gardens.

St. Brendan’s Way and the Serpentine Link

The east/west division of the site by the Grangegorman Upper and Lower Road is mediated by carrying a principal pedestrian sequence—St. Brendan’s Way—across the existing roadway. This broad crossing also serves to closely unite existing listed buildings into a central village of academic and student life. The urban quality of St. Brendan’s Way is complemented by a second lateral procession—Serpentine Walk—a meandering link that traverses the site in two grand arcs, giving a south-facing green edge to student residence halls.

Broadstone Gate / Link to King’s Inns & Henrietta Street

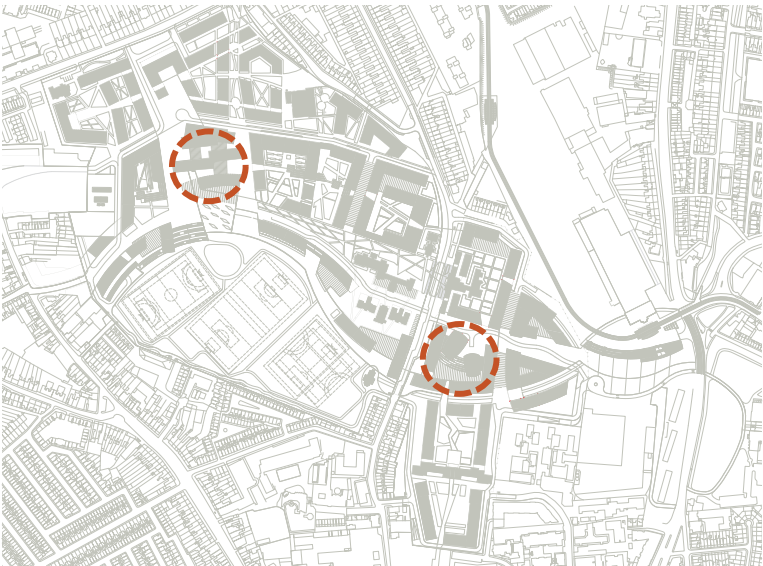
The Masterplan creates a grand urban plaza and park at the Broadstone entry to the Quarter, extending the green space adjacent to the King’s Inns to form a symbolic and civic marker.

Connecting to Smithfield and North Circular Road

To the west, the pedestrian link continues from the urban park through the site to connect with the North Circular Road, and extends through to the Phoenix Park to the southwest. To the south, the Lower Grangegorman Gate opens pedestrian access to and from the Smithfield area, extending the existing City Arts’ activities northward.

Ha-Ha Concept, Sports and Recreation and Utility Corridor

The natural heart of the Grangegorman landscape is The Fields, comprising a generous portion of the entire site. This gathering of parkland sports pitches with park-like groves of new and existing trees is framed by the Serpentine of student residence halls, and the historic wall to the south. The Ha-Ha sectional dip concept provides additional, internal sports facilities with direct visual connection to the external pitches. Running and cycling paths entwine around the edges, linking the complementary qualities of sports fields, sheltering groves of trees, and distant views. Along the north edge of this open space, the Masterplan utilises the “Utilidor” concept (walk-in-duct) to concentrate utility services in relation to St. Brendan’s Way.



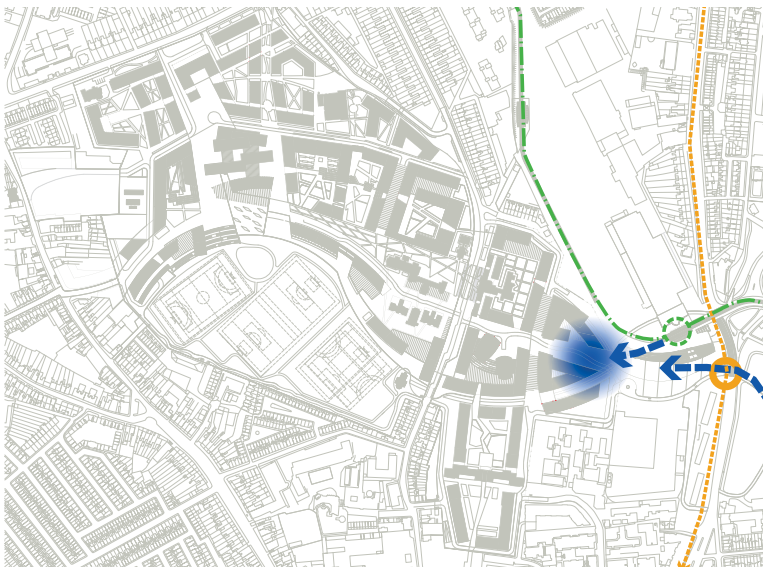
1. Two Hearts



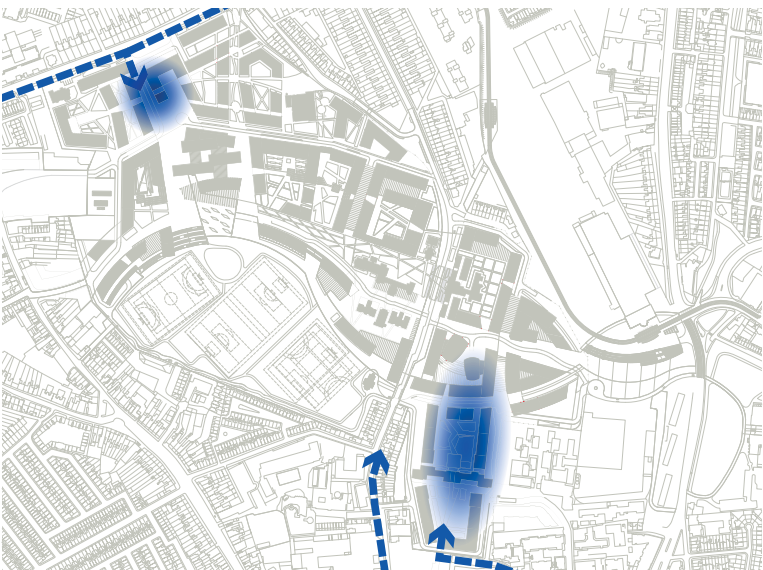
2. Quadrangles and Green Finger Parks



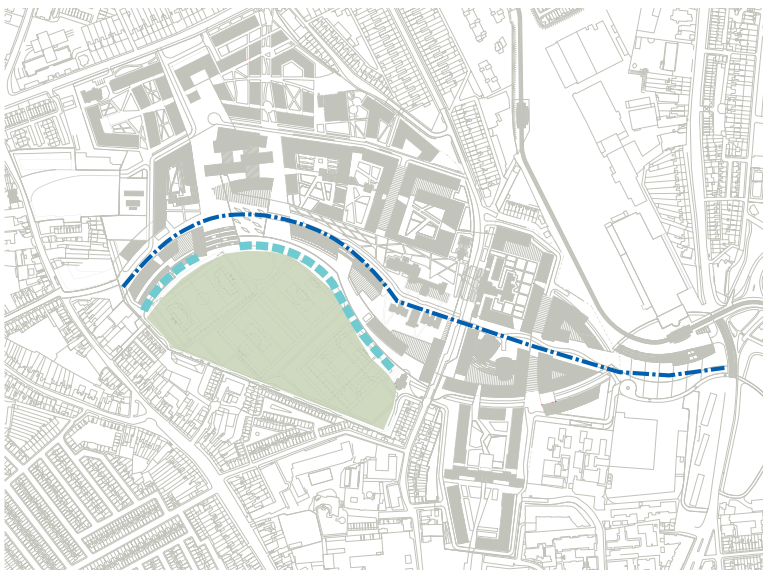
3. St. Brendan’s Way and Serpentine Walk Connection



4. Broadstone Gate / Connection to King’s Inns and Henrietta Street



5. Connecting to Smithfield / Connecting to North Circular Road



6. Ha-Ha, Sports & Recreation and Underground Service and Utility Corridor





1. podium level plan

Spaces at the Podium Level are located one-half of a level above the ground elevation to allow natural daylight to enter all habitable spaces.



2. below grade level plan

The two-level Sports Centre has been located in a high profile and unique location between the outdoor playfields and the academic heart of the quarter and will be daylight by using glass walls adjacent to a landscaped "ha-ha" (an angled sloping change in ground elevation).

1. landscape design masterplan

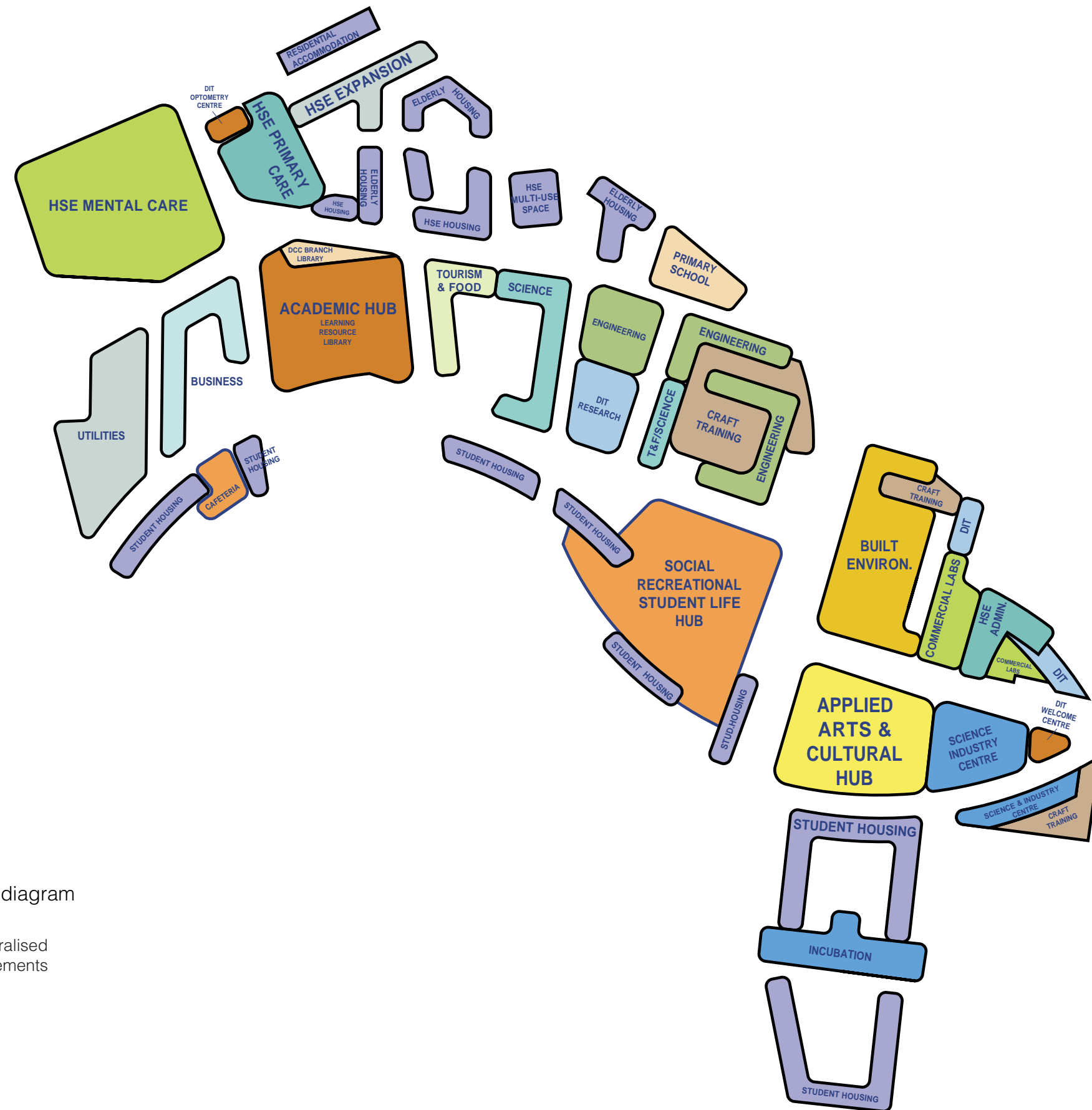


1. landscape design hard and soft landscape (excluding tree cover)



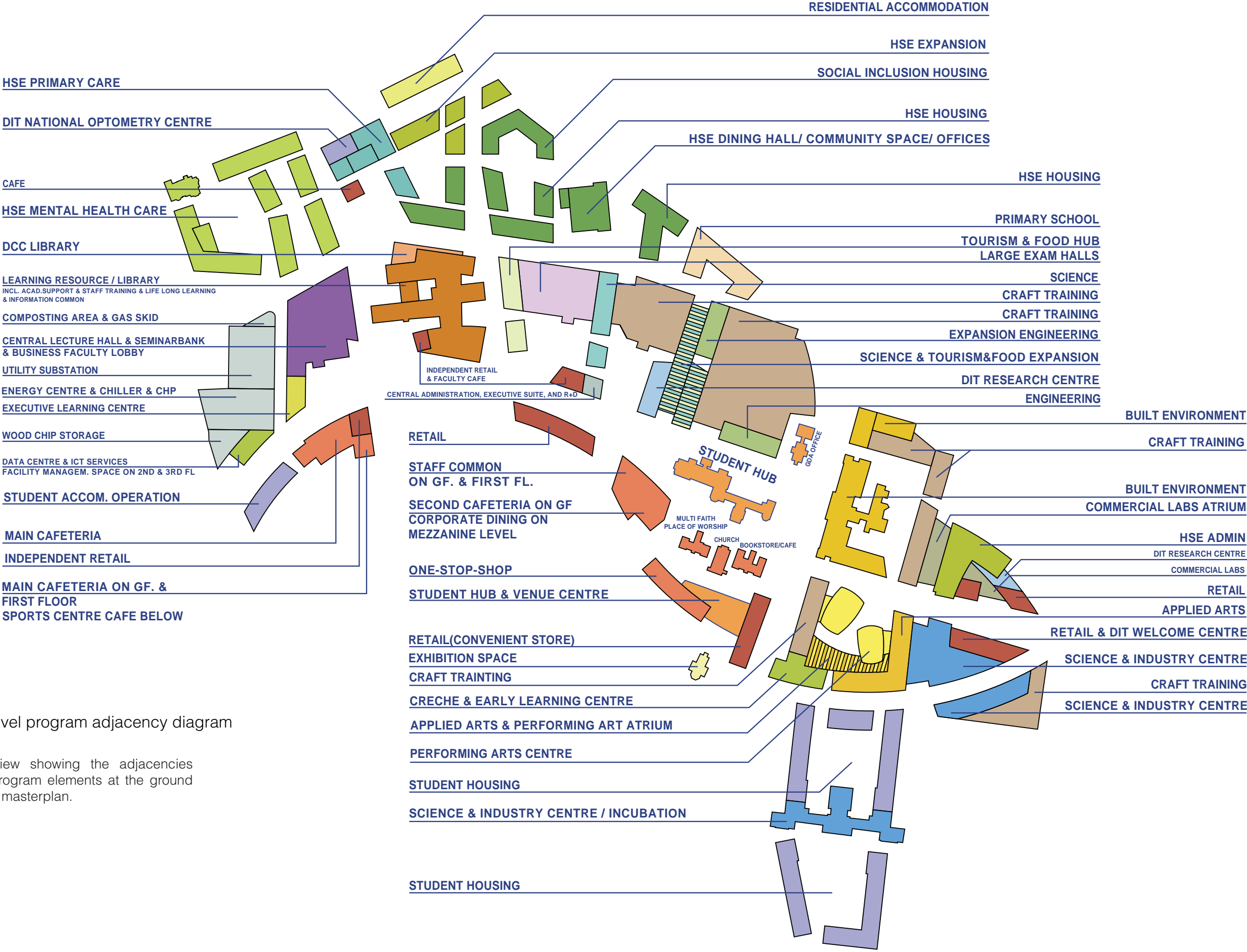
1. landscape design tree concept





1. simplified program adjacency diagram

Simplified view showing the generalised adjacencies between program elements within the masterplan.



1. ground level program adjacency diagram

Detailed view showing the adjacencies between program elements at the ground level of the masterplan.





1. view of the site from the south

The new Grangegorman Quarter creates inviting spaces for the community while maintaining connections to the site's past and linking together areas of the city.



1. view of the site from the north

A series of quadrangles and courtyards are linked by both urban and landscaped pathways to form a legible and interconnected area.



1. view from the DIT library

The Institute's Library anchors one of the central hearts of the quarter. Its location creates an intellectual hub of activity at the intersections of several primary circulation routes and provides iconic views from the Upper Terrace and the Fields out to the city of Dublin and the mountains beyond.





1. view of the serpentine walk and the fields

The Serpentine Walk creates a curved landscaped pedestrian spine traversing the entire site providing a green alternative to the more urban character of St. Brendan's Way. This spine organises the student housing buildings and provides views of the Fields and city beyond.





1. view of st. brendan's way



1. view of the fields

The majority of the development is located on the northern portion of the site to maintain the existing landscape and open space to the south.