

# OUR SPIRIT OF PLACE



EMMANUEL COLLEGE







The background of the page is a photograph of Emmanuel College grounds. In the foreground, there are numerous yellow daffodils in bloom. Behind them, a large, multi-story red brick building with many windows is visible. Bare tree branches are silhouetted against a pale sky in the upper half of the image. A semi-transparent red overlay covers the entire page, with the text in white.

## Emmanuel's Conservation Statement

Emmanuel's conservation statement is an overall assessment of the history and significance of the buildings, landscapes, grounds and setting of the College.

The statement helps us bring together a shared understanding of the significance of our buildings, grounds and views into, out of and within the College, with the way we care for them and think about Emmanuel's future development. However it is much more than a simple assessment of our buildings and grounds.

Ours is a 'Spirit of Place' statement: it looks at the significance of the buildings and environment in the context of the College's shared values. It is concerned with how these moulded Emmanuel's past, what makes Emmanuel what it is today, including the things we all cherish, and how, together, all these considerations will shape our future.

The statement was written by Oliver Caroe and Jeremy Musson of Cambridge Architectural Research Limited, two renowned experts in their field. They consulted widely within the College community, ensuring that Fellows, students and Emma Members all contributed to the process. Local planning officers and Historic England have also seen the statement and endorsed it. The cost was met by some very generous donations from Emma Members.



## Characterising Emmanuel

Emmanuel College is located in the heart of the modern city of Cambridge, but historically was on the edge of the city 'beyond the Barnwell Gate'.

The College's history is layered, because its foundation in 1584 by Sir Walter Mildmay, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Elizabeth I as a college to train puritan preachers, was aided by partly re-using a number of much older buildings that had belonged to Cambridge's Dominican Priory, dissolved in 1538 by Henry VIII.

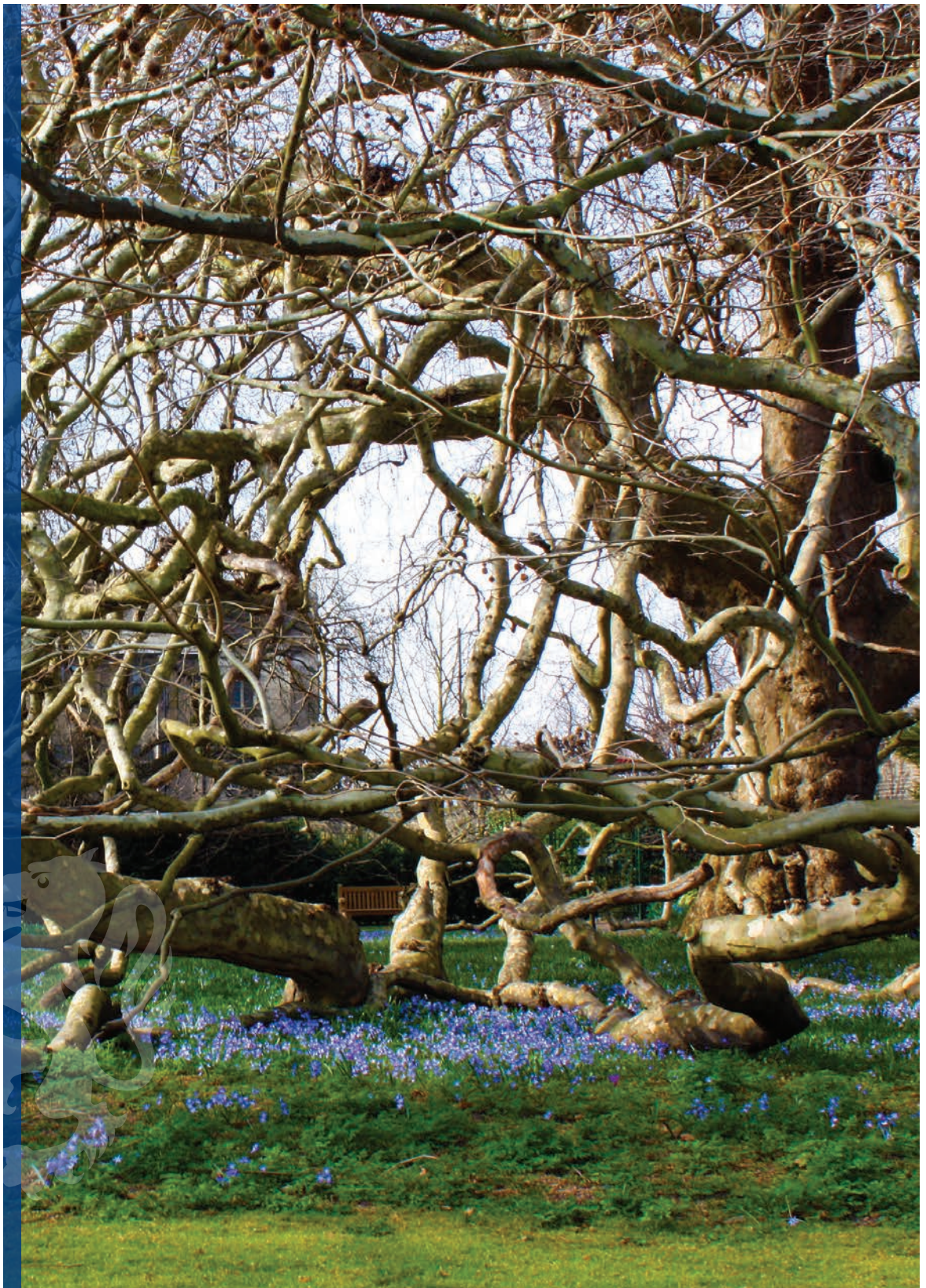
The Dominican house of Blackfriars had been a place of learning and theological study since 1238, so teaching, learning and scholarship have been taking place on our site prior even to the foundation of the first college. In 1303 the Cambridge Blackfriars was recognised as a place of study, confirmed in 1318 by the Pope, who declared it studium generale.

Our layered history has of course continued. Today's Emmanuel is rich architecturally, with 19 listed buildings and a sense of continual development, with connections between medieval, sixteenth-, seventeenth-, eighteenth-, nineteenth- and twentieth-century elements.

Our open spaces matter as much as our buildings. Front Court, the Paddock and features such as the Oriental Plane, the swimming pool and gardens influence our sense of place, and are much loved by students and Fellows.

Emmanuel is a meritocracy, which stems from our puritan roots. Our students come from schools of all kind and locations. We are a place of tradition but not of pomposity, and membership is for life. Together, all the elements of our College: buildings, spaces, traditions and people create an unmistakable identity, a 'spirit of place' that owes its existence to the continuous interweaving of history, people and adaptation to new circumstances.





1238	Foundation of Dominican Priory on this site
c.1262	First Dominican Doctor of Divinity, Cambridge
1286	Priory church consecrated
1538	Dissolution of the Dominican Priory
1584	Emmanuel founded by a charter from Queen Elizabeth I
1589	Conversion of Priory buildings to College completed (the mason was Ralph Symons)
1633–34	Brick Building (now Old Court). (Bricklayer: John Westley)
1650	Seventeenth-century tree planting by our first Master, Laurence Chaderton
1668–74	New Chapel and cloister designed by Christopher Wren
1719–22	Westmorland Building built by John Lumley
1746	James Essex's survey showing formal gardens
1760	Refitting of the Hall by James Essex
1769–75	Creation of St Andrew's Street entrance by James Essex
1824–25	Building of New Court, designed by Charles Humphrey
1830s	Building of Park Terrace by Charles Humphrey
1873–76	Arthur Blomfield designed the Victorian Master's Lodge
1886–88	The Hostel built, designed by W M Fawcett



### Sir Walter Mildmay (1520–89)

Founder of the College, Walter Mildmay, the youngest son of a Chelmsford merchant, was Elizabeth I's Chancellor of the Exchequer. A puritan, he founded Emmanuel to improve the stock of 'godly and learned' clergy.

### Queen Elizabeth I (1533–1603)

Elizabeth I subscribed to the founding of the new college of Emmanuel in 1584. Direct support from the monarch was rare and of the three Oxford and Cambridge colleges founded during her reign, Emmanuel was the only one so honoured.

### Joseph Cotton (1584–1652)

Cotton studied at Trinity College, where he enrolled aged 13 in 1598, and moved to Emmanuel in 1606. In 1633 he sailed for Massachusetts Bay, was teacher of the First Church at Boston, and from 1637 was one of the Overseers of the foundation of Harvard.

### John Harvard (1607–38)

Son of a butcher of Southwark, he lost his father and four siblings to the plague. He was admitted to Emmanuel in 1627. He emigrated in 1637 and left the newly founded college in Cambridge, Massachusetts, his library and half his estate (£1,700), on his early death in 1638. In his honour the college was renamed.

### William Sancroft (1617–93)

Sancroft came up to Emmanuel in 1633 and was elected a Fellow in 1642, but as a royalist and moderate, he resigned in 1651. At the Restoration he was appointed Master in 1662, but in 1665 became Dean of



1893–94	Emmanuel House and wings to the Hostel designed by J L Pearson
1909–14	Lecture Rooms and North Court built, designed by Leonard Stokes
1929–30	Lecture Rooms extended by Drysdale to become the Library
1957–59	New kitchen and Upper Hall built, designed by Robert Hurd
1950s	Widening of Emmanuel Street, extension of tunnel and rebuilding of North Court Porter's Lodge by Ian Begg
1960	Barnwell Hostel extended. Landscape works to Paddock and New Court by John Codrington
1963–64	New Master's Lodge designed by Tom Hancock
1965–66	South Court designed by Tom Hancock
1983–84	Acquisition of Park Terrace
1987	East Court designed by Nicholas Hare
1993–95	Queen's Building, designed by Michael & Patty Hopkins
2009–10	Building of North Court New Cloisters and workshop Library extension designed by Kilburn Nightingale
2009–16	Refurbishment of North Court
2014	New South Court built



St Paul's Cathedral, then Archbishop of Canterbury in 1677. He was deprived of his office in 1690 being unable to swear allegiance to William III while James II was alive. He instigated the building of our Chapel by Christopher Wren, and he left his 5000-volume library to Emmanuel.

#### **Sir William Temple (1628–99)**

Temple entered Emmanuel in 1644. As a diplomat, he negotiated the marriage of Princess Mary and William of Orange. Jonathan Swift was in his household (whose fictional 'Gulliver' was an Emmanuel man). In 1693, Temple gave Emmanuel the tables and benches which are still in use in the Hall.

#### **Thomas Young (1773–1829)**

Young arrived at Emmanuel in 1797 and produced an influential paper on the transmission of sound and light, later known as his 'wave theory'. It is said that this was inspired by watching swans on the College pond. He devised Young's Modulus to quantify elasticity, and deciphered the Rosetta stone.

#### **Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins (1881–1947), Ronald Norrish (1897–1978) and Sir George Porter (Lord Porter of Luddenham) (1920–2002)**

These three Emmanuel men all won the Nobel prize: Hopkins in 1929 for the discovery of vitamins, and Norrish and Porter jointly in 1976 for their work on flash photolysis.

#### **Norman Birkett (1883–1962)**

Birkett came to Emmanuel in 1907 at the age of 24. He was enrolled to study for the Methodist ministry, but decided to read for the Bar instead. A judge from 1941, he was one of the British representatives in the Nuremberg Trials, and a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1950. Birkett was a strong advocate for the creation of national parks.

## What makes Emmanuel special

The diagram illustrates the significance of Emmanuel's buildings and grounds.

The conservation statement notes that Front Court and the complementary cultivated landscape of the Paddock are of exceptional significance for their long history and historic and aesthetic appeal. The serpentine character of the pond dates from the 1960s, but this landscape feature dates back to the monastic era.







## Our Spirit of Place

The conservation statement identifies ten key characteristics of Emmanuel:

### 1. A place of possibilities

'I have set an acorn, which when it becomes an oak, God alone knows what will be the fruit thereof.' (Sir Walter Mildmay, the founder of the post-reformation College)

### 2. A living and historic community

'A perpetual College of sacred theology, science, philosophy and good arts in the University of Cambridge.' (Extract from Elizabeth I's charter and a spirit echoed in the 1923 Oxford & Cambridge Acts)

### 3. A protected environment for education, learning and research

'I will endeavour to the utmost of my power to promote the honour and interests of the College as a place of education, religion, learning and research' (part of the statement sworn by each new Fellow, which reflects the bonds of this human society within a protected environment).

### 4. A very particular community

It is above all a society with life-long membership. It is a place, both home and haven, for 'people of the mind', for the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

### 5. Building meritocracy

The College as an institution has a long tradition of openness and a quiet celebration of meritocracy, which has contributed to its growing academic status in modern times.

### 6. The groves of academe

The remarkable tradition and continuity of the peaceful, protected park-like grove is key, a place of recreation and conversation where formality gives way over time to informality; glimpsed trees seen at the openings of arches and courts.





## 7. Between two worlds

The character of the College is summed up by a paradox: the formal entrance court with its fine Wren Chapel, and the open, soft-edged Paddock which speaks of informality, walks, talks and sitting in the sun.

## 8. Out in the world

As a college, Emmanuel is distinct within Cambridge. It is surrounded by the city and open park spaces. Undergraduates have huge affection for Front Court and the Paddock, but also take away a memory of the busy bus station, partly because of the contrast it gives to the quasi-cloistered community within.

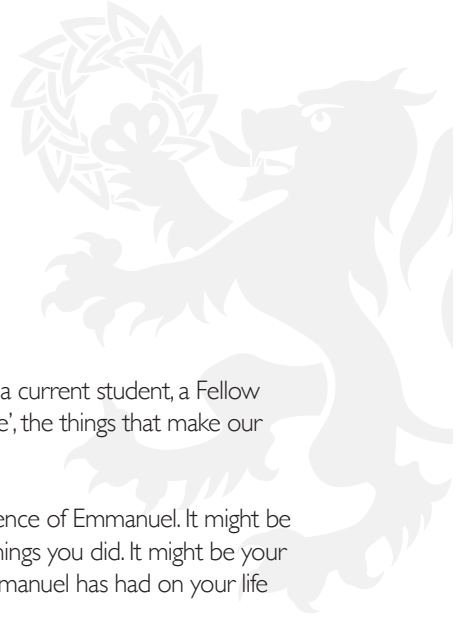
## 9. A shared inheritance

This is a layered place: there is the long history of the Dominican friary, austere sixteenth-century puritanism, the Restoration quest for order, and Georgian Classical confidence; the nineteenth- and twentieth-century additions reflect a desire for renewal; and the twenty-first-century ones demonstrate reinvention and openness. All of this co-mingles in the story of this college and shapes its identity.

## 10. Building on tradition

The different buildings link the stories and the peoples of Emmanuel, in memory and in brick and masonry, mirrored in the strong sense of discovery and surprise experienced on passing through arcades, arches and doorways, and emerging in new spaces of a different character.





## Your Emmanuel

Everyone associated with Emmanuel, whether as a current student, a Fellow or an Emma Member, has their own 'spirit of place', the things that make our connections to Emmanuel special and individual.

You might like to think of what, for you, is the essence of Emmanuel. It might be a place in the College, people you know, or the things you did. It might be your academic career or, indeed, the influence that Emmanuel has had on your life after Cambridge.

Whatever makes Emmanuel special to you, you are part of its wider story. How will you respond to Emmanuel's 'spirit of place'?

If you would like to share your thoughts about Emmanuel, or support Emmanuel's future, our Development Director, Sarah Bendall, would be delighted to hear from you, by letter, email, or on the telephone.

You can also download the Conservation Statement and its accompanying gazetteer from the web address shown below.



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DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 3AP, UK  
TELEPHONE: +44 1223 330476  
EMAIL: [DEVELOPMENT-OFFICE@EMMA.CAM.AC.UK](mailto:DEVELOPMENT-OFFICE@EMMA.CAM.AC.UK)  
WEB: [WWW.EMMA.CAM.AC.UK/SPIRITOFPLACE](http://WWW.EMMA.CAM.AC.UK/SPIRITOFPLACE)