

Appendix I – Landscape Statement and Tree Protection / Replacement Strategy

Property name	Westgate All-Through School and Nursery
Property address	The Westgate School Cheriton Road Winchester SO22 5AZ
Proposed Works	To expand the existing Secondary school with a 420 place Primary school and a 55 place Nursery with additional car parking, playgrounds access paths, landscaping and the demolition of an existing boarding house and annexed nursery unit.

Introduction.

This appendix sets out the general principles for the site layout, hard and soft landscape design and describes the strategy for tree protection and replacement. It should be read in conjunction with the main Planning Statement and its appendices, the Design and Access Statement and the separate Arboricultural Report from RPS plc.

General Principles For Site Layout.

The proposal landscape works span many areas within the Secondary school site and are intended to integrate the new facilities successfully into the existing Secondary school site whilst also improving many existing infrastructure issues that exist on the Secondary school site.

The works can be split into the following main areas:

- The Primary school setting
- The Nursery setting
- The car park and footways to the front and sides of the Secondary school reception block
- The upper terracing and car parks adjacent to the Badminton Centre
- The main sports field

The Primary School setting aims to provide stimulating and varied Key Stage One and Two environments which accords fully with Building Bulletin 99 guidance and establish a comprehensive series of outdoor learning spaces. All infrastructure requirements such as bin storage, cycle storage, parking, playgrounds and access routes are fully considered and utilise the sites significant contour changes and landscape features to produce an exciting and interesting educational environment. The most significant feature will be the undulating soft play surfaces ranging out from free flow zones around the school building. A fully sized netball court will be located on the site of the demolished flat room section of the existing building and the upper grass 'meadow' with adventure play trail and gardening areas will be accessible from this court.

The Nursery setting sits on the site of the old Secondary school swimming pool on the lower end of the site. This swimming pool was demolished some years ago to leave a space which is currently under used. This location is ideal for the Nursery with excellent access and infrastructure links. The setting of the Nursery will be in a courtyard style garden approach to both front and back and provision will be made for a comprehensive layout of paths, storage, play surfaces and play features such as sand pit, growing beds and climbing frame to match the existing spaces occupied by the current Nursery gardens.

The car park and footways to the front and sides of the Secondary school reception block are to be improved to make the Secondary school reception doors more visible and accessible. This will also provide improved safe routes for pedestrians and increased parking in this strategic location to replace parking removed from the Primary School site. A widened pavement zone will provide a setting for new entrance gates to both the main Secondary site as well as the Nursery unit to provide a grand entrance point for the school.

The upper terracing and car parks adjacent to the Badminton Centre will be rationalised to reduce the priority that cars have over children in this area. Accessible routes to link the main buildings will be introduced and the grass terrace transformed into a play space for the younger Secondary age children.

The main sports field which sits to the south of the Badminton Hall will provide a joint sports field for both the Secondary and the Primary school pupils. This will be levelled using surplus topsoil from the Primary site and will be ameliorated with sand slitting on it's southern side to increase winter usability considerably.

General Principles For Hard Landscape Design.

The main principle for the hard landscape design will be for utilising permeable paving in all areas, matched to elegant traditional materials wherever possible. Permeable coloured asphalt will be used for paths and playgrounds. SUDS paving units will be used for outdoor learning spaces and permeable artificial grass and rubber soft play surfaces used under play frames and equipment.

Fences will be sourced for elegance, simplicity and safety. County estate style railings will be used for lower front boundaries whilst ornate vertical bar railings will be used for higher more secure boundaries.

Existing brick and flint walls will be retained and repaired wherever possible and these will be extended to meet new entrance gates in three locations.

General Principles For Soft Landscape Design.

The principles for the soft landscape design will be established around the goal for simple elegance. Beech hedges and well selected semi mature trees will be introduced alongside the retention of as many of the existing trees as possible. Some areas of structure planting will help to soften the impact of new car parking bays and the sensory planting introduced around the new buildings to provide smell, sound and touch interest for the pupils as well as colour and softness to the built settings.

Strategy for tree protection and replacement.

An Arboricultural survey and tree protection report has been commissioned by HCC. RPS plc will be issuing this report during the early stages of the planning submission process and this will be forwarded to the Planning Officer.

The tree protection zones will be determined by this report and a strategy for protecting the retained trees on the site will be identified in the report.

The submitted site plan does identify some trees for removal on the site. This is due to a number of reasons:

- Removal of random self sown trees which are not able to be retained due to proximity to buildings or paved surfaces.
- Removal of alternate Lime trees (5 Nr total) which currently form an over crowded and oppressive tree canopy line directly adjacent to the front of the new Primary school.
- Removal of un-wanted Leyland Cyprus hedge trees to the rear of the Primary School site.

New trees will be planted in many locations around the site to provide a more elegant and rational tree strategy for the site as a whole (as described in the general principles paragraph above). This will involve the planting of a total of over 25 new trees around the site. These will be locally grown ornamental forms of our native species such as *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire' and *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' and will be planted as root balled extra heavy standards. They will be maintained for five years following planting to ensure healthy growth and provide significant improvement to the setting of the school.

