



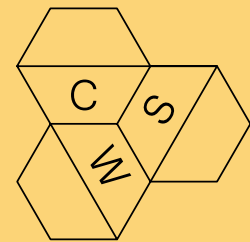
RAISE ROCHDALE PRU

Rochdale

Landscape Proposals
RIBA Stage 3
March 2026

2535-CWS-XX-XX-RP-L-1000

Revision: P01



CW Studio
Landscape Architects



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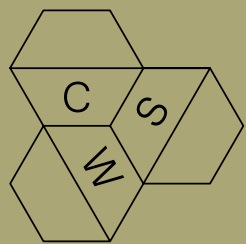
Project	Raise Rochdale PRU	Prepared by	JP
Client	Rochdale Borough Council	Checked by	LM
Document Title	Landscape Proposals	Approved by	CW
Document Number	2535-CWS-XX-XX-RP-L-1000	Revision	P01
		Date	27/03/2026

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01 Introduction

W



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Description by Seven:

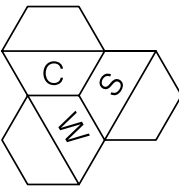
The facility will provide 64 places for pupils aged 11–16 with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. The design will deliver a secure, therapeutically informed environment that supports learning, personal development, and positive behaviour management.

The aim is to create a safe, high-quality, and inclusive setting that enables staff to deliver specialist SEN provision effectively while promoting wellbeing and positive outcomes for vulnerable pupils.

The site features two plateaus with a 7.2 m level difference, connected by vegetated banking. The proposed three-storey building will span both plateaus.

The Landscape Architect, will develop the landscape design to Stage 3 and provide supporting documentation for the planning application.

The development aims for no net loss of biodiversity, with ERAP responsible for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations.

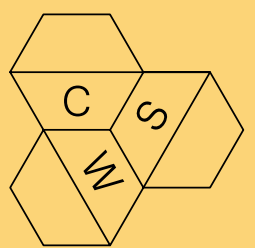


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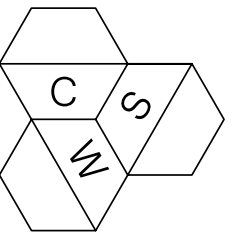
02 Research

W



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02 Research *Existing Site*



Key

- 01 Lower Plateau
- 02 Upper Plateau
- 03 Existing Woodland
- 04 Neighbouring Dwellings
- 05 Incredible Edible Medical Allotment
- 06 Housing Association Offices
- 07 Food Manufacturer
- 08 Furniture Shop
- 09 Vehicle Repair Shop
- 10 Rochdale Community Fire Station



02 Research

Site History

A Post-Industrial Landscape

Running water and a spring to the south east of the site has meant this site has been suitable for mills & industry since at least the 1700s.

In the 1800s, to support the expanding industries as water became scarcer, a reservoir was built north west of the site.

Although the footpath along the east border became a road, most of the site has not been developed - likely due to it steepness.

The site today holds a wet, boggy meadow at the top of the hill, which unusually does not drain down the slope to the bottom - indicating something buried is keeping the water from draining.

Industry remains to the east & west of the site, with intermittent loud noises and air pollution. Trees and brambles had colonised the whole site, and some areas of pioneer woodland will be retained to improve sound and air quality.



01



02

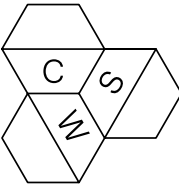


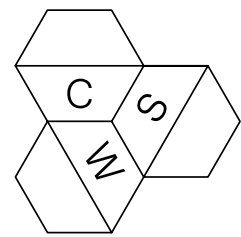
03



04

- 01 Historic map from 1890s
- 02 Piles of sandstone blocks on site
- 03 Natural stone & brick of the Housing Association offices building
- 04 Local vernacular of nearby streets - small industrial uses among areas of housing





1

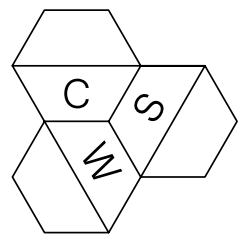


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02 Research
Landscape Colours



RAL 6027

RAL 1018

RAL 4009

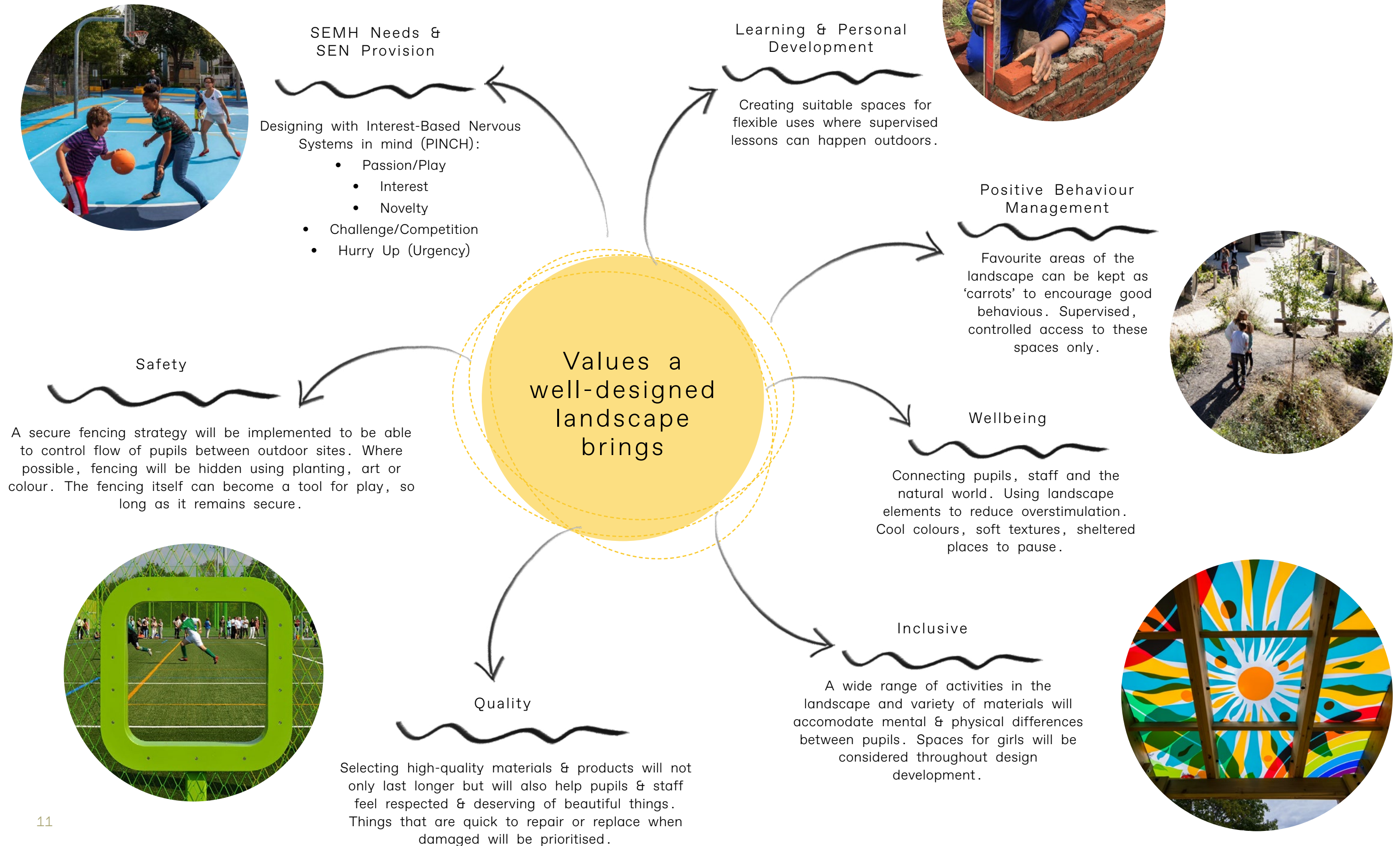
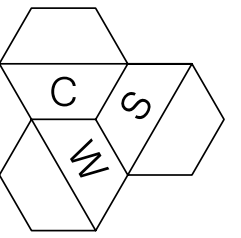
RAL 6017

RAL 6002

RAL 6005

RAL 1001

02 Research Requirements

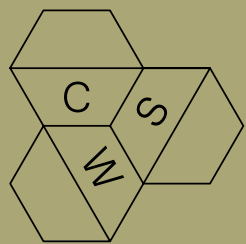


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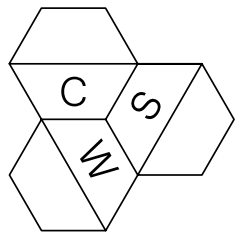
03 Concept Development

W



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03 Concept Development Initial Diagram Plan

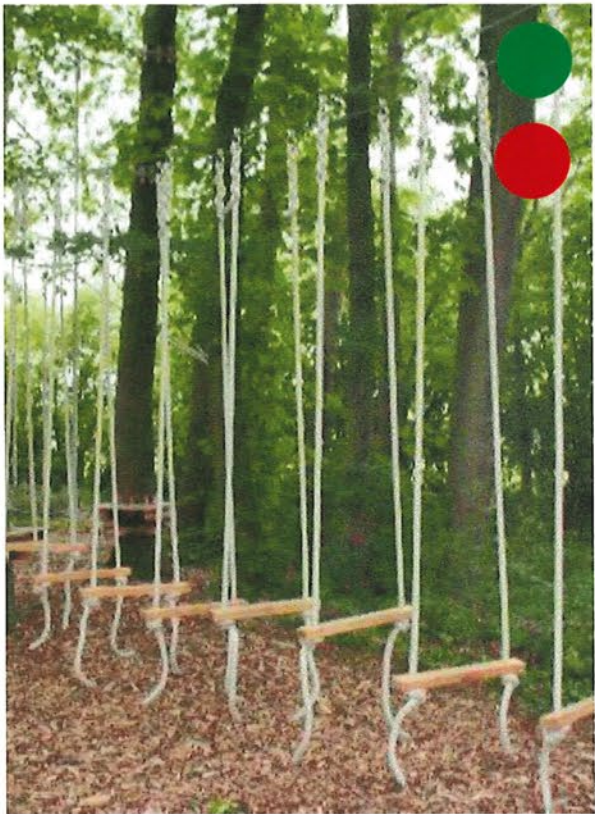


- Key
- 01 Outdoor break spaces for individual clusters
 - 02 Buffer break space for both clusters
 - 03 Sports Zone
 - 04 Woodland (controlled access)
 - 05 Woodland (no access)
 - 06 Steep slope
 - 07 Car parking & drop off
 - 08 Deliveries & servicing
 - 09 Emergency access only
 - 10 Mast

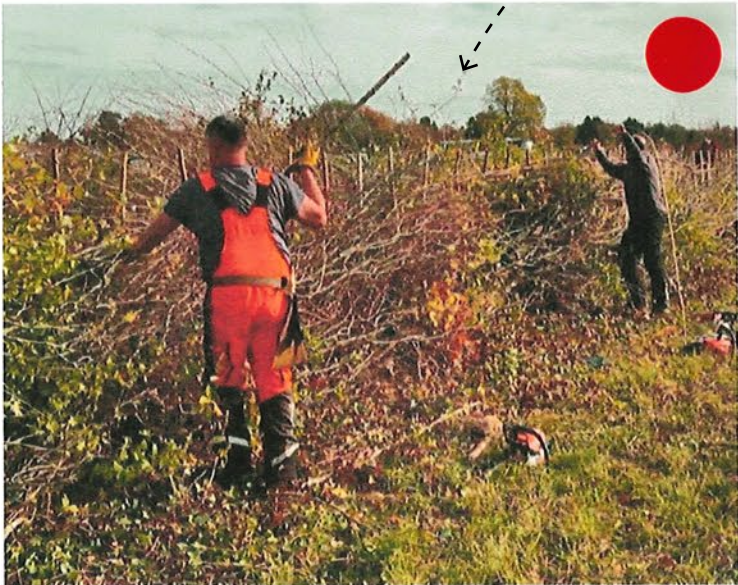
03 Concept Development
Initial Meeting Comments - Precedent 1 of 2

No staff capacity to support
woodland exploration at this time.
Don't rule it out for the future!

External vocational training organisation that taught outdoor land skills is no longer associated with
this PRU. Outdoor spaces can be left for if staff capacity increases to accomodate this in the future.
Consider connections with local Incredible Edible for horticultural skills.



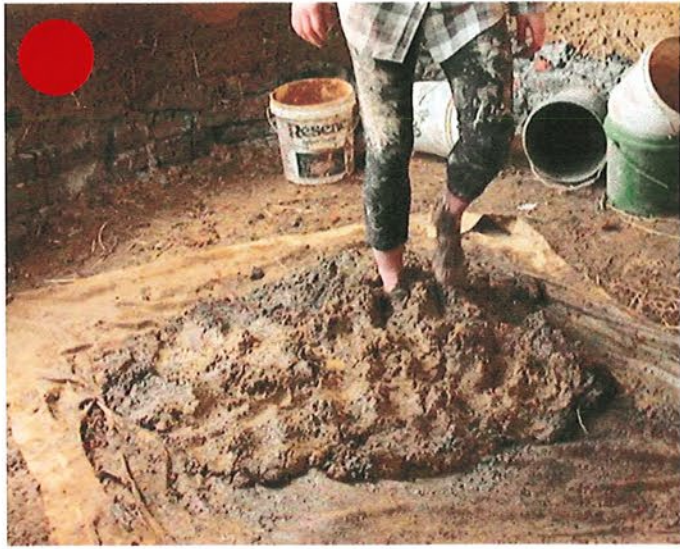
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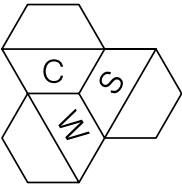
06



07

Compost areas
for landscape
maintenance to
be in areas that
students can't
access.

- 01 Low ropes course
- 02 Alternative vocational training - hedge laying
- 03 Alternative vocational training - coppicing & green wood trades
- 04 Alternative vocational training - cob building
- 05 Alternative vocational training - dry stone walling
- 06 Nature observation
- 07 Vocational horticultural skills - composting



03 Concept Development Initial Meeting Comments - Precedent 2 of 2

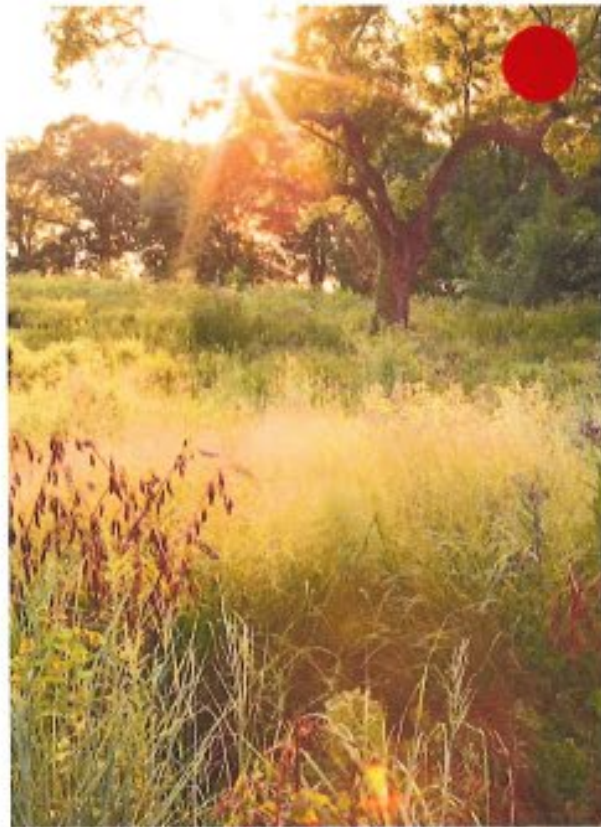
Raise Rochdale PRU

Outdoor gym

Basket Ball hoops

MUGA

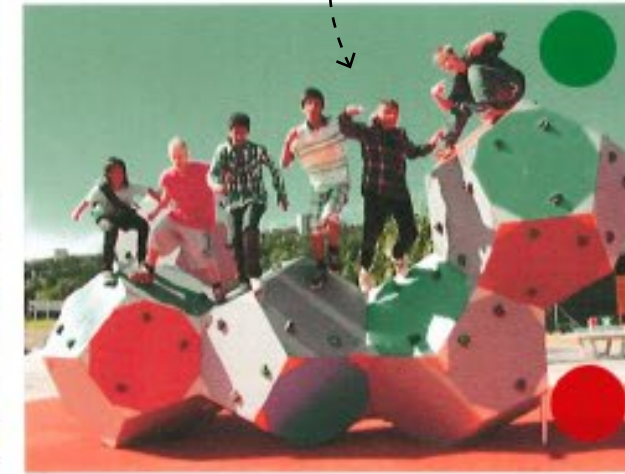
Lots of sport equipment potential
- ensure inclusive for girls



01



02



03



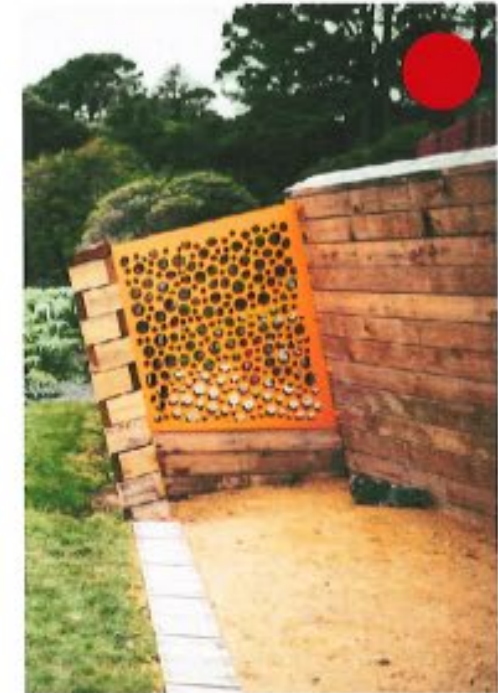
04



05



06



07

Open-plan sport areas that fit
other uses like a walking path
can still be secure - just fence
around the whole thing

Sensory circuit

- 01 Natural places assist self-soothing behaviour
- 02 Wild planting with good sightlines
- 03 Adventurous sport/play
- 04 Vocational skills - horticulture
- 05 Skakkeringen - Norwegian school
- 06 Social seating
- 07 Walls & fences can be fun



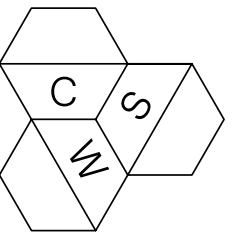
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01

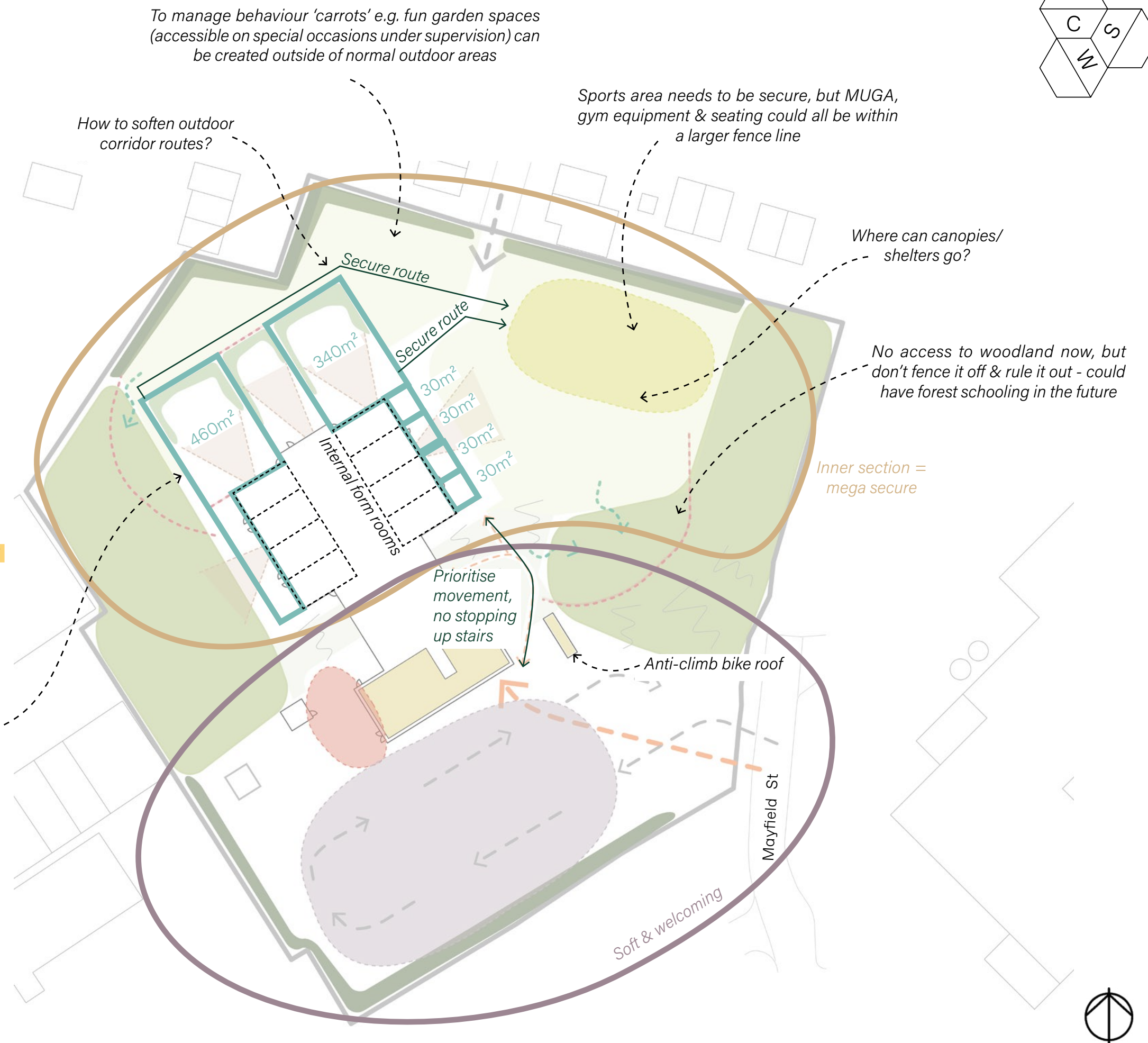
03 Concept Development

Initial Meeting Comments



Summary of meeting notes with John:

- Inside and outside, the school is split into **2 clusters** of students - must be able to keep **separate**
- No plans to stagger lunches - **everyone outside together**
- Need a **double secure boundary** around individual outdoor areas then also perimeter
- Need **secure routes** between outdoor areas
- **Avoid loose substrates** like gravel or mud
- Products that are **robust**, easy to **repair** or quick to **replace**
- Students don't value 'the outdoors', girls will spend lunch inside to avoid bad weather, **a canopy** could encourage time outside
- Boys use football pitch over lunch breaks - **exercise equipment** could be popular
- We need something to make pupils want to come in - **attendance is 40%**
- **2m² per pupil needed for outdoor social space**
 - 10 pupils per classroom = 20m² per classroom
 - 8 form rooms = 80 pupils needing 160m² total to spend breaks
 - * Draft layout shows we have achieved this



03 Concept Development

Activity Spaces Precedent



01



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03



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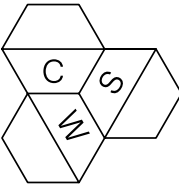


06



07

- 01 Multi Use Games Area
- 02 Mounded grass
- 03 Quiet seating space
- 04 Calming planting
- 05 Walking route
- 06 Trees providing shade
- 07 Painted asphalt



03 Concept Development
Entrance Precedent



01



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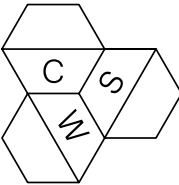


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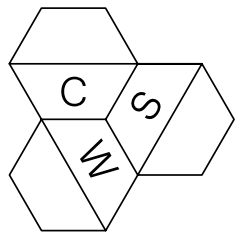


07

- 01 Bold, clear entrance using paving & planting
- 02 Corten retaining walls to planters
- 03 Soft grasses
- 04 Seasonal change
- 05 Joyful pops of colour
- 06 Swathes of plants
- 07 Seating, planting edge, trees guiding you in



03 Concept Development
Concept Plan



- Key
- 01 Entrance
 - 02 Car Park & Drop Off
 - 03 Retained Woodland
 - 04 External Stairs
 - 05 Fire Escape Muster Point
 - 06 Steep Slope
 - 07 Outdoor Activity Space (Clusters)
 - 08 Emergency Access Only
 - 09 Servicing & Deliveries
 - 10 Visual & acoustic buffer
- trees & hedgerow

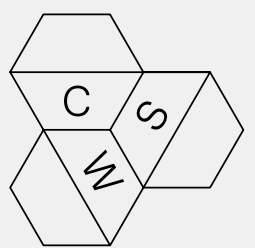


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04 Site Surveys

W



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Ecology & BNG

A PEA was prepared by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) in September 2025 to record and present the ecological, biodiversity and nature conservation status of the site.

“The proposals will secure an opportunity to implement beneficial measures such as habitat management and habitat creation that will safeguard habitats for wildlife such as birds and bats, with the aim of providing a net gain in biodiversity in accordance with the principles of the NPPF.”

The recommendations include:

- Green infrastructure and green links through the site with the use of landscape planting and trees as stepping stones;
- Compensation for the loss of grassland habitat via the provision of wildflower grassland within the landscape planting within the site;
- Use of native species in the landscape planting scheme;
- Avoidance of unnecessary lighting and preparation and implementation of a sympathetic external lighting scheme in accordance with current guidance (see below); and
- Incorporation of features for wildlife such as boxes for roosting bats and nesting birds within the developed areas of the site and the retained woodland.

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared to include the following:

- Specification of the removal / control and safe disposal of invasive species such as Indian Balsam and Montbretia;
- Installation of bird boxes including boxes of a design for specific species such as nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and tawny owl (*Strix aluco*);
- Creation of dead wood habitat piles for colonisation by invertebrates, fungi and small mammals including hedgehog (a Priority Species); and
- Plug planting of woodland herbs such as native Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

The report shares a suggested planting palettes focused on suitable native species, species for pollinators and night scented flowers for moths and bats and the provision of wildflower grassland.

Arboriculture

An AIA & AMS were prepared by Pennine Ecological (Arboricultural Consultants) in February 2026 to record and present the location & category of trees on site, highlighting those impacted by development.

The recommendations include:

- Removing G8 (C2) to facilitate the construction of boundary fencing
- Partial removal of G9 (C2) to facilitate building construction, allow for site level changes & soil redistribution
- Remove T10 (U) to allow construction of internal fencing, site level changes & soil redistribution
- Removal of 2 trees in G11 (B2) to allow construction of internal fencing, site level changes & soil redistribution
- Removal of T12 (C2) to allow construction of internal fencing, site level changes & soil redistribution
- Removal of 2 trees in W17 (B2) to facilitate construction of the MUGA - the construction of the MUGA will require supervised root pruning and excavation

The removal of these trees “will have a number of benefits for the development and character of the area. These being: give a greater diversity of age class on the site, increasing sustainability; give a greater diversity of species and therefore wildlife habitat”.

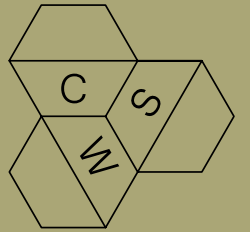
The report suggests suitable replacement tree species in place of those being removed:

- Acer campestre
- Alnus glutinosa
- Betula pendula
- Betula pubescens
- Carpinus betulus
- Crataegus laevigata
- Crataegus monogyna
- Ilex aquifolium
- Malus sylvestris
- Prunus cordata
- Prunus padus
- Pinus sylvestris
- Quercus robur
- Sorbus aucuparia
- Sorbus aria
- Taxus baccata
- Tilia cordata



Existing trees along the edge of the ridge which will be protected and retained during the construction period

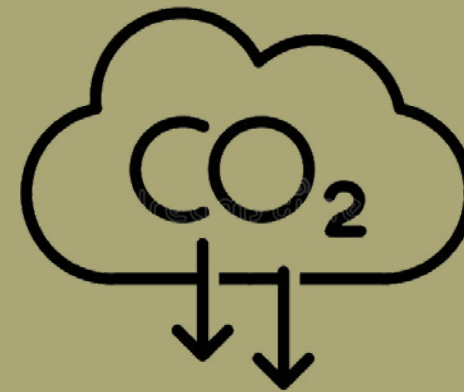
Valuing Trees



Air Pollution Filtration
Trees capture particulates on their high surface area (leaves & bark).



Noise Reduction
Traffic noise can be substantially reduced by trees, leading to improved health & wellbeing of those living close to highways.



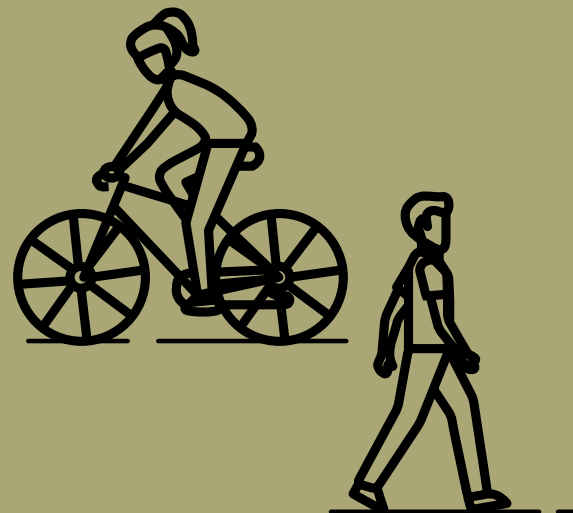
Carbon Storage
Trees store carbon - a major contributor to climate change.



Habitat
Living and dead trees provide habitat and foraging opportunities for invertebrates, birds, mammals, fungi and reptiles.



Beauty
People want to spend time in beautiful places, and through colour, form, movement, structure and seasonal change, trees bring beauty to public spaces.



Traffic Calming
Trees can be used to reduce stress & traffic speed, as well as to encourage car free transport.



Asphalt Protection
Shading from trees can increase the longevity of asphalt by 15%.



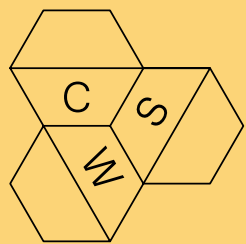
Rainwater Attenuation
Trees hold water in their canopies and hold together soil which is important in reducing surface runoff.

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05 Materials Palettes

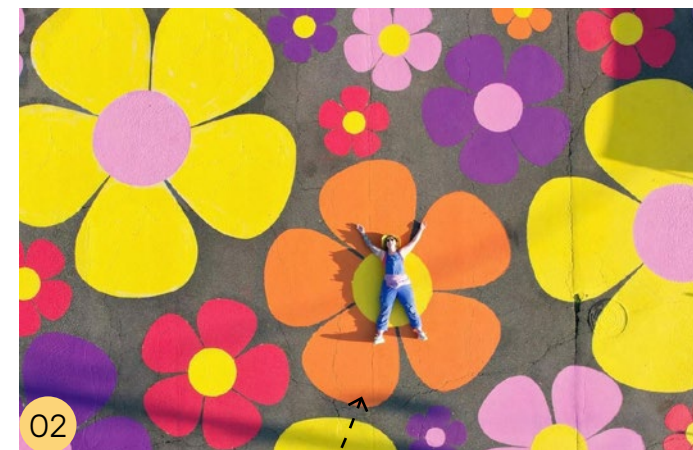
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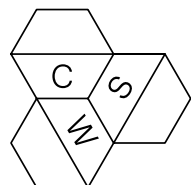
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05 Materials Palettes *Hard Landscape Materiality*

- 01 Granitic Setts Paving
Concrete blocks with veneer of 100% natural aggregate.
Permeable using Drain Joint and suitable for pedestrian and vehicle loading.
- 02 Asphalt to Activity Spaces
Black with thermoplastic graphics designed by pupils.
- 03 Asphalt to Car Park
With white aggregate chippings and thermoplastic white lining.
- 04 Mown Path
A mown grass path connects the painted asphalt figure-8 walking loop to the meadow.
- 05 Raised Planters
Brightly coloured raised planters to Cluster Spaces with sensory planting.

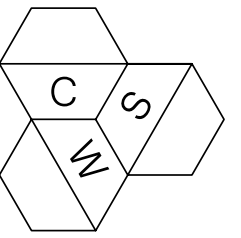


Opportunity for co-design between school community and local artist to develop designs for Activity Spaces

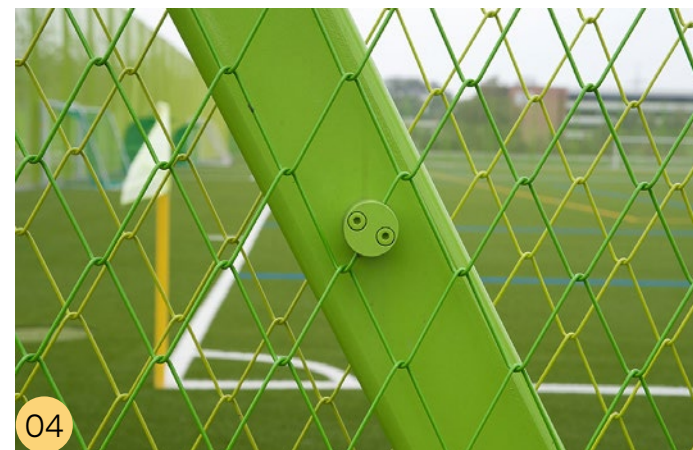
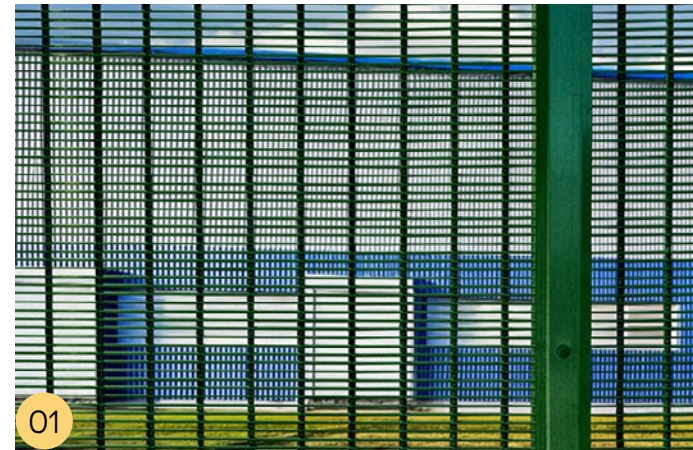


05 Materials Palettes

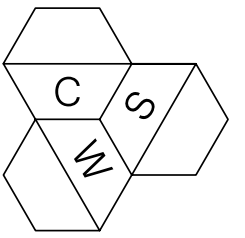
Boundary Types



- 01 Boundary Fence
External fence that follows the site's perimeter. Climb-resistant from inside or outside.
- 02 Vehicular Entrance Gate
Fence with timber slats for vehicle access.
- 03 Pedestrian Entrance Gate
Fence with timber slats for pedestrian/ cycle access.
- 04 Internal Fence
Fences around activity areas that allow staff to control the flow of students outside. Climb-resistant, joyful colours.
- 05 Internal Gates
Part of the internal fence system to control the flow of students.
- 06 Maglock Gate
Maglocks on gates on the fire route. The gates prevent students occupying the muster points when not in use. In case of fire, the gates unlock, allowing people to meet at the muster point half way up the outdoor steps.
- 07 Retaining Wall Options
Built to manage level changes - structural. Climb-resistant. Finish to compliment building material palette.



05 Materials Palettes Secure Boundaries Strategy



As well as considering the material of boundaries, we also need to consider how they will be used. This diagram shows where pupils can access if they go outside from a classroom, and how many gates they'd travel through to get there.

- Yellow areas where pupils can access from the Clusters
- Orange areas are accessed through 1 gate.
- Red areas are accessed through 2 gates.

This shows that the whole landscape can have controlled access, depending on staff capacity. Easiest access straight from classrooms creates breakout spaces to cool off, socialise & relax.

With supervision, the sport & social activity area can be access via 1 gate.

Key

-  Secure Outer Fence Line
-  Acoustic Outer Fence Line
-  Secure Inner Fence Line
-  Retaining Wall
-  01 Vehicular Entrance Gate
-  02 Pedestrian Entrance Gate
-  03 Internal Gate
-  04 Maglock Gate

Yellow = can access straight from building

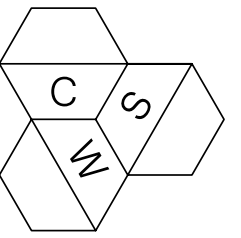
Orange = can access through one gate from building

Red = can access through 2 gates from building



05 Materials Palettes

Indicative Planting Palette for Arrival



On arrival, pupils, staff and visitors will be greeted by a series of planting beds leading through the car park to entrance.

The species chosen aim to clearly signal the seasons through colour, provide evergreen structure and signal that this is place that the community is proud of.

Plants will also be selected to provide biodiversity benefits such as nectar for pollinators, and should be robust enough to withstand a more extreme climate over their lifetimes.



Parrotia persica 'Vanessa'



Prunus 'Accolade'



Pinus sylvestris



Carpinus betulus



Alchemilla mollis



Aster x frikartii 'Monch'



Echinacea purpurea



Blechnum spicant



Rudbeckia fulgida sullivantii 'Goldsturm'



Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'



Stipa arundinacea



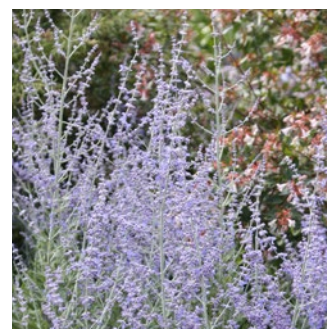
Eryngium planum



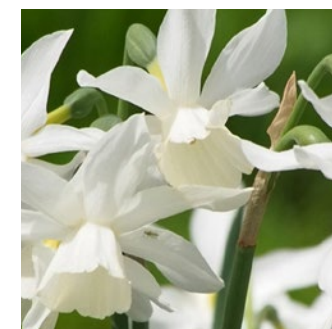
Lavandula angustifolia



Sarcococca confusa



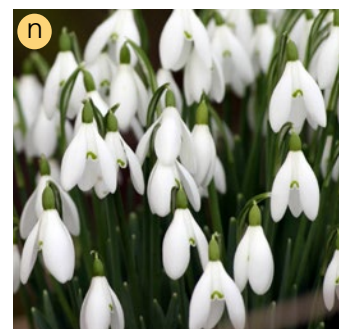
Perovskia 'Blue Spire'



Narcissus 'Thalia'



Verbena bonariensis 'Lollipop'

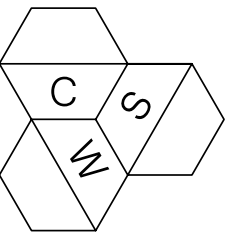


Galanthus nivalis

e = evergreen **n** = native

05 Materials Palettes

Planting Palette for Activity Spaces



The planting to the Activity spaces is designed to stimulate the senses and soften the edges of spaces, creating enclosure and providing shade.

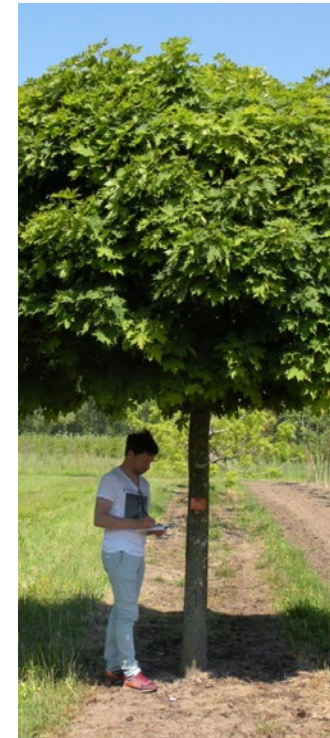
Plants here will also demonstrate seasonal change through spring blossom or autumn colour and attract pollinating insects and birds, connecting pupils with nature.



Amelanchier lamarckii



Magnolia stellata



Acer platanoides 'Globosum'



Hedera helix



Centranthus ruber 'Albus'



Alchemilla mollis



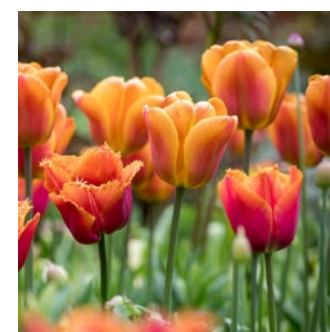
Hyssopus officinalis



Rosmarinus officinalis



Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'



Tulipa 'Brown Sugar'



Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'



Mentha species



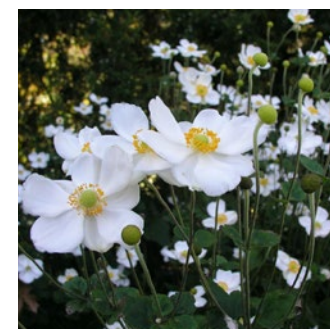
Verbena bonariensis



Lavandula angustifolia



Erigeron karvinskianus 'Profusion'



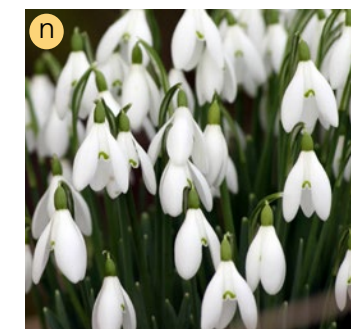
Anemone x hybrida 'Honorine Jobert'



Narcissus 'Thalia'



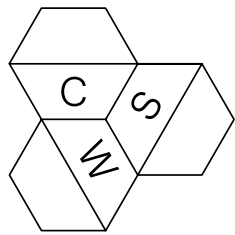
Stipa arundinacea



Galanthus nivalis

e = evergreen n = native

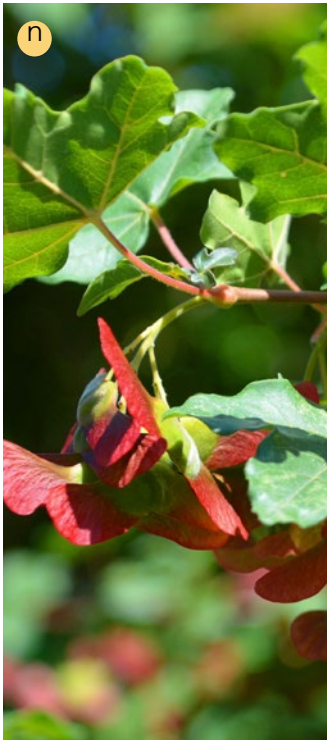
05 Materials Palettes
Planting Palette for Woodland



To the edge of the site on the higher and lower plateau limited access to people creates a lot of potential for wildlife through extension and enhancement of the existing vegetation.

The tree species illustrated here have been recommended by the project arboriculturalist and ecologist in response to the existing trees on site and the opportunity to diversify with appropriate native species.

The tree planting will also include a spread of sizes and standard, feathered and multistem forms.



Acer campestre



Malus sylvestris



Crataegus monogyna



Salix caprea



Sorbus torminalis



Alnus glutinosa



Betula pendula



Prunus avium



Prunis padus



Corylus avellana



Ilex aquifolium

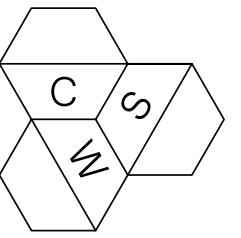


Pinus sylvestris

e = evergreen n = native

05 Materials Palettes

Planting Palette for Woodland Understorey



The understorey planting palette includes native plants tolerant of lower light levels and create a shrub layer with smaller, multistem shrubs, a field layer with grasses, perennials and ferns and a ground layer with ivy and bulbs.

Beneath the canopy layer, a well developed shrub layer will provide numerous nesting and food opportunities for smaller woodland birds.

Below the field layer of herbs and grasses supplies food and microhabitats for a wide range of butterflies and other invertebrates.



Prunus spinosa



Rosa arvensis



Rosa canina



Sambucus nigra



Viburnum opulus



Asplenium scolopendrium



Blechnum spicant



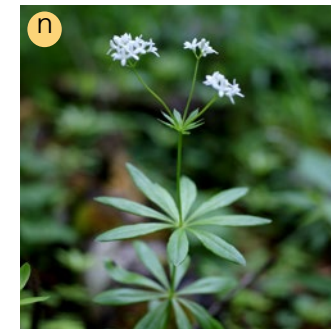
Dryopteris filix-mas



Allium ursinum



Fritillaria meleagris



Galium odoratum



Hedera helix



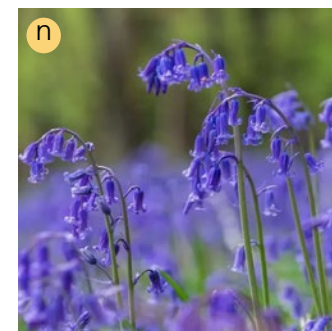
Brachypodium sylvaticum



Luzula sylvatica



Anemone nemorosa



Hyacinthoides non-scripta



Narcissus pseudonarcissus

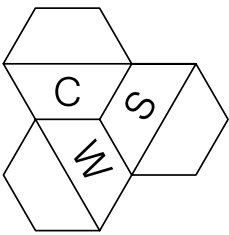


Colchicum autumnale

05 Materials Palettes *Planting Palette for Slope*

This planting palette has been selected to thrive on the south facing, well-draining slope. As well as maximum sunshine, the slope will also be exposed to prevailing winds.

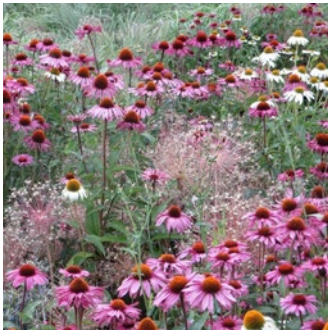
Grasses and shrubs are chosen that respond to the wind providing movement, alongside evergreen shrubs for structure and perennials and bulbs providing seasonal colour throughout the year.



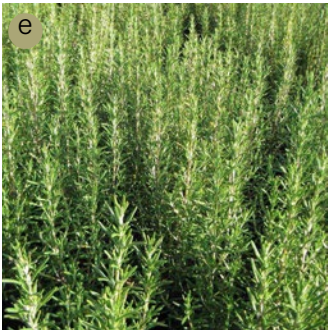
Miscanthus sinensis
'Gracillimus'



Heuchera 'Lime Marmalade'



Echinacea purpurea



Rosmarinus officinalis



Perovskia 'Blue Spire'



Stipa arundacea



Carex comans 'Bronze'



Hedera helix



Galanthus nivalis



Kniphofia 'Bees Lemon'



Verbena bonariensis



Eryngium planum



Narcissus pseudonarcissus



Prunus laurocerasus
'Otto Luyken'



Vinca minor 'Gertrude Jekyll'



Lonicera periclymenum



Agapanthus africanus

e = evergreen

n = native

05 Materials Palettes
Planting Palette for Scrub

These palette have been developed using the recommendations from the arboricultural & ecology surveys.

The scrub planting is located on the edges of the site, enhancing and extending the current areas of habitat.

The species chosen are chosen to mimic natural, dense, low to medium height native vegetation which provide an important habitat for different groups of flora and fauna while offering shelter and food for invertebrates, birds and mammals.



Crataegus monogyna



Ilex aquifolium



Sambucus nigra



Luzula sylvatica



Lonicera periclymenum



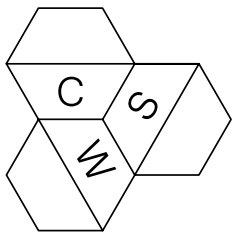
Prunus spinosa



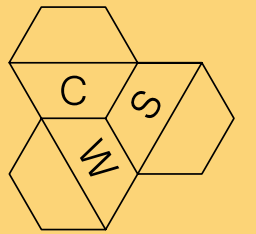
Corylus avellana



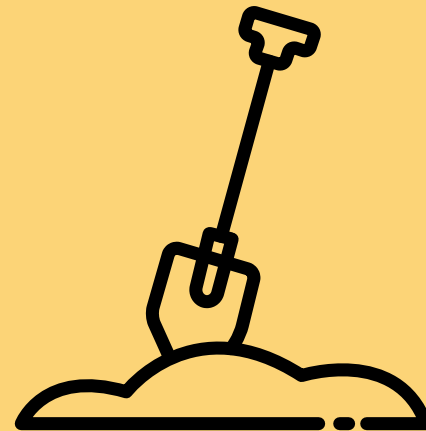
Rubus fruticosus



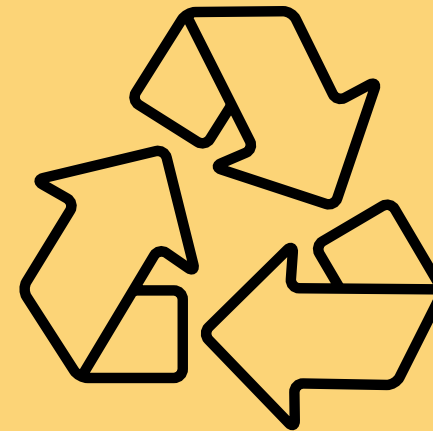
CW Studio Sustainability Principles



Material Choice
Conscious specification
of materials



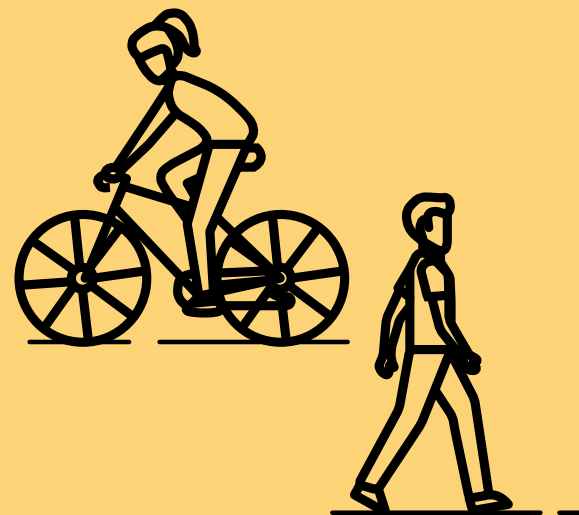
Soil Management
Utilisation of on site materials,
minimising imported growing
medium, NO PEAT



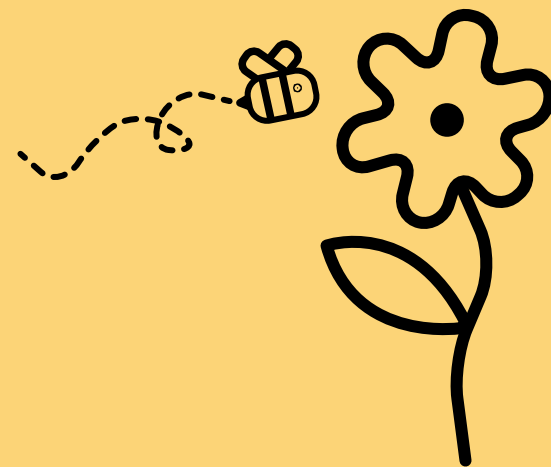
Waste Reduction
Utilise existing features,
re-use materials, reduce off
site waste



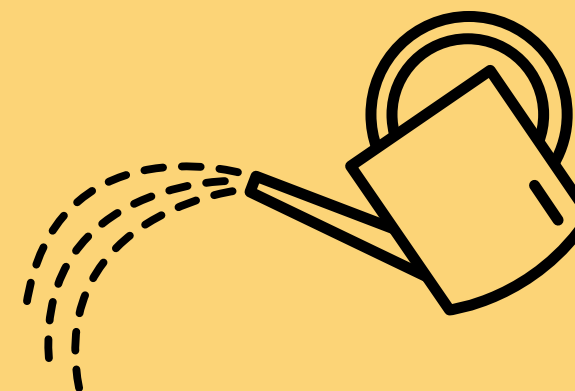
Trees and Habitat
Integration and enhancement of
existing trees and habitat, where
selective removal is required
materials will be re-utilised



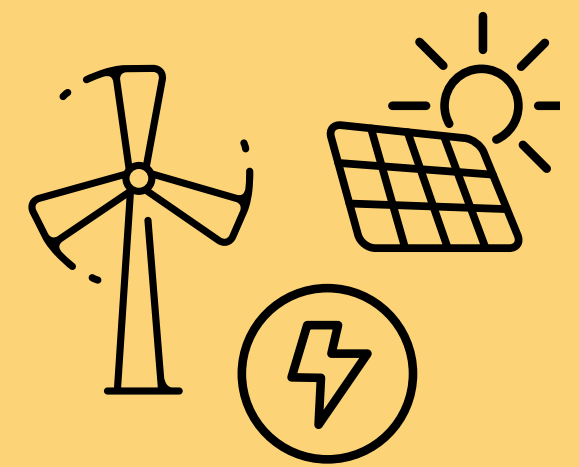
Active Travel
Enabling sustainable travel to be
the easy choice for local trips



Planting Choice
Diversity of species for climate
resilience, provision for pollinators
and tolerance of drought
conditions

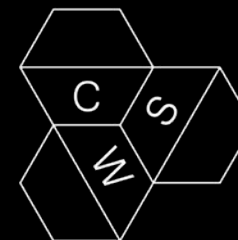


Water Management
Designing for sustainable
drainage and reduction in water
usage



Energy
Utilisation of renewable
sources for electricity

C



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