

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL

GROVE FIELD THEATRE

Introduction

Leighton Park School would like to make a planning application to provide an outdoor activity area that can be used as a communal social space, a teaching area and a stage for assemblies and occasional theatrical productions performed by the school.

The construction of the extension to the existing Music & Media Centre (Planning App Consent No. 152304) generated a large quantity of soil which the school wants to utilise on site thereby reducing the carbon footprint and associated costs of disposing the material into a landfill site.

The mound would be approximately 2 metres higher than the surrounding lawn and approximately 46 metres wide. The mound would be located on the southern edge of Grove Lawn, adjacent to the MMC.

Views of the stage and mound, from within the school grounds, are illustrated within the application documents. Views from outside the school grounds would not be possible due to the screening by the mature and dense woodland belt.

Photo 01 –Grove Field, MMC buildings (site under construction) and Main School



To support this planning application, a number of supporting documents have been prepared, including the following:

- Heritage Statement prepared by Armour Heritage
- Landscape drawings prepared by NVB Landscape
- Arboricultural Report prepared by Future Tree Management

Use

The existing area is a formal grass lawn with a parkland character which has no specific recreational activity. The proposal will diversify its use to become an outdoor assembly space, an informal seating area for pupils to socialise during the break period; an outdoor teaching area and a space to hold school productions.

The mound creating the amphitheatre would be approx. 2 metres high with a three semi-circular seating platforms and a raised circular performance platform/stage. The stage area and seating are proposed to be brick walls with paving and lawn within the stage area.

Amount & Scale

The size and scale of the mound has been designed to have 3 grass tiers with seating for approx. 350 people. The mound would be approximately 2 metres above existing site levels. The grass mound will have flowing and gentle slopes and the footprint will be vaguely circular and extending slightly to the north west.

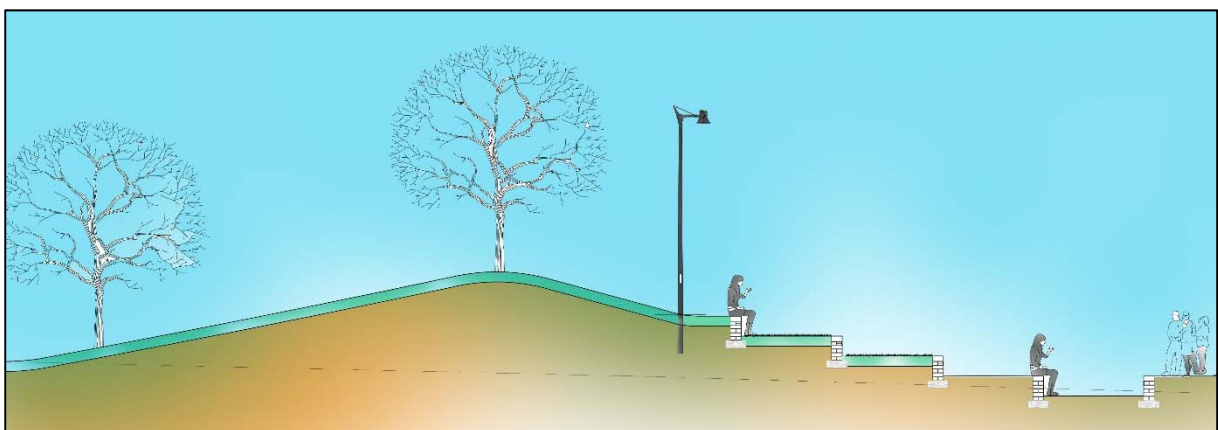
Layout

The stage will be raised 450mm above the existing ground level and will be approx. 10 metres in diameter. The central space will be filled with soil from the MMC construction and be a grass lawn.

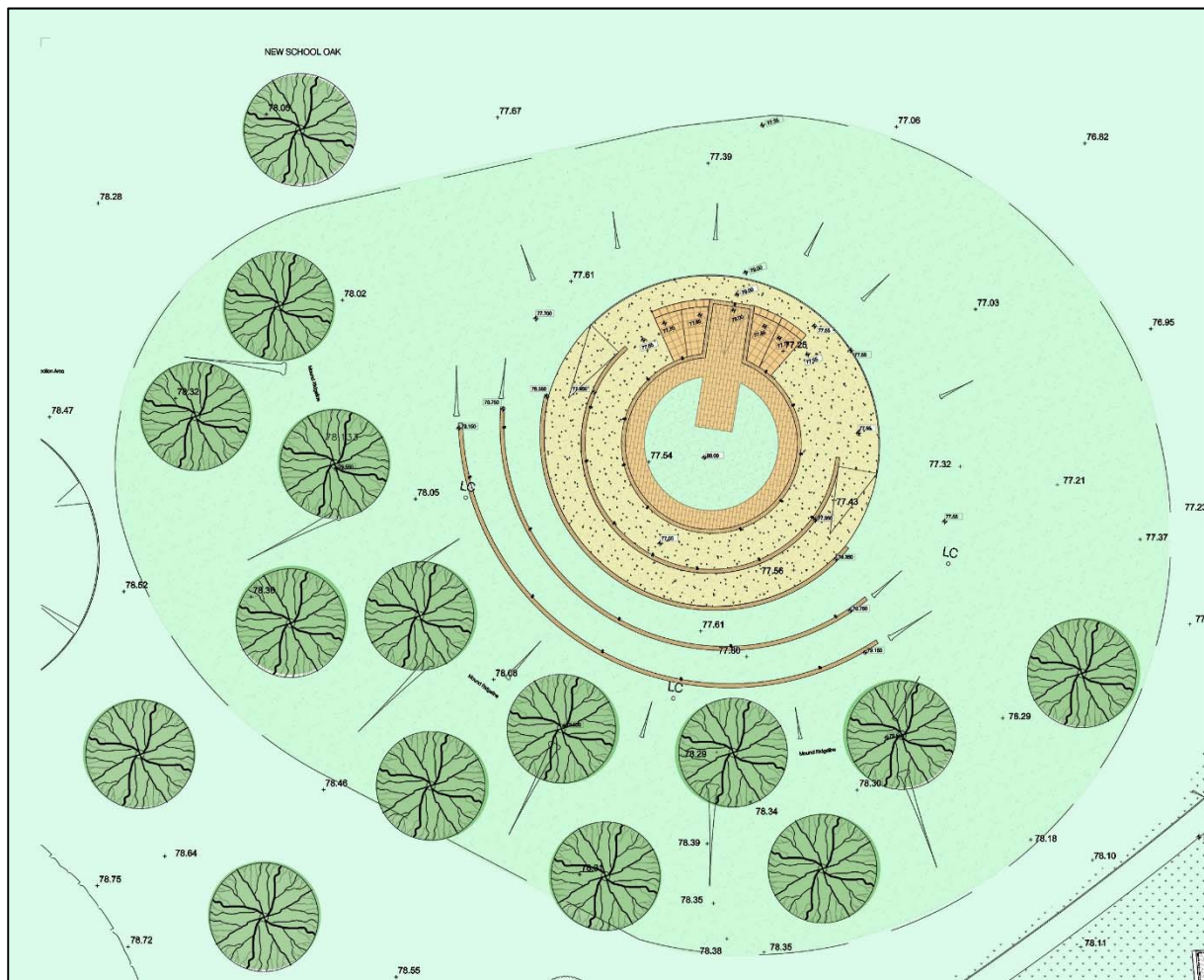
The lower tiers would have an asphalt finish to provide a durable surface where use would be most intense

The stage would be accessed by two ramps and with a similar construction to the stage and finished with paving/coping stone.

Plan 01 – Section through mound and stage



Plan 02 – Proposed Plan 1353 -2723



Heritage

The Heritage Statement produced by Armour Heritage details the expected impacts of this proposal on the heritage assets. The findings support the proposal, in that, there will be no significant impacts.

Lighting

4 no. steel lighting columns (5m high) are proposed to adequately light the amphitheatre for school productions. For additional safety and to delineate the edge of each seating platform, there would be brick 'down lighting' set into the walls of each seating platform.

Photo 04 – Proposed Luminaire



Drainage

The hard surfaces are proposed to drain directly onto the adjacent grass areas with no further drainage devices.

Landscape & Appearance

The grass mound is proposed to be built up on the higher level within the existing lawns and will grade down and feather into the existing levels in a natural way. The grass mound will seamlessly integrate into the existing lawn and will have a backdrop of newly planted trees and the existing mature woodland trees.

To provide diversity to the existing amenity lawn, the mound would be seeded with a 'Meadow' mix with a maintenance regime to suit. The type of brick to be used on the stage and seating will match the traditional brick type of the surrounding buildings.

The grass mound would be planted with 15 standard Cherry trees to form a back drop to the stage and seating area as well as forming a continuation of the existing woodland belt. The proposal would also be to plant standard trees in the wider Grove Field that reflect the school grounds tree species list - refer to drawing 1353-2740

Photo 03 – Visualisation of Amphitheatre

