

The ACRE Project

Site extension, additional facilities and redevelopment of the ACRE Project site, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

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Introduction

Demesne Architects have been retained by Kildare County Council to provide a feasibility study for development at the ACRE Project, Celbridge.

The feasibility study is for works to a proposed extension of the site, additional facilities and redevelopment at the ACRE project site. This document illustrates the existing site and its various uses, location, planning history and explores 3 design proposals for the development and extension.

The ACRE project

Situated on the grounds of Salesian College in Celbridge Co. Kildare, the ACRE project was founded in 2008. It is a registered charity and relies on the work of several volunteers.

“Located on the Maynooth Road in Celbridge, Kildare, the ACRE Project fosters an eco-focused community through environmental education, horticulture and the provision of facilities for community activities.” - acreproject.com

The ACRE project is an eco-friendly facility and provides a wide range of community and horticultural activities and cater for a wide range of people and functions in the local community.

Some of the events and functions on the site include:
community gardens, training & teaching,
special needs activities, Yoga, teaching, therapy
book club, bake sales, children’s horticultural activities, bee keeping, arts and crafts, artist in residence, bowling green, men’s and woman’s sheds, community markets / sales / buy and swap, mindfulness for children, and many more.

“ACRE Project provides a creative space for the community to gather, socialise and learn together. Offering interactive events, we bring youths and adults together through informal workshops in horticulture and creative arts while advocating positive ecological and environmental living.” - acreproject.com



Project brief

Currently the ACRE project site occupies an area of approx. 7076 sqm. There is a need to expand the premises and activities that the ACRE project can cater for. Use of an adjacent site directly to the south west of approx. 510 sqm has been acquired and offers a much needed development opportunity for the existing facility.

The brief is to develop a multifunction building potentially on the new site and to include: multipurpose room catering for performances up to 100 people, offices, meeting rooms and WCs.

In conjunction with the ACRE project, the brief was further developed to comprise:

- Multifunction room & stage
- Storage rooms
- WC facilities
- Kitchenette
- Entrance lobby / spill out area
- Office rooms x 2
- Meeting room space x 2
- Men's shed workshop
- Computer room / training
- Indicate potential future Scout hall building

Planning context

The site is currently unzoned and is part of and owned by Salesian College Celbridge, which is zoned E: Community and Educational. Since 2008 there have been several applications on the site, namely:

Ref: 23/850, Date: 2023

Application summary:

Single storey cabin for use as Men's and Woman's shed, social meetings and associated uses.

Decision: Grant with conditions

Ref: 14/388, Date: 2014

Application summary:

Extension of duration application Ref. 08/1988

Decision: Grant with conditions

Ref: 08/1988, Date: 2009

Application summary:

Education / teaching facility structures, crops and planting areas, retention of existing scout huts, storage units, wind turbine, polytunnels, entrance gates.

Decision: Grant with conditions

Policy context

The Kildare Development Plan 2023-2029 includes several supporting policies in relation to community activities / facilities as provided at the ACRE project:

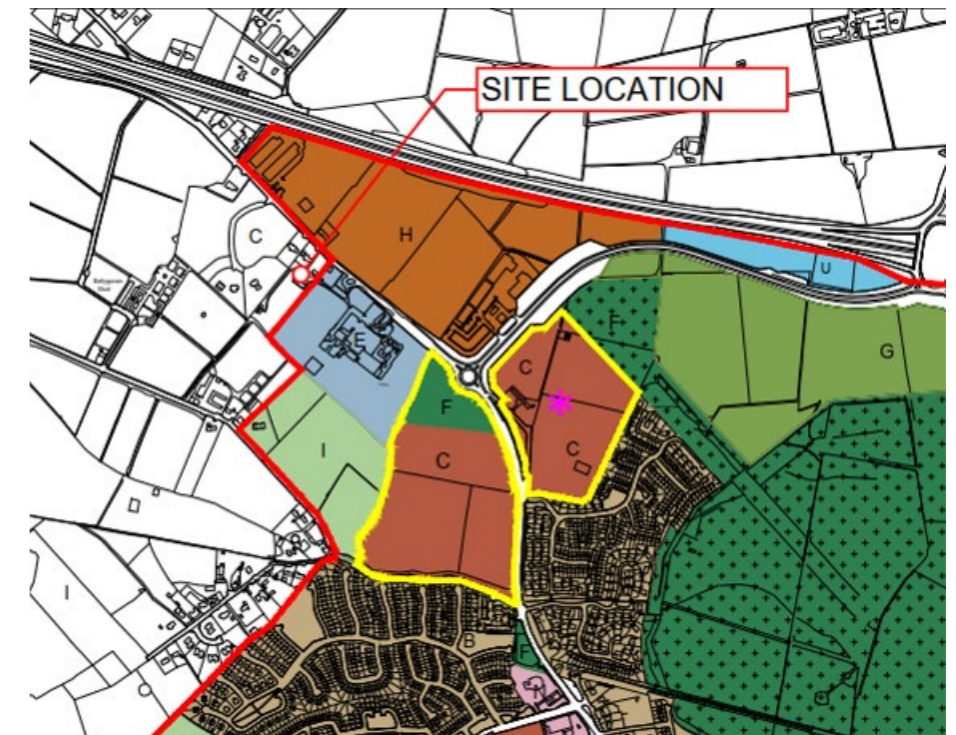
SC P4 Ensure the needs of children and young people, including those with disabilities and additional needs, in the provision of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities are provided for in the community in which they live.

SC O27 Integrate, where possible and practical, the design of youth space facilities as part of all newly planned and proposed extensions to community facilities in the county.

SC O29 Make available/lease, vacant or unused council owned buildings/land to community groups, youth groups and clubs.

C O45 Assist community and voluntary groups in developing and enhancing facilities to meet the needs of the entire community and to promote the recruitment and retention of volunteers within community organisations.

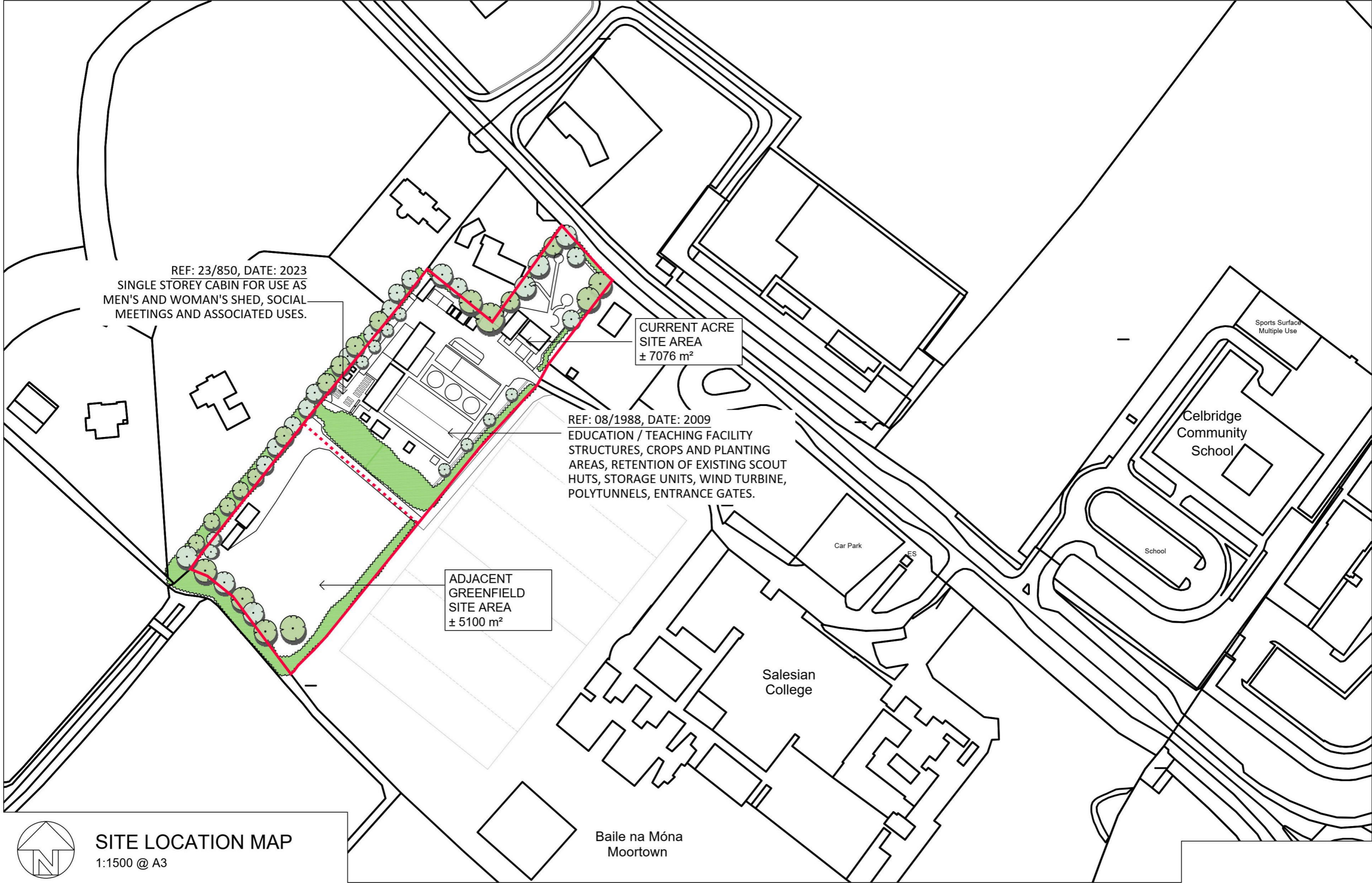
SC O47 Facilitate the expansion of existing facilities to cater for the needs of community groups and the growing population in Kildare, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2AA.



Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017-2023



Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029



SITE LOCATION MAP
1:1500 @ A3

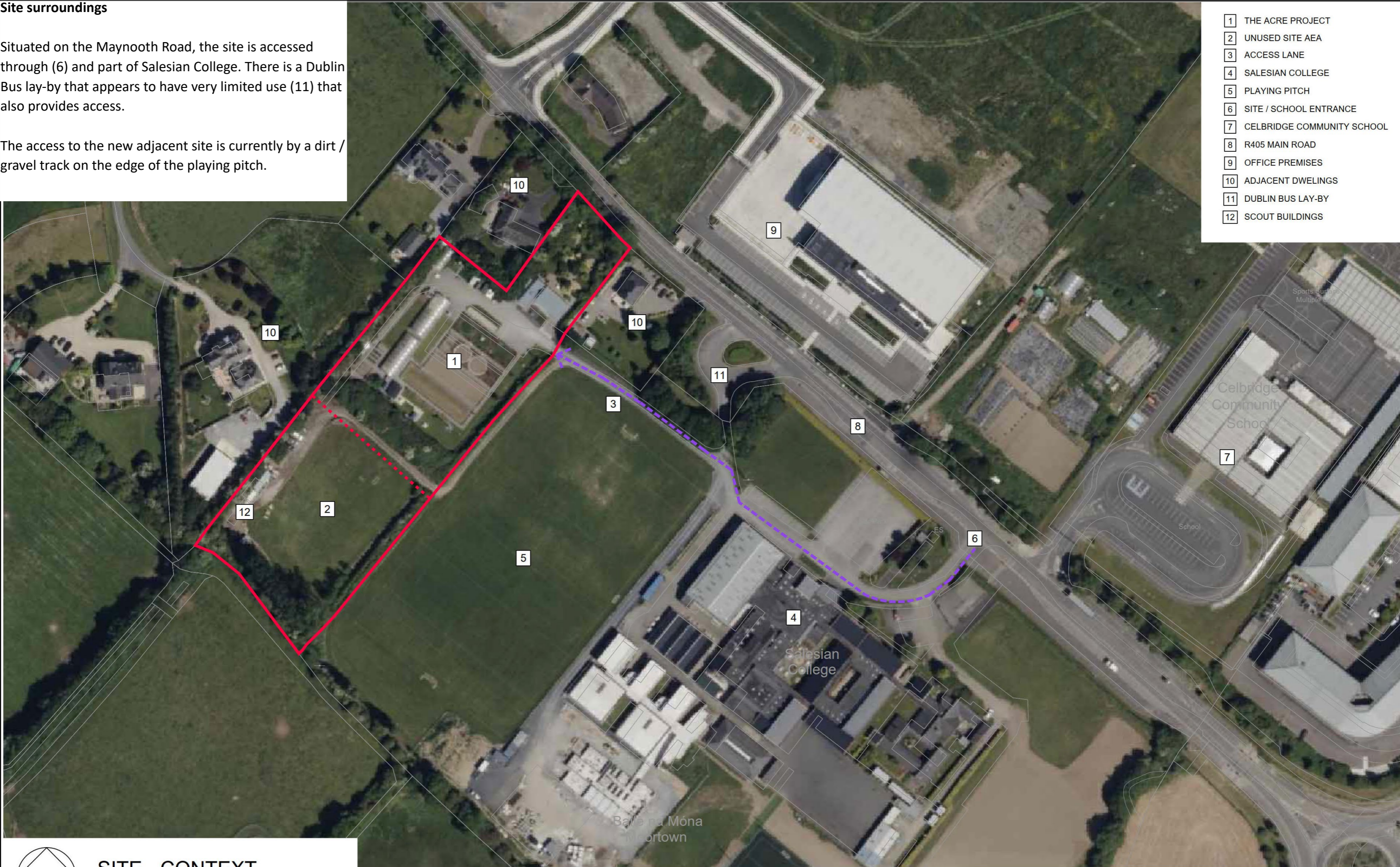
The ACRE Project

Site surroundings

Situated on the Maynooth Road, the site is accessed through (6) and part of Salesian College. There is a Dublin Bus lay-by that appears to have very limited use (11) that also provides access.

The access to the new adjacent site is currently by a dirt / gravel track on the edge of the playing pitch.

- 1 THE ACRE PROJECT
- 2 UNUSED SITE AEA
- 3 ACCESS LANE
- 4 SALESIAN COLLEGE
- 5 PLAYING PITCH
- 6 SITE / SCHOOL ENTRANCE
- 7 CELBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- 8 R405 MAIN ROAD
- 9 OFFICE PREMISES
- 10 ADJACENT DWELLINGS
- 11 DUBLIN BUS LAY-BY
- 12 SCOUT BUILDINGS



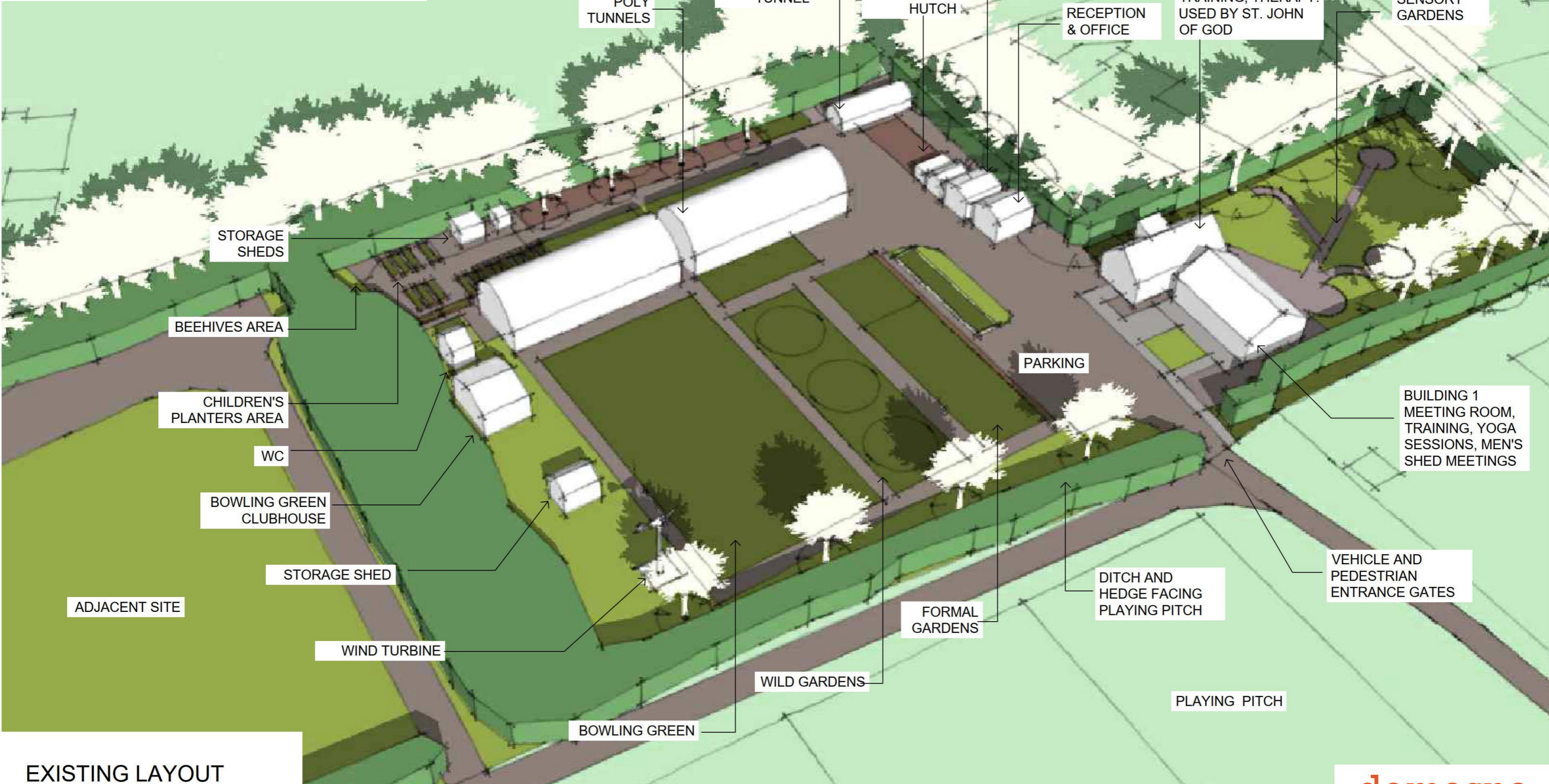
SITE - CONTEXT
1:1500 @ A3

The ACRE Project

EXISTING SITE

Site uses and layout

The ACRE project site is well utilized and facilitates many uses. The buildings and poly tunnels area arranged around the central planting areas and bowling green. Currently Building 2 is also used by St John of God offering special needs services, the National Learning Centre and hosting evening classes including yoga.



EXISTING LAYOUT



TOOL SHED, RECEPTION, BUILDING 1 & 2



PLANTED AREAS



DIRT TRACK AND PLAYING FIELD



PARKING AREAS, POLY TUNNELS



DUBLIN BUS LAY-BY - PROPOSED SITE ACCESS ROUTE



SENSORY GARDEN



OPEN SITE AREAS TO REAR, SCOUT STORAGE BUILDINGS



ENTRANCE & PARKING AREA



SEATING, STORAGE SHEDS & BEEHIVE AREA



CHILDREN'S PLANTER AREAS



COMMUNITY DRAWINGS



ACRE PROJECT ENTRANCE

Expanding the site

There is a pressing need and opportunity to expand the site and its facilities by incorporating the adjacent greenfield site. The existing planted mound area provides a barrier to current expansion and there are differing options on whether to remove this, or to retain it and only provide an access point through. Removing this does mean that visually the two sites can read and expand as one. The main strong base and feature of the ACRE project which is horticultural could be strengthened and expanded. The centre part of the two sites could be ideal for this purpose.

Access route

Site access via the school grounds is not ideal, and preferably the ACRE site needs its own access - which can easily be done via the seldom used Dublin Bus lay-by off the Maynooth Road.

The current dirt / gravel track is on the playing pitch edge and is not practical as access to the new site portion. Any new access in this location needs to be further back from the pitch and with a safety barrier. Three options are presented in this document for access to the new portion of the site. Any new building will require accessible parking at the closest point to the building entrance doors. With this development, there will be intensifying of site use. The current single lane access road and footpath beside the playing pitch may need to be widened for the uptake in traffic. Potentially, a new continuous concrete footpath may need to be created from the site entrance, through to the new buildings.

Building type / community projects

The brief is for a multifunction building with performance venue in a horticultural community project setting. In many towns across Ireland, the local GAA clubhouse building performs many of these functions. Many community centres also have halls that can cater for small performances - both these entities are also non-profit with the emphasis on function and ease of use by the community. It may be important that spaces in the new building can adapt to various user groups.



Eco community centre, Melbourne



Eco community centre, Melbourne

Building Examples

Examples / precedents to consider include community buildings in a landscaped / garden setting. Typically, buildings like these are single story, or two storey with the roof space utilized so the buildings read as 1 and a half storey. An A-frame building structure provides a suitable form. The landscaped space between buildings are important, should be low maintenance and able to provide natural drainage / SUDS solutions on site. An informal performance space with loose seating is flexible and can host various functions.



Informal performance space, Co. Meath



Living Spaces, Copenhagen

Design Concept

For the proposed new buildings, an apt form consideration is an A-frame structure - which is reminiscent of the current poly tunnels where the roof becomes the structure / walls. This provides a lot of roof / surface area for items like solar panels, rooflights and useful for roof rainwater harvesting. Breaking up the building into several parts is also a consideration, while the unused parts can be closed off there is a cost implication due to more external wall surfaces and circulation floor area. The proposed north western building locations means there is no overshadowing of open and planted areas.

Fire Safety

The proposed buildings will be fully compliant to Part B of the Building Regulations. Fire compartments, escape routes and fire spread to be determined at detail design stage. Fire fighting vehicles will need access to the facades of the new buildings, as well as adequate turning circles in accordance with regulations.

Civil works and drainage

New road and paths specification to be ascertained and designed in detail at design development stage. The Council's roads department to be consulted during the planning process and their requirements incorporated. A consultant engineer will specify a surface and foul water drainage design solution that considers items like drainage gradients and capacity and connections to existing connections. Surface water disposal will include SUDS measures to comply to the Council's requirements.

Existing setting and landscape

The design of the proposed buildings should be informed by the horticultural, educational and community setting. The design of the buildings would not be overpowering, but be placed to function alongside the existing site and landscape. It should be an extension of the site, rather than being imposed on it.



Living Spaces, Copenhagen



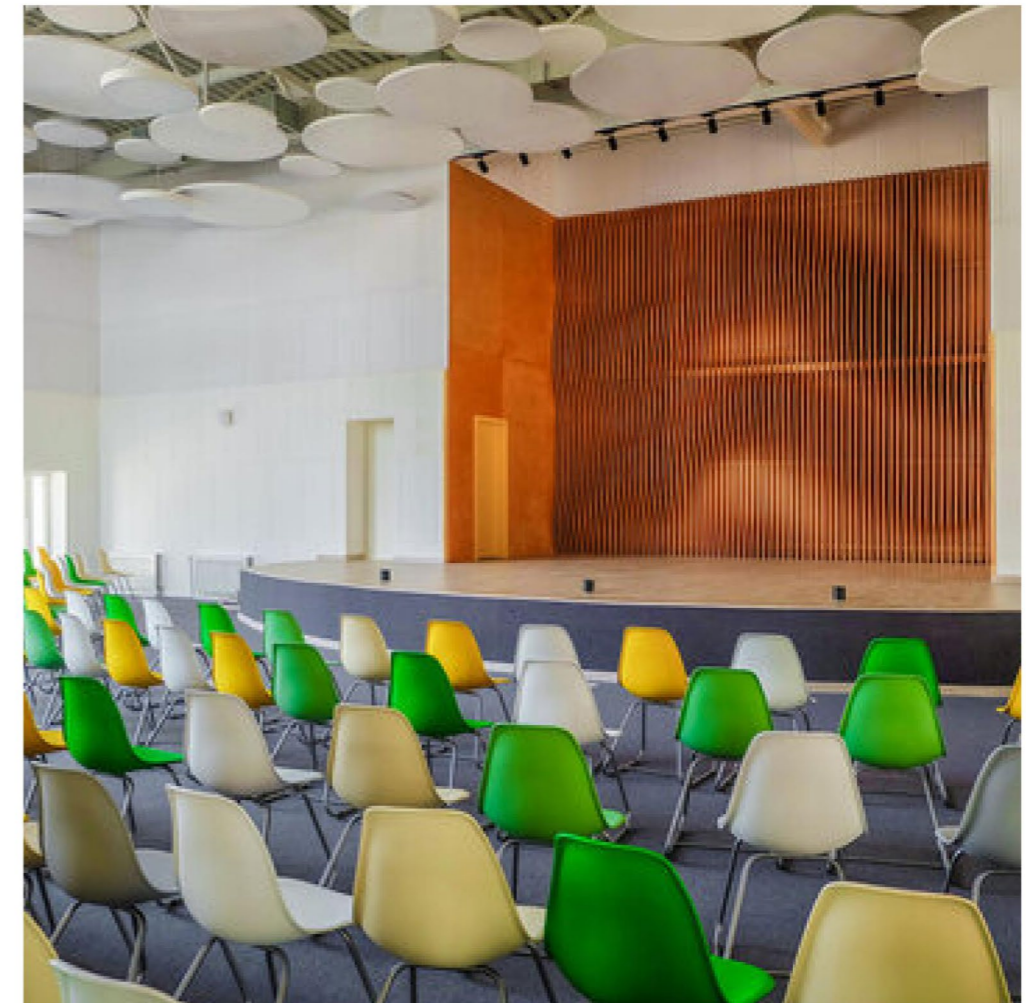
Living Spaces, Copenhagen



A-frame building example



National Centre of Garden Culture, Czech Republic



Living Spaces, Copenhagen

Sustainability / Energy Conservation

It is proposed that the new buildings focus on being eco-friendly and exceed the minimum standards set in Part L of the Building Regulations. Renewable energy elements such as rainwater harvesting, solar PV electricity, solar water heating will be incorporated along with air to water / ground source heat pump, high quality glazing, sustainable materials and high levels of insulation.

Some of the sustainable building elements to be incorporated:

Natural Light

Lighting accounts for typically 12% of the overall primary energy. Maximizing day lighting in the main areas will reduce the demand on artificial lighting during daylight hours. By employing Energy Efficient Design (EED) methods, the energy consumption and CO² emissions can be reduced.

Fabric Design & U-Values

To minimize heat loss through the building structure and exterior, it's essential to ensure that insulation specifications and installation are of high quality. By achieving high-performance U-Values for the walls, floors, roof, windows, and facade, the rate of heat loss from the building can be significantly reduced. The targeted U-Values for the proposed development will surpass the minimum standards outlined in Part L of the Irish building regulations.

Water Conservation

Eco-friendly buildings can incorporate water-saving technologies and strategies such as low-flow fixtures, rainwater harvesting systems, greywater recycling, and low maintenance landscaping. By reducing water consumption, a building can help conserve freshwater resources and minimize strain on local water supplies.

Improved Indoor Air Quality

Eco-friendly building materials and ventilation systems are selected to enhance indoor air quality by minimizing the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), allergens, and other pollutants. This promotes healthier indoor environments, reduces the risk of respiratory ailments, and enhances occupant comfort and productivity.

Sustainable Materials

Sustainable materials are typically sourced from renewable resources or recycled materials, which minimizes the depletion of natural resources and reduces the environmental impact associated with extraction and processing. Using sustainable materials also often results in lower carbon emissions and energy consumption throughout the building's use.

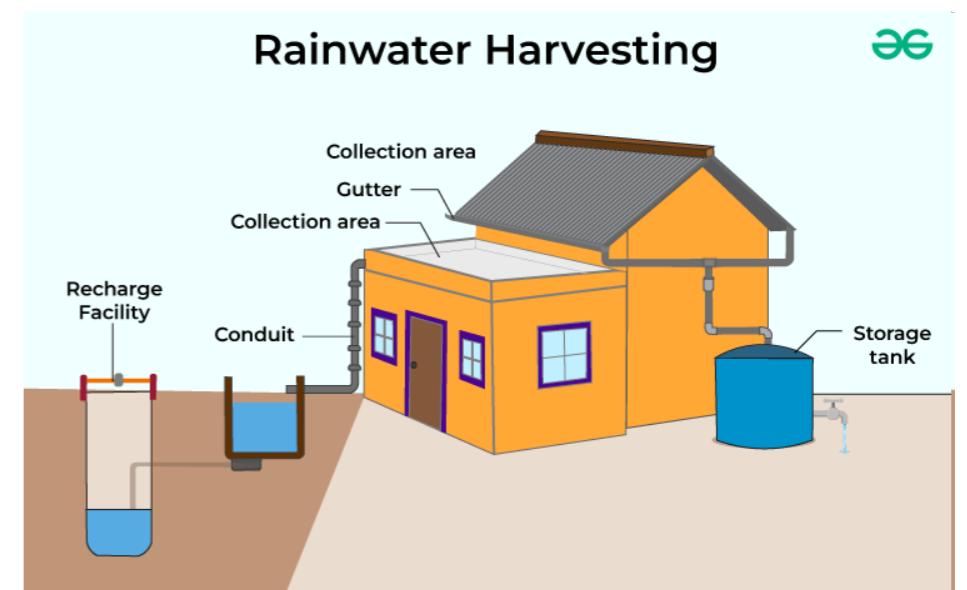
Sustainable materials often generate less waste during manufacturing and construction processes. Additionally, many sustainable materials are recyclable or biodegradable, facilitating easier disposal at the end of a building's lifecycle and reducing landfill waste.

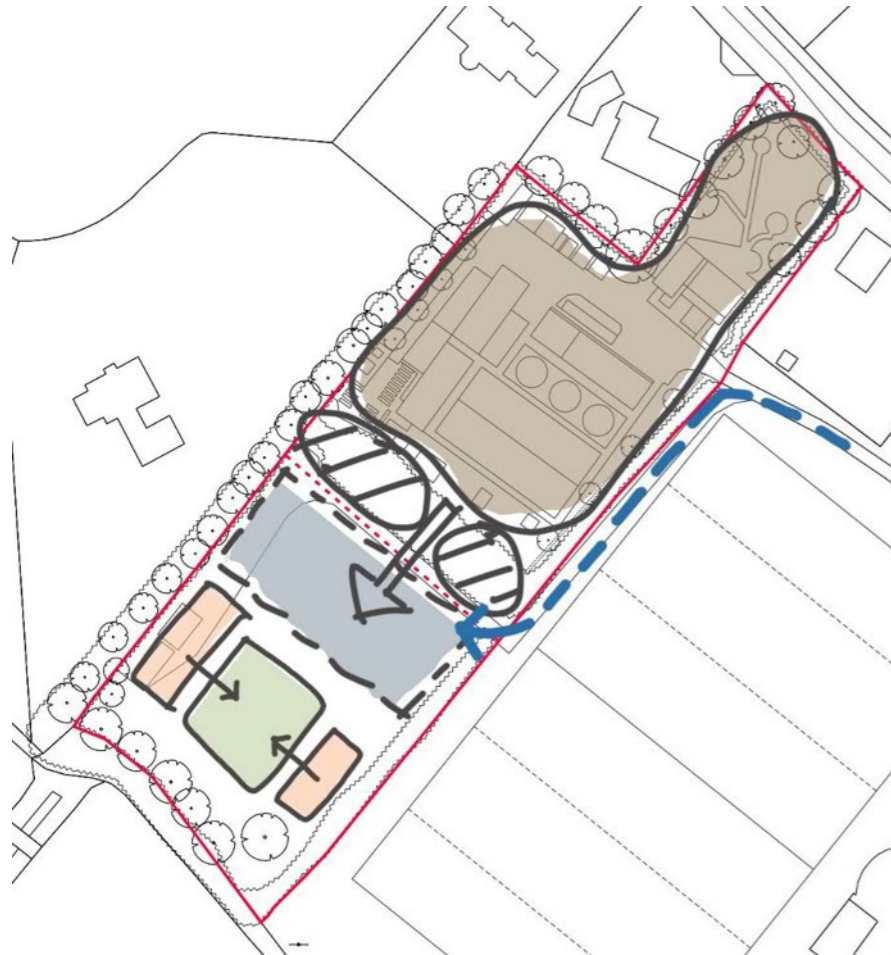
Solar PV and Solar Water Heating

Solar power generation produces minimal environmental pollution compared to fossil fuel-based energy sources. It doesn't emit greenhouse gases or other harmful pollutants during operation, contributing to cleaner air and combating climate change.

Installing solar panels for electricity generation or solar water heating systems can significantly reduce energy bills over time. Once the initial investment is recouped, solar energy becomes essentially free, providing long-term financial benefits.

Solar panels and solar water heaters have relatively low maintenance and operating costs compared to traditional energy systems. With minimal upkeep it offers cost-effective energy.

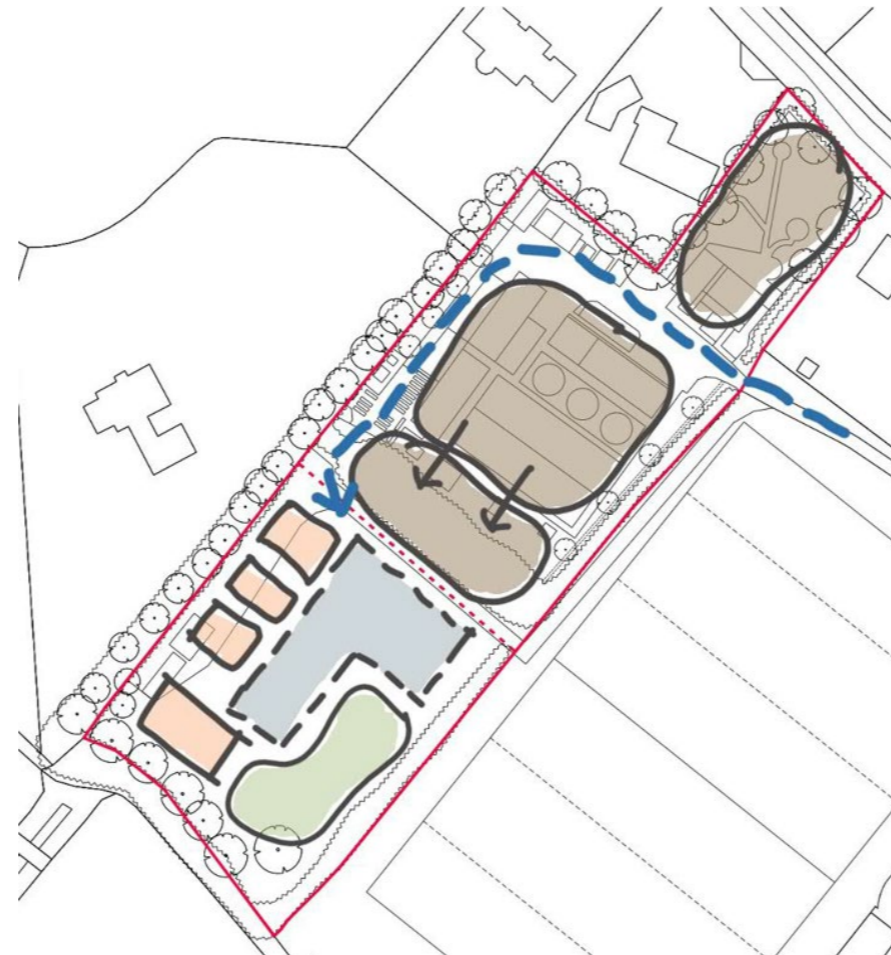




Option 1

The existing site, uses and access remains in place. The rear planted mound area is retained, with a central opening made for pedestrian access. Access is via the same location as the existing track, but moved back to be 5m away from the pitch. The hedge facing the playing pitch is removed. This will necessitate a culvert to be made for the existing ditch, as the new access lane will be located over it.

A single multifunction building is located at the south west end of the site, with parking in the front portion. The scout building is located opposite, leaving the centre of the site open for amenity space, camping etc. and potentially for drainage soakaway area. The two storey building will require an accessible platform lift. Meeting rooms and offices located on the upper storey. This option leaves a large portion of the existing site in place, but is located at the opposite end of the site and activities.

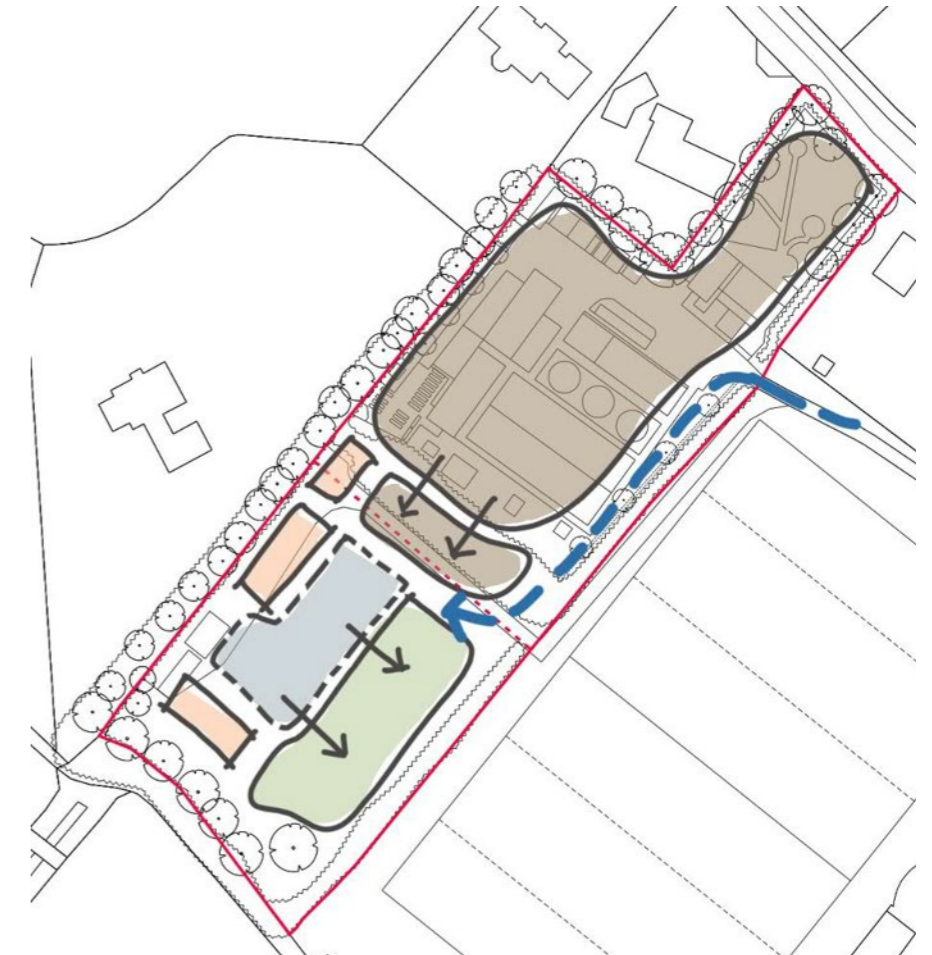


Option 2

Access to the rear is through the existing site. This utilises gravel and vehicle areas already in place. The hedge, ditch and playing field side of the site is undisturbed. This is potentially the least amount of new gravel / road area required, but will bring more traffic across the middle of the site facing building 1 and 2, and will require a traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures.

The planted mound will be removed, which offers new areas for expanding the horticultural / planted areas to the centre. The site is open and the sense of a single large site is created.

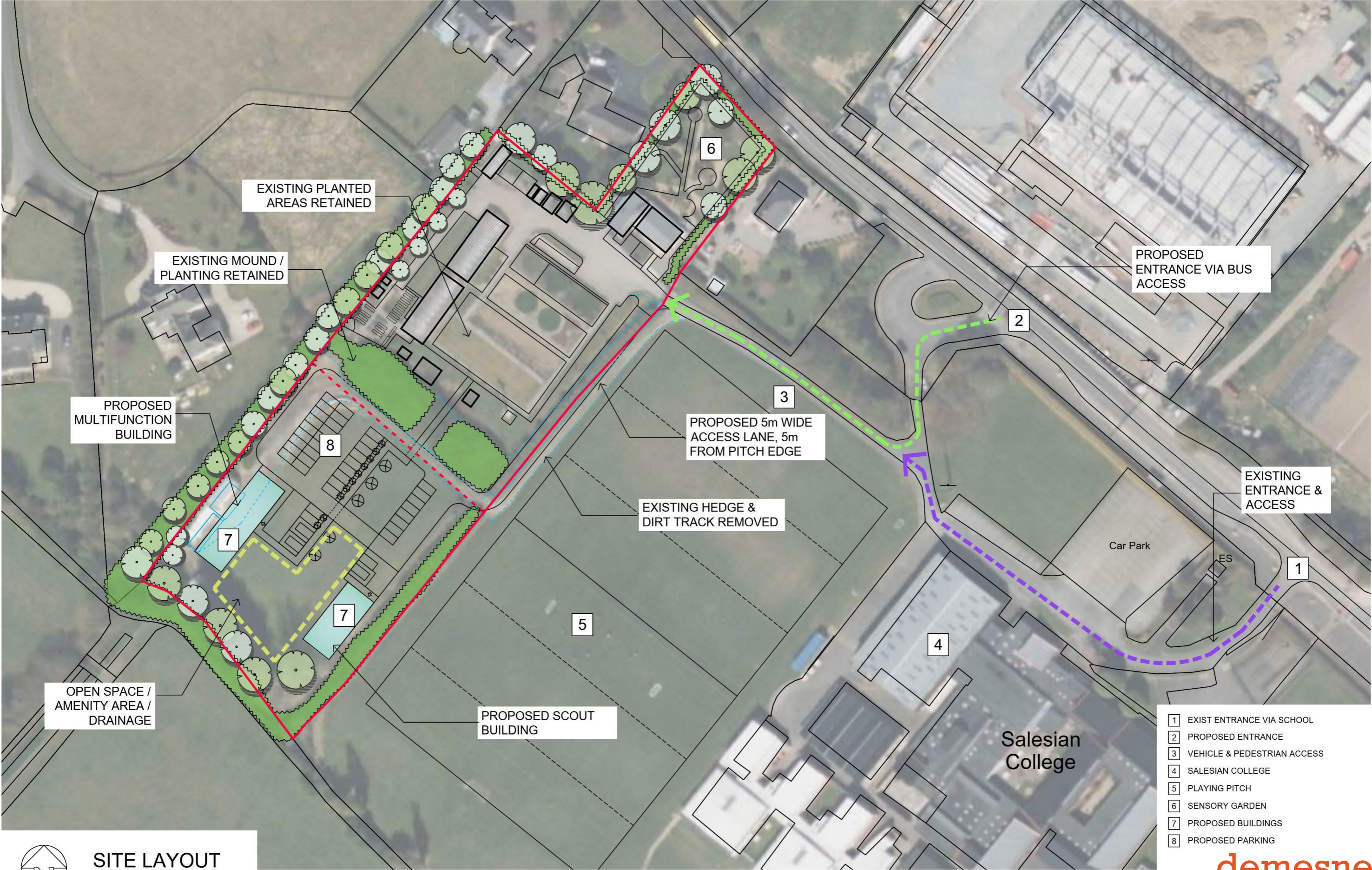
The multifunction building is single storey and segmented in 3 parts which can operate together, or be closed off in sections when required. There is room for expanding the building to the south towards the scout building. This also leaves a large portion of open / amenity space clear.



Option 3

This option proposes access to the inside of the hedge and ditch, leaving these in place. Locating the access in this position means that there is an impact on the centre of the site, but less civil engineering works as a culvert would not be required. The central planted areas will have to be reconfigured and the bowling green reorientated. Although the central part of the site is then narrower, removing the planted mound will mean room for expansion of these areas towards the rear of the site. The bowling green clubhouse and wind turbine will have to be relocated further down the site. The poly tunnels and children's planted areas can remain undisturbed and no additional traffic through the site.

The building is segmented in two parts, with the main building in two storeys. The meeting rooms and workshops are single storey and can be closed off / separated when not in use. The scout building location is proposed further down, leaving space for expansion between the buildings.



- 1 EXIST ENTRANCE VIA SCHOOL
- 2 PROPOSED ENTRANCE
- 3 VEHICLE & PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- 4 SALESIAN COLLEGE
- 5 PLAYING PITCH
- 6 SENSORY GARDEN
- 7 PROPOSED BUILDINGS
- 8 PROPOSED PARKING

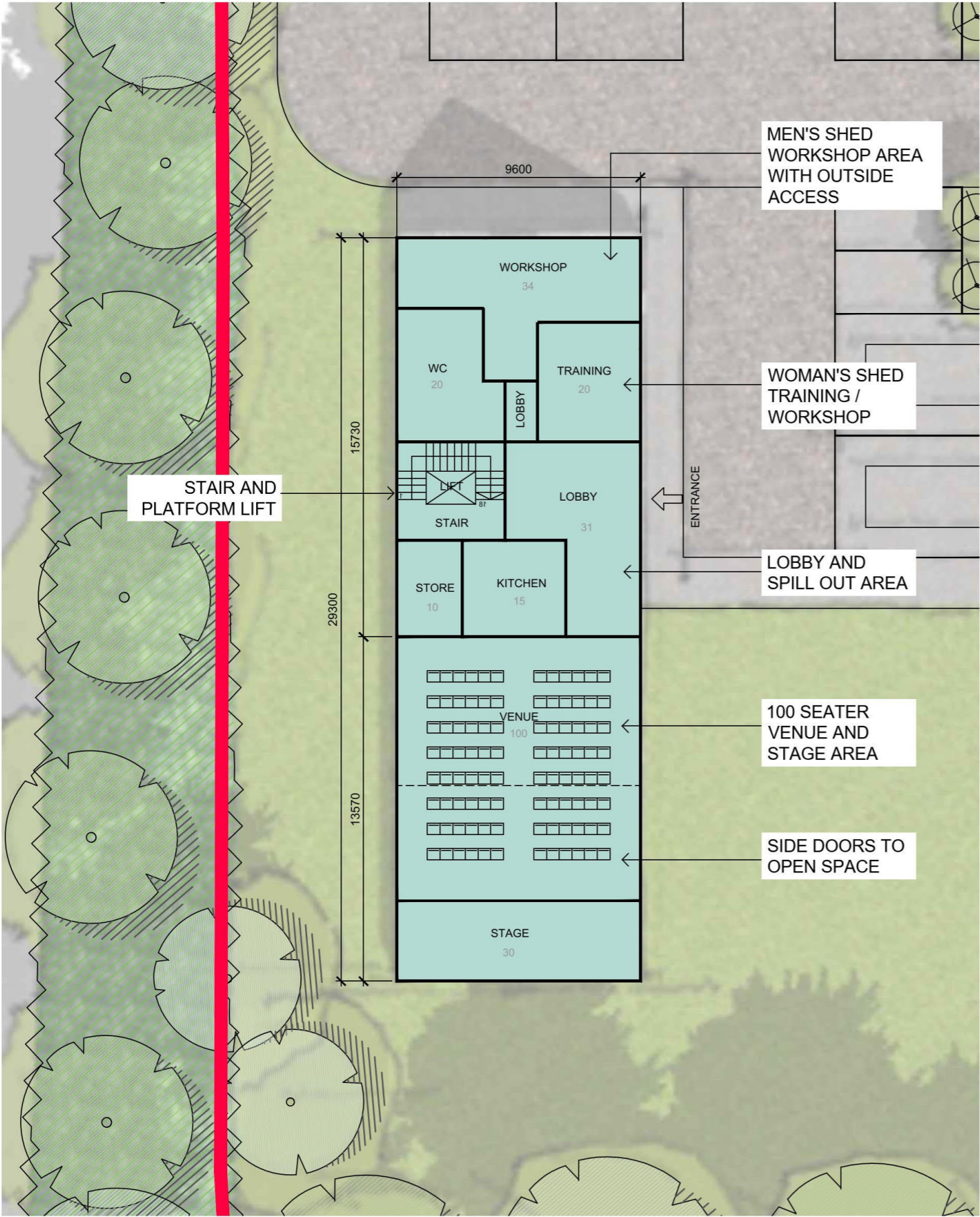


SITE LAYOUT
1:1500 @ A3

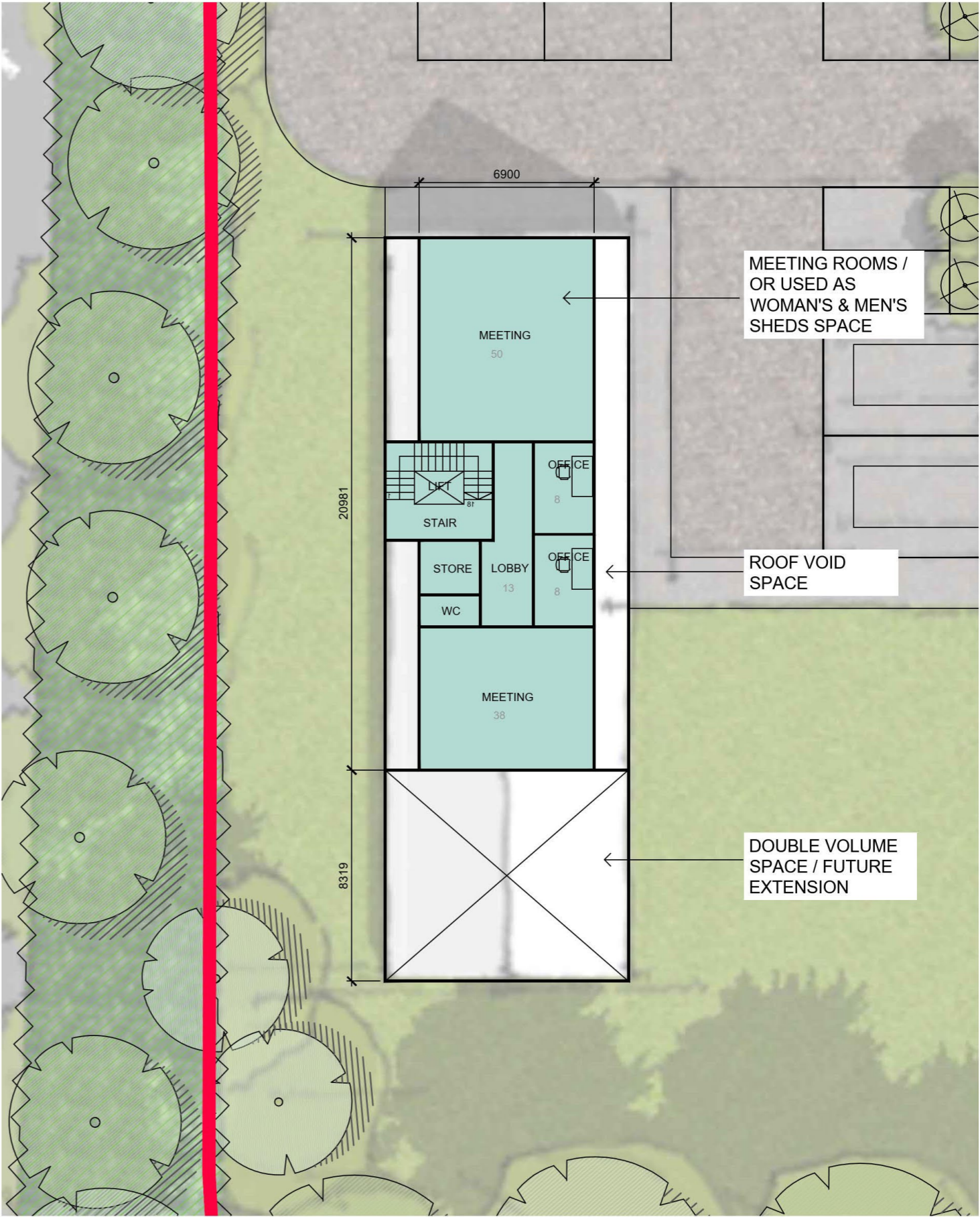
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- 1 BUILDING 1
- 2 BUILDING 2
- 3 SITE ENTRANCE
- 4 POLY TUNNELS
- 5 CHILDREN'S PLANTERS
- 6 RECEPTION HUT
- 7 BOWLING GREEN
- 8 SENSORY GARDEN





GROUND FLOOR

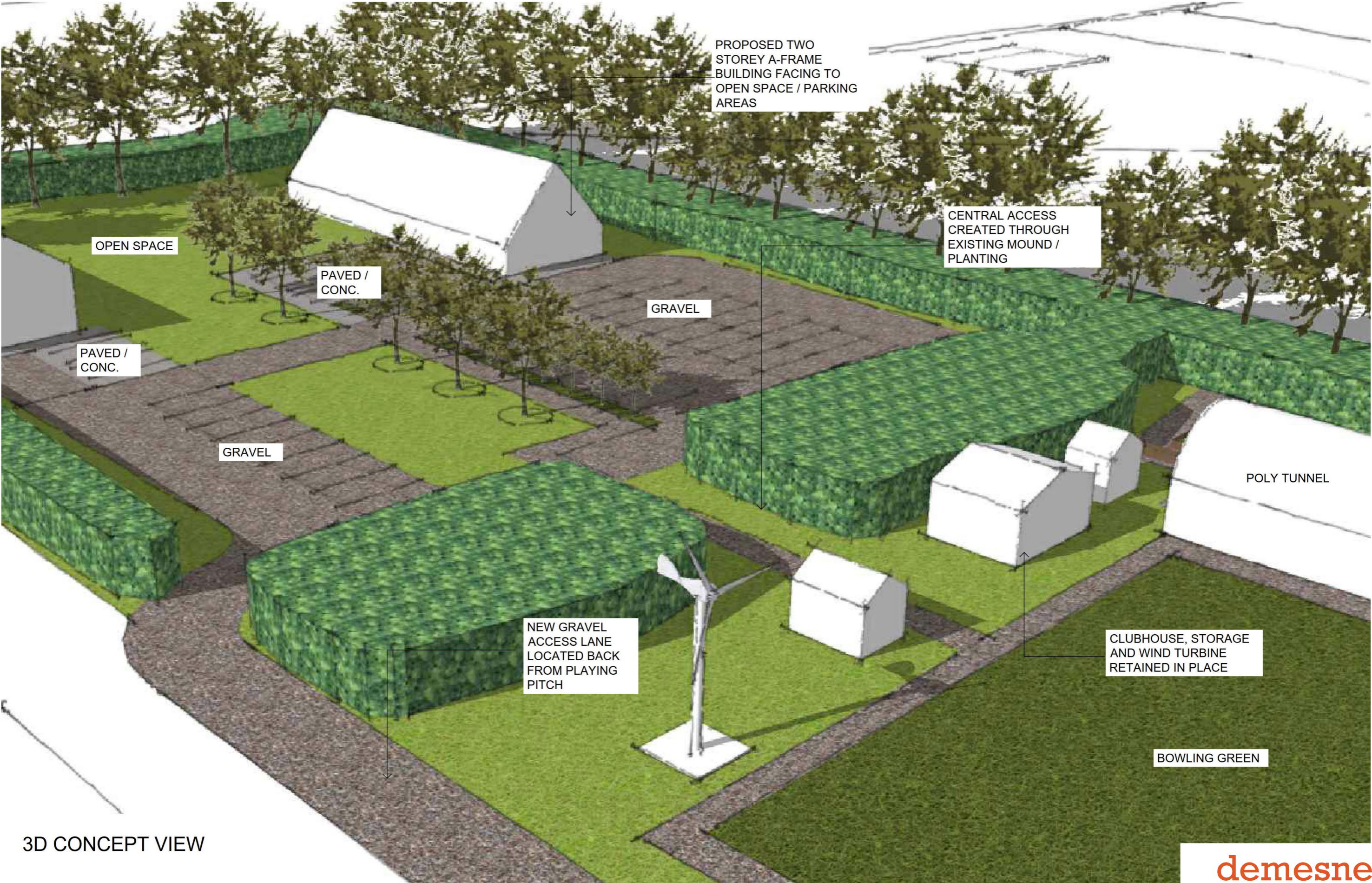


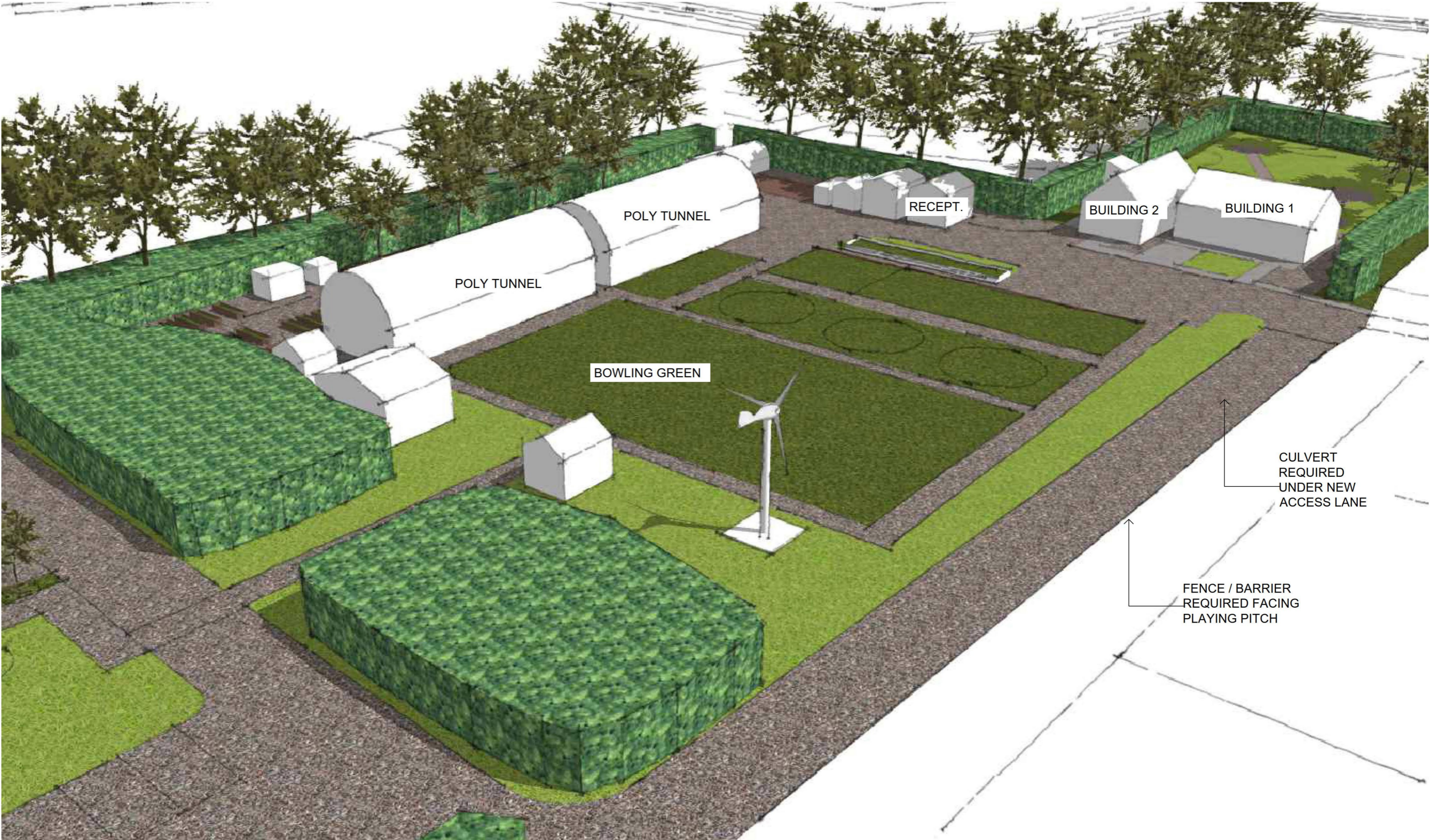
FIRST FLOOR



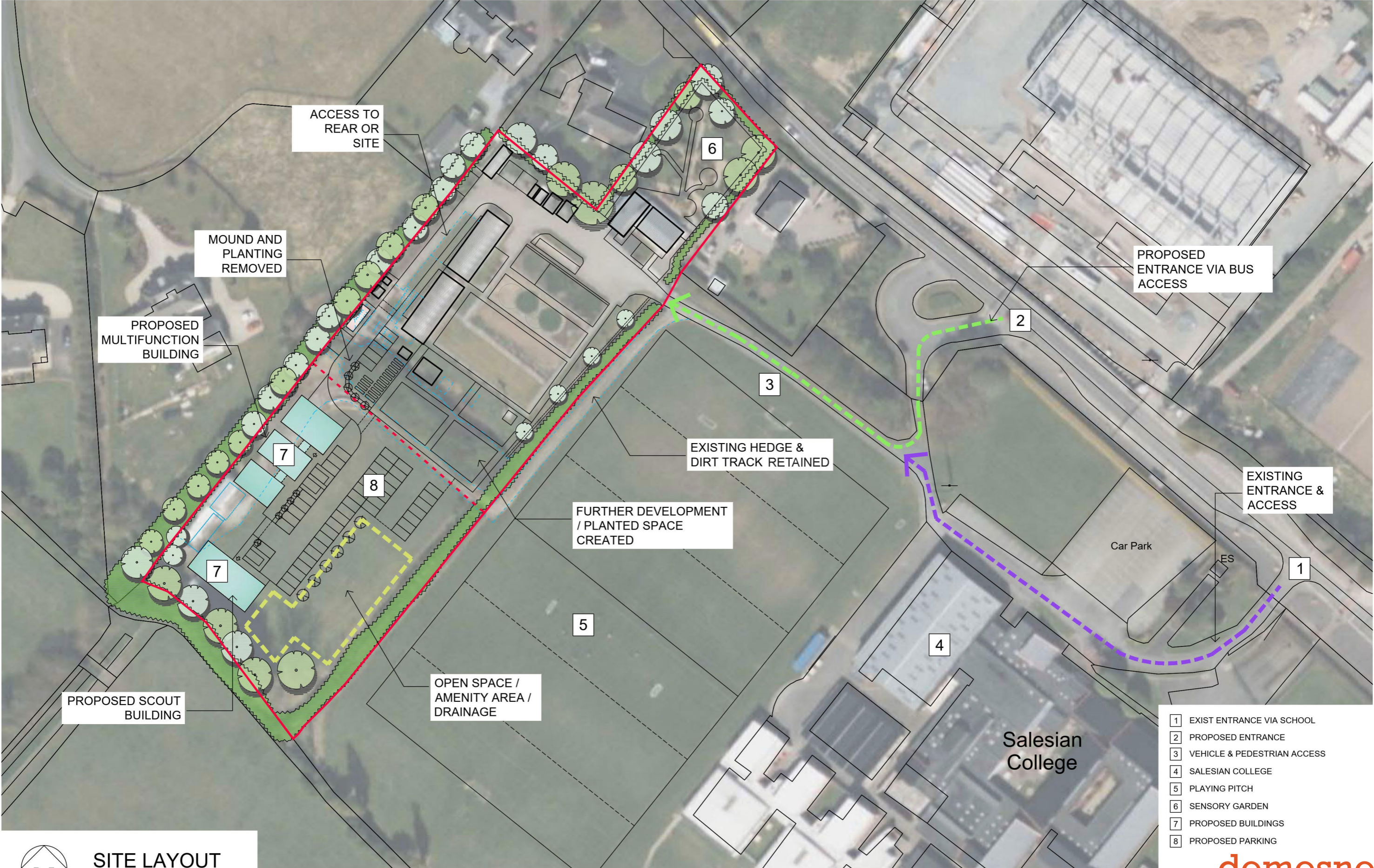


3D CONCEPT VIEW



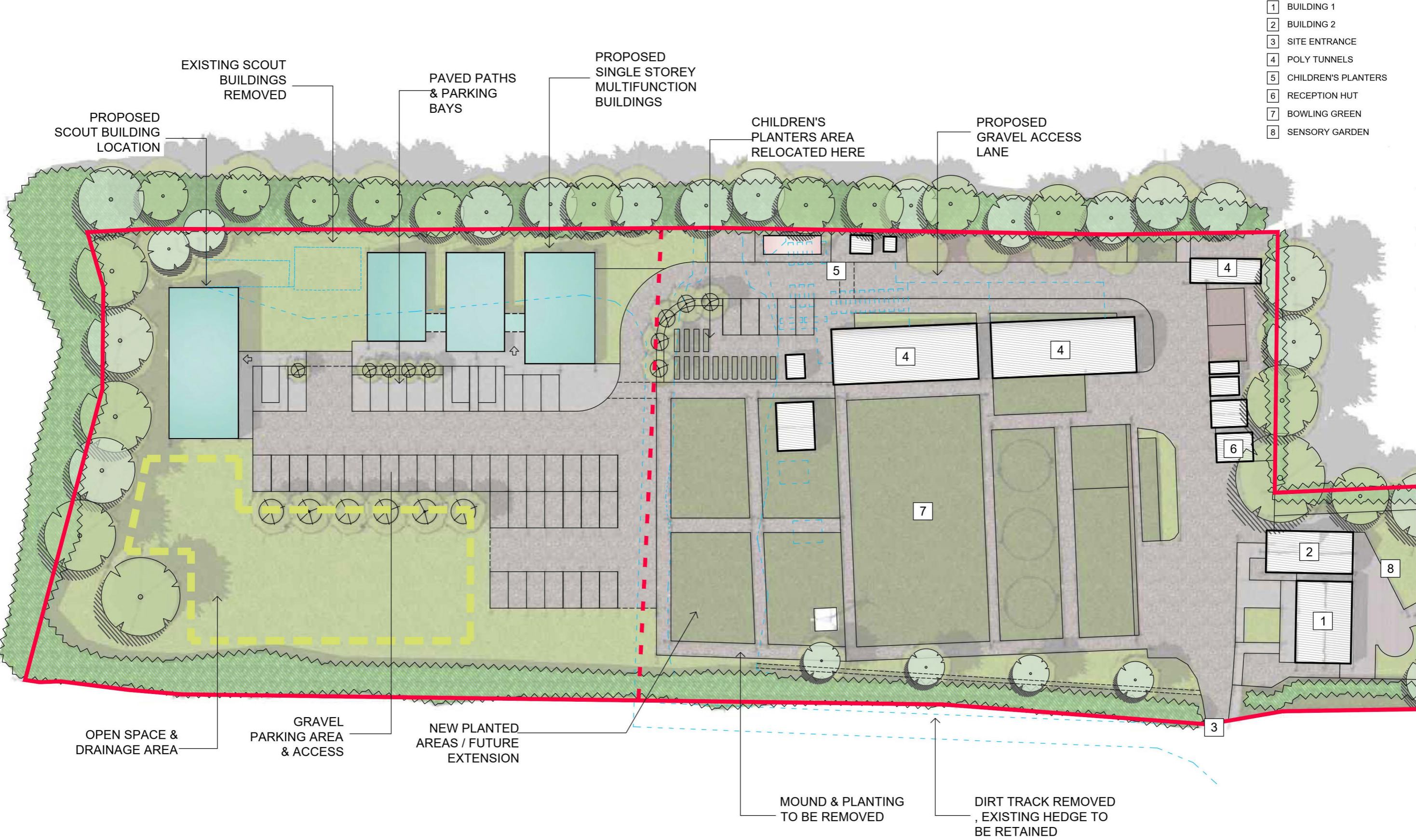


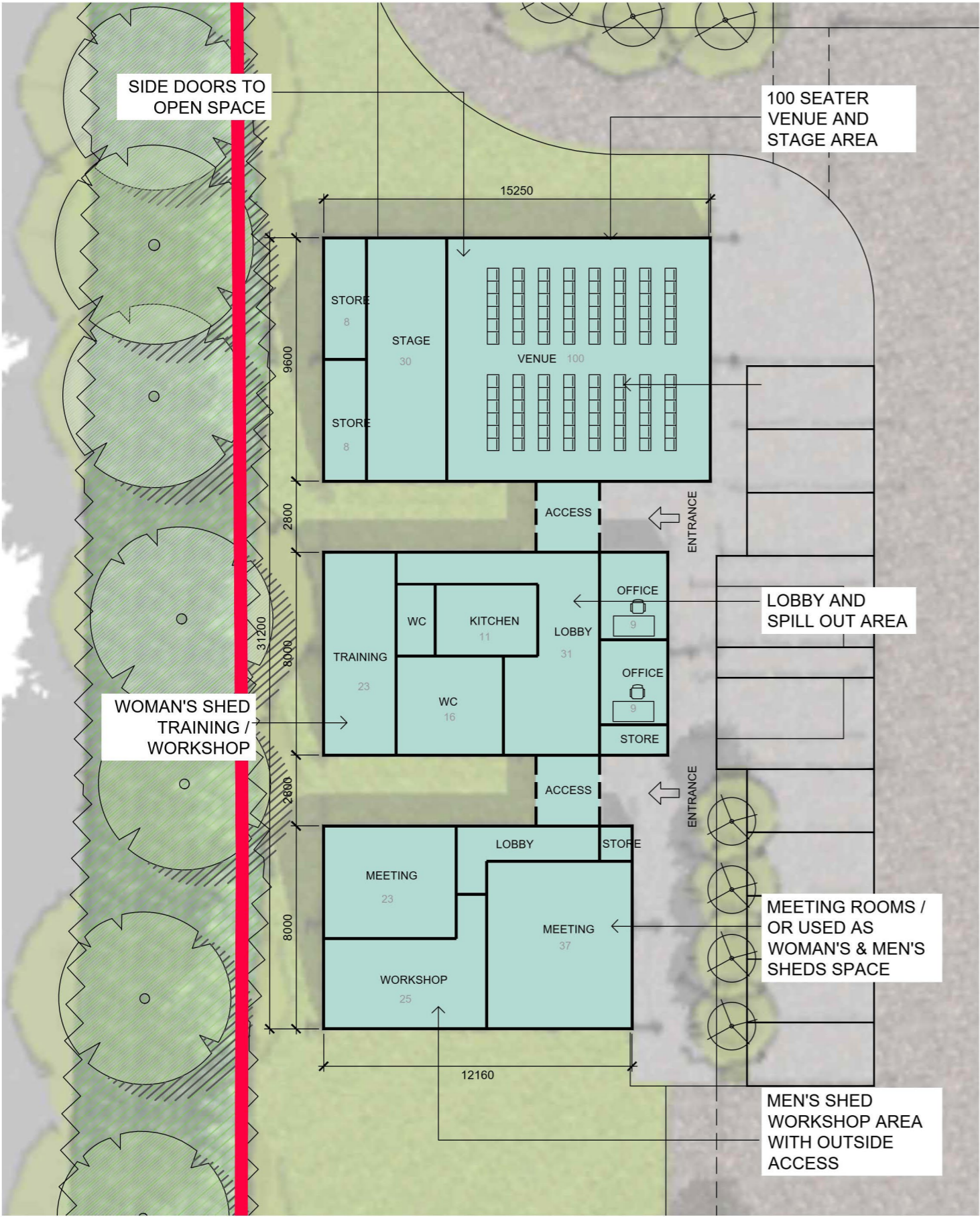
3D CONCEPT VIEW



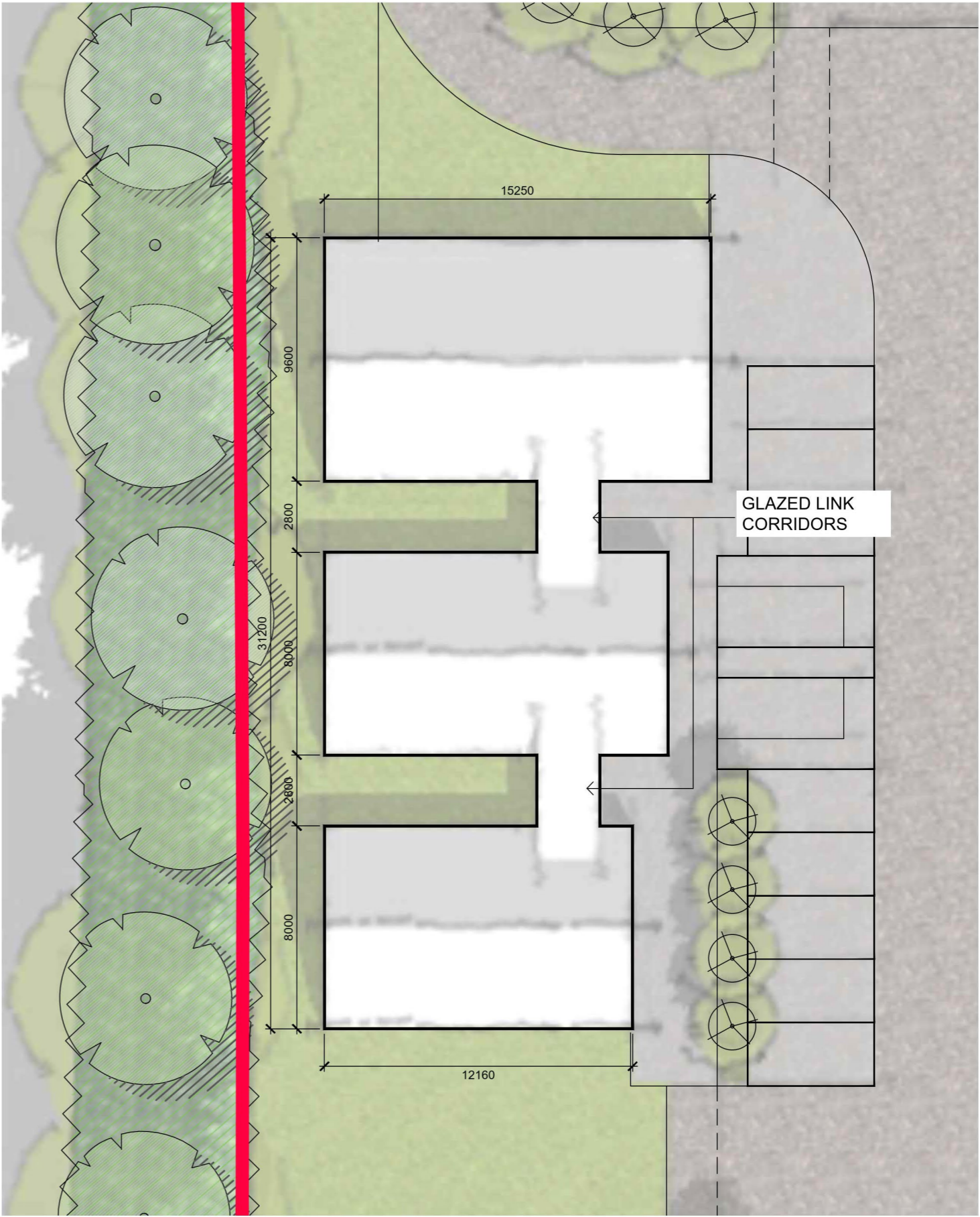
SITE LAYOUT
1:1500 @ A3

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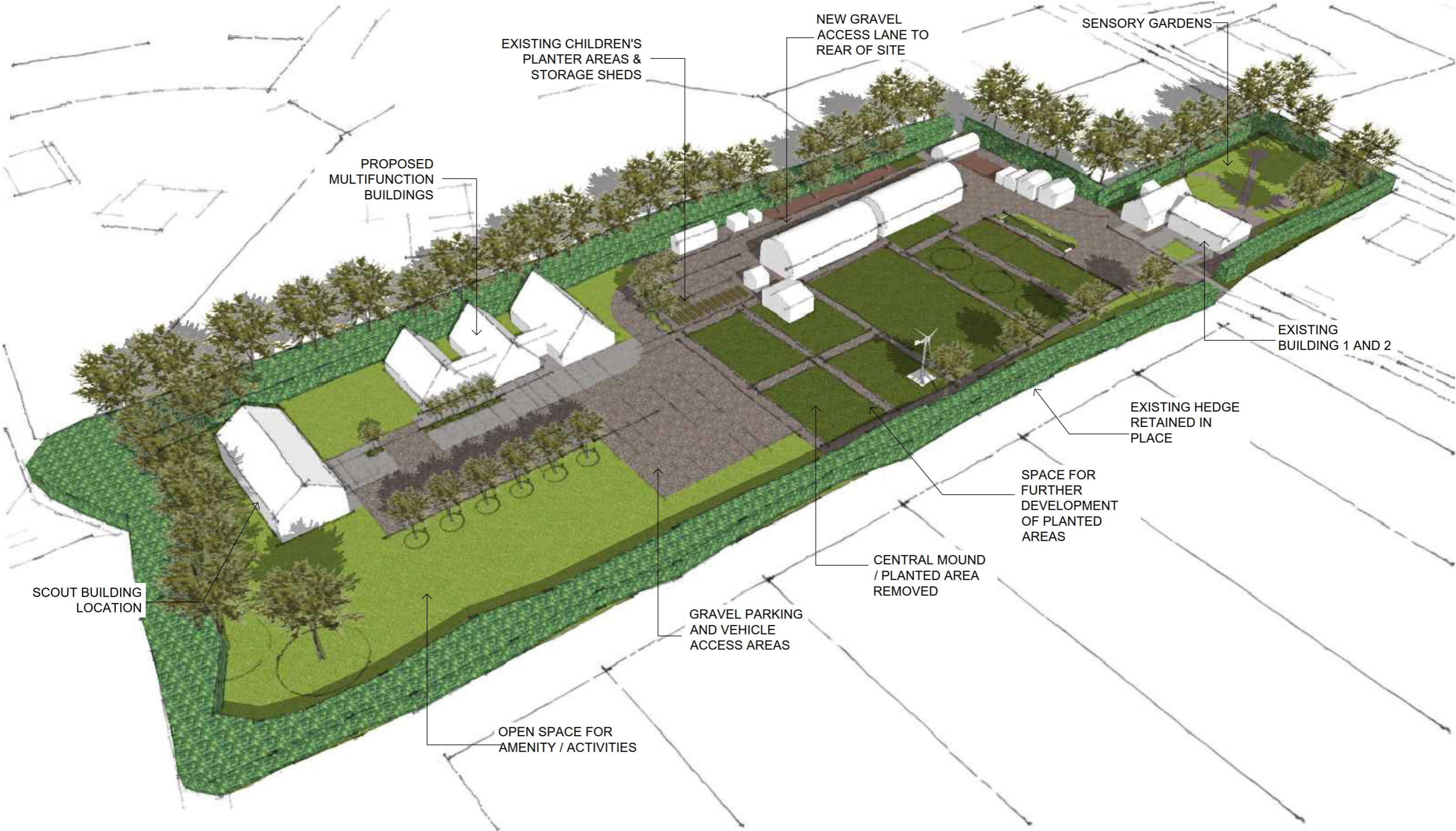


GROUND FLOOR



ROOF PLAN

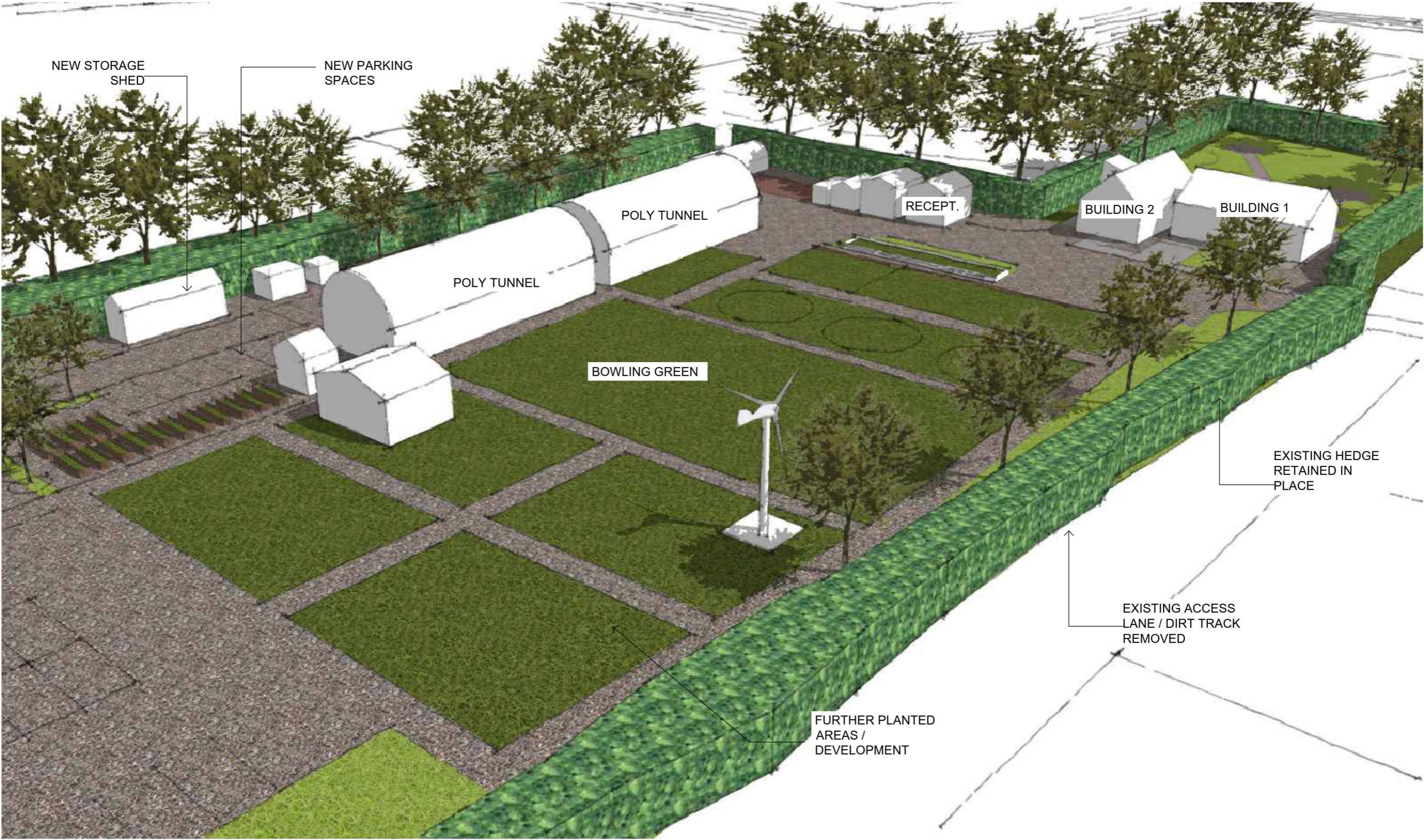




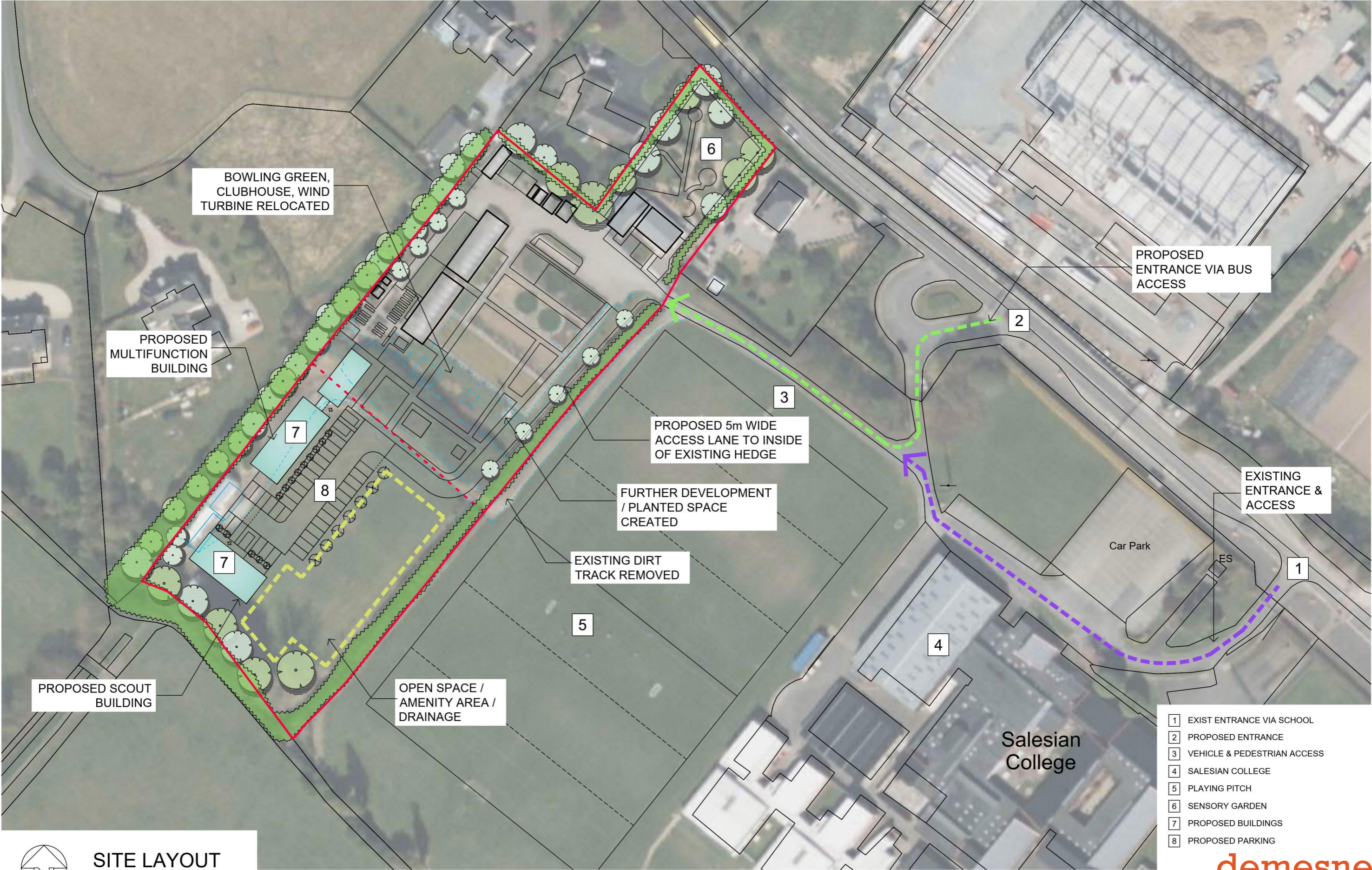
3D CONCEPT VIEW



3D CONCEPT VIEW

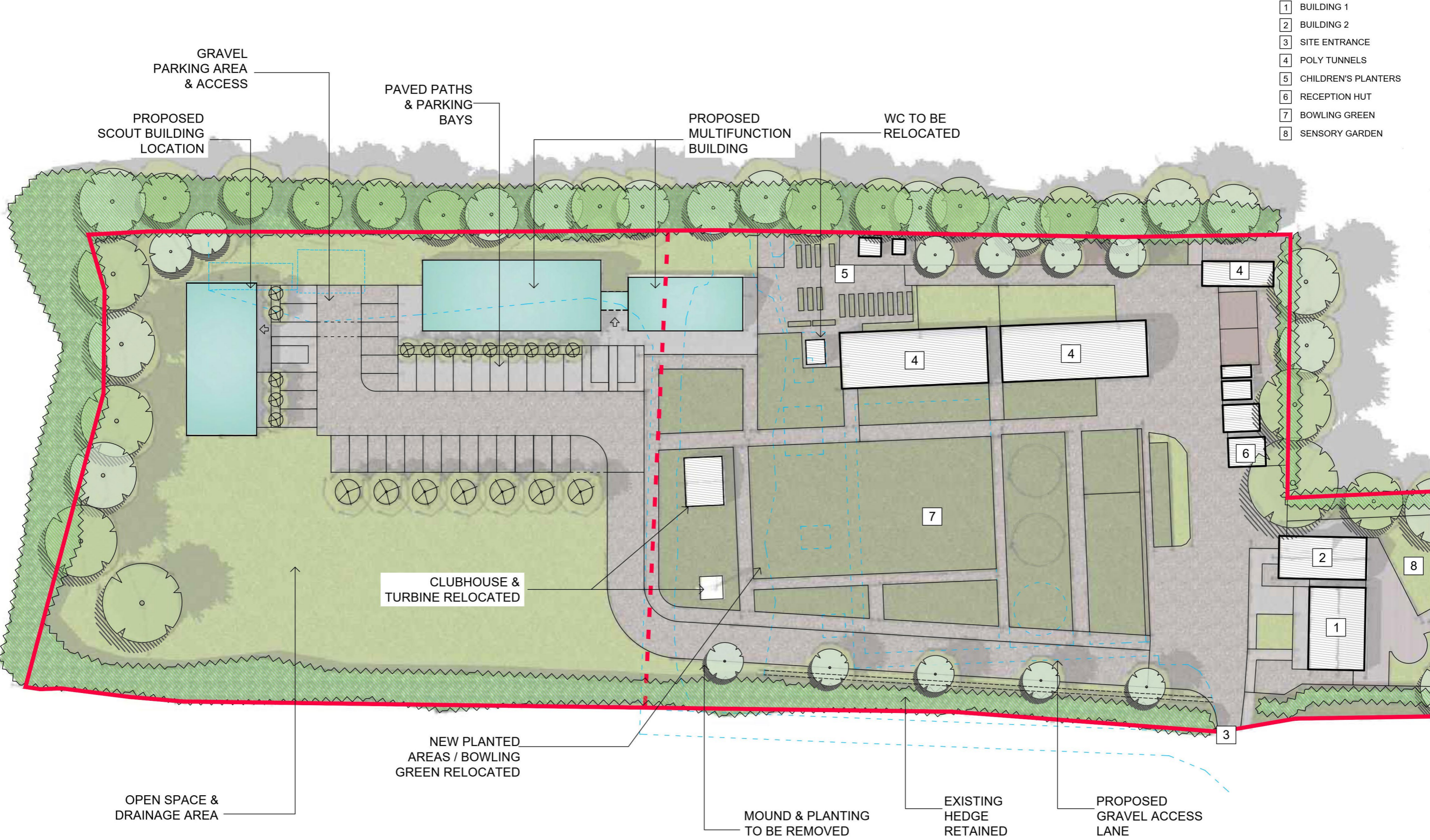


3D CONCEPT VIEW



SITE LAYOUT
1:1500 @ A3

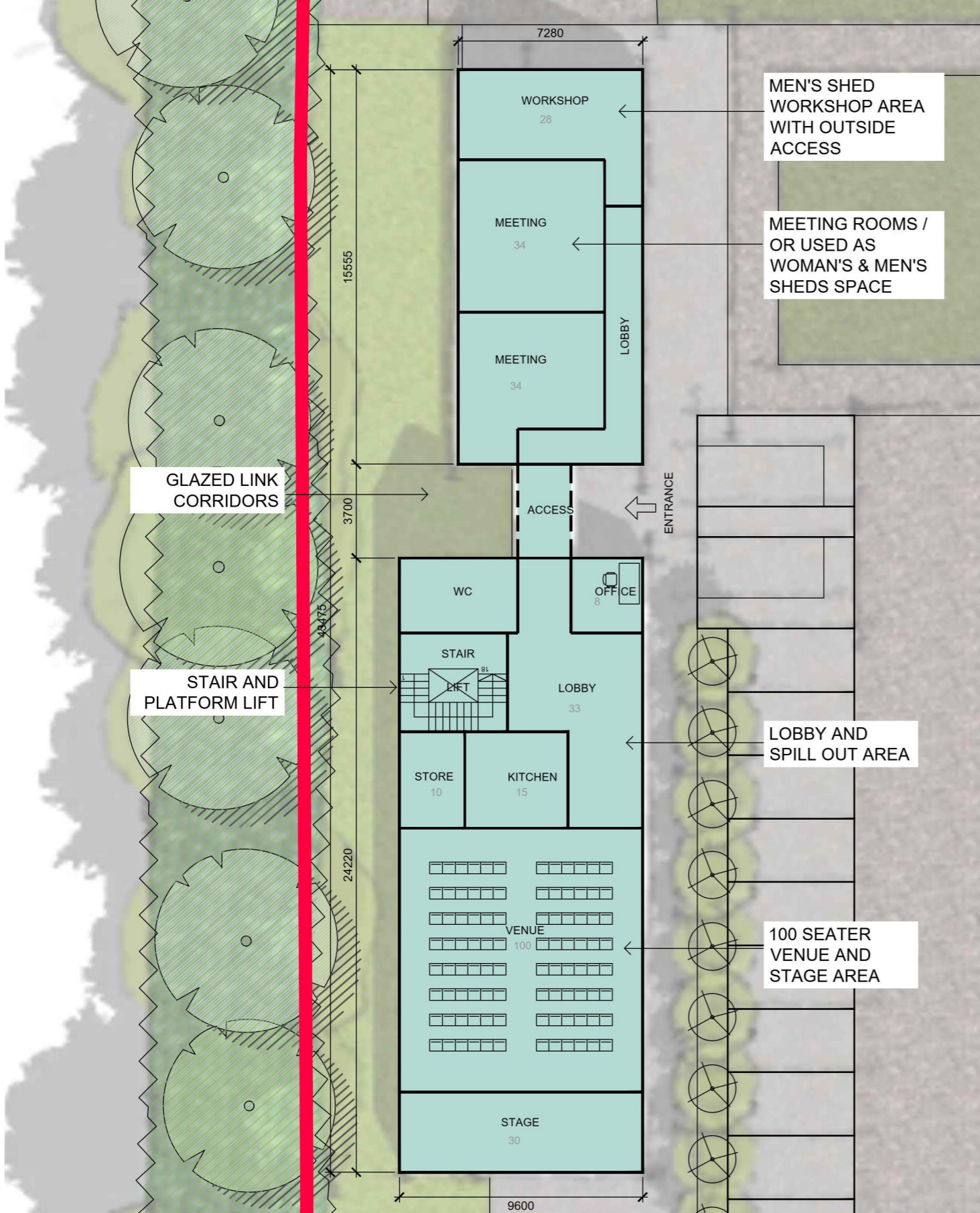
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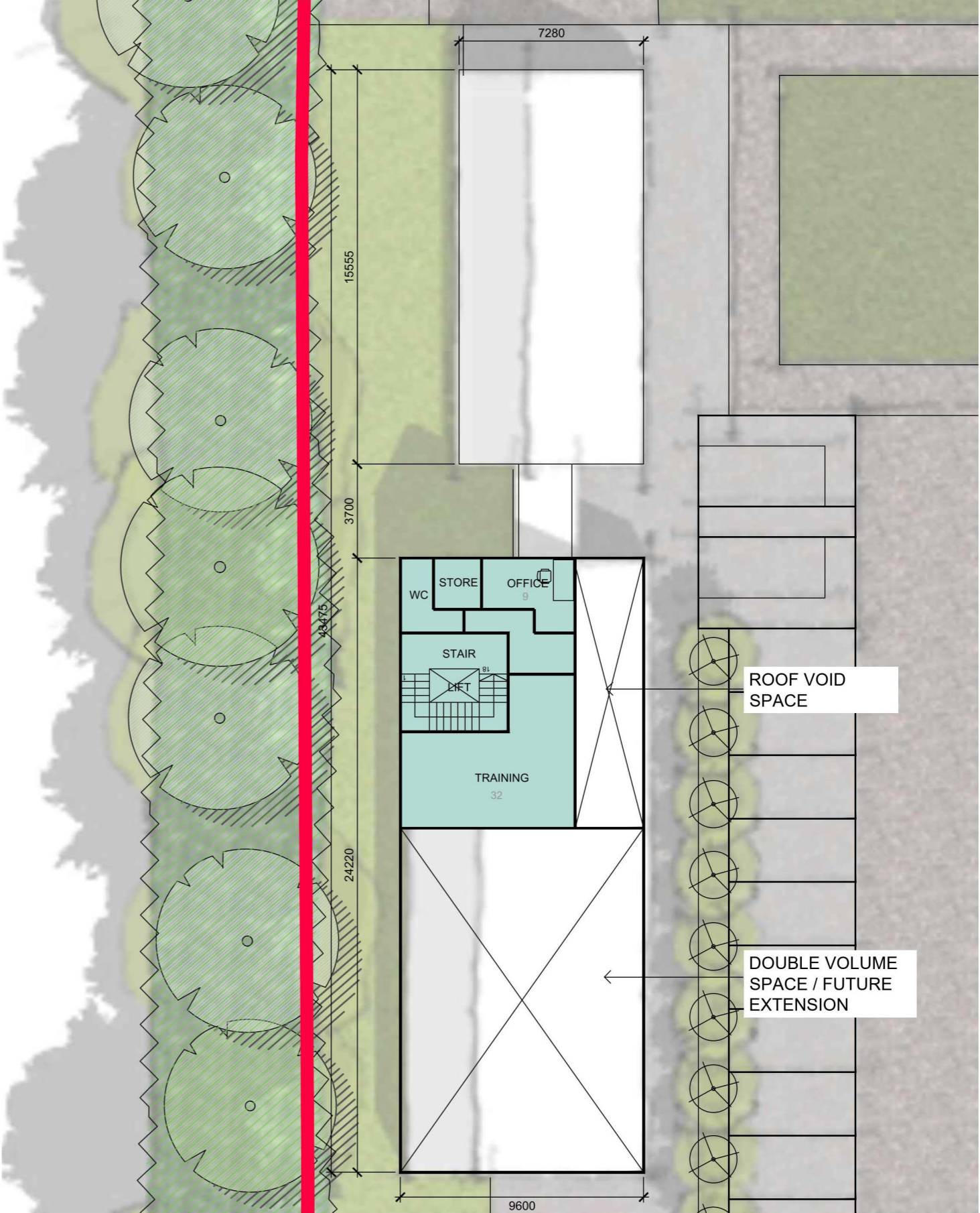
- 1 BUILDING 1
- 2 BUILDING 2
- 3 SITE ENTRANCE
- 4 POLY TUNNELS
- 5 CHILDREN'S PLANTERS
- 6 RECEPTION HUT
- 7 BOWLING GREEN
- 8 SENSORY GARDEN



SITE PLAN
1:500 @ A3

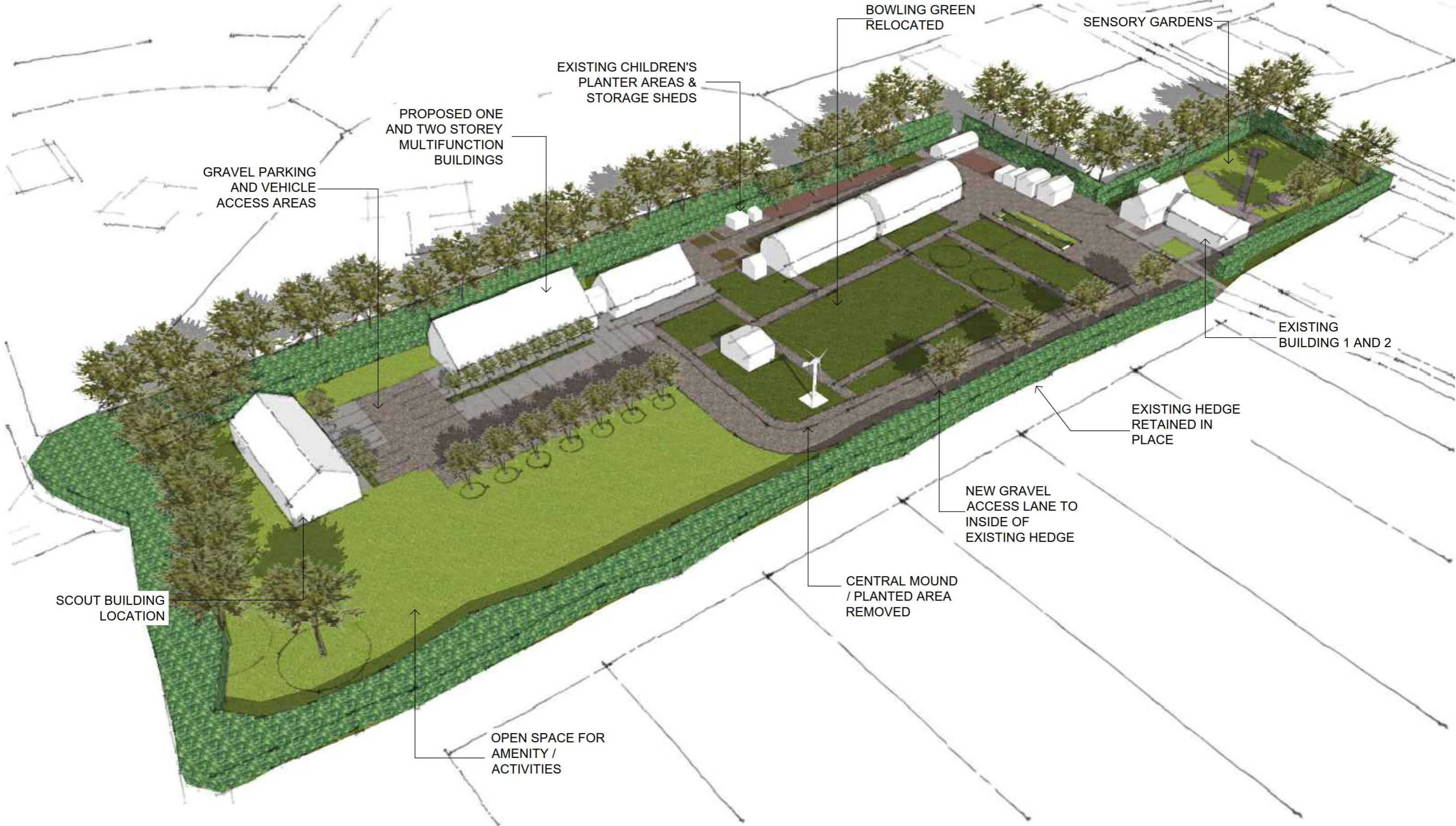


GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR





GRAVEL PARKING AND VEHICLE ACCESS AREAS

PROPOSED ONE AND TWO STOREY MULTIFUNCTION BUILDINGS

EXISTING CHILDREN'S PLANTER AREAS & STORAGE SHEDS

BOWLING GREEN RELOCATED

SENSORY GARDENS

EXISTING BUILDING 1 AND 2

EXISTING HEDGE RETAINED IN PLACE

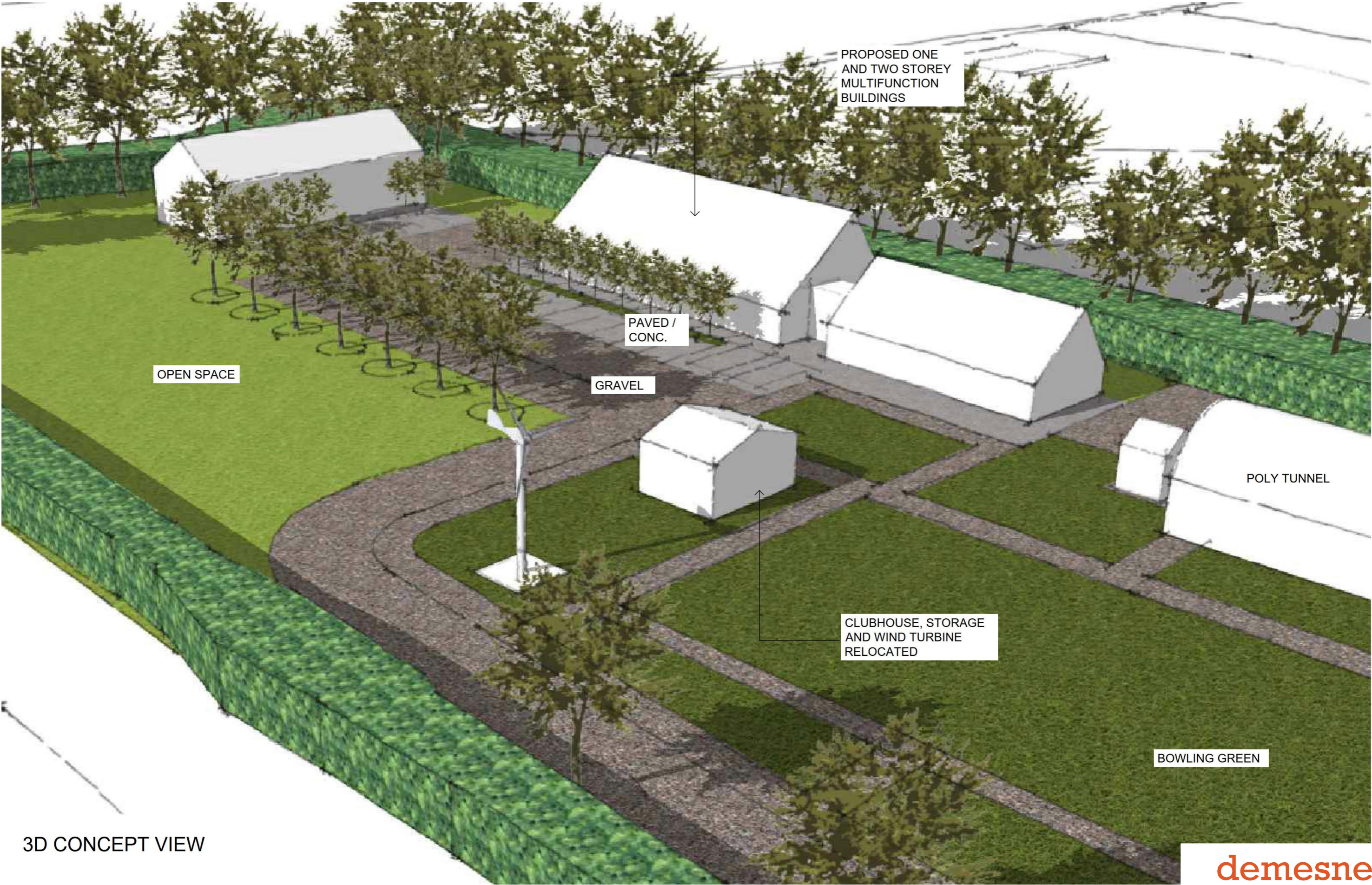
NEW GRAVEL ACCESS LANE TO INSIDE OF EXISTING HEDGE

CENTRAL MOUND / PLANTED AREA REMOVED

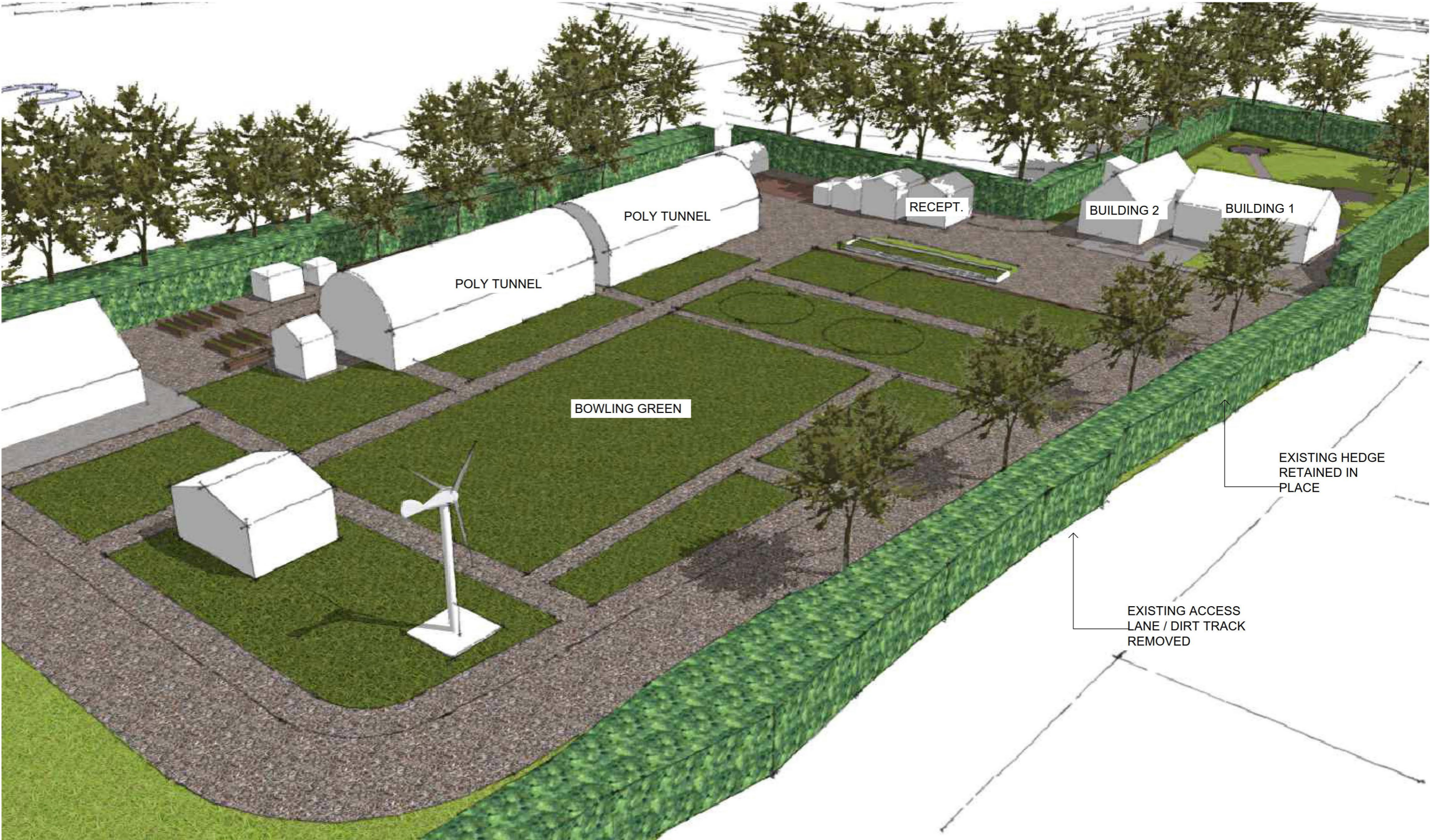
SCOUT BUILDING LOCATION

OPEN SPACE FOR AMENITY / ACTIVITIES

3D CONCEPT VIEW



3D CONCEPT VIEW



3D CONCEPT VIEW



Option 1

Multifunction Building Draft Areas:

Area	Approx size	
Multifunction room & stage	130	sqm
Storage rooms	15	sqm
WC facilities	23	sqm
Kitchenette	15	sqm
Entrance lobby / spill out area	31	sqm
Office rooms x 2	20	sqm
Meeting room space x 2	93	sqm
Men's shed workshop	35	sqm
Computer room / training	20	sqm
Circulation / Other	48	sqm
Total	430	sqm

Option 2

Multifunction Building Draft Areas:

Area	Approx size	
Multifunction room & stage	130	sqm
Storage rooms	18	sqm
WC facilities	20	sqm
Kitchenette	11	sqm
Entrance lobby / spill out area	31	sqm
Office rooms x 2	18	sqm
Meeting room space x 2	60	sqm
Men's shed workshop	26	sqm
Computer room / training	23	sqm
Circulation / Other	23	sqm
Total	360	sqm

Option 3

Multifunction Building Draft Areas:

Area	Approx size	
Multifunction room & stage	130	sqm
Storage rooms	14	sqm
WC facilities	26	sqm
Kitchenette	15	sqm
Entrance lobby / spill out area	33	sqm
Office rooms x 2	17	sqm
Meeting room space x 2	64	sqm
Men's shed workshop	28	sqm
Computer room / training	32	sqm
Circulation / Other	67	sqm
Total	426	sqm

Draft Cost Estimate

Indicative building costs have been prepared based on published indicative target m2 rates for primary and secondary school projects, as published by the Department of Education (DoES) and contrasted with current tender return rates on these project types.

The simplicity of this building form and its use would make this building typology appropriate for initial feasibility cost estimating purposes.

The applied base build costs range from €1,990 per m2 to €2,400 per m2. In addition to this base figure, the standard DoE allowance of 12.5% has been added for external works. This would need to be explored in detail post feasibility as this figure could increase due to the extent of the external works, potential culverting on Options 1 & 3 and the final specification for roads & parking. A contingency of 10% for project development has also been included resulted in a range of rates from €2,463 per m2 to €2,970 per m2 . VAT at 13.5% would be payable on this.

Professional fees would be circa 12% on this scale of project and VAT of 23% would be payable on on professional fees.

Project Exclusions: Statutory Contributions & Fees, Insurances, Archaeology, Asbestos, Contamination, Utility Contributions, Fixtures & Fittings, IT & Comms equipment, AV. Insurances, Finance Costs, Legal Costs, Accountancy Costs, Out of Hours Working, Sprinklers.

The cost of a new access lane, parking area, potential culvert, FW drainage and upgrades to the access lane through the school are excluded from these figures and subject to detail design and approval from the Council.

Multifunction Building Estimate

Option 1			
sqm	430	€1,058,928.75	€1,277,100.00
vat		€142,955.38	€172,408.50
fees		€127,071.45	€153,252.00
vat		€29,226.43	€35,247.96
project estimate		€1,358,182.01	€1,638,008.46

Multifunction Building Estimate

Option 2			
sqm	360	€886,545.00	€1,069,200.00
vat		€119,683.58	€144,342.00
fees		€106,385.40	€128,304.00
vat		€24,468.64	€29,509.92
project estimate		€1,137,082.62	€1,371,355.92

Multifunction Building Estimate

Option 3			
sqm	426	€1,049,078.25	€1,265,220.00
vat		€141,625.56	€170,804.70
fees		€125,889.39	€151,826.40
vat		€28,954.56	€34,920.07
project estimate		€1,345,547.76	€1,622,771.17

	Department	Name of Fund	Description of Fund	Funding scale available	Web Link
1	Department of Rural and Community Development	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund	"The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) provides investment to develop and deliver large scale capital projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. Calls for applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund are sought under two categories – Category 1 and Category 2. Category 1 relates to large scale ambitious capital projects with all necessary planning and other consents in place, and which are ready to proceed. Category 2 provides smaller grant funding to enable the development of project proposals suitable for future calls for Category 1 applications.	Category 1 - minimum €500,000, no maximum Category 2 - no minimum or maximum	https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/c77144-rural-regeneration-and-development-fund/
2	Department of Rural and Community Development	Department of Rural and Community Development	The Town and Village Renewal Scheme was launched in 2016, over €149 million has been allocated to more than 1,600 projects across Ireland. It is one of a number of measures designed to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. The Scheme supports small to medium scale capital projects aimed at regeneration of our rural towns and villages. The scheme also has a number of dedicated measures under it, such as the project development measure and the building acquisition measure.	"€28.5million approved under the scheme in 2022. Main Scheme -€17.1; Marketing Measure - €1.1; Project Dev Measure - €1.6; Building Acquisition Measure; - €6.1 Streetscape Enhancement Measure - €2.6m.	https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/01125e-town-and-village-renewal-scheme/#the-2022-town-and-village-renewal-scheme
3	Department of Rural and Community Development	Building Acquisition Measure (BAM) under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme	BAM was introduced in 2022 In recognition of the urgent need to transform and regenerate town centres. it aims to support local authorities to immediately acquire derelict or vacant buildings, with the intention of using these projects for town regeneration purposes in line with the aims of TVRS. for 2023 LAs could submit for up to 3 buildings for up to €500,000 total funding per eligible LA.	€13 million	https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/01125e-town-and-village-renewal-scheme/#2023-building-acquisition-measure
4	Department of Rural and Community Development	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme	ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure scheme) provides funding for the development and enhancement of outdoor recreational infrastructure such as trails, walkways, cycleways, blueways and bridleways in rural areas.	Budget for 2023 €16 million. Measure 1: €30,000; Measure 2: €200,000; Measure 3: €500,000; Project Development Measure €50,000.	https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d14e1-outdoor-recreation-infrastructure-scheme/
5	Department of Rural and Community Development	CLÁR	The CLÁR Programme provides funding under a number of different measures for small-scale infrastructural projects in designated rural areas that have experienced significant levels of depopulation over a defined period.	Budget for 2023 is €7.85million. Funding per project per measure; Measure 1; €5,000 to €50,000, Measure 2; o €50,000 for a car/ SUV and o €100,000 for a bus, Measure 3; Island Community Transport Maximum grant available of €100,000 for a vehicle, increasing to €120,000 where solar panel and charging point are included, Community Amenities; maximum grant of €50,000.	https://www.gov.ie/en/service/c5849b-rural-funding/?section=small-scale-rural-projects-clar
6	Department of Rural and Community Development	Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	Local Improvement Schemes improve non-public roads not normally maintained by council under other funding areas	€12,550,000 LIS 2023	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/59363-our-rural-future-minister-heather-humphreys-announces-over-125-million-for-upgrade-works-on-rural-roads-and-laneways/
7	Department of Rural and Community Development	Community Centre Investment Fund - New Build 2023 (CCIF)	The CCIF New Builds Measure will invest in capital projects for new build multi-functional community centres across Ireland.	Funding of €20m has been secured under Budget 2023 for the Fund. The minimum grant funding available from the Fund is €1,000,000 and the maximum is €6,000,000. As a general rule, the Fund will provide up to 90% of the total project value to a maximum of €6,000,000, with at least 10% to be provided in matching contributions by the applicants. A minimum of 5% of the matching contributions element must be in cash.	gov.ie - Community Centres Investment Fund (www.gov.ie)
8	Department of Rural and Community Development	Community Recognition Fund (CRF)	The Community Recognition Fund 2023 ('the Fund') aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/ or International Protection Applicants ('new arrivals') including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine	€50 million is available under the Fund, and this is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there. €30m of the Fund will be available in 2023 and €20m in 2024. A minimum spend of 60% must be incurred by the local authorities in 2023 with the remaining 40% in 2024.	gov.ie - Community Recognition Fund 2023 (www.gov.ie)

	Department	Name of Fund	Description of Fund	Funding scale available	Web Link
9	Department of Rural and Community Development	Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP)	The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2023 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP is administered locally by 33 LCDCs, with actions delivered by Local Development Companies	€44,463,482	https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/social-inclusion-and-community-activation-programme-sicap-2018-2022/
10	Department of Rural and Community Development	Ukrainian Funding	An additional €10m in funding for 2023 has been allocated to SICAP in recognition of the ongoing support work delivered by the programme to the local community responses to people arriving from Ukraine.	€10,000,00	N/A
11	Department of Rural and Community Development	Empowering Communities Programme (ECP)	The ECP aims to enhance access community access to key services, and empower local communities to craft their own response to area based poverty, social exclusion and the resulting consequences, with the support of the relevant Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).	€2,400,000 of which €250,000 is available for further projects	N/A
12	Department of Rural and Community Development	Community Development Pilot Programme (CDPP)	The aim of the Community Development Pilot Programme is to trial community development initiatives that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality and promote human rights.	€1,000,000 (€875,00 allocated to CDP & €73,000 to CWI, €16,000 Value Labs evaluators). Additional budget available for expansion in 2023	N/A
13	Department of Rural and Community Development	LEADER Programme	LEADER is a community-led local development (CLLD) funding approach to support development projects in rural communities in Ireland.	€180 million for the period 2023-2027	Not yet available
14	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF)	Call 1 and Call 2 sought projects that would supports urban regeneration/ compact growth	The URDF has an overall allocation of €2 billion to 2030. To date, there have been two Calls for proposals under the URDF with more than €1.6 billion allocated so far in respect of 132 projects, comprising of almost 400 subprojects. The 45 proposals approved under Call 2 in 2021 builds on the existing pipeline of 87 URDF supported projects launched under Call 1.	https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/urban-regeneration-and-development-fund/
15	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF)	Third Round of funding support is to address vacancy and dereliction in URDF Cities and Towns	€150m in URDF support will be made available to the local authority sector by way of individual allocations to each local authority to be used to address the priorities outlined above. Each local authority will receive a financial allocation relative to their size, the number of URDF towns located within their functional area and the level of vacancy and dereliction within those URDF areas. The fund will be replenished from the proceeds of sale allowing a local authority to establish a rolling programme to tackle long- term vacancy and dereliction without a requirement for borrowing and the associated financial risk.	https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/urban-regeneration-and-development-fund/
16	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF)	It is intended to launch a fourth round of funding support later in 2023 to again support projects focusing on urban regeneration and compact growth. This round of funding will provide an opportunity for a number of 'pipeline' projects which have or will emerge from master planning exercises carried out under Call 1 or Call 2 to be considered for funding. It will also support a number of key settlements that have not yet received the level of funding required to support the growth proposed for them in the NPF and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.	tbc	https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/urban-regeneration-and-development-fund/
17	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund - Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	"Property built up to and including 2007; Vacant 2 years or more; Target Owner Occupiers and Owners who will make the property available to rent on the private market; Managed by VHO in Local Authority"	Grant €50K - €70k	https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f8f1b-vacant-property-refurbishment-grant/
18	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund - Ready to Build Scheme	"Discounted sites offered by Local Authority; Applicant seeks planning permission for dwelling; Target Owner Occupiers"	The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the local authority before the sale of the site with discounts up to a maximum of €30,000. The amount of such discount will be reflected in the sale price of the site to the purchaser.	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/33209-ready-to-build-scheme-serviced-sites-for-new-homes/

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19	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Repair & Lease Scheme	<p>"The Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS) is targeted at owners of vacant properties who cannot afford or who do not have access to the funding required to bring those properties up to the standard for rental property.</p> <p>However, on a pilot basis, the requirement that property owner is unable to fund or to access funding does not apply to the following categories of properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . vacant commercial units; . vacant units associated with a commercial unit (e.g. over the shop); . vacant institutional buildings; . unfinished developments which have been vacant for a significant period of time. <p>A lease payment of 70% is recommended for units that fall within this category."</p>	<p>Rents will be agreed through negotiation with the LA/AHB. The maximum rent to be agreed under the terms of RAAs is 92% of market rent (95% in the case of apartments with a significant service charge); under direct leasing the rate is 70% / 80% (75% / 85% in the case of apartments with a significant service charge) of the current market rent.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d32c4-repair-and-leasing-scheme-rls-further-information/</p>
20	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	"Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) & Buy and Renew Scheme"	<p>"SHIP and Buy and Renew funding is available to local authorities and AHBs re-purposing vacant buildings or blocks as new social homes. The social housing capital funding programmes support the LAs and AHBs to acquire and re-develop all types of vacant and derelict buildings and sites, from single properties to more extensive buildings or blocks. There is no limit on what scale of project an LA or AHB might undertake, other than the extent of social housing need that needs to be met in a locality and the balance between social housing and other uses for town centre properties.</p> <p>For single properties, LAs are encouraged to acquire vacant/derelict properties to be upgraded as new, value-for-money social homes, under the 'Buy & Renew Scheme'."</p>	<p>The funding for LAs re-purposing vacant buildings or blocks as new social homes, including single 'Buy & Renew' properties, is drawn from the €1bn Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) fund and is demand-led. Therefore, there is significant available funding that LAs can draw on in relation to these initiatives. There is no specific budget for B&R and, nor are there specific targets issued to local authorities.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.ie/en/service/5976a-vacant-homes-schemes/#buy-and-renew-scheme-brs</p>
21	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	<p>"Funding for the provision of housing accommodation for people in priority groups (elderly; homeless persons (including "care leavers" exiting State care on reaching the age of 18); people with a disability, with a particular emphasis on moving people with disability from a congregated settings into community based living) is available to approved housing bodies through the Capital Assistance Scheme."</p>		
22	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Heritage Council - Historic Towns Initiative	<p>"The Historic Towns Initiative 2023 aims to provide support to historic towns engaged in a programme of heritage-led regeneration. . Since 2018-22 the following 27 towns have been funded: Youghal, Co Cork; Ballinrobe, Co Mayo; Kells, Co Meath; Carrick on Suir, Co Tipperary; Portlaoise, Co Laois; Kilmallock, Co Limerick; Ballina, Co Mayo; Navan, Co Meath; Letterkenny, Co Donegal; Boyle, Co Roscommon; Nenagh, Co Tipperary; Kilrush, Co Clare; Callan, Co Kilkenny; Sligo, Co Sligo; Tralee, Co Kerry; Ramelton, Co Donegal; Clones, Co Monaghan; Roscommon, Co Roscommon; Tramore, Co Waterford; Listowel, Co Kerry; Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; Ballyshannon, Co Donegal; Birr, Co Offaly; Naas, Co Kildare; Monaghan town, Co Monaghan, Tipperary town, Co Tipperary; Macroom, Co Cork. In 2023 we are particularly interested in projects that address residential vacancy in town centres, that propose the re-use of historic structures and that can act as a demonstrator for future projects. 2023 at 5pm "</p>	<p>"The Historic Towns Initiative will award up to a total of €2 million competitively to a number of historic towns for heritage-led urban regeneration projects. Funding for 2024 will be announced in November 2023. Match funding of 20% minimum must be provided either by the local authority or property owners. The scheme is offered to local authorities who propose a single project within their functional area. Stream 1 funds conservation projects, Stream 2 funds heritage-led regeneration plans. Conservation awards are typically in the range of €200,000 - €300,000 per project."</p>	<p>https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Historic-Towns-Initiative.pdf</p>
23	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Heritage Council - Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)	<p>The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 (BHIS) has been allocated €4.5m and is for the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts. This Scheme aims to support a significant number of labour-intensive, small-scale conservation projects across the country and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment.</p>	<p>"Grants of between €2,500 and €15,000 are available. The Department will also continue to run the 'micro' grant stream introduced in 2020 for works of routine maintenance and minor repairs. It should be noted that the 2023 Built Heritage Investment Scheme will include ring-fenced funding of €500,000 for conservation repairs to thatched structures to maximise the availability of financial assistance to such owners, helping them offset other costs. The fund is administered through the local authorities."</p>	<p>https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/06391-circular-bhis-2301-built-heritage-investment-scheme-2023/</p>

	Department	Name of Fund	Description of Fund	Funding scale available	Web Link
24	Department of Housing, Local Government, & Heritage	Heritage Council - Historic Structures Fund	The Historic Structures Fund 2023 (HSF) is for conservation works to heritage structures, in both private and public ownership. The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public.	<p>“Grants of between €15,000 and €50,000 are available under Stream 1, and of between €50,000 and €200,000 under Stream 2.</p> <p>The following pilot streams, introduced in 2021, have been incorporated into the scheme for 2023: Vernacular Structures This stream will fund what can be termed ‘informal’ traditional buildings, which are a significant part of our intangible cultural heritage.</p> <p>Historic Shopfronts This stream is to incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts and will fund small capital works to their facades, windows, signage and other associated details. Local Authorities are invited to make additional applications for a maximum of one English and one Irish- language shopfront under Stream 1.</p> <p>The fund is generally administered through the local authorities. “</p>	https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/2dfed-circular-hsf2023-historic-structures-fund-2023/
25	Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)	Peace Plus	<p>“European Union funding Programme, designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. There are 6 themes • Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering Socio-Economic Regeneration and Transformation • Empowering and Investing in Our Young People • Healthy and Inclusive Communities • Supporting a Sustainable and Better-Connected Future • Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration” 	€1.1BN	https://www.seupb.eu/current-programmes/peaceplus
26	EMRA	EU JUST TRANSITION FUND	<p>“The EU Just Transition Fund in Ireland has 3 priority areas for investment: Diversification of the local economy Restoration of degraded peatlands and regeneration of industrial heritage assets Smart and sustainable local mobility These priority areas are designed to complement each other to address employment, economic, social and environmental impacts from the cessation of peat production for energy generation in the wider Midlands area. They are also complemented by other EU funding programmes. This programme supports projects in the EU Just Transition Fund Territory, consisting of Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath, Roscommon and the Municipal Districts of Ballinasloe (Co Galway), Athy, Clane-Maynooth, (Co Kildare) and Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles (Co Tipperary).”</p>	Ireland is set to receive up to €84.5 million from the EU Just Transition Fund over the period to 2027. With the Government of Ireland’s match funding using Exchequer resources, up to €169 million will be available	https://emra.ie/eu-jtf/ https://www.failteireland.ie/JustTransition.aspx
27	Resional Assemblies	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. In 2021-2027 it will enable investments in a smarter, greener, more connected and more social Europe that is closer to its citizens.		
28	Arts Council	Arts Grant Funding	The purpose of Arts Grants Funding is to ensure that there is a breadth of high-quality arts activity and programmes throughout the country. It offers flexible support for a fixed period of time, and in so doing responds to the needs of those who are making, presenting and supporting work.	The average grant over the previous three rounds of the programme was c.€62,000.	https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Funds/Guidelines_Arts%20Grant%20Funding_2024_Final.pdf
29	Arts Council	Capacity Building Support Scheme	The Capacity Building Support Scheme has been developed to support arts organisations to gain support, skills and expertise to review and adapt their artistic and/or business models and support their strategic development in the medium to long term.	Single applications can be made up to a maximum of €20,000 Group/Consortia applications can be made up to a maximum of €30,000	https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Capacity-Building-Support-Scheme/
30	Arts Council	Arts Centre Funding	The Arts Centre Funding Programme is open only to building-based, professionally managed, multidisciplinary arts organisations that are open to the public all year round.		https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Arts-Centre-Funding/

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31	Arts Council	Culture Night Late	Culture Night Late is designed to support events that will begin after 9pm and continue late into the night on Culture Night, Friday 22 September 2023. The award is offered in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Night Time Economy Taskforce to offer audiences a greater diversity in their Culture Night experience late into the night, and to encourage more-inclusive and innovative late-night arts events suitable for a range of audience types into the future.		https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Culture-Night-Late/
32	Arts Council	Festival Investment Scheme	Arts Council offers financial support to small-to-mid-scale festivals to deliver high-quality arts experiences for audiences, and prioritises programmes engaged with, and relevant to, local communities or communities of interest. The Scheme is designed to support small local cultural festivals and summer schools which are not in receipt of other central Government monies and which may not be eligible under funding criteria for larger scale events supported by Fáilte Ireland, the Arts Council and similar bodies	€5,000	https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Festivals-Investment-Scheme/
33	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Creative Ireland Creative Communities Fund	Annual Grant via SLA with the LA's 161K per LA and 236K for 4 Dublin LAs	161K (236K for Dublin Authorities) Administered by the LA's	https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-communities/
34	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Late Night at the Museum 2023	This call for funding will be targeted at museums and galleries and offered to those museums who are members of the Irish Museum Association and also museums who are members of the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.	€10,000	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/34f95-late-nights-at-the-museum-2023-guidelines/
35	Fáilte Ireland	Destination Support for International Business Events	Destination Supports for International Association Conferences, Corporate Meetings, Incentive Programmes and Sporting events.	N/A	https://www.meetinireland.com/supports/financial-supports
36	Fáilte Ireland	Destination Towns (2019)	Up to €500,000 per local authority will be allocated in two rounds by Fáilte Ireland to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns nationwide.	€15.5million	https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/Publications/Failte-Ireland-Tourism-Destination-Towns-Guidelines.pdf
37	Fáilte Ireland	Urban Animation Scheme (2021)	Capital Grants Scheme for Local Authorities aimed at supporting sustainable tourism development through public realm and urban animation projects that have the potential to transform and re-imagine urban centres for visitors and communities.	€5 million.	https://www.failteireland.ie/Identify-Available-Funding/local-authority-schemes/Urban-Animation-Scheme.aspx
38	Fáilte Ireland	Platforms for Growth 2: Shared Facilities for Activity Providers (2020)	Focused on developing water sports activity facilities across the country.	€19million	https://www.failteireland.ie/tourism-news/19m-investment-announced-water-based-activity-facilities.aspx
39	Fáilte Ireland	Platforms for Growth 3: Gala Dinners Investment Scheme 2022	The scheme aims to support the development of up to seven 'wow' gala dinner venues of scale in the environs of Ireland's premier business tourism hubs ie Dublin, Cork, Kerry, the Shannon Region and Galway. Targeting this gap in the Business Events segment will ensure recovery and growth of revenue which is central to Fáilte Ireland's sustainable growth agenda.	€200,000 per project	https://www.failteireland.ie/gala-dinner-venue-scheme.aspx
40	Fáilte Ireland	Festivals Innovation Programme (2020 – 2022)	Focused on developing high tourism impact festivals of scale and international standing	N/A	https://www.failteireland.ie/Identify-Available-Funding/Festivals-Innovation-Programme.aspx
41	NTA	Sustainable Mobility Investment Programme	In total, the 2023 fund allocation for Active Travel will allow for the progression of 387 projects in the Greater Dublin Area, 250 across other regional cities and a further 502 projects across rural Ireland.	€290m	https://www.nationaltransport.ie/publications/active-travel-investment-grants-2023-allocations/#:~:text=In%20total%2C%20the%202023%20fund,502%20projects%20across%20rural%20Ireland.

	Department	Name of Fund	Description of Fund	Funding scale available	Web Link
42	Dept of Transport	Greenways Fund 2023	€63 million (2023) through TII's Greenway Programme for 70 Greenway projects	€63m	https://www.tii.ie/news/press-releases/allocations-2023/
43	Dept of Transport	Safe Routes to School Programme	Improving front of school environments and providing the necessary infrastructure, including cycle/scooter parking, for students to walk, wheel or cycle safely to and from school		https://www.nationaltransport.ie/news/safe-routes-to-school-srts-programme/
44	Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Brexit Blue Economy Enterprise Development Scheme	The purpose of the scheme is to counter the adverse economic and social consequences of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on businesses operating in the blue economy and located in communities within 10km of the coastline.	Investments across all three project types will be capped at an individual maximum support rate of €200,000 (general de minimis aid)	https://bim.ie/fisheries/funding/brexit-blue-economy-enterprise-development-scheme/
45	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme	The scheme assists the development of the marine economy in coastal communities by aiming to give immediate construction stimulus to those coastal communities affected by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom (TCA). It is targeted to attract such projects of up to €1 million budget during 2022 and 2023. The Scheme also offers the possibility of funding larger projects where there is particular exposure to Brexit due to proximity to UK waters and loss of fishing opportunities. The projects will be delivered by the local authority which owns and maintains the relevant marine infrastructure. The Scheme funds publicly owned marine infrastructure and is being funded under the EU Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR). In April, under the first call of the Scheme, Minister McConalogue announced approval for 110 projects around the Irish coast.	It is targeted to attract such projects of up to €1 million budget during 2022 and 2023. (€31.7m total)	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e5541-minister-mcconalogue-opens-second-call-for-coastal-infrastructure-projects-under-the-brexit-adjustment-local-authority-marine-infrastructure-scheme-2022-2023/