

Education ~ West Suffolk College

Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk



Landscape Masterplan.



Architect's Sections of the New FE Building.



Suffolk House, Now Renovated.



Detailed Landscape Proposals.



Images of the Completed Scheme

Project Description

West Suffolk College provides Higher Education Courses at the Bury St. Edmunds Campus of University Campus Suffolk. Located within the curtilage of a listed Garrison Wall, the campus contains a variety of contemporary & 1960s high rise buildings that have been identified for replacement & renovation as part of an overall strategy for redevelopment. This remodelling of the buildings has required a full redesign of the landscape setting around & between buildings, including a new entrance detail to the first phase of development, the FE building.

The first requirement was to develop a site strategy masterplan for the main campus area, based around the removal & replacement of 3 existing buildings (shown in red). Mature London Plane trees were considered for retention to break up the built form as a strategic element of existing vegetation. The masterplan comprises a new oval shaped central courtyard, with space for informal recreation combined with quiet space, bordered by floristic borders & a strategic planting scheme. The wider site car parking & arboretum were not part of the scheme.

This was followed by the detailed development of the area around the FE building & the need to traverse significant level changes, as the new access passed through the listed, garrison retaining wall. To overcome levels issues, a detailed set of steps was developed along a new central axis, leading to the new building entrance. These steps are to provide access in a straight line from the highway into the site that avoided antisocial behaviour & lingering of students. To prevent such use, the steps will be formed with a very wide tread, that is planted with a ground cover block of box hedging, clipped as a flat surface to the left & right of the pedestrian access. An alternative DDA compliant ramp provides a second access, retained by gabion structures & new planting.

Taking elements from the building design, the hard landscape reflected colour & tone, using recycled constitute granite paving in grey, black & maroon colours to define the external spaces. No dig construction was required around trees to prevent damage to the mature tree roots.

The FE building detailed design gained planning approval in June 2011. Suffolk House renovations were completed in 2012.

ELD Requirements

- To undertake a site visit to meet with the Client & understand the brief;
- To complete a tree survey, AIA to BS 5837: 2005, (current at the time);
- To complete Phase 1 Habitat Survey with recommendations for BREEAM rating enhancements;
- To prepare concept designs for both strategic masterplanning & the detailed FE building design;
- To prepare supporting Design & Access Statement Reports,
- To prepare a report containing details of materials palettes for planting & paving
- Present materials selected to the Head of College for approval;
- To produce detailed hard & soft landscape design for the scheme with a schedule of quantities & specifications for planting & maintenance to gain planning approval & act as contract tender drawings.

Project Particulars

Client: West Suffolk College
 Architect: Pick Everard
 Capital Value: £9 million