

**Design & Access Statement for Outline
Application, Kingstone & Holgate ALC,
Barnsley**

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1. BACKGROUND and CORPORATE VISION

Full details of the Background to Building Schools for the Future and the authority's vision are included in Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Educational Vision, a copy of which is attached to this report.

In brief, the performance of Barnsley's secondary schools compares unfavourably with the average level throughout the UK. There is an urgent need to provide existing and future pupils with facilities and conditions that will give them the best opportunity to fulfil their potential. The authority have embraced Government policy under the Building Schools for the Future initiative and are proposing to replace all traditional secondary schools with new Advanced Learning Centres (ALC's) throughout the borough.

The number and location of the new ALC's is a response to meeting educational and community needs. Each ALC will provide facilities for:

- Pupils aged 11 to 19 years to gain a wide range of qualifications and skills.
- Full service provision, support for children and their families.
- Special Educational Needs
- Adult learning of vocational and non-vocational skills
- Community learning and leisure activities.

The secondary school framework in Barnsley is currently unsatisfactory; one of the reasons for this is the number of surplus places. The pupils on roll at secondary schools maintained by the Council by 2012 will be 11,499 with 2164 surplus places. This is almost 16% of the total secondary school capacity. The Council is required to manage the supply of school places so that the total level of surplus capacity does not exceed 10%. The effect of current trends for some schools is for the roll number to fall to a level well below the school capacity. The primary goal of the authority is to improve educational achievements in Barnsley. There is evidence to suggest that the current learning environments i.e. the existing school buildings may have a detrimental effect on children's education throughout the borough. In an effort to meet the authority's primary goal it is imperative that pupils are given the best opportunities to learn in a safe, comfortable and purpose built environment.

With these objectives and policies in mind, the authority have identified that there is an urgent need to replace the current school buildings at Kingstone and Holgate High Schools with an up to date, fit for purpose building. The principle is to establish a community facility that will serve the wider community and include educational facilities for children and adults as well as include (in some cases) related facilities such as libraries, health centres etc. This is in line with central government thinking, particularly the ability to integrate efficiently the governments income flows for various functions within the council.

The proposed distribution of ALC's throughout the borough will result in an ALC within each Area Forum, creating an opportunity to integrate other existing learning provisions into a single establishment.

Each ALC would provide each area forum with:

- A wide range of pathways to further education, training and employment and the flexibility to combine work-based training with learning in a centre of college
- An integrated Youth Service provision, allowing young people early access to personal advice and support as well as leisure activities.
- A Full Service provision, ensuring an easy access to support services for students and their families.
- A school that offers students the opportunity to specialise and collaborate closely with Barnsley College and other training providers.
- Enhanced sport and leisure facilities
- An opportunity to provide an extended provision to young people who may access some or all of their daytime learning elsewhere.

The authority is proposing to create nine ALC's to replace the remaining thirteen secondary schools after Elmhirst has been replaced by a new academy. There will be three new sites accommodating the three new ALC's that are replacing six of the existing schools and six ALC's on existing school sites, of which Kingstone & Holgate is one. In addition there will be a new Special School, formerly The Springwell Centre and major refurbishment to the remaining Special school, Greenacre.

The decision to amalgamate Kingstone and Holgate High Schools was borne from a need to rationalise the secondary school estate, provide the best opportunity for our 11 to 19 year old children, falling roll numbers locally and particularly in this case the geographical location of the two schools.

The majority of the school's pupils reside in and around the town centre; others travel from Worsborough, Ward Green, Dodworth and Wilthorpe. Predominantly the transferring primary schools for Kingstone High are Longcar, Keresforth, Ward Green, Summer Lane, Doncaster Road, St Mary's CE, Worsborough Common, Wilthorpe Junior, Dodworth St John's CE, Shawlands, Gawber, and 12 other schools. For Holgate: Burton Road, Wilthorpe Junior, Longcar, Grove Street, Ward Green, Shawlands, Worsborough Bank End and 18 other primary schools. These factors have influenced the decision for the ALC to occupy one of the existing school sites and are critical in terms of ensuring the most sustainable location for transport access and to ensure the social and community links are not lost through the re-location of the school to an area outside that the population perceives as their local area.

The school roll for the new ALC is expected to be 2,200 by the time it opens. This includes 200 sixth form pupils.

A critical element of the ALC is its size the reasoning behind this and the rationale is explained in the next two sections of this report.

The Department for Education and Skills have provided Building Bulletin 98: A Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects as a design guide. Interrogation of both this document and the predicted capacity for 11 to 19 year olds provided by the Local Education Department has allowed for an accurate prediction of the overall size. Within the figures given in section 3 there is an inclusion of 10% above the standard secondary school size to allow for the additional facilities expected in an ALC. These facilities are not given an allowance within BB98 but are an all important factor of these new community schools.

2. DETAILS OF THE EXISTING SITE

Kingstone School is on the fringe of the town, to the south west of the centre. A public right of way and Greenacre Special School lie to its southern boundary, agricultural land to its western boundary, private residential to its northern boundary and a public highway, Broadway, on its eastern boundary. The main vehicular access and other pedestrian access to the school are from Broadway.

The existing school site includes buildings, playing fields and a hard surfaced games court area. It measures 91,236m² which is insufficient, using BB98, for the new ALC.

Holgate School is also on the fringe of the town, although closer to the centre than the Kingstone site. There is a public highway, Shaw Lane, to its north eastern boundary, a cricket and rugby club to its south eastern boundary factories to its south western boundary and a residential estate to its northern boundary.

The existing school site includes buildings, playing fields and a hard surfaced games court area. It measures 107,079m² which is insufficient, using BB98, for the new ALC.

The number of pupils currently on roll at Kingstone is 1,398, at Holgate it is 974. The anticipated roll number of the ALC forecasted at the opening date in 2011 will be 2,200. The majority of these pupils reside in Worsborough, Ward Green, Dodworth and Wilthorpe. Because of the geographical location of the two current schools and that of the proposed ALC in relation to other proposed ALC's the catchment area is unlikely to alter.

General Condition

Kingstone

The school is made up of five blocks, two of which are two storeys, accommodation for music and drama is restricted and there are insufficient student social areas. Other suitability issues are:

- Of the 27 general classrooms 23 are undersized
- Staff facilities are small and inappropriate
- Sports facilities are poor and undersized

OfSTED comment

Despite the best endeavors of the school, many of the specialist facilities are unsatisfactory and have been so for a considerable period. Several science laboratories require refurbishment and the indoor facilities for physical education are unsatisfactory. Those for dance are poor. Accommodation for music is unsatisfactory. Teaching rooms for modern foreign languages and religious education are not located in one area. This can result in the inefficient use of resources. There are limited indoor social areas.

Condition

The school is in poor condition requiring £1.5m expenditure at 2003 prices to rectify condition issues.

Holgate

The school is made up of three blocks with the main one being two storeys there is no lift and the school is difficult for anyone with mobility problems. Ventilation throughout the school is poor and causes problems. Other suitability issues are:

- Playing fields are inadequate
- Site access is poor and car parking restricted
- Out of 20 general teaching bases 11 are undersized
- Corridors and circulation route are narrow and cause congestion

OfSTED comment:

The school occupies one compact site and has benefited from recent additions such as the new sports hall and technology block. There has been some refurbishment of other rooms by the school but much of the accommodation dates back to early grammar school days. Playground and social space are in short supply and access to many areas of the school is difficult for those who are not fully mobile. Most subjects now have their own suited accommodation although some rooms are too small for the large classes they are required to hold. There is extensive security arrangements which keep pupils and employees safe during the school day. However the difficulties with overcrowding, lack of social and play areas for pupils and congested corridors reported in the previous inspection remain largely unresolved.

Condition

The school is in poor condition requiring £1.3m expenditure at 2003 prices to rectify condition issues.

3. PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT

The proposal is to build a new secondary school on the Holgate existing site for 2,200 11 to 19 year olds. This will be funded via Partnership For Schools from the DFES. The funding is based on the area requirements for secondary schools in Building Bulletin 98: Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects. There is a formula within BB98 to calculate the amount of building and other areas required for a secondary school using the roll number. Using this formula the likely gross floor area of the building will be 17,650m². The overall size of the site required is 168,970m² and the existing site is 107,079m², therefore the site itself is insufficient in area. However the authority own land adjacent to the site and close by it. It is the intention of the authority to bring this land under the control of the school and thus provide a site totalling 1 169,471m². It would seem that the authority has enough land to accommodate the new school and it would seem wise to be above the BB98 recommendations in order that:

- In an attempt to reduce any disruption to education it is the authority's intention to construct the new building before any demolition of the existing. Allowing the school to operate as normally as possible during the construction phase. Additional site area is required to enable this to happen.
- The existing topography of the site restricts the actual positioning of the new building in terms of accessibility. The purchase of additional adjacent land will facilitate a more considered position for the new building in terms of vehicular and pedestrian access.
- A new vehicular access point is proposed after consultation with BMBC Highways department. It would seem that the existing entrance to the site is problematic and the proposed access is seen as an effort to better the existing transport conditions around the town.
- The purchase of additional land allows the new building to have a more considered position in terms of existing landscaping, pitches and habitat areas.

The foot print of the existing school buildings at Kingstone is 12,189m² in a mixture of single and two storey blocks. At Holgate the footprint is 5,890m² predominantly in three blocks the main block is two storey and the others single. Both are below the size recommended by BB98 to operate as a school for the forecasted number on roll. The buildings predominantly consist of 1950's brick and 1970's clasp style straddling the sites in a haphazard fashion. The circulation between the blocks on either site is unclear and the layout difficult to read. The blocks are on different levels and although some work has been done to facilitate access there are still areas that are problematic and could only be resolved with considerable new build. The purpose built Advance Learning Centre (ALC) will consist of two and three storey blocks working with the existing contours to facilitate access to all areas of the site. The buildings footprint will be limited to the amount of floor area required under BB98. There is scope to keep the footprint to a minimum dependant on the number of storeys included in the detailed design which will be submitted with the full plans submission.

The specification of the existing playing field and sports pitches are below Sport England standards, details of the enhanced provision are dealt with later in this report.

The new ALC will provide state of the art facilities for learners beyond eleven years of age. It will also provide facilities for:

- Learners aged sixteen to nineteen years.
- Adults to learn basic skills, gain qualifications and participate in non-vocational activities.
- Youth services, and
- Full service provision.

Both schools jointly have 2,372 students on roll. The projected number on roll at the anticipated opening date of the new ALC is expected to be 2,200.

Although the roll number that was used to generate the size of buildings and site using BB98 was 2,000, within BB98 this covers a range of approximately plus or minus 75 students. The authority is proposing to introduce a sixth form to the new ALC and the number of pupils anticipated is 200 (number included in the 2,200). The space allocation worked out with BB98 formulae is sufficient to accommodate these pupils.

It is intended that there will be some element of the facilities open to adult usage during the normal school day, but this will be minimal. The majority of adult and community use will be out of school hours.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

One of the major considerations for using one of the existing sites is that schools have operated on these sites since around 1920 in the case of Holgate and 1945 in the case of Kingstone, and as such they have an established relationship with the local community. They are well placed in terms of their catchment areas which cover: the town centre, Worsborough, Ward Green, Dodworth and Wilthorpe. Other factors in favour of using one of the existing sites are:

- It is suitable for its purpose.
- This area of the town is a semi-rural, is on the edge of the Greenbelt and there are no other sites available outside the Greenbelt that would facilitate the ALC in terms of physical and/or operational aspects.
- The authority owns existing sites.

Consideration of alternative sites was undertaken in the overall Re-making Learning strategy for education in Barnsley. An alternative site for the new Kingstone & Holgate ALC would be problematic in terms of:

- Finding a large enough site outside the Greenbelt.
- Land acquisition in terms of CPO issues, i.e. legislation suggests that if there is an option that reduces the risk of CPO's then that should be given priority above one that does.
- A high percentage of students reside in the surrounding areas, within walking distance of the existing school. The possibilities of finding a suitable local site are minimal therefore there would be transportation issues and highways issues to consider on another site.

- The existing school has links to the existing community and its facilities; these are at risk of being severed if the school were to move from that site to another more remote location.
- The new ALC will be providing community facilities therefore its existing relationship with the community will be strengthened. It is doubtful a different site would offer this ability.

The Kingstone site was considered for the new ALC. This site is under the requirements of BB98 with its current boundaries. The authority does not own sufficient land adjacent to the site to allow the existing boundaries to extend and due to the geographical location it would be problematic in CPO terms to add other land from other agencies.

Site Selection Criteria

A study of the existing asset base was undertaken in order to inform the decision making process. This involved providing a high level assessment of the Asset Management Plan data held by the Council. Each block in each school was categorised in terms of the necessary investment work, not only to achieve a good standard of repair but to meet a consistent level of suitability. This study was also used to construct a high level refurbishment scheme for consideration during our level options appraisal exercise. Appendix 40 of the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Educational Vision contains the summary outputs for this assessment

The Authority recognised the need to develop a strategy for reducing the capacity of those schools which showed a developing surplus above 25%.

The 2005 update to the School Organisation Plan 2003 shows that in September 2006, following the establishment of the Academy the number of pupils on roll at secondary schools maintained by the Authority will be 13,131 with 482 surplus places which is 3.5% of capacity. By 2012 the number on roll will have declined to 11,449 a reduction of 1,682 pupils creating a surplus capacity of 2,164 places which is 15.9% of the Authority's total secondary school capacity.

The decline in the secondary school population will continue beyond 2012 and will impact on all secondary schools to the extent that the projected number on roll at some schools will fall to a level which suggests that they may not be sustainable in the long term. It is also proposed that the size range of the new Advanced Learning Centres (ALCs) be between a minimum of 900 places to a maximum of around 2000 places. In developing proposals for the number of ALCs required by 2012, their size and location the following factors were taken into consideration:

- the projected number on roll at each secondary school
- the size range of the new Advanced Learning Centres to be between 900 and 2000 pupils

- long term sustainability taking account of planned housing developments within the current Unitary Development Plan and the proposed Local Development Framework
- location of existing school sites, availability of new sites and location within the existing public transport network
- distribution of Advanced Learning Centres across the Borough
- service to the community beyond the statutory school age
- deliverability within the funding provided through Building Schools for the Future

The Authority considered and discussed with Members the circumstances of each school against the above criteria. The results are tabulated in Table 8 below

Table 8 Option Appraisal Matrix

School	Sustainable NOR	Optimum Size (900 – 2000 places)	Long term sustainability (Link to housing developments in UDP)	Location in community and access to transport links	Distribution fit within LA area	Ability to serve the community	Retain or Replace?
Darton High	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
Kirk Balk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
Penistone Grammar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
The Dearne High	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
The Kingstone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Consider Amalgamation Holgate
Holgate	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	Consider Amalgamation Kingstone
St Michael's Catholic and COE High	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site a in size to 900
Edward Sheerien	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation Royston High
Wombwell High	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation Foulstone
Royston High	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation Edward Sheerien
Priory School and Sports College	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation Willowgarth High
Willowgarth High	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation
The Foulstone	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgation wi Wombwell High

The above assessment established the fixed points in terms of the institutions that have a long term sustainable future. The Schools where the long term future is in doubt were further reviewed in the context of the Authority's vision to establish a network of Advanced Learning Centres.

The resulting secondary provision in Barnsley would comprise of:

School	Proposal	Planned NOR
Darton High	ALC on existing site	1200
Kirk Balk	ALC on existing site	1200
Penistone Grammar	ALC on existing site	1700
The Dearne High	ALC on existing site	1200
St Michael's Catholic and Church of England High	ALC on existing site	900
Edward Sheerien and Royston High	Combine Schools to form ALC on new site	1100
Priory and Willowgarth	Combine Schools to form ALC on new site	1500
The Foulstone and Wombwell	Combine Schools to form ALC on new site	1800
The Kingstone and Holgate	Combined Schools to form ALC using all or part of existing sites	1800

The Authority has therefore initiated formal proposals which have been the subject of Statutory Consultation, for Kingstone and Holgate the resolution was: Provide a combined ALC to match the forecasted capacity.

The Consultation period ended on 31st January 2006 and statutory notices were published on 21 April 2006 to effect the above changes.

5. PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the determination of an application for planning permission or an appeal must be made in accordance with the plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Conversely, applications which are not in accordance with relevant policies in the plan should not be allowed unless material considerations justify a grant of planning permission.

Under Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act, the development plan is the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Statutory Development Plan is the adopted Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (UDP), dated December 2000.

Site Designations

On the Barnsley UDP the site is designated as an Existing Community Facility.

Greenspace and Playing Fields

The implications on the Greenspace of the proposed development have been considered in accordance with the UDP and LDF policy.

From a planning point of view part of the site, its central area, functions as Greenspace. UDP Policy GS35 should be taken into account as it states that when assessing proposals on land which although not designated urban green space, does in fact serve, or has recently served, one or more of the purposes of urban green space in Policy GS34, the Council will seek to retain or promote that use and will be assessed against the criteria in that policy.

Policy GS34 states that areas designated as urban green space will normally remain open and undeveloped. The proposed development must be assessed for its effect on the present and potential formal and informal function of the areas as:

- a) a facility for recreation,
- b) an area of amenity value,
- c) an area of nature conservation value, and
- d) a link between adjacent areas.

A proposal likely to have a significant adverse effect on the function of the area in any such respect will not normally be permitted.

National Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) reaffirms this position by stating that open space must not be built on unless an assessment has been

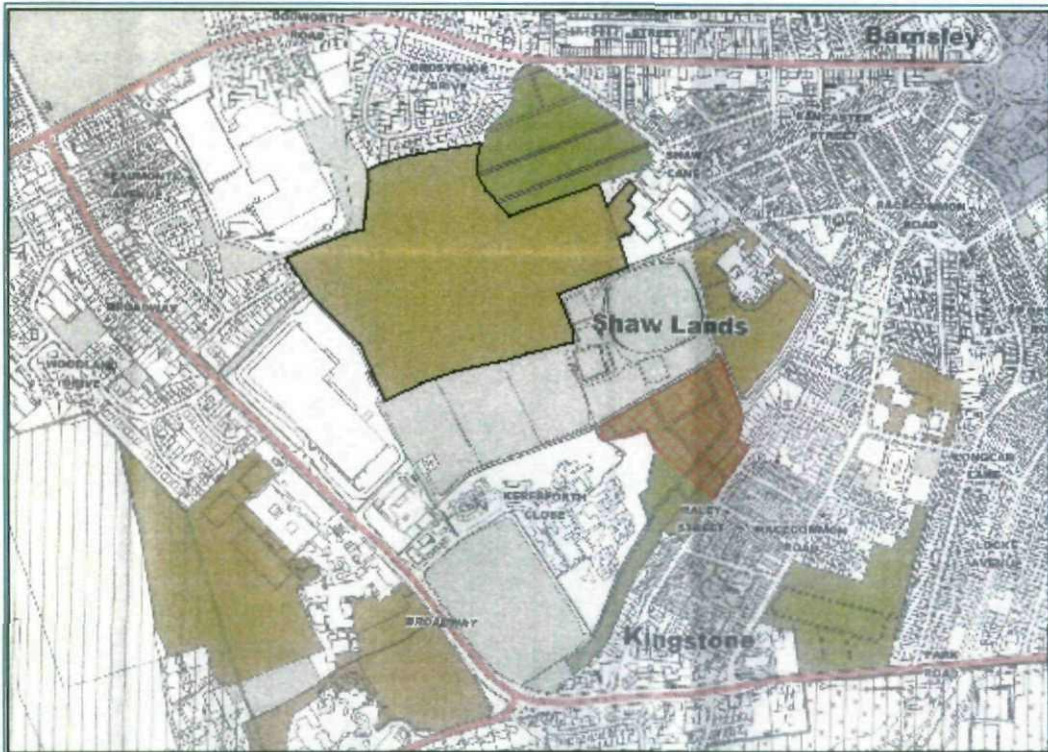
undertaken to show that the open space is surplus to requirements. Until the Council completes an up-to-date Urban Green Space Survey, any land, whether it is designated as a piece of green space in the UDP or performs a function as a piece of green space, will not be suitable for development.

The policy principle set out in PPG17 and UDP Policies GS34 and GS35 is that Greenspace should be protected from development. If the current function of this area of Greenspace is 'surplus', then consideration must first be given to other Greenspace uses on this site to overcome any deficiency of other types of Greenspace in the locality. If there is no deficiency, the adverse effects on urban green space must be offset by compensatory improvements or additions within or outside the development site, including where appropriate, through planning conditions or obligations.

No formal assessment has been undertaken in this case, as it is considered there is a betterment of Greenspace on the existing site. The following points should be considered:

- The existing building stock is predominantly single and two storey and sprawls across the site. The new development will include a building more suited to its purpose. It will be more considered and condensed in terms of its footprint and will more than likely be three storeys. This will allow a greater amount of green space on the existing site (see attached drawing).
- The current site is undersize to meet BB98 requirements, but the authority does own nearby land that can be incorporated into the schools boundary to provide the necessary pitch area.
- Sport England has been consulted with in respect of the proposals for the re-development of the site and they support the proposal.

Please see the attached drawings that assess the existing and proposed Greenspace on the existing site.



EXISTING GREENSPACE



TOTAL GREENSPACE = 99,187m²

BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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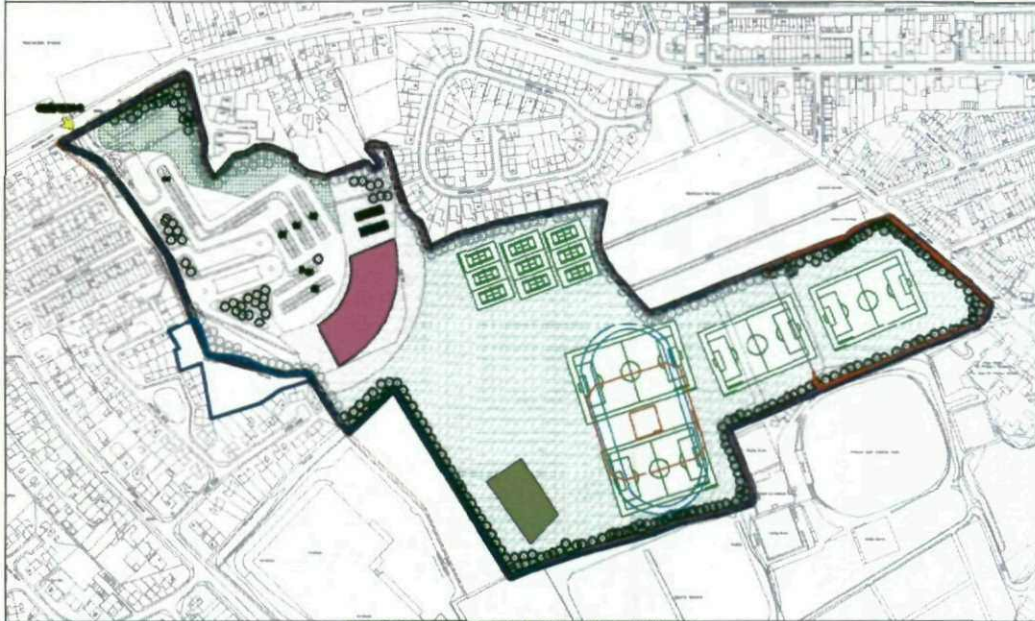


PROJECT		DRAWING	
BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE		GREENSPACE ASSESSMENT	
Drawn	SF	Date	MAR '07
		Scale	NTS
Project Code	ED 1942	Drawing No.	1
CAD File Information		Revision	

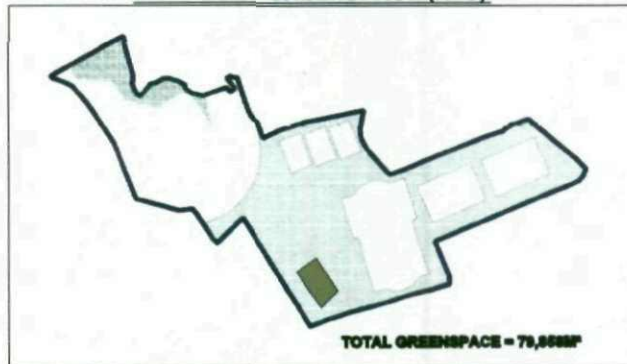
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PROPOSED GREENSPACE (NTS)



TOTAL GREENSPACE = 79,868M²

BARNSELEY
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PROJECT
**BUILDING SCHOOLS
 FOR THE FUTURE**

DRAWING
**GREENSPACE
 ASSESSMENT**

Drawn **JMY** Date **SEPT '08** Scale **NTS**

Project Code **ED 1942** Drawing No. **1** Revision

CAD File Information

6. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT CONSIDERATIONS

The pupil roll is likely to change significantly, as a result of the proposed development. The application seeks to extinguish the existing site entrance, provide a new one from Dodworth Road, and provide adequate on-site staff parking, off-highway parent's drop-off point and an on-site bus drop-off point.

Consultation has taken place between School Transport Officers, Highways Officers and the Education Service to discuss existing transport arrangements, potential improvements and future provision. The design and layout of the site will comply with the aims of national policy guidance in PPG13, which encourage sustainable development with good access to public transport to reduce reliance on private vehicles. Specific school bus services will serve the site, thus providing sustainable convenient and a safe way for pupils to travel to school.

There is currently no Travel Plan in place for the new ALC. A Travel Plan will be prepared for the ALC and will be submitted with the full planning application.

7. EXISTING TREES AND LANDSCAPING

The site includes a number of trees and hedges, of significant amenity value, which contribute to the character of the area. These have been surveyed and are indicated on the submitted Topographical Survey. Existing trees and other soft landscaping features will be fully considered in the design and layout of the new development. Every effort will be made to retain as many of the existing trees and hedges as possible in the proposed development. The position of the new building will take into account the important existing trees on site as identified by the authority's specialist advisor. Further details will be provided with the Reserved Matters application.

Landscaping is reserved for future consideration. However, the future development will include substantial planting and a full scheme of soft and hard landscaping will be provided for in all parts of the site. This will be designed to complement the architectural treatment of new buildings and make a positive contribution to the local environment. The landscaping treatment will ensure that the new development blends effectively with the environment and assist with ensuring the openness of the Green Space is suitably protected.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Prior to the submission of the outline planning application for this site, public consultation was undertaken on the amalgamation of the schools and the possible location of the actual site. The LEA has been in consultation with these groups:

- Heads of school
- School governors
- Parents of secondary children and parents of children attending primary feeder schools
- Staff employed at secondary and primary schools
- School forums

Consultation meetings have been held at the school and the above groups were all invited. Additional invitations were sent to all Councillors, the Diocese, Trade Unions and MP's. Notices were also displayed in Nurseries (both private and voluntary) and in playgroups.

The following consultation has also taken place:

- Voluntary & Community Sector, including Community Partnerships and Local Area Partnerships were invited to a meeting 27th March 2005 where the BSF proposals were presented. Almost one thousand invitations were sent out.
- Tom Storey of the Local Education Authority has presented the proposals to Area Forums.
- Initial meetings with the LSC took place in August 2005. The LSC is represented on the BSF Programme Board and as such is kept up to date on the proposals.
- Members of the BSF team have met with local members on an individual basis to discuss issues as they have arisen. An all members seminar took place in February 2004, where the remaking learning presentation was delivered, and
- Representatives from the BSF team have attended Schools Forum to present the proposals and raise specific items for consideration as necessary.

In addition to the above consultation the following reports have been submitted to Cabinet:

- 27th April 2005 Remaking Learning
- 20th July 2005 BSF School Reorganisations
- 15th March 2006 Outcome of Consultations.

The BSF project has a page on the BMBC web site, which all stakeholders have access to. The proposals are updated on a regular basis.

The consultation has taken place in the form of organised meetings attended by invitation and or individual meetings. Feedback from these meetings has informed the design process to date as has the consultation with statutory authorities. A Community and Voluntary Reference group is being set up as a result of the consultations as a means of keeping community group stakeholders informed and to encourage involvement in the design.

This represents a wide range of groups that may have an interest in the site, however it is not conclusive and if there are any particular groups it is believed we should consult with we are more than willing to do so.

9. ACCESS & DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995

The new building and facilities at Holgate for Kingstone & Holgate ALC will be situated on site with due consideration to the ease of access for all. A holistic design approach will be adopted that does not discriminate between users of the site and its buildings in terms of their physical abilities.

Level access and alighting points from the boundary of the site to all areas of the site will be an inclusive part of the hard and soft landscaping scheme.

We will be seeking the approval of Building Control and ensuring that all Building Regulations are met in terms of Access and the DDA.

10. SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

The new Advanced Learning Centre will be designed and developed in accordance with sustainable principles. The UK's Sustainable Development Strategy (1999) defines sustainable development in terms of four objectives:

1. Social Progress which recognises the needs of everyone
2. Effective protection of the environment
3. Prudent use of natural resources
4. Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

In terms of Building Schools for the Future one of the major drivers of the program is the present condition of secondary education and its effects on the community and economics of the region. Re-making learning in Barnsley is an opportunity to develop the skills of the whole community. The sustainability of the economy, the environment and indeed the region is a major priority of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The principles we intend to adopt are:

- To promote walking and cycling to schools by careful consideration of the position of new buildings, enhancement of existing footpaths and cycle paths, provide new footpaths and cycle paths where possible. Provide cycle sheds on all secondary school sites and adequate changing facilities. These will be informed by consultation with Highways, school transport providers, public footpaths/rights of way, the LA and other interested parties.
- Promote 'car-sharing' for staff and pupils.
- For those having to use vehicles to travel to school we will encourage the use of public transport and provide turning points and drop-off points within the school boundaries.
- Aim to locate development within 400m of a bus stop.
- Energy efficiency will be a major driver for the design of the new building. Sustainable heating, ventilation and cooling systems will be employed.
- Adopt the Energy Hierarchy as set out in the Regional Planning Guidance (2002 revised 2004).
- Maximise the use of natural light without the negative effects of solar gain.
- Ensure an airtight construction and adequately controlled ventilation.
- Provide beyond adequate insulation.
- Include unheated buffer spaces to the main building to store solar heat and reduce exposure to cold.
- Utilise advanced glazing systems.
- Adhere to BMBC's policy of using 'Biomass' boiler systems.
- Careful orientation of the new building/s in order to harness and best use the existing landscape and renewable natural resources will be of up most importance.
- Create maximum opportunity and accessibility for current and future generations whilst minimising the loss of natural resources.
- The new development will contribute to establishing healthy environments and diverse communities.
- New buildings will be designed and constructed using the most up-to-date information and guidance from the BRE. Sustainability will be the deciding factor in the choice of materials and construction methods as will the embodied energy associated with the materials and the maintenance of the new building.
- Endeavour to re-use materials and topsoil already on site and give priority to low energy materials.
- Source materials locally, reducing delivery journeys and supporting the local economy. Ensure contractors do likewise by examining their supply chains.
- Use reclaimed materials where possible.

- Incorporate durable materials and products that have low impact in terms of environmental damage.
- Ensure stability of existing ground and suitability to withstand new foundations and development.
- Ensure any building management company understands our commitment to sustainability and puts measures in place to monitor environmental performance and guarantee action is taken if targets are not met.
- Design in features that protect the building and its inhabitants from extreme weather conditions and use average weather conditions to the advantage of the running of the building/s.
- Ensure service installations are easily accessible and flexible.
- Any negative impact on the existing environment by the new buildings and any re-configuration of the existing will be kept to an absolute minimum. Land previously developed will be maximised for the new development to restrict the loss of Greenfield area.
- Sustainable drainage techniques (SUDS) will be used where possible.
- Install water meters.
- Encourage the installation of: low-flush WC's, waterless urinals, low water use fittings and water efficient appliances.
- Encourage re-cycling (grey water) systems.
- Considered soft landscaping i.e. avoid plants/shrubs/trees requiring large amounts of water, water planting with recycled water, avoidance of mains supplies and sprinklers.
- Keep hard surfaced areas to a minimum in favour of porous surfaces thus slowing the rate of run-off to existing watercourses.
- Encourage natural alternatives to traditional sewage treatment.
- The design will aim to meet and improve on standards set by Building Regulations.

11. FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT/DRAINAGE STRATEGY

A Consultant has been appointed to carry out a full ground conditions survey. The subsequent report was released early September 2006. Previously, a desktop study of the ground conditions was commissioned, refer to separate report prepared by Soil Mechanics, A6022/3, dated February 2006. The study includes a Flood Map from 'Envirocheck' that indicates areas at risk of flooding. There appears to be little or no risk. The full implications of this will be assessed as part of the full ground investigation survey and due consideration will be given to the layout and design of new buildings on site and to the design of the surface water drainage system.

The drainage strategy will:

- Encourage the installation of: low-flush WC's, waterless urinals, low water use fittings and water efficient appliances.

- Sustainable drainage techniques (SUDS) will be used where possible.
- Keep hard surfaced areas to a minimum in favour of porous surfaces thus slowing the rate of run-off to existing watercourses, and
- Encourage natural alternatives to traditional sewage treatment.

12. GROUND CONDITIONS SURVEY/CONTAMINATION APPRAISAL

The desktop study, prepared by Soil Mechanics, A6022/3, dated February 2006 assesses ground conditions in advance of a full study. Advice has been sought from South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service; refer to SYMAS Mineral Report, dated December 2005.

These studies and reports will inform the general site layout. The detailed study of ground conditions may have an effect on the future layout and development of the site.

13. ASSESSMENT OF SPORT ENGLAND REQUIREMENTS

Sport England has been consulted on the proposed development prior to the submission of the outline application. Their feedback and guidance has informed the outline proposals.

a) Current facilities

- Kingston currently has 37,285m² of playing field area which includes their marked out pitches, Holgate has 82,888m². Based on the projected roll number of the new ALC and BB98 recommendations the new ALC should have 80,000m², re-developing the site will allow 112,605m² to be managed by the school for pitch space. The authority intends to retain the pitch area at Kingstone (37,285m²) as a community facility.
- The current sports facilities at both schools are used regularly out of school hours by the community. To allow these activities to continue during the development process the authority will endeavour to seek alternative provision for those groups affected. The phasing of the construction programme will take due consideration of those groups using the existing facilities in the existing buildings. We understand from Sport England that we can apply for a temporary arrangement with regard to disruption of existing facilities.

b) Impact From Development

- There will be no loss of sports facilities. There will be new external facilities a four court sports hall and an activity studio (this could be dance

studio, gym etc.) will be incorporated in the new ALC design, to Sport England design standards.

- In terms of the Playing Pitch Strategy: the school have provided us with details of community and out of school usage of their sports facilities and pitches. The proposals will accommodate the existing usage and indeed seek to enhance it.
- It is the intention of the LA in conjunction with Leisure Services and Neighbourhood Services to encourage community use of the new ALC's facilities. This will be in accordance with the current Playing Pitch Strategy (this runs until March 2007, but an update has been commissioned), and Sport and Leisure Strategies.
- Changing facilities for community users and school users will be available; the details of these, marked out pitches and full sports provision will be submitted with the Full Plans Submission.
- Maintenance and management arrangements will be agreed before the Full Plans Submission. It is the intention of the LA to develop the site using a PFI contract, or a similar contract in terms of site maintenance and management which will be an essential part of the construction contract and likely to cover the next twenty five years.
- Details of primary sports to be accommodated will be submitted with The Full Plans Submission after further consultations with the school and community user groups.

c) Discussion with Leisure Department

- Consultation has taken place with BMBC's Sport & Active Recreation section and with Strategic Leisure, the agency charged with developing the authorities Sport and Leisure Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy. This has been undertaken in an effort to inform and interlink all the relevant strategies and ensure coherence between them.
- Please see the list of consultees below as evidence of public/community consultation:
 - Heads of school
 - School governors
 - Parents of secondary children and parents of children attending primary feeder schools
 - Staff employed at secondary and primary schools
 - School forums
 - Association of Community Partnerships
 - Local area partnerships
 - Trade unions
 - Diocese
 - LSC
 - Local elected members
 - BMBC cabinet, and
 - Senior officers BMBC.

d) Facilities Design

- The authority is in the process of facilitating design workshops with the existing schools and their stakeholders organised and run by external consultants and their specialists. The outcomes so far have informed the outline application and proposed site layout. The consultation will continue right through the design process to ensure the needs of the school and community users are met.
- All sports and leisure facilities within the site will be designed using BB98, Sport England and other relevant guidelines. We expect to exceed any minimum requirements.
- The detail design aspects such as: circulation routes, buildings, pitches, services, flood lighting, landscaping, reception area's, heating, walls, floors, dimensions, disabled provision, changing and showering facilities etc. will be submitted with the full plans application.

From our consultations with Sport England we understand that they could support our proposals for the site. The sports facilities proposed for Kingstone & Holgate ALC will enhance the existing provision and promote community use.

CONCLUSION

The proposal for an advanced learning centre in this location has been given thorough consideration by the Local Authority prior to submitting for an outline application. Alternatives have been carefully considered and reflected in making the decision to place an ALC on this particular site.

The authority understands that there are Greenspace considerations. However we consider that there is an overall increase and betterment to Greenspace and the proposals are of no detriment to the existing conditions. The proposal will not compromise the openness, purpose, effect and visual amenity of the Green Space in this location.

The authority believes that this development will improve education for over 2,000 pupils in the local community.