

DESIGN

NEW SEMH SCHOOL AND ON SITE DORMITORY ACCOMMODATION

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Bure Park Specialist Academy

Main Entrance



“ *It was a privilege to be involved in the first purpose built SEMH school with residential accommodation in East Norfolk. To be able to be an integral part of the process from conception to completion and beyond was very rewarding. Knowing that we have handed over facilities that will hopefully make a difference and getting to see them in use and making a positive impact is very satisfying.* ”

DANIEL FORDHAM
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
NORSE CONSULTING



PROJECT

The Client, Norfolk County Council, identified an urgent need to make provision for pupils in eastern Norfolk with specific social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) diagnoses as no such school provision existed. This would address the needs of children that require the elevated level of support that an SEMH school delivers, and the cost associated with pupil provision being made away from the Great Yarmouth area.

Norse Consulting were commissioned by the Client (NCC) to undertake Design Services (RIBA Stages 1-6) and to procure the whole construction process as quickly as possible.

The site is within a built-up residential area of North Great Yarmouth and consisted of a mixture of educational buildings with the original Alderman Swindel School dating back to 1929. The pupils were relocated to a New enlarged Primary School at North Denes Great Yarmouth in September 2018.

Further to pre-planning advice received and comments from the local authority and residents, it was decided that the

older original building that fronted Beresford Road, although having no formal designation, had some heritage interest should be retained. All other buildings, hard standing and car parking on the site were to be demolished.

Planning was one of the challenges for the project. The site was already designated for educational use but Norse Consulting had to ensure that re-development complied with the approved Development Plan for the area and National Planning Policy. Norse Consulting had to show that the residential accommodation was to be used solely for pupils attending the school.



BURE PARK SCHOOL

PROJECT

A public consultation event was held in 2019 so that the local community, and any interested third parties, could voice their concerns and approvals. Via this event and the planning process several comments were received. These ranged from the suitability of the site for the type of school proposed, concerns regarding height of building and fencing, age / number of pupils, construction traffic and noise, when will the accommodation blocks be in use, and on a positive note welcomed the retention of the existing section of the school as an important part of the history of the area and site.

The layouts of the buildings, the size and heights were influenced by the specific features, and constraints of the site. The new school building sits behind the retained school building and is clearly defined by a change in brick colour and material palette. The mass and skyline are broken up by a variety of roof heights and changes in form.

Issues raised about the perimeter fencing were addressed by retaining and repairing the existing railings at the site boundary and installing an additional security weld mesh fence with enough

space to allow for planting between the two fences. This ensures the safety and protection requirements for the school whilst lessening the visual impact. Lighting was carefully designed not to cause light pollution issues but still provide enough light for security and amenity purposes.

The school layout and adjacencies were developed to facilitate a secure pupil drop off and pick up with dedicated entrance and exit gates negating the requirement for any on street waiting or parking. The staff and visitors parking is in a separate location with barrier control and access control on all the pedestrian gates in the perimeter fencing.

Accelerated program—Norse Consulting were asked by our Client to demonstrate the ability to start works on site as early as possible. Norse Consulting proposed to procure the whole construction package with a dedicated early demolition element. This will allow the successful NCC Framework contractor to undertake the demolition of approx. 90% of the existing building, cap off existing mains service supplies and associated enabling works. This also ensured that when

the full building works starts, the main contractor has ownership and knowledge of the demolition works and ownership of the site risks.

A demolition application was submitted prior to the planning application for the main project.

All the disciplines and Consultants in Norse Consulting have the knowledge and experience to advise, design, and facilitate educational projects. Having the majority of the disciplines and Consultants 'in house' makes Norse Consulting best placed to support and communicate the process from RIBA Stage 1 – 6 to our Client.

KEY BENEFITS

The project has seen a number of positive outcomes, including:

- Delivery of a new SEMH school as part of NCC investment in SEN provision across the county. This is the first school for SEMH in the East of Norfolk.
- Brand new facility designed to fulfill the current SEN requirements as recommended by the Department for Education and published in the Building Bulletin 103. In addition, the scope of the works was modified and enhanced following discussion with our Client and the end user to be appropriate for the pupils needs.
- Energy reduction has been achieved from the array of PV on the roof of the main building.
- Thermal efficiency of the fabric and materials used in the extension and new build elements of the building. To match and exceed the requirements of the current Building Regulations.
- Upgrading the thermal efficiency of the retained buildings.

- Natural ventilation strategy generally.
- Use of MMC (Modern methods of construction) The Main New Build School incorporates structural steelwork and on-site Structural Framing System (SFS).
- The two storey dormitory accommodation are timber framed.

The project provided much needed spaces and amazing facilities for SEMH provision in Norfolk.



BURE PARK SCHOOL



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