

Richards Music School Design & Access Statement

Landscape Proposals

LDĀ DESIGN

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1.0 Proposals



Figure 1: Illustrative Location Plan

Legend

-  Existing trees
-  Proposed trees

Design Principles

The landscape proposal for Richards Music School (RMC) provides the setting for the new building and helps connect it into the surrounding estate and adjacent playing pitches.

The territory of the building is identified simply by the area of yorkstone paving which connects and integrates the various spaces around the building. To the north, overlooking the pitches, the yorkstone is the connecting route to the wider footpath network in front of the new building, but it also has a generosity of width to allow space for viewing sport.

At the eastern end of RMC, gently rising stepped brick edged, grass, terraces provide more space for informal gathering from an elevated position with views to activity on the pitches. The brick integrates the terraces with the material of the building and parapet walls.

The adjacent sunken garden allows daylight to the lower levels of the building and spill out from adjacent rooms. To support this function the space has seating with a central tree and planting around which the stairs are arranged.

To the south is a narrow garden between RMC and the boundary which allows building users to break out to a quiet space. This has a seating area as a primary element with a low seating wall between the path and planting. The planting is located along the boundary to mediate between garden users and neighbours as well as creating a delightful, textured character. New trees are included to provide succession that help maintain the treed boundary and the treed back drop to the building in longer views from the south from Bishopswood Road.

The western end of the site is the vehicle entrance of Bishopswood Road where there is space for 2 DDA car parking spaces and access for servicing and waste collection. Groups of additional trees, arranged informally, are located downhill within the parkland to the north, alongside Bishopswood Road. They will reinforce the tree connection along this side of the school estate and also controls views along the Road which gives greater separation for pedestrians from the pitches for pederstrians.

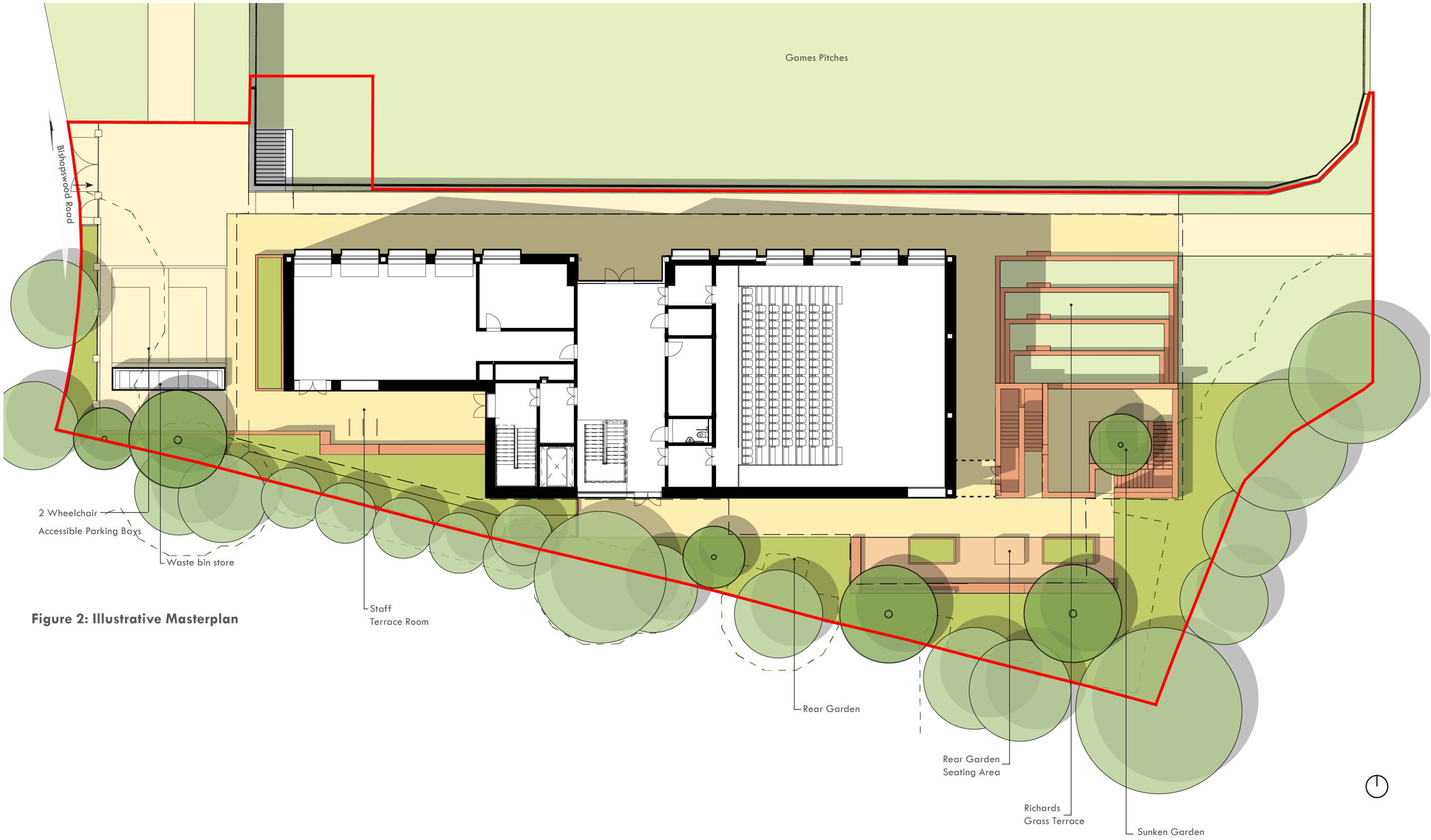


Figure 2: Illustrative Masterplan

2.0 Opportunites and Constraints

Basement

The design for the landscape of Richards Music School is influenced by its constraints and opportunities.

The extent of the basement (Fig 3) limits opportunities to plant and grow lawn. This has been addressed through the layout of the hard and soft proposals locating paths and seating areas over the basement. In selected places the ground has been built up (500-1000mm), such as the grass and brick terraces, to give adequate depth to grow lawn.

Existing Trees

The sunken garden is a key light well that also gives access to and from the basement and is an important feature that the landscape structure responds to.

The existing trees (Fig 4) are an important backdrop to the building in views from the green space and approach along Bishopswood Road to the north. It is therefore important that they are retained and gaps are augmented with additional new trees.

Sun Studies

Sun studies (Fig 5) highlight several locations that are particularly sunny. The design tries to exploit these locations for meeting and gathering and so they become the areas for seating and gathering. These are the terraces, rear garden seating area, staff room seating area.

Prominent Views

The design of the building infers some important views (Fig 6) that the landscape should respond to : views towards the north down the hill over the games pitches from the terraces, view north-south through the atrium of the building, views east to west parallel to the building facades at front and rear which is reinforced by the footpath alignment.