NETLEY CASTLE CYCLEWAY DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT.

1. THE CONTEXT

This cycleway is part of the SUSTRANS Route 2 along the south coast from Cornwall to Kent. Here it comes south from Western Shore to the north joining Victoria Road at Grange Road until it reaches Victoria park at its south end and then through the park itself.

From Western Shore it will come along the old northern drive to Netley Castle, across the sailing club and recreation ground before coming diagonally up through the woods behind the castle to the entrance drive to the castle and Abbots Lodge, both of which are listed buildings.

This application related to that part of the proposed cycleway from Netley Castle entrance south to the entrance to Abbey Hall opposite Grange Road only. For this entire length, the proposed route is on the western footway of part of Abbey Hill and Part of Victoria Road.

The local plan review includes the following Built Environment Objectives, in addition to the importance of the quality of development being of the highest standard and that an attractive environment is provided for people to live, work and play :

a. Make the most effective use of previously developed land within built-up areas.
b. Achieve good design and good quality materials, hard landscape and planting.
c. Prevent conflict between incompatible land uses.
d. Protect elements of the built environment and public realm which are of value including trees.

Promote environmental improvements and introduce more public art into built-up areas.

It is considered that this design also meets the requirements of Policy 59.BE where relevant.

2. DESIGN PRINCIPLES.

a. Amount – The cycleway is some 150 metres in length and 3 metres wide.

b. **Layout** – The first 40 odd metres at the southern end will absorb the existing footway which is currently only just over a metre wide backed by a close boarded fence. The next 52 metres currently comprise the entrance and exit to Waterside House and a lay-by. Removal of this lay-by adjacent to the entrance and exit will give clearer sightlines and therefore enhance safety. The remaining 58 metres is grass verge in front of the listed Abbots Lodge building.

c. **Scale** – The width of this new cycleway is obviously greater than the existing footpath where it exists but about the same width as most of the existing lay-by.

d. **Landscape –** There area number of trees close to the route of the proposal and some self seeded Sycamores on the sliver of land in front of Abbey Lodge that needs to be acquired to achieve the full width. These trees fall into category C i.e. of no real importance.
An arboricultural report is included in the application paperwork giving the detail but where there are tree protection zones under the footpath the sub-base will consist of an approved cell-web root protection system. The mature and semi-mature trees along this route consist of Holm Oaks, Scts Pine, Ash, Sycamore, Oak and Bay Laurel.

e. **Appearance** – The surface finish of the cycleway will be ordinary tarmac retained by pre-cast concrete kerb stones.

f. **Access** - This scheme will enhance the limited access currently available to Abbey Hall and Waterside House, and provide new access off the road to Abbey Lodge and Netley Castle.

g. **Sustainability** – The provision of a cycle route locally between Netley and Southampton should encourage greater use of this form of transport between the two in addition to the longer distance movements, therefore reducing car usage and consequent CO2 emmissions.

h **Local Impact** – The loss of a little grass verge and a few trees of little merit with some extra tarmac will not have a large impact on this part of Netley but increase the number of visitors passing the shops further along the road and therefore contributing to the local economy.

I - **Historic context** – Abbey Lodge is a listed building Grade II but has been extended on the road side, thus shielding the original building from the road boundary. Although the new extension is listed by virtue of it being attached to a listed building it is not in itself of such importance. In addition, there is a wide grass bank within the site giving good separation from the boundary. This proposal will not materially affect the setting of the listed building.

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