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Design and Access Statement

New Energy Centre for The Corsham School Biomass Heating Project

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New Energy Centre for The Corsham School

The Project

This project is part of a wider Estate Decarbonisation Plan (EDP) for The Corsham Academy. The Academy comprises two schools; The Corsham School, which is a secondary school of 1179 students, and the Corsham Regis Primary School with 159 students. Estate decarbonisation is an essential step towards becoming a net-zero school.

A report was prepared by ReEnergise analysing the School's energy use and assessing heat decarbonisation opportunities and their associated power implications. The report sets out to develop a plan to remove each school's reliance on fossil fuels for all its estate power, heat and transport needs, thus eliminating greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) being emitted in the running of their estates.

The report made a number of recommendations including the introduction of a biomass heating system in a newly constructed energy centre. This current proposal comes out of the implementation of that recommendation.

The Site and Context

The Corsham School has occupied the site in various forms since 1955, initially as a secondary modern, then becoming a comprehensive school in 1972 and more recently an acedemy. The school occupies a large site with extensive playing fields and a range of buildings built over the life of the school. The most recent building is the sixth form building that sits about 35m to the East of the site for the biomass building. The school site is surrounded on three sides by residential development and on the fourth side by the Springfield Campus.

The site for the new energy centre is close to the western boundary of the site parallel with the end of Beechfield Road. There is a large beech hedge between the the site and the road. On the far side of the road is the car park for the Springfield Community Campus sports centre. The site is adjacent to one of the main vehicular entrances to the site. The site is currently a grass area with a single tree.

The Proposed Works

The development proposes the construction of a new single storey energy centre to house two biomass boilers and the accompanying wood chip fuel store. For safety and security reasons there will be a new fence enclosure around the South and East side of the site to match the existing security fence. There is already a fence and hedge along the north west side of the site. It is proposed that a new hedge will be planted in front of the new hedge to help screen the building. The building will be serviced from the existing vehicular entrance and car park to the south of the site.

Design Approach

The building has been designed to fit with the scale and massing of the wider school campus. It has been designed as a single storey building sunken in to the ground by 700mm to minimise the overall height of the building. The external materials have been designed to match the materials of the recently completed sixth form building with vertical larch boarding as external cladding and a profiled metal roof. The new pipework for the school heating network will be underground.

The proposed works include the re-location of the path and making good of the surrounding landscape. Existing and new hedges will provide screening to minimise the impact of the new building.

Access and Servicing

The building provides space for new boilers and accompanying fuel stores. It is not envisaged that there will be any access to the building for school pupils or members of the public so no special access arrangements are envisaged. Access for deliveries and servicing is provided via the car park to the south of the site via the existing vehicular entrance gates.

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Site and Context

Top left: The site for the proposed energy centre viewed from inside the school grounds. The existing tree will be removed and replaced elsewhere on the school site. The existing hedge is to be retained. The path will be re-located as part of the works.

Top Right: View of the site from outside the school boundary. The hedge will be retained to provide screening for the new building

Bottom Left and right: The new sixth form building close to the site for the new energy centre. Materials for the new building have been chosen to tie in with the design of this building.









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Top: Site location plan showing route of heat network in green.
Bottom: Site plan showing proposed energy centre in context



