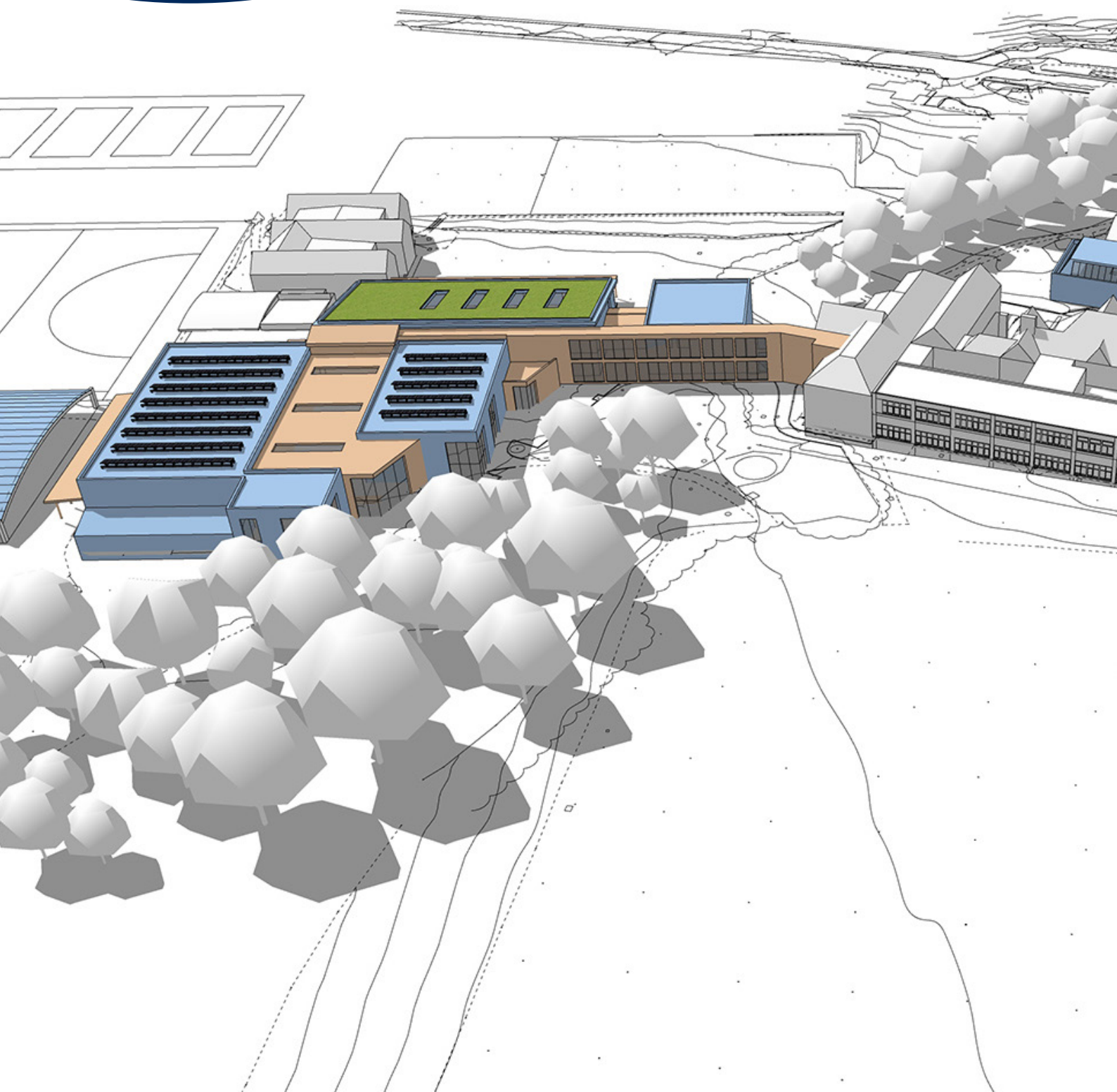


Education Sector Services



“DLP has an established track record of successfully delivering projects across Universities, and Higher and Further Education Institutions, as well as primary and secondary schools. We understand that investment in education is key to the success of thriving communities at all levels.”

Michael Edgar BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI,
Director, DLP Planning Limited



DLP offers expertise across projects of all scales, from small asset management initiatives—such as improving building efficiency through plant and machinery upgrades—to large-scale projects, like the development of new university campuses and schools with specialised educational facilities.

In addition to securing planning permission for new facilities, we also guide the creation of positive planning policies that benefit your estate. This not only supports operational needs but can enhance asset value, secure future development sites, and facilitate the delivery of your educational goals. We also have experience through our Cass Design team of masterplanning education sites, landscaping masterplanning sites and the delivery of new facilities or expanded schools.

We provide a comprehensive town planning and development consultancy service, working within an established framework or as part of a dedicated Design Team, tailored to meet the specific needs of your project.

For further details on how DLP can assist with your schemes or queries, please contact our Education Team at: education@dlpconsultants.co.uk or visit www.dlpconsultants.co.uk

we deliver plans for the future



Our Services

DLP's team has extensive experience in providing planning advice and managing applications for a wide range of education sector clients, including Local Education Authorities, Academy Schools, Further Education Colleges, and Universities.

We offer guidance on how Local Planning Authorities operate, the challenges of development projects, and how proposals comply with national legislation, policy, and local development plans.

Our services include:

- Land and Development Appraisals
- Pre-application Advice
- Planning Applications (including Planning Permission, Conservation Area Consent, and Listed Building Consent)
- Development Promotion and Management
- Local Plan Representation & Examination
- Planning Appeals and Expert Witness Services
- Planning Statements
- S106 Agreements, CIL, and Planning Conditions Advice
- Heritage Statements
- Health Impact Assessments
- Sequential Testing & Sustainability Appraisals
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessments
- Environmental Statements
- Design and Access Statements
- Community Engagement and Statements of Community Involvement
- Negotiations with Local Planning Authorities
- Grey Belt Assessments of Green Belt site(s) in accordance with National Planning Practice Guidance and National Planning Policy Framework

These services can be provided within a structured framework or tailored to specific project needs.



Case Studies

New University Campus

DLP submitted a planning application on behalf of The University of Sheffield for Factory 2050, located on the former Sheffield Airport site. The application was successfully determined within the 13-week period, and the development was completed in December 2015 alongside a Press Facility in an adjoining annex building.

The £43m research facility was designed to support the future needs of aerospace and other high-value manufacturing industries. The 6,730m² industrial research base is the UK's first fully reconfigurable assembly and component manufacturing facility, housing approximately 75 research staff.

Factory 2050 serves as the anchor for the University of Sheffield Innovation District. DLP played a key role in securing outline planning permission for the £400m Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and Engineering Campus (AMRC), spanning 18.6ha of land adjacent to Factory 2050. The proposal received unanimous support from Sheffield City Council. The outline application required an Environmental Statement, which DLP scoped and managed, justifying the release of Green Belt land for development. We continue to advise on further development opportunities and translational research investments in the area.



Astrea Academy, Sheffield

DLP secured full planning permission and Listed Building Consent on behalf of Sheffield City Council for a new all-through school (ages 3–18) at Andover Street, Sheffield. It involved refurbishing the vacant Grade II Listed Pye Bank School to accommodate nursery and reception years, while carefully preserving its historic character. The development also included street closures and reconfiguration of public rights of way, with consideration given to long-distance views from the city centre. The project addressed local demand for school places, provided shared outdoor spaces for community use, and established the school as a key local employer and neighbourhood asset.



Dargavel Primary Schools, Bishopton

DLP and Cass masterplanning identified a need to integrate two primary schools at optimum locations to serve new catchments formed by the housing development at Dargavel Village. The first Primary school has been built by the landowner and lead developer (BAE Systems). DLP provided planning and landscape design support for this school, ensuring that it was a highly sustainable development in its own right and linked, in ways that emphasise and promote sustainable travel, to the neighbourhood which will deliver over 4,300 new homes.



The Axis Academy, Crewe

DLP, acting on behalf of Race Cottam Associates and Henry Boot Construction Ltd, prepared the Planning Statement and Statement of Community Involvement for The Axis Academy, a SEND school in Crewe.

Designed for 68 students aged 4–18, the application involved significant pre-application engagement with the Local Planning Authority, Ward Councillors, the local community, and Sport England. Feedback informed design improvements, enhancing quality compared to the former Lodgefield County Primary School, which previously occupied the site.

The development repurposed previously developed land and promoted sustainable transport options for students and staff. We successfully demonstrated that the facility would contribute to local social well-being without adverse effects on residential amenities. Planning permission was secured in August 2019, and the school opened in September 2020.



Image provided courtesy of Race Cottam Associates

Holly Lodge Girls' College, Liverpool

Cass delivered masterplanning and landscape architectural services for Holly Lodge Girls' College's expansion under the Liverpool Schools Investment Programme. The Emmeline Pankhurst Building houses humanities, music, drama, an activity hall, atrium, and café. Sports facilities include natural turf pitches, a floodlit synthetic pitch, and a separate public entrance enabling community access after hours. Completed ahead of schedule and under budget, the project provided high-quality, functional spaces within financial constraints. It was praised by stakeholders, including the headteacher and city council, for its modern design, value for money, and support for both educational and wider community needs.



St Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool

Cass delivered masterplanning and landscape architectural services for St Francis Xavier's College's refurbishment and expansion under Liverpool's £169m School Investment Programme. The scheme included a new three-storey science block with six labs, a music suite, and a sports complex. The sports hall accommodates various indoor sports and features an electronic scoreboard and Wi-Fi-connected screen. Outdoor facilities include a floodlit, covered multi-use games area and 10ha of pitches with a cricket square and four football fields. Relocating the entrance to Woolton Hill Road improved safety and access. The project created a modern, functional, and high-quality learning environment.



West Oaks School, Headingley, Leeds

DLP, commissioned by Henry Boot Construction Ltd, secured planning permission and Listed Building Consent to convert the former Rose Court Nursery into a Special Educational Needs (SEN) school for Leeds City Council. Working with Henry Boot, Leeds Local Education Partnership, and NPS Architects, the project restored the Grade II Listed building while adding staff parking, a football pitch, MUGA, and enhanced access and landscaping. The 2,800m² building received major upgrades, including new heating and insulation, while preserving historic features like lime plaster, sash windows, and corncicing. The school opened in September 2022 as part of the West Oaks Specialist School and College initiative.



Dixons Trinity Academy, Leopold Street, Leeds

DLP was appointed by Willmott Dixon to secure planning permission for a new through-school academy, responding to urgent educational need and tight deadlines. Within two months, DLP led pre-application discussions and submitted the application. The site, split by a busy arterial road, posed challenges including open space replacement, a secure bridge over the highway, and traffic-calming measures. DLP coordinated a multi-disciplinary team and addressed concerns from residents and Ward Councillors. After extensive engagement the scheme was approved subject to a legal agreement. The academy is now fully operational.

Image provided courtesy of Faulkner Browns Architects

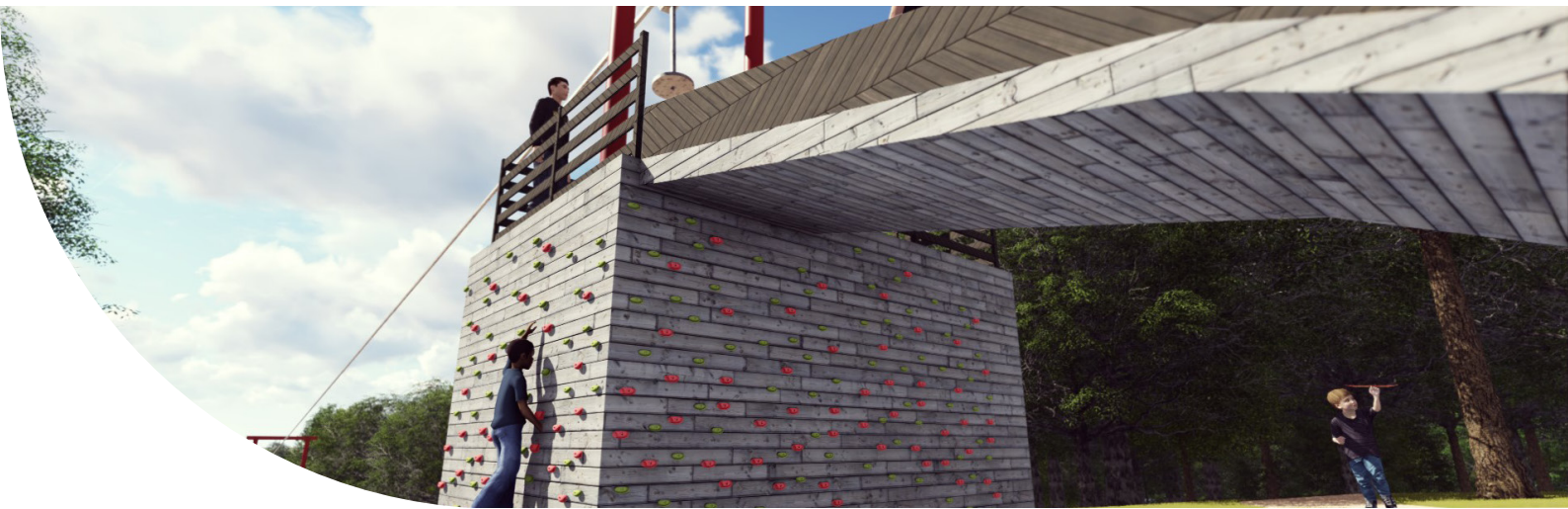


Portland College, Mansfield

DLP secured full planning permission and pre-commencement condition discharge for the development of a Woodland Activity Centre at Portland College, Mansfield.

Portland College is a leading specialist college which works with disabled people to develop their employability, independence and communication skills – and with employers to create an inclusive workforce and support business growth.

The Woodland Activity Centre was designed to make optimal use of the varied levels across the site, including a 100-metre zipline with a climbing wall, a gravity bike trail, an adventure trail and areas for sensory and group activities. All of the proposed facilities have been designed to be accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair users, and will also be available free of charge to local primary schools and other groups.



University Technical College, Doncaster

DLP secured planning permission on behalf of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council for a new University Technical College (UTC), specialising in technical and scientific subjects.

Designed to accommodate 750 students aged 13–19, the UTC collaborates with the AMRC Training Centre, The University of Sheffield, and local industry partners to equip students for careers in industry. DLP guided the application through pre-application discussions, coordinated the project team, and prepared planning documents, leading to submission in July 2019.

Post-submission, we worked closely with transport consultants to resolve highway safety concerns. The planning application was determined ahead of schedule, enabling construction to start immediately. The college has been operational since September 2020.

Image provided courtesy of Faulkner Browns Architects



Image provided courtesy of Faulkner Browns Architects



The Heartspace and Sir Frederick Mappin Building, Sheffield

DLP submitted an application for planning permission and Listed Building Consent on behalf of the University of Sheffield for the demolition of workshops and laboratories, alterations, improvements, and repairs to the Sir Frederick Mappin Building, and the erection of a glazed atrium to provide academic and administrative space.

The Mappin Building (Grade II Listed) is situated within the St. George's Quarter of Sheffield City Centre, adjacent to the Grade II Listed St. George's Church.

We played a key role in negotiating with the Council to ensure a viable development that respected heritage value while supporting investment in the engineering faculty. Full planning permission and Listed Building Consent were granted with unanimous support from Council Members. The scheme's public benefits, along with functional and aesthetic improvements, aligned with local and national planning policy. The development is now complete and fully operational.



Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill

DLP obtained planning permission to convert a former school into four apartments and build four new homes on land owned by Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill. The Victorian-era building, a non-designated heritage asset, had been extended over time for school use. The site was constrained by proximity to a listed church, protected trees, and Green Belt land. DLP provided planning advice on a sensitive scheme that respected the site's character while addressing policy challenges. After residents raised overlooking concerns, DLP advised design changes to mitigate impacts. With modifications, the Head of Planning approved the scheme under delegated powers. The sale funded school improvements and delivered a high-quality residential development.



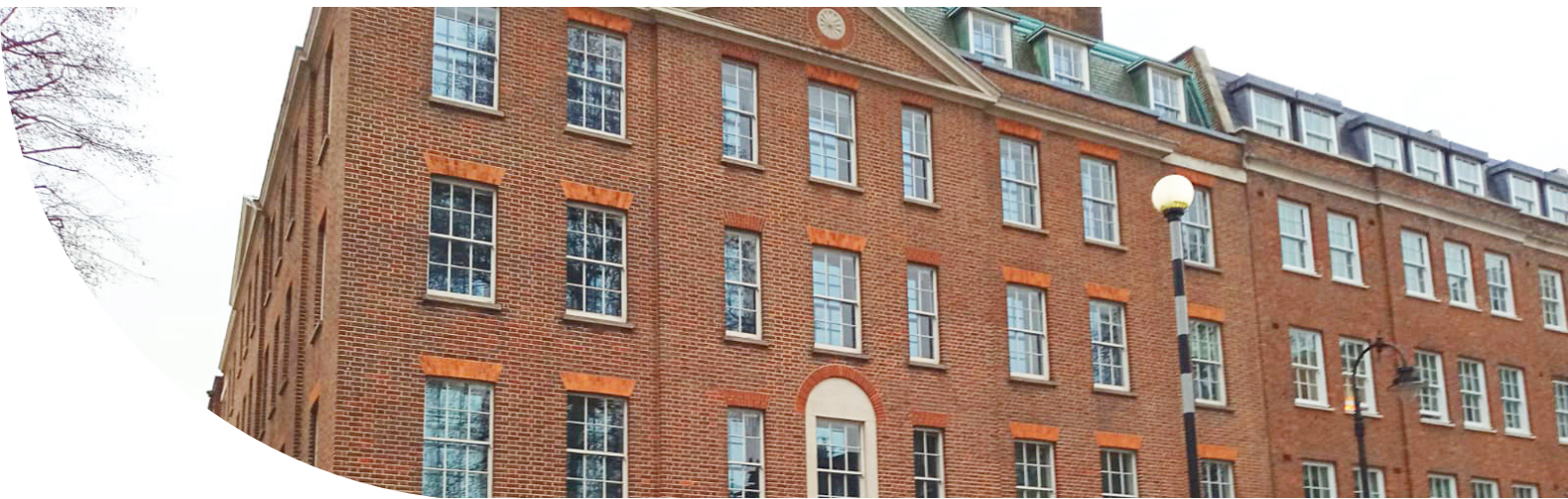
Withernsea Primary School, East Yorkshire

DLP, instructed by Henry Boot Construction for the Department for Education, provided planning advice for the redevelopment of Withernsea Primary School. The scheme proposed demolition of the existing school and construction of a two-storey 'Early Years and Infant' block. Working alongside Humble Heritage Ltd, DLP prepared a detailed Planning and Heritage Statement and engaged with Local Planning Authority officers. Despite initial objections from the Conservation Officer, DLP successfully demonstrated that retaining the most historically significant elements, while delivering a modern facility, would result in substantial public benefit. Planning permission was granted, and the new school building is now complete and operational, delivering improved learning environments for pupils and staff.



Hult International Business School, Camden

DLP submitted a full planning application to retain dual flexible use at Hult House, Camden, permitting both office use (Class E) and educational/non-residential institutional use (Class F1). The original 2011 consent included a ten-year expiration clause. DLP provided strategic planning advice throughout, prepared the Planning Statement, and led the renewal process. The application was supported by a Travel Plan, Services Management Plan, and Business and Community Support Plan. It was approved by the Planning Committee. DLP continued to assist with the Section 106 agreement and the discharge of planning conditions, helping to ensure a smooth, coordinated approval process and maintain the site's flexibility for future operational needs.



Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, Sheffield

DLP secured planning permission for a new educational building, café, shop, and expanded car parking at the Grade II Listed Whirlow Hall Farm, situated within a Conservation Area and the Green Belt. The development improves access to agricultural education for children at risk of exclusion, those with additional educational needs, and students involved in residential learning. Although the proposals were classed as inappropriate development in the Green Belt, DLP successfully demonstrated that the social, educational, and environmental benefits represented very special circumstances. Planning permission was granted, and the new facilities have since proven to be a great success, significantly enhancing the farm's educational offering and community value.





Recent Clients

Bedfordshire Charitable Trust
Department for Education
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Henry Boot Construction
Hult International Business School
Kier North West with Liverpool City Council
Liverpool John Moores University
London School of Science & Technology
Mount St Mary's College
Race Cottam Associates
Robertson Construction
Sheffield City Council
Sheffield College
Sheffield Hallam University
Sidcot School
University of Liverpool
University of Sheffield
Warrington Borough Council
Willmott Dixon



For more information please email the Education Sector Team:
education@dlpconsultants.co.uk or visit www.dlpconsultants.co.uk





“DLP is committed to delivering innovative and sustainable solutions for complex planning projects. Our skill in navigating education, and mixed-use developments with training or education uses included, ensures successful outcomes for our clients and communities.”

Laura Holland, MRTPI, Associate Director, DLP Planning Limited



**Planning Research & Analysis
Transport & Infrastructure
Architecture & Masterplanning
Energy & Sustainability Services**

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education@dlpconsultants.co.uk or visit www.dlpconsultants.co.uk

A plain text version is available on request