

INTRODUCTION






Watergate School is a Special Educational Needs (SEN) School for Primary aged pupils on Lushington Road, Bellingham. It is proposed to expand Watergate School to cope with the demand for special needs places.

This consultation describes the proposals for expanding the School and at the same time refurbishing and improving the Dumps Youth Centre, adventure playground and playing field for local young people.

We'd like to hear your opinions and comments: Please follow the QR link opposite to our online survey, or go to 'consultation.lewisham.gov.uk' and search for 'Watergate'.



PROPOSAL AMBITIONS

<p>80 Provide 80 new spaces to Watergate SEN</p> <p> Fully accessible school and site</p> <p> Specialist teaching spaces</p>	<p>BUILDING</p>	<p> New & accessible adventure play structure</p> <p> New addition of natural play area</p> <p> New Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)</p>	<p>SITE</p>
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The existing School is hemmed into its site and cannot be practically expanded due to the existing houses at either side of the School.

To create space for the new School building, we are proposing to move the Dumps Adventure Playground and provide new play equipment and a new Multi-use games area (MUGA) on the current playing field, and to expand the site that the Youth Centre can use with a new Natural Play area.





Existing Site Plan Areas

Existing 1.3 acres

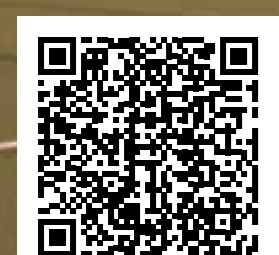
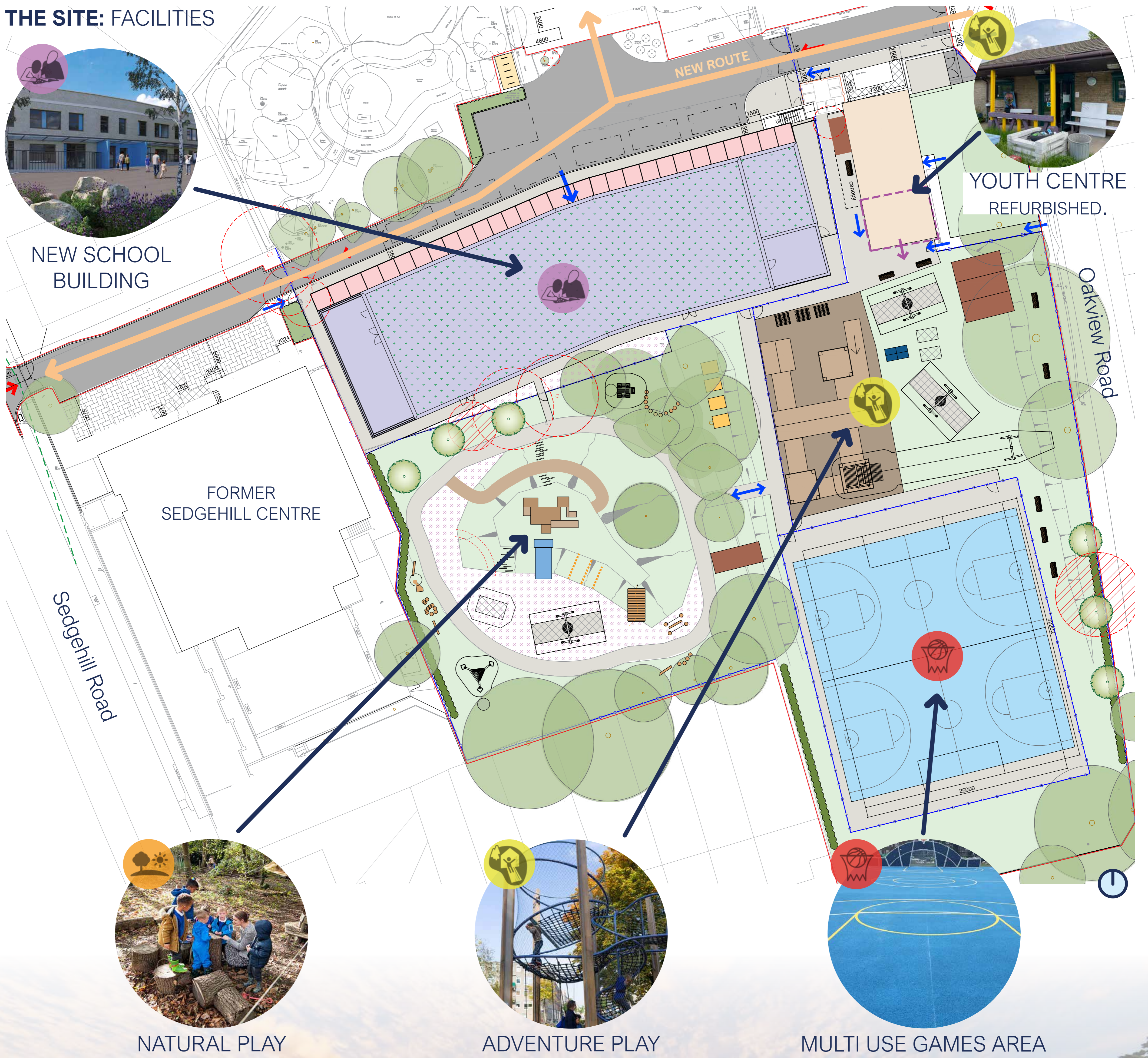


Proposed 1.3 acres

Comparison diagrams Existing & Proposed

-  Existing area boundary
-  Proposed area boundary

THE SITE: FACILITIES



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THE SITE: EQUIPMENT



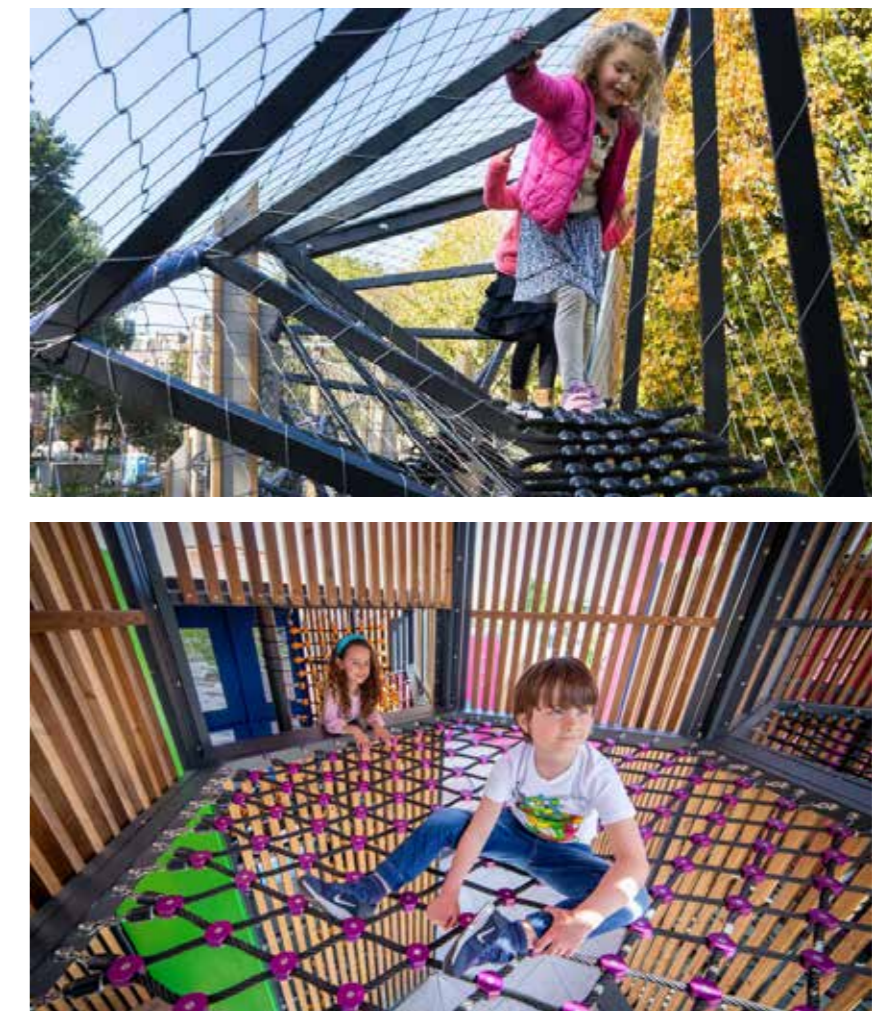
ADVENTURE PLAY

The play frame depicted in our site plan serves as a reference for scale. Here, we present several examples of adventure play areas throughout Europe that have been implemented with a contemporary and environmentally conscious approach.

The current provision, as illustrated across, is ageing and lacks efficiency in terms of space utilisation. We firmly believe that the design can be enhanced to create a safer and more inclusive environment.



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NATURAL PLAY

Natural play allows the children of Watergate SEN and the surrounding community to enjoy play in a nature centred environment. The existing mound site serves a great opportunity for this as the site has been practically untouched, creating a wealth of ecology. We propose to draw on this to include activities such as:

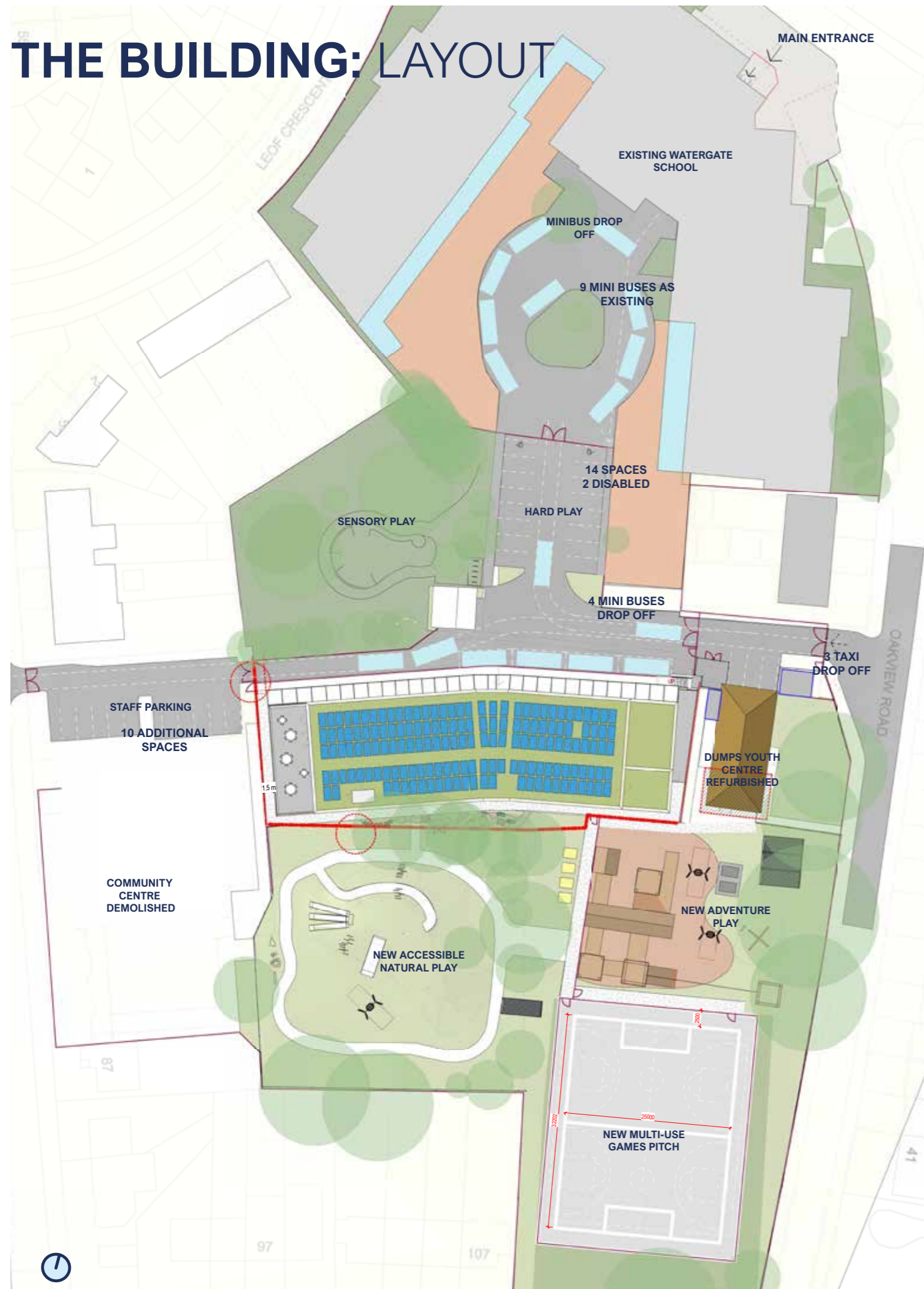
- Cultivating
- Foraging
- Climbing
- Habitats
- Mud Kitchen
- Forest School



MULTI USE GAMES AREA

Our site plan reveals the inclusion of a fresh community use Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). We are confident that this addition will enhance the utilisation of the current playing fields, addressing concerns raised by the Youth Centre regarding the infrequent usage due to the existing pitch being uneven and often waterlogged. The MUGA will offer an accessible hard surface, enabling its utilisation by Watergate SEN school, accommodating individuals with mobility aids and wheelchairs and allowing a wide range of sports to be played by young people in the School and wider community.



THE BUILDING: LAYOUT

FIRST FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR
KEY FEATURES:

1. A new one-way route will be provided through the site exiting onto Sedgehill Road to alleviate traffic on Oakview Road during pick up/drop off times.
2. A new 2-storey School building: Ground Floor will have 8 SEN-specialist classrooms facing towards the existing School, with associated support spaces and new outdoor play spaces. First floor will accommodate specialised teaching spaces, dining and activity hall and staff areas.
3. The MUGA and Natural Play area will be securely accessed from the School building. These spaces will be shared between the School and the Dump's Youth Centre. The School will use these spaces during school hours, when the Youth Centre is not open.



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