Oxford Road Corridor

Manchester's Knowledge Quarter

Strategy 2026–2036

Contents

3 Vision Statement
4 Foreword
6 Key Statistics
8 Partnership
10 Oxford Road Corridor Key Assets

12 Future Priorities

14 Business, Investment & Innovation
- 16 Health and Life Sciences | Advanced Materials
- 18 Digital & Technology | Creative Industries

20 Transport, Infrastructure & Gateways
- 20 Connecting People, Places and Innovation
- 24 Spatial Focus: Southern Gateway

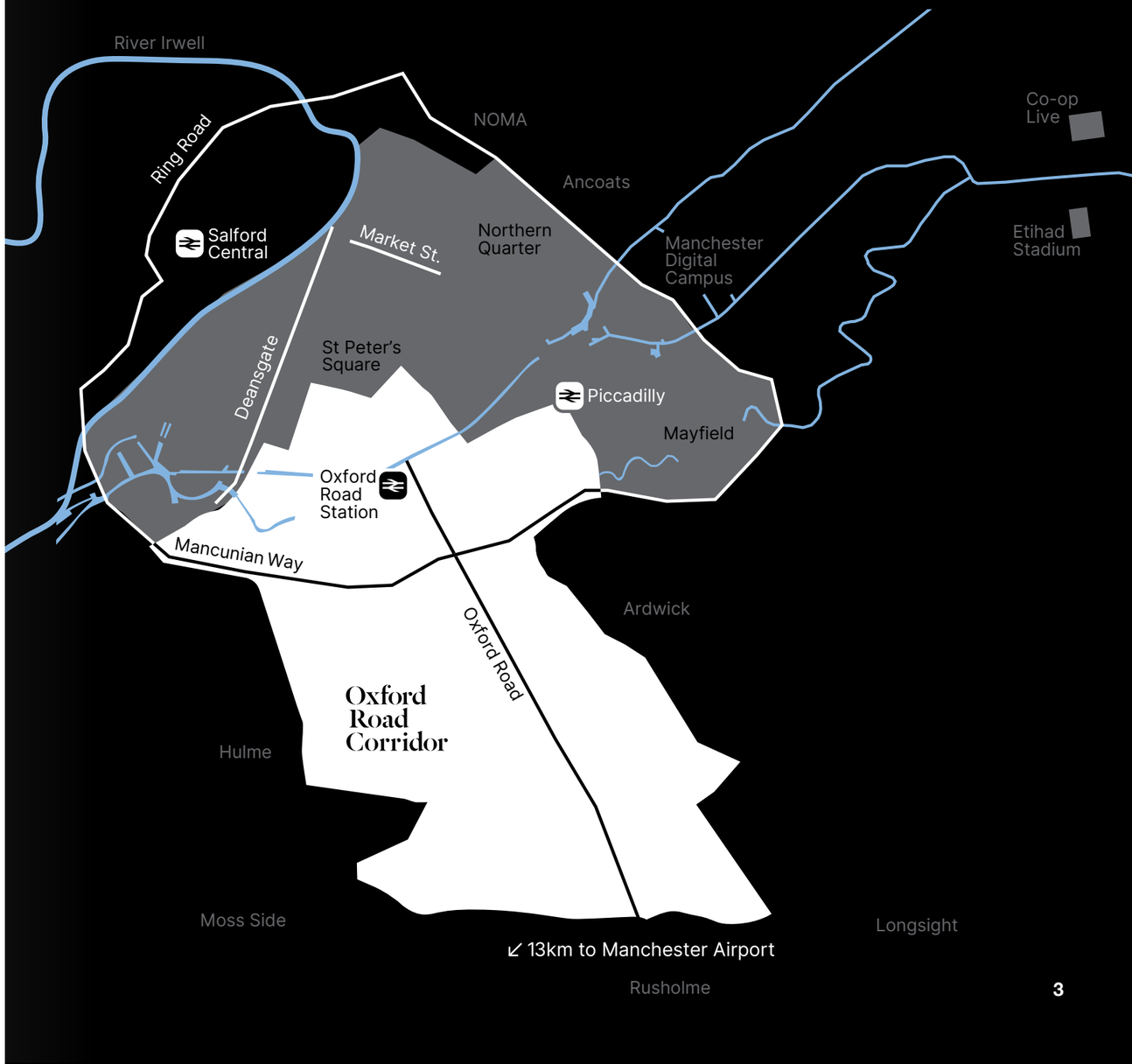
26 Culture

30 Development
- 30 The Story So Far
- 32 Key Future Projects
- 34 Partners' Estates Plans

38 Inclusive Growth
40 Strategic Context & Future Impact
42 Glossary
44 Timeline

Vision Statement

To drive the growth of an internationally renowned, inclusive and sustainable place where knowledge, business and culture transform lives.



Foreword

The Oxford Road Corridor is a one square mile area stretching south from Manchester City Centre — a place where the city's past and future converge.

Steeped in a history of radical thought, innovation and creativity, this is where Manchester's reputation as a city of ideas was forged and continues to evolve. From the earliest days of the Industrial Revolution to today's breakthroughs in health, materials and digital technology, this Corridor has always been where new ideas take root and change the world.

This is a place defined by its concentration of knowledge assets and its spirit of collaboration, home to two of the UK's largest universities, one of the largest NHS Foundation Trusts in the country, world-class cultural institutions and a thriving base of digital, technology and life sciences businesses. In 2024, our universities celebrated their 200-year anniversaries, a reminder of how deeply education, research and civic purpose are woven into Manchester's identity.

Over almost two decades, partners have worked together through a unique formal collaboration, uniting universities, the NHS, business and local government around a shared strategic vision.

This partnership has transformed the area's economy and physical environment, aligning over £2.8 billion of public and private investment to deliver world-class research facilities, new public spaces, and a cultural offer that draws millions each year. In that time, over 60,000 jobs have been created, the area's economic output has grown by £4.6 billion, and the Oxford Road Corridor has established itself as one of the most successful knowledge quarters in Europe, playing a central role in driving the growth of Greater Manchester, now the fastest growing city region in the UK.

The Corridor's impact extends well beyond its boundaries. It is an international district with a global outlook, home to a student population drawn from over 170 countries, a place where international collaboration fuels discovery, enterprise and opportunity. It is also situated in the heart of the city, connected to the communities of Ardwick, Longsight, Hulme, Moss Side and Rusholme, and central to Manchester's ambitions for inclusive and sustainable growth.

As we look ahead, the next decade represents a defining period for the Oxford Road Corridor. Major schemes including Sister, the expansion of Citylabs and Manchester Science Park, and new development at Upper Brook Street will provide new space for life sciences and other knowledge-intensive businesses. These will be supported by significant investment in transport, infrastructure and gateways, including the transformation of Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road stations, helping to strengthen connectivity, improve arrival and movement through the area, and create a more accessible and sustainable place. Together, these investments are expected to create over 15,000 new jobs in the area by 2036, and add £1.9 billion to the Corridor's annual economic output.

Our success has been built on the strength of our partnership, on trust, shared purpose and the belief that we achieve more together than we ever could alone. As we look to the next decade, our ambition is to build on these foundations to deliver the next wave of innovation and inclusive prosperity.

Together, we will continue to drive an internationally renowned, inclusive and sustainable knowledge quarter — a place where knowledge, business and culture thrive side by side, transforming lives and strengthening Manchester's position on the global stage.

Professor Duncan Ivison, Chair
President and Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Manchester

Councillor Garry Bridges
Leader of Manchester City Council

Professor Malcolm Press CBE DL
Vice-Chancellor,
Manchester Metropolitan University

Mark Cubbon
Chief Executive,
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Chris Oglesby OBE
Chief Executive Officer, Bruntwood

Professor Linda Merrick CBE
Principal, Royal Northern College of Music

Darren Banks
Interim Deputy Trust Chief Executive,
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Steve Rothberg
Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Manchester Metropolitan University

Pat Bartoli
Director of City Centre Growth & Infrastructure,
Manchester City Council

Esme Ward
Director of Manchester Museum
at the University of Manchester,
Chair of Culture on the Corridor

Key Statistics

The Oxford Road Corridor represents one of the UK's most significant concentrations of knowledge, business and culture.

These figures highlight the scale and impact of the Corridor: the jobs it supports, the economic value it generates and the breadth of talent that underpins its success.

104,000+ employees[1]

2,500 businesses[3]

£7.8bn GVA[2]

48% of Manchester's life sciences businesses[4]

Oxford Road Corridor hosts significant percentages of Manchester's employment:[5]

58% of publishing

50% of education

49% of creative, arts and entertainment

44% of human health

39% of scientific research and development

34% of architectural and engineering

30% of computer programming

27% of legal and accounting

19,000+ participants recruited to research studies[6]

86,000+ students[7]

22,000+ international students[8]

42,000+ studying STEM[9]

7,500+ students studying creative arts subjects – the largest concentration outside of London[10]

4.7m visitors annually to the Corridor's cultural institutions[11]

12,900+ events and performances each year[12]

1.3m+ cycle journeys annually on Oxford Road[13]

For references, see page 41

Partnership

The Oxford Road Corridor partnership is the UK's longest-standing, formally constituted knowledge quarter organisation.

RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC

The RNCM is internationally recognised as a leading conservatoire and public venue, offering world-class training in classical music, opera, jazz, pop and composition. It blends rigorous education with rich performance opportunities, producing professional musicians of the highest calibre. Alongside teaching and performance, the College is a hub for research in performance practice, pedagogy, composition and music technology, informing national and international practice. With an active programme of concerts, collaborations and community engagement, the RNCM plays a central role in Manchester's cultural life and contributes significantly to the creative economy of the Oxford Road Corridor.

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is one of the world's leading research universities, ranked 40th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2025 and 5th in the UK for research power in the Government's Research Excellence Framework 2021. A member of the prestigious Russell Group, it has produced 26 Nobel Prize winners whose discoveries have transformed modern science — from understanding the structure of the atom and developing the computer to isolating graphene. The University is home to major research assets including the National Graphene Institute and Henry Royce Institute, and to leading cultural institutions the Whitworth and Manchester Museum. It combines world-class teaching, pioneering research and a strong civic mission, driving innovation and inclusive growth across the Oxford Road Corridor and beyond.

NHS
Manchester University
NHS Foundation Trust

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) is one of the UK's largest and most advanced healthcare organisations, serving a diverse population of almost one million people and anchoring a world-class life sciences and health innovation ecosystem. Bringing together leading hospitals and research centres across the city, the Trust combines clinical excellence with pioneering research and education, holding one of the largest National Institute for Health and Care Research portfolios in the country. As a major employer and research hub, with over 30,000 staff, the Trust is instrumental in attracting investment and driving growth in Manchester's thriving health and life sciences sector.

MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Manchester City Council provides the strategic leadership and delivery that underpin the city's ongoing transformation into one of Europe's most dynamic investment locations. With a focus on inclusive growth, sustainability, and innovation, the Council works closely with developers, investors, and anchor institutions to support economic development and regeneration. Its ambitious urban planning, housing, and infrastructure programmes are unlocking new opportunities across the city, while its strong civic vision ensures that growth benefits communities and businesses alike. The Council is a key enabler of Manchester's global investment success story.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the UK's leading modern universities, recognised for its strengths in applied research, innovation and industry collaboration. The University is a national leader in degree apprenticeships, helping to widen access to high-value employment and develop future skills across key sectors. Its triple accredited Business School is among the largest in the UK, recognised for its research and enterprise links with industry. Its wider research excellence spans health, sport, children and young people, and the creative industries, supported by major facilities including the Institute of Sport and the School of Digital Arts (SODA). Manchester Met plays a pivotal role in connecting education, business and communities — contributing to inclusive growth and innovation across the Oxford Road Corridor.

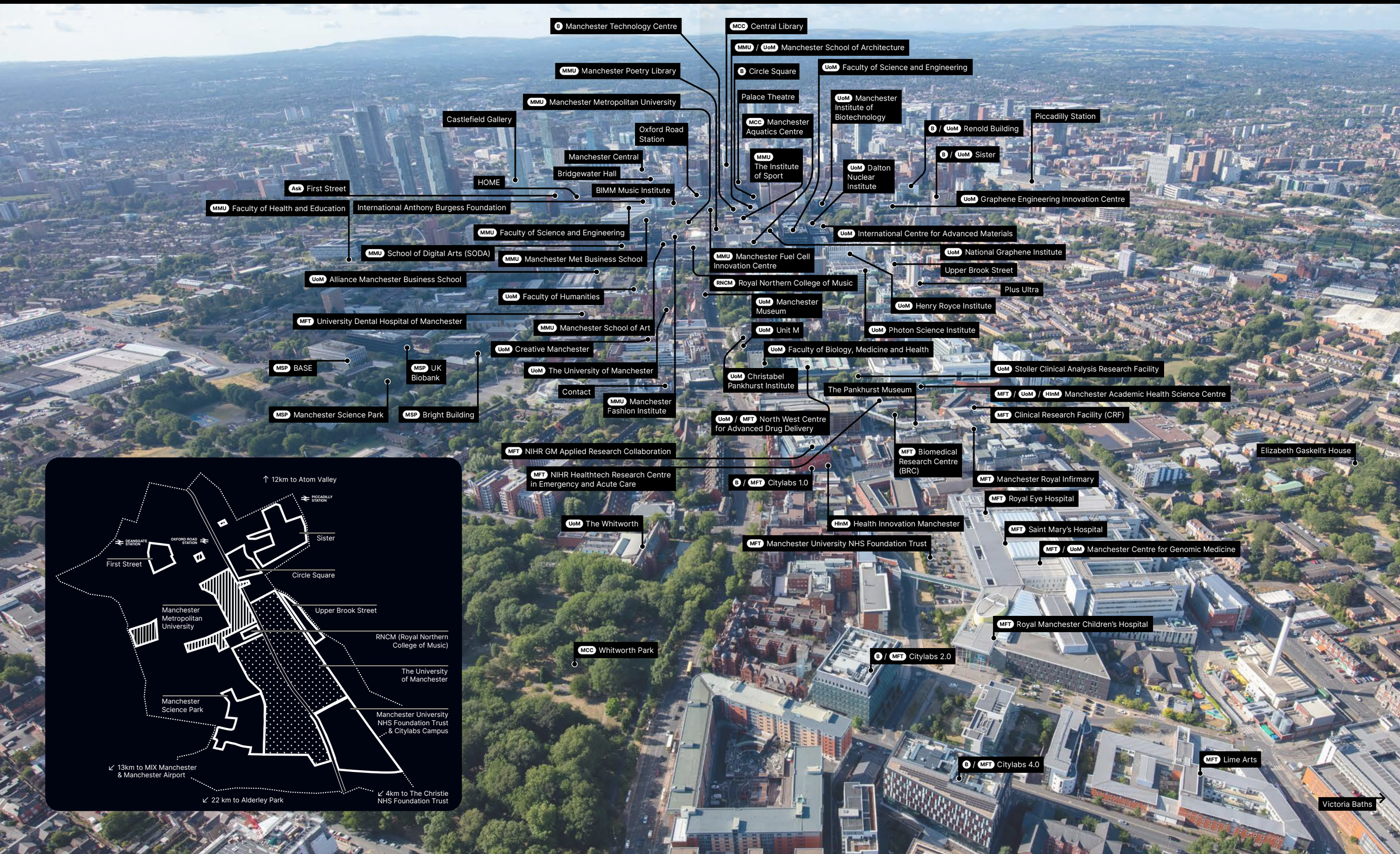
bruntwood

Bruntwood is a family-owned property company with a longstanding connection to the Oxford Road Corridor and a deep commitment to creating places that enable people and businesses to thrive. Its approach is defined by a commitment to sustainability, design quality, and long-term investment in innovation, arts and culture. As part of Bruntwood SciTech – a joint venture with Legal & General – it owns and operates significant land holdings across the Corridor, including Manchester Science Park, where it is the majority shareholder alongside Corridor partners, and Citylabs, developed in partnership with MFT. Bruntwood SciTech transformed the former BBC site with Circle Square through a joint venture with Vita Group, and is working with The University of Manchester to deliver Sister, a major new innovation district. Alongside developing and operating physical spaces, Bruntwood SciTech provides innovation and growth support to help its customers connect, collaborate and grow.

Oxford Road Corridor

Key Assets

- B Bruntwood
- UoM University of Manchester
- MMU Manchester Metropolitan University
- MCC Manchester City Council
- MFT Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- HInM Health Innovation Manchester
- MSP Manchester Science Park



Future Priorities

The Oxford Road Corridor Strategy is structured around four key themes: Business, Investment and Innovation; Transport, Infrastructure and Gateways; Culture; and Development. Each theme is supported by a series of projects and initiatives that will guide delivery over the next decade. Sustainability and Inclusive Growth cut across all themes, ensuring that every action contributes to a greener, fairer and more connected Corridor.

Within this framework, the Corridor's future growth will be driven by four priority sectors: Health and Life Sciences; Advanced Materials; Digital and Technology; and Creative Industries. These build on the area's strong existing business base, globally recognised research excellence, and concentration of innovation assets and talent. They represent the areas where the Corridor can make the greatest contribution to Manchester and the UK's future growth.

Business, Investment and Innovation

- Coordinated business engagement, support, networking and commercialisation of research
- Place promotion
- Internationalisation and inward investment
- Enterprise and industrial strategy zones
- Targeted employment and skills support
- Priority sector development
- 'Living lab' test bed for joint research projects

Transport, Infrastructure and Gateways

- Oxford Road Station transformation
- Piccadilly Station transformation
- Active travel and wayfinding
- Digital infrastructure
- Southern gateway
- Low-carbon energy and infrastructure
- Place branding and identity

Sustainability & Inclusive Growth

PRIORITY SECTORS:

- Health and Life Sciences
- Digital and Technology
- Advanced Materials
- Creative Industries

Culture

- Public art, events and festivals to activate public realm and drive footfall to venues
- Aligning programming to engage communities
- Interpreting and sharing the area's heritage, identity, and contemporary stories
- Supporting priority sector development
- Research collaborations across sectors and institutions

Development

- Sister – a major new innovation district for science, technology and enterprise.
- Circle Square – a mixed-use neighbourhood for knowledge-based businesses, homes and public space.
- Upper Brook Street – new space for life sciences and other knowledge-intensive businesses.
- Citylabs Campus – expansion of a nationally significant health and life sciences campus.
- Manchester Science Park – expansion of established science and technology campus.
- Former Elizabeth Gaskell Campus – a new employment-led site for health and life sciences.
- First Street – the final phase of a major city-centre regeneration scheme.

Business, Investment and Innovation

The Oxford Road Corridor is home to more than 2,500 businesses spanning life sciences, digital and technology, and the creative industries.

Global names such as QIAGEN, Epic Games and PUMA sit alongside a community of start-ups and university spin-outs.

This business base thrives in a unique environment where industry, academia and healthcare operate side by side. Few places offer such proximity to world-leading research or the opportunity to collaborate daily with universities and the NHS. The University of Manchester is the fourth highest ranked for spin-outs in the UK, and Unit M will make it easier for businesses to engage with academic expertise, access facilities and explore opportunities to commercialise research.

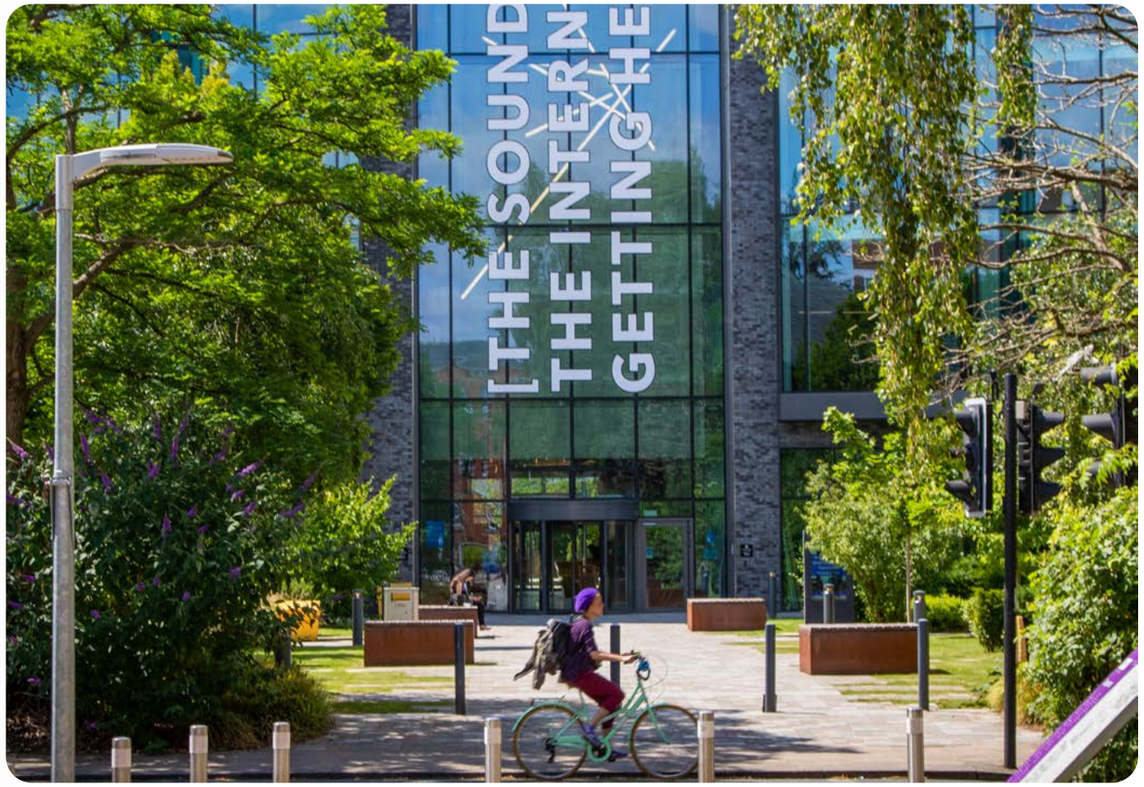
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust's approach to research and innovation includes working with industry to co-develop, test and adopt new treatments, technologies and models of care. Supported by the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility, this enables businesses to collaborate at every stage of the innovation pathway, from discovery through to real-world application.

The Corridor's position within Manchester's Enterprise and Industrial Strategy Zones ensures that it remains a focus for growth, unlocking investment in infrastructure, research and skills. It offers businesses world-class facilities, from laboratories and collaborative workspaces to flexible commercial accommodation, designed to meet the needs of knowledge-intensive sectors.

"The move to Circle Square marks our commitment to provide a better employee value proposition and a vibrant and creative environment for our staff, as we migrate to a hybrid way of working. Being in the heart of the city's tech ecosystem is a really exciting prospect for us, as we look to elevate the business and take it to the next level.

The ability to leverage relationships with like-minded businesses as well as the neighbouring universities and the benefits that brings in terms of access to talent and research, was critical in our decision making"

Derek Newsome
General Manager,
Bosch Automotive Service Solutions



Each year, thousands of students, academics, clinicians and creatives from around the world bring their ideas and energy to the area, contributing to its international and diverse character. This international mix fuels creativity and provides employers with a pipeline of highly skilled talent. With Manchester Airport just 13km away, the Corridor is globally connected, enabling businesses to operate and collaborate across international markets.

The surrounding neighbourhoods also contribute to the Corridor's character and vitality. The partnership is committed to working with businesses to build capacity within these communities, create opportunities for local people and ensure that the benefits of growth are shared widely. For example, Manchester Metropolitan University is a leading provider of Degree Apprenticeships, helping to improve social mobility and expand opportunities for learners from diverse backgrounds, while supporting businesses to meet their skills needs.

The Corridor also provides a 'living lab' where partners, researchers and industry can test and apply research in real-world conditions. Alongside this, business networks and events, including Venture Café Manchester, provide opportunities for knowledge and experience to be shared across the Corridor.

Over the next decade, partners will continue to strengthen this ecosystem, supporting businesses already based on the Corridor and those looking to locate here. A strong business environment will remain central to the strategy, with businesses playing an active role in shaping the next phase of the Corridor's development.

"The establishment of our laboratory at Manchester Science Park is a strategic step in expanding collaborations with leading academic and clinical institutions and positions the company for growth… The Park's proximity to the University of Manchester, NHS Manchester Foundation Trust, and a thriving life sciences ecosystem provides direct access to world-class expertise, clinical samples, and translational infrastructure essential for advancing liquid biopsy into clinical practice."

Nigel Brooksby
Non-Executive Chairman at Vortex

SECTOR FOCUS

Health and Life Sciences

In 2025, the Oxford Road Corridor and Invest Manchester jointly commissioned research to identify the region's key life sciences strengths and develop a prospectus to attract future investment.

The work confirmed that the Corridor sits at the heart of Greater Manchester's health and life sciences ecosystem, with a scale, density and depth of assets that position it as an internationally significant location.

The research identified several globally competitive strengths: the co-location of world-leading universities with one of the UK's largest NHS Foundation Trusts; nationally and internationally recognised clinical trials capability supported by NIHR infrastructure; deep expertise in genomics, diagnostics and precision medicine; and access to large, diverse real-world patient populations. Crucially, these assets are concentrated within a highly walkable knowledge quarter, a defining feature of leading international life sciences clusters — enabling close integration between research, clinical practice and industry.

Each year, the Corridor supports the development of thousands of students, clinicians and researchers, creating a workforce that underpins both public health and commercial activity. The University of Manchester Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health plays a pivotal role. It includes one of the UK's largest medical schools, which has an international reputation for translational and experimental medicine and is deeply integrated with Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. Education, research and clinical practice are closely aligned, embedding students and researchers within live healthcare environments and supporting the journey from discovery to application. This is complemented by Manchester Metropolitan University's applied health and professional education offer responding directly to employer demand.

A shared commitment to long-term collaboration is reflected in joint strategy, delivery and investment in the spaces that support the ecosystem. Developments such as Citylabs and Manchester Science Park have been shaped through aligned decision-making, ensuring that infrastructure, research capability and commercial space evolve together.

The impact of this partnership-led approach is evident in the Corridor's ability to attract and retain internationally mobile life sciences investment. Global companies such as QIAGEN have scaled and embedded within the area, alongside specialist developers including Kadans, whose life sciences development on Upper Brook Street reflects the maturity of the ecosystem. The relocation of UK Biobank to Manchester Science Park in 2026 and Convatec's expansion into Citylabs 4.0 will further strengthen the Corridor's position.

"Greater Manchester's Life Sciences strengths are grounded in a special combination of assets in the city centre, where the Oxford Road Corridor is home to a globally significant research community"... "Greater Manchester isn't just supporting discovery, it's accelerating delivery… and that includes international businesses such as QIAGEN and Novacyt who have chosen Manchester to be home for their growth. They are proof that this area offers life sciences companies a great environment to grow faster and stronger."

Lord Patrick Vallance
Then Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation

SECTOR FOCUS

Advanced Materials

The Oxford Road Corridor is home to one of the world's leading centres for advanced materials research, anchored by the research excellence of The University of Manchester.

The discovery of graphene helped establish the city as a leader in the field, and the University has made significant investments in facilities and research programmes that support the development and application of new materials.

Key assets include the National Graphene Institute, the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC) and the Henry Royce Institute — the UK's national institute for advanced materials research and innovation. These facilities provide world-class laboratories and specialist equipment, bringing together researchers and industry partners to develop and test new materials technologies with applications across sectors including energy, electronics, healthcare and advanced manufacturing.

Manchester Metropolitan University contributes to this capability through PrintCity, a centre for additive manufacturing and digital production, and the Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre, which supports the development of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. The Corridor's universities also provide a strong skills pipeline, with more than 42,000 students studying STEM subjects.

These research and talent strengths support the ambitions of the GM Industrial Strategy Zone, which is focused on manufacturing and includes sites on the Corridor including Sister. Alongside large-scale manufacturing locations across the city region, such as Atom Valley and MIX MANCHESTER, this will ensure that innovation and new technologies developed on the Corridor drive growth beyond its boundaries.

"I believe the UK needs many more facilities like the GEIC. This kind of lab–factory hybrid bridges the gap between research and the realities of commercialisation, and there simply isn't enough of this infrastructure.

Working there gave us an advantage: we could run small-scale benchtop experiments, then scale them up into full production processes in the same place. When investors visited, we were able to show that our technology was real and operational — not just a concept confined to the lab.

Since then, we've moved to Citylabs, also on the Oxford Road Corridor, and gone on to establish a lithium extraction plant in the North West — demonstrating how innovation developed on the Corridor can scale into real-world industrial production."

Dr. Seb Leaper
CEO & Co-Founder of University of Manchester spin-out Watercycle Technologies

SECTOR FOCUS

Digital and Technology

The Oxford Road Corridor is a key hub within Manchester's digital and technology economy, anchored by a growing business cluster at Circle Square, Manchester Technology Centre and the Renold Building at Sister.

Across these developments Bruntwood SciTech has created a concentrated community of digital and tech firms, spanning start-ups, scale-ups and established companies, which includes Roku, Autotrader, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise. The proximity of flexible workspace to academic expertise and research facilities supports collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, data science and advanced computing.

Each year, The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University graduate thousands of students across STEM disciplines, including computer science, engineering, mathematics and data analytics. This steady flow of highly skilled graduates drives business growth and helps attract inward investment.

The Manchester Digital Campus, located in the city centre, will benefit from this established talent pipeline. It will create opportunities for collaboration with Corridor partners on skills development, graduate employment and knowledge exchange, supporting thousands of Government digital and technology jobs in Manchester.

The University of Manchester's Digital Futures platform brings together more than 2,200 researchers across 30 disciplines, to address major digital challenges, linking researchers with industry and public sector partners.

By aligning research, space and skills, and with new workspace and ecosystem capacity being developed at Sister, the Corridor is positioned to accelerate digital and technology growth over the next decade, reinforcing its national significance.

"Summize is based on the Oxford Road Corridor, placing us at the heart of Manchester's innovation ecosystem. It's a key location for ambitious, fast-growing businesses, who want to find and attract the best new talent, and be a part of a thriving community that is constantly pushing boundaries and new ideas."

Tom Dunlop
CEO, Summize

"Circle Square places us next to leading academic institutions such as The University of Manchester and the R&D facilities that they provide, it also places us right in the heart of Manchester's diverse digital talent base."

Alastair McGeoch
Director of Software Engineering, Roku

SECTOR FOCUS

Creative Industries

The Oxford Road Corridor is a focal point for Manchester's creative industries, driven by its unique concentration of cultural institutions, specialist education and research capability, and flexible workspace.

The area has the highest concentration of students studying creative arts subjects outside London. Manchester Metropolitan University plays a central role, with the Manchester School of Art, one of the UK's oldest art and design schools, alongside the School of Digital Arts (SODA) and the Manchester Fashion Institute. These institutions educate and inspire the next generation of designers, artists, filmmakers, technologists and creative entrepreneurs. This talent base underpins a growing community of creative businesses across the Corridor and wider city, such as Epic Games and PUMA.

Research and practice are deeply embedded within Manchester Metropolitan University's creative disciplines, spanning art and design, digital media, fashion, performance and cultural production. Through applied research, industry partnerships and knowledge exchange, Manchester Met plays a leading role in shaping the future of the creative economy. The University of Manchester's Creative Manchester research platform complements this activity by connecting creativity with wider research and public engagement. This depth of practice-based research, education and enterprise sustains a vibrant creative cluster on the Corridor.

"Being surrounded by such a strong line up of industry was an important factor, and to find somewhere in the heart of Manchester's thriving tech community is exactly what we hoped for. Being based at Circle Square will also open up a host of opportunities to tap into the city's creative talent pool and strengthen our existing links with academic partners like Manchester Metropolitan University"

Lucynda Davies
UK Managing Director, PUMA

Transport, Infrastructure and Gateways

Connecting People, Places and Innovation

The Oxford Road Corridor benefits from outstanding connectivity, served by three of Manchester's railway stations, Piccadilly, Oxford Road and Deansgate, alongside the St Peter's Square and Deansgate-Castlefield Metrolink stops. This accessibility anchors the Corridor within the city region's transport network, supporting the daily movement of residents, workers, visitors and students.

The planned upgrade of Manchester Piccadilly Station will have a major impact on the Corridor and the wider city, reinforcing its role as a key national gateway and supporting long-term economic growth.

Located at the north-eastern edge of the Corridor, Piccadilly is a key point of arrival. Its redevelopment provides an opportunity to improve connectivity between the Corridor, the city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, strengthening access to the city and beyond.

Alongside Piccadilly, the redevelopment of Oxford Road Station represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve one of Manchester's most important gateways.

As well as expanding capacity and enhancing the passenger experience, the scheme will unlock wider regeneration benefits for the surrounding area.

PROJECT FOCUS

Manchester Piccadilly: a national gateway for knowledge, innovation and growth

The transformation of Manchester Piccadilly Station represents a major national transport investment. It is a pivotal opportunity to reshape Manchester's national role and redefine how the Oxford Road Corridor connects to the rest of the country.

As the North's principal rail gateway, a renewed Piccadilly, including the potential introduction of underground platforms and through-station capacity, would fundamentally improve east–west and north–south connectivity. This enhanced capacity would better link Manchester with other major UK knowledge centres across the North and beyond, enabling the station to function as the "King's Cross of the North", where world-class infrastructure underpins innovation, investment and growth. Piccadilly's role as a core hub within Northern Powerhouse Rail will be central to this transformation, strengthening connections across the North and supporting the development of a high-performing northern growth arc, including the new rail line between Manchester and Liverpool.

For the Oxford Road Corridor, the implications are significant. Faster, more reliable and higher-capacity rail services, including improved links to Manchester Airport, combined with Piccadilly's role as a key station on the proposed Northern Powerhouse Rail network, would bring the Corridor within easier reach of national and international partners and strengthen accessibility for globally mobile businesses, students, researchers and visitors.

Piccadilly Station's redevelopment is also a catalyst for placemaking. By stitching together Piccadilly, Mayfield and the Oxford Road Corridor, it can unlock new development opportunities, improve movement and legibility, and create a stronger sense of arrival. In an increasingly competitive global landscape, the investment at Manchester Piccadilly will help position the Corridor, and the city, as a nationally significant engine of innovation and inclusive growth.

Transport, Infrastructure and Gateways

Connecting People, Places and Innovation

The Oxford Road Corridor partners have a strong record of delivering transport and placemaking projects that support sustainable growth.
The Oxford Road cycleway, developed collaboratively through the partnership and led by Transport for Greater Manchester, has been transformative, creating segregated cycle lanes, reducing general traffic and encouraging more people to travel actively.
The scheme has helped to create a safer, greener and more attractive environment for pedestrians and cyclists, while improving access along one of the busiest routes in the city.

It also enabled the development of Brunswick Park, which has created the largest green space on The University of Manchester's campus. The park provides an important east–west connection between Upper Brook Street and Oxford Road, improving permeability and providing safe routes for walking and cycling. These projects demonstrate how coordinated investment in sustainable transport and the public realm can deliver wider environmental and placemaking benefits. More than a million cycle journeys are now made along the Corridor each year, and the area records the highest use of the Starling Bank hire bikes anywhere in the city region.

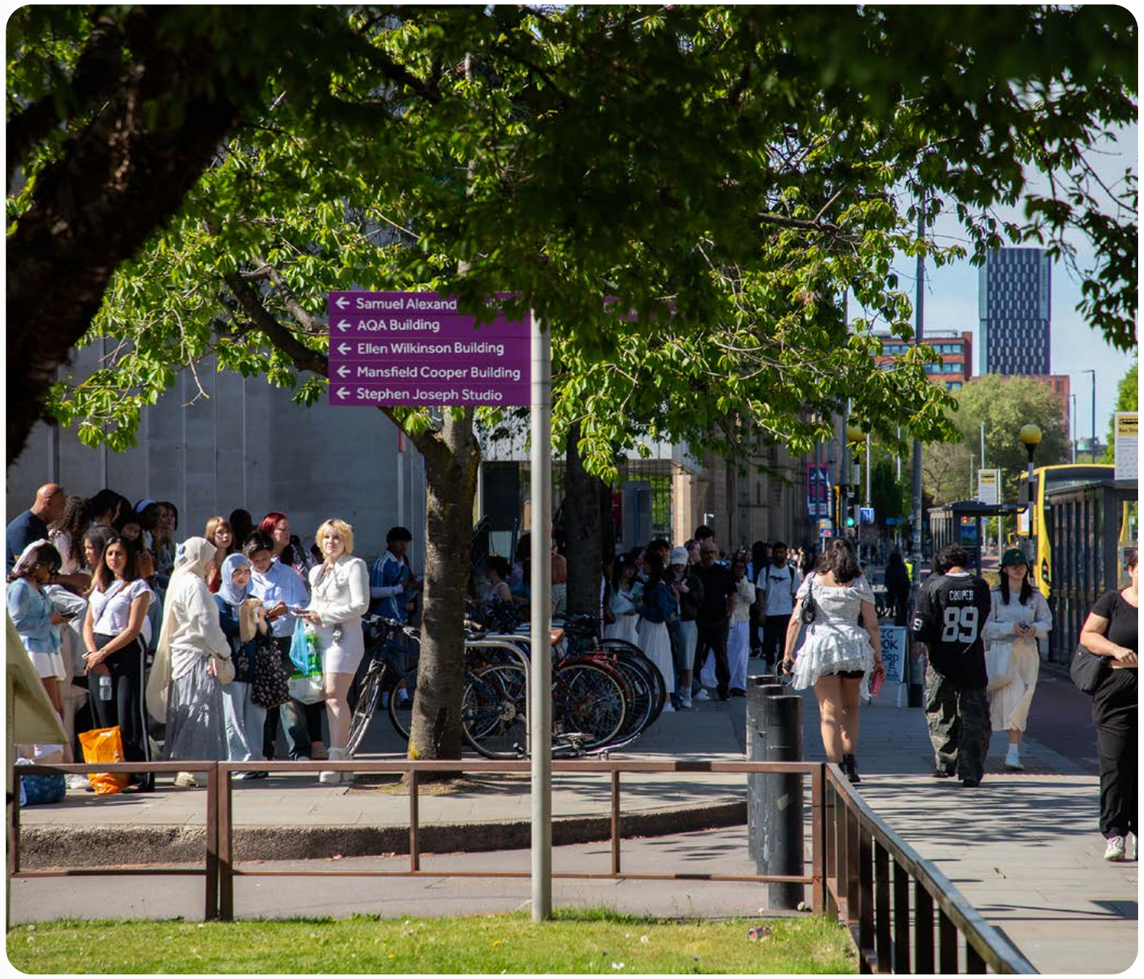
Investment in high-quality public realm through projects such as University Green, developed by The University of Manchester, All Saints Park at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Bruntwood's Symphony Park at Circle Square has created welcoming places to meet, rest and connect, reinforcing the green spine running through the area.

As the Corridor has evolved into a dense and complex knowledge quarter, partners have recognised that successful places depend not only on major development and investment, but also on how people move through, understand and experience the area. Subtle, people-centred interventions now complement larger infrastructure projects, such as a consistent family of Oxford Road Corridor branded street signage. These types of interventions help stitch campuses, streets and spaces into a more coherent whole, improving everyday navigation and reinforcing a shared sense of identity while respecting the individuality of each institution.

"The Oxford Road scheme has created a well-connected and enhanced space not just for cycling but for walking and wheeling too, with safer crossing points, more greenery, better bus stops and places for people to sit.

These record-breaking numbers show that if you build high-quality, safe active travel infrastructure, people will use it or, to put it simply, it works."

Dame Sarah Storey
Active Travel Commissioner



Future-ready infrastructure

There is now an opportunity to build on this progress by better connecting green spaces and key destinations, creating a clearer network of routes across the Corridor. Strengthening legibility and arrival through improved wayfinding, coordinated branding and carefully designed public realm will support both first-time visitors and those who use the area daily.

The Corridor is a key route in the City Centre Transport Strategy and also forms part of the CyanLines project. Planned improvements to Whitworth Street will deliver a more direct and attractive pedestrian and cycle route between Piccadilly Station and Oxford Road, supported by junction upgrades at Sackville Street, Brook Street and Charles Street. Work is also planned to improve the safety and environment of the Cambridge Street underpass, creating a more welcoming and better-lit route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Enhancing east–west connections remains a shared priority, ensuring investment benefits neighbouring communities such as Hulme, Ardwick, Moss Side and Longsight. The Ardwick Climate Action Green Route demonstrates how community-led projects can create greener, healthier neighbourhoods while reinforcing the Corridor's wider movement network.

Beyond transport, there is a shared ambition to ensure that the Corridor continues to provide world-class digital connectivity and to explore opportunities for low-carbon energy infrastructure, including district heat networks. The scale and intensity of research, clinical and commercial activity within the Corridor requires resilient utilities and coordinated estate planning. Partners will work together to align development and infrastructure delivery at a district scale, reducing emissions, improving efficiency and supporting sustainable long-term growth.

Southern Gateway

Spatial Focus

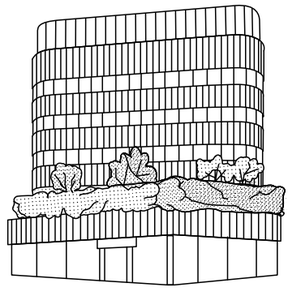
A focus on the Corridor's southern gateway represents one of the most significant opportunities for the area and for Manchester as a whole. Anchored by the Manchester Science Park and the Citylabs campus, this area brings together world-class health, life sciences and technology assets within walking distance of The University of Manchester and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust — one of the largest NHS trusts in the UK. The proximity of these institutions creates a uniquely powerful environment for collaboration between research, clinical practice and industry, accelerating innovation and supporting national priorities for health and economic growth.

There is a clear opportunity to strengthen geographic and functional connections between the Oxford Road Corridor and the nearby assets located to the south, including The Christie and Wythenshawe Hospitals, MIX MANCHESTER, Manchester Airport and the wider city-region health economy. This alignment brings together clinical excellence, research, innovation and global connectivity, strengthening the Corridor's international reach and positioning the southern gateway as central to its future impact.

The area already hosts a thriving cluster of health and life sciences businesses, from global names such as QIAGEN to innovative start-ups and spin-outs. This ecosystem will be further strengthened in 2026 when UK Biobank relocates to Manchester Science Park — a landmark investment that will enhance the UK's global leadership in health data and genomics.

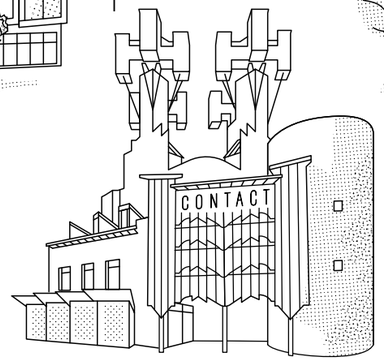
The area is also home to major national research assets, including the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility, and The University of Manchester's Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology, which brings together expertise in digital, engineering and clinical innovation to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Greenheys
HQ of UK Biobank



Bright Building
Digital & tech business hub

Contact
Arts venue and theatre



The Whitworth
Art gallery and park

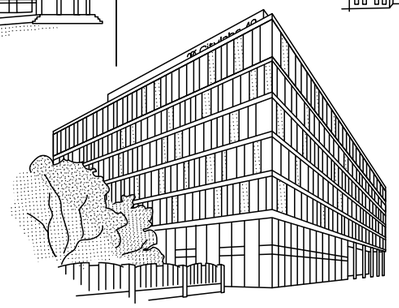
Running east–west through this part of the Corridor is an exceptional concentration of cultural venues and heritage assets. These include Contact and the Manchester Academy music venues, together with listed buildings such as the Whitworth, Victoria Baths, Elizabeth Gaskell's House and The Pankhurst Museum. They are complemented by green spaces such as Whitworth Park and Swinton Grove Park, forming a vital civic and cultural heart for the surrounding communities and the wider city. Heritage landmarks, including the Grade I listed Holy Name Church, provide a rich architectural setting for sensitive, high-quality development.

The southern gateway also presents major opportunities for placemaking. There is clear potential to improve the quality of the public realm and create more legible connections between the Science Park, Citylabs and neighbouring institutions. Enhanced wayfinding and new active-travel routes can better link these innovation campuses with adjacent residential areas, helping residents from Hulme, Rusholme, Moss Side, Ardwick and Longsight to access the opportunities created here.

Within this context, the Greenheys Lane West and Old Birley Street site in Hulme exemplifies the area's commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth. This residential-led development will place community at its heart, combining new homes with public space and commercial opportunities to create a highly sustainable scheme that complements and enhances the Hulme neighbourhood and the wider southern gateway. Located on the doorstep of Manchester Science Park, it will help knit together the emerging health innovation campus and surrounding communities, supporting local employment, enterprise and social value.

Significant growth potential has been identified through the Manchester Science Park Strategic Regeneration Framework, the former Elizabeth Gaskell Campus, and the expansion of the Citylabs campus — as set out in the Oxford Road Corridor Strategic Spatial Framework and supporting guidance. By aligning investment and estate plans across partners, there is a shared opportunity to create a welcoming, green and accessible environment that reflects the world-class health research and care taking place in this part of the Corridor. Over the next decade, the southern gateway can evolve into a globally recognised health innovation campus — driving inclusive growth, attracting new investment, and delivering tangible benefits for the city and its neighbouring communities.

Citylabs 4.0
A world-class hub for health innovation



Manchester Royal Infirmary
Major teaching hospital providing regional and national specialist services

Victoria Baths
Heritage building and cultural venue

Culture

Culture has always been central to the Oxford Road Corridor's character and influence.

This is a place where ideas, creativity and social purpose come together. It is home to some of Manchester's most significant cultural and educational institutions, and to a vibrant community of artists, performers and creative businesses.

The Corridor's cultural story mirrors Manchester's own: a tradition of radical thinking, self-expression and innovation that continues to shape how the city is seen around the world. From the literary legacy of Elizabeth Gaskell and Anthony Burgess to today's thriving performance, visual art and music scenes, culture along the Corridor reflects the city's ability to reinvent itself while remaining rooted in its people and place.

The area's museums, galleries, theatres and music venues form one of the strongest cultural clusters in the UK. Manchester Museum, the Whitworth, HOME, Contact, the Royal Northern College of Music and the Palace Theatre sit alongside smaller independent venues, studios and creative enterprises that sustain a diverse and dynamic cultural economy

These organisations not only attract audiences and investment but also play an essential role in education, skills and innovation — contributing to Manchester's reputation as a city of ideas.

The universities and cultural institutions together provide one of the richest pipelines of creative talent and research in the country. Manchester Metropolitan University's leading concentration of creative disciplines — spanning the School of Art, the School of Digital Arts, the Fashion Institute, the Writing School and the School of Theatre — sits alongside the Royal Northern College of Music and the University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester research platform. Together they nurture the next generation of artists, producers and thinkers.

Their work also fuels innovation across other sectors, from digital and design to health and materials science, reinforcing the Corridor's reputation as a place where creativity and knowledge intersect.

> "…that long and winding road with its million stories from Marx to Madchester, from splitting the atom to forging Oasis, from the world's first computer to the latest new band that have all made it the main artery for Manchester culture.
>
> This is a road where the ebb and flow of music that changed the world has been at the heart and soul of the sound and vision for decades"
>
> **John Robb**
> *Musician, author, & music journalist*

Teke::Teke performing at Manchester Psych Fest 2023
Credit – Psych Fest / Der Fotoautomat

Culture

The Corridor's long tradition of integrating art and culture with health dates back to pioneering work by artists and researchers at Manchester School of Art in the 1970s. This helped inspire what has become a global movement.

Research and programmes developed by the Whitworth, Manchester Museum, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and university partners demonstrate how culture can improve wellbeing, inclusion and recovery. These collaborations show how creativity can be harnessed to address social challenges and enhance quality of life.

The Corridor's cultural institutions are outward-looking and globally connected. Through touring exhibitions, artistic exchanges and international partnerships, they project Manchester's identity onto the global stage while bringing international perspectives back to the city. This internationalism underlines the Corridor's role as a gateway for cultural connection and collaboration.

Culture has a powerful influence on how the Corridor looks and feels. Public art, outdoor performance and festivals have helped to animate the area and bring people together. The next decade offers an opportunity to embed culture more deliberately in placemaking and new development. This includes activating public spaces and building stronger links between cultural venues and the businesses, institutions and communities around them.

By aligning programming, marketing and investment, the Corridor can amplify its cultural reach, attract visitors and talent, and ensure that creativity continues to drive inclusive and sustainable growth across key sectors.

"A major part of my work is about raising consciousness. We often refer to Manchester as Cottonopolis. We roam up and down Oxford Road without really understanding the history of the buildings towering over us.

There is no better place for me to pick to start telling the full story of Manchester. The place where money, business, knowledge, culture, people, heritage, power run through this city. Countless historical moments have happened on this glorious Corridor"

Keisha Thompson
Scott Trust Programme Manager (Manchester)
Legacies of Enslavement Programme

Culture on the Corridor is more than a reflection of place — it is one of its most powerful assets. It enriches daily life, inspires innovation and connects Manchester's people, ideas and stories with the world.

PROJECT FOCUS

HOME Arches is a £3.5 million artist development hub located in three transformed heritage railway arches dedicated to supporting creative talent.

The facility offers over 5,000 hours of free studio, rehearsal, and development space each year for artists and creative freelancers. Importantly, 50% of the space is reserved for artists from underrepresented groups, including members of the Global Majority, d/Deaf and disabled artists, and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. This commitment helps democratise access to the arts and encourages a more diverse and inclusive creative community.

By providing high-quality, free-to-use facilities, HOME Arches plays a key role in artist development — enabling experimentation, collaboration, and the creation of new work. It serves as the "Engine Room" for HOME's artist development programme, which supports over 1,000 artists annually. The hub also underpins flagship events like PUSH Festival, offering workshops, talks, and skills-sharing opportunities.

Development

The Story So Far

Over the past two decades, the Oxford Road Corridor has undergone a transformation on a remarkable scale.

Major public and private investment has redefined the area's skyline, turning former institutional and brownfield sites into world-class spaces for research, business and learning.

Development has been shaped by the Oxford Road Corridor Strategic Spatial Framework and Guidance document, alongside a suite of site-specific Strategic Regeneration Frameworks (SRFs) adopted by Manchester City Council. Together, they have guided delivery at pace and scale, ensuring that growth is coordinated, sustainable and aligned with the wider joint strategic vision for the area.

Developments such as Citylabs 1.0, a joint venture between Bruntwood SciTech and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, have transformed the Grade II listed former Manchester Royal Eye Hospital into a home for life science and diagnostics companies alongside clinical and academic research, becoming a national exemplar of NHS–industry collaboration.

Circle Square, developed by Bruntwood SciTech and Vita Group on the former BBC site, has emerged as a vibrant mixed-use neighbourhood and home to a growing cluster of tech and creative businesses.

The transformation of First Street by Ask Developments, anchored by HOME — formed from the merger of the Cornerhouse, an Oxford Road cultural institution, and the Library Theatre — has brought together new commercial offices and residential development, breathing new life into the north-western edge of the Corridor and creating a key gateway to the city centre.

Manchester Science Park, owned by Manchester Science Partnerships and operated by Bruntwood SciTech, has seen the delivery of flagship developments, the Bright Building and BASE, creating a home for a thriving cluster of science and digital businesses.

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust's extensive capital programmes have modernised its hospitals and transformed its research infrastructure. The University of Manchester has delivered landmark facilities such as the National Graphene Institute, the Henry Royce Institute, the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC), the Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology Research and Innovation, and the Nancy Rothwell Building, while Manchester Metropolitan University has delivered new buildings such as the School of Digital Arts (SODA), the Dalton Building, the Institute of Sport, Manchester School of Art Lowry Building, and expanded its estate through the Birley Fields Campus.

These investments have reinforced the Corridor's reputation for research and teaching excellence across science, health and creativity.

While the transformation of the past two decades has been substantial, the next phase of growth will be even more consequential. The coming decade will determine not only how the Corridor responds to national priorities around health, innovation, skills and sustainability, but how it shapes them, and how its benefits are shared more widely across Manchester and the city region.

Key Future Projects

The next wave of development presents an unprecedented opportunity to build on two decades of success. It will harness the collective strength of the partners to drive further transformation. The scale, ambition and concentration of planned projects will position the Oxford Road Corridor among the world's leading knowledge quarters.

Sister

The most significant single development opportunity within the Corridor, part of the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy Zone, Sister is being delivered in partnership between The University of Manchester and Bruntwood SciTech. Occupying the university's former North Campus site, the project spans more than four million square feet of potential new development, creating a world-class environment for science, technology and enterprise. Sister will provide over 2 million square feet of flexible workspace, high-specification laboratories, residential and leisure uses, all set within a new network of streets and public spaces that connect seamlessly into the city centre and wider knowledge quarter. The development represents one of the largest innovation-led regeneration projects in Europe and will strengthen Manchester's global reputation for discovery, collaboration and commercialisation.

Former Elizabeth Gaskell Campus

A 1.9-hectare site currently owned by Nuffield Health, the site will be an employment-led development, leveraging its clear advantages in terms of location and scale. The primary focus will be on buildings that support the commercialisation of health research and life sciences, alongside wider science, technology and innovation activity. The site's setting provides scope for high-quality workspace, laboratories and supporting amenities within a green, walkable and well-connected environment, contributing to the creation of a distinctive southern gateway to the Corridor.

Upper Brook Street

A 4.3 hectare site along the eastern boundary of the Oxford Road Corridor, located immediately south of Sister. The site is part of the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy Zone and will support employment-led mixed-use development, expanding capacity for research, innovation and commercial activity while improving east–west connectivity. The first plot, Plus Ultra, being brought forward by Kadans Science Partner, will deliver over 200,000 square feet of state-of-the-art life sciences laboratory and office space.

Citylabs Campus

Building on the success of Citylabs 1.0 and 2.0, Citylabs 4.0, which opened in 2025, extends the site south from the hospital campus. Located in close proximity to Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust's teaching hospitals and major health research centres — including the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility — the Citylabs developments are uniquely positioned to integrate clinical excellence with commercial innovation. Future phases will strengthen Manchester's global reputation in health innovation, supporting the growth of diagnostics, genomics and medical technology businesses alongside world-class clinical research.

↑ *UK Biobank, Manchester Science Park*

Manchester Science Park

Building on its long-established success, the Science Park, an 8.8-hectare site, continues to evolve as a hub for science, engineering and digital technology firms, offering flexible laboratory and office space within an expanded and connected campus. The next phase includes the Greenheys redevelopment, which will be home to UK Biobank, alongside placemaking interventions to enhance the public realm and improve connectivity across the site.

First Street

The GPA First Street Hub, which will be home to around 2,600 civil servants, marks a major addition to the area's employment base. The former Salvation Army site, forming the final phase of the First Street masterplan, is a 1-hectare site owned by Manchester City Council and located close to Manchester Metropolitan University's new state-of-the-art Science and Engineering Campus. It will deliver new commercial and residential development, enhance the public realm, and improve links between the city centre, Deansgate and the Oxford Road Corridor.

Greenheys Lane West & Old Birley Street, Hulme

A 1.1-hectare housing development site on the corner of Greenheys Lane West and Old Birley Street. The development will have community at its heart — alongside residential accommodation there will be public space and commercial opportunities to create a highly sustainable scheme that complements and enhances the Hulme neighbourhood.

Partners' Estates Plans

Significant partner investment is already committed, which will leverage substantial private capital. Working together, and with national and city-regional government, partners aim to unlock and accelerate development across priority sites, ensuring the benefits of growth are widely shared.

Collectively, these projects will deliver a sustainable and well-connected environment that enables innovation to flourish, strengthens community connections and reinforces the Corridor's global reputation for collaboration and excellence.

The University of Manchester

Over the last decade, the University of Manchester has delivered a significant programme of investment that has reshaped its campus and the wider Oxford Road Corridor. Through successive estates strategies and campus masterplanning, the University has consolidated its estate, invested in high-quality academic and research facilities, and improved sustainability and accessibility, supporting a more open and connected campus with stronger links to surrounding communities, businesses and innovation assets.

In addition to the University's role in bringing forward Sister, as highlighted earlier in this document, the University is currently developing its next infrastructure strategy, which will be completed following the launch of this strategy. This will provide a detailed spatial and investment framework for the years ahead and will be shaped by the University's wider Strategy to 2035, including the development of a more integrated digital campus.

A number of emerging priorities for the coming decade align strongly with the Oxford Road Corridor's ambition to place greater emphasis on the southern gateway. In particular, the University anticipates significant investment in its health and life sciences estate over the next ten years, supporting research, clinical education and innovation while improving sustainability, accessibility and the quality of the surrounding public realm. This investment offers a key opportunity to help reshape the southern gateway, enhancing movement, legibility and connections between the University, the NHS campus, Manchester Science Park and the wider Corridor.

There is also longer-term opportunity associated with the renewal or redevelopment of key student residential assets within the University's estate. Over time, this investment could play an important role in strengthening the southern gateway, supporting more active frontages, enhanced permeability and stronger physical and visual connections between the Corridor, adjacent green spaces and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Sustainability will be a defining principle of the University's future estate. Building on the delivery of Phase 1 of its Sustainability Strategy, the next phase of investment will include further large-scale retrofit and refurbishment projects, supporting the decarbonisation of existing assets and demonstrating leadership in low-carbon improvement of complex operational buildings.

These emerging priorities position the University as a key partner in shaping the area over the next decade. Over this period, the University anticipates investing around £1bn across its estate, including major programmes of infrastructure, digital and energy investment, and large-scale building renewal. As its next infrastructure strategy is finalised, there will be clear opportunities to align this investment with Corridor-wide ambitions, ensuring this part of the Corridor evolves into a more connected, legible and welcoming gateway befitting a world-class knowledge quarter.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University's vision and strategy is to deliver excellent education and impactful research, seeking to transform lives. The University seeks to build on its vibrant position in the city and deliver the benefits of its academic excellence locally, nationally and internationally. To strengthen its position in an increasingly competitive environment, the University is committed to significant investment in its campus and estate to support its academic ambitions and enhance the student experience.

The proposed new seven-storey c.£160m library development will be the University's largest single investment to date, with completion targeted for Autumn 2030.

Occupying a prominent position on Oxford Road, the new Library will replace the existing All Saints East building and serve as a gateway to the University's campus, symbolising ambition, excellence and innovation. It will provide wrap-around services and active learning spaces, enhancing both the University's and the Oxford Road profile.

Options are also being explored for the demolition and redevelopment of the John Dalton East. Originally built in the 1970s, there is the opportunity to significantly increase site massing in line with developments such as Circle Square. This mixed-use scheme will improve the commercial offer and expand teaching and research capacity. Following the Library's completion in 2030, John Dalton East will close to enable this redevelopment to progress, which is anticipated to realise a development value in excess of £400m.

Built in 1996, Geoffrey Manton will feature in the University's updated Estates Strategy for investment and adaptation to meet modern standards. Plans include facade upgrades, potential additional storeys, and internal remodelling, with an estimated investment of around £50m.

The University has entered into a joint venture with Unite Students to redevelop the 1990s-built Cambridge Halls. The new c.£390m development will offer 2,300 modern student bedrooms, with improved community spaces along Cambridge Street, enhanced shared public realm and designated cycle and pedestrian routes. The scheme will improve permeability on campus, connect to local communities and complement the University's recent investment in the transformation of All Saints Park.

The University remains aligned with Manchester City Council's policy on local labour and social value, embedding these principles into procurement and tender processes. Its approach prioritises local suppliers, SMEs, and VCSEs to drive regional economic growth, sustainability, and community development. It will also incorporate social value indicators into major contracts, creating opportunities for employment, training, placements, and internships for students and local communities.

Across these and other projects within its updated Estates Strategy and Campus Masterplan, the University anticipates a total capital investment in excess of £700m over the next decade, contributing significantly to construction-related economic impacts and supporting the Oxford Road Corridor's continued growth.

Partners' Estates Plans

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust's Oxford Road Campus is home to Manchester Royal Infirmary, Saint Mary's Hospital, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and the University Dental Hospital of Manchester, forming one of the largest and most complex acute hospital campuses in the UK. A major redevelopment of the campus was completed in 2009, following a four-year, phased programme of investment of approximately £500 million. This transformation delivered modern, purpose-built facilities and established the foundations for the campus's ongoing role in clinical excellence, research and innovation.

MFT's Estates and Facilities Strategy 2023–2028 sets out a clear vision for the Oxford Road Campus as a modern, digitally enabled and sustainable health campus that supports economic growth, partnership working and innovation alongside high-quality patient care. The strategy recognises the role of the estate in enabling collaboration between the NHS, universities and industry, supporting clinical research and contributing to the wider health and life sciences economy of the Oxford Road Corridor.

It also places emphasis on the quality of the clinical environment, recognising the role of arts, culture and design in supporting wellbeing, recovery and inclusion, enhancing patient and staff experience, and contributing to a welcoming and distinctive sense of place across the campus.

The Trust is currently part-way through delivery of this programme, with confirmed schemes representing investment in excess of £105 million, alongside further projects progressing through development and costing. This investment is focused on improving the condition, safety and functionality of core clinical buildings, addressing backlog maintenance and supporting evolving models of care.

Digital capability already plays a central role in how the estate is managed and planned. MFT has delivered a smart-estate platform, including a live digital twin across its hospital sites, providing an integrated view of assets, space and building information to support compliance, safety and capital planning, with further development planned through the current strategy period and beyond.

MFT operates one of the largest pathology laboratory services in the UK, undertaking more than 21 million tests each year, supported by specialist expertise and close integration between clinical practice, research and education. This innovation ecosystem is further enabled through the Citylabs developments, delivered via a long-standing joint venture with Bruntwood, which has created nationally significant space for clinical research, health innovation and collaboration between the NHS, universities and industry.

Decarbonisation is a key priority, including energy efficiency measures and exploration of low-carbon heat networks aligned with NHS net zero ambitions. In parallel, MFT is beginning to consider longer-term estate requirements beyond 2028, including the future role of the University Dental Hospital and the expansion of the Citylabs campus, as part of the Oxford Road Campus's long-term development.

Inclusive Growth

People Focus

The Oxford Road Corridor Strategy has been shaped by the principles of the *Our Manchester Strategy*, which places residents and communities at the heart of the city's future. This approach recognises that long-term success depends not only on investment and growth, but also on understanding how the city is experienced by the people who live here and ensuring that the benefits of growth are felt more widely.

Engagement took place across neighbourhoods surrounding the Corridor, including Rusholme, Hulme, Moss Side and Ardwick. Through community discussions and local activities, residents were invited to share what they value about the area and what they would like to see improved as the Corridor continues to evolve.

Residents consistently expressed pride in the Corridor's identity and its contribution to Manchester's wider character. Feedback highlighted the area's cultural richness, diversity and openness, alongside the presence of world-class universities and research institutions.

These perspectives reinforce the importance of the Corridor not only as an economic engine, but as a lived place that reflects Manchester's values, including creativity, academic excellence, inclusion and civic pride.

"I live in Hulme, just a stone's throw from Oxford Road. From my home studio, I can see the zigzag of headlights and hear the low hum of the Mancunian Way. Though I grew up in the suburbs, I've lived and worked in Hulme for 20 years.

My dad was born just two streets away. My grandad worked on building the Crescents, and my dad played around Leaf Street Baths and Little Ireland. He later studied computer programming at Manchester Met in the '90s. He would have loved that I'm making a sound piece about machine learning, just down the road from the birthplace of modern computing"

Vicky Clarke
Artist

Residents also highlighted the need for continued improvements to the physical environment, including the quality of streets, public spaces and connections between the Corridor and surrounding neighbourhoods. Wider concerns were raised around the cost of living, including access to affordable homes.

Embedding the *Our Manchester* approach demonstrates a commitment to ongoing dialogue with communities, and resident insight has informed priorities around inclusive growth and place-shaping.

Across the Corridor, partners work with local schools, colleges and community organisations to raise awareness of education, skills and employment opportunities, helping connect local residents with the investment and economic activity taking place in the area.

The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University play a leading role in supporting access to education and opportunity for local communities. Both institutions work extensively with schools and colleges across Manchester through outreach and widening participation programmes that raise aspirations and support progression into higher education. This work helps ensure that more young people from Manchester are able to develop the skills and qualifications needed to pursue careers and access opportunities being created on the Corridor and across the city.

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust provides opportunities for local residents through clinical career pathways, apprenticeships and workforce development programmes. Working with schools, colleges and local partners, the Trust introduces young people to careers in healthcare and research while building awareness of the wide range of roles within the NHS. These initiatives help local residents develop skills and access employment while supporting the future workforce needed across Manchester's health and life sciences sector.

The Royal Northern College of Music engages local communities through performances, learning programmes and outreach activity. Working with schools and community groups across Manchester, RNCM introduces young people to music and performance while ensuring its cultural programme remains accessible to local audiences.

In addition to RNCM, the Corridor's wider cultural organisations play an important role in engaging with local communities. Through exhibitions, performances, festivals, workshops and family programmes, these organisations create accessible opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience culture, creativity and learning. Their programmes often act as a gateway for residents and visitors to engage with the Corridor's institutions and spaces, bringing people together and helping to build connections across communities.

Bruntwood supports social impact activity that connects its business and development activity with surrounding communities. This includes work insight opportunities, placements and engagement with young people and early career talent to introduce them to careers linked to the built environment and innovation economy. Through the development of Sister, Bruntwood is also working with partners to support collaboration, skills development and community engagement, helping local people connect with the science and technology sectors located within the Corridor. They also work with charities and community organisations across Manchester, providing funding, volunteering and in-kind support that strengthens local networks.

Looking ahead, Corridor partners will build on existing programmes and partnerships to support pathways into education, skills and employment, while continuing to strengthen connections between local communities and the opportunities created within the area.

Strategic Context

National

The Oxford Road Corridor aligns with the *UK's Modern Industrial Strategy*. It brings universities, the NHS, business and the public sector together as a single, high-performing ecosystem, accelerating research, commercialisation and skills development. It supports delivery of the *10 Year Health Plan for England* through faster healthcare innovation, better prevention and earlier diagnosis.

The government's *Northern Growth Strategy* reinforces the Corridor's long-term ambitions. Its focus on the strength of the North's city regions, innovation clusters and research institutions, alongside major infrastructure investment, supports the Corridor's role as a nationally significant location for growth, productivity and innovation.

Manchester and City Region

At city and city-region level, the Corridor plays a pivotal role in delivering the *Greater Manchester Strategy 2025–2035*, acting as a key growth location within the regional centre and the Industrial Strategy Zone. It underpins Manchester's *Investing in Success* and *Our Manchester 2025–2035* strategies, driving productivity, attracting investment and supporting high-value employment across key sectors.

The next phase of development will ensure this success is shared more widely — creating pathways into quality jobs, connecting communities, nurturing diverse talent and embedding sustainability. Guided by the *Oxford Road Corridor Strategic Spatial Framework,* partners are coordinating long-term investment, development and placemaking delivered at pace and scale.

Future Impact

15,800 jobs

£1.9bn GVA per annum

An independent assessment has been undertaken[14] to evaluate the economic impact of the Strategy, based on those sites where sufficient information is currently available. As a result, the findings are likely to present a conservative estimate, with additional growth expected as emerging schemes are developed in greater detail. The assessment indicates that the Strategy will support around 15,800 additional jobs generating £1.9 billion in GVA per annum. Alongside this, the development pipeline will support significant numbers of construction jobs – 2,200 per annum, generating around £280 million GVA per annum.

References

[1] 104,050 total employees, 2021 super output area lower level, Business Register and Employment Survey 2024. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 November 2025]

[2] UK small area gross value added estimates, 2023. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 18 March 2026]

[3] 6,265 businesses in best fit MSOA – UK Business Counts – enterprise by industry and employment size band 2025. Weighting applied to better reflect footprint and additional postcode level analysis using FAME (Moody's formerly from Bureau van Dijk), business rate data, and LSOA Census 2021 self-employment data.

[4] Life Sciences in Greater Manchester: Opportunities for attracting inward investment, April 2025, strategy&PwC.

[5] Business Register and Employment Survey: open access, 2024, employees count measure, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 6 November 2025]

[6] MFT clinical research study portfolio. Delivering Change Together, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Research and Innovation Annual Report, 2023-2024.

[7,8,9] Academic year 2024/2025. HE student enrolments by HE provider. DT051 Table 1, Table 28. Table 49, HESA.

[10] Design, and creative and performing arts. Table 49 - HE student enrolments by HE provider and subject of study, /www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-49. Academic Year 2023/24. Additional data received from BIMM and Manchester Metropolitan University.

[11,12] Oxford Road Corridor Cultural Impact Assessment, Ekosgen 2025.

[13] 1,376,636 journeys recorded on counters located at the southern gateway, 2024, TfGM's Network Monitoring Reports.

[14] Oxford Road Corridor 2026 to 2036 Growth Estimates, GC Insight, February 2026.

Glossary

Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) — The University of Manchester's triple-accredited business school and the UK's largest campus-based business school.

Ardwick Green Route — A community-led initiative creating a greener walking route through Ardwick. Developed by Ardwick Climate Action with local residents and University of Manchester researchers, it aims to improve air quality and encourage walking.

BASE (at Manchester Science Park) — A hub for Industry 4.0 businesses including computer engineering, energy technology and low carbon, robotics, light manufacturing, materials science, gaming and animation.

BIMM University (Manchester campus) — A specialist higher education provider delivering industry-focused courses in music performance, production and music business.

Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) — Manchester NIHR Biomedical Research Centre is the largest Biomedical Research Centre outside the South East of England, translating scientific breakthroughs into diagnostic tests and life-saving treatments.

Bridgewater Hall — Manchester's international concert venue and home of the Hallé Orchestra.

Bright Building — A purpose-built digital and technology workspace at Manchester Science Park.

Castlefield Gallery — A contemporary art gallery and artist development organisation established in 1984.

Central Library (Manchester Central Library) — The second-largest public lending library in England, with significant archives and special collections.

Christabel Pankhurst Institute — The University of Manchester's centre for health technology research and innovation, working in partnership with Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, industry and local government.

Circle Square — A major mixed-use development by Bruntwood SciTech and Vita Group on the former BBC site.

Citylabs 1.0, 2.0 and 4.0 — A purpose-built clinical and commercial innovation campus located on the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust Oxford Road hospital site.

Clinical Research Facility (CRF) — Manchester NIHR Clinical Research Facility supporting experimental medicine research and translation into practice.

Contact — A charity, arts venue and theatre inspiring creativity in young people and communities.

Creative Manchester — A University of Manchester research platform bringing together interdisciplinary expertise in arts, humanities and creative disciplines to drive collaboration, culture and innovation.

CyanLines — An initiative to link and transform Manchester's green and blue spaces.

Dalton Nuclear Institute — The University of Manchester institute bringing together nuclear research expertise.

Elizabeth Gaskell's House — A historic house museum celebrating the life and literature of Elizabeth Gaskell.

Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health (The University of Manchester) — One of the UK's largest medical education programmes delivering research closely integrated with clinical care across the Oxford Road hospital campus.

Faculty of Health and Education (Manchester Metropolitan University) — Based primarily at the Brooks Building (Birley campus), specialising in health, psychology, social care, teacher education and early years.

Faculty of Humanities (The University of Manchester) — Comprises four distinct schools and is home to over 21,000 students and 1,600 academic staff.

Faculty of Science and Engineering (Manchester Metropolitan University) — Located primarily in the John Dalton Building, advancing STEM research, teaching and industry partnerships.

Faculty of Science and Engineering (The University of Manchester) — Located in the Nancy Rothwell Building, bringing together engineering disciplines across the University and delivering research, innovation and teaching in advanced engineering and technology.

First Street — A mixed-use neighbourhood in the Corridor's north-west corner, home to HOME, commercial workspace, residential development and public realm.

Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC) — The University of Manchester facility supporting commercialisation of graphene and other 2D materials.

Health Innovation Manchester (HInM) — Greater Manchester's academic health science and innovation system, accelerating the adoption of research, digital tools and new technologies into health and social care.

Henry Royce Institute — The UK's national institute for advanced materials research and innovation.

HOME — Manchester's contemporary arts centre with theatres, cinemas and gallery space.

ID Manchester — The former name for the innovation district development now branded as Sister, launched as a joint venture between The University of Manchester and Bruntwood SciTech.

International Anthony Burgess Foundation — A literary centre celebrating the life and work of Anthony Burgess and hosting performances, events and a significant literary archive.

International Centre for Advanced Materials, The University of Manchester — A partnership between bp and selected globally leading universities to enable the effective application of advanced materials for the transition to net zero.

Invest Manchester — Greater Manchester's inward investment agency, formerly MIDAS, attracting investment and supporting businesses to establish and expand in the city region.

Lime Arts — Award-winning arts and health organisation delivering creative programmes in hospital and community healthcare settings.

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) — An NIHR-designated partnership within Health Innovation Manchester, accelerating the translation of research into patient benefit.

Manchester Aquatics Centre — A major public sports facility built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, providing both community access and elite training facilities, and home to the Aquatics GB Performance Centre.

Manchester Central — An international convention and exhibition complex in the city centre.

Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine — Based at Saint Mary's Hospital, delivering genomic medicine services and working with national NHS partners to transform the use of genomics in diagnosis and patient care.

Manchester Digital Campus — A major new Government digital and technology campus in Manchester city centre that will deliver thousands of jobs and strengthen the city's digital sector.

Manchester Fashion Institute — Part of Manchester Metropolitan University, delivering education and research in fashion design, textiles and fashion business, with strong industry links.

Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre — Manchester Metropolitan University's research centre advancing sustainable electrochemical technologies in partnership with industry.

Manchester Institute of Biotechnology — A University of Manchester institute focused on engineering biology research and innovation.

Manchester Met Business School — Manchester Metropolitan University's triple-accredited business school.

Manchester Museum — Part of The University of Manchester and one of the UK's largest university museums.

Manchester Poetry Library — The North West's first public poetry library, located at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital — A specialist ophthalmic hospital within Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

Manchester Royal Infirmary — A major research and teaching hospital within Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

Manchester School of Architecture — A collaboration between Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester.

Manchester School of Art — A leading UK art and design school, part of Manchester Metropolitan University.

Manchester Science Park — One of the UK's most established life sciences and technology communities, providing specialist laboratory and innovation workspace within the Oxford Road Corridor.

Manchester Science Partnerships — A public–private partnership that established and developed Manchester Science Park and the wider science and innovation ecosystem. Shareholders include Bruntwood SciTech (major shareholder), Manchester City Council, The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

Manchester Technology Centre — Home to the Manchester Tech Incubator and a cluster of digital start-ups and scale-ups.

Mayfield — A major mixed-use development to the east of Manchester Piccadilly, transforming former railway land into a new urban district with commercial, residential, leisure and public space, including a new city centre park.

MIX MANCHESTER — A science, innovation, and manufacturing campus located adjacent to Manchester Airport.

National Graphene Institute (NGI) — A University of Manchester facility enabling collaboration between academia and industry on graphene and advanced materials research.

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) — The UK Government's major funder of health and care research, supporting research that improves patient outcomes and strengthens the NHS and social care system.

NIHR GM Applied Research Collaboration (ARC-GM) — Supports applied health and care research responding to the needs of local populations and health systems.

NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Emergency and Acute Care — Supports innovators in generating evidence required to progress new healthcare technologies.

North West Centre for Advanced Drug Delivery (NoWCADD) — A translational research centre based at The University of Manchester.

Palace Theatre — A major theatre venue hosting touring productions.

Photon Science Institute — A University of Manchester institute advancing photon science research.

Plus Ultra — A specialist life sciences and innovation workspace development on Upper Brook Street, delivered by Kadans Science Partner, providing laboratory-enabled space to support growth in health and life sciences.

Renold Building — The first phase of Sister, providing space for community, business and innovation activity.

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital — One of the UK's largest and busiest children's hospitals.

Saint Mary's Hospital — A specialist hospital for women and babies within Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, providing maternity and gynaecology services alongside a comprehensive Genomics Centre and an internationally recognised teaching and research portfolio.

School of Digital Arts (SODA) — Manchester Metropolitan University's specialist school for digital and creative technologies.

Sister — A major innovation district joint venture between Bruntwood SciTech and The University of Manchester.

Stoller Clinical Analysis Research Facility — A University of Manchester facility providing infrastructure and technical expertise for in-depth analysis of clinical samples.

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust — One of Europe's largest specialist cancer centres, providing treatment, research and education. Although located beyond the Oxford Road Corridor boundary, The Christie forms a key part of Greater Manchester's clinical and life sciences ecosystem and works closely with Corridor-based research and innovation partners.

The Institute of Sport (Manchester Metropolitan University) — A centre for sport research and teaching.

The Pankhurst Museum — The former home of the Pankhurst family tells the story of women's fight for the right to vote and is home to the Pankhurst Trust, which supports women experiencing domestic abuse.

The Whitworth — An art gallery within The University of Manchester, home to an internationally significant collection.

UK Biobank — A major biomedical research resource based at Manchester Science Park.

Unit M — The University of Manchester's innovation unit supporting commercialisation and real-world impact.

University Dental Hospital of Manchester — A specialist dental teaching hospital and major clinical training centre.

Upper Brook Street — A strategic development area within the Corridor supporting life sciences, commercial and mixed-use development.

Venture Café Manchester — Connects innovators with regular free and open networking events, demos, and workshop opportunities based at Sister.

Victoria Baths — A Grade II* listed heritage building and cultural venue hosting exhibitions, installations and community events.

Whitworth Park — A major public park adjacent to The Whitworth, providing green space and contributing to wellbeing within the Corridor.

Timeline

1824 — The Manchester Mechanics Institute opens as part of a national movement for the education of working men; this is where both The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University trace their origin.

1845 — Engels publishes The Condition of the Working Class in England, referencing the slums that once existed within the Corridor. A statue of Engels can now be found outside HOME.

1850 — Number 84 Plymouth Grove becomes the home of Victorian writer Elizabeth Gaskell.

1858 — The Hallé Orchestra is founded with its first concert in the city's Free Trade Hall. Sir Charles Hallé later founds the Royal Manchester College of Music, which merges with the Northern School of Music to become the RNCM.

1872 — The Grade I-listed Holy Name Church is designed and erected by Gothic Revival architect Joseph Aloysius Hansom.

1873 — Owens College moves permanently to Oxford Road, anchoring higher education in the area and later becoming the modern University of Manchester campus.

1881 — The Manchester Municipal School of Art opens on Cavendish Street, having previously operated as the Manchester School of Design established in 1838.

1887 — The Alfred Waterhouse-designed Beyer Building opens at Owens College.

1887 — Manchester Museum established to house collections that had belonged to the Manchester Natural History Society before opening to the public in 1888.

1889 — The Whitworth, originally known as the Whitworth Institute and Park, is founded to serve people of all social classes and opens as a gallery in 1908.

1891 — The Palace Theatre, originally known as the Grand Old Lady of Oxford Street, opens for the first time.

1895 — The Alfred Waterhouse-designed Refuge Assurance Company building opens. One of Manchester's most iconic buildings, it is now the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel.

1903 — Emmeline Pankhurst founds the Women's Social and Political Union on Nelson Street, now The Pankhurst Museum.

1904 — Frederick Henry Royce builds the first ever Rolls-Royce from a factory in nearby Hulme.

1906 — Joseph John Thomson is awarded Manchester's first Nobel Prize in Physics.

1908 — Ernest Rutherford is awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and goes on to achieve the first artificial splitting of the atom in 1917.

1909 — Manchester Infirmary relocates to Oxford Road and is officially opened by King Edward VII on 6 July. It adds the title "Royal" in 1933.

1927 — The Ritz is built and becomes central to Manchester's nightlife in the 1930s and 40s, drawing visitors to the dance hall with its famous sprung dancefloor and revolving stage.

1934 — Central Library is opened by King George V; it was the largest library in the country provided by a local authority.

1935 — All Saints Park opens as a children's playground. It became a public garden in the 1980s before being leased to Manchester Metropolitan University in the 1990s.

1945 — The Fifth Pan-African Congress takes place at Chorlton-on-Medlock Town Hall, now Manchester School of Art. It is a landmark moment in the struggle against colonial rule.

1948 — Alan Turing is appointed Reader in the Mathematics Department at the Victoria University of Manchester. He works on software for the Manchester Mark 1 and publishes Computing Machinery and Intelligence, introducing what later becomes known as the Turing Test.

1948 — Professors Tom Kilburn and Fred Williams develop the world's first electronic stored-program computer, the Manchester Baby.

1948 — Sir William Arthur Lewis is appointed the first Black professor in Britain. He is an economist and later wins the Nobel Prize in 1979.

1951 — The Ferranti Mark 1, the world's first commercially available general-purpose computer, is delivered from Ferranti's factory to Manchester—a major step from experiment to industry.

1953 — Boxer and activist Len Johnson is refused service at The Old Abbey influencing the eventual removal of 'colour bar' policies.

1955 — Johnny Roadhouse Music opens on Oxford Road and establishes itself as an instrument shop to the stars.

1956 — UMIST is established as an independent university, strengthening Manchester's global reputation in science and technology.

1963 — Manchester Academy opens and becomes one of Manchester's most popular live performance spaces.

1964 — Manchester Technology Centre built at 103 Oxford Road; home to the National Computing Centre from 1966.

1966 — At Bob Dylan's Free Trade Hall concert, an audience member heckles him as "Judas" for "going electric".

1966 — Louise Da-Cocodia becomes the first Black senior nursing officer in Manchester; she later becomes a prominent anti-racism campaigner and community activist.

1968 — Student-led protests take place along Oxford Road against the Vietnam War, racism and social inequality.

1972 — Pioneering vegetarian shop and cafe, The 8th Day, moves to Oxford Road.

1973 — The Northern School of Music merges with the Royal Manchester College of Music to form the Royal Northern College of Music and moves into a purpose-built home on Oxford Road.

1975 — The BBC's North West headquarters move to Oxford Road.

1976 — Sex Pistols play the Lesser Free Trade Hall in a concert remembered as "the gig that changed the world".

1977 — Following the death of Steve Biko, anti-apartheid activism intensifies in Manchester, with students later naming their Union building on Oxford Road in his honour.

1982 — The Haçienda nightclub opens and goes on to define the Madchester era before closing permanently in 1997.

1982 — Work begins to convert Manchester's former Central Station into the G-Mex exhibition centre (now Manchester Central), which opens in 1986 and becomes the city's largest music venue.

1983 — Manchester Polytechnic merges with the City of Manchester College of Higher Education, making it one of the largest educational institutions in Britain.

1984 — Castlefield Gallery opens as a contemporary exhibition space and artist-focused organisation.

1984 — Backed by Manchester City Council and higher education partners, Manchester Science Park opens to stimulate innovation and create new jobs.

1984 — The Manchester Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre becomes the first NHS community Sickle Cell centre in the UK.

1985 — Cornerhouse opens at 70 Oxford Street, giving Manchester a venue for contemporary independent cinema and challenging exhibitions.

1988 — The Proud Trust, then known as the Gay Youth Group, moves into Sidney Street's purpose-built Gay Centre.

1990 — Factory Records opens its short-lived headquarters on the corner of Charles Street. The building later becomes Paradise Factory and eventually FAC251.

1992 — Manchester Polytechnic gains university status under the government's Further and Higher Education Act, becoming Manchester Metropolitan University.

1996 — Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh open The Bridgewater Hall, a new home for The Hallé, BBC Philharmonic and Camerata orchestras.

1999 — The modern Contact Theatre reopens as an arts venue for young people.

2000 — Queen Elizabeth II opens The Manchester Aquatics Centre, purpose-built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

2000 — Transitive, a University of Manchester spin-out, created QuickTransit, a widely used cross-platform virtualisation technology adopted by Apple and IBM.

2003 — Anthony Burgess's widow, Liana, establishes the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, the largest archive of the Manchester author's work.

2003 — Large-scale protests against the Iraq War take place on Oxford Road.

2004 — The University of Manchester officially opens after merging with UMIST and Victoria University of Manchester.

2004 — Professor Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov isolate Graphene, the world's first 2D material, leading to the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010.

2007 — Oxford Road Corridor formally established as a company.

2010 — Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell appointed University of Manchester's first female President and Vice-Chancellor

2013 — The £34m investment into Manchester Metropolitan University's Art & Design faculty is completed, including the opening of the Benzie Building (renamed Lowry in 2024).

2014 — Manchester Metropolitan University opens its £139m Birley Fields campus in Hulme.

2014 — £25m Citylabs 1.0 opens, creating space for biomedical research and innovation.

2015 — Lemn Sissay is appointed Chancellor of the University of Manchester, becoming the institution's first Black Chancellor.

2015 — The Whitworth reopens after a £15m transformation of the gallery and is awarded the UK's Museum of the Year.

2015 — Cornerhouse merges with the Library Theatre Company and opens its new £25m site on First Street as HOME.

2015 — £61m National Graphene Institute opens, providing a state-of-the-art facility to produce the applications of the 2D material.

2016 — Manchester is awarded NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility status, strengthening the Corridor's role in translating health research into patient care.

2016 — The Oxford Road Corridor Enterprise Zone is formally designated.

2016 — Manchester becomes the first UK city to be awarded European City of Science.

2017 — The Henry Royce Institute establishes its Manchester hub at the University of Manchester, supporting advanced materials research.

2017 — Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, one of the largest NHS trusts in the UK, is formed.

2017 — Dutch-style cycle lanes are introduced along Oxford Road.

2017 — The Bright Building officially opens as a £14m, award-winning flagship building for Manchester Science Park.

2018 — The Emmeline Pankhurst statue *Rise Up, Women* is erected, marking the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act.

2018 — YES opens on Charles Street, quickly establishing itself as one of Manchester's most important music venues.

2019 — The Christabel Pankhurst Institute is launched at the University of Manchester, supporting needs-led health technology research and innovation in partnership with the NHS, business and local government.

2020 — During the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and research institutions along Oxford Road play a central role in patient care, clinical trials and public health research in Manchester.

2021 — Circle Square, a new neighbourhood on the site of the former BBC building, opens to the public.

2021 — Emerging from the COVID pandemic, Corridor of Light was a three-night celebration of the Oxford Road Corridor through language, light and ideas.

2021 — £25m Citylabs 2.0 becomes the home of QIAGEN, a global leader in molecular testing and clinical diagnostics.

2021 — Manchester Metropolitan University opens the School of Digital Arts (SODA) — a £35m investment into the next generation of creative talent.

2022 — Manchester Metropolitan University's Institute of Sport welcomes students to a new, world-class facility designed to champion everything that sport can do.

2023 — Following a £15m redevelopment, Manchester Museum reopens with new spaces including the co-curated South Asia Gallery in partnership with the British Museum.

2023 — Development begins on ID Manchester, an innovation-led redevelopment of the former UMIST campus; the district is later rebranded as Sister.

2024 — Manchester Metropolitan University opens the £115m Dalton Building, the most ambitious development in its history.

2024 — Following 18 months of extensive improvement works, All Saints Park is transformed into a vibrant, green, and biodiverse space.

2024 — Unit M established, with plans to open a dedicated home at William Kay House on Oxford Road in 2026.

2025 — HOME Arches are completed, enabling 5,000 free hours each year for artists and creative freelancers, with 50% dedicated to groups underrepresented in the industry.

2025 — £42m Citylabs 4.0 opens to help further strengthen the Corridor's life sciences ecosystem.

2025 — Oxford Road becomes the new home of the Manchester Marathon finish line.

2026 — UK Biobank relocates to Manchester Science Park.

The story continues.

The University of Manchester

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Manchester Metropolitan University

NHS Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

RNCM ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC

bruntwood

oxfordroadcorridor.com
info@oxfordroadcorridor.com
@OxRdMcr