

Parsons Down Partnership - 1FE Feasibility Report for West Berkshire Council



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Revisions

D- 15.12.20 SW/JP Updated to reflect Client comments

- 04.02.19 JCH Issued for comment in advance of final meeting
 A - 20.02.19 JCH Revised to suit comments from final meeting
 B - 14.08.20 JW/JP Updated to reflect revised Project Brief
 C - 19.08.20 JW/JP Updated to reflect Client comments in advance of final meeting



1. Introduction

1.1 Project Brief

The Parsons Down Partnership is made up of two neighbouring school sites, Infants and Juniors, in Thatcham, Newbury. The current combined pupil capacity has been reduced from 3FE to 2FE in September 2019 due to demographic changes within the local area. The current school has a current capacity of 630 pupils, however it currently has on roll only 403 pupils. The demographic forecast indicates that as a result of limited pupils in the area (due to reduced inward movement and an aging local population) Parsons Down Partnership is failing to fill its pupil capacity from its catchment area and will no longer be getting the intake of pupils to fill its 2FE capacity. This has resulted in a decision to reduce the pupil intake further to 1FE entry.

Quattro Design Architects have been appointed to conduct a feasibility study for West Berkshire Council to explore how the Parsons Down Partnership Junior and Infants sites could be consolidated/ rationalised further into one 1FE school building but with reserved areas for future 2FE building extensions and external areas. This study follows from the previous 2FE Feasibility Report, conducted by Quattro Design Architects in February 2019, which is attached in Appendix 2.2

Key Points of the Revised 1FE Project Brief:

- Due to demographic pressures in the geographical area of Parsons Down resulting in a much lower pupil forecast, a decision has been made by the school to reduce the Pan further from 2FE to 1FE from ideally September 2022 or as soon as possible. The school is currently faced with the financial burden of two sites with reduced pupil numbers. The modified Parsons Down Partnership of schools is to be under the same roof but two separate schools similar to the original plan. There will be challenges faced to ensure that there is space for the existing cohorts as the Parsons Down reduced their pan to 2FE in September 2019.
- The thoughts are that in a number of years Parsons Down may increase its pan back to 2FE so the overall site will need to be kept to the size of a 2FE site (BB103 guidelines) however the school building will need to be 1FE for this project. This possible expansion should be taken into account for the key elements of the school which are already 2FE sized (like school hall, kitchen, reception areas etc.) which should remain at similar size to support any future 2FE expansion. 1FE rationalisation studies also explore how new 1FE site could be simply expanded to 2FE in the future. These studies are presented in Stage 2 Report produced by Quattro Design Architects which reviews the suitability of the Junior School, provides options for extensions, a review of the external spaces, and then explores the asset value of the remaining land.
- Parking arrangements identified in the masterplan will need to be carefully reviewed for their viability due to the reduction of pupils and staff on site but also for future 2FE expansion. The new masterplan take this into account.

- Land appropriation of the highways land to the south of the site will still be required for the design of Early Years external spaces at 1FE stage.
- The masterplan designs already produced for the project will need modification to ensure that the new project aim of 1FE stage and potential later 2FE stage expansion (internal refurbishment / new extensions and external spaces) for the school is met.
- Redundant Infant School buildings to be demolished at the appropriate project phase.

The full Project Brief Version 2.2 can be found in the Appendices section 2.1 of this report.

1.2 Feasibility Structure

Quattro Design Architects were advised in September 2019 that the original Project was to be postponed. Subsequently a new brief for the rationalisation of Parsons Down Schools to a 1FE School was issued to Quattro Design Architects on 20th April 2020. This version of the Feasibility Report (Rev B) acts as a summary update to reflect the revised Project Briefing document; refer to Appendix 2.1

The desktop studies and site investigations undertaken by the design team as part of the previous project brief are still relevant and therefore included as Appendix 2.2 for reference.

Numerous meetings were held over the course of May to August 2020 between West Berkshire Council, key members of Parsons Down Partnership and Quattro Design Architects to confirm the project brief; it was concluded that the provision of Nursery accommodation will be excluded from the scheme.

1.3 Schedule of Accommodation Version 2.1 1FE

West Berkshire Council produced an updated accommodation schedule for the consolidated 1FE school site, based on BB103 requirements. This schedule excludes Nursery accommodation; refer page 4 for the updated SoA Version 2.1 1FE.



	Parsons Down Sch													
	Exist	Existing Areas BB 103 Design		ign Req	uirem	ent	Comments							
	Space	Room Reference	λrea per Space (m	Group Size	Total	Area per Space	Group Size	Number	Total	Area per Space	Group Size	Number	Total	
	Net Areas Basic Teaching Areas													
	Classroom	GA044 GA047	59 58	1	59 58	62 55		3	186 220	62 55		3	186 220	
F		GA048 GA029	52 56	1	52 56	35		-	220			*	220	
20		GA054 GA092	60 50	1	60 50				=					Classrooms should be arranged so that there is logical progression by year group e.g. Nursery, Foundation, Y1, Y2 and so on.
ב ב		GA063 GA082	58 62	1	58 62				=					
		GA062 GA060	56 62	1 1	56 62				\equiv					
_	Community & Music Room	GA059 GA032	59 52	1	59 52				\exists					
Davic leading Aleas									\exists					
	Specialist Practical Areas ICT Classroom	GA052	39	1	39	62		1	62	62		1	62	
E	DT and Art Area Twilight Before & After School Club	GA074	40	1	40	62		1	62	62 52		1	62 52	To be located near to the school entrance TBC
_	TOTAL BASIC TEACHING AREA			14	763				530		1	10	582	
as _	Hall Areas Main Hall	GA023	174	1	174	174		1	174	174		1	174	For a whole school assembly, with pupils sitting on the floor, the school requires minimum of 163m2 of hall space
Areas	Studio TOTAL HALLS AREA				174				174				174	
	Learning Resource Areas					F			=					
Leaning Resource Aleas	Library	GA039	38	1	38	20		1	20	20		1	20	
2	Discovery (SEN Room)	GA079	25	1	25	11	5	1	11	11	5	1	11	
-	Small Group Rooms	GA055	14	1	14	9		2	18	9		2	18	Learning Resource areas need to be arranged so that they are flexible for a variety of uses i.e. delivering learning sup
	MI Room/Family Support/Group Room Art Therapy/Group Room	GA024 GA010	13 16	1	13 16	12		1	12 0	12		1	12 0	for SEN and emotional and behavioural needs. This includes for Family Support and Art Therapy. This needs to be for within the m2 allocated within the design requirement. Open sick bay to be located near MI room and washing facilities.
	Sick Bay					4	1	1	4 0	4	1	1	4	
L C	SENCO Inclusion Office/ Group Room TOTAL LEARNING RESOURCE AREA	GA073	10	1	10 115	10		1	10 74	10		1	10 74	
	TOTAL TEACHING AREA				1052				778				830	
T	Staff & Admin Areas													
8	Lobby Reception Office	GA002 GA001	5 6 40	1 1	5 6 40	40		1	40	5 6 40		1	5 6 40	On a circulation route which removes circa 27m2
7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Staff Room Staff Area/PPA TA Work Area	GA046 GA041	14 21	1	14 21	14		1	14	14		1	14	
	Reprographics SATs Assessment Room	GA071 GA056	7	1	7 6	7		1	7	7		1	7	
8	General Office Interview Room	GA009 GA006	12	1	12	12		1	12	12 9		1	12	
010	Head's Office Assistant Head Office	GA065	12	1	12	16		1	16	12		1	12	
´	Caretaker's Office TOTAL STAFF & ADMIN AREA				131	8		1	8	8		1	8	
=					131	=			11/				122	
	Storage Areas Teaching Storage													
	Store PE Store	GA035 GA030	2 10	1	2 10	1 17		7	7	1 17		7	7 17	
	Store Store	GA031 GA033	3	1	3 2				=			1	0	
	Store Store	GA005 GA049	1 2	1	1 2				7			1	0	
	Store Store	GA090 GA091	1 3	1	1 3				4			1	0	
	Resource Store	GA069 GA007	9	1	9	9		1	4	9		1	9	
	Store Store	GA042 GA045	1	1	1 1				7			1	0	
F	Resource Store	GA067 GA087	9	1	9	9		1	\exists	9		1	9	
E	Store Store	GA080 GA083	2	1	2				\exists			1	0	
	Store Cloakroom	GA081 GA089	2 5 2	1 1	2 5 2				#			1	0	
	Store Store Specialist Walk In Store	GA075 New		- '		5		1	5	5		1	0 0 5	
g g	Nursery Store Non-Teaching Storage					5				5		1	5	
Storage Areas	Cloakroom	GA034	5	1	5	3		7	21	3		7	21	
g –	Community Space Cloakroom Cloakroom	GA036 GA077	4	1	4				_				0	
5	Cloakroom Cloakroom	GA078 GA086	4	1	4				_				0	
	Cloakroom Cloakroom	GA085 GA084	5	1	5				\exists				0	
	Cloakroom Store	GA053 GA028	2	1	2				\dashv				0	
E	Store Store	GA070 GA066	1	1	1				\dashv				0	
	Store	GA021	4	1	4								0	

Page 2

	190220 PDP Accomm Schedule v2.1 1FE.xlsx										
	Existing Areas					ВВ	BB 103 Design Requirement			uirement	Comments
	Space	Room Reference	Area per Space (m2) Group Size	negen Tr	otal	Area per Space Group Size	ъед Total N	Area per Space	Group Size	Total	
	Secure Storage Store Store External PE Store Store Store Store Store Hall Furniture Store Mobility Bay Storage Central Store (Bulk Stock) Maintenance/Caretaker Store Cleaner's Store Store	GA038 GA013 GA088 GC001 GB001 GD001 GD002 GA040 Existing	3 2 5 8 8 1 1 6	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 2 5 8 8 8 1 1 6	14 5 12 10 2	1 4 0 1 14 2 10 1 12 1 10 3 6	14 5 12 7 2	1 1 1 2 1 1 3	10 12 7 6	
Kitchen and Se	TOTAL STORAGE AREA TOTAL NET AREA Non-Net Areas Kitchen and servery Kitchen Store Store Office Staff Tollet TOTAL KITCHEN AND SERVERY	GA015 GA019 GA018 GA016 GA017	50 0.4 3 7 2	1 1 1 1 1	50 0 3 7 2 63	47 0 3 7 2	118 1013 1 47 1 0 1 3 1 7 1 2 59	50 0.4 3 7 2	1 1 1 1 1	142 1094 50 0 3 7 2 63	
Toilets	Toilets (& personal care) Pupil Toilets (& personal care) Nursery Sink in FSW/SENCO Staff/Accessible Toilet Accessible Toilet Hygiene Room	GA026 GA027 GA020 GA050 GA076 GA057 GA064 GA011 GA011 GA012	8 8 2 2 6 111 12 11 15 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8 8 2 6 11 12 11 1 5 10	4 18	6 24 2 36 2 12 1 9	8 8 2 6 11 12 11 12 1 1 5 10 6	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	6 11 12 11 12 1 1 5 10 6	No new tollets required. BB103 requirements are 3 tollet fittings for nursery and 11 tollet fitting for KS1 and KS2 Has shower in it School should have an accessible tollet. Normally this is shared with staff tollet provision.
t and Partitions	Visitor Tollet TOTAL TOILETS (& PERSONAL CARE) Circulation, Plant and Partitions Circulation	GA025 GA051 GA068 GA004 GA061 GA061	53 44 24 9 64 27	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	53 44 24 9 64 27	net area x 0.20	203	net area x 0.20		219	To be shared with staff toilets.
Circulation, Plant and Partitions	Circulation (also sick bay) Taken from Reception Plant (incl. server) & Partitions Plant (incl. server) Electrical Cupboard Electrical Cupboard Partitions TOTAL CIRCULATION, PLANT AND PARTITIONS TOTAL NONNET AREA	GA039 GA003 GA003 GA014 GA058 net area x 0.05	10 7 10 16 2	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	10 7 10 16 2 1 1 67	net area x 0.02	20 51 274 417	net area x 0.02		22 55 295 457	
Playing Fields	External Areas Soft P.E. Hard Outdoor P.E. Hard Informal Social Soft Informal and social Habitat			1 1 1 1	0 0 0 0 0	8 400 420 1030 420 620 420 1440 420 210 420	1 8400 1 1030 1 620 1 1440 1 210	8400 1030 620 1440 210	420 1 420 1 420 1 420 1 420 1	8400 1030 620 1440 210	Space required to meet min 2FE BB103 guidelines
	Total Project Area				Ü		11700			11700	

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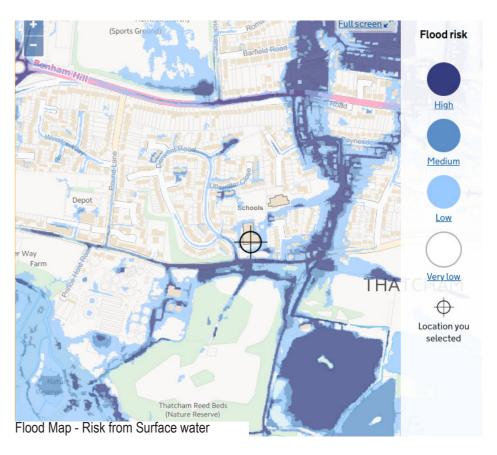
2.1 Desktop Study

A deskstop study was conducted to gather relevant information about the site and surrounds.

Tree Preservation Orders (none)

- Tree Preservation Orders
- Biodiversity
- Flood Risk
- West Berkshire owned land (or for the purpose of this feasibility, known as 'Highways land')
 Other relevant planning applications







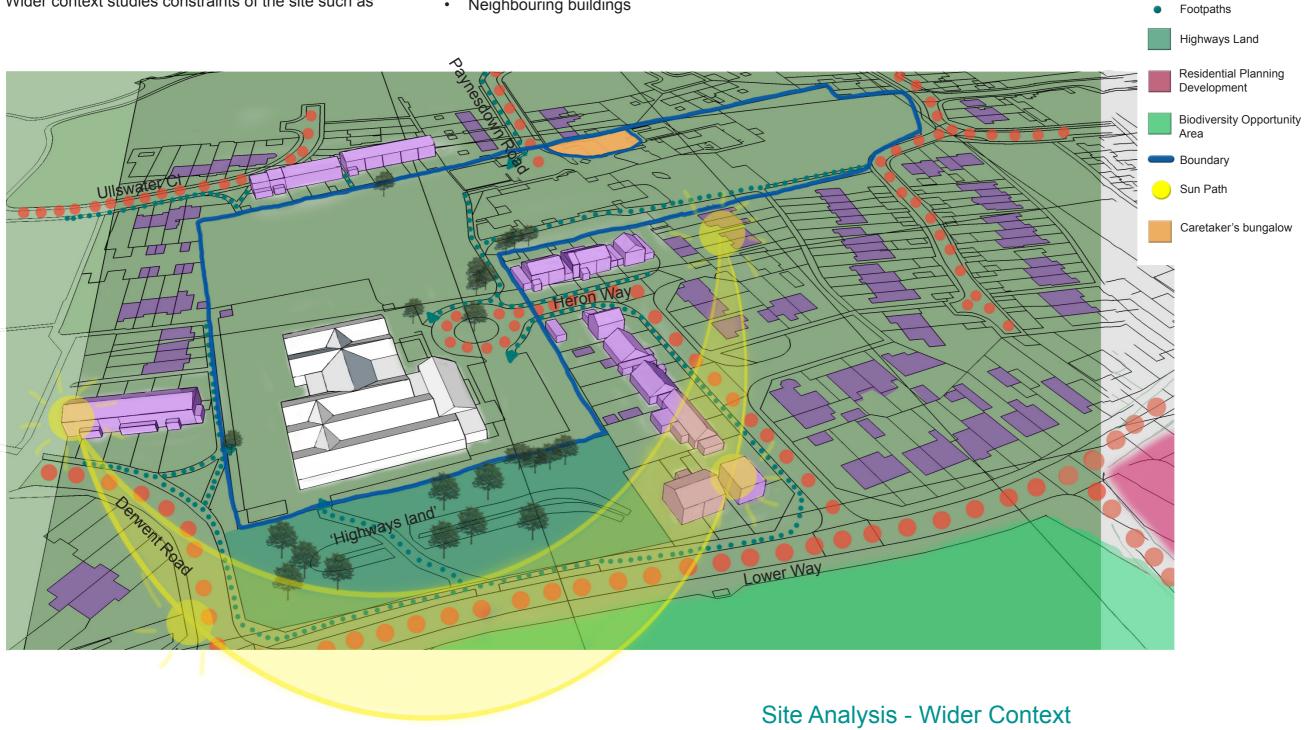




2.1 Desktop Study continued

Wider context studies constraints of the site such as

- Sun path Roads
- Footpaths
- Boundaries
- Neighbouring buildings



<u>Key</u>

Residential Houses

Roads

2.2 Pedestrian and Vehicular Movement

Orange and yellow dots on the below diagram show a very permeable site in terms of potential ingress/ egress.

In order to help understand the most favourable routes into the site, the School conducted a travel survey. This showed the majority of pupils being dropped off via the Lower Way entrance, with

many walking to school, and others using parking facilities at the Nature Discovery Centre across the road

Yellow - Pedestrians Orange - Vehicles



2.3 Existing Plans - Site



2.3 Existing Plans - Junior School (asset plans provided by WBC)



3.1 Early Considerations

3.1 Early Considerations - Option 1

Initial sketches for two 1FE school options with future 2FE expansion were presented to West Berkshire on 19th May 2020 for comments.

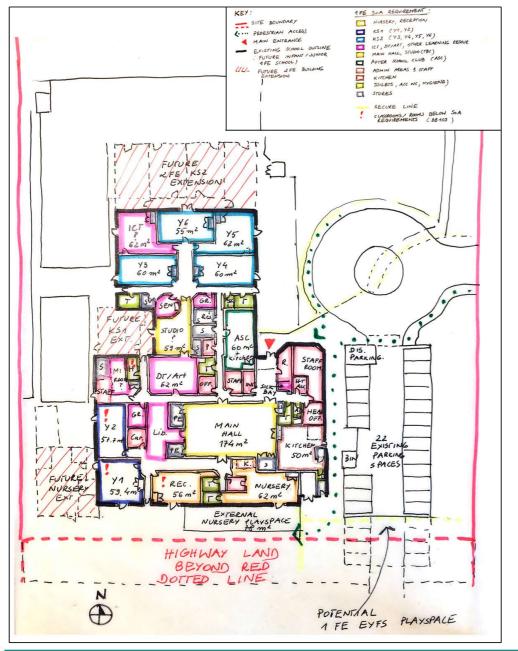
Option 1 was based on floor plan 6004-F-117D Option 2d, historically preferred by the School during previous 2FE feasibility study and on 6004-F-101E External Areas Analysis Option 2. Both drawings are shown in Appendix 4.2.

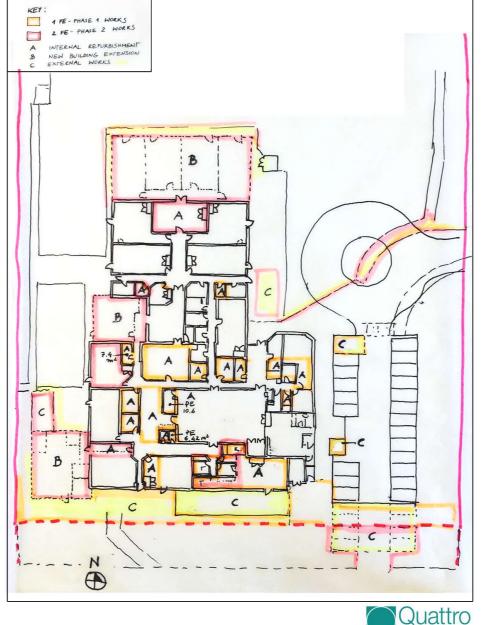
Summary

- Option based on SoA Version 2 1FE
- Nursery and future 2FE extension located on the preferred south side of the building
- Existing Studio (not part of above SoA) and Library shown as per existing plan. ASC used at the studio space.
- Appropriation of Highway land required at 2FE stage for future EYFS spaces
- Existing car park extended south for future 2FE expansion
- Future 2FE extensions located in preferred locations
- Existing 22 car parking spaces kept at 1FE stage

Feedback:

- Using Highways land for 1FE not preferred (longer programme)
- Time-frame for transferring is unknown if Highways land is included (6 months or more)- bigger risk to the project.
- Highways land appropriation might not be accepted or equal amount of land in return might be requested.
- No indication from the School whether they would like the use of the Highways land following the reduction of the scheme from 2FE to 1FE.
- Floor plan Option 1 to be presented to the School for feedback





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PROJECTS

Parsons Down Feasibility

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CLIENT

West Berkshire Council

Proposed 1FE GF Plan with Future
2FE Extension - Option 1

DRAWING NO.
6004-SK-190520-01

Matthews Warehouse, High Orchard Street

3.1 Early Considerations - Option 2

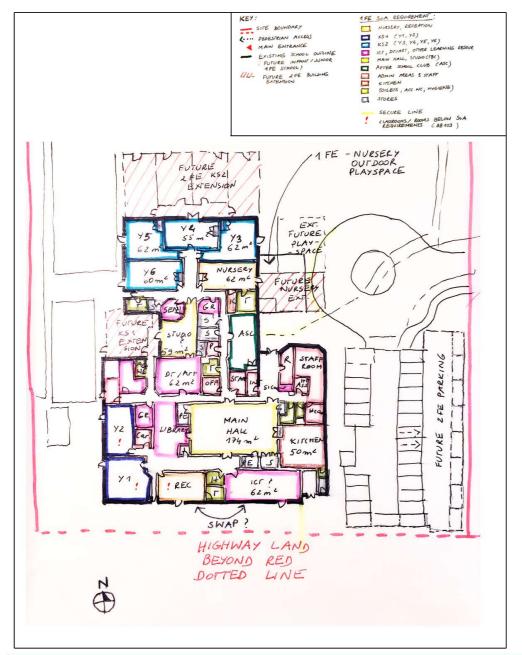
Option 2 moved away from historically preferred 2FE Options.

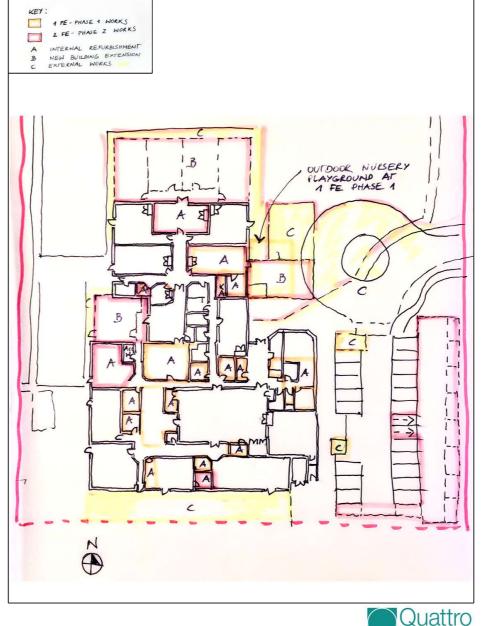
Summary

- Option based on SoA Version 2 1FE
- Nursery and future 2FE nursery extension located on the east side of the building
- Appropriation of Highway land not required at 2FE stage
- Existing car park extended towards east site boundary for future expansion
- Some future 2FE extensions located in preferred locations, with the exception of nursery extension

Feedback:

- Not using Highways land for 1FE preferred option
- Risk of time-frame for transferring and acceptance of land appropriation omitted.
- The external areas will need to be able to accommodate the school if expanded to 2FE in the future
- Less disposal land for future housing as this will be reserved for future 2FE external areas
- Future parallel parking for 8 cars will be expensive as the retaining wall would have to be created for the neighbouring housing
- Floor plan Option 2 to be presented to the School for feedback







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3.1 Early Considerations- Site Wide Analysis for Option 1

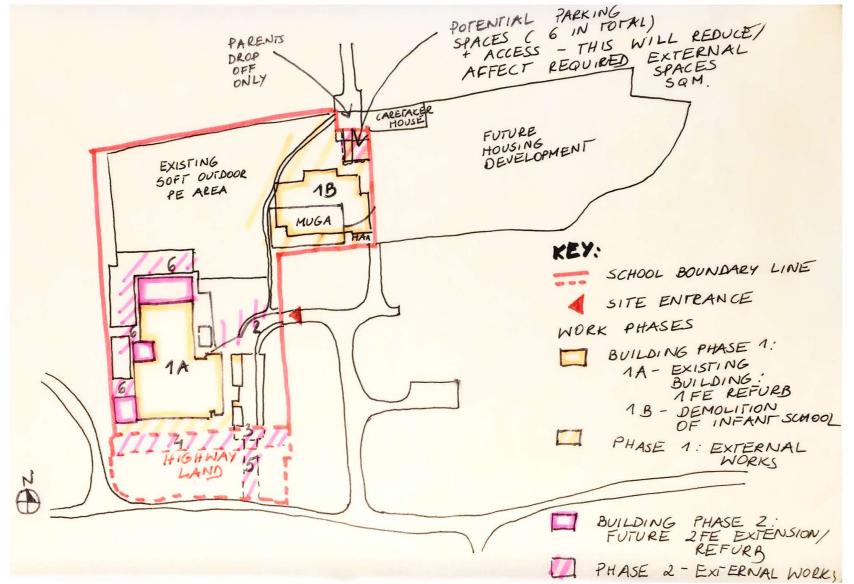
Initial site wide analysis was based on historically preferred 2FE 6004-F-101E External Areas Analysis Option 2 and was linked with the above Option 1.Below sketch was presented to West Berkshire on 19th May 2020 for comments.

Summary

- 1FE and 2FE phasing explained in site-wide context
- Phase 2 external works numbered from 2 to 6
- External areas shown according to minimum BB103 requirements
- Existing parking at north side of the site used as drop off parking reduces BB103 external spaces. 6 parking spaces indicated in total.
- Existing entrance roundabout for vehicle access to stay at 1FE Phase and to be removed at 2FE Phase.

Feedback:

- MUGA at 1FE to be confirmed by QDA (not required)
- Clarification on 'MUGA' understanding to be confirmed by West Berkshire
- If MUGA is required than it needs to be moved outside of existing Infant School footprint to allow this to be built during the refurbishment
- Future car parking expansion preferably to be located at the existing car park, by the Caretaker's House access road to reduce costs and increased.





DRAWING TITLE

3.1 Early Considerations - Site Wide Analysis Options

Following up from the feedback on the initial sketches further side wide options for 1FE and 2FE options were presented to West Berkshire on 29th May 2020 for comments.

6004-F-102 and 103 1FE & 2FE External Site Analysis relate to the previous initial sketch for Option 1, 6004-F-104 and 105 1FE & 2FE External Site Analysis relate to the previous initial sketch for Option 2.

Summary

- The soft outdoor 2FE PE area is shown in the options at minimum 8400 sqm (a soft PE playing field with all-weather pitches)
- Some of the disposal land has been taken from the future housing development at the east site boundary to provided required 2FE external areas
- 2FE hard and soft outdoor spaces around the existing school car park reduced to 17 staff parking + 1 disabled parking to maximise south facing EYFS external spaces for Option 1.
- Further 12 car parking spaces have been allocated by the Caretakers House giving 30 parking spaces in total for 2FE staff, giving more parking options at the north of the site and reducing costs.
- The existing roundabout and the pond to be demolished at Phase 1 in order to provide 2FE external areas at 1FE stage, if required.
- Hard play areas relocated in both options to different locations. These could also be used as the MUGA at 2FE.
- Highway land appropriation not considered for these options and therefore soft and hard outdoor spaces and potential future extensions has been shifted towards west, north and east side of the building as the south side strip has became very narrow and difficult to accommodate.
- Further query regarding all-weather pitch type ('soft PE sports pitch') indicated on all options.
- Potential additional north car park allowance for 2FE outlined in red above the Infant School on 2FE site analysis.

Feedback

- The existing roundabout and the pond preferably not to be demolished at Phase 1 as 2FE external areas will only be required at 2FE stage.
- Further clarification on additional 'soft PE sports pitch' requested.
- The existing car park is shown as two red squares but not annotated. It is assumed the land required by the School to expand to 2FE will not be hoarded off as 'waste land' but will instead be laid to grass with the new School fence on the boundary. This will give a surplus of grass (soft play) and the car park could therefore be retained to provide additional parking.
- The land at the end of the existing access road by the caretakers house may have more value
 / use than the sliver currently shown at the boundary with the new housing development as two
 or three sites accessed directly from the existing road plus potentially the caretakers house in
 the distant future could be created, so it may be worth showing this as the surplus FFE2 land
 in the Feasibility/Master Plan Agreed. This land could be kept as shared access to any housing

development and the northern school car park for 2FE. There is also the potential option of constructing an all-weather pitch (AstroTurf equivalent) which could be counted twice for the outdoor soft P.E. area helping the site achieve a comfortable 2FE size. It will also potentially reduce the impact on the development land, it will allow more flexibility in the planned layout of the site, a great USP for the school who could also let out this space after school hours to generate an income from it.

• The 2FE soft play area is correct at 8400m2 which is the minimum 2FE site. However, it will be important to aim for at least 20% more area to allow for any future development.



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Parsons Down Feasibility

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West Berkshire Council

DATE May 2020

2FE External Areas Analysis -1FE School- Phase 1 (Option 1)

6004-F-102

Matthews Warehouse, High Orchard Street Gloucester Quays, GL2 5QY T: (01452) 424234



NOTES

REV: DATE - DRAWN - CHECKED: NOTES
-: 29.05.20 - JW - MC: Drawing created.

Parsons Down Feasibility

SCALE

West Berkshire Council

DATE May 2020

2FE External Areas Analysis -2FE School- Phase 2 (Option 1)

6004-F-103

Matthews Warehouse, High Orchard Street Gloucester Quays, GL2 5QY T: (01452) 424234



REVISIONS
REV: DATE - DRAWN - CHECKED: NOTES
-: 29.05.20 - JW - MC: Drawing created. Parsons Down Feasibility West Berkshire Council 2FE External Areas Analysis -1FE School- Phase 1 (Option 2) SCALE DATE May 2020

6004-F-104

Matthews Warehouse, High Orchard Street Gloucester Quays, GL2 5QY T: (01452) 424234



NOTES

REV: DATE - DRAWN - CHECKED: NOTES
-: 29.05.20 - JW - MC: Drawing created.

Parsons Down Feasibility

SCALE

West Berkshire Council

2FE External Areas Analysis -2FE School- Phase 2 (Option 2)

6004-F-105

3.1 Early Considerations - Further Site Wide Analysis Options

Following up from the feedback on the site side wide options for 1FE and 2FE, the updated options were presented to West Berkshire and the School on 5th June 2020 for comments.

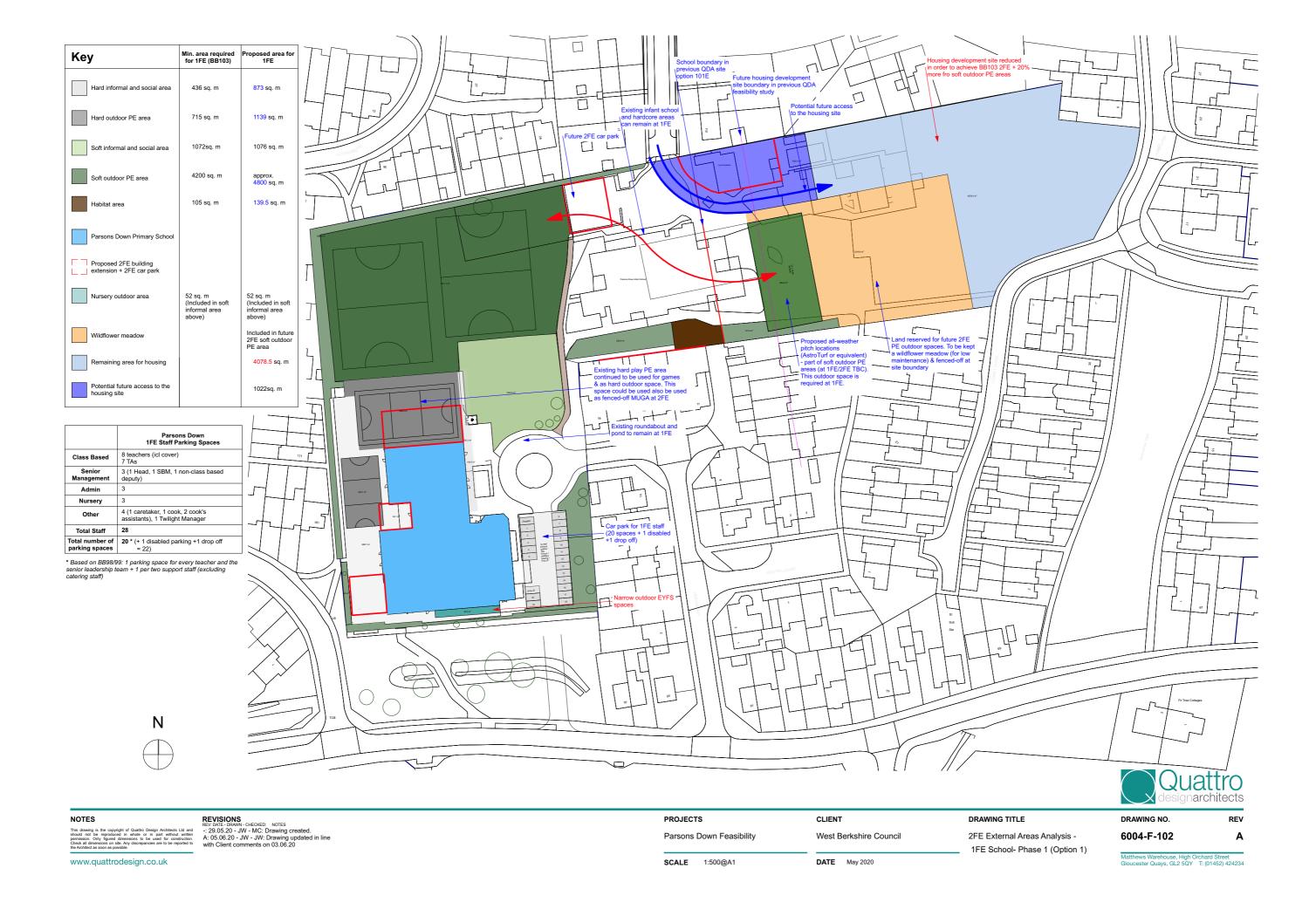
6004-F-102A and 103A 1FE & 2FE External Site Analysis relate to the previous initial sketch for Option 1, 6004-F-104A and 105A 1FE & 2FE External Site Analysis relate to the previous initial sketch for Option 2.

Summary

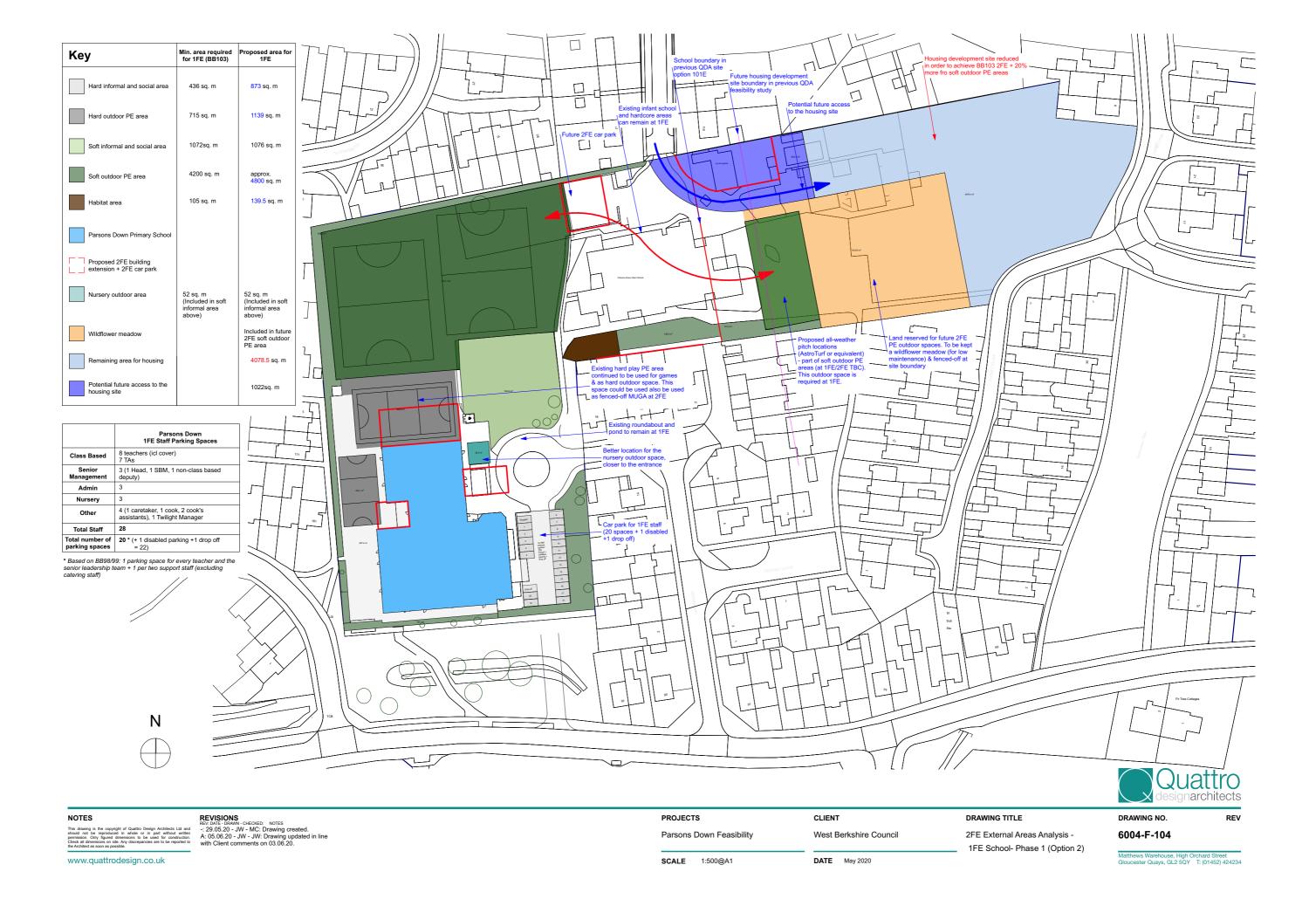
- The existing roundabout and the pond demolition excluded at 1FE Phase 1 and shown at 2FE Phase 2 instead.
- MUGA clarified as an all weather-pitch (AstroTurf equivalent), which could be added at eithe 1FE or 2FE stage and counted as part of additional 2FE soft outdoor spaces and updated or 102A-105A drawings. This pitch was also moved away from the infant school footprint so it can be built before the school demolition. Proposed locations indicated on the plans.
- 2FE car park annotation added to the left red square, right red square has been omitted as it
 is not required. This whole area, together with the infant school surrounds kept as the existing
 tarmac/ hardcore area at 1FE stage.
- The land required by the School to expand to 2FE shown as a wild meadow to reduce the maintenance cost.
- Potential future access to the housing site indicated on the plans in darker blue.
- AstroTurf pitch shown in various locations on plans, away from the infant school footprint.
- Additional 20% more areas (approx. 10080m2) added to 2FE PE area. AstroTurf pitch counted twice for this purpose. No float or embankment added at this stage between the school and the housing sites.

Feedback

Please see West Berkshire and School feedback in Section 3.2 below.









3. Option Appraisal		
	3.2	Meeting between Neil Obbard and Catherine Bull on 22 Jun 2020

3.2 Feedback from the meeting

The feedback below sets out the major points which has informed the preferred design route in Stage 2, presented by Quattro Design Architects in Stage 2 Report proposals:

- Prior to this meeting there were number of options presented as the site wide and ground floor plan drawings issued around having a nursery, different arrangement of year groups, phasing of works and using or not using the Highways which are presented above in Section 3.1
- These options / plans were presented to the School on 6th July 2020 via a Zoom meeting when the general layout was agreed, the concept plan was fixed which started Stage 2 design process.

Feedback

- Foundation to be based at the south of the site next to the highways land.
- Highways land to be appropriated for soft play for the foundation area. No carpark extension or additional access. However a plan B needs to be in place for foundation play if appropriation fails.
- No nursery at the school too much of a financial risk.
- School are happy with the current Library and ICT. School happy for them to remain as they are unless a superior design can be tabled.
- School happy with current hall storage and don't see a desperate need to add an additional doorway.
- Staff/ Admin areas school is open to options on this to improve.
- Pupil's toilets to be standard primary size rather than infant size.
- School happy to use part of the infant site to accommodate bulge class for a year therefore no temp classrooms.
- Modification of toilets location and additions of small kitchen areas within Thames/ Sabre and Henwick to add to flexibility for foundation and B4 / afters chool club.
- Selected kitchen items to be moved from Infant kitchen to junior kitchen due to condition.