

Erection of Forest School Classroom

Oakwood Community School,
Heath Road, Bagworth,
Leicestershire, CV13 0JD

United Education Services Ltd

June 2023

20 / 010 / M / DAS-1 | DJK | Revision:

design & access

1.0 INTRODUCTION

SRA Architecture Ltd have been instructed by United Education Services Ltd to prepare a full planning application for the siting of a Forest School Classroom structure within the grounds of Oakwood Community School, Bagworth, Leicestershire.

This application is seeking for full planning permission for the following description of development:

“Erection of Forest School building within woodland of SEN Education Facility. “

A detailed description of the development is included within section 3 of this document.

This application should be read in conjunction with the following design information and reports.

- 60_Site Location Plans
- 61_Proposed Forest School Classroom
- Design & Access Statement (this document)

2.0 EXISTING SITE

The existing site is home to Oakwood Community School. The site opened in September 2019 as a Specialist Needs Education facility catering for children of ages 8 – 18 years. The facility currently offers cross-phase-education for up to 40 children or young adults with emotional, behavioural, and mental health difficulties.

Within the first 12 months of opening, the site reached 90% of its capacity for students, however, there is an ever-increasing demand for places for children in desperate need of the support that only such a specialist facility can deliver. The number of children that need such an opportunity is far in excess of the places that are currently available.

The countryside location of this site surrounded by farmland and natural forestry is ideally suited for its use as a School for Special Educational Needs. It is worth noting that the existing facilities occupy an area of the site that is well shielded from view by virtue of the mature woodland along Heath Road.

There are two established entrances to the site, both of which are taken from the north side of Heath Road. The first point of access is located close to the junction with Garland Lane, the second is situated approximately 290 metres further East. The entrance close to the junction with Garland Lane has been maintained to provide access for disabled persons and as a service entrance, whilst the one further along Heath Road provides the main access to the site.

The site is not located within any Flood Risk area, as defined by the Environmental Agency.

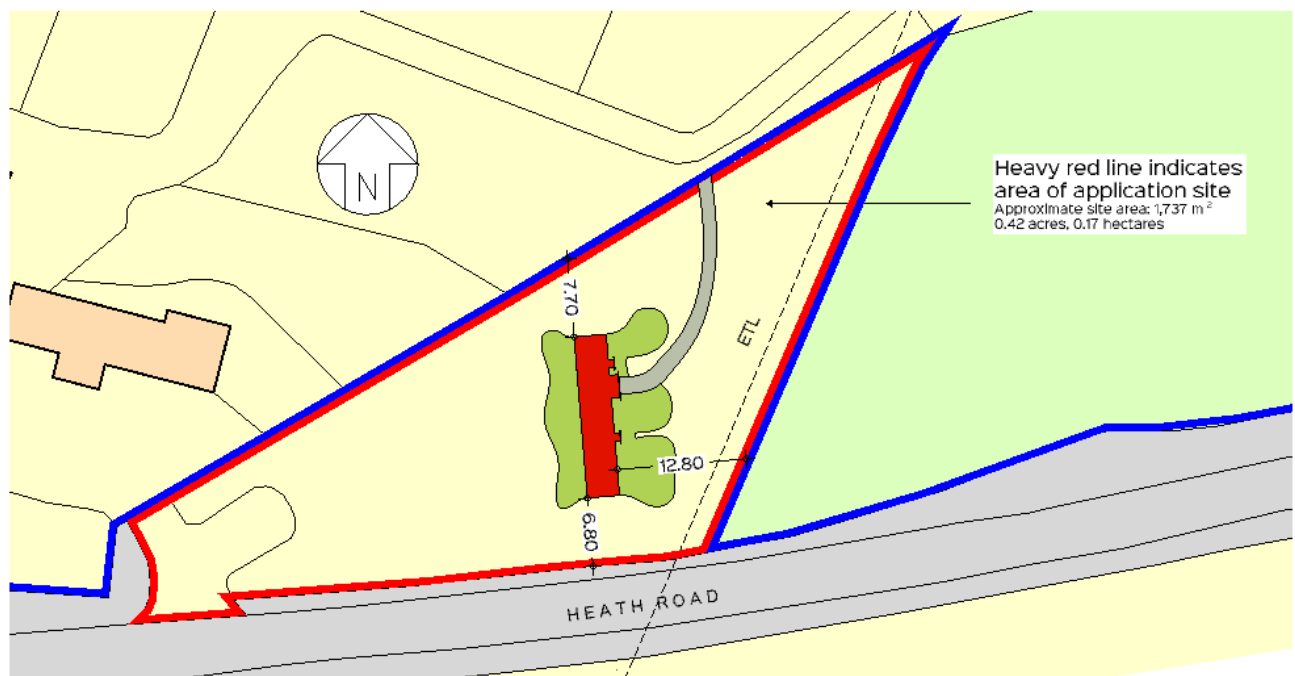


Existing Site Location Plan (NTS)

3.0 PROPOSALS

The applicant is seeking full planning permission for the erection of Forest School building within the existing grounds of the established facility. The addition of this unit will provide a unique learning environment for pupils at the existing school, allowing for the effective delivery of the specialist curriculum directly within the natural environment. The unit is to be sited adjacent to an extensive woodland, providing effective secure access to and from the Forest Classroom for outdoor learning activities.

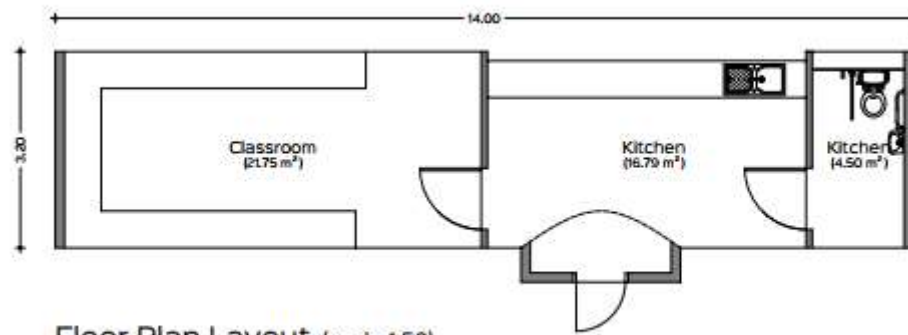
The proposed structure will be utilised by **only** existing pupils and staff at the existing school and is to be used as an additional teaching space. This development does not seek to increase pupil or staff numbers, but instead will relieve pressure on the capacity restraints posed by the existing teaching facilities at the Oakwood Community School.



Proposed location of development (NTS)

The prefabricated unit, also known as 'Eco Pod Buildings', is a large high density polycarbonate cylindrical structure that is to be sited above ground, following which a series of 'earth mounds' are formed around the unit and a full turf grass covering applied. This creates a structure with a range of environmental including reduced energy usage, absorption of CO₂, and increased biodiversity. Extensive natural shielding will be provided that surrounds the development, cloaking the proposed structure from view by both those on and off site.

The 46 m² unit will be provided with service connections back to the existing school buildings (water and electrical connections). Foul water will be disposed of using a package sewage treatment facility. The proposed unit will be provided with pedestrian access only, and will have no impact upon existing traffic movements, parking provisions or highways access.



Floor Plan Layout (scale 1:50)

Extract from drawing /61 (NTS)



Image of similar completed development



Image of similar completed development

4.0 CONCLUSION

SRA Architecture Ltd have been instructed by United Education Services Ltd to prepare a full planning application for the siting of a Forest School Classroom structure within the grounds of Oakwood Community School, Bagworth, Leicestershire.

This application is seeking for full planning permission for the following description of development:

"Erection of Forest School building within woodland of SEN Education Facility. "

The proposals that form this planning application do not seek to adversely affect the existing setting and are considered entirely appropriate for both the local and wider environment.

This development seeks to provide a specialist outdoor teaching facility that will support and diversify the existing established school site.

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