

Summary of the project

We were asked to create a website which would be a student's guide to the student's union building, catered especially for computer science students.

In this document, we will tackle the planning and design of the website.

General ethos

Our ethos for our design is to create a user-friendly, welcoming, and informative page aimed at current and new students to the University of Sheffield.

We want the site to be easily understood and navigable in both desktop and mobile devices so that users can switch freely between both.

Also, we strive to highlight the diversity and many uses of our SU building.

Research

For our research, we have looked at our commonly used websites to gain inspiration on modern, mobile-friendly design formats.

Firstly, we used google's page on being mobile friendly, which can be found here: <https://developers.google.com/search/mobile-sites/>. This helped us incorporate mobile-friendly aspects when thinking how to design our website.

We both have decided we like the counter strike blog website's design (<http://blog.counter-strike.net/>) as it looks clean and is easy to navigate, so we want to use similar elements in our design format.

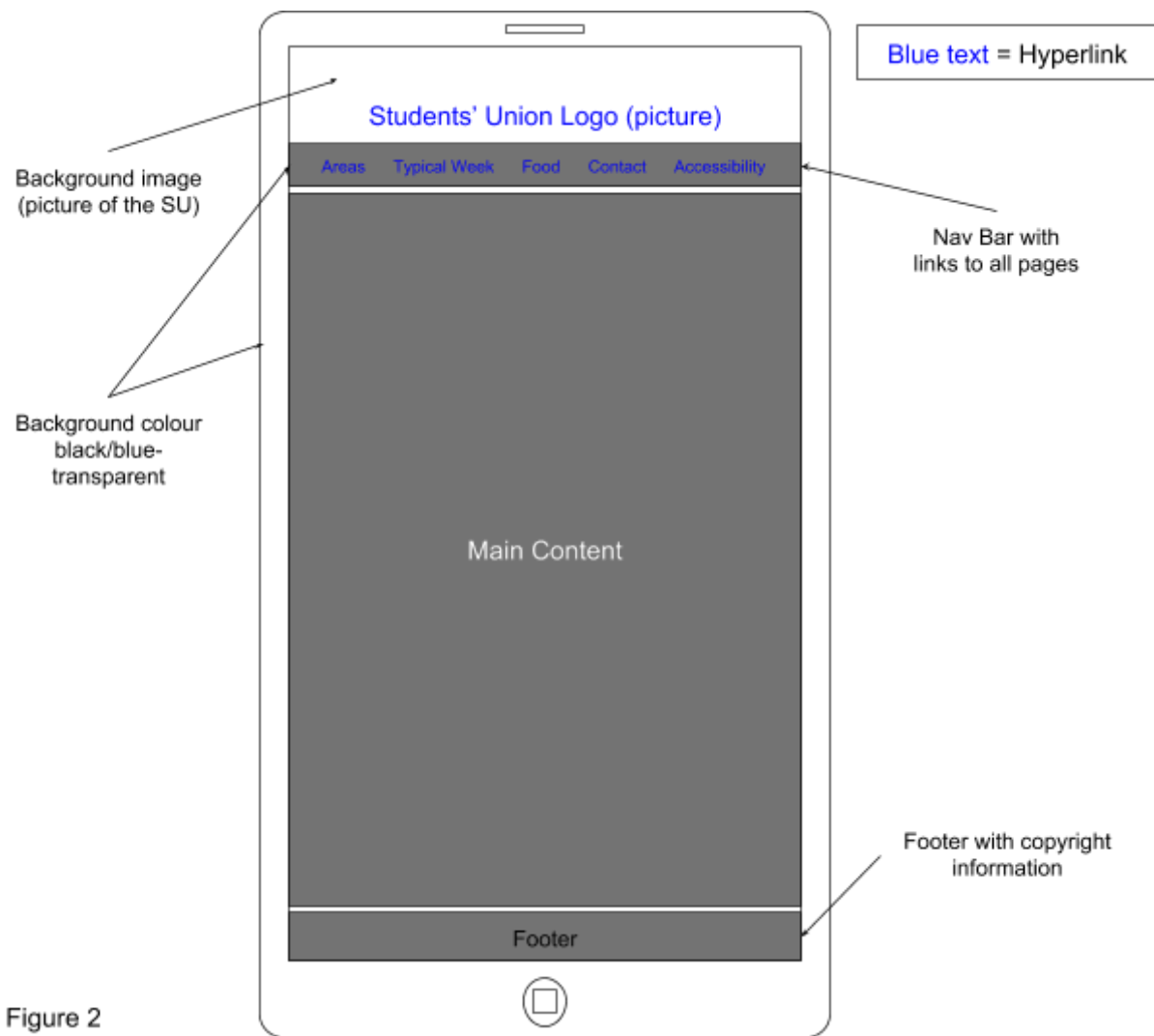
As well as this we researched the university website (<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/>) and the official SU website (<https://su.sheffield.ac.uk/>) for design inspiration. For example, we like the idea of using the same blue for our hyperlinks as the logo.

Design

In this section, we'll go through all of our designs for our website using mobile-first responsive web design.

General design for mobile on all pages

This is the plan of our general design for the website as shown in figure 2:



We plan to have a background with a picture of the SU and then the nav, footer, and main parts of the website will have black/blue-transparent backgrounds enabling the user to see the background picture of the SU.

We plan to have gaps between the header and main content, and also between the main content and the footer for the stylistic effect.

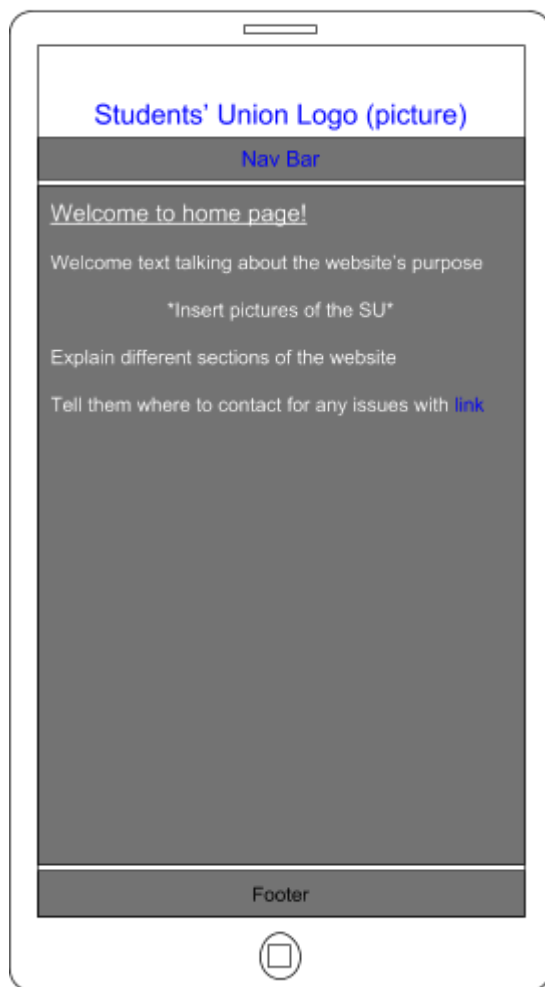
Finally, the logo at the top will be a hyperlink to the home page and will be an edited version of the SU's official logo.

Specific design for mobile on each page

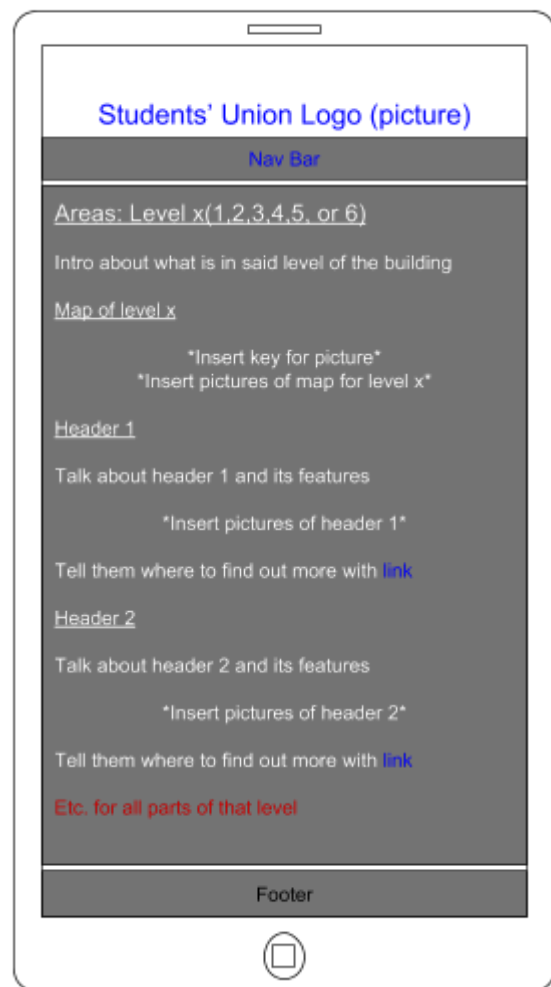
Here we look into the specific pages and their design and planned content for each.

The home page design is shown in figure 3 and the template for the various areas pages are shown in figure 4:

Design of the Home page (Figure 3):

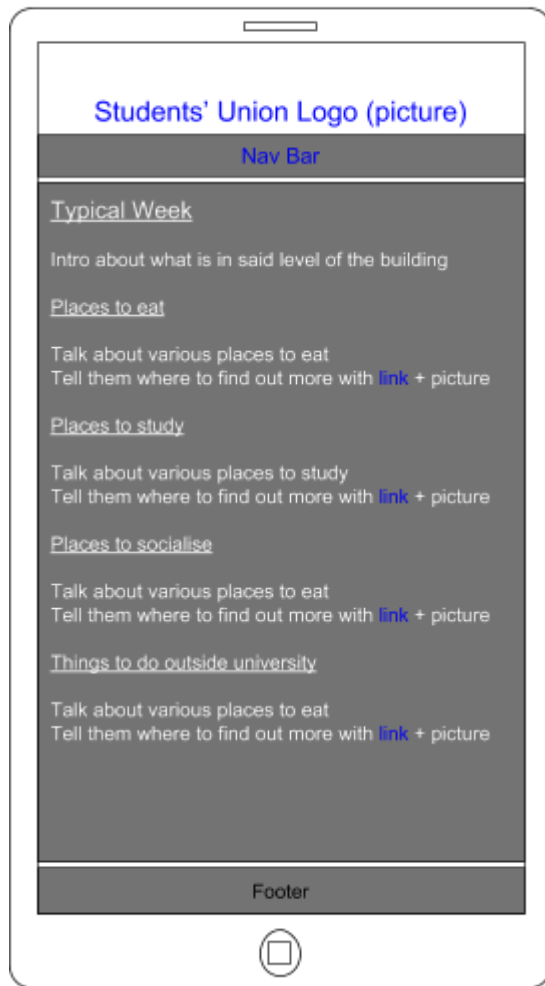


Design of the Areas pages (Figure 4):

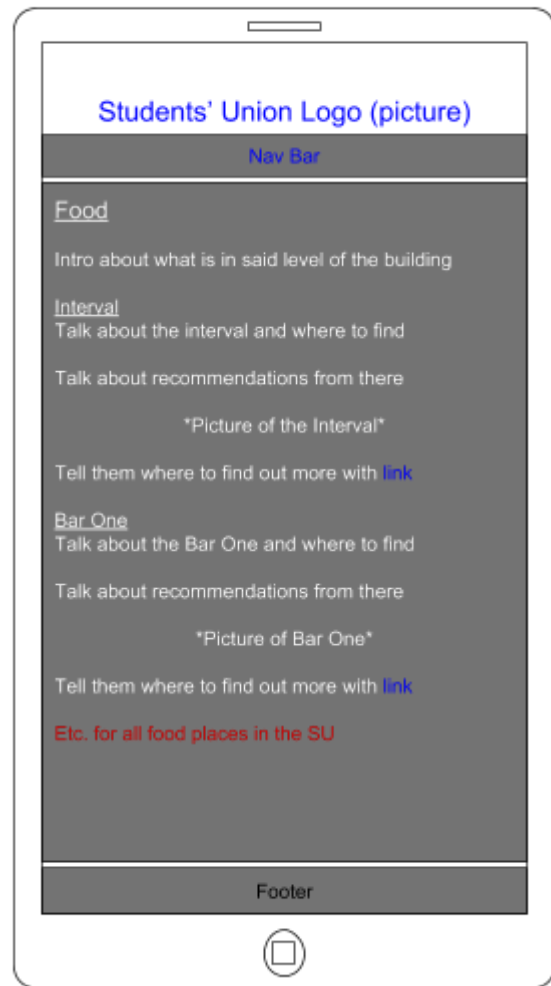


The typical week page design is shown in figure 5 and the food page design is shown in figure 6:

Design of the Typical Week page (Figure 5):



Design of the Food page (Figure 6):

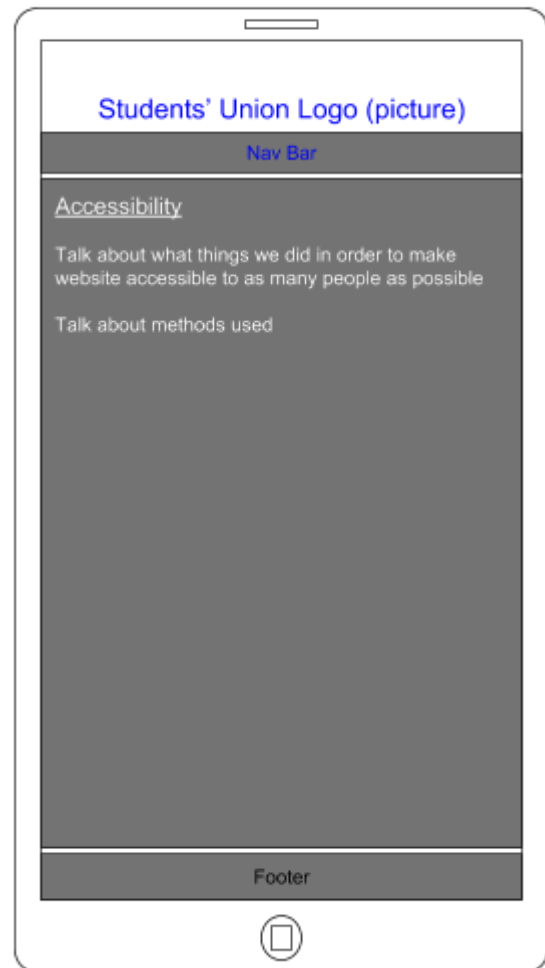


Finally, the contact page design is shown in figure 7 and the accessibility page design is shown in figure 8:

Design of the Contact page (Figure 7):



Design of the Accessibility page (Figure 8):

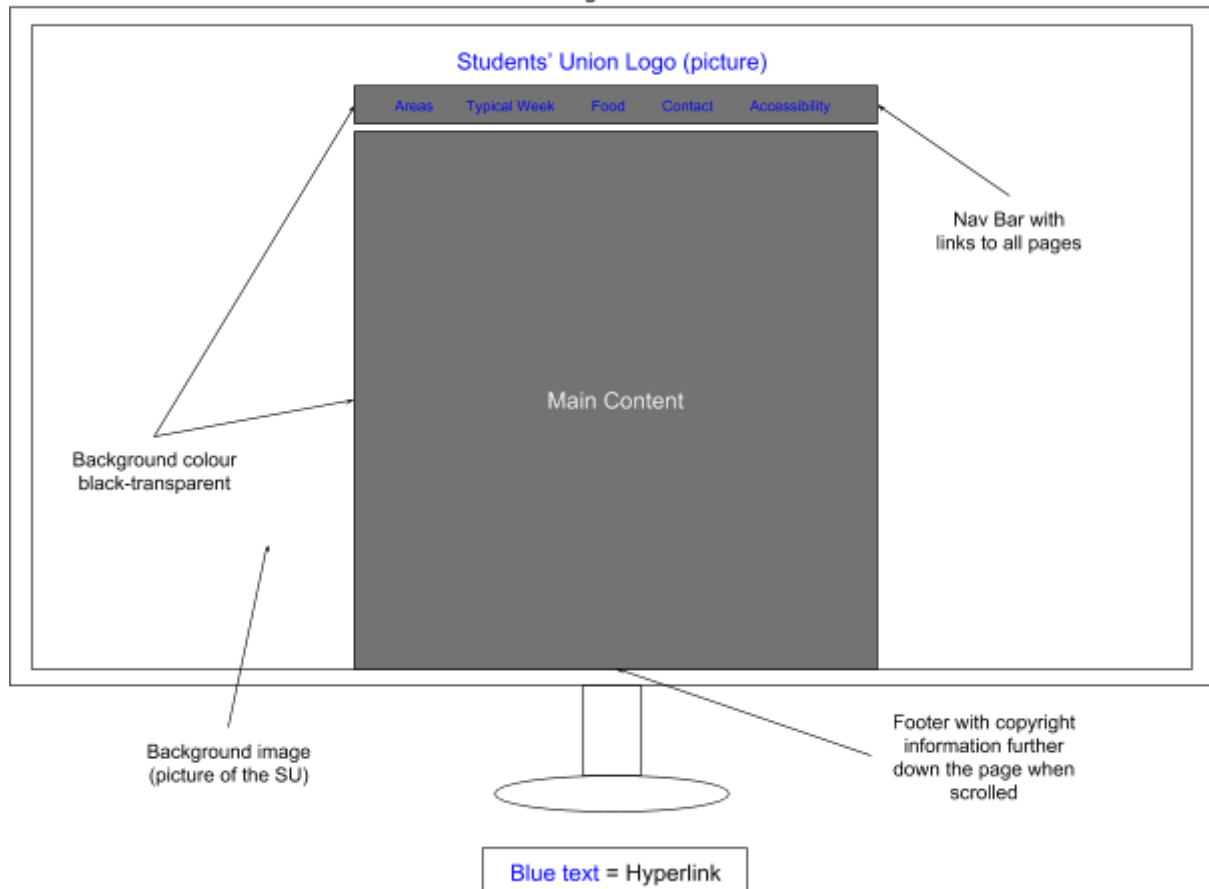


Design for desktop version of the website

Below is the design extended to the desktop version of the website, with the only differences being the background which is larger and the footer will most likely not appear on the screen until you scroll further down the page.

Design as shown in figure 9:

Figure 9



Due to the design being similar for mobile and desktop it means that there will be ease of transition between devices.

Header logo design

Finally, we'll discuss the design for our logo, which uses the official SU logo but with edited text so the text displays the name of our website.

We were given full use of the SU's logo after contacting the SU in an email about using it in our website.

The final design of our header is as shown in figure 10:



Figure 10

Site Map

For our site map we decided to break up the pages into the main home page, which links to all the five main sections of the website, and then have the various area levels linked to the main areas page as shown here in figure 1:

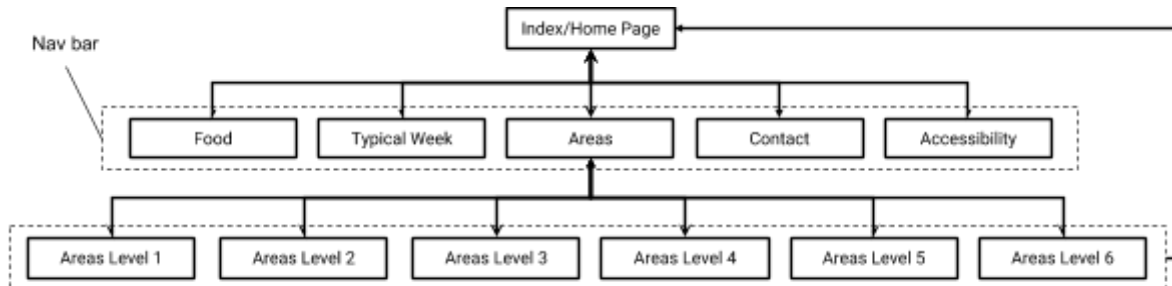


Figure 1

This shows that the five main pages will be in the nav bar, with access to the home page from any other page (by clicking the logo picture at the top of the page).

The only pages you won't be able to access directly is if you're in the home, food, typical week, contact, or accessibility pages and you want to get to an area's level x page. For this, you will need to go through the main areas page first then access the level you wish to see.

This means that you can access any page from any other page in a maximum of two clicks, which makes the site very easy to navigate.

Accessibility

When designing our website we tried to think of the best ways to make it usable and available to as many people as possible.

The site is designed to display correctly in current browsers and we plan to use standards compliant with the HTML/CSS code which means any future browsers will also be able to display the website correctly.

With this and our simple and easy to use website, all users should understand how to use the website efficiently.

Legal issues

With this site, we planned to use some copyrighted material which we needed to get permission for. The SU's logo and the SU website's maps of each floor being the main copyright issues. For both of these, we were given full access to use in our website by Steve Battersby, the head of marketing for the University of Sheffield's Student's Union.

We also will give full permission to anyone who wishes to use any pictures that we have taken and used on the website that were not provided by external organisations.

Menu System

We used

<https://cmd-t.webydo.com/from-simple-to-unusual-a-look-at-navigation-in-web-design-1057d0baef7b> to develop our ideas on menu systems.

After conducting research from the website above, we decided to keep the menu system simple and easy to use by having a top of the page navigation panel which would look consistent whether on mobile or on a desktop device. This meant all pages are easily located and easy to navigate.