

Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #913

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Wyre Forset School Consultation to Increase Pupil Numbers

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins

Name of Project Manager

Rachel Kiernan

Name of Project Lead

Louise Snape

Please give a brief description of the project

WCC and the Governing Body of Wyre Forest Special School wish to consult on a proposal to increase pupil numbers from 362 to 390 from September 2025.

Data Protection screening result

Does not need a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document. WCC and the Governing Body of Wyre Forest Special School intend to consult on a proposal to increase pupil numbers to 390 from September 2025.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

[□ DRAFT 2025 WFS Consultation - Proposal to Increase Pupil Numbers.docx](#)

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes. Consultation documents will be shared with all relevant stakeholders, as per the DfE Guidance 'Making Significant Changes (Prescribed Alterations) to Maintained Schools : Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, March 2025'.

Documents will be shared on both the WCC and Wyre Forest School website. Consultation documents will be made available in alternative formats, if requested by a stakeholder.

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve. If responses to the consultation are positive, the number of places at Wyre Forest Special School will be increased from 362 to 390 from September 2025.

The objective of this proposal is to provide additional Special School places in Worcestershire to manage demand. The additional places will be of good quality and in a school which is popular with parents. The additional places will improve educational outcomes for children that require Special School places and who are currently in alternative education provision.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

Yes

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Childrens Services

Service Area

Education, Early Years & Inclusion

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

July 2025

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)? Yes

Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing the assessment.

Have you undertaken an assessment of the project to know if there will likely be an increase in GHG emissions? No

3 Resources

Will the project result in increased consumption of electricity, gas or other heating fuels? No

e.g. project may require use of additional buildings, lighting and heating in buildings, additional ICT equipment, etc.

Will the project reduce energy needs and result in reduced consumption? No

e.g. disposal of WCC property assets

Will the project require additional water resources leading to an increase in water consumption? No

e.g. increased use of water through construction processes

Might there be a decrease in water consumption? No

e.g. will the project involve water saving measures or initiatives

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? No

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

4 Transport

Will the project result in more people needing to travel? Yes

e.g. will there be additional cars on the road

Please explain your answer below:

Due to the special needs and disabilities of pupils attending Wyre Forest Special School, many pupils have to be transported there. However, , wherever possible, several pupils will be transported in one vehicle, in order to reduce the number of individual pupil journeys.

Have alternative transport modes been considered? Yes

e.g. could use be made of public transport/walking/cycling etc.

Please explain your answer below:

WCC and Wyre Forest School consider and promote alternative transport modes. As stated above, several pupils will b transported in one vehicle, to reduce the number of individual pupil journeys.

5 Waste

Is there likely to be an increase in waste as a result of the project? No

e.g. construction waste, packaging waste etc.

Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? No

e.g. will recycling facilities be available as part of the project

6 Wildlife and Biodiversity

Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? No

e.g. will the project involve removal of green space/trees; have wildlife surveys been considered; result in enhancements to green infrastructure; increased biodiversity opportunities etc.?

Has a preliminary ecological appraisal been undertaken? No

Has there been consideration of statutory assessments? No

e.g. Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening?

N.B. This is a matter of legal compliance - All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration – typically referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment screening' – should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects.

7 Pollution to land/air/water

Is there a risk of pollution to the local environment? No

e.g.

- will there be surface water run-off or discharge into local water source?
- will there be any impact on local water quality?
- will any waste water require treatment?
- is there the potential for spillage of chemicals?
- is there the potential for emissions to air from combustion processes resulting in poor air quality?

8 Resilience to climate risks

Could climate risks affect your project? No

N.B. some projects may be more sensitive to future changes in the climate e.g. hotter and drier summers; milder and wetter winters; increased likelihood of extreme weather events. These climate risks may affect project delivery and should be considered at the early stages of project development.

Has the impact of extreme weather events on the project been considered? No

e.g. heat waves and flooding.

Is there a business/project continuity plan in place to ensure climate risks are minimised? No

e.g. can you ensure that the project is resilient to climate risks and can continue to deliver on outcomes.

Could the project exacerbate climate risks? No

e.g. increase flood risk or worsen temperature extremes in the locality.

9 Historic Environment

Have you checked with the WCC Historic Environment team as to whether there are any impacts on the Historic Environment (negative or positive)?

No

Check every development with the Historic Environment Team at the planning stage of each project. Further assessment may be required depending on the nature and scale of development. There may also be design options that would negate any need for further assessment (and lessen costs), or even opportunities to enhance heritage assets or their setting through the development.

Does the development have the potential to result in any impacts to the historic environment or opportunities for enhancement?

No

If yes, then further assessment will be required. This could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks if the potential is clearly understood and relatively low, or a more comprehensive desk-based and/or field investigation prior to development.

10 Procurement

Could any procurement associated with the project have a detrimental environmental impact? No

e.g. procurement of goods from overseas that have to be shipped; use of unsustainable materials or materials that cannot be recycled at the end of their use?

Is there likely to be increased Greenhouse Gas emissions from products purchased for the project? No

e.g. carbon emissions from transport and manufacturing

Will you be able to make use of sustainable products? No

e.g. recycled, local, ethical etc.

Have you considered the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012? No

All major contracts let by the Council (those of more than £100,000 in total value) will be expected to deliver a meaningful contribution to our vision of Social Value in the county. The Act requires us to consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

– please see: [Social Value](#)

11 Declaration

I have confirmed that to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I have confirmed that I will make sure that Environmental Sustainability has been and continues to be considered throughout the project life cycle and should circumstances change in the project a further Environmental Sustainability Assessment Screening will be carried out.

12 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

19/08/2025 16:14:50

Screening Submitted Date Time

01/07/2025 10:08:35

Last Reopened Date Time

15/08/2025 14:11:49

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

15/08/2025 14:15:15

Approved/Rejected Date Time

19/08/2025 16:14:50

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

13.0 People with access to the original screening

[Louise Snape \(LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk)

13.1 People with access to this environmental sustainability assessment

[Louise Snape \(LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk)

14 Direct Questions

Question:

Many thanks for submitting the Environmental Sustainability FIA. Please note the following comments. Your responses are required via the FIA dashboard before we can approve completion of the FIA.

Under the Joint Impact Assessment, and within the WFS consultation document, it is identified that there may be an increase in travel associated with the increase in pupil numbers. The answer to Q2 (GHG Emissions) and Q4 therefore, I believe, should be 'Yes' in this instance. A note can be added to Q4 that alternative transport modes are considered and promoted by the school, as per the consultation document.

Regarding Q6 - has it been established that moving the two mobile classrooms will not have any impacts on wildlife and biodiversity?

Kind regards,

Katie Bruton
Sustainability Team

Asked by Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 02/07/2025 13:42:17

Louise Snape (LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Response:

A full feasibility study was completed for this project and planning permission obtained from Wyre Forest District Council. Please note the following comments from WFDC's Planning Department:-

Trees / Ecology -

The temporary nature of the structure, on predominantly hard-standing land negates the need for biodiversity net gain requirements. The trees currently present on the small grass area will be re-sited, and plans for re-instatement have been

Keep it Green, Keep it on the Screen

suggested once the structures are removed.

Drainage / Flood Risk -

A drainage condition has not been deemed necessary, due to the temporary siting of the classrooms. For any future permanent expansions of the school, sustainable drainage systems should be included.

Other Matters

It is noted that the removal of the cabins from the current site on St John's Primary School will create an expanded social space, which will mitigate the temporary loss of Campus Square.

A condition will be added to ensure that the portacabins are removed from site at the end of the two-year approval period.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

The proposed development would achieve a high-quality design, and there would be no adverse impacts on highway safety, drainage, ecology or on the amenities of existing occupiers of neighbouring properties. I therefore consider that the proposed development would accord with relevant local and national planning policy.

[WFS Planning Application 997567.pdf](#)

Louise Snape (LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 04/07/2025 09:01:37

Response:

Many thanks for this response regarding there being no ecology impacts expected from the proposed project.

Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 07/07/2025 10:25:40

Add Response

Question:

Thank you for the response regarding Q6. Please note a response is required to the following before we can approve completion of the FIA:

Under the Joint Impact Assessment, and within the WFS consultation document, it is identified that there may be an increase in travel associated with the increase in pupil numbers. The answer to Q2 (GHG Emissions) and Q4 therefore, I believe, should be 'Yes' in this instance. A note can be added to Q4 that alternative transport modes are considered and promoted by the school, as per the consultation document.

Asked by Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 07/07/2025 10:27:35

Louise Snape (LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Response:

Due to the special needs and disabilities of pupils attending Wyre Forest Special School, many are transported there. However, alternative transport modes are considered and promoted by the school. Furthermore, wherever possible, multiple pupils are transported in one vehicle, in order to reduce the number of individual pupil journeys.

Louise Snape (LSnape@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 15/08/2025 14:10:38

Add Response