

WELCOME

Welcome to this public consultation on the future of The James Hutton Institute's Craigiebuckler Campus

The aim of this public consultation is to share the Institute's vision for the future of the campus, and seek feedback from colleagues, neighbours and all interested groups. This consultation will take you through the vision, masterplan and first stage in delivery with indicative details of a new access into the site. We would welcome your feedback on the content presented here and on the consultation. We will gather your comments and answer queries where possible . Your feedback will be used to inform the proposal as it progresses.



Macaulay Development Trust

- The Macaulay Development Trust (MDT) is a charity which supports research into the sustainable use of land and natural resources, for the benefit of people, their communities and the environment which aligns with the vision and legacy of TB Macaulay.

The James Hutton Institute

- The Craigiebukler Campus is one of the James Hutton Institute's two main sites, the other being at Invergowrie, just outside Dundee.
- The Institute has, in one form or another been based at Craigiebuckler since the 1930s when one of its legacy organisations, the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research acquired the Estate and developed its facilities.
- Since 2005 there has been a Planning Brief setting out the future aspirations for the growth and use of the campus.
- The MDT and the Institute are now seeking to expand its use to create an Open Science Campus and explore opportunities for change through a new masterplan.

THE VISION

To create a vibrant and high profile, open science campus with state-of-the-art engagement facilities where the public, enterprise, and stakeholders (including international scientists) interested in land and environment can come together to support internationally renowned science for the betterment of Scotland.

Your views are important.
Please leave your comments,
or email: huttoncampus@hfm.co.uk



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THE SITE / LOCATION



The campus is located to the west of Aberdeen, in the Craigiebuckler area, within a largely residential area.

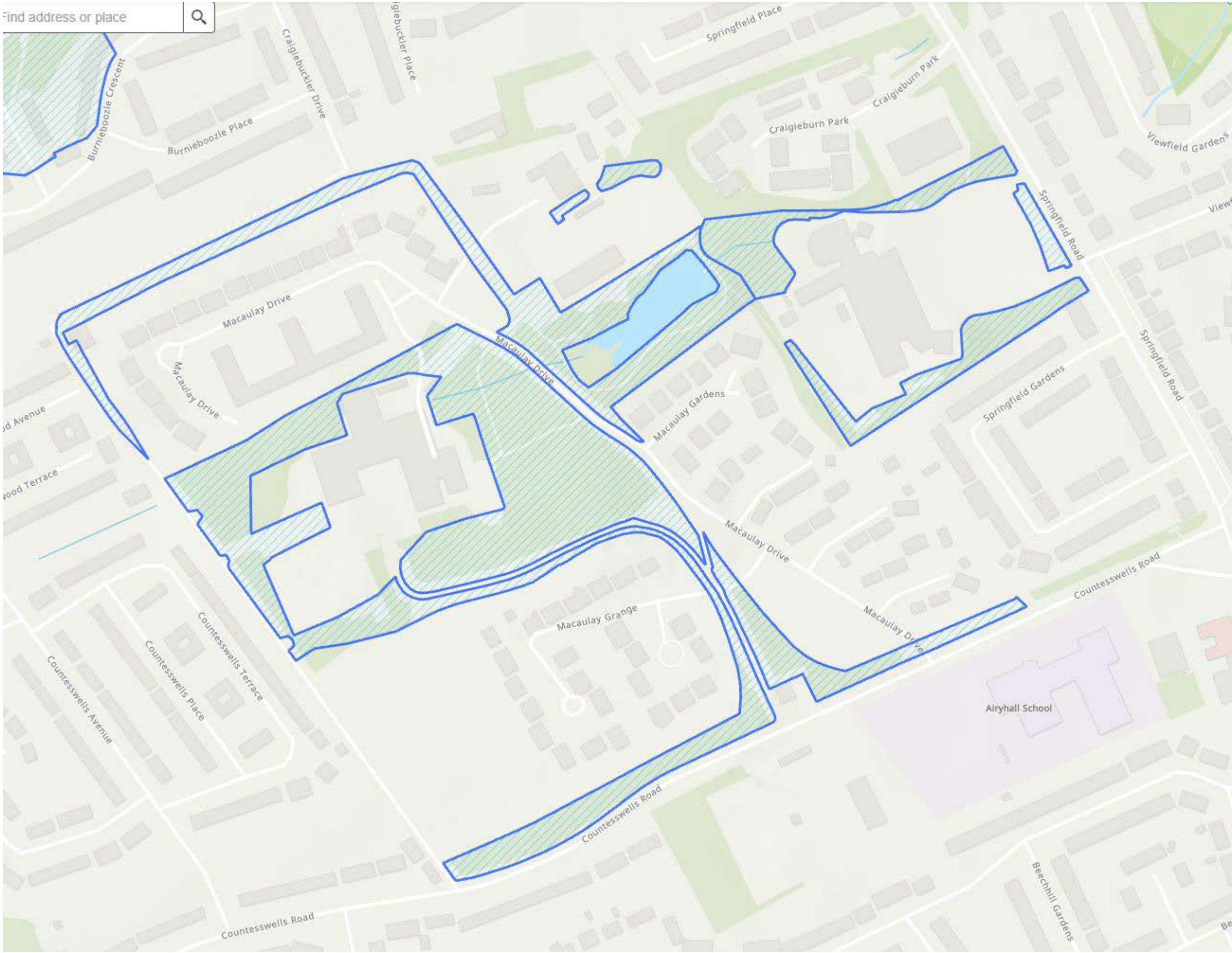
The site boundaries are defined by Countesswells Road to the south, Macaulay Drive and the eastern edge of the pond area and the former walled garden to the east, an unadopted lane to the west (beyond which is an extensive housing area), and by housing to the north (beyond which is a green corridor that was the route of the long abandoned Culter by-pass road project).



Aerial View of the Campus

Land Use Character

The site is currently zoned as ‘Community Sites and Facilities’ (Policy CF1) which will seek to retain current uses and promote compatible alternative uses within the site. The site includes Tree Preservation Order areas as shown opposite. Trees are an important part of the character and will be retained where possible. Some existing trees will have to be removed, however, to facilitate improvements. Replacement planting will ensure no overall loss of trees and the long run aim is to maintain biodiversity on the campus overall.



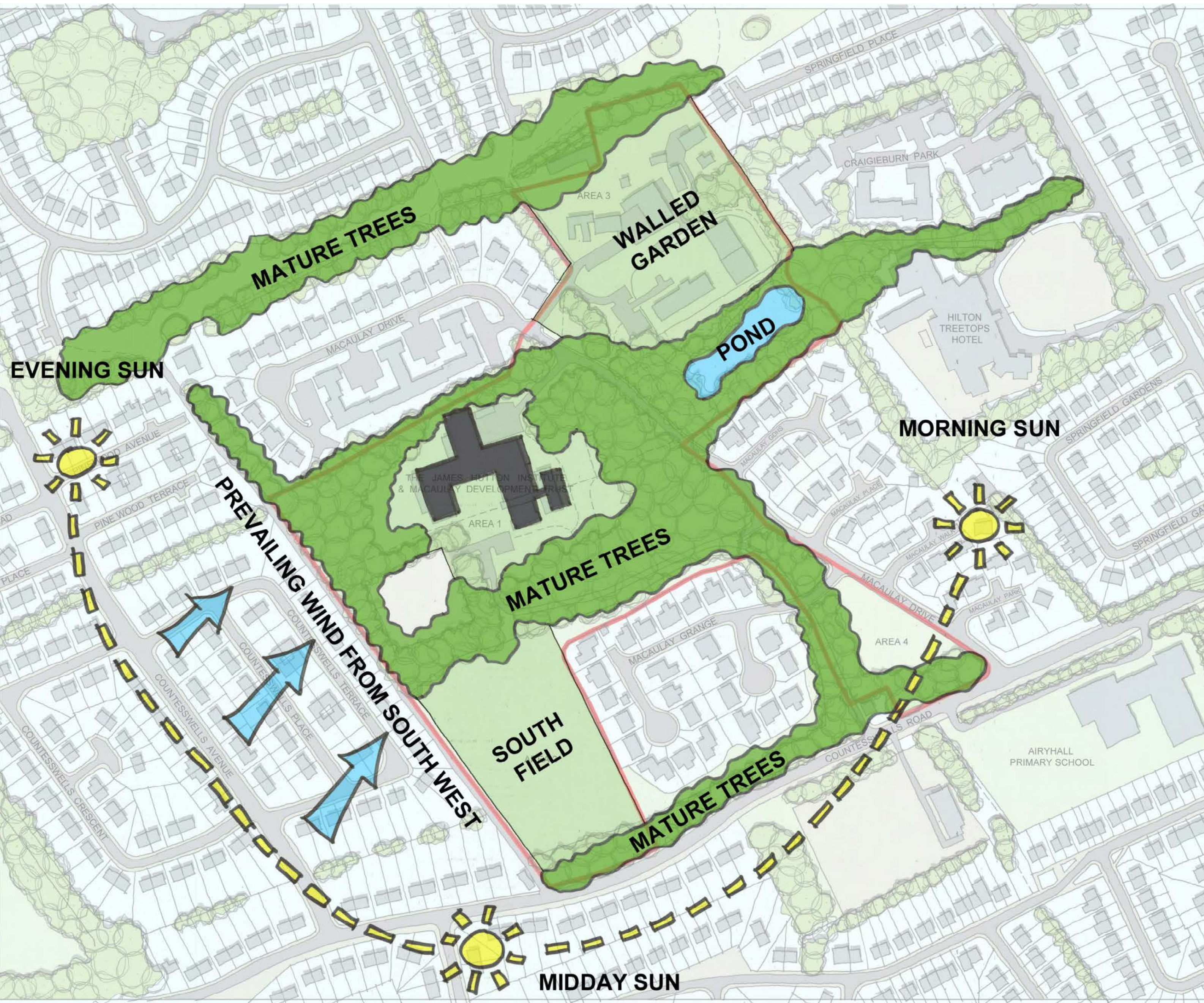
Tree Preservation Order designations (Source: Aberdeen City Council)

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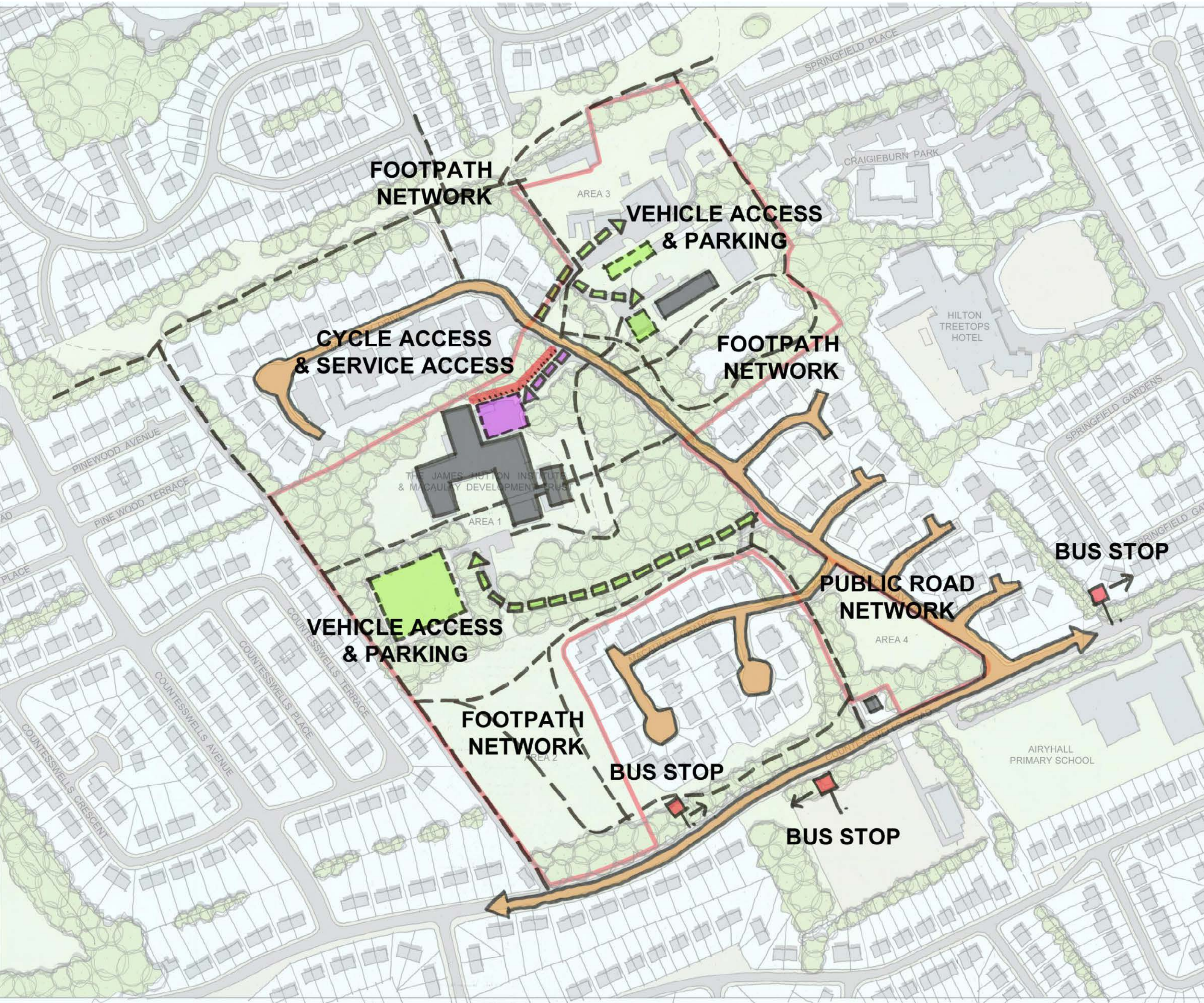


SITE APPRAISAL



Context

The campus is characterised by its mature landscape and wide variety of trees and plants. This planned landscape has been managed and cared for and must be maintained and enhanced for future generations. Craigiebuckler House sits at the heart of the campus. A walled garden overlooking a large pond sits to the west of Craigiebuckler House. The site is screened by trees and vegetation and is largely hidden from view, giving the campus a unique character.



Connections

The connections within the campus could be significantly improved. The only current access to the campus is a narrow single track access road which does not have a footpath. It is unfit for purpose. The current ban on pedestrians using this route into the site is difficult to manage. There are pedestrian routes into and through the campus which could be enhanced and upgraded. Cycling facilities and cycle parking could be improved.



Identity

The site already has a special character and identity which we are keen to share. The entrance to the campus is from Macaulay Drive; a residential street and not ideal on account of residential and school traffic near the entrance to the campus.

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THE MASTERPLAN

Masterplan benefits

The Institute has been working on revising the masterplan for the campus, to assess existing provision, identify opportunities, and bring the previous 2005 brief up to date. The Institute wants to ensure the campus is fit for purpose, and to provide opportunities for the whole community to enjoy the site.

Key Points

- Greater access, visibility and engagement and collaboration space for colleagues, students, key stakeholders and the public.
- Protect the value of the estate’s assets and enable enhanced scientific research on the land use and environment of Scotland and its natural resources.
- A mix of new build and reconfiguration of existing facilities on the campus.
 - * phased approach to development
- Improved pedestrian and vehicle access to the overall site.
- Roads designed to allow coach access, turning and parking within the site
- Improve existing car parking, including new EV charging points.
- Access for the community, potential for a community café.
- New Hub building which acts as a research centre and incorporates:
 - » A cutting-edge interactive data visualisation and lecture theatre with flexibility to host workshops and public events of various types and sizes.
 - » Meeting rooms, training facilities and appropriate ancillary facilities
 - » Residential facilities to accommodate short term students, interns, visiting researchers, and academic visitors
- Provide land for new high quality sustainable housing
- Stimulates local and regional economy.
- Potential for battery storage is currently being explored.



Masterplan showing potential new uses and opportunities

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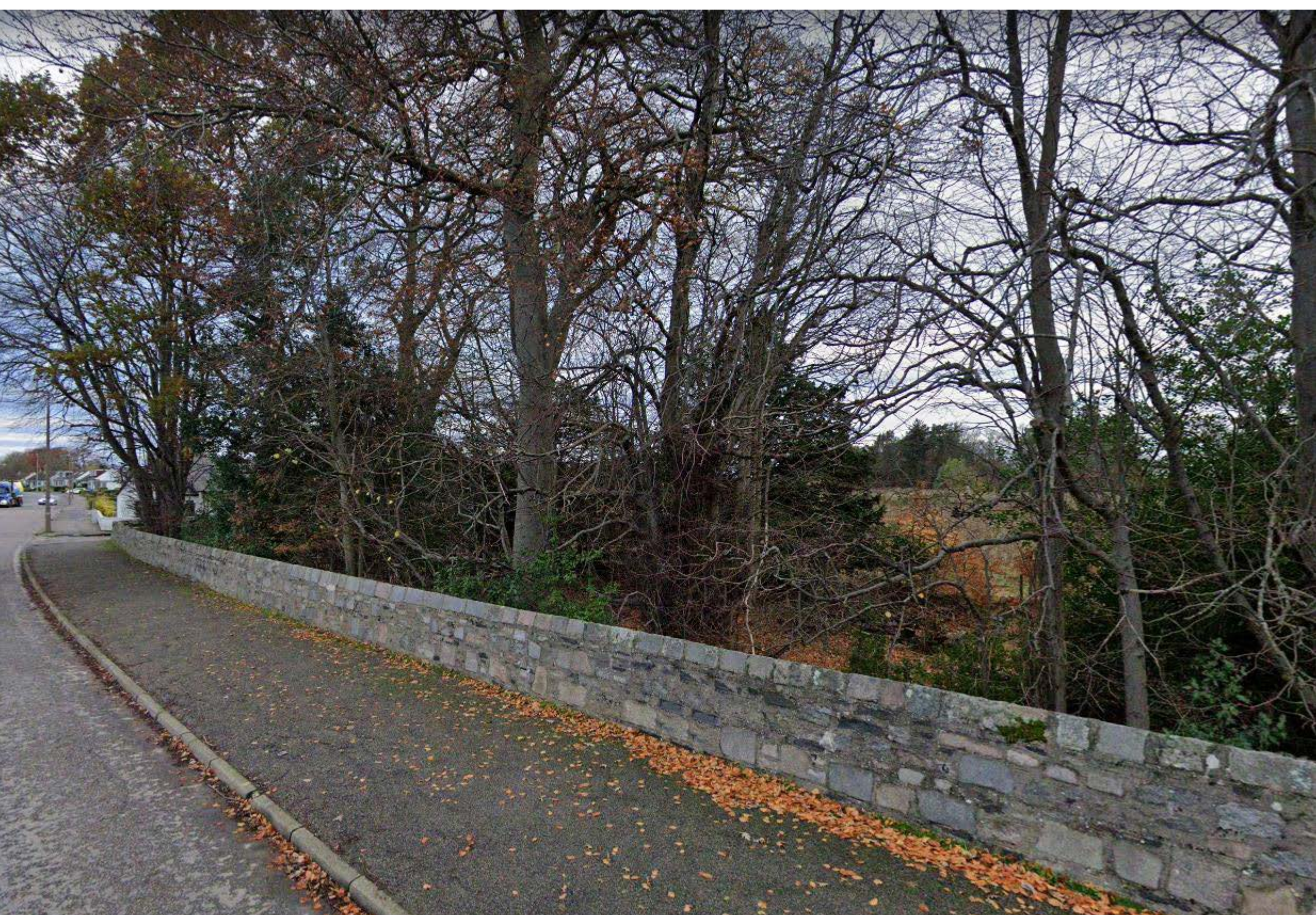
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PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD

The Need for New Access

Given the constraints of the existing access, the Institute proposes to build a new access road servicing the Institute. We believe the most suitable location for this is from Countesswells Road, through an existing area of open space, accessing the campus from the south.



Proposed New Access and Car Park

The road would take a new access from Countesswells Road, approximately 300m to the west of the existing access at Macaulay Drive. The existing stone wall would need to be relocated to allow this but would be reformed around the junction.

A small number of trees would need to be removed, but there would be replacement planting.

The access would provide improved access for the Institute, including enhanced provision for pedestrians and cyclists.

The existing overspill car parking would be improved including the installation of new EV charging spaces



Indicative Plan of proposed road

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WHAT'S NEXT?

We would like your thoughts on the masterplan and proposals. The Institute will take on board the feedback received where possible.

Please let us know by:

Feedback form:

Please ask a member of staff for assistance if required or download a form at www.hutton.ac.uk

Emailing:

huttoncampus@hfm.co.uk

In writing to:

Halliday Fraser Munro,
8 Victoria Street, Aberdeen,
AB10 1XB

**Please submit any
comments by:**

5pm on 23rd March 2022

We appreciate you taking the time to take part in this consultation and hope you will take this opportunity to provide your thoughts about the future of the Campus.

The feedback gathered will be collated, considered and used to the inform the masterplan and future planning applications.

You can tell us your views by completing a feedback form today or in your own time. If completing the form today please hand it to a member of staff or place it in the box. You can also provide comments by emailing huttoncampus@hfm.co.uk.

Please note that comments made at this stage are not representations to the planning authority in respect of a planning application. If a planning application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representation on the planning application to the planning authority at that time.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS.

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