Appendix 5

Consultation Boards

Scottish Opera @ NEW ROTTERDAM WHARF

PUBLIC CONSULTATION No. 1

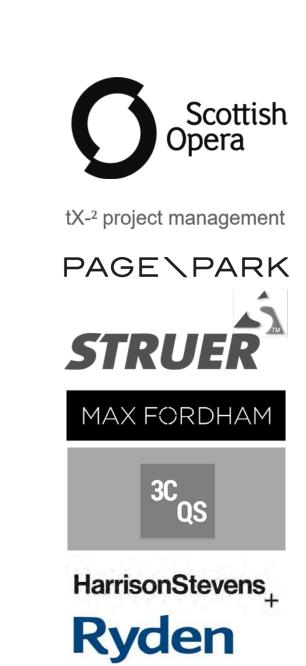
Scottish Opera is planning to extend and add to its Production Studios at Edington Street to the north of Glasgow city centre, as part of a comprehensive mixed use development fronting the Glasgow Branch of the Forth and Clyde Canal.

Before submitting an application, public consultation is being undertaken in order to seek the community's views on the proposals. The team recognise the importance of providing local businesses, community interest groups, and those who live in, work in, or otherwise make use of the local area, an opportunity to learn about the emerging proposals and to make their views known.

This is the first of two events we'll be holding.

The purpose of this first consultation is to share the initial analysis and research which has informed the design approach so far, and to seek feedback on the emerging ideas.

The next event, that will share further detail and design development, will be on Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 2pm - 7pm at Scottish Opera Production Studios, 40 Edington Street, Glasgow.



ENGINEERING

Introduction & Aims



Scottish Opera

Founded in 1962 by Sir Alexander Gibson, Scottish Opera has played a fundamental role in the cultural ecology of both Glasgow and Scotland for over 60 years.

Scottish Opera is one of four National Performing Companies to be based in Glasgow contributing to the City's creative impact and well-being. It is a crucial component of each of the music, theatre, film, education, and health sectors.

Scottish Opera productions, made here in Glasgow, are globally recognised for their excellence. In 2023, our productions have been rented to, and performed in, Seville, Madrid, Toulouse, Paris, Santa Fe, Los Angeles, Detroit, Vancouver, Toronto, and Cardiff.

Touring to over 60 communities across Scotland in our 60th Anniversary, over 80,000 people from a wide range of backgrounds engaged with Scottish Opera. It is estimated that over the years, more than half a million pupils have taken part in Scottish Opera's widely recognised programme for schools.

At the heart of this proposal is a fit-for-purpose 21st century headquarters for Scottish Opera and a creative Education and Community outreach hub for the citizens of Glasgow. The proposal includes state of the art rehearsal and performance spaces adaptable to becoming a recording studio, classrooms for skills development courses, music practice rooms for hire, and a café with panoramic views over Glasgow.

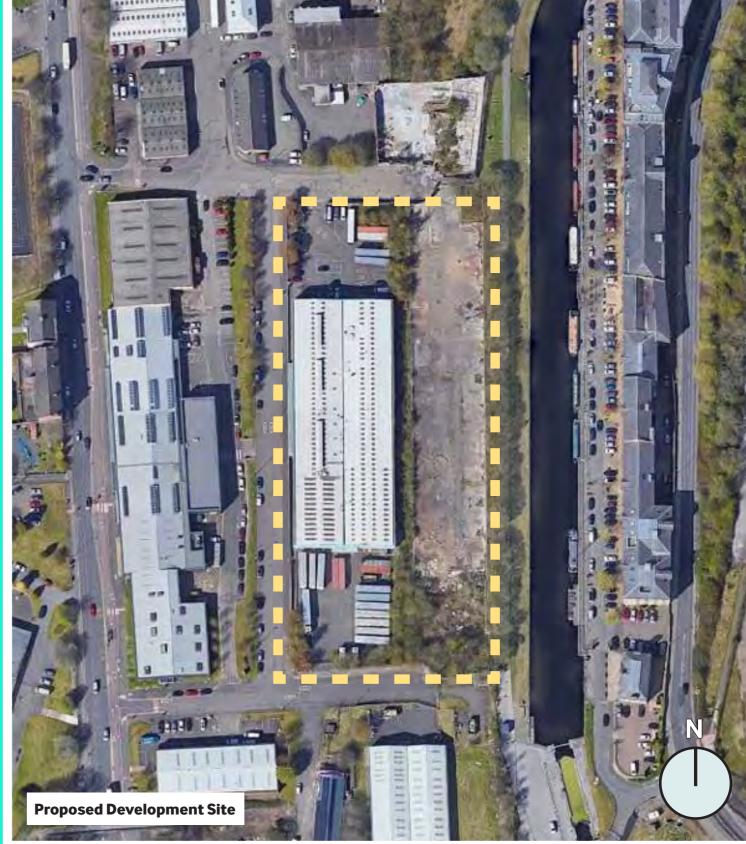


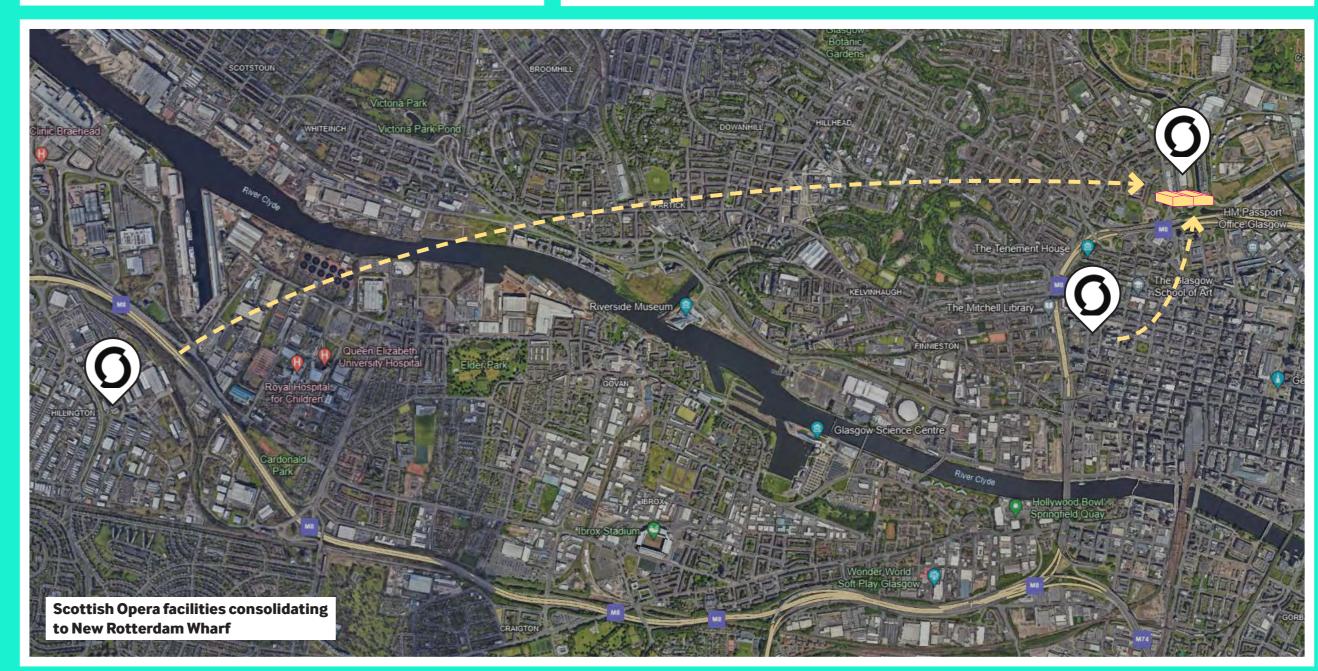
We wish to advance our ambition to remain in, and reaffirm our commitment to, Glasgow. This proposed development would help to secure Scottish Opera's presence within Glasgow for the next 60+ years by rationalising and consolidating three of our current scattered five premises under one roof to demonstrate measurable economic, business, and artistic advantage.

Our current premises include our rented HQ in the ageing Victorian building at 39 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, and a large orchestra rehearsal space out at Hillington Park, Renfrewshire on a short-term lease.









Cultural Context

As one of its earliest cultural tenants, the opening of Scottish Opera's Production Studios in 1999 led the way in transforming the Speirs Wharf / New Rotterdam Wharf area into a hub of cultural workplaces and activities.

Twenty years on, the area is a diverse representation of Scotland's creative industries, and it continues to grow; stimulated by investment in the wider setting, and by the long-term commitment of its tenants to develop their facilities and engage meaningfully with the wider community.

Scottish Opera's neighbours today include:

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland [1]

Wallace Studios at Speirs Locks was opened in 2011, providing teaching space for modern ballet, production arts and musical theatre students.

Civic House [2]

The former home of Civic Press Ltd, Civic House is a workspace, venue and canteen, open to hire for a wide range of functions.

The Glue Factory [3]

An independent arts venue in a decommissioned glue factory, the building is made up of affordable workspaces and studios, and exhibition space.

GAMTA [4]

Founded in 1994, GAMTA offer intensive and highly specialised courses in musical theatre.

The Whisky Bond [5]

Since 2012, the former warehouse of Highland Distilleries has been home to seven floors of studios, offices, co-working and social spaces. It is also the home of Glasgow Sculpture Studios.

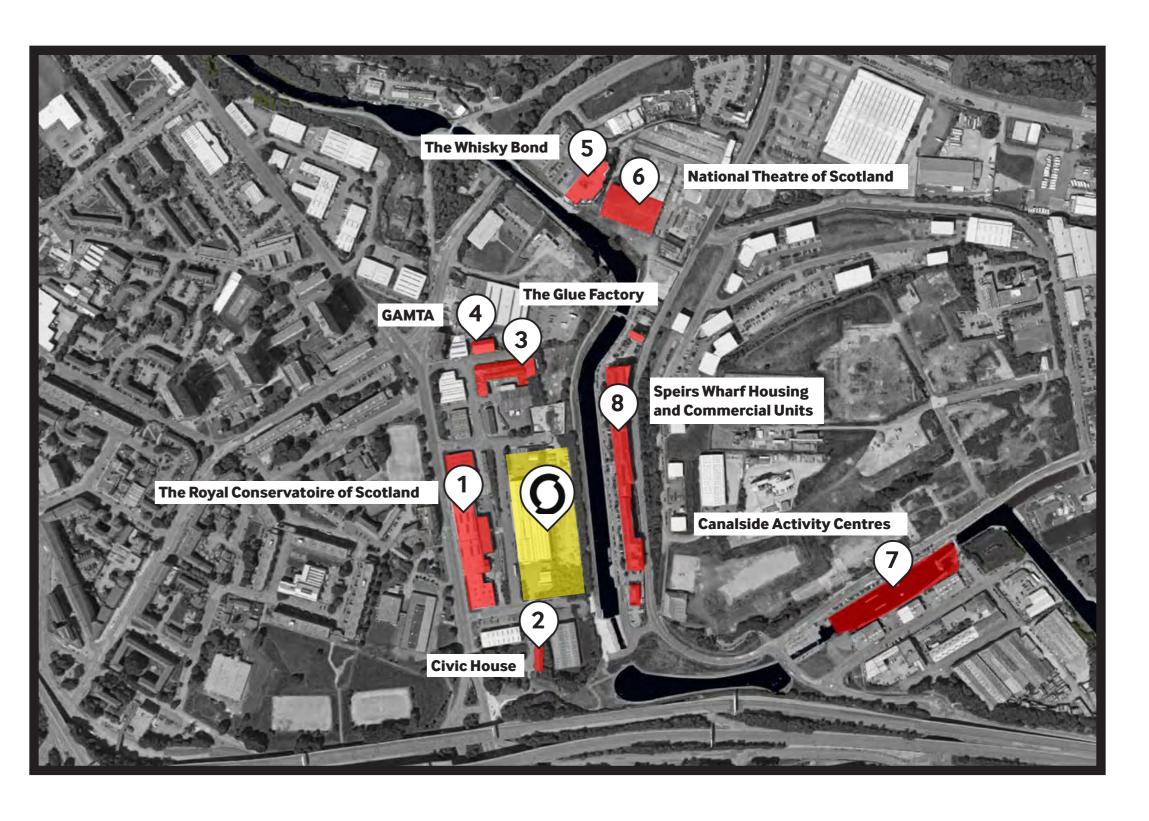
National Theatre of Scotland [6]

Opened in 2016, 'Rockvilla', the new home of National Theatre of Scotland, is a purpose-built facility housing rehearsal spaces, production workshops and office accommodation.

Canalside Activity Centres [7]

A legacy project from the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Pinkston Watersports offers Scotland's only artificial white water course, open to organisations and individuals

Speirs Wharf Housing and Commercial Units [8] And various other retail and commercial units.



Scottish Opera @ Edington Street





Props, wigs and costumes - Our makers are internationally renowned for their knowledge, quality of work, and commitment to traditional methods of making. We produce work to the highest standards for performing arts companies and screen production companies from around the world.



The **Education** programme supports over 10,000 primary school pupils from across Scotland each year. **Outreach** includes an active health and wellbeing programme with a particular focus on people living with dementia or long COVID. A large community choir brings people together from all corners of Glasgow and a skills development programme supports young people.



Productions made in Edington Street are renowned worldwide for their excellence. They are built to be flexible for different theatre spaces and are typically seen by around 18,000 people in Scotland before being rented to companies across the globe.



Workshops - Scenery is constructed and finished to an excellent standard, using a variety of methods and materials for clients across Scotland. Scenic artists paint huge backcloths and sets to an intricate level of detail. Joiners are skilled in traditional scenic carpentry and metal work techniques.



At 40 Edington Street

Edington Street Production Studios are the only integrated manufacturing and rehearsal facility in Scotland. It is the workspace for many highly skilled artisans. Bespoke sets, props, costumes and wigs are made for each production alongside teams of specialist stage managers, lighting and stage technology technicians. The studios host orchestral players and singers from around the world for rehearsals. They are also the hub for a huge national education and outreach programme.



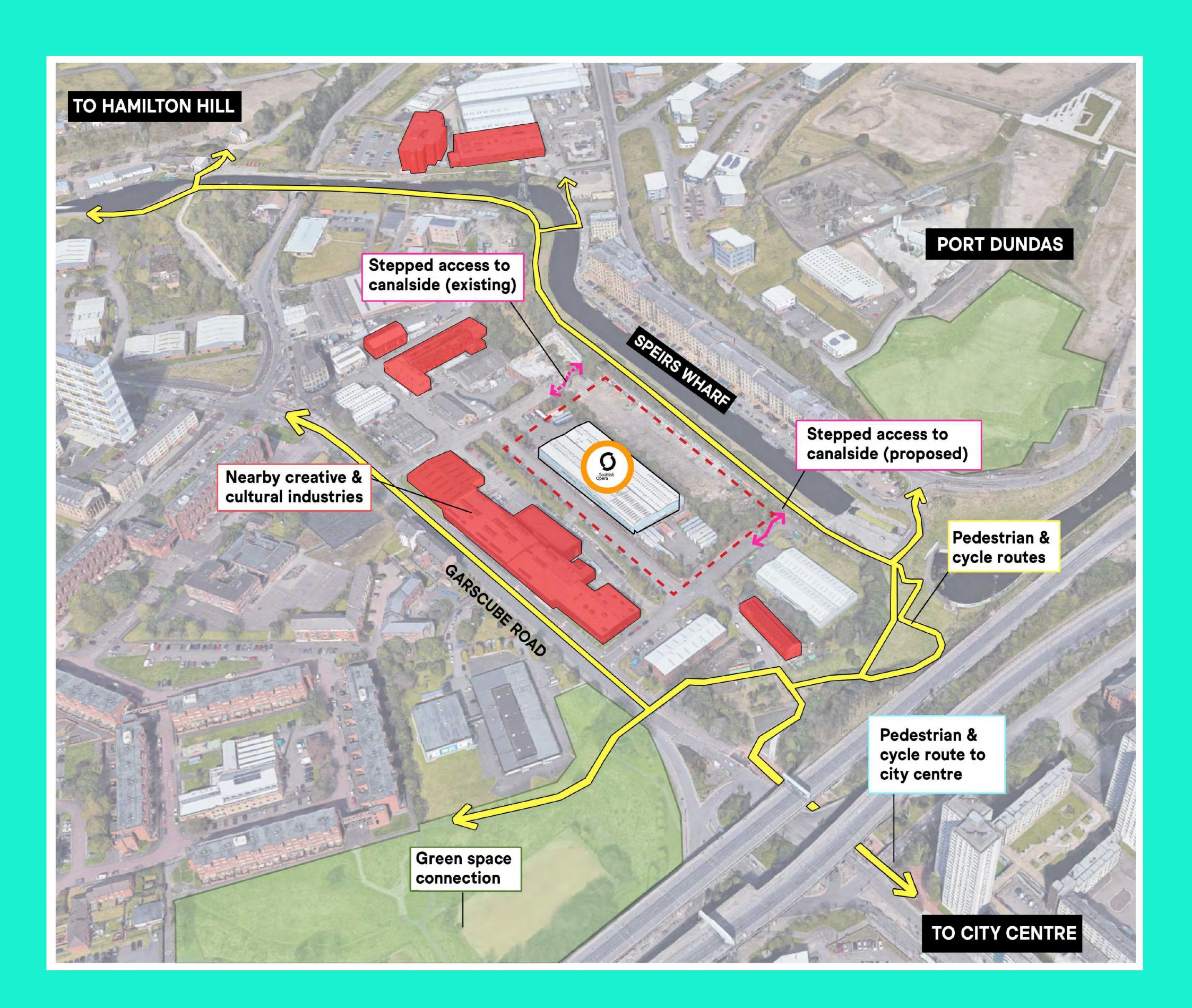


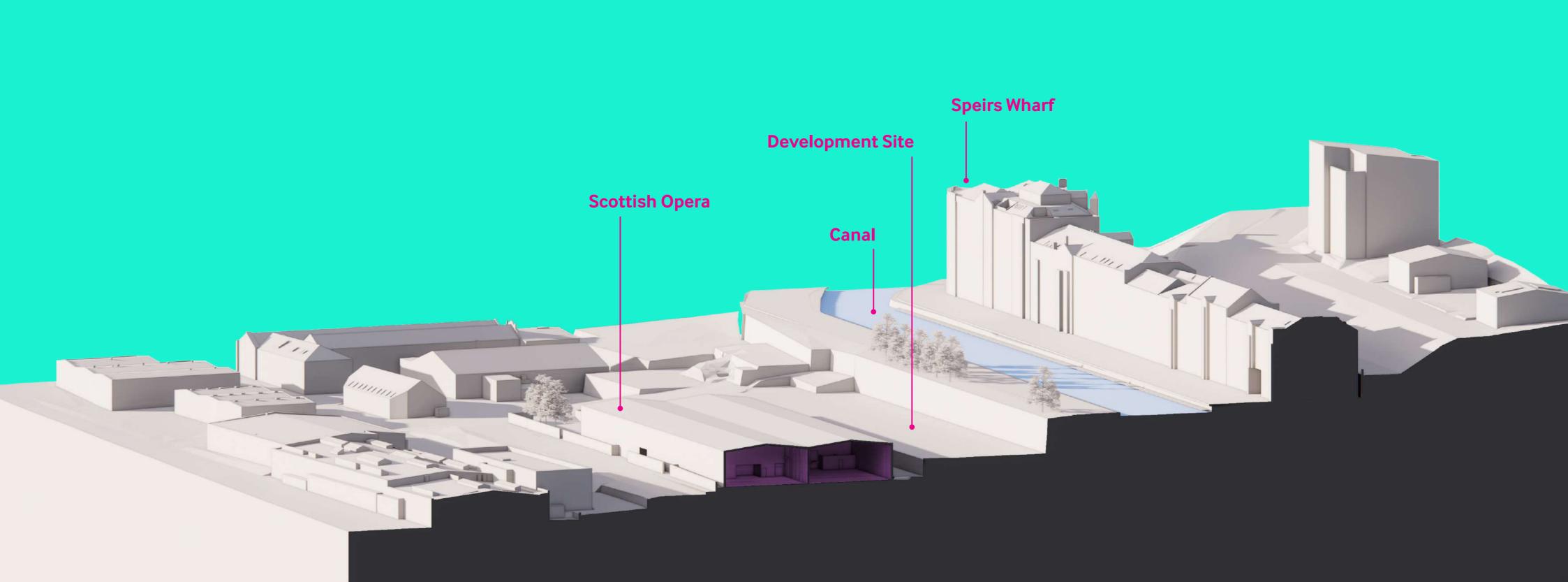




The Site

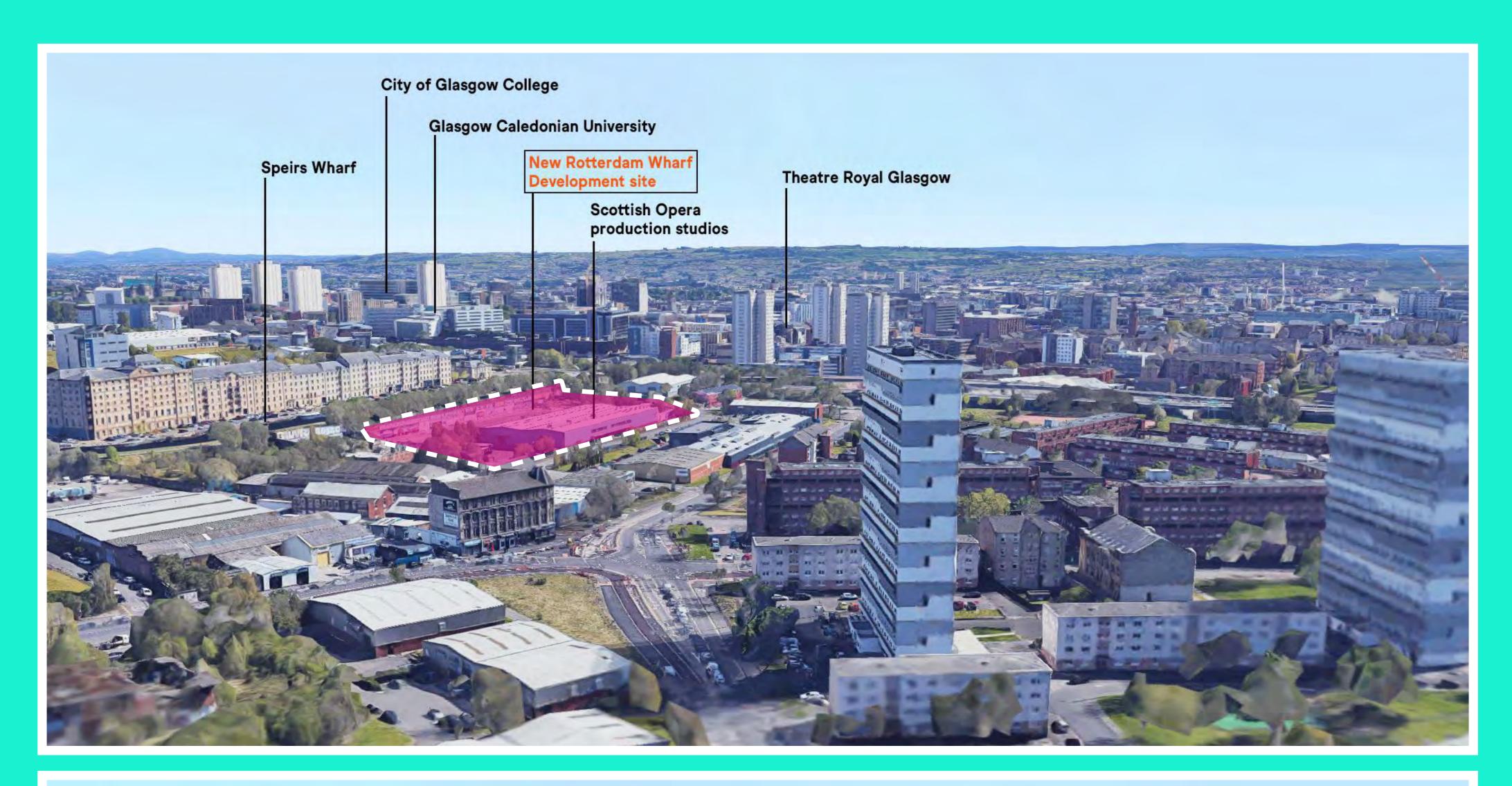






Site Context







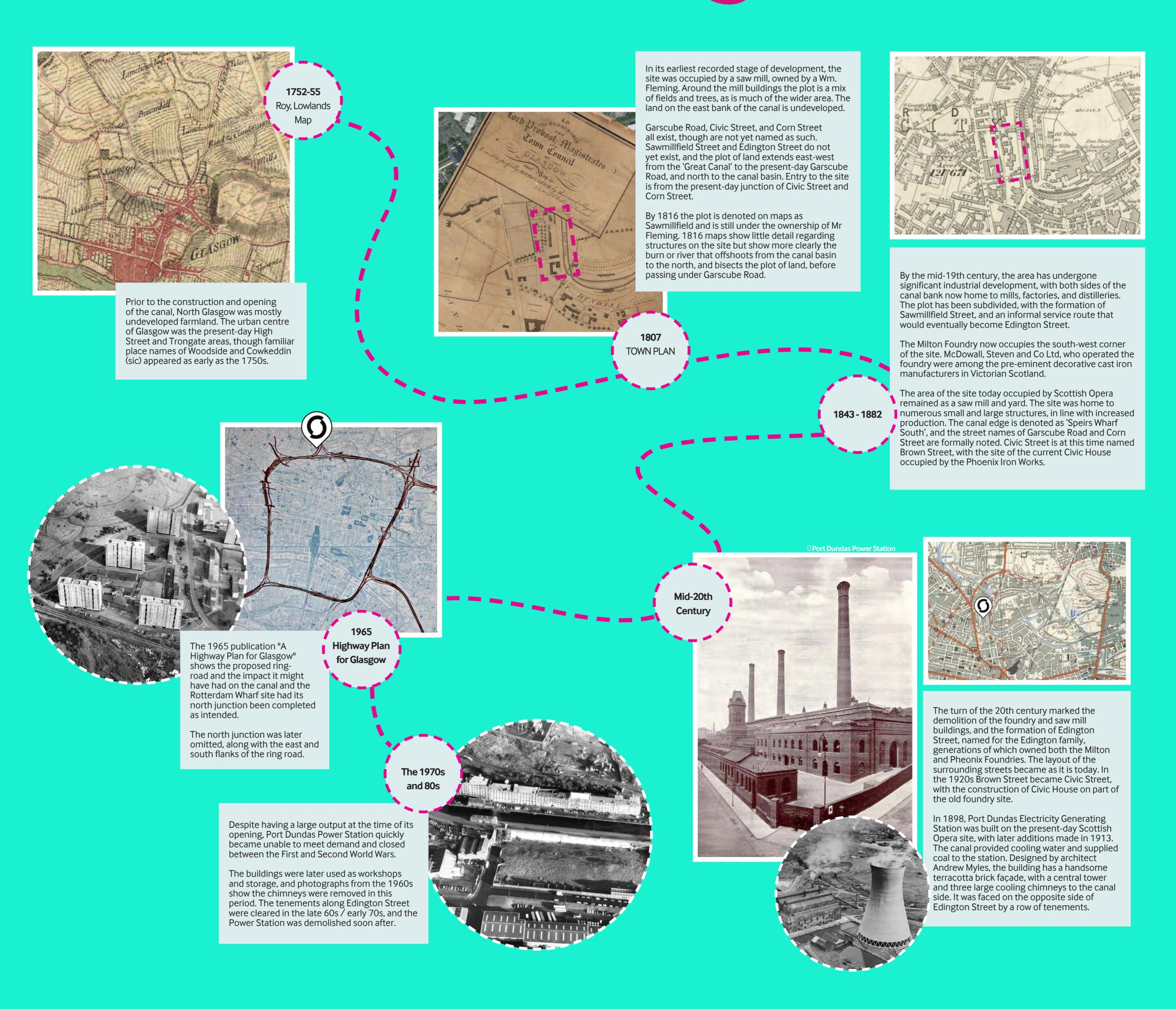






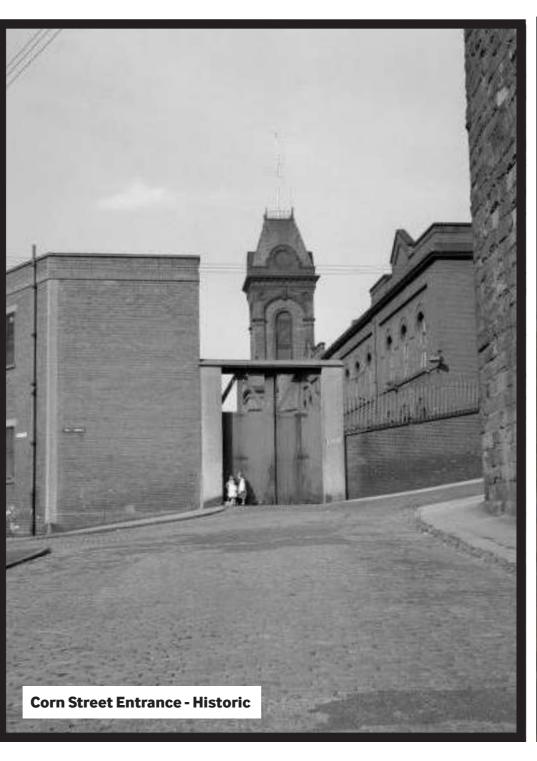
Site History





At Present







24 Years of Scottish Opera at New Rotterdam Wharf

In 1999, Scottish Opera moved their production operations into a new custom-built Production Studio on Edington Street, on the site of the former Power Station. It contains set and prop building facilities, the costume department, and rehearsal spaces for productions. The building is designed and specified to meet Scottish Opera's technical requirements, and external service yards allow direct access for lorries and production vehicles.

Remnants of the Power Station boundary wall are visible on Edington Street, and notably at the service entrance to the Scottish Opera Production Studios on Corn Street. This historic entry point has been in constant use since at least 1807.

Planning Policy/



The Statutory Development Plan covering the application site is the Glasgow City Development Plan ("CDP") adopted in 2017, and associated Supplementary Guidance ("SG"). The key aims of the CDP are creating and maintaining a high quality healthy place and developing a compact city form that supports sustainable development.

Within the CDP the site is designated as:

- Within the City boundary
- Economic Development Area
- The site does not have any listed buildings on it and located outwith the Central Conservation Area. Although there is a Scheduled Monument and listed building(s) in the vicinity.
- In October 2021 GCC approved a new purpose built student accommodation policy (SG 10 Student Accommodation'). We will evidence that the proposed development complies with criteria set out within the policy, including but not limited to:
- Meet minimum space standards.
- Demonstrate that the proposed development will not undermine the character and amenity of the surrounding area, including access to shops, services, healthcare, leisure and community facilities and will not place unsustainable pressure on local amenities and facilities due to the density of accommodation proposed.
- Design Criteria we can evidence the following:
 - Ground floor amenity
 - Useable and mix of amenity with a specific purpose;
 - The provision of usable resident open space;
 - Built form that is sensitive to the local architectural vernacular and heritage in terms of the arrangement of buildings, their design, height, massing, and materiality;
 - Utilising a whole life approach with flexible floorplates and building design to ensure there is scope and flexibility for adaptation to alternative future uses.
 - Mixed tenure approach to the masterplan with a unique opportunity to promote a significant cultural quarter destination with international presence.

In terms of other policy matters, we are working with the Council on matters related to transport, ecology, access, flooding and drainage, sustainability to ensure the proposed development is deliverable and sympathetic land use.



National Planning Framework 4

In addition, following the approval by the Scottish Parliament of National Planning Framework 4 ("NPF4") on 13 February 2023, NPF4 forms part of the statutory development plan, along with CDP.

NPF4 is underpinned by six overarching spatial principles:

Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.

Conserving and recycling assets. We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.

Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.

Compact urban growth. We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.

Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.

Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

The proposed development will be assessed against the policies of NPF4 and can draw significant support from each of the above principles and fact it is brownfield land, and that where necessary, the appropriate balance has been struck between promoting health, sustainability, conservation, and promoting development and cultural investment.

Cowcaddens District Regeneration Framework

The Cowcaddens District Regeneration Framework ("DRF") makes reference to the underutilisation of Canal areas and specifically reference Speirs Locks creative quarter throughout the document. In particular, the need for mix of uses and improved wayfinding, creating a focus point of the quarter as a public destination, and repairing the M8 severance. The proposal to invest and create an improved mixed use creative culture cluster by Scottish Opera can take significant support from the DRF.

Wider Developments

The creation of a Cultural Hub at Speirs Wharf sits as a focal component of a wider and extensive regeneration of North Glasgow.

At Hamiltonhill, Queens Cross Housing Association are delivering a masterplan for over 600 homes, including both private and affordable units.

The adjacent Claypits Nature Reserve has recently been completed and provides a wonderful public space and environmental asset for the area.

At Sighthill, the tower blocks have been cleared and over eight-hundred homes for private sale and mid-market rent are being constructed. A new pedestrian bridge over the M8 has been constructed connecting the site directly to the City Centre.

At **Dundashill** 600 more new homes including high quality public realm and open space are being constructed, and

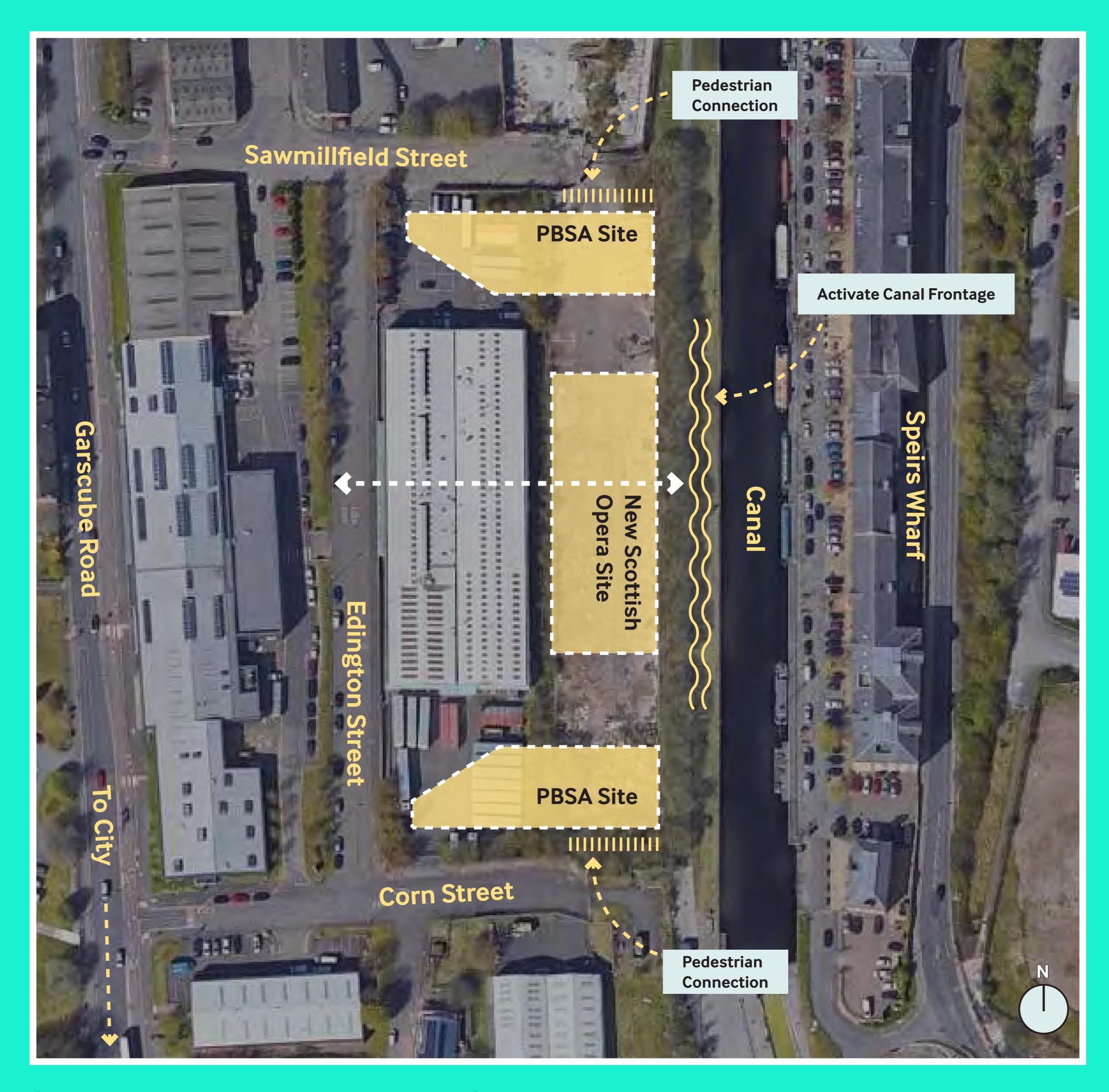
At **Cowlairs**, the City are planning to deliver 850 new mixed tenure homes. In summary

- Over 2850 new homes to be delivered within a 2km radius of the site
 - Infrastructure upgrades to the canal and surrounding area
 - Improved connections to the City Centre inc. active transport
- All embedded in a growing community of cultural tenants



Strategy





Site Development Strategy

The opportunity presented at New Rotterdam Wharf is to transform a single sided 'industrial estate' plot into a mixed use vibrant urban block, activated on all sides with new cultural, student use and commercial opportunity, all crucially connecting with the western tow-path of the Forth and Clyde Canal, bringing life and vitality to this amazing city centre asset.

The development strategy that has evolved for the site is to place the proposed new Scottish Opera rehearsal and support building between the existing Edington Street production studios and the canal towpath. A core circulation route through this new building will link a new canal-side

entrance down into the existing production studio and to the existing entrance on Edington Street.

To the north and south, two student accommodation blocks (PBSA) are proposed, with stepping scales, effectively 'book ending' the site and providing activated frontages to all four corners of the plot. Pended access under each PBSA block provides access to two internal courtyards providing service and visitor access to the Scottish Opera building. New broad feature steps at both the north and south ends of the site provide connection between the ends of Sawmillfield St and Corn Street, connecting up to the canal edge.

Massing





Approach to Massing Design

Speirs Wharf

Proposed Development

The proposed development site sits between an area of industrial buildings and the historic setting of the Forth & Clyde Canal at Speirs Wharf. Although the site is set back from adjacent main roads, it has long distance visibility from certain parts of the city, primarily from the west of the Glasgow as you approach along the motorway. Mirroring this, there are also long distance views from the site to the west of Glasgow due to the topography of the area.

The historic Speirs Wharf buildings have been a key consideration in the design of the proposed development, and these long distance views have influenced the massing design to date. The key move has been to maintain as much transparency and visibility through the site as possible, by articulating and shaping the development blocks to compliment these views.

The PBSA blocks on the North and South of the site have been articulated in plan

to create wedge-shaped blocks, to help minimise the profile when viewed along the East-West axis. The aim here is to retain visibility of the existing Speirs Wharf buildings from the West of the city, whilst maintaining good views from Speirs Wharf across the West of Glasgow.

Each PBSA block's footprint has also been staggered with an offset in the plan, to help break down the overall mass of the blocks. These staggered sections rise to different levels, where the side closest to the canal has been kept at a lower level, and the side facing the west of Glasgow rises taller.

The scale of the new Scottish Opera development has been kept to a minimum, with the bulk of the mass being tucked below the level of the canal towpath.

Two new pavilion buildings are proposed to rise two storeys above towpath level, reaching the approximate height of the existing treeline along the canal.

Public Spaces & Uses



At the heart of the proposed development is the desire to provide better, more usable public space which can help to activate this part of the city especially at this section of the Forth & Clyde canal. It is believed that this part of the canal could be improved and reactivated with outdoor spaces that are more attractive, more varied and more flexible for public activity. Positive placemaking is integral to the proposed development, and the shaping of each massing block has been driven by how we can create great public space in between each block and at the key corners of the site.

These public spaces are being developed to allow for a wide variety of uses and activities - by Scottish Opera, students, local residents and members of the public.

The development of this public realm will take into consideration ecology, movement of pedestrians, planting of new green space, robustness for activities/events and design aesthetics.

Note: The photos shown below are examples of similar public spaces in other locations and are not an exact depiction of the current development proposals.



Connecting the towpath to the proposed development, the two new pedestrian bridges provide access to the garden space and the new Scottish Opera facility.



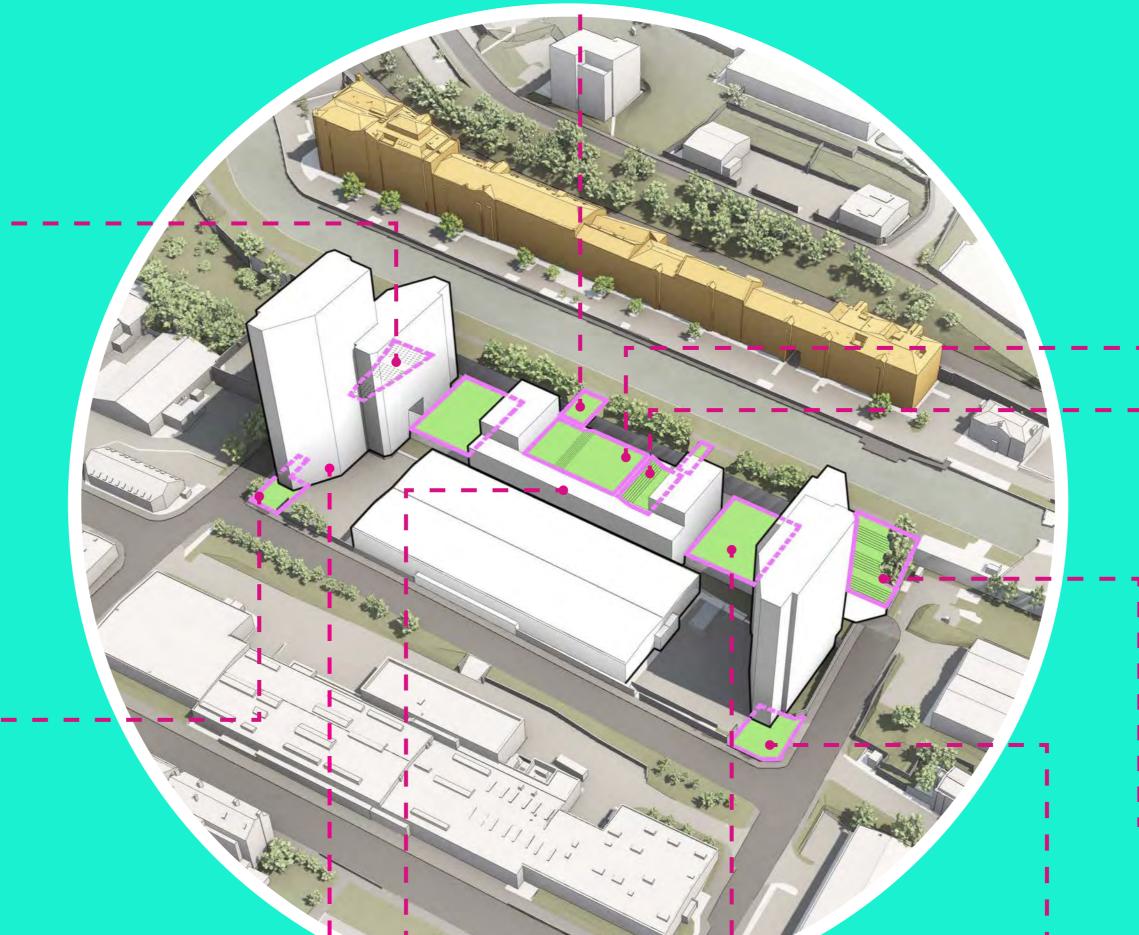
PUBLIC GARDEN

The garden is an accessible space that the public is invited to discover as it offers a quiet and tranquil experience for everyone with areas of native wild planting, natural play areas and resting points, with amazing views over the west of Glasgow.



NORTH STEPS

Adjacent to the northern PBSA block, these north-facing steps connect Corn Street to the canal towpath, whilst creating opportunities to enjoy the views over the city and access to multiple levels of the development



AMPHITHEATRE

Within the walled garden, these southfacing seating steps create a welcoming setting to rest and could be used for occasional performances held in the Scottish Opera southern pavilion.



SOUTH STEPS

Acting as a main point of access between Edington Street and the towpath, these south-facing steps are nestled in the green setting and create inhabitable pockets of space where activities can happen.



PLAZA

This plaza acts as a north-west

entry point from the city and

AMENITIES

Publicly accessible facilities, such as a GYM, will be incorporated into the PBSA ground floors, for use by the local community alongside the student residents.



Publicly accessible cafe's will form part of the Scottish Opera and PBSA developments - each providing differing offers with views over the city and to the canal.



PENDS & COURTYARDS

The pends and courtyards on the intermediate level will act as shared surfaces, both for Scottish Opera's access requirements but also welcoming public routes into the new Scottish Opera building in the case of evening shows taking place.

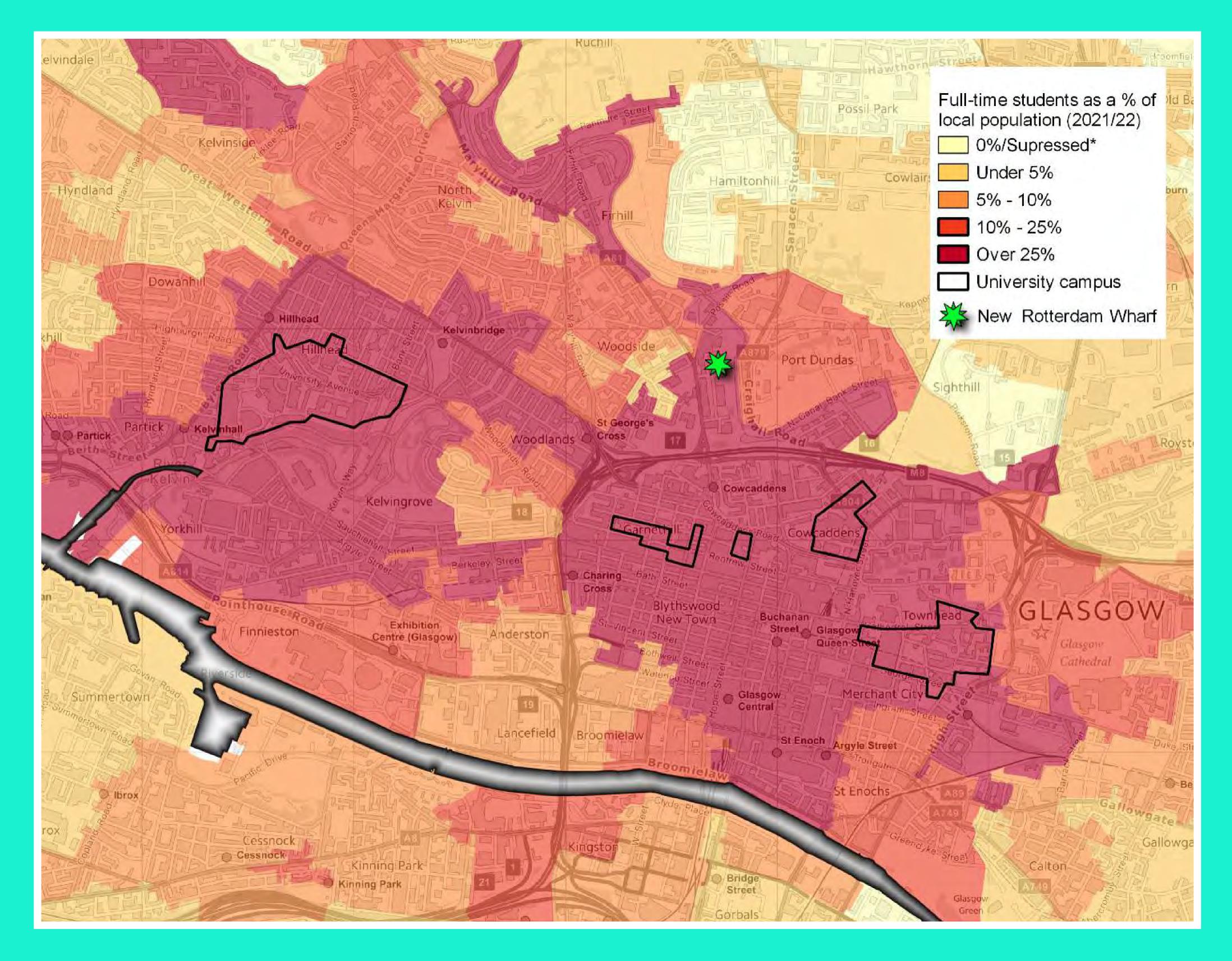


This plaza acts as a south-west entry point from the city and offers a shared space that is both public and social as well as functional to allow daily servicing of the Scottish Opera Production Studios.

PBSA Demand



Purpose-Built Student Accommodation



New Rotterdam Wharf, Edington Street, is situated in an area of high student density in Glasgow, north of the city centre universities and east of the main University of Glasgow campus.



77,640

Full-time students in Glasgow (2021/22)



25,735

Full-time international students (2021/22)



4.4%

10 Year Full time CAGR



5 universities

Including 1 Russell Group university



12.3%

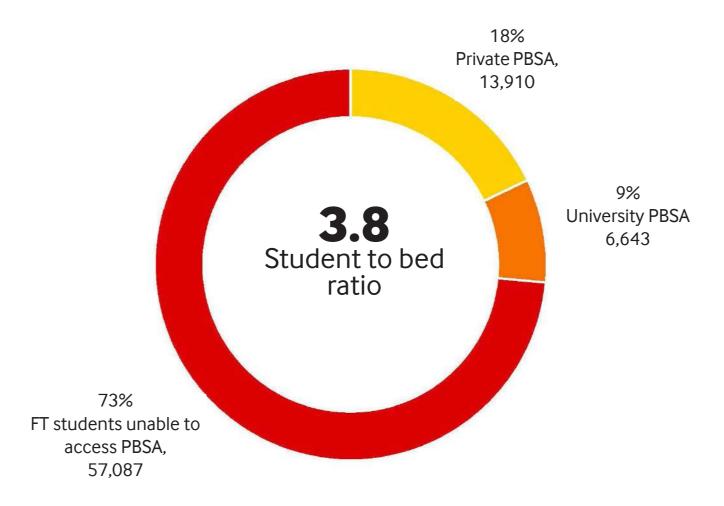
Annual growth in full-time international students since 2016/17



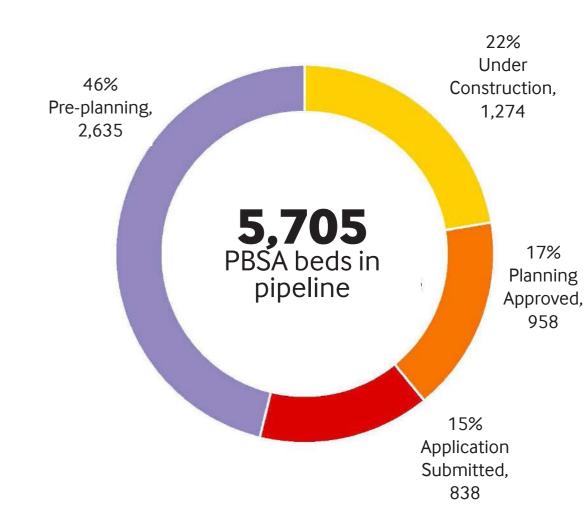
32%

Operational PBSA stock university owned

Current Supply and Demand Dynamics



Planning Pipeline





Fewer properties to rent vs. 2017-19 average



3.8

Current Student to Bed Ratio



5,705 beds

Current pipeline of **PBSA**

There is a significant undersupply of PBSA in Glasgow. 73% of full-time students are unable to access PBSA at current supply levels. Building out the current pipeline would represent a 28% increase in stock, however, only 1,300 units are currently under construction.



Next Steps



Timeline:

Tuesday 24/10/2023 at 2pm-7pm First Consultaion Event

Tuesday 07/11/2023

First Deadline for Comments

Wednesday 29/11/2023 at 2pm-7pm **Second Consultation Event**

Second Deadline for Comments

January 2024 **Submit Planning Application**

May 2024 **Target Planning Determination Date**

Early 2025

Construction Begins

2027 **Development Complete**

Thank you for attending this consultation. It is important that we gather as much feedback as possible following this event. All feedback received will be used in shaping the final design for the proposals. With this in mind, please take the time to speak to members of the project team who are on hand to discuss the proposals and answer any questions you may have.

You can leave your feedback in various ways:

- Please fill in the 'Your Comments' feedback form before you leave today
- Email us at: feedback@scottishopera.org.uk
- Visit our website: www.scottishopera.org.uk/newrotterdamwharf
- Phone us by calling: 0141 248 4567
- Write to us at: Scottish Opera, 39 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow G2 4PT
- Normal office hours are Monday Friday, 9.30am-5.30pm

This is the first of two events we'll be holding.

At the next event on Wednesday 29th November 2023 2pm-7pm at Scottish Opera Production Studios, we'll outline more detail on how the proposals have developed and how we have responded to your comments in this consultation. We hope to see you again then.

For more information about the project and to submit comments online, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.scottishopera.org.uk/newrotterdamwharf

Contact us

Have we missed anything?

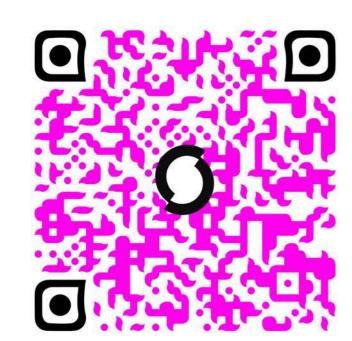
If you have further questions, please contact:

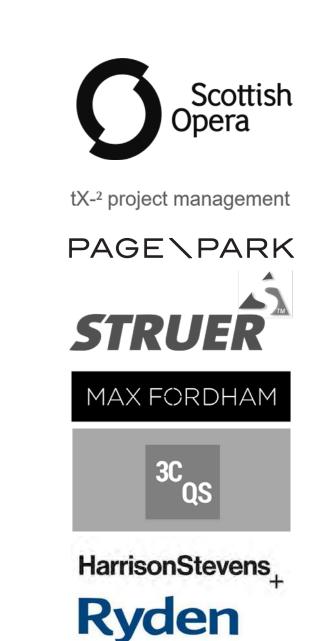
SCOTTISH OPERA

39 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow G2 4PT 0141 248 4567

SCOTTISH OPERA PRODUCTION STUDIOS

40 Edington Street, Glasgow G4 9RD 0141 332 9559





BUROHAPPOLD ENGINEERING





Why is Scottish Opera consolidating its operations on this site?

We need to bring our operations together on site for improved artistic and operational efficiencies having been spread across 5 separate buildings for 61 years across Glasgow. This site has particular appeal given its immediate proximity between our Production Studios in Edington Street and to our home, the Theatre Royal Glasgow on Hope Street thereby bringing factory and showroom within 5 minutes walk of each other. We open all our award-winning international productions in the Theatre Royal before sending them on tour across Scotland and further afield including New York, Toronto, Vancouver, Paris, Houston, Los Angeles and Detroit in 2023 and 2024.

What do you define as community benefits of the development?

The quality of the new public realm and amenities will be a unique community resource. The development will be available to be enjoyed by neighbours and visitors from across the city.

This will include but not be limited to:

- Community spaces for activity, including voluntary groups and meeting space
- Enhanced relationship with primary education providers in North Glasgow via the Scottish Opera Education & Outreach programme delivered in the new Education Room
- Proposed café with enhanced views across Glasgow
- Public amenity spaces including accessible roof top garden
- Improved relationship with canal towpath including way finding and access
- The potential for ancillary commercial uses, including retail, health, or leisure.
- Performance spaces available for the city to utilise
- Recording facility available for the Scottish film and audio sector

How will you assess townscape impacts and neighbours views?

How the development sits within the existing historic setting is a key consideration for the design team. The prominence of the Speirs Wharf buildings and views to and from them is being carefully analysed using a software platform called VuCity. This platform, with accurate 3D model of the whole of Glasgow, allows design teams to place proposals into an accurate model of the city, assess visual impact and look at key views towards the development and from nearby buildings. This platform is also used by the City Planners to assess proposals.

Images from VuCity form part of the consultation boards and presentation.

How will the development approach sustainability?

A key aspect of the development will be the integration of sustainable design practices.

Sustainability is a far reaching topic that has been addressed within the development through a 'fabric first' approach to reduce the site's energy demand and to remove the reliance on fossil fuel from the entire energy mix of the development.

The intention is to design and construct the buildings according to Passivhaus principles (where appropriate) - in line with Glasgow City Council planning guidance and the most recent Scottish Government National Planning Framework (NPF 4). The development will meet Section 7 Gold level of the Scottish Building Standards Technical Handbook (2023). This latest standard sets stringent targets for energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions.

Will any trees be felled and any compensation?

A tree survey will be carried out and will be submitted to support the planning application. This tree survey will assess the quality of the existing trees on the site and adjacent to the site.

We do not know the outcome of this yet. Where trees are deemed unsafe in proximity to public spaces, these will be removed. We anticipate that a small number of trees to the Canal boundary will be felled to allow the proposed buildings and spaces to have a direct connection to the canal towpath.

It is however the intention to retain the integrity of these canal boundary trees as they make a positive contribution to the setting of the proposals. While the proposals for the public spaces are yet to be developed there will be new tree planting as part of these proposals and overall there will be more trees proposed than those existing to be felled.

Biodiversity enhancement will be a significant contributor to the landscape and public spaces design approach. Therefore, as well as retaining as many trees as possible and planting new trees we will be proposing diverse species of planting across the site with native shrubs, grasses and herbaceous planting which will provide seasonal interest and a variety of habitats.

Is car parking proposed and how is the site to be serviced?

The proposed development will be submitted in accordance with Council transport and parking guidelines and discussions are ongoing with the Council transport team.

At the time of writing it is expected that the student development will be car-free given it is student accommodation and located within a high accessibility location.

Have you done any research into environmental impacts?

Scottish Opera is in dialogue with Glasgow City Council to determine what environmental matters must be addressed as part of the planning process. It is important to the applicant that all relevant environmental impacts are assessed.

Will the development generate noise likely to be a nuisance to the neighbouring community?

The music rehearsal spaces will be fully mechanically ventilated and conditioned, with air intakes and exhausts protected by acoustic attenuators. This allows them to act as acoustically 'sealed spaces', in order to achieve high levels of sound insulation.

The noise from any plant equipment introduced by the development will be attenuated in order to reduce any adverse effects to a minimum.

In any event, a noise impact assessment will be carried out and submitted as part of the planning application.

Is there a need for additional student accommodation in Glasgow?

There is a significant undersupply of PBSA in Glasgow as publicised in national press and local universities. Please refer to the presentation board on PBSA for details.

If consented, when would development commence and how will construction works respect neighbours?

The current programme is anticipating construction commencing early 2025. It is important to note that the applicant — Scottish Opera — will themselves be resident through the construction period, and will therefore be a neighbour themselves. It is therefore in their and all other neighbours' interests to carefully manage the construction process to minimise its impact on the local community.

To this end, Scottish Opera is looking to make it a requirement for any contractor appointed for the construction to register the site with the Considerate Constructors Scheme https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/for-clients-partners/client-partnerbenefits-and-support/Clients of construction projects, where the principal contractor is registered with the Scheme, are part of the Scheme's community. This means the client will receive reports that the Scheme Monitors produced after they have visited the construction site. These reports give information on how the site is conforming to the Code of Considerate Practice in its three areas:

- Respecting the community
- Protecting the environment
- Caring for the workforce.

Site conditions, transport statement, ecological surveys, flood and drainage assessments, air quality, noise assessment, townscape and heritage analysis, and sustainability statement are being prepared and will be submitted with the application.

These studies are ongoing and feeding into the design process.

How do I provide comments on the proposal?

Scottish Opera would be pleased to hear any comments you have on the proposed development. You can provide comments via email and telephone, feedback forms on the day, as well as the website. All written representations must be made via these channels and not to Glasgow City Council. Any comments made at this stage are to the prospective applicant and not representations to the planning authority. A planning application will be submitted in the future and there will be an opportunity to submit formal comments to Glasgow City Council on the proposal within the statutory consultation period.

Will there be a further opportunity to comment on the proposals?

It is important to note that the plans presented at this first event may alter before the final proposal is submitted as a planning application and as we move through the pre-application process.

It is therefore proposed to hold a second event in November at which the public will be updated on the proposals. This event will also be publicised in advance.

What are the next steps?

It is important to us that we gather valuable feedback and suggestions through this consultation process and meetings with stakeholders. This will inform the next stages of the design and planning process, prior to submission of a detailed planning application.