

City of Southampton Society
Bellevue Road
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University of Southampton - Connaught Halls of Residence redevelopment and the restoration of South Stoneham House

We write to inform you of the exciting plans for redevelopment and investment at the University of Southampton's student accommodation facilities at Connaught Halls and South Stoneham House.

A letter with details of the upcoming public consultation event will be distributed shortly to local residents and businesses. Information will also be shared with university staff and students.

The University seeks the views of the community on the development proposals, as they work towards submitting a planning application in March 2026.

Why is redevelopment needed?

The proposals form part of the University's commitment to meeting the need for additional student accommodation provision across the city and to providing a high quality and sustainable experience to students. The Connaught Halls of Residence are no longer fit for purpose and require redevelopment to allow students to safely reside at the site and enjoy a high standard of accommodation. Similarly, South Stoneham House has been out of use since 2004 and has been identified on the Save British Heritage's at-risk register since 2017 and the restoration of the manor house has long been supported by the local community.

What is proposed?

The proposed scheme has been developed through a placemaking, masterplan approach with South Stoneham House serving as the centrepiece and focal point. The masterplan approach ensures that the design of the new buildings and spaces would provide students with an unfolding visual experience as they move through the interconnected spaces, culminating with South Stoneham House set within landscaped grounds, providing students and visitors with a truly exceptional and memorable experience.

The revised masterplan approach within this submission allows for a single red line boundary including both Connaught Halls and South Stoneham House. A fluid and well-integrated student campus has been designed to meet the increasing need for student accommodation within the city, while satisfying the requirements set out in local policy, and the previous advice received from Southampton City Council.

The key aspects of the proposals are included below:

- Creation of Stoneham Square to the front of South Stoneham House, around which four blocks of new build student accommodation will provide 276 beds. The subservient new build elements

and new square will frame South Stoneham House vastly improving the setting of the Grade II* listed building.

- The demolition of the now unfit for purpose 'Old Quad' and Connaught Halls to create two quads, hosting new student communities of 414 beds and 402 beds.
- A student community facility hub located as a focal point between the new quads.
- The restoration, refurbishment and return to the previous use of South Stoneham House to provide 16 student studio apartments.
- Regeneration of the Monks Brook path to improve the public realm and promote active travel.
- Associated landscaping and footpath retention and enhancement.

An illustrative masterplan has been included below:





Public Engagement

We're holding a public information event to provide the local community with an informal opportunity to learn more about the proposals in advance of a formal planning application submission. The event details are included below.

Event details

- **Location:** The Boiler House, Wessex Lane, SO18 2NU
- **Date:** Wednesday 25th February 2026
- **Time:** Public drop in any time to suit you between 3:30pm and 7:30pm.

As a local stakeholder, we would be delighted to invite you to an exclusive session to discuss the proposals. The project team will be available to meet with you before and after the main public event, at the following times:

- **Stakeholder sessions:** 3:00–3:30pm, and 7:30-8:00pm.

There will be car parking available at the site from 4:30pm.

During the event, the project team will be on hand to answer any questions you may have regarding the proposed redevelopment. There will also be boards displaying the images of the proposals.

If you are unable to attend the event and would like to view the proposals, the exhibition material will be available to view online from 25th February until the 12th March on the web address shown below.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/community/building-projects.page>

You will be able to make comments at the event itself or online via the website, so these can be considered before the planning application is submitted. Comments can be made via an online questionnaire available on the University's website.

If you have any questions at this stage or would like to share any feedback about our proposal before we submit our planning application, you can send your comments to the project team at EstateDevelopment@soton.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you require any further information about the event, please do not hesitate to contact the team using the contact details above.

Yours sincerely,

University of Southampton in partnership with the Aspire Consortium

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