

8966 – Design & Access Statement

New Learning Support building
South Charnwood High School
Broad Lane
Markfield
LE67 9TB



RIBA 
Chartered Practice

General Information

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Company Biography

HSSP Architects Ltd was established in 1966 and is a professional Company which has always prided itself on its quality service and client relationship. Based in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire we work throughout the East Midlands and UK

Issue Record

Revision	Date	By	Checked	Admin	Note
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The format and content of this statement has been based upon the guidance supplied by CABE in their publication “Design and access statements - How to write, read and use them”

0.0 Executive Summary

This request for detailed planning approval relates to the premises of South Charnwood High School, Broad Lane, Markfield.

The proposal is for a new learning support building, which will replace part of an outdoor picnic/landscaped area.

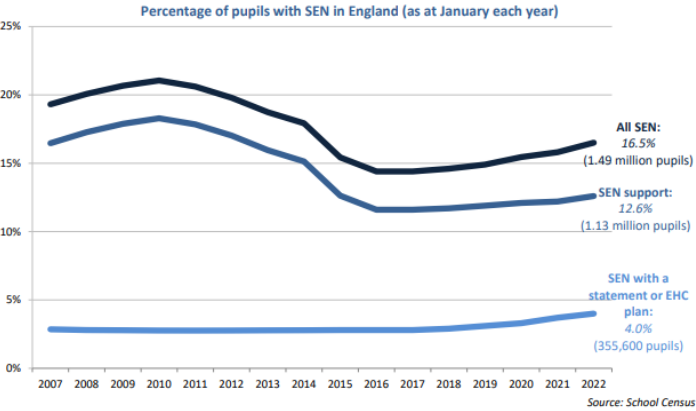
This document sets out:

- The principle of design for the site
- The proposed development layout



Prevalence and characteristics

Key trends



Above: Percentage of pupils with SEN in England (DfE, 2022; 'Special educational needs and disability: an analysis and summary of data sources.'

[1] Information from the Department for Education's 2022 report, 'Special educational needs and disability: an analysis and summary of data sources'. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1082518/Special_educational_needs_publication_June_2022.pdf

[2] Information from South Charnwood High School's website.

HSSP were appointed by South Charnwood High School (SCHS) to design a new Learning Support building.

This will be in addition to SCHS's existing Learning Support unit, which is no longer large enough to accommodate the number of pupils with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities).

According to the Department for Education (2022), whilst the number of SEN pupils had dropped since 2010, these numbers have begun rising again in the last six years. [1] SCHS is noticing this rise.

SCHS "endeavour(s) to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential, and that no pupil underachieves". Their Learning Support department is "flexible" and "carefully considered" [2] but requires expansion to fully support its pupils.

HSSP were therefore appointed to design a unit which incorporates five new 1:1 rooms, a shared teaching space (90 sq.m) and associated ancillary accommodation.

2.0 Site Location



- A** Site location within SCHS boundary
- B** Existing Learning Support unit

The identified location for the new teaching unit lies within SCHS's existing boundary. The site is currently an outdoor seating area, for use by pupils during break times.

The location is appropriate due to its proximity to the school's existing Learning Support unit, and therefore the opportunity to link the two facilities.

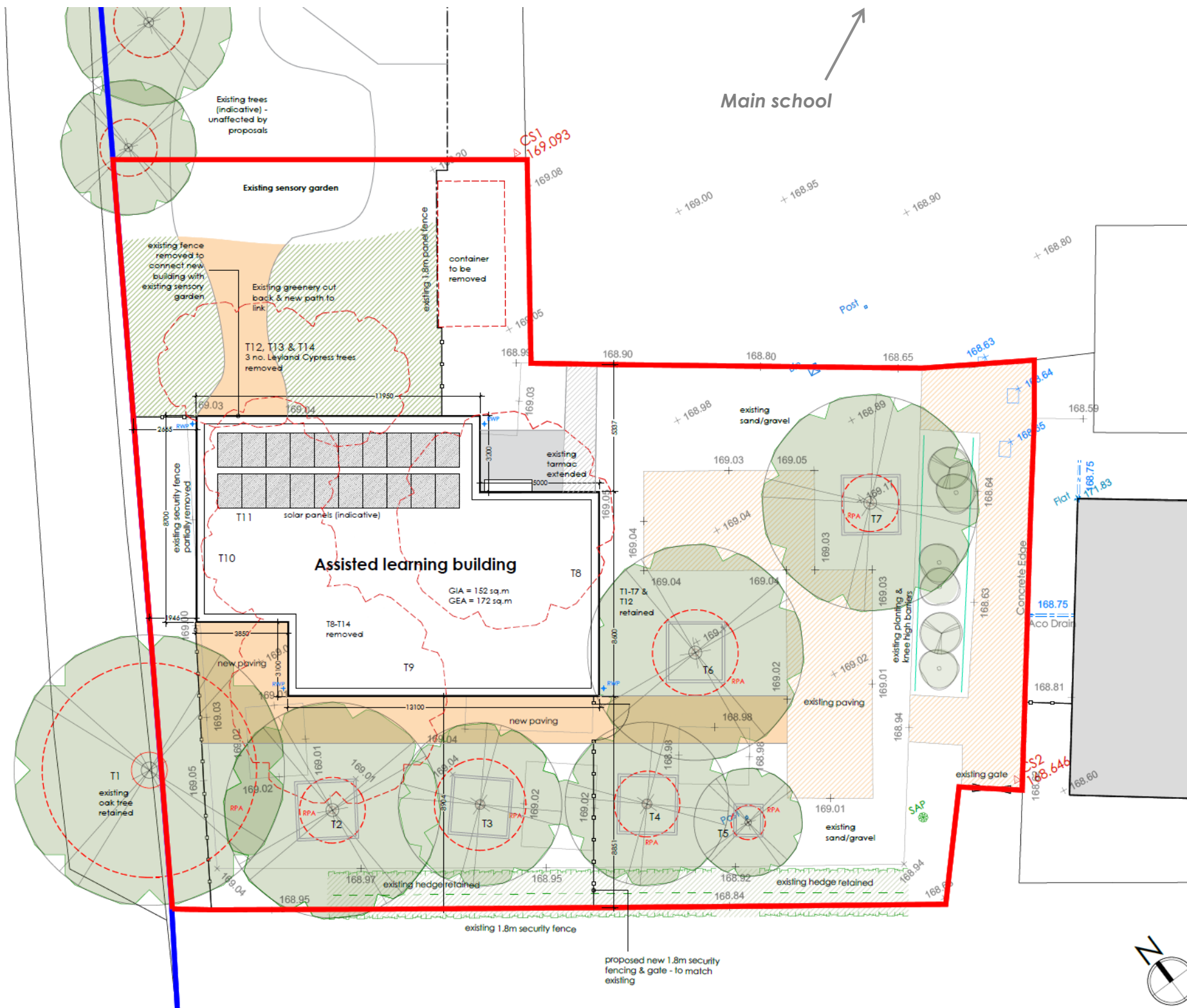


Views from within the existing seating area looking towards Markfield Lane.



View from within the existing seating area looking towards the existing Learning Support unit.

3.0 Proposed Design



3.1 Site

The new Learning Support building will be situated along the edge of the existing sensory garden. Part of the fence line will be removed to connect the new facility to this garden.

The main access into the building will be from the direction of the main school buildings (North East).

Most of the existing trees and landscaping have been retained. They help to shield the building from the road, providing a calming backdrop and minimising distractions.

However, to allow for the development 7 no. trees must be removed, though these are predominantly smaller, younger trees. A tree assessment supports the application.

Part of the existing outdoor seated area is retained for general school usage, however, the facility and its external spaces must be especially safe and secure for pupils to enjoy, so a new fence line will separate the facility from the wider school.

3.0 Proposed Design



3.2 Plan

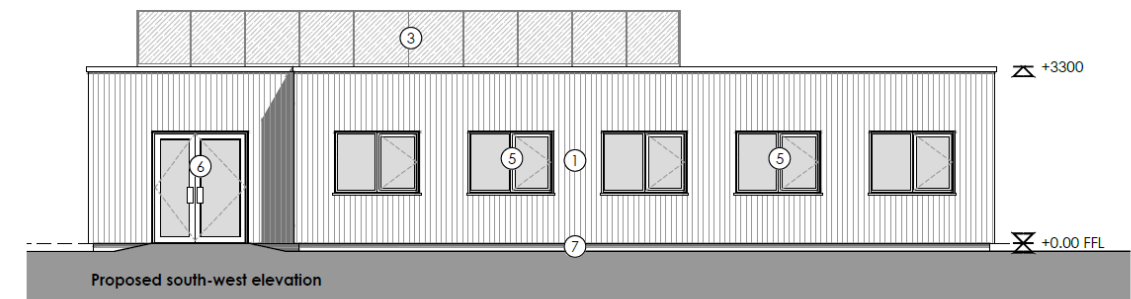
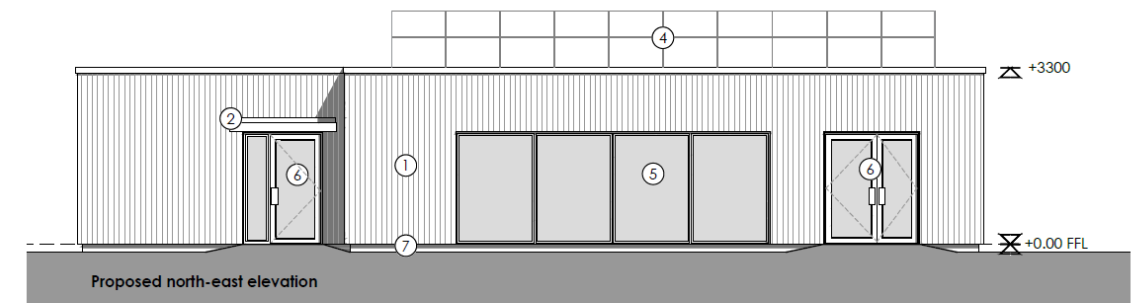
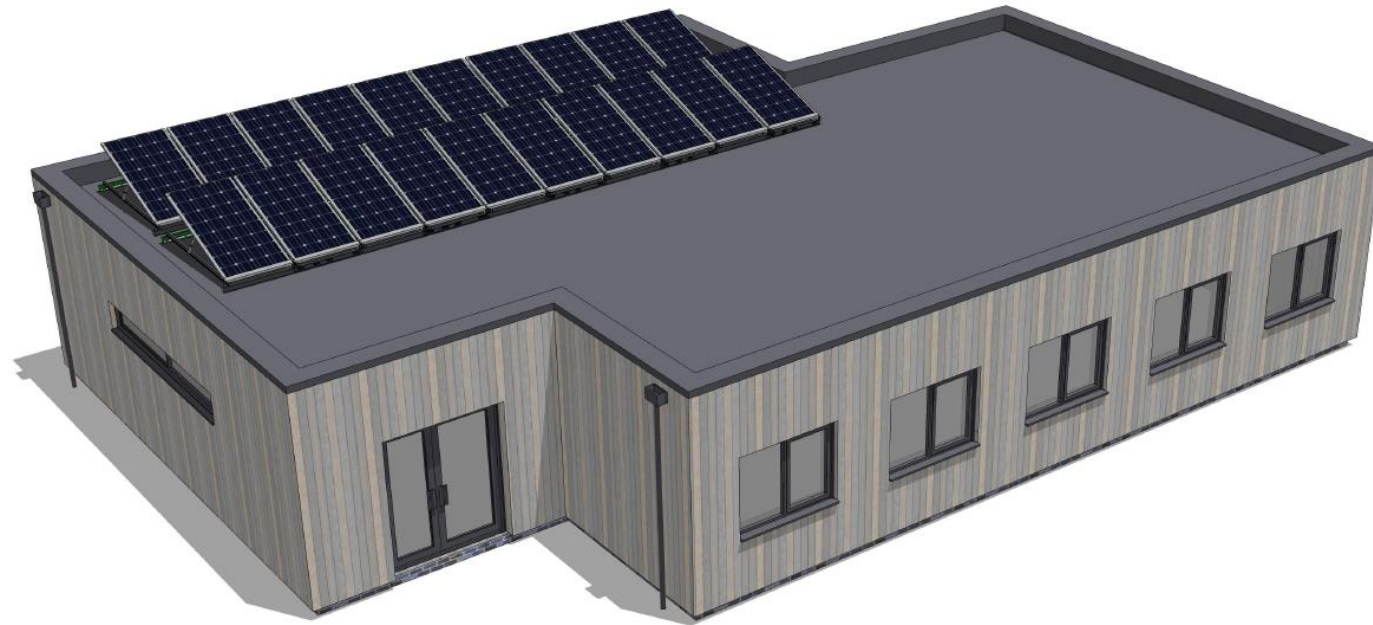
The design incorporates five 1:1 rooms (each 7.2 sq.m), a larger teaching space (90 sq.m), an office, entrance lobby and disabled WC.

The required provisions were led by SCHS based on their anticipated pupil numbers.

The main teaching space faces out towards the existing sensory garden, with doors either side providing cross ventilation and direct access outdoors. It is predominantly North-facing, best for neutral lighting with no glare.

Three of the 1:1 rooms are accessed from the main teaching space, but two are accessed via the lobby. This allows pupils to have further privacy if required. The rooms are large enough to accommodate 2-3 people and can be furnished with tables or soft seating, subject to school preferences.

3.0 Proposed Design



Materials key:

1. Vertical timber cladding - larch
2. Metal door canopy
3. PV panels (shown indicatively only)
4. PV panels (underside - shown indicatively only)
5. UPVC windows
6. UPVC doors with level threshold
7. Blue engineering brick below DPC



3.3 Elevations

The elevations were designed based on the school's existing WC block, close to the site. This block was also designed by HSSP Architects Ltd (planning ref. 20/00797/FUL)

The building form has been kept simple, to keep costs in line with tight school budgets, but the larch timber cladding and dark windows and doors offer a more contemporary aesthetic. There will be a metal canopy over the main entrance.

PV panels will be situated on the roof, furthest from the trees to maximise the sunlight.



Adjacent photos:
Existing WC block

4.0 Access

4.1 Vehicular access

- Unaffected by proposals

4.2 Pedestrian access

- A** As noted, access to the assisted learning building will predominantly be from the direction of the main school, via the school playground.
- B** Access to the remaining seating area for the wider school use will remain as existing.
- C** **D** Paving will be extended to meet the doors either side of the main teaching room.

4.3 Inclusive design

- The new paving or resin will be sloped at a maximum gradient of 1:12, to form a level threshold entrance.
- Level threshold doors are to be specified.
- There is provision for a disabled WC.

