

Droxford Junior School

HCC Survey of the Grounds and potential projects

1a—Natural Corridor Area

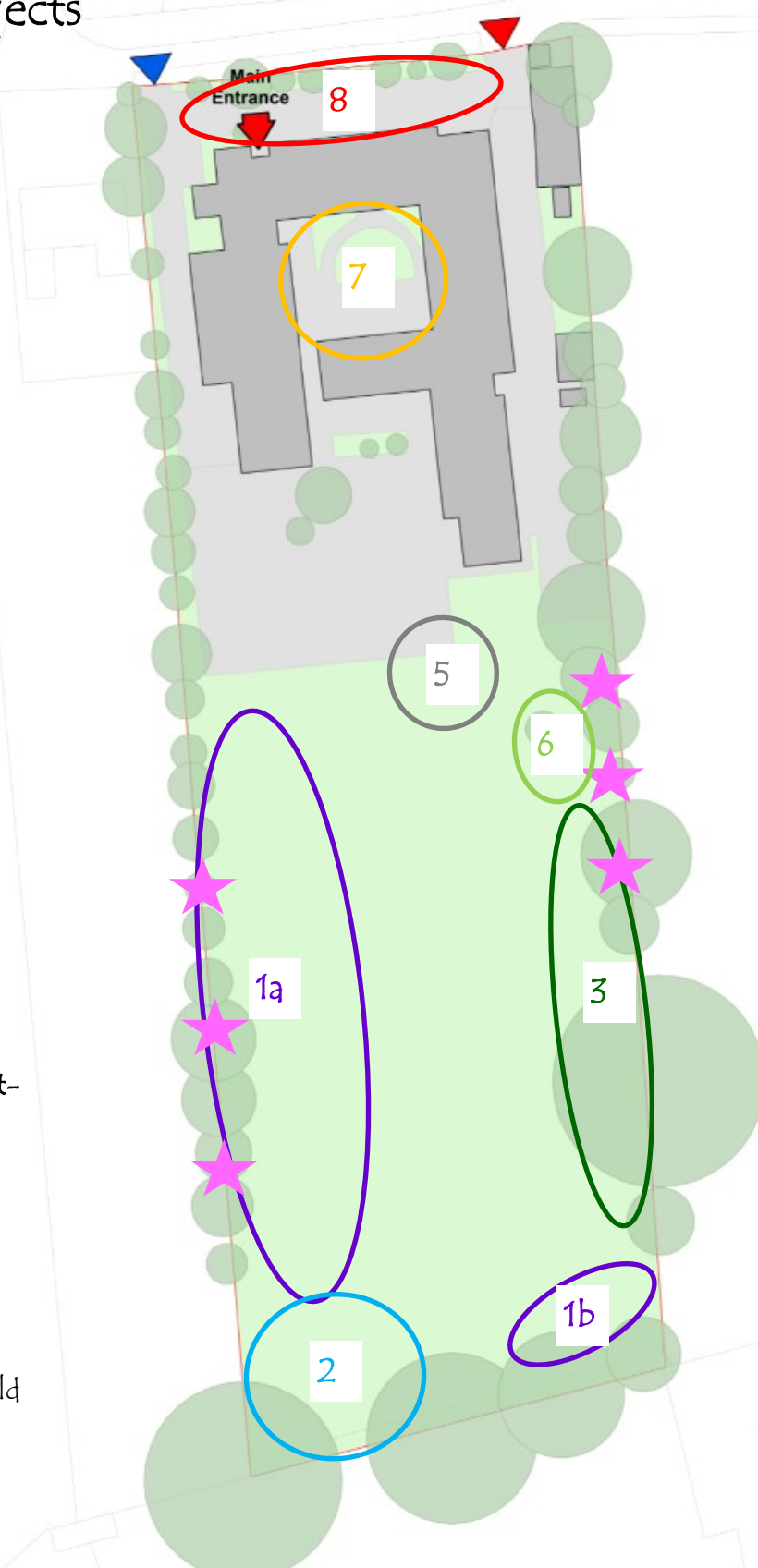
- **Current boundary** is made up of Horse Chestnut, Cherry, Hawthorn and Field Maple.
- **New planting** to be created using native species of all sizes to create layers of vegetation for interest and wildlife value. Species to use could include early colonisers to encourage insects eg; blossoming trees such as cherry, silver birch, alder, field maple and buddleia.
- Design of the area to have a scalloped edge, and include Activity points along a designated pathway route to show pupils and visitors what to look for where and why.

1b—Additional boundary planting adjacent to Natural Play Area

- Additional scalloped native planting as above with the inclusion of bluebells and daffodils.
- Are could also include natural tee-pees as break out spaces for the children to sit and talk (adjacent to the Natural Play Area). Tee-pees to be created using natural branches and sweet chestnuts posts with planting of runner beans, sweet peas, climbing squash to intertwine nature and nurture within the area.

2—New Environmental Learning Base

- Area to be used by the whole school, plus visiting schools as a base for outdoor learning.
- **Potential projects** within this area could include; creation of log piles and bug hotels, creation of a designated firepit space, installation of a bee hive to home wild bees, re-installation of the former clear boundary to the space by including hedgerow planting to teach traditional hedge laying.
- Embrace the wild qualities of the space by allowing the nettles to grow, wild strawberries to thrive, and daisies and dandelions to flourish encouraging fly-life in the area.
- **Explore foraging projects** within this area to explain further uses of the plant life in the area eg—elderflower lemonade/cordial/jellies, nettles made into soup, beech sapling leaves and hawthorn leaves enjoyed as salad, and nettles dried and turned into cordage.



3—Den Building Area

- Include additional sweet chestnut posts to use as bases for den building construction.

★ 4a and 4b—Wildlife box installation

- Trail cameras to be located on trees to watch potential movement of hedgerows, foxes and badgers within the grounds at night and out of hours.
- Potential project to create bird boxes suitable for owls and kestrels in which to also install cameras with a live feed to watch nesting activity.

5—Amphitheatre area

- Area to be clearly defined along the playground edge by the inclusion of a natural wooden arbour along which could be grown climbing hops to dry and use later in the year.
- Mass sensory planting of lavender to surround the pathway to the space to help create a calm and tranquil transition on to the field space.

6—Sewage Tank Area

- Additional natural planting to supplement existing evergreen planting which is along one side to create additional screening and include more biodiversity within the grounds. Planting could include; honeysuckle, roses, hops, buddleia, climbing squash, sweet peas, runner beans and tomato plants.
- Additional climbing planting (as above) could also be added to the sides of all sheds.

7—Courtyard

- Current ornamental planting in the courtyard to be cleared and tidied up. Additional low maintenance planting to encourage further wildlife to be included.

8—Frontage to the School

- Failing cherry trees to be removed and replaced with similar early coloniser encouraging species. Eg—planting to encourage bees within the area to accelerate pollination.