MCS Science, Library & Partnerships Building
Consultation Round 2

In March 2025, Magdalen College School consulted on the School's proposal for a new Science, Library & Partnerships Building on their Senior School site.

Following this initial round of consultation, the School has been working with the Design Team to review the feedback and further develop the proposals.

This second round of consultation is intended to provide an update on the proposals, respond to points raised and offer you a further opportunity to feed back on the scheme, prior to the submission of a planning application.

1. Iffley Road elevation

The facade on Iffley Road presented several challenges: it is public-facing, creates a long elevation, and also borders the Iffley Road Conservation Area. It therefore needs to give a good first impression of the School, and be a good neighbour to a lot of different buildings and building typologies without being a pastiche or too bulky.

Brick detailing brings texture and variety to the elevation. The form of the windows, piers and window surrounds have been honed to bring a consistent proportion and greater harmony to the elevation as a whole, and it takes its cue from the adjacent 'Big School'. The repetition of a common window type is typical of collegiate buildings across the city.

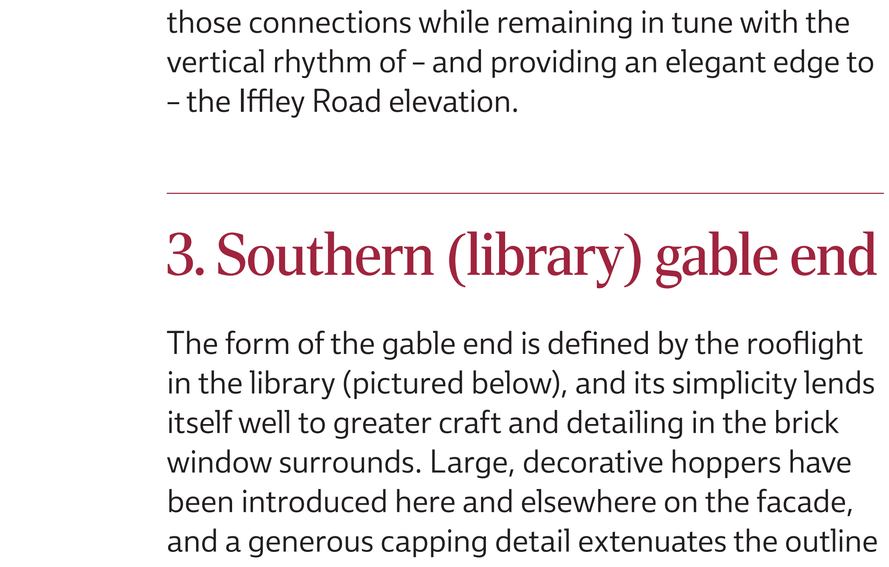
2. North corner and gable end

The form of the corner window was another challenge. The building is close to The Plain, which all surrounding buildings respond to, so a blank brick north facade would turn its back on The Plain and neighbouring Big School. The corner window creates those connections while remaining in tune with the vertical rhythm of – and providing an elegant edge to – the Iffley Road elevation.

3. Southern (library) gable end

The form of the gable end is defined by the rooflight in the library (pictured below), and its simplicity lends itself well to greater craft and detailing in the brick window surrounds. Large, decorative hoppers have been introduced here and elsewhere on the facade, and a generous capping detail extenuates the outline shape of the gable.

Decorative and textured brickwork has been experimented with on this facade, but keeping the elevation treatment consistent with the Iffley Road-facing elevation results in the block 'turning the corner' successfully.



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Internal elevations

Internal-facing elevation

The south-west elevation of the building faces towards the School's playground and Cowley Place beyond. The established brick materiality continues around this side of the building, as does the brick detailing, albeit in a subtler manner. A colonnade provides a regular rhythm to the facade, as well as solar shading, and allows for an external balcony at first-floor level.

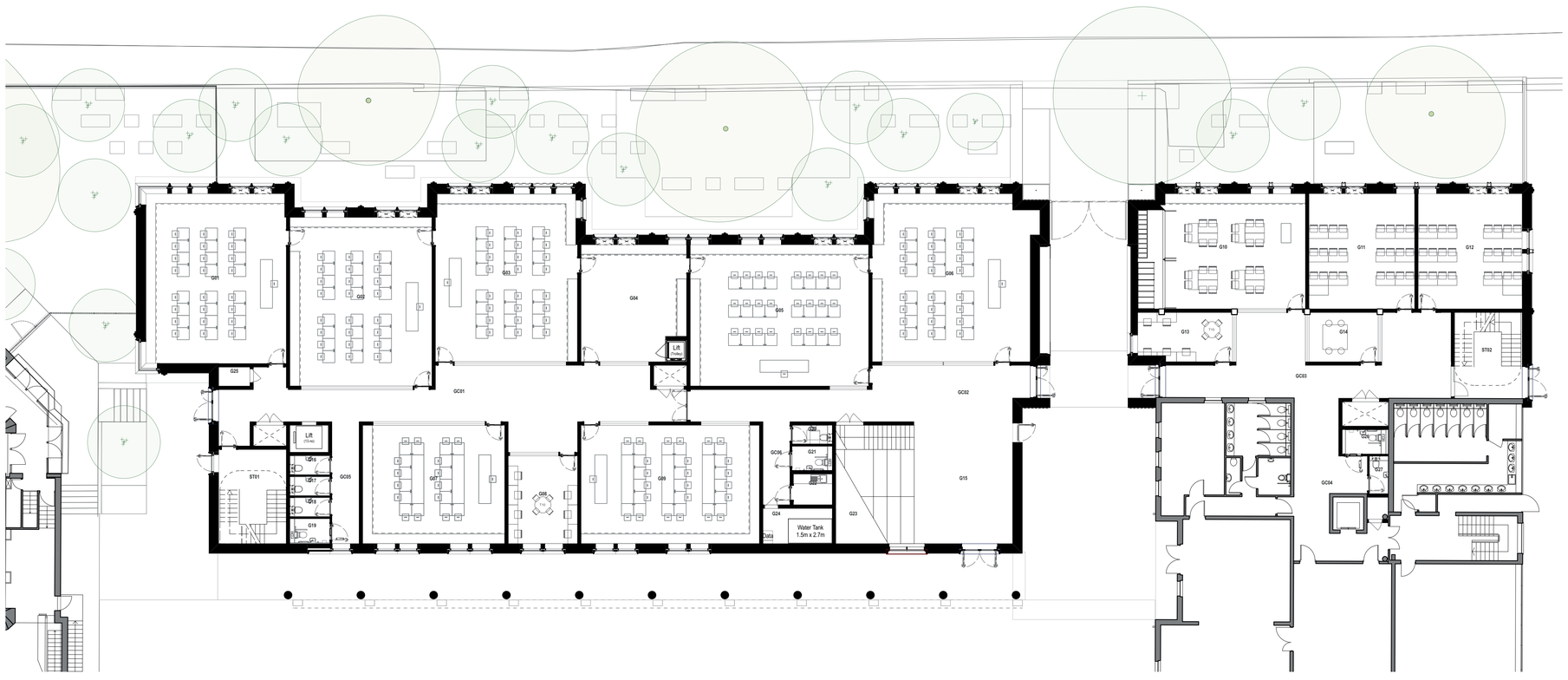
The building introduces additional planting to the courtyard. Climbing plants – wisteria and vines – will be planted and grow up and across the colonnade's columns and balcony.

Wisteria floribunda is selected for its long flower racemes, and crimson glory vines undergo a colour change in the autumn.

General arrangement

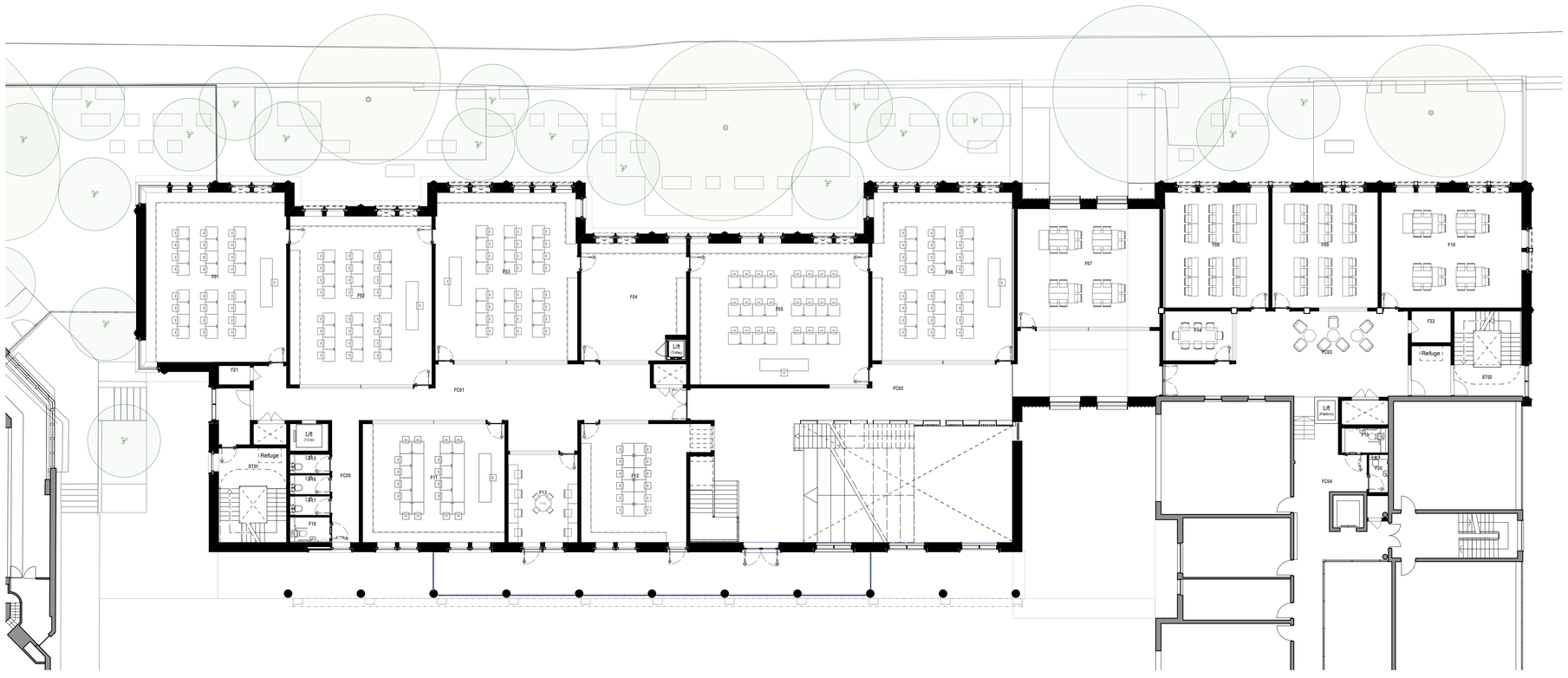
Ground floor arrangement

G01 Physics lab
G02 Physics lab
G03 Physics lab
G04 Physics lab
G05 Physics prep
G06 Partnership lab
G07 Physics lab
G08 Physics office
G09 Physics lab
G10 Robotics lab
G11 Computer science
G12 Computer science
G13 Senior office
G14 Tech office
G15 Atrium
G22 Tea point
G23 Atrium store
G24 Store
G25 Store



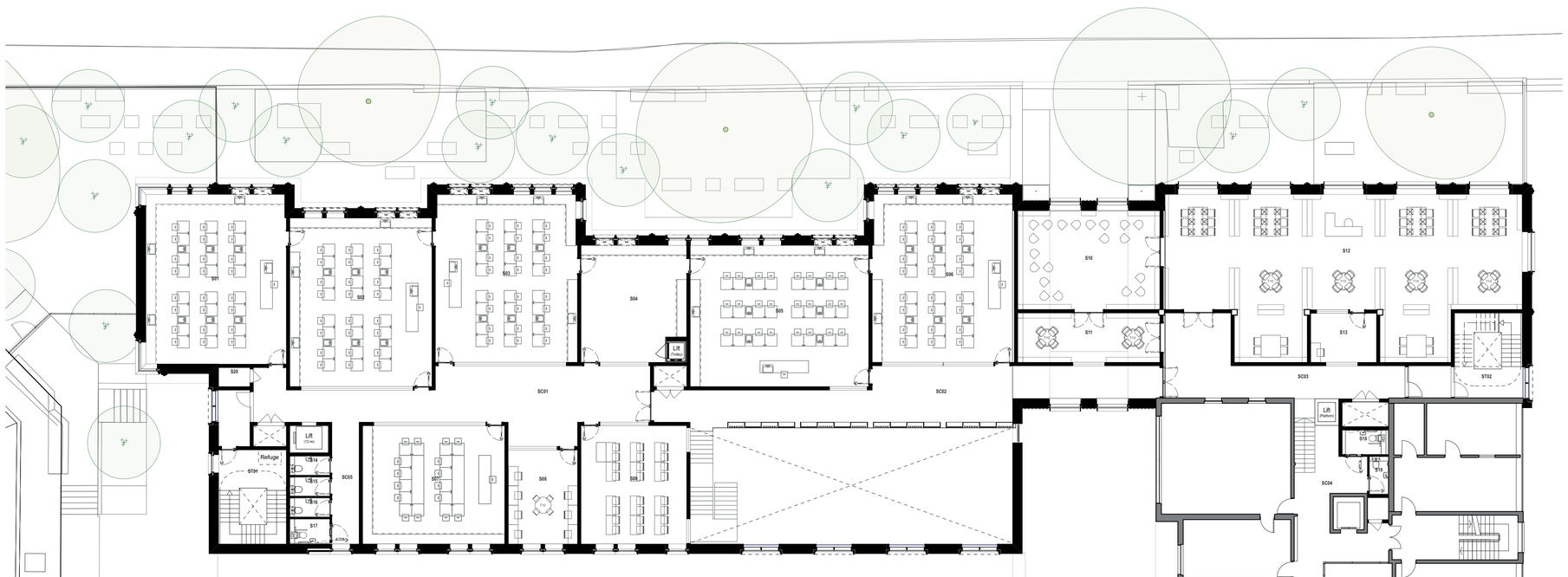
First floor arrangement

F01 Biology lab
F02 Biology lab
F03 Biology lab
F04 Biology prep
F05 Biology lab
F06 Biology lab
F07 General teaching
F08 General teaching
F09 General teaching
F10 General teaching
F11 Biology lab
F12 Waynflete lab
F13 Biology office
F14 Meeting room
F21 Store
F22 Store



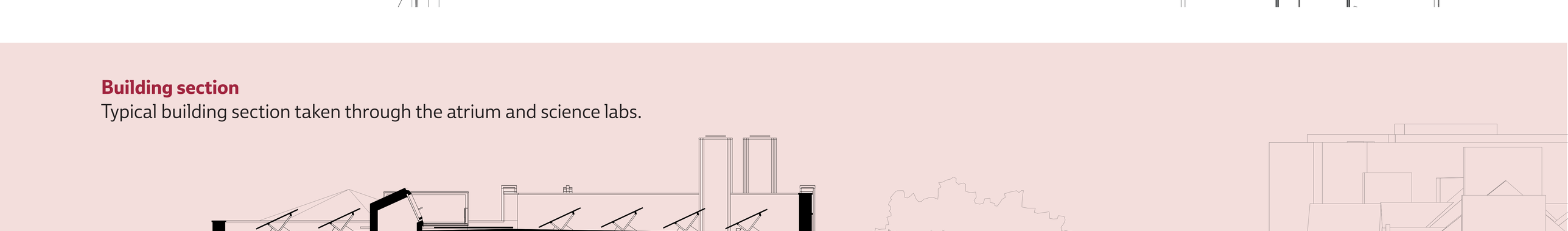
Second floor arrangement

S01 Chemistry lab
S02 Chemistry lab
S03 Chemistry lab
S04 Chemistry prep
S05 Chemistry lab
S06 Chemistry lab
S07 Chemistry lab
S08 Chemistry office
S09 General teaching
S10 Library reading room
S11 Library archive
S12 Main library
S13 Archivist office
S20 Store



Building section

Typical building section taken through the atrium and science labs.



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Construction Logistics

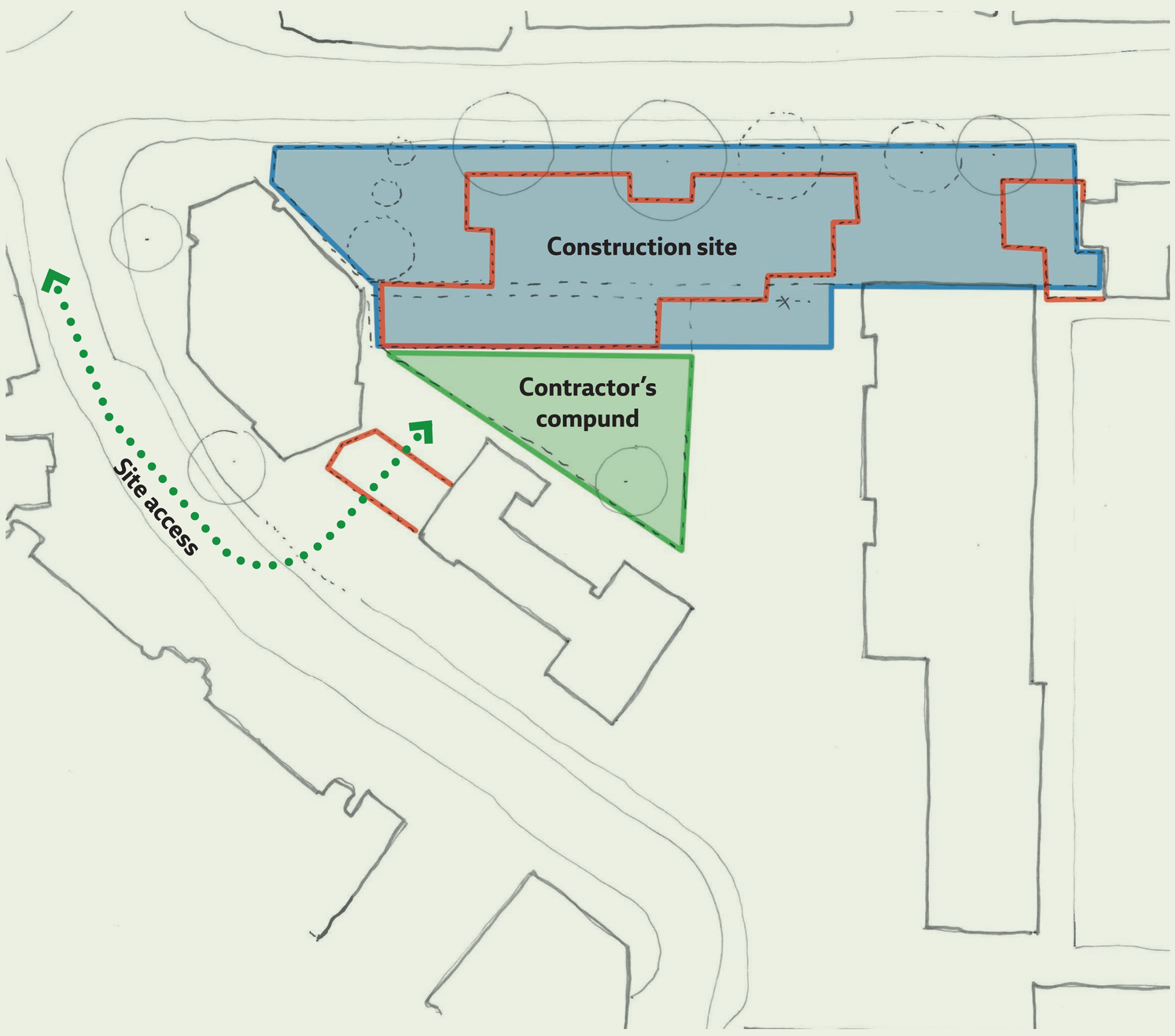
During Consultation Round 1, you asked how construction will be managed to minimise disruption to the operation of the School and its neighbours.

Minimising disruption during the construction phase is of upmost importance the School. It is committed to working with transport consultants, contractors and key stakeholders to ensure that all appropriate measures are in place to keep disturbance to a minimum.

Any future planning application for the proposed building will be accompanied by a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). This is a written document setting out how construction traffic will be managed to minimise impact on the local and strategic road network, the School and its neighbours.

At this stage, we anticipate the CTMP will include the following measures, though we welcome your feedback on these as well as any other suggestions you may have as part of this consultation:

- Contractors will access the construction site via a dedicated temporary route from Cowley Place (TBA with County Council)
- Construction deliveries will be minimised in the peak periods and avoid the School's drop-off and pick-up times. These arrangements will be communicated to suppliers and subcontractors during the procurement and lead-in periods
- Gatemen will be on hand to receive deliveries
- The contractor will arrange for deliveries to be made on a 'just in time' basis and use a delivery booking system to prevent multiple deliveries turning up at the same time
- Deliveries will be routed to and from St Clements via London Road and the A40
- Site working hours will be restricted to: 07:30 – 18:00 Monday – Friday, 08:00 – 13:00 Saturday and no work will take place on Sundays or Bank Holidays without prior written authority to the Local Planning Authority
- No contractor car parking on site.



Indicative Construction Site Layout

Thank you for engaging in this consultation process. There will be a further opportunity to feed back on the proposals once the planning application has been submitted.

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