

Spencers Wood Primary School Landscape Approach

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ME Landscape Studio



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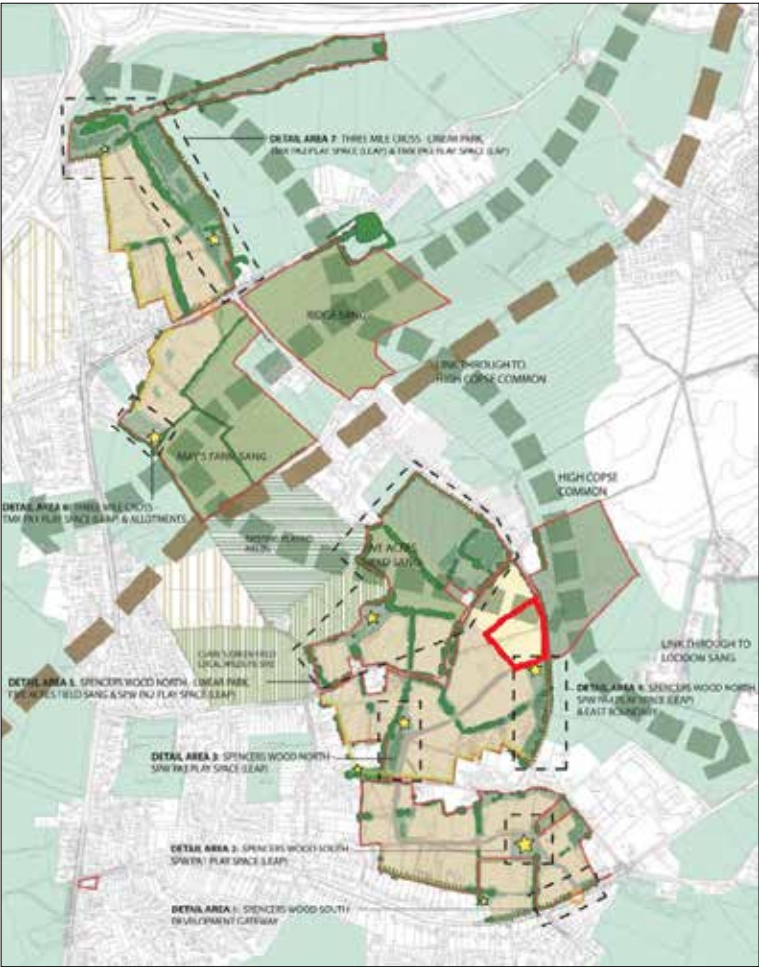
We have been appointed to develop the landscape proposals for the proposed Spencers Wood Primary School.

Our approach has been to break up the play spaces using landscape planting, which has also allowed us to introduce seating ‘pockets’, sensory planting and shade through tree cover and a shade structure. We have also introduced a Forest School.

We have reviewed the Spencers Wood & Three Mile Cross Design and Access Statement, particularly chapter 8 which outlines the Landscape/ Open Space/ Drainage strategy.

The key points we are:

- 1. Reinforce the existing boundary planting along Hyde End Lane to enhance settlement separation from Shinfield to the east;
- 2. Use of the native species palette as outlined in chapter 8 to reinforce the landscape character and contribute to wider biodiversity/ wildlife corridors;
- 3. Reinforcing key gateways into the wider development (i.e. to Fullbrook Avenue).



Landscape Proposals

Landscape Plan - Overall

New building

Key proposals:

1. An extensive green roof to the entrance portion of the building, providing habitat that can be looked on by pupils within the main section.

Main Site

Key proposals:

1. Structure planting to the southern and western site boundaries, to integrate with the wider Spencers Wood landscape and screening parking areas;
2. Planting and seating opportunities within all play grounds. Sensory planting species together with ornamental trees 'soften' the outdoor spaces whilst seating niches provide a range of spaces;
3. The creation of a **Forest School** in the larger play space, including creating a living willow tunnel, a native copse and providing robust raised 'Grow Your Own' planters;
4. Extensive planting to the northern and eastern boundaries, to enclose the site visually and create a more calming environment for pupils. This includes planting incorporating a range of native species. The eastern boundary planting includes the RPA area of tree T5 which extends into the play ground.

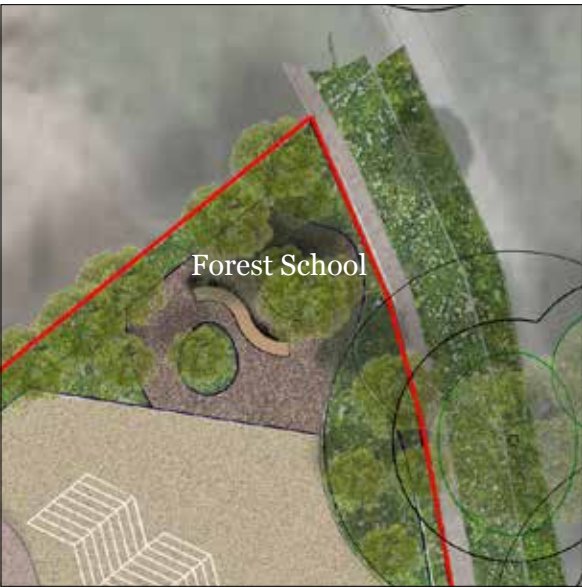


Landscape Proposals

Forest School

Potential to develop a Forest School area to the north eastern side of the school grounds, close to Hyde End Lane. This would provide spaces for group activities. A woven willow tunnel(s) can also be incorporated.

The area can have robust raised planters as growing areas for the pupils. Herbs can also be grown.



Seating



Safety surfacing
- Tiger Mulch



Willow tunnel

Sensory Planting

Key points of the approach to the Sensory Planting:

A series of sensory planting areas interspersed with seating



SENSORY PLANTING - SIGHT, SOUND, SMELL, TOUCH, TASTE

What is a sensory trail?

A sensory trail is a collection of small experiences that engage the senses and together build a sensory-rich experience. Sensory trails are mainly used outdoors in natural settings as diverse as farms and city parks but they can also be used to great effect inside, in museums for example, healthcare settings or preschools.

Who is a sensory trail for?

Sensory trails, like sensory gardens, are sometimes seen as 'an access improvement', intended for people with disabilities, specifically sensory impairments. While there is no doubt that enabling sensory exploration can make a place or an experience more accessible, encouraging people to use their senses is of benefit to all ages and abilities.

Why engage the senses?

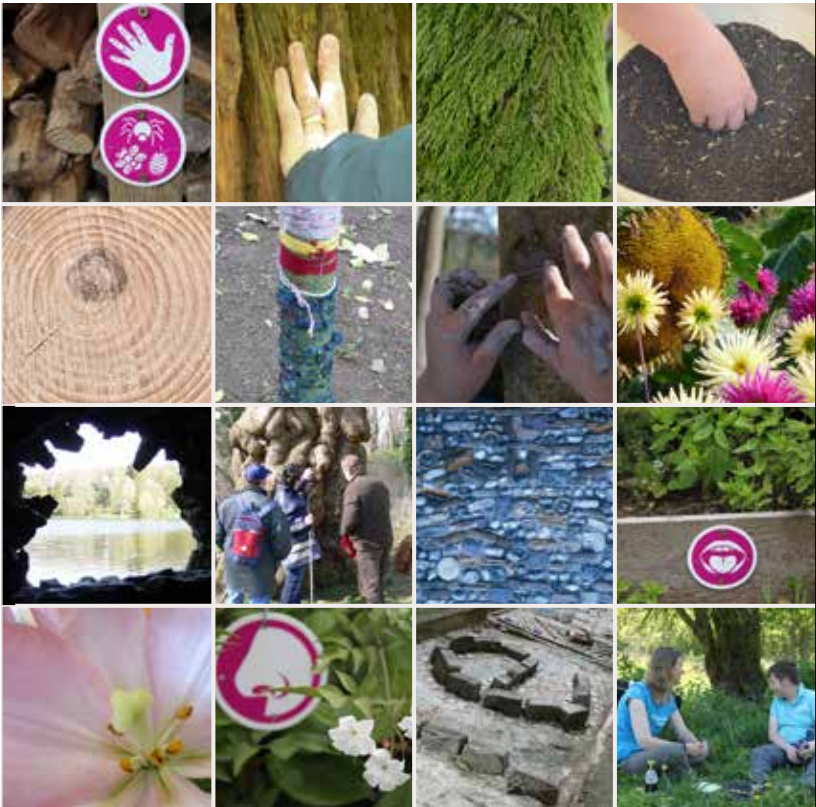
Every experience is formed by our senses and every memory is an experience we carry with us. By encouraging people to use their senses we encourage them to enrich their experience and build stronger, deeper, more meaningful, connections and memories.

In short, the more senses we engage the more we remember. And it's fun too.

What can a sensory trail do?

Sensory trails can,

- give people the opportunity and the excuse to listen, touch, smell and look, more closely,
- bring a place to life for all visitors including people with sensory impairments,
- encourage physical activity,
- tell a story, weave a tale and bring a myth to life,
- be the basis for an education experience, facilitating learning outside the classroom,
- build memories and make connections,
- open up eyes, ears and nostrils and get hands out of pockets.
- draw attention to new areas, points of interest, seasonal changes and highlights.



Landscape Proposals

Hard Materials/ Furniture Strategy

A range of surfaces are proposed, including standard tarmac, permeable tarmac, resin-bound gravel, play surfacing and permeable pre-cast concrete blocks. These will be in calming complementary colours to not be visually ‘busy’. The final selection of surfaces is to be co-ordinated with the school.

Different seating types are proposed, including shaped seats and seating at different heights for various age groups. The final selection of the seating is to be co-ordinated with the school.



Main Entrance
Pre-cast textured paviors



Entrance road/ Playground
Tarmac, possibly with markings



Parking Bays
Permeable blocks



Curved seating



Picnic benches with access for wheelchairs to external spaces



Shade structure



Cycle store/ Bin store

Planting Strategy

We have divided the soft landscape areas into a range of planting types, each with their own particular range of plant species. These groupings are outlined on the following pages.

- SL1** BOUNDARY PLANTING
- SL2** OTHER BOUNDARY PLANTING / STRUCTURE PLANTING
- SL3** ORNAMENTAL PLANTING
- SL4** SENSORY PLANTING
- SL5** WILDFLOWER MEADOW
- HEDGEROWS
- WOVEN WILLOW TUNNEL



Landscape Proposals

Planting Ideas - Trees

We have indicated a range of native and ornamental tree species across the site, to reinforce existing tree planting and provide more interest during the year.

There is a group of ornamental cherries (*Prunus* ‘Sunset Boulevard’) within the **Car Park/ drop-off area**, with native cherry (*Prunus avium*) to the entrance and Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

The key trees within the **Western Entrance** are Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), which has amazing red and orange autumn colour and interesting leaf shape, Snowy Mespilus (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) and *Carpinus betulus* ‘Lucas’, which has a fastigate form.

The sensory planting within the **Playgrounds** includes multi-stem Snowy Mespilus (*Amelanchier lamarckii*), *Acer griseum* (peeling mahogany red bark), *Prunus serrula* and *Prunus sargentii* within the Sensory Gardens. Other species include disease-resistant Elm (*Ulmus* ‘New Horizon’) and Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

The **Forest School** is to have fruit trees including apples, as well as native cherry trees (*Prunus avium*) and pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

The **Eastern Boundary** is to have a range of native species including English Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

- Acer campestre
- Acer griseum
- Amelanchier lamarckii
- Carpinus betulus ‘Lucas’
- Crataegus monogyna
- Liquidambar styraciflua
- Malus sylvestris
- Pinus sylvestris
- Prunus ‘Sunset Boulevard’
- Prunus avium
- Prunus serrula
- Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’
- Quercus robur
- Sorbus aucuparia
- Tilia cordata
- Tilia tomentosa
- Ulmus ‘New Horizon’
- Evergreen hedge
- Native ‘Tapestry’ hedge



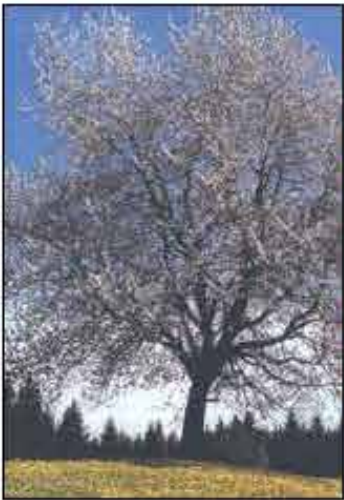
Amelanchier lamarckii



Carpinus betulus ‘Lucas’



Sweet Gum - Liquidambar styraciflua



Native Cherry - Prunus avium



Prunus sargentii



Prunus serrula



Mountain Ash - Sorbus aucuparia



Ulmus ‘New Horizon’

Landscape Proposals

Planting Ideas - Sensory Planting

We have indicated a range of ornamental shrub, herbaceous and groundcover species, to create sensory areas within the play grounds.

Species include:

- Bergenia ciliata* - Giant Elephant's Ears
- Briza maxima* - Common Quaking Grass
- Buddleia alternifolia* - Fountain Butterfly Bush
- Crocasmia crocosmiiflora* - Montbretia
- Dryopteris filix mas* - Common Fern
- Heuchera 'Forever Red'* - Coral Bells
- Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'* - Lavender
- Pennisetum setaceum 'Hameln'* - Fountain Grass
- Rosmarinus officinalis* - Rosemary
- Rudbeckia fulgida sullivantii 'Goldsturm'* - Orange Coneflower
- Stipa tenuissima* - Mexican Feathergrass
- Verbena bonariensis* - Purpletop vervain.



Verbena bonariensis



Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'



Crocasmia crocosmiiflora



Stipa tenuissima



Pennisetum setaceum



Rosmarinus officinalis



Briza maxima



Buddleia alternifolia



Dryopteris filix-mas



Heuchera 'Forever Red'

Planting Ideas - Boundary Planting to Car Park

Typical low maintenance shrub and groundcover planting, including a range of both evergreen and deciduous hedging to the site boundary.

Indicative list includes:

- Cornus sanguinea* ‘Midwinter Fire’ - Common Dogwood
- x Fatshedera lizei* ‘Annemieke’
- Hedera helix* ‘Glacier’
- Lonicera nitida* - Shrubby Honeysuckle
- Mahonia x media* ‘Charity’
- Philadelphus* ‘Manteau d’Hermine’
- Pinus mugo* ‘Pumilio’ - Dwarf Mountain Pine
- Prunus spinosa*
- Sarcococca humilis* - Sweet Box
- Viburnum x burkwoodii*
- Viburnum davidii*.



Lonicera nitida



Sarcococca humilis



Pinus mugo 'Pumilio'



Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'

Planting Ideas - Native Boundary Planting

We have indicated a range of native tree and shrub species to the eastern boundary adjacent to Hyde End Lane, to reinforce the existing planting. The species are as outlined in the Spencers Wood & Three Mile Cross DAS. Indicative tree list is:

- Quercus robur* - English Oak
- Acer campestre* - Field Maple
- Tilia cordata* - Small leaved Lime
- Pinus sylvestris* - Scots Pine
- Ilex aquifolium* - Holly
- Prunus avium* - Wild Cherry
- Malus sylvestris* - Crab Apple
- Crataegus monogyna* - Hawthorn.

We are extending the existing hedgerows to help enclose the site and reduce views into the site from the public footpath. Native hedgerow species include:

- Prunus spinosa* - Blackthorn
- Crataegus monogyna* - Hawthorn
- Corylus avellana* - Hazel
- Ilex aquifolium* - Holly.

Native hedgerow trees:

- Quercus robur* - English Oak
- Acer campestre* - Field Maple.



Field Maple - Acer campestre



Hawthorn - Crataegus monogyna



Holly - Ilex aquifolium



English Oak - Quercus robur

Ecological Enhancements

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment has been prepared by Jomas (Ref: P5937J3010). The report outlines a number of enhancements for wildlife considered appropriate, including;

- Generalist bird boxes for hole or crevice nesting birds, possibly integrated into the building facades;
- Invertebrate loggers and log pile habitat features, possibly on the extensive green roof;
- Bat roost boxes;
- Insect boxes, possibly on the green roof;
- Hedgehog domes, and
- Installation of a biodiverse extensive green roof.

The key enhancements we are proposing within the landscape are:

1. Tree planting including fruit-, seed-and nut-bearing varieties to provide foraging resources for birds and other wildlife;
2. Incorporation of native plants and those of known benefit to wildlife in to the landscape scheme to provide foraging opportunities for birds, invertebrates and bats;
3. Incorporation of a ‘tapestry’ hedge along the eastern boundary, with a range of native shrubs;
4. Provision of bird and bat boxes, and insect boxes on building walls to provide habitat opportunities for bird and bat species and a variety of invertebrates;
5. Provision of night-scented plant species for bats;
6. Provision of gaps (c. 13 x 13cm) within new fencing to enable dispersal of hedgehogs and other wildlife into the the wider landscape.

EXTENSIVE GREEN ROOF



Extensive green roof



ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE



Bat and Bird Bricks



Bird feeders



Bat boxes



Bug hotel



'Tapestry' hedge



Nectar plants for butterflies and moths



Night-scented plants (e.g. *Jasminum officinale*)



Schwegler hedgehog dome



Bird Box - to existing trees



Gaps in boundaries for hedgehogs