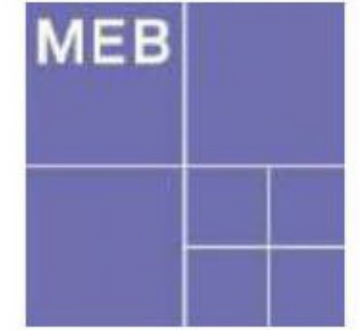


Project: Rydes Hill Prep, Nursery
Client: Rydes Hill Prep School, Guildford, GU2 8BP
Job Ref: 2022
Date: April 2021
Document: Design & Access Statement



1 Background

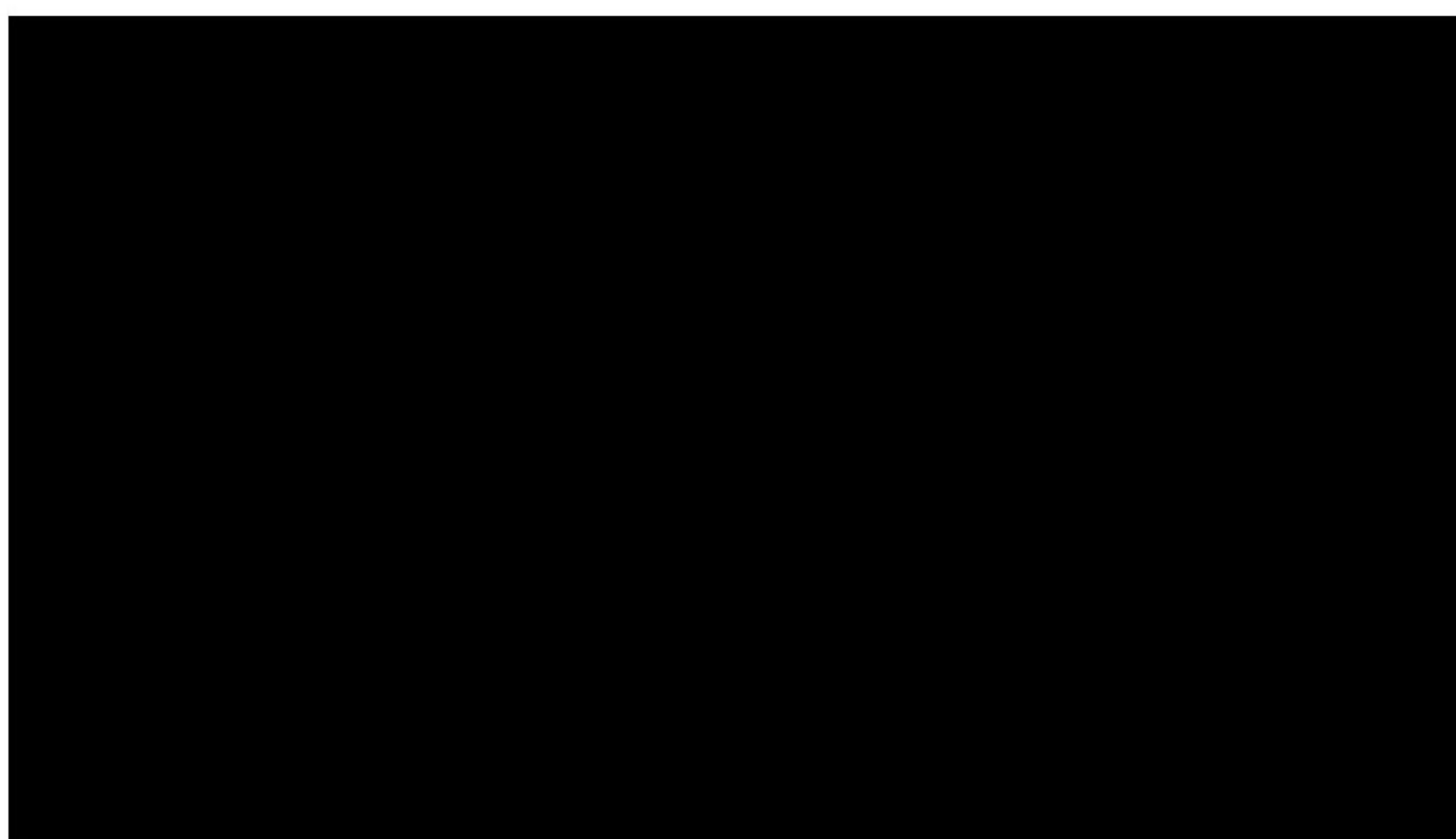
1.1 This application is made on behalf of a Rydes Hill Prep School by MEB Design Ltd architects.

1.2 The scheme proposed in this application is for the relocation of the existing nursery teaching space from within the main school building to a detached building within the school site. This scheme will provide addition of a new classroom building, external canopy and associated landscaping.

1.3 The relocation of the nursery will enable the school to better segregate the youngest pupils from the elder pupils while creating a dedicated area for the nursery school. This separation will simplify the drop off and collection for parents and guardians and provide a modern teaching space for the pupils.

2 Use

2.1 Rydes Hill Preparatory School was founded in 1945 by the Daughters of Mary and Joseph and the site has been in educational use since that date. In 1989 the ownership was transferred to a Charitable Trust, which was established specifically for the purpose of continuing the excellent work of the Foundation Order.

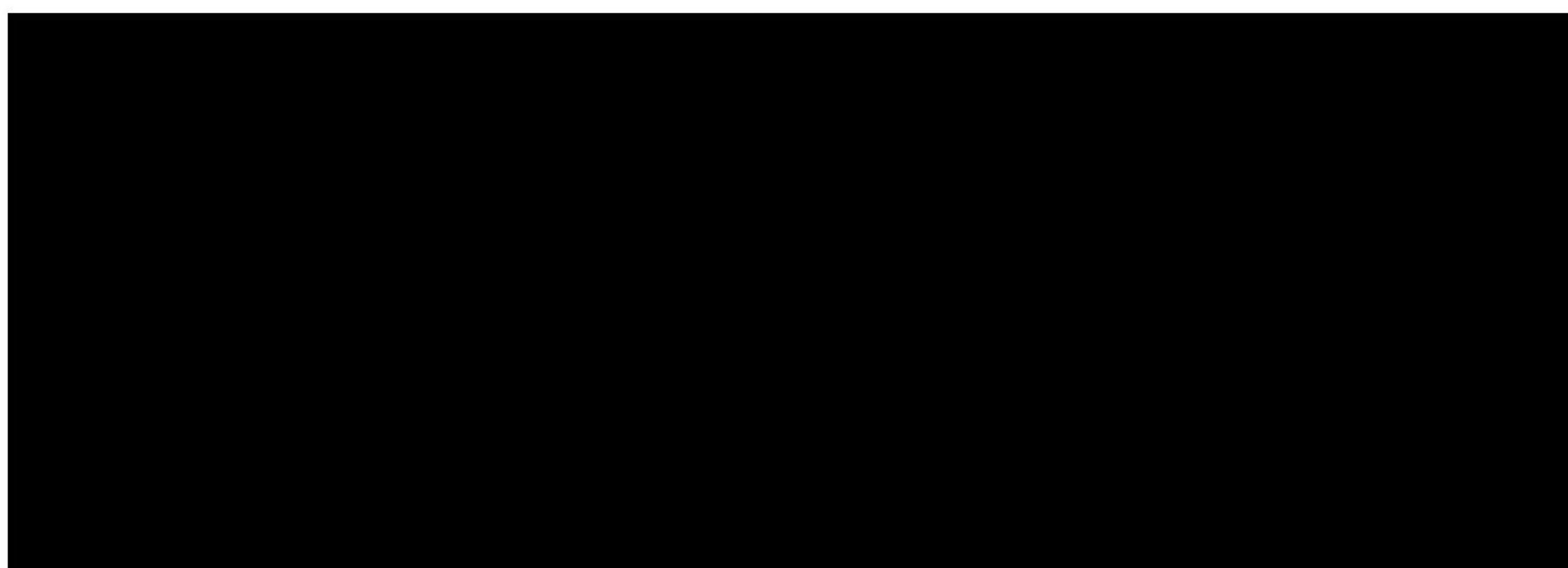


01. Historic photograph of the school.

2.2 The area of the school which this application relates to is the existing building known as 'The Lodge' and the land surrounding this. The building has been used by the

school for teaching since 2010 and was previously converted from the school caretakers bungalow.

2.3 This application proposes this building be altered to accommodate a nursery teaching classroom, with some minor alterations internally and externally to achieve this. In addition, a standalone modular building is proposed be constructed adjacent to the Lodge with an external canopy bridging between them will provide the statutory Ofsted required covered outdoor space.



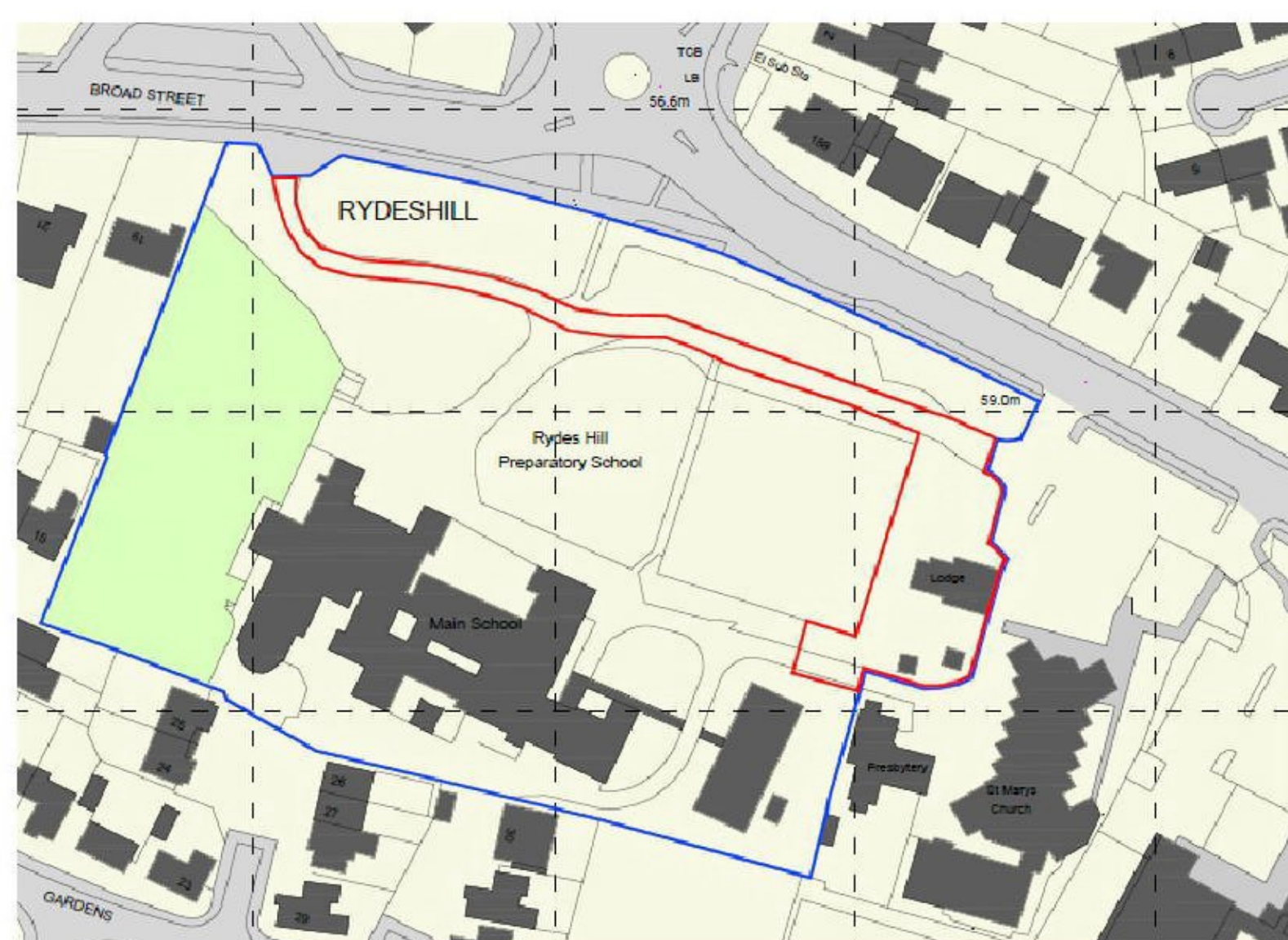
02. Lodge building south elevation photo.

03. Timber sheds to be removed.

2.4 The school ground's immediate area surrounding the buildings are proposed to be fully enclosed with the addition of a timber picket fence to form a secure external recreation area for the pupils.

3 Amount

3.1 The complete school site measures a total area of approximately 3.2 acres. The site, which includes the external recreation area and buildings that this application relates to measures an area of 700m² (0.17 acres).



04 Site location plan.

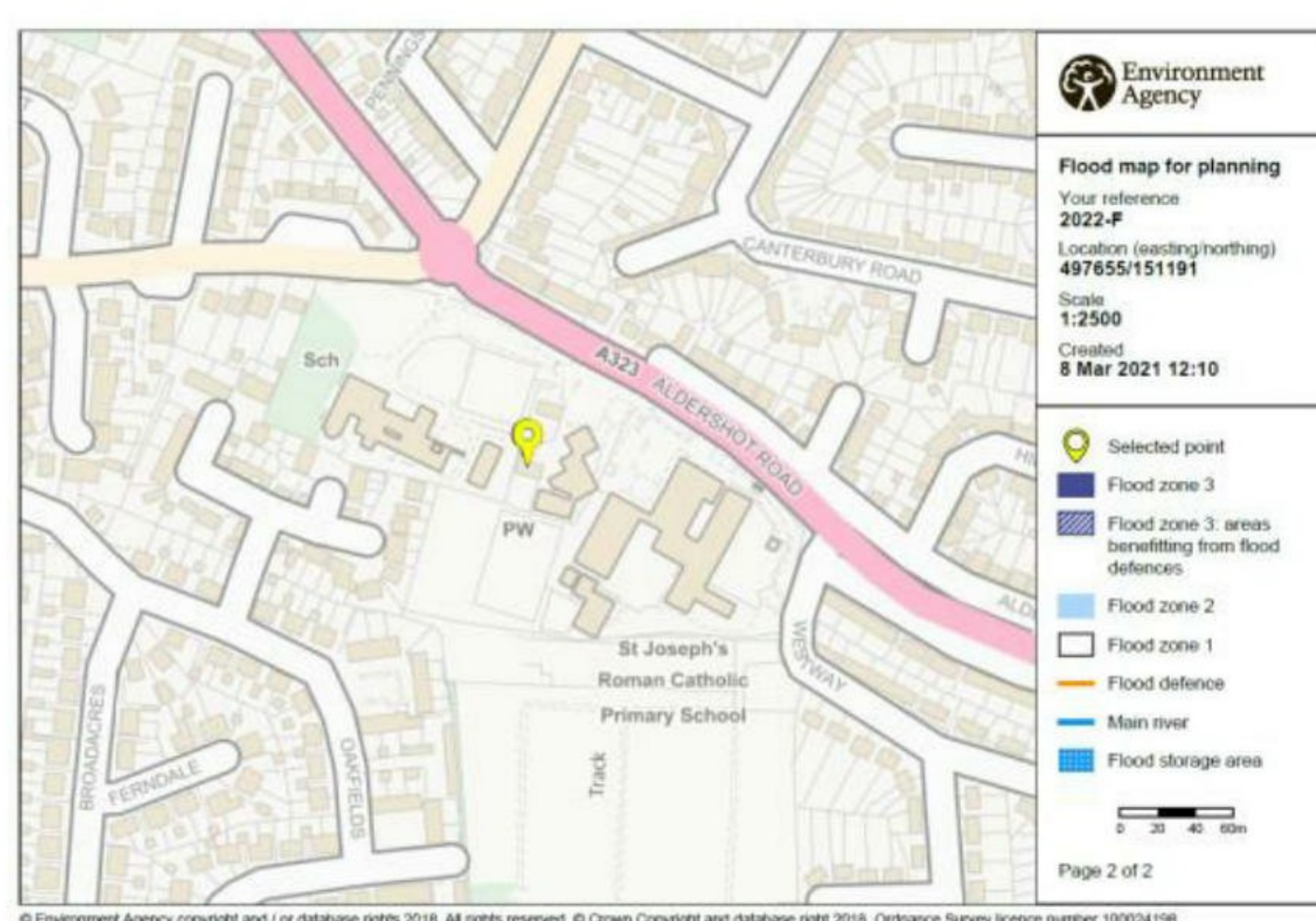
05 Aerial site photo.

3.2 The current Lodge teaching building has a gross internal area of 85m² and the alteration to convert this into nursery teaching space will not increase this area.

3.3 Adjacent and to the south of the Lodge building the new nursery building is proposed to have a gross internal floor area of 95m² consisting of a further classroom and associated WC facilities for pupils and staff.

4 Layout

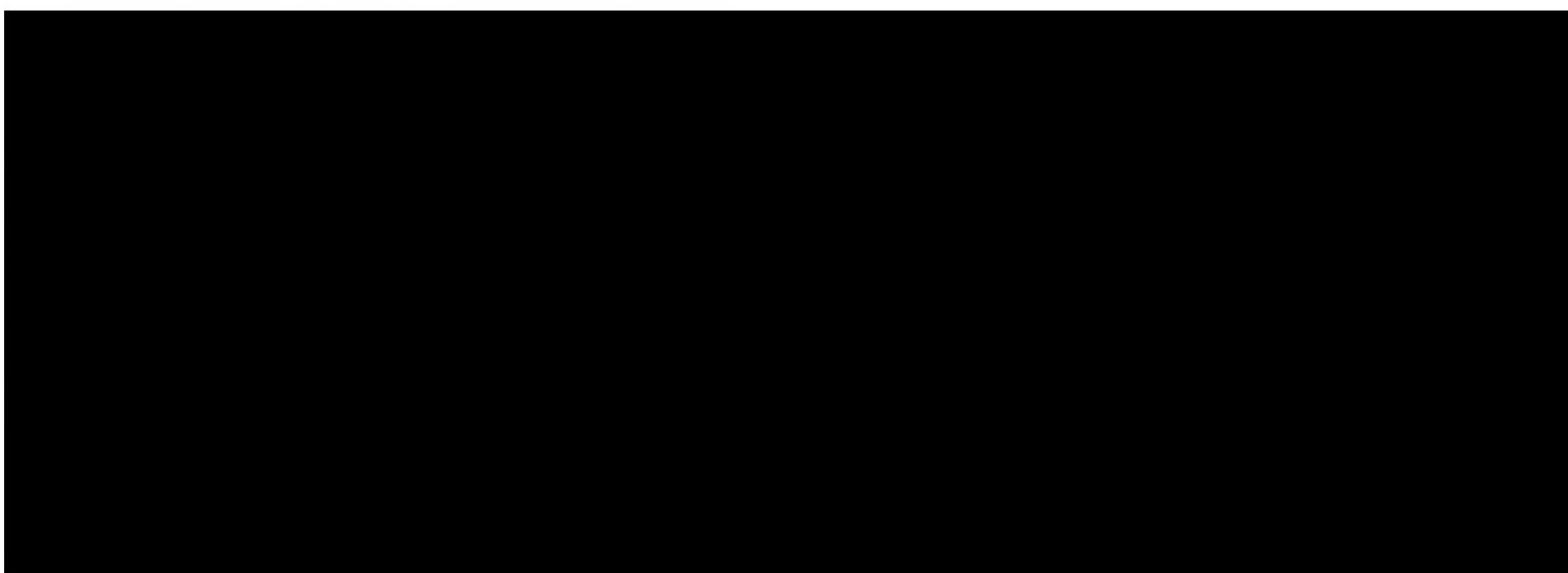
4.1 The site location is not subject to any significant flood risk, with the Environment Agency map search data designating the site as being in Flood Zone 1, the lowest probability for flooding.



06 Environment Agency planning map data.

4.2 As well as taking advantage of repurposing the existing Lodge building, the site was selected as it was away from the mature trees throughout the school site. This application does not propose to remove any trees nor does the footprint of the proposed new building encroach under the canopy of the existing trees to the south-west, beyond the proposed site.

4.3 It is proposed to retain the boundary fences and hedges to the neighbouring property as these provide a secure perimeter and visual shielding to the site.



07 Lodge viewed from the church car park.

08 Fencing viewed from the church car park.

4.4 Biodiversity in the proposed area is limited due to the existing school use and with the area being a regularly mowed lawn. This application has proposed the introduction of 2 nesting boxes in the cluster of shrubs and tress at the north of the site. Additionally the application proposes introducing two hedgehog boxes to encourage wildlife. The use of the picket fence within the grounds giving means to access.

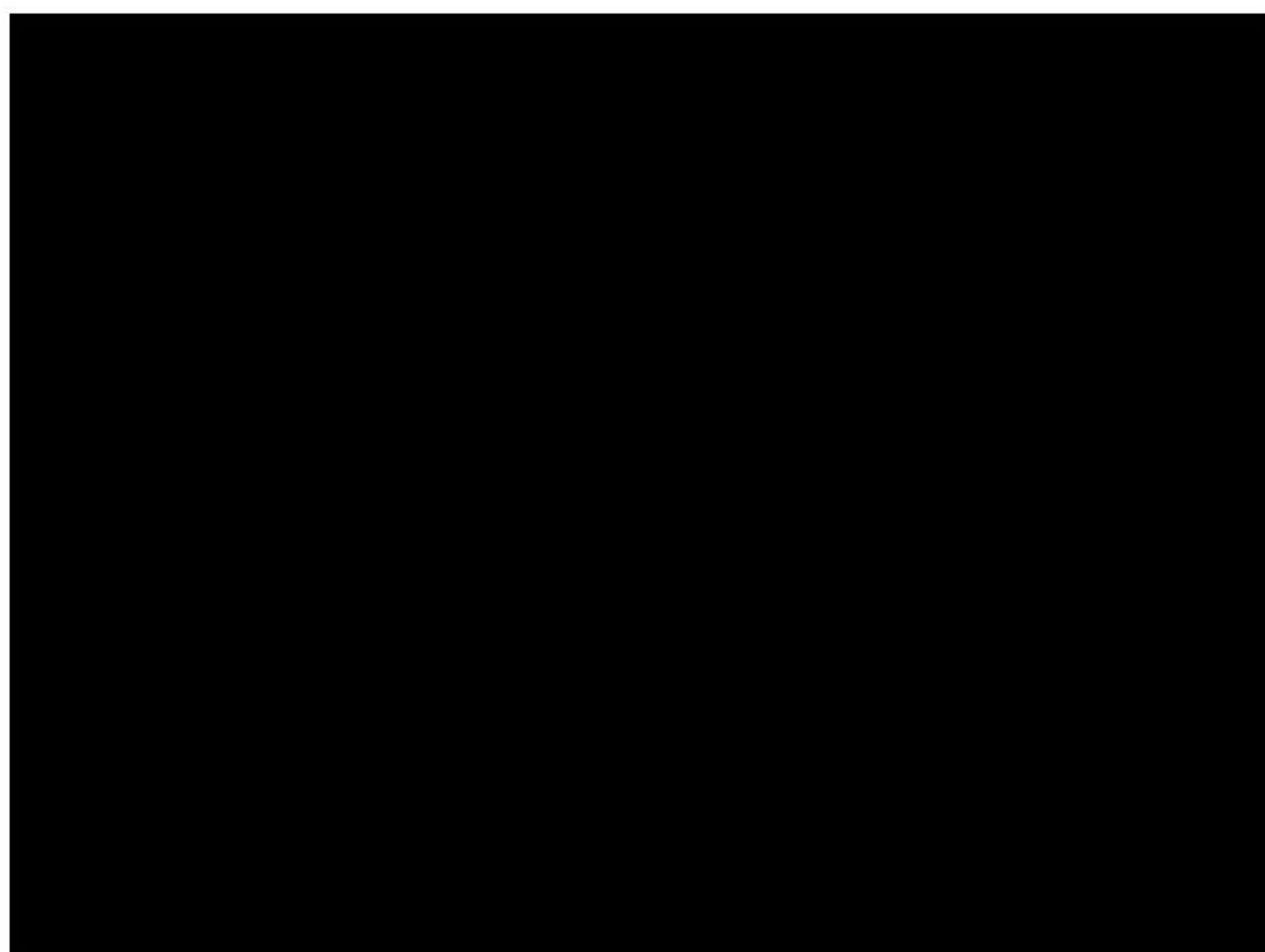


09 Hedgehog box and birds box examples.

4.5 The layouts of the two buildings will be clearly defined with single points of access between and under the covered canopy. A external recreation area is proposed, with rubber play surface, north of the Lodge in the area between the church car park to the east and the all-weather sports pitches to the west.

5 Scale

5.1 The existing Lodge building is single storey, with a pitched tiled roof. The building's scale is modest (being formally built as a domestic bungalow) in comparison to the adjacent 1960's church.



10. Photo of the church, viewed from the school.

5.2 It is intended that the new nurse building is similarly of a single storey height, in order to keep the new building as low as possible a flat roof is designed.

5.3 Linking the two buildings an external polycarbonate canopy is proposed, which would overhang both the roof of the new building and the eaves line only of the existing Lodge building.



11 Artistic model of the canopy.

6 Appearance

6.1 It is intended that the new nursey location will be a welcoming and engaging building, as well as the surrounding site. The scale of the buildings are modest so that young pupils feel confident in their environment.

6.2 To physically and visually link the existing Lodge with the new building, a ribbon screen of timber cladding will wrap across the front (west) elevations of the buildings. This will act to soften the appearance of the new building while concealing low level services exposed on the existing building. This ribbon of timber would have openings for the door and windows behind.



12 Artistic impression showing the timber cladding ribbon.

6.3 A canopy spanning between the two buildings is proposed to be of coloured polycarbonate sheets, being semi-transparent. Using pastel colours to create a vibrant appealing aesthetic to the space, which will provide a needed external covered play area to protect the pupils from the elements when outside. The polycarbonate will additionally be used to the define the entrance on the elevation.



13 Artist impression showing the polycarbonate canopy.

6.4 Externally the existing landscaping paved riven stone flags are to be retained and extended to suit the new arrangement. To the north a new porous rubber play surface is proposed.

7 Access

7.1 The main access to the proposed nursery building will remain unchanged with the existing paths on site retained. The introduction on the site of the 1.2m high picket fence across the existing path will provide nursery child secure, staff and parent access. No alterations to the school's driveway or car park are proposed as a result of this application.

7.2 Both buildings are proposed to have a flush level access from the outside and conforming with current building regulations for accessibility. Internally both buildings will be open plan, giving the spaces the best flexibility for users.

7.3 Access to the site during the construction period would be via the school's existing driveway, with appropriate temporary fencing for segregation and security. It is hoped the majority of the construction can take place between term times and in the summer holiday so that the nursery will be operational for the first term of the 2021-2022 school year, commencing Monday 6th September 2021.

8 Summary

8.1 The modest development of this corner of the school site will have negligible impact on the setting, arboriculture, and biodiversity. It is hoped the proposal design will enhance the biodiversity of the site by the trees to the north, especially as aspects of that are integral into the curriculum. The design is sensitive in terms of scale and appearance being in keeping with a nursery school vernacular. The purpose designed nursery will enable the school to continue to provide nursery schooling within a dedicated environment.