

Sibford School Outdoor Theatre

Design & Access and Planning Statement

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This statement accompanies a planning application for the construction of an outdoor theatre and classroom space on the grounds of Sibford School.

Sibford School appointed Charlie Luxton Design to seek a solution to the overcrowding in the drama department. The proposed solution provides Sibford with a versatile, exciting, and unique space that would display the talents of the pupils, enchant the audiences and offer an additional place for all departments to enjoy.

1.2 The Site Location

The Sibford School site is directly south of Sibford Ferris and the ownership boundary partially intersects with the Sibford Ferris conservation area but the proposed site is outside of this area.

There are no registered listed buildings adjacent, nor World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the site.

The site is not set within an area designated as having any ecological or nature conservation value and it contains no watercourses.

The location of the proposed outdoor theatre is located within the school grounds adjacent to the existing science block on an existing sloping grassy bank.

1.3 The Existing Site

The existing site comprises of a notional courtyard created by three existing buildings and a willow tree to the north. The courtyard contains a greenhouse, gas tank and some wall mounted plant equipment for the science block. It is located adjacent to main routes through the school.

The science block is a 1960s U-shaped building made of a series of volumes with period-style sloping roofs, and a symmetrical form. Sitting at the bottom of the slope, this building creates a focus for the space.

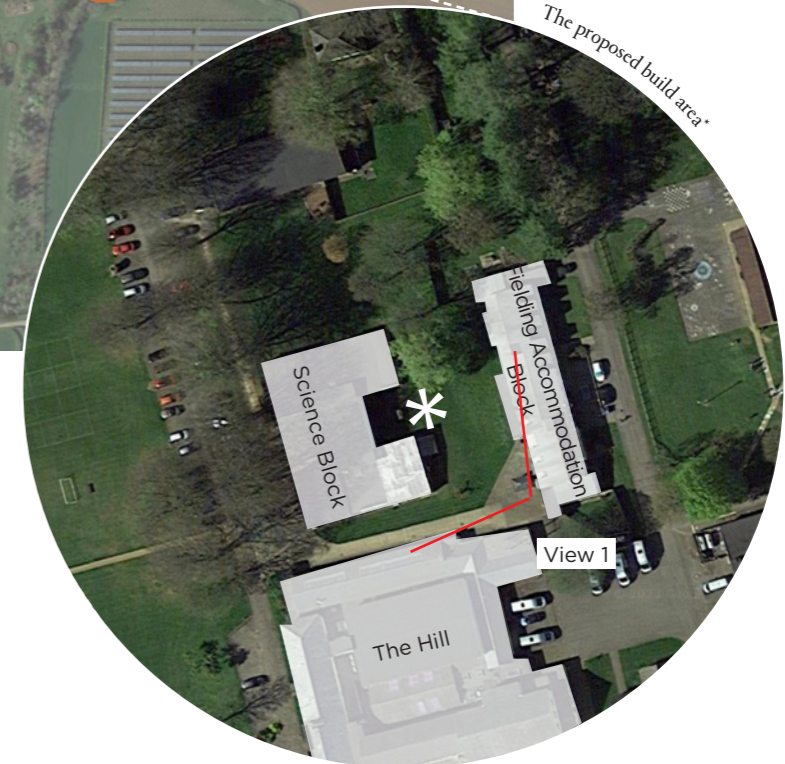
The existing site comprises of relatively species poor grassland.



Satellite view of the Sibford School with the Sibford Ferris conservation area



Parametric photograph of the existing science block - proposed site.



2.0 Proposed Design

2.1 The Proposed Scale, Form and Positioning

It is proposed create a deck sat in the ground and carve an amphitheatre into the existing slope beyond the RPA of the near by willow tree. This deck will be protected by a mono-pitched roof supported by a series of slender posts to minimise its presence. Its form and scale respect the adjacent science block and due to the existing topography the stage is hidden from other areas of the school site.

The amphitheatre will be contained by a series of posts which will be used to suspend temporary coverings for events.

2.2 Materials

The stage construction materials are inspired by the pavilion located in the RHS Malvern Spring Festival gold medal winning 'Wilder spaces' (see adjacent image) designed in collaboration with Charlie Luxton Design and Oxford Garden Design.

It is proposed that the roof structure will be constructed of reclaimed timber and steels. Any timbers will be untreated to allow a natural greying to take place and metals left to oxidise gaining a rusted colour to compliment the existing science block brick.

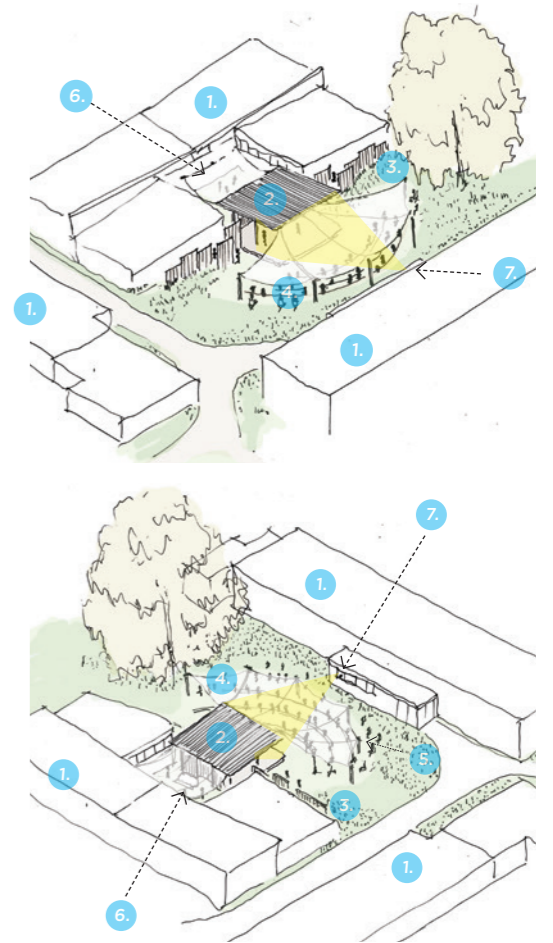
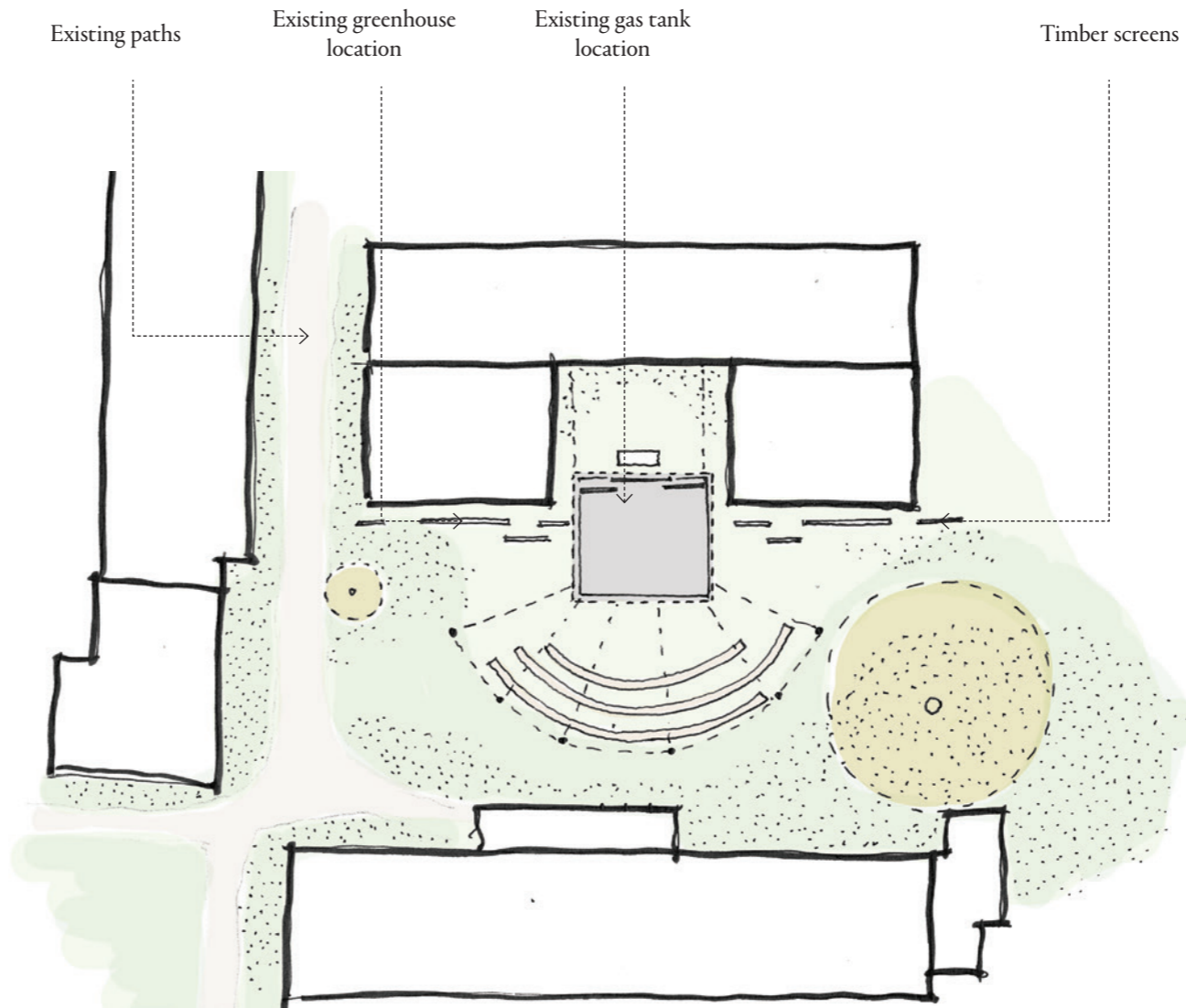
The stage's roof will be a sheet metal allowing for a light weight structure.

The gabions will be filled with local off cut stone and capped with concrete to respect the existing paving colours on site and faced with local stone.

A series of timber screens will be erected creating a backstage area and wings for the cast to transverse.

2.3 Landscaping

The land between the gabions and stage will be mowed grass, a small area of block paving will be created to allow disabled access and an area for wheel chair users to view events.



Recycled metal and timber pavilion.
'RHS Malvern Gold Medal Winner 2023 Wild Spaces' by Charlie Luxton Design and Oxford Garden Design



Enclosure created by a timber backdrop around a simple stage.
'Door county outdoor theatre' in Wisconsin



Stepped landscape seating to be used as a gathering space.
'Manassas Park' by O'Shea Wilson Siteworks

Key

1. Existing buildings.
2. Timber stage sheltered with a simple metal roof.
3. Staggered timber screen 'wings'
4. Tiered seating set into the bank.
5. Timber posts to attach temporary awnings to.
6. Backstage (can be covered with temporary awnings attached back to the existing building.)
7. Adapt existing windows to be opening for control room and projection base.

2.0 Proposed Design

2.4 The Use

The amphitheatre will be used for outdoor classes, theatre productions, community events, outside worship and an area for the students at lunchtime and break time.

It is proposed that this space will be used during school opening times during. On some occasions community events may be held out of school hours.

2.5 Sustainability

Sustainability has been at the forefront of all design considerations.

The amphitheatre has been located on a site which involves minimal changes to the landscape, reducing the requirement of heavy machinery.

The chosen materials for the structure will be recycled steels and timbers reducing the embodied carbon of the build. The metal roof and truss support allows for an efficient structure further reducing the materials required.

The proposed retaining landscape is created by gabions which will be filled with locally sourced waste stone. The capping of the gabions will be GGBS rich concrete reducing the need for carbon-intensive cement.

The building will be constructed in a way which will allow it to be dismantled when it comes to the end of its life thus allowing further recycling of materials.

2.6 Access

The amphitheatre will use the school's existing parking and access and become a new location for existing events and therefore it is not envisioned to intensify traffic.

Level consolidated surface access will be created for disabled users.

2.7 Drainage

The proposed roof will drain directly to a soak away directly under the stage and therefore will not add to surface water runoff.



Existing



Evening: Outdoor theatre space with temporary awnings



Daytime: Outdoor classroom/ gathering space