

Seething & Mundham Primary - Case Study



"This has been a long and complex project (Norfolk Schools).... It is fantastic to see Seething and Mundham Primary School complete the programme. The school desperately needed these new facilities and I know the children are already benefiting from their transformed school."

Alison Thomas – Cabinet Member Childrens Services, Norfolk County Council.

"We are thrilled and relieved to have moved out of our mobile classrooms and into our state-of-the-art school...our children are already reaping the rewards of the new buildings and are making good use of their new adventure playground and school hall."

Diane Appleby – Head Teacher, Seething & Mundham Primary School

Project Sheet

Lead Designer
Michael Spicer at NPS

Principal Constructor
Mansell Construction Services Ltd.

Client
Norfolk County Council
Childrens Services

Construction Cost
£1.4 million

Construction Programme
July 2009 – July 2010

Seething & Mundham Primary School was designed in response to the Norfolk Schools capital development programme, which emerged from the failed **Norfolk Schools PFI** scheme. However, the previous design and siting were not favoured by the planning authority and so **NPS** were tasked with reviewing and redesigning the project.

The existing Victorian village school building was released in a land swap and no longer forms part of the school site.

The location is in partially wooded countryside on the edge of the Conservation village of Seething. A new pedestrian access point was provided from The Green, and a new vehicle entrance from the main road, but 'drop-off' arrangements, including an informal one way system on the narrow School Road, will continue.

The resulting school building comprises some 589m² (GIA) of teaching and administration space, including circulation and accommodates up to 90 children, plus teaching and support staff.

The site was very constrained and substantial programme and construction difficulties were overcome including the discovery of "Great crested newts" and the relocation of mobile classrooms to enable the existing school to function until the new building was completed.

The class bases are of almost square plan, and despite any shading effect from surrounding trees,

achieve good penetration of daylight into the deeper areas of the rooms without artificial light.

Project budget and other constraints eliminated the consideration of other renewable technologies or rain/waste water recovery systems for the development. It was also desirable to limit the number of different technologies in any one location, to avoid over-complicating operational familiarity and future maintenance.

Installation included:

- LPG fired boiler plant and hot water service generation
- Heat recovery toilet and internal area ventilation systems
- Energy efficient and rurally sympathetic external lighting
- Natural ventilation by automated opening lights
- Automatic light level and occupancy sensitive lighting
- Educational demonstration level solar PV panel array.

The school achieved a regional **LABC "Best Educational Building"** award in 2011



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