

24th February 2021

Oxford City Council,
Town Hall,
St Aldate's,
Oxford OX1 1BX

Design and Access Statement: St. Edward's School, Sing's House Extension

Field House and Sing's House are two linked, purpose-built school boarding houses originally constructed in 1964 and extended in 2007. This application is for minor changes to the link between the two blocks.

At ground floor level, the link currently consists of a glazed entrance – which is not used or needed – and a redundant telephone kiosk. On the first floor there is a corridor, store room and kitchenette.



Existing west elevation



Existing east elevation

The proposals are to extend the width of the link to incorporate two new 'shell' dormitories of four beds and adjacent bathroom on the ground floor, and two twin senior bedrooms on the first floor.

Care has been taken to ensure the arrangement of the rooms complies with the requirements of section 8 (sleeping accommodation) of part III (school accommodation provisions applying only to boarding schools) of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

The existing buildings are two storey in height and constructed, for the most part, in brown brick with white painted concrete details. The 2007 wings have brown brick plinths and white render walls.

The proposed elevational treatment for the link is to use a matching brown brick with white render details. The link roof will be flat – as before – and at approximately the same height. The windows will echo the size and shape of adjoining openings. The scale of the extension will therefore be very similar to the original link. The new walls, roofs and floors of the link will comply with modern Building Regulations and will be highly insulated.

There will be almost no impact on landscaping, except for the removal of the stepped entrance on the west elevation and the extension of the existing planting beds.

The security of the building is naturally important, and access to the building will not change as a result of the proposals. There will be no impact on car parking provision. There is sufficient extra capacity within the existing cycle sheds for additional bicycles.

Field House and Sing's House (as originally built) are not particularly wheelchair friendly and have stepped access, narrow corridors and multiple changes of level. As the above proposals sit within these buildings, they are not considered wheelchair accessible. Accommodation for wheelchair users is provided elsewhere on the campus. Nevertheless, as a result of the 2007 extensions, the ground floor common rooms are wheelchair accessible.

The development will have no bearing on: parking, flooding, arboriculture, biodiversity, or protected species. Daylight or sunlight levels at adjoining properties will not be affected by the proposals. An noise impact assessment has not been carried out.