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## 4106

Debenham High School,  
Gracechurch Street, Debenham, Stowmarket

Proposed Science Rooms Extension & Canopy Relocation

### **Design & Access Statement**

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## 1.0 Introduction

This statement has been prepared by Hoopers Architects on behalf of our client A.C. Webb Facility Services in support of their Full Planning Application for the extension to Debenham High School, Stowmarket.



Fig.1- Site Aerial View

The proposal is for an extension to the school building comprising increasing the footprint of an existing classroom along with the provision of a new science classroom space. The schools existing courtyard canopies is to be relocated as part of the proposal with associated minor landscaping to suit.



**Site Area: 37435m<sup>2</sup>**  
 Soft Landscaping: 27730m<sup>2</sup>  
 Hard Landscaping: 5480m<sup>2</sup>  
 Building Area: 4225m<sup>2</sup>

## 2.0 Site & Context

Debenham High School, is a Church of England school located in Debenham close to the town of Stowmarket in Suffolk with the site covering an area of over 3.7 hectares with the school building footprint at approximately 4,225m<sup>2</sup>. The school's main frontage faces Gracechurch Street and looks over the farm / fields to the north of the site.

Primary access to the school building is via Gracechurch Street, with a number of parking spaces to the school frontage and in front of the High Suffolk Children's Centre. The site includes a large expanse of soft landscaping to rear with numerous playing fields for the students.

The school is situated on the western edge of the village and is predominantly surrounded by farmland to the north, south and west whilst residential gardens back onto the school's eastern boundary.

The school building is predominantly single storey facing red brickwork interspersed with stretches of curtain wall / rainscreen cladding systems with a combination of pitched and flat, felted & single ply roofing. The most recent extension to the school comprised a two storey rendered and cladding panelled system extension providing additional classbases and drama studio to the rear overlooking the playing fields.

The site has an external paved courtyard to the rear of the school between three no. existing facade walls measuring approximately 12 x 12.5m. This courtyard in turn is covered by a steel frame canopy structure measuring 10 x 10m.

Fig.2 - Existing Site Plan

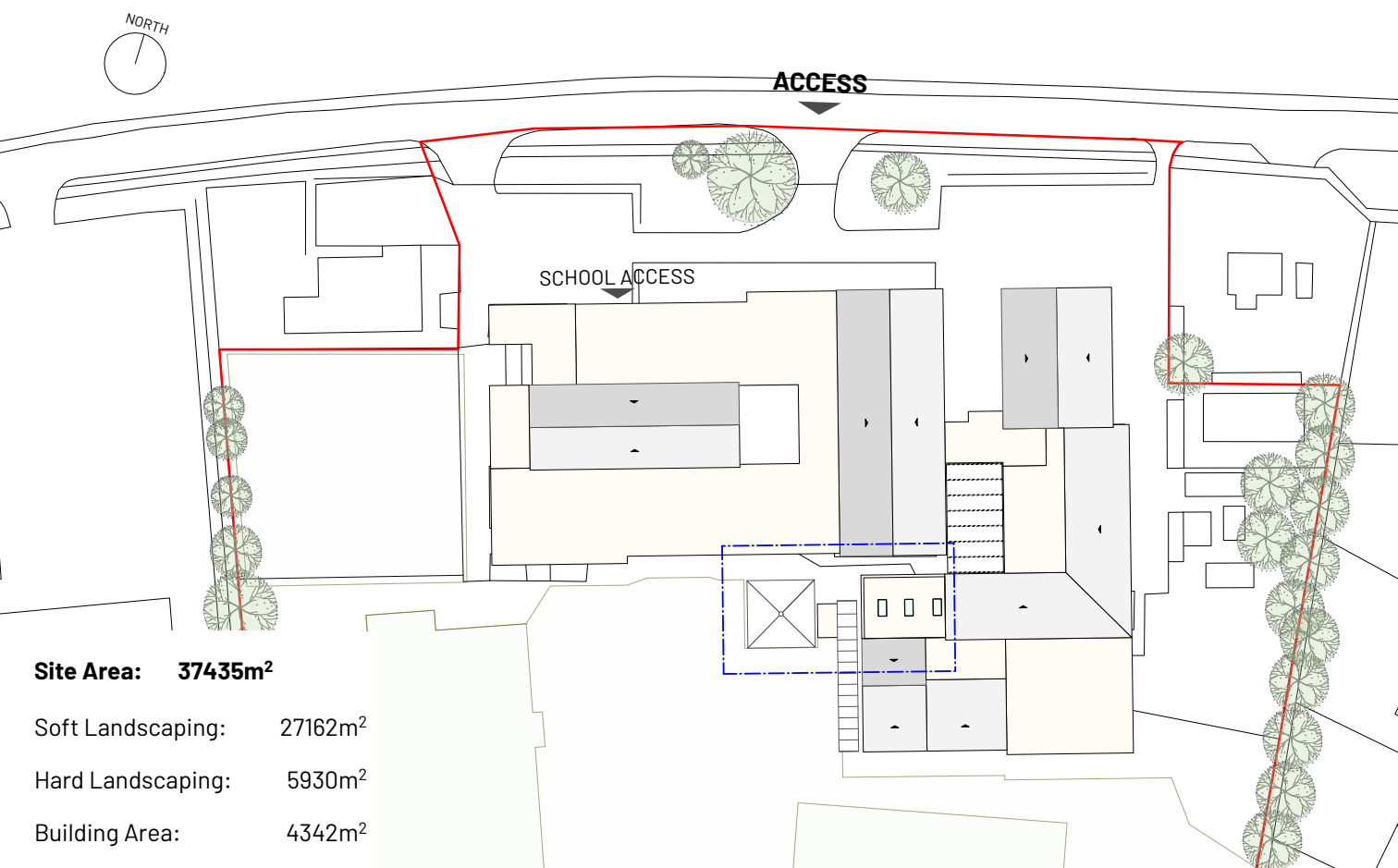


Fig.3 - Proposed Site Plan

### 3.0 Amount of Development

The proposal is for the extension of an existing science classroom, offering an increase in GIA of 38m<sup>2</sup>, as well as providing an entirely new science classroom of GIA 85m<sup>2</sup>. These additions together with associated connecting spaces constitute an overall increase in the schools building footprint of approximately 116m<sup>2</sup>.

To facilitate the building extension the existing courtyard canopy is to be removed and relocated further to the west and the side canopy's length reduced.

### 3.1 Layout, Appearance & Scale

The extension aims to replicate the surrounding existing classroom blocks in scale and style; access to the existing class will remain the same but will also be provided with a secondary access / fire escape route via the existing lobby zone. The new classroom will be accessed externally opposite the existing schools Art classbase.

The extension will be constructed using similar materials to that of the surrounding building which includes brown facing bricks, brown aluminium windows and single ply membrane flat roof and parapet walling.

### 3.2 Landscape

New hard paving surface will be provided west of the building extension to allow for the reinstatement of the existing canopy so as to provide students with a covered external space. There will also be additional associated tarmac surfacing to tie together the existing pathways against the school; these will be graded to suit the adjacent grass surfacing as well as provide ramped / level access to new the fire escape doors.

The existing side canopy will be retained in place and provide shelter alongside the new extension.

### 3.3 Access

Access into the site will remain unchanged via Gracechurch Street to the north with the extension proposal having no effect on this.

Vehicle access to the rear playing fields also remains unchanged via gated access route along the eastern boundary.

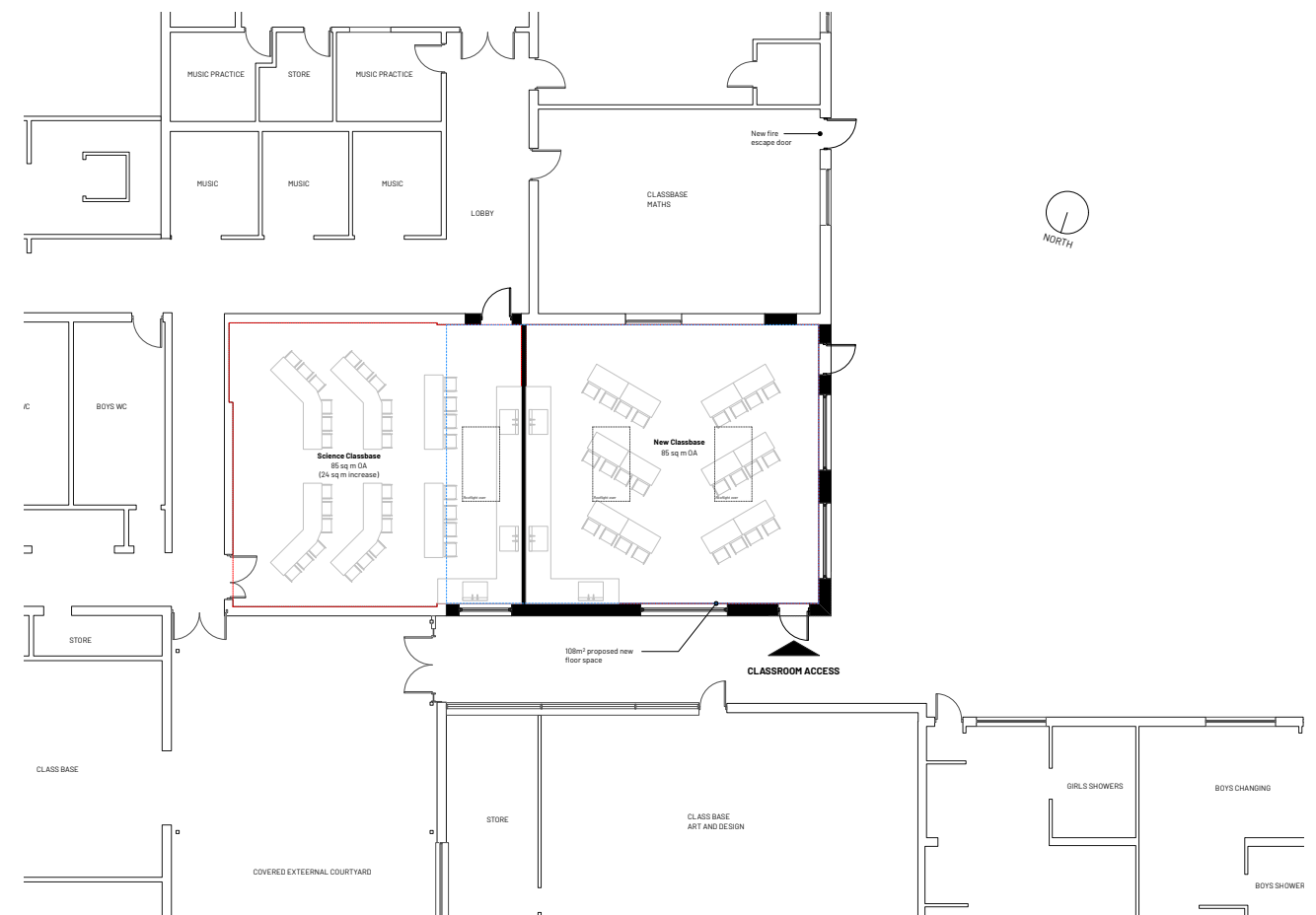


Fig.4 - Proposed Layout



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Suffolk  
T: 01473 212646  
[www.hoopersarchitects.co.uk](http://www.hoopersarchitects.co.uk)