Fauquier High School

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Colleen Robson, Assistant Principal **Kraig Kelican, Principal** **Diana Story, Assistant Principal**
James B. Raines, Assistant Principal

This mission statement of Fauquier County Public Schools is: "**Fauquier County Public Schools, an innovative learning community, is committed to developing creative, confident, and knowledgeable citizens who are globally competitive by cultivating the potential of each learner."**

To further that mission, the Agriculture Department of Fauquier High School (FHS) proposes to turn areas of the campus that are designated for agricultural use into a working farm. In the animal mechanical and science area. This includes, but is not limited to, construction of a pole barn for equipment and animals, additional fencing and areas for livestock/ small animals with electricity and water to the area. (See approx. location on site map figure#1.)

For our plant science areas, we will expand our community garden across from the cafeteria and in the FFA field to include production for larger and perennial crops. We will continue to provide fresh vegetables to our cafeteria and our community. We will add a small fruit production area on the side hill east of the horticulture building on the grassy slope (see site map purple outlined area). This area will include the creation of small fruit areas (blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, and potentially grapes, as well as fruit trees, apples, peaches etc.). For the last 2 years of horticulture surveys, students picked small fruits as the #1 thing they wanted to learn about. To the right of the small fruit area, we will forest mulch the invasive trees in the area and use it for our landscape & nursery production area. Here we will grow trees and shrubs to use and sell (in the blue outlined area). On the east side of the greenhouse, we propose to eliminate the stand of white pines (yellow outlined area) on the slope by the greenhouse. These trees are a potential hazard (white pine is a weak-wooded tree) and block sunlight from reaching the greenhouse. Nothing is planned for this area at this time. We also will provide a water source to the small fruit/landscape tree hillside area.

We plan to create intern positions over the summer months to maintain and take care of these new facilities. This would be taken care of by students during the school year as part of instruction following our hands-on model of Ag Education

The benefit to our community and students will be immeasurable. Each programming area will be enhanced by these facility improvements. We also hope to increase certification training to make our students' more workplace ready.

Currently we have no plans to use tax dollars to make these improvements. We will raise the money through other sources. Thank you for your consideration of our requests and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Susan Hilleary
Agriculture teacher FHS

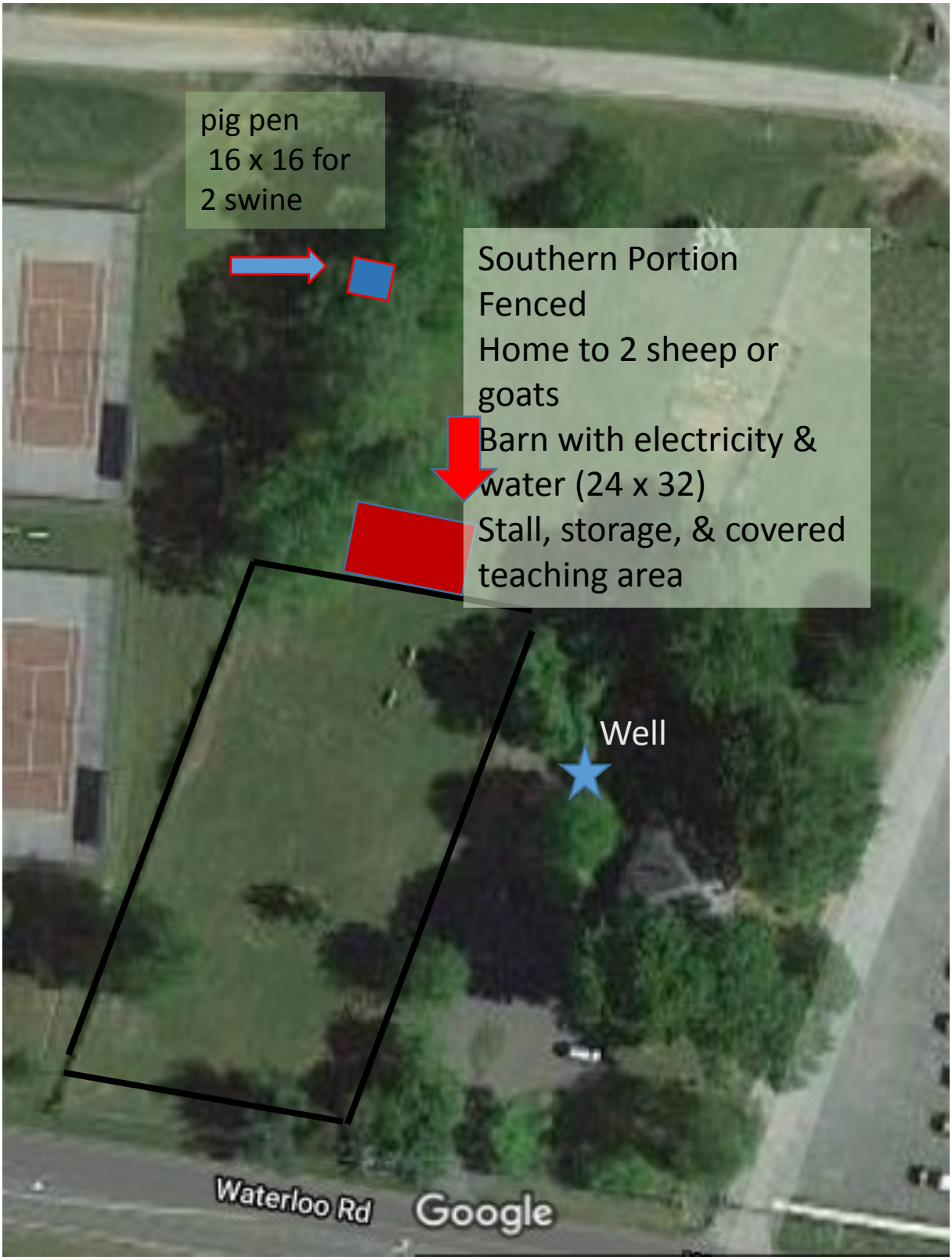
Stephen Potucek
Agriculture teacher FHS

FFA Field Farm Plan

1. The FFA field is 1.5 acres that is enclosed with a 3 board fence. Two sections of the fence need new rails. One end of the field was used to construct the path from the Stoneridge housing area to the WARF. This area has a split rail fence. The FFA field is used for agriculture classwork, community programs such as petting zoos, the Food for America program, and for tractor driving instruction for students. Currently we are raising chickens and pigs in this area. We have a 10 X 12 foot chicken coop with a 8 X 16ft chain link run. This is a mobile coop that can be moved to fresh grass with a tractor. This coop can support up to 18 laying hens. We currently have 10 hens in the coop. There are also four 4 x 8ft moveable pens for breeding chickens. These pens house different breeds and are segregated to maintain purebred chicks for our hatchery program. We raised 2 pigs from weaning to market weight (250lbs) from September to February. They are housed in a 16 x 16 ft area with deep straw bedding enclosed by hog panels with a quonset hut for shelter.
2. We plan to continue to raise chickens in this area as well as continuing to raise two pigs at a time. We will also add two ewes or goat does in the fenced area and lamb/kid each winter. We want students to have hands-on experience caring for different livestock species so they can understand the different needs of different types of animals through several life stages.
3. The first goal is to build a 24 X 32 ft pole barn. This will be constructed in stages by students in agriculture and building trades classes. The first step is to set the posts, rafters, roof and enclose 3 sides. In subsequent stages, classes will add doors, electricity, stalls, storage areas, bleachers, and a covered paddock. For water and electricity supply, we will connect to the Thorpe House.
4. We are currently building fencing around the southern end of the field to enclose a pasture/paddock. This paddock will be ¾ acre and will house the lambs/goats. It may also temporarily house other animals that are at school for demonstrations. This fencing will be a demonstration of several different types of agricultural fencing to include high tensile wire, woven wire, netting, and board. The fencing will be built and maintained by students in the animal systems classes.
5. We moved the gate to the corner at the back of the Thorpe House driveway to access the pole barn without driving on the grass. The vehicle traffic will be minimal. Only occasional access is needed to unload supplies. The gate by the mulch pile will remain but vehicular access will be restricted based on weather conditions.

6. Costs.
    a. The pole barn will be 24 x 32 ft with a metal roof and metal siding. A total cost estimate is $14,000, although the first stage will be approximately $10,000. (A high estimate to allow for high metal and material costs).
    b. The fencing will cost approximately $2,500. (This has been purchased.)
    c. The cost of connecting to the well at the Thorpe House is estimated at $700 to run the water line and $300 for the connection.
    d. Cost of the electric line and conduit from Thorpe House to the barn is $900. The building trades class will do the electric work after the barn is completed.
    e. Additional costs of ~$1500 per year for improvements and maintenance.

School Farm in FFA Field



Current Photos of FFA Field Area

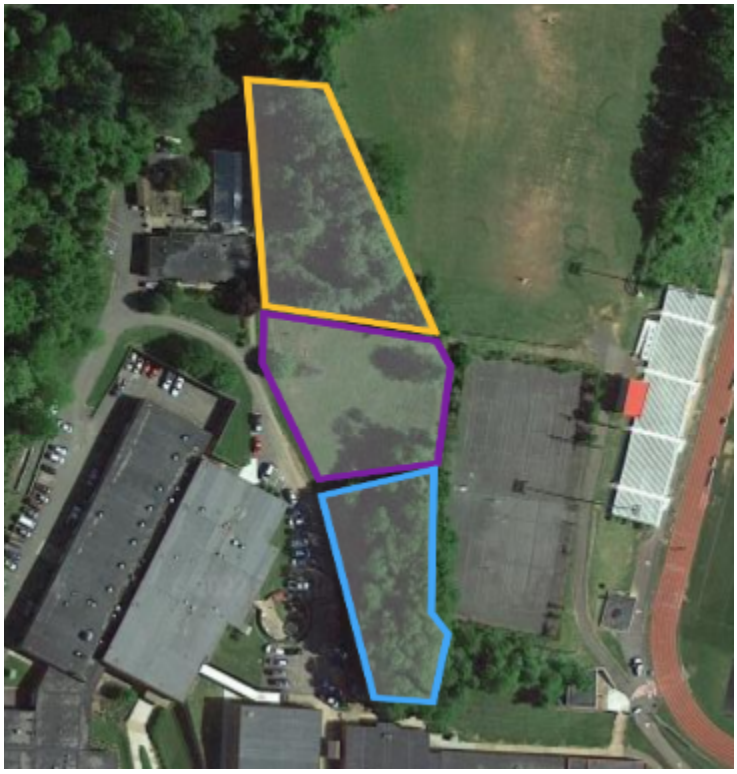
View of the FFA field looking North includes the mobile chicken pens and the hog pen.

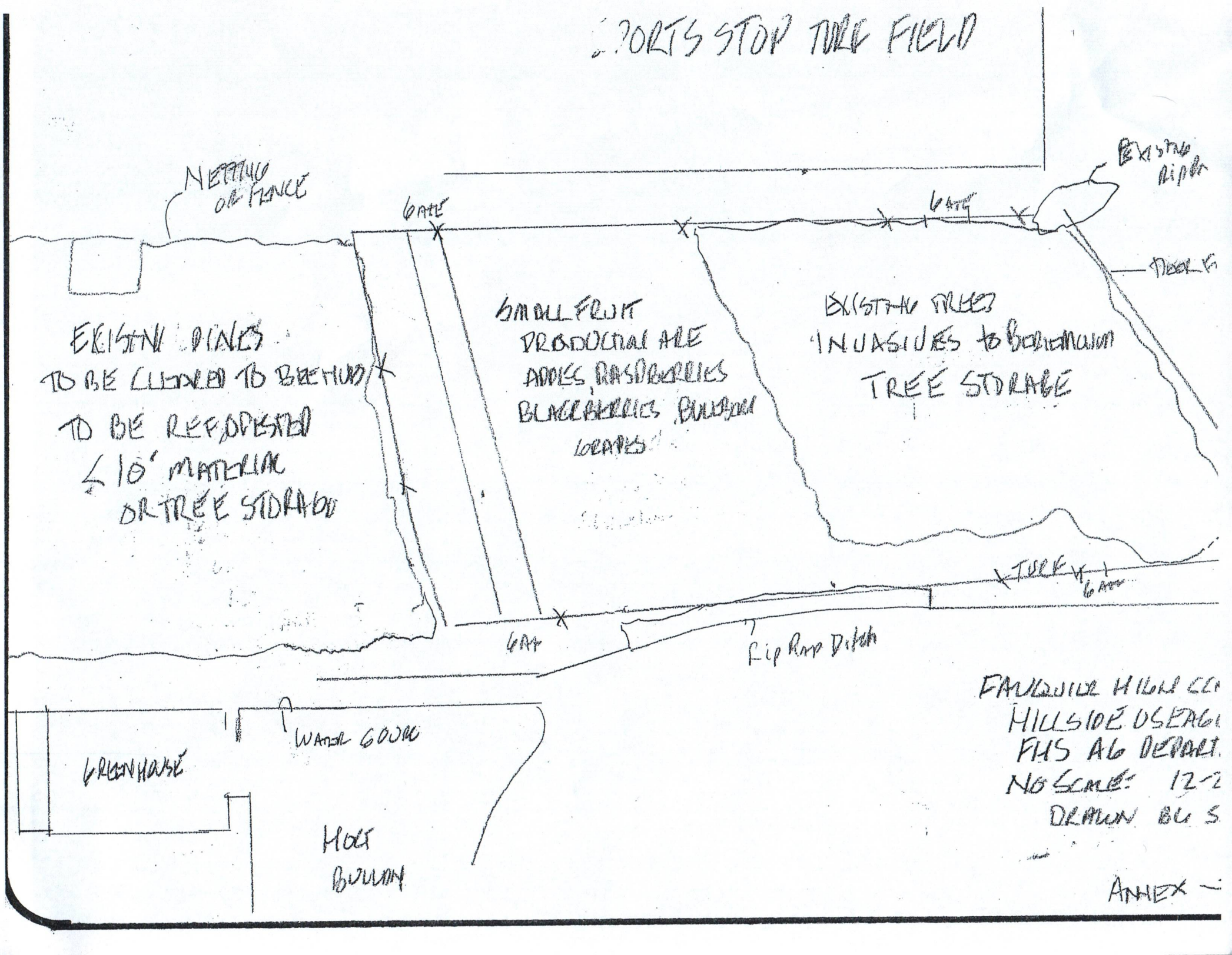
View showing the field in relation to the new bike path.

Horticulture Area Plans

1. Area 1 (in purple below) Create a small fruits and orchard area on the hillside between the Horticulture Building and the Sports Stop. This area will have grapes, bramble fruits, blueberries, and apples. It will be irrigated and surrounded by an 8-ft deer fence.

2. Area 2 (in blue below) Create a nursery area on the slope closest to the Annex. This area will be forest mulched to maintain the slope and trees and shrubs will be grown in a pot-in-pot system. This area will also be irrigated and surrounded by an 8-ft deer fence.




SPORTS STOP TURF FIELD
NETTING OR FENCE
GATE
GATE
EXISTING RIPER
EXISTING PINES
TO BE CLEARED TO BEE HIVE
TO BE REFORESTED
≤ 10' MATERIAL
OR TREE STORAGE
SMALL FRUIT
PRODUCTION ALE
APPLES, RASPBERRIES
BLACKBERRIES, BLUEBERRIES
GRAPES
EXISTING TREES
INVASIVES to BE REMOVED
TREE STORAGE
TRUCK
GATE
GATE
Rip Rap Ditch
WATER GOOSE
GREENHOUSE
HOOP
BUILDING
FAIRQUIE HIGH SC
HILLSIDE OSEAG
FHS AG DEPART
NO SCALE: 12-2
DRAWN BY S
ANNEX