

FÁILTE

Nuns' Island supporting Galway and Ireland's continued success

As the importance of cities and urban areas accelerates globally Galway is competing nationally and internationally. Galway needs to continue to support and provide community and commercial uses to help it succeed as a great place to live, study, invest and visit. Government policy is seeking to ensure Ireland's cities succeed in meeting this challenge.

Nuns' Island and its waterways is an amazing asset for Galway. Under utilised publicly owned assets that if released could help provide more housing, cultural spaces, gathering spaces, attractions for visitors, places to study, business space for local and international companies.

Around the world cities and towns are opening their urban waterway districts.

From Birmingham to Milan, Seoul to Paris, Copenhagen to Hamburg, Houston to London, urban waterways are being opened and community and commercial projects emerging. The evidence has shown these projects help to deliver on economic, social and environmental agendas. They generate direct and indirect benefits in visitor numbers, spend, property values; ecology, recreation, health, flood mitigation, education, local pride, brand, community cohesion and outreach programmes.

Nuns' Island adding to Galway's urban renaissance

There are emerging large-scale projects happening in Galway. The Bonham Quay and the Céannt Station areas are emerging as a large scale contemporary office led, mixed-use district. Another large scale mixed-use development is proposed on the east side of Eyre Square and others are emerging to the east and west of the city.

Nuns' Island should remain distinct and have a clear market position from other proposals. With more people forecast to live and work in the Galway City region, Nuns' Island can provide an enhanced public space and enhance Galway's experience, diversify its offer and appeal.

How do you see the future Nuns' Island?

What is your destination vision for Nuns' Island? Is it about any of the following or are there other themes that you believe can help shape the future of Nuns' Island?

Learning, working, making, meetings, events, relaxing, unwinding, spirituality, nature, living, visiting, playing, culture and community

NUNS' ISLAND MASTERPLAN

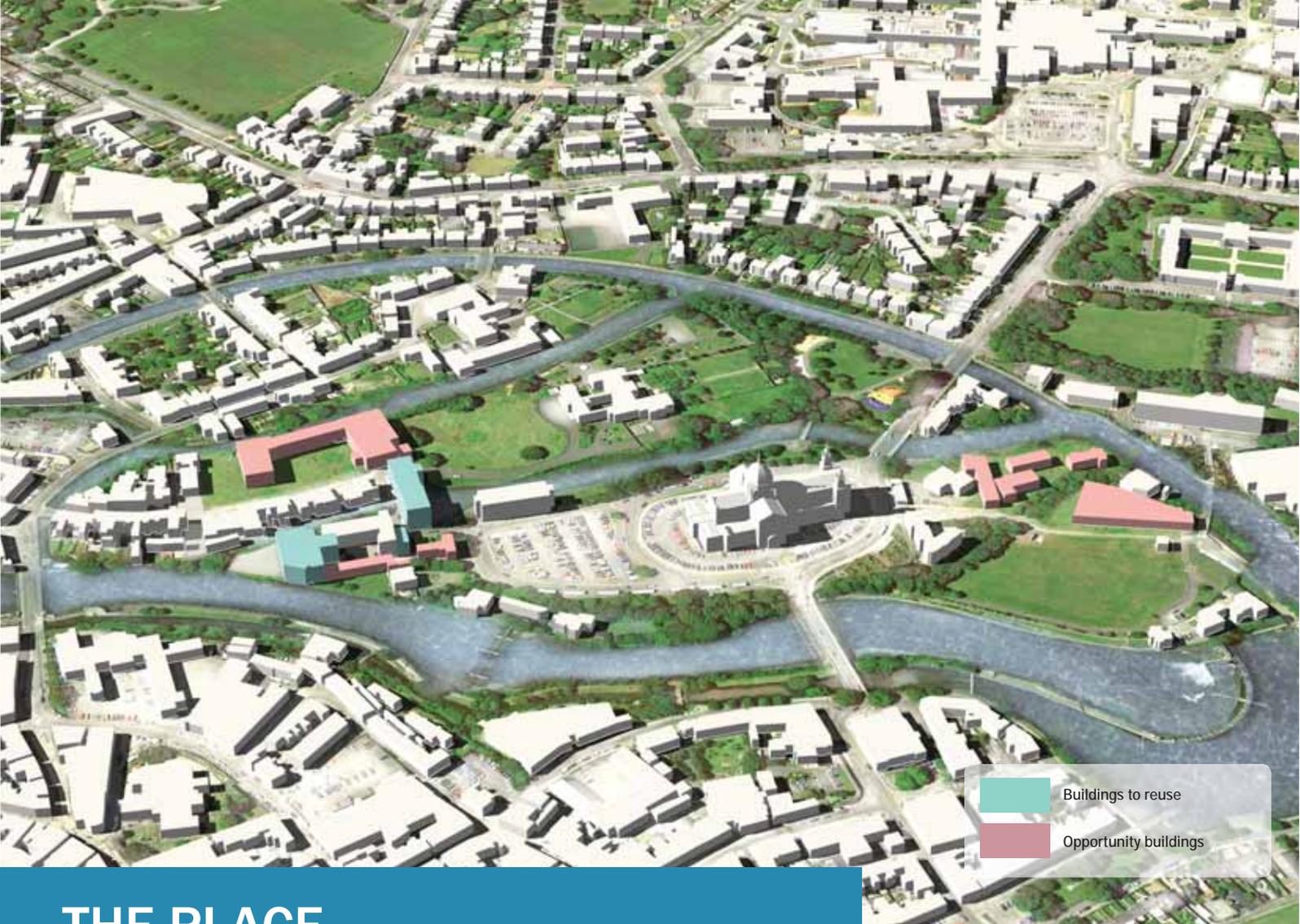


Rialtas na
hÉireann
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of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

www.nuigalway.ie/nunsisland

nunsisland@nuigalway.ie



THE PLACE



The University and city in partnership are looking at the lands in Nuns' Island and Earl's Island that will drive sustainable development, regenerate both the built form and public realm through high quality urban design, deliver employment, and promote innovation and learning.

The goal is to develop a masterplan which will explore the development potential and opportunities the lands hold for the City as a whole. The historic neighbourhood will be protected by ongoing engagement with interested parties with sustainability best practice thinking always at its core. The proposals will connect the existing urban grain to new public spaces, providing future opportunities for sensitive world class developments addressing the adjacent waterways.

*The vision for Galway City is to be a **successful, sustainable, competitive**, regional centre that creates **prosperity**, supports a **high quality of life** and maintains its **distinctive identity** and supports a **rich cultural experience**. A city that is **environmentally responsible** and **resilient** to challenge. A city that can attract and retain **talent** and **skills** and fosters **innovation** and **creativity**. An **inclusive** city where civic engagement is valued and a shared vision is pursued through good governance and leadership. A city that offers **sustainable** choices in housing, work, transport and lifestyle opportunities.*



The University

Earl's Island

Cathedral

Gaol River

Nuns' Island

Nuns' Island Theatre

Salmon Weir Bridge

River Corrib

Immediate context

Persses Mill

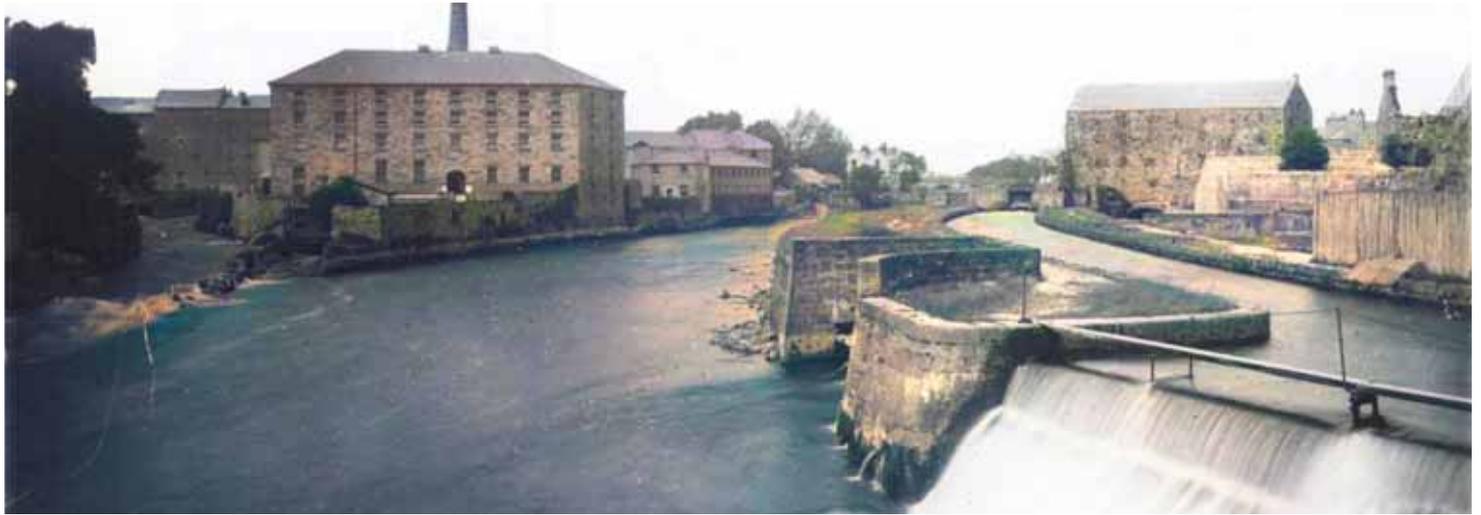
Nuns' Island lands present an opportunity to enhance and transform a historic neighbourhood, reconnecting underutilized assets and lands with the surrounding city.

The regeneration of the Nuns' Island neighbourhood lands will develop a future collaborative vision, which will allow a new cultural district for the city to emerge over time.

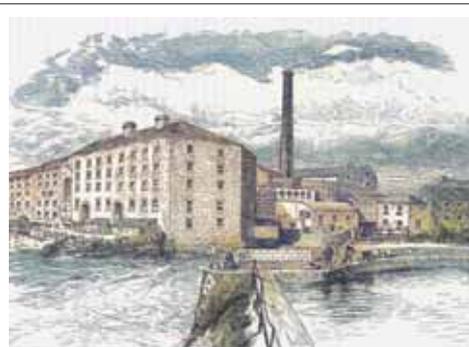
It is proposed to develop a cohesive, achievable and sequential regeneration proposal for the area to create vibrant meshing through the appropriate mix of uses, public realm spaces and living community.

Potential Intervention Areas

THE HERITAGE



Nuns' Island is located to the west of the medieval city of Galway amid the many natural and man-made waterways that characterise this area. It has been an important location for industry, particularly in the nineteenth century and it was the site of the County and town jails, the sites of which are now occupied by the Galway Cathedral.



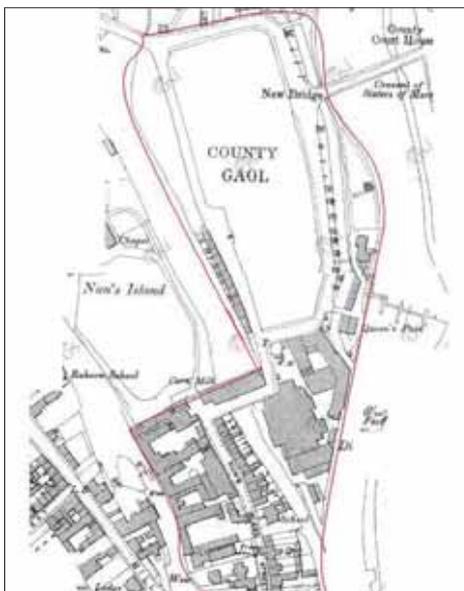
Nuns' Island Distillery



1651 Nuns' Island Pictorial Map, 1651.



1691 Map of Galway and Environs, J.N. Bellin c. 1691.



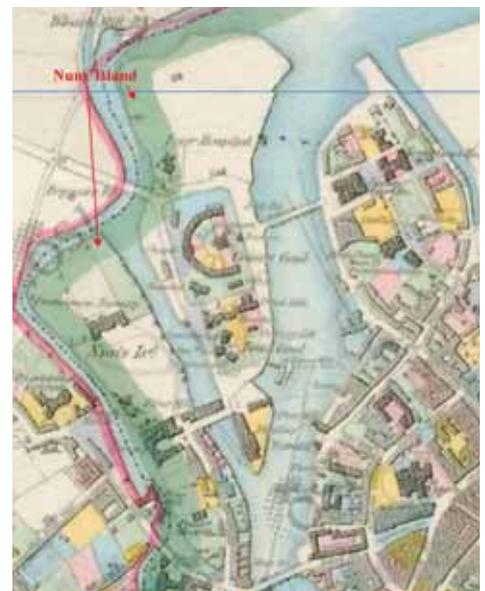
1890

Second Edition OS 25" Map GA094, 1890-98



1981

Waterways surrounding Nuns' Island, after Semple, 1981.



1838

Site Location Map. First Edition OS Map, GA094, 1838.

WHAT YOU'VE SAID SO FAR...

"A place for creative industry to flourish"

"Galway's historical connection with the river"

"A place to relax"

"A waterside city full of activity and life"

"An island of biodiversity"

"Put priority of people over cars"

"Enhance and keep the community spirit"

"Restore the mill and use its sustainable energy"

"A place of Irish historical importance"

"A highlight could be a covered market showcasing what the city has to offer"

"A vibrant and sustainable community, connected to nature"

"A stage for musical and cultural events"

WHAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD USE THE SPACE FOR



CULTURAL



RESIDENTIAL



EDUCATION



PARKS & OPEN SPACES



INNOVATION HUB



EVENTS

COMPONENTS TO CONSIDER



Heritage, preservation & re-use of existing buildings



Reuse of derelict buildings



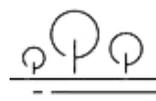
Local greenery, biodiversity & ecology



Preserving the unique identity of Galway



Creation of better footpaths & pedestrian crossings



Better public open spaces and creating public access to the river frontage



CONTEXT & OBJECTIVES

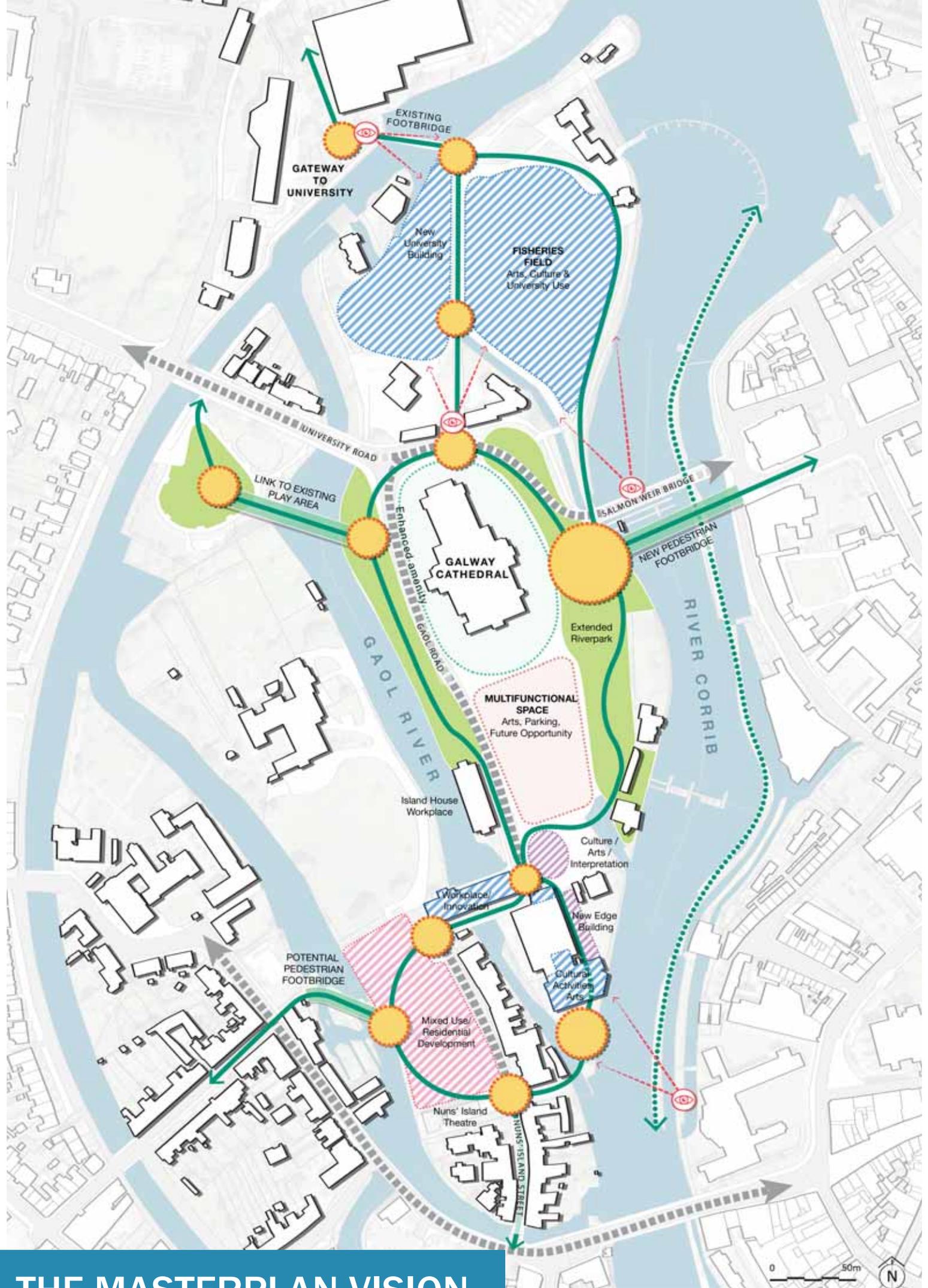
NUNS' ISLAND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CITY

Working in partnership with Galway City Council, and interested stakeholders from within our community, we want to establish an option for a development framework that will be a catalyst to bring wide scale benefit to the City as a whole. Realising this ambition will require a collaborative approach based on detailed engagement and long term thinking.

- A revitalised city neighbourhood with a distinctive character to add to the overall Galway offer and experience
- A sustainable bio-diverse neighbourhood
- A complementary mix of uses
- Better links and access to the water
- Improved and new public spaces and links
- Reuse of existing derelict buildings for culture and innovation







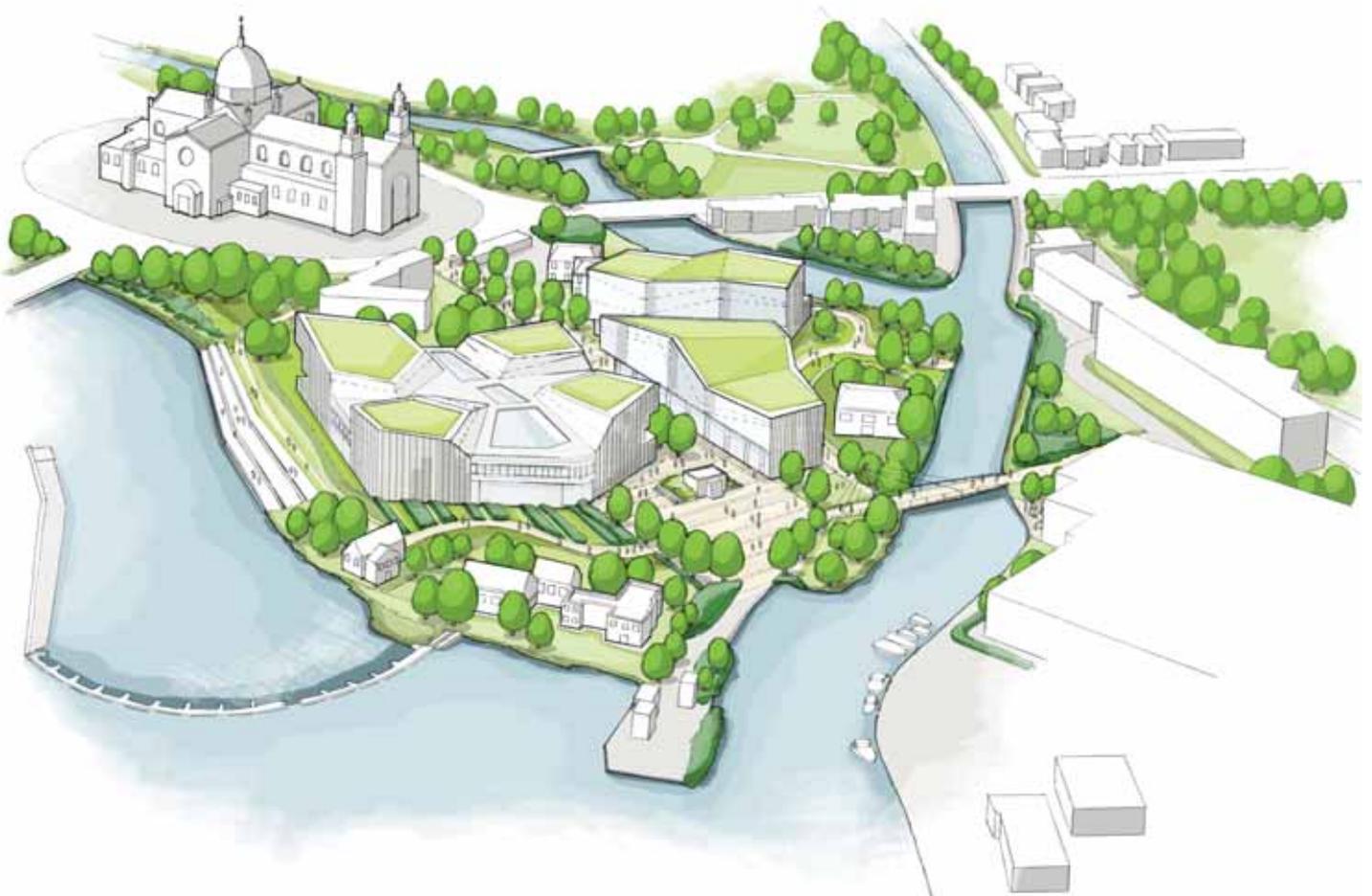
THE MASTERPLAN VISION

The University neighbourhood will be re-designed so as to create a better use of the available space and to relink the buildings with the existing river. It will extend its footprint so as to provide the students with more teaching and working spaces linking the University closely with the city.

- Adaption and reuse of existing historic assets
- Improved access to the water
- Improved pedestrian connectivity with the surrounding city
- A cultural mix of uses
- New public squares and green space
- Improved universal access for all generations through better public realm planning
- Improved street lighting and a safer environment



UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOOD





UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOOD



A vibrant hub offering cultural, civic and creative venues including boutique hotel, cafes and restaurants, as well as sustainable residential areas facing the river. The whole neighbourhood will be connected by enhanced walkways linking to the city.

- Reuse of existing buildings
- Improved access to the water
- Better links within the area and to the city
- A cultural mix of uses including potential for a library, creative hub, museum, visitor centre and gallery.
- New public squares and green space

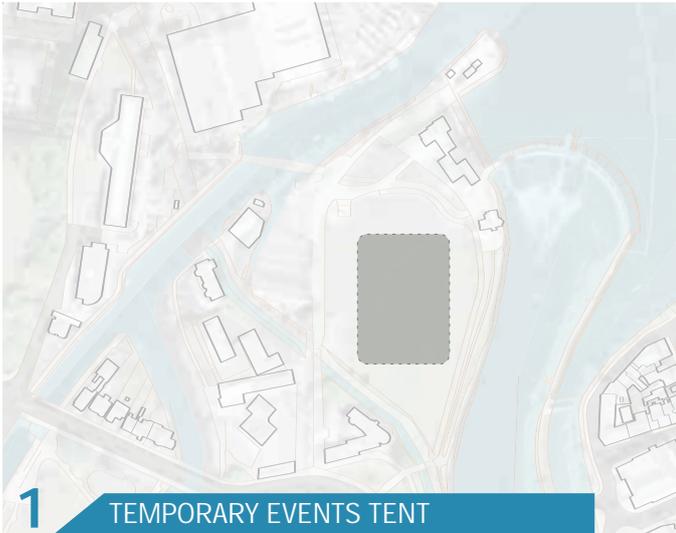
CULTURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD





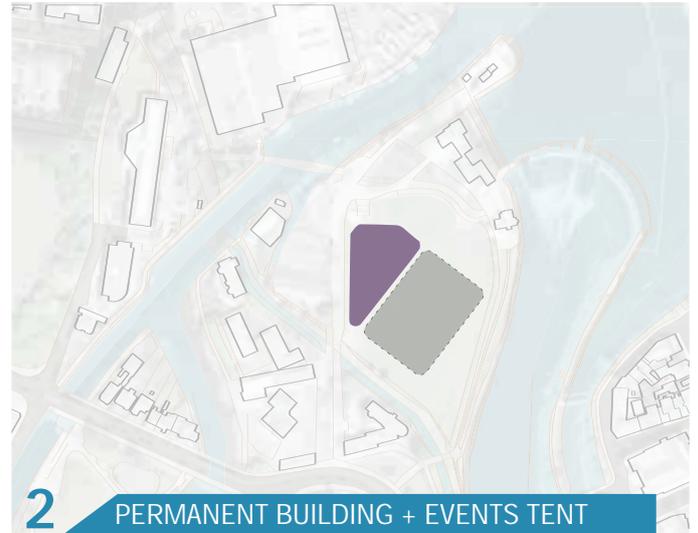
CULTURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

We are currently looking into options for the Fisheries Field and would like to hear your opinion on them. The Fisheries Field is a University-owned area annually used for the Arts Festival. We believe there is more potential to this site, options are shown below.



1 TEMPORARY EVENTS TENT

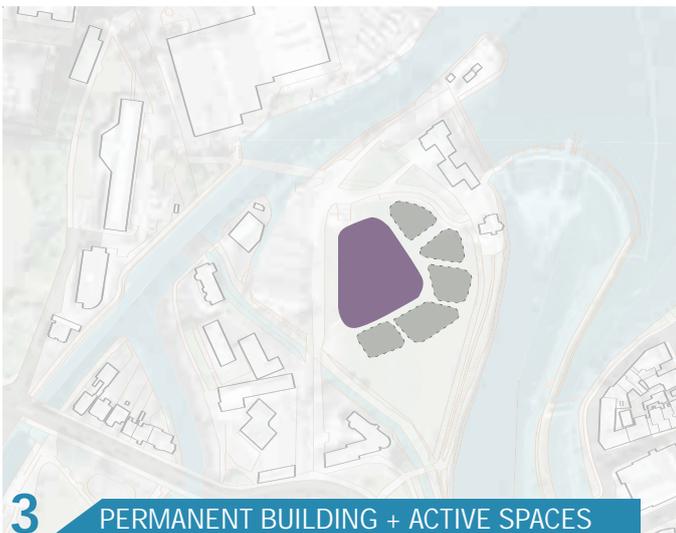
Keep the site as it is with its temporary tent for the Arts Festival, used two weeks per year.



2 PERMANENT BUILDING + EVENTS TENT

Introduce a permanent building which will link to the events tent and open space, encouraging more use of the site.

FISHERIES FIELD FUTURE IDEAS



3 PERMANENT BUILDING + ACTIVE SPACES

Create a new multi use building surrounded and linked to a regular active space supporting cultural events.



4 NEW ICONIC BUILDINGS

Create a new major cultural iconic building within the fields at the gateway of the University Campus.

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A key aim is to ensure that principles of sustainable design are central to the development of the masterplan. The diagram below summarises the key principles underpinning the sustainability strategy for Nuns' Island masterplan, divided into four main groups:



SUSTAINABILITY



Create a network of open spaces and green infrastructure promoting healthy lifestyles.



Connect the site to its surroundings and promote the use of sustainable means of transportation



Reinforce and promote the identity of the place and its sense of community



Aim to meet the highest environmental standards