

Chandler's Ford Library – LED Lighting Alterations Design Strategy incorporating the Heritage Statement



P14506 Rev L1 12/12/2024

**Chandler's Ford Library
Oakmount Road
Chandler's Ford
Eastleigh
SO53 2LH**

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1.0 Assessment of Heritage Significance

1.1 Introduction

The library building is located within the heart of Chandler's Ford centre, which provides a space for the community amongst shops, cafes and the local doctor's surgery. Being in close proximity to local infant, junior and secondary schools, as well as a number of residential roads, the library is frequently used by the inhabitants of the surrounding area.

This project is a result of a routine upgrade of obsolete lighting systems, as part of Hampshire County Council's efforts to achieve greater energy efficiency within our buildings. These works have been designed with the internal building fabric in mind, which therefore means preserving the aesthetic of the resulting lighting system is of the upmost importance.

Limited funding has been made available to undertake:-

- Ground Floor:- Remove existing individual recessed light fittings and the painted MDF extension pieces, which will expose the lighting recess with timber fixing points.
- Ground Floor:- Fit replacement individual LED fittings, set into a powder-coated aluminium plasterboard kit, which fully covers the recess.
- First Floor:- Remove the eggcrate diffuser and set aside for re-use. This will expose the tubular batten light fittings.
- First Floor:- Replace the old batten fittings with new LED efficient batten lighting. Replace eggcrate diffuser.

The initial works described above are considered to be more in line with the original light fittings and have been designed to be fully reversible should there be a requirement to replace the new lights.

This document has been prepared to accompany a Listed Building Application to undertake the necessary conservation and adaptations to the building fabric.

1.2 Heritage Description

Historic England Listing Entry for Chandler's Ford Library, reads as follows:-

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1425140

Date first listed: 30-Apr-2015

List Entry Name: Chandler's Ford Library

Statutory Address: Chandler's Ford Library, Oakmount Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 2LH

Public library, 1981-2 by County Architect, Colin Stansfield Smith, project architect Barry Bryant, engineers Anthony Hunt and Associates, interiors by Terry Riggs, mural by Graham Crowley; opened May 1983.



Fig 1: View of Chandler's Ford Library

1.3 History

Overview

Chandler's Ford Library was designed and built in 1981-2 by the County Architect, Colin Stansfield Smith, with project architect Barry Bryant and engineers Anthony Hunt and Associates; it opened in May 1983. It was built at a cost of £356,000. It was the showpiece of the Hampshire County Council Architect's Department, which was noted for its inventive and successful school buildings.

Built to serve the growing commuter town of Chandlers Ford, the library was set back from both the Winchester Road and Oakmount Road, placing it within the heart of the community rather than on the street frontage. The architect Ted Cullinan, reviewing the building in 1983, considered that it was very cleverly placed since 'It allows people to perceive and approach the library from both roads and to pass it on the way from one to another' (Architect's Journal, 1983, 37). He observed that it was always intended 'as the first vital part of an as yet incomplete environment' (AJ, op cit, 39); it stands at the head of a short shopping mall which was constructed subsequently. It was well received on completion, both in the architectural press and by the public, becoming eleventh busiest in the county.

Structure and Materials

The building has steeply pitched plain tile roofs in faceted sections, supported on load bearing brick diaphragm walls and internal splayed timber columns. Side and rear walls are clad in warm, red facing brick, the front wall is fully glazed. External fixtures and fittings, trims and finishes are painted red.

External Design

The front of the building is concave in form, comprising a fully glazed screen wall above a narrow red cill band, with central entrance doors. To the left, the convex brick form of the staff stair is set back beneath the deep canopy created by the roof. The rear of the building is in the form of a brick drum punctuated with occasional door and window openings beneath deep oversailing eaves. Window openings are deep set with raking brick cills and flat arches with red painted soffits. Windows are timber pivot- or top-hung casements, painted red. Rainwater goods, also painted red, fit closely under the eaves forming a soffit and closure at the outer ends of the curve. Clerestory glazing is set into the rear sections of the roof. An external steel staircase leads from the western end of the mezzanine.

Internal Design and Refurbishments

The interiors were designed by Terry Riggs - bright colours, set against white painted walls, were applied to different fixtures within the building - and included a mural by the artist Graham Crowley. Cullinan perceived the building as four, ordered layers, read from the outside to the back wall, that reinforced his interpretation of it as an alcove off the main route. First came the layer of glass between inside and out, then the main space, defined by tree-like posts supporting the roof. Thirdly, the detached table [mezzanine] supports the upper quieter part of the library creating a secondary space on two levels, and finally comes the top-lit back wall which has Crowley's 'flighty, detached, harmonious, coloured plastic, abstract mural on it.' (AJ, op cit, 37).

The library was refurbished in 2012/13; the central stairs were reconfigured to accommodate a lift, the original colour coded Remploy Lundia shelving was replaced with moveable units. Benches have been re-covered in blue, replacing the original red scheme which survives in the staff area.

The ground floor is a single space, but with a small, defined children's area and behind it a staff workroom and services. Above is a shallower mezzanine, also on the curve, reached by centrally placed stairs, and now also a lift. Leading off it is the librarian's office which overlooks the library, and at the rear the staff room and stock room. At the other end of the mezzanine a separate room, enclosed in glass screen walls, was created during the recent refurbishment. Separate stairs within the staff area also give access to the upper level.

The library holds an archive of photographs of the building, recording its original layout, fixtures and fittings.

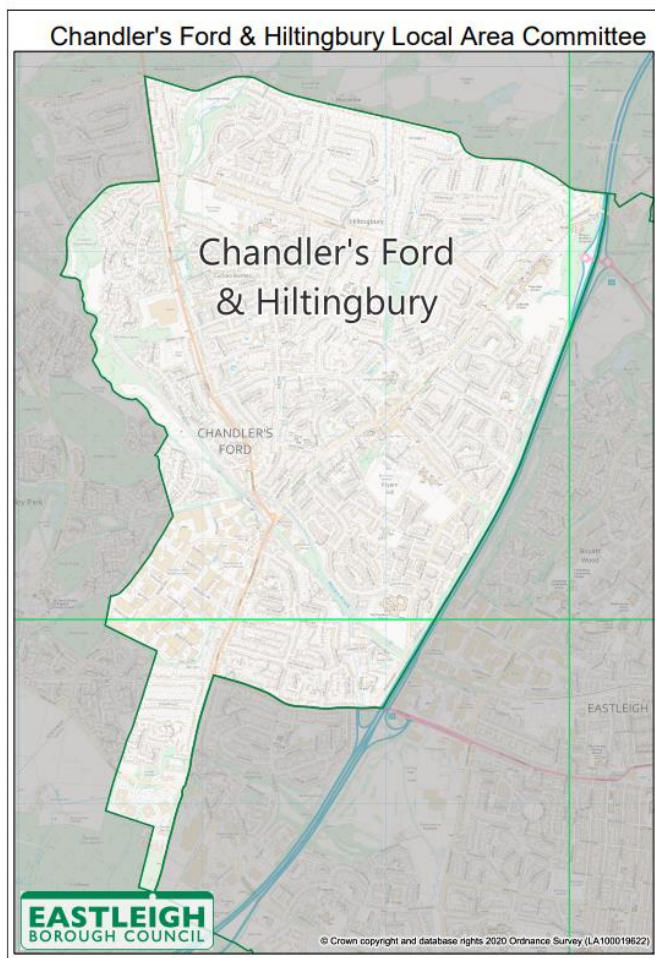


Fig 2: Map from Eastleigh Borough Council, Showing the Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Area.



Fig 3: Map from Eastleigh Borough Council Enlarged, Showing the Library.

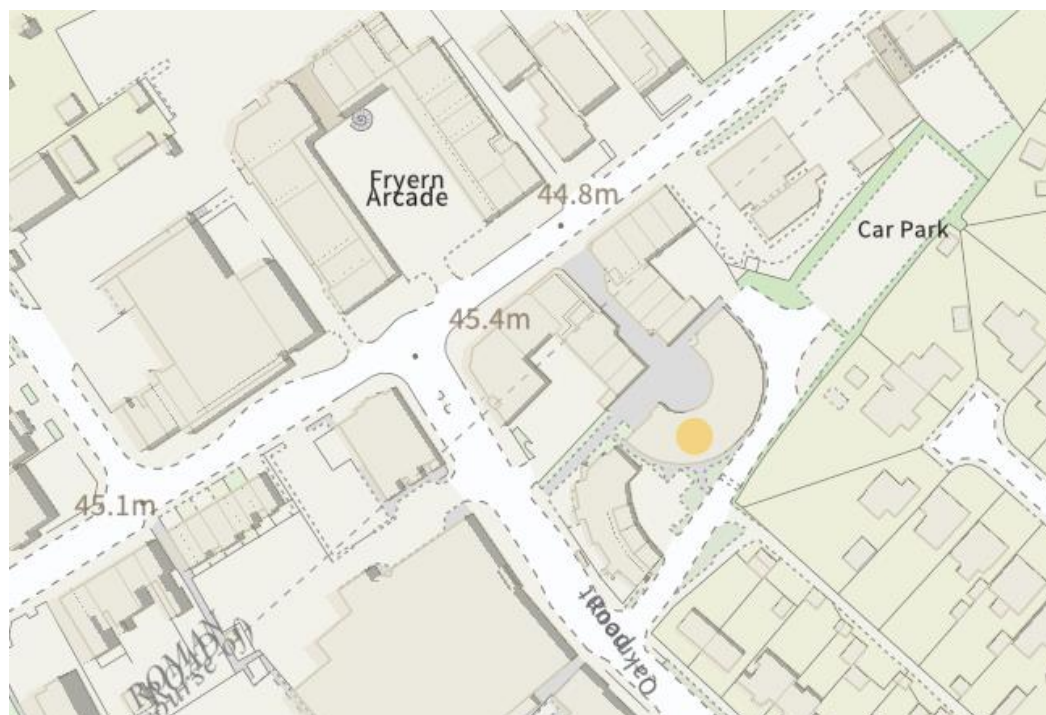


Fig 4: DigiMap view of Chandler's Ford Library, with additional detail on the surrounding area.

1.4 Existing Site Plan & Aerial Photograph

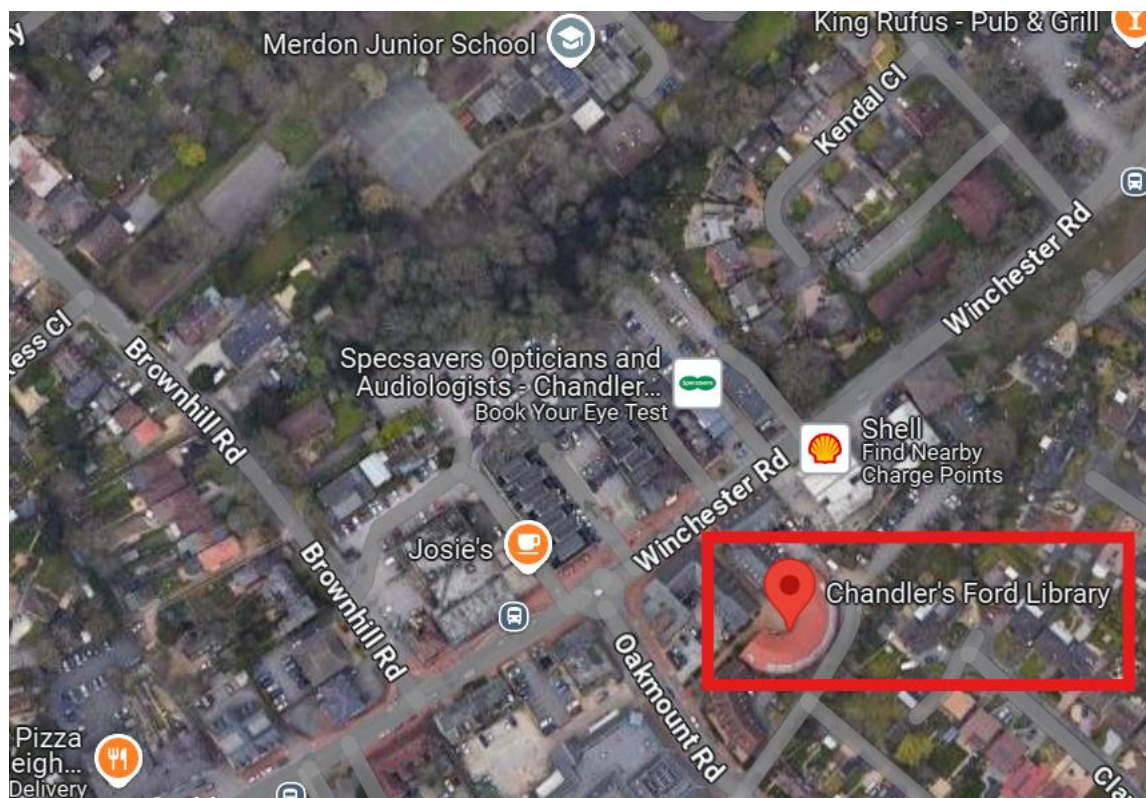


Fig 5: Current Site Plan / Aerial Photograph

1.5 Photographs



Fig 6: Pre works image, showing the original lighting system.

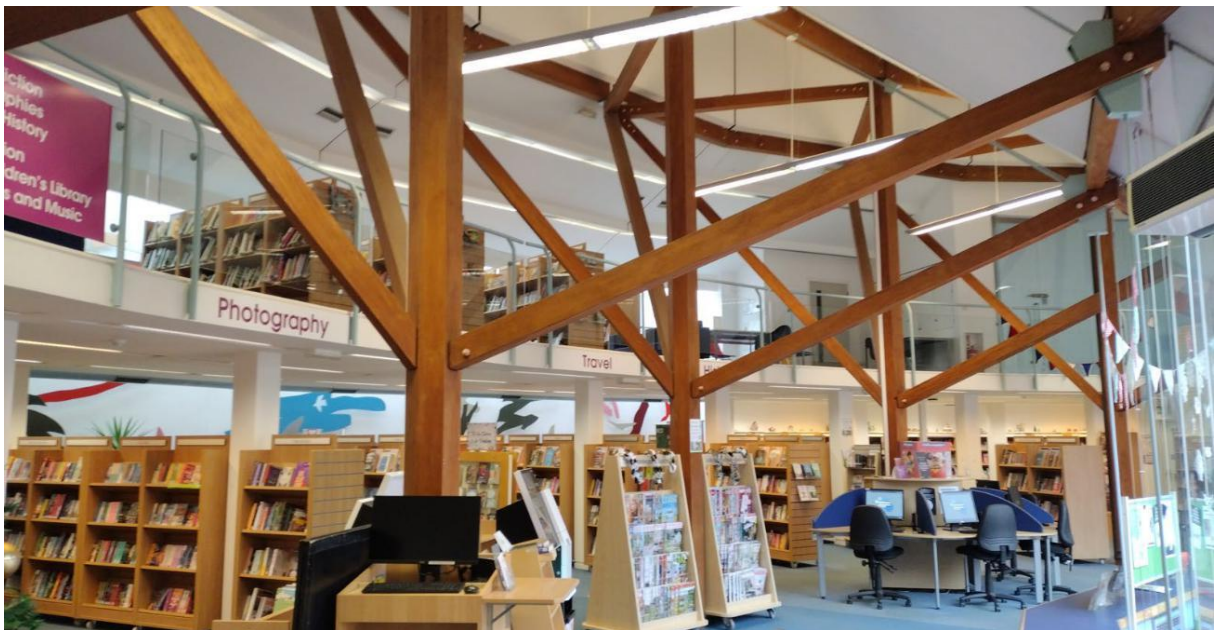


Fig 7: Internal view of the library.



Fig 8: Existing batten and diffuser light fittings.



Fig 9 & 10: Linner lighting installation.



Fig 11 & 12: Existing light removed to show recess; Proposed LED light fitting.



Fig 13: Plasterboard kit trial.



Fig 14: Plasterboard kit trial continued.



Fig 15: First floor lighting, consisting of batten light fittings fixed into the recess, with an open egg-crate style diffuser.

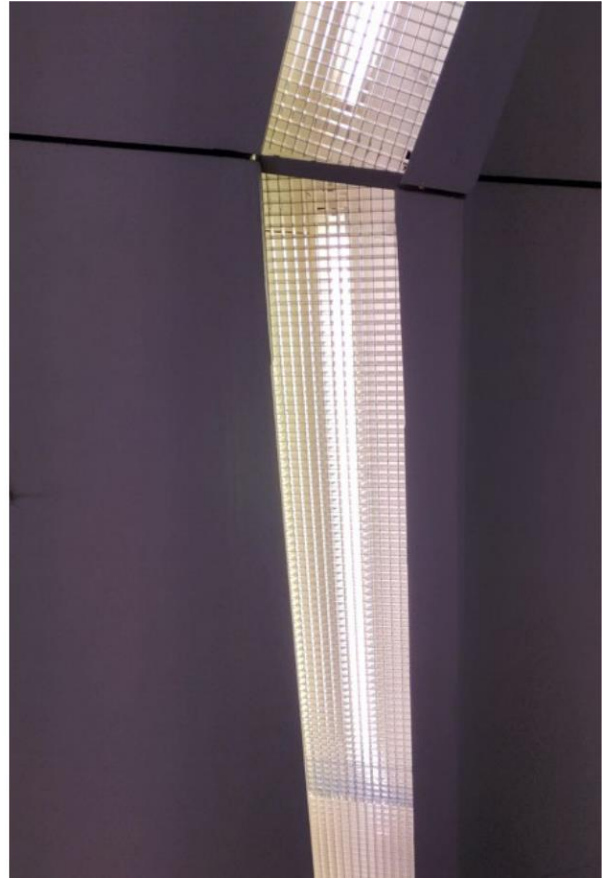
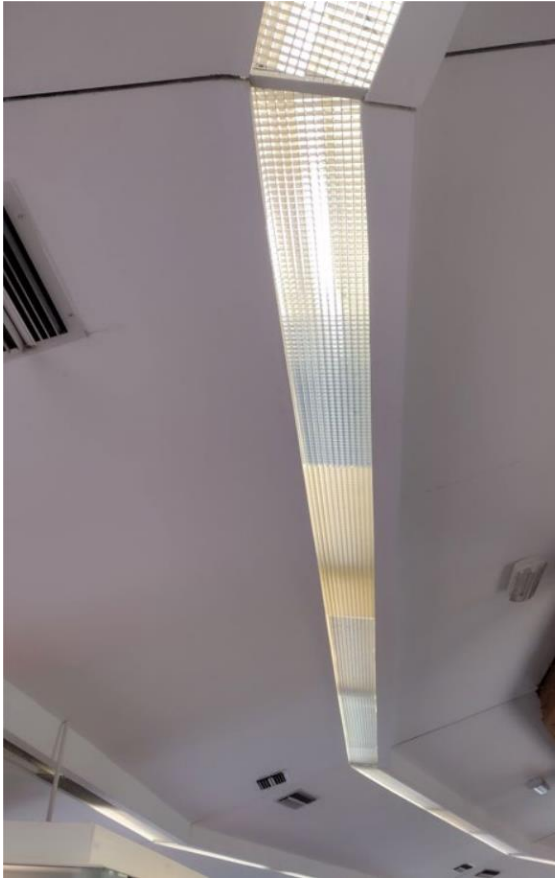


Fig 16: Upper floor lighting showing batten lights behind the continuous diffuser.

1.6 Summary Statement of Significance

Historic Value - *how people, events and aspects of past life are connected through a place to the present.*

Sir Colin Stansfield Smith (1932-2013, knighted in 1993) led a reaction in the county architect's department against system-building and standardisation, introducing one-off steel frames and expansive roofs, and creating a large body of important work done in-house or by private architects. More consistent was the planning of the schools, many of which featured large top-lit atria. The library follows this form, while also acknowledging the common post-war plan of a mezzanine housing the books, leaving the entrance area more freely planned for exhibitions and events, or simply for comfortable chairs. Leading engineers Edmund Happold and Anthony Hunt worked on Chandler's Ford library as well as many of the Hampshire schools.

Graham Crowley (b.1950) trained at St Martin's School of Art, London and the Royal College of Art, where he continued as a visiting lecturer. He has exhibited extensively in Britain and has contributed to wide-ranging publications. At the time the library was built he was Artist in Residence at Oxford University, a year which concluded in May 1983 with a one-man exhibition, *Home Comforts*, at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford. Other public commissions included *Ticket on the Move*, his first major public art commission, at the Pitt and Scott building, London (1981) and *The Birds* at the Brompton Hospital, London (1982).

The Historic value of the building is therefore of **Medium** historical significance.

Aesthetic Value - *how people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from place.*

The building's unique design is integral to its identity. It is a recognisable local landmark and is considered to be of reasonable aesthetic value.

Communal Value - *how people draw meaning from a place because it figures in their collective experience or memory*

The library has a **high** level of communal value due to acting as a community hub for local residents. The building acts as a library that also holds events for the local community. The building provides a useful premises that is sometimes also used by the local academic institutions.

Summary of Significance

The building was a flagship library built by the county's architects department to elevate the locale and serve as a hub for the commuter town community. The bespoke horseshoe design which is purposely visible from the main road but also neatly tucked away acts as a visual symbol of the growing town, highlighting growth.

2.0 The Proposals

2.1 Summary

Following on from several of the bespoke light fittings failing over time, the electrical engineering team within Hampshire County Council was tasked with upgrading the system to modern LED fittings that would also be in-keeping with the existing recessed cut outs. A site specific and bespoke cut out kit for the new lighting has been designed to ensure although more energy efficient, the new lighting kits will visually fit in with a similar aesthetic. The proposals are for an almost flush fitting kit with a minimal edge lap.

Following a detailed measured survey, this application now seeks to obtain Listed Building Consent for:-

- Ground Floor:- Remove existing individual recessed light fittings and the painted MDF extension pieces, which will expose the lighting recess with timber fixing points.
- Ground Floor:- Fit replacement individual LED fittings, set into a powder-coated aluminium plasterboard kit, which fully covers the recess.
- First Floor:- Remove the eggcrate diffuser and set aside for re-use. This will expose the tubular batten light fittings.
- First Floor:- Replace the old batten fittings with new LED efficient batten lighting. Replace eggcrate diffuser.

As all existing cut outs are of different sizes, it would not be financially viable to manufacture bespoke recess kits for each cut out. It is possible, however, to fully cover the existing ceiling cut outs using only three variants of surface mounted plasterboard kits. These will be manufactured off-site for ease of installation and to prevent further disruption to the running of the library. Full details of the proposals can be found on the accompanying drawings.

2.2 Statement of Impact

Impact on Historic Fabric

The light fittings proposed to be replaced are not the original fittings, the proposal brings the fitting closer to the original (with surround kit) than the existing.

Therefore, the impact of the interventions on the historic fabric is considered to be **Low**.

Impact of Setting of Heritage Asset

This is a positive approach to maintain the fabric. On completion, the works will not be evident, but they will improve the condition of the fabric and structure. It should also be noted that this process is fully reversible; meaning at the end of the fitting's life, it can be removed, leaving the cut outs as they were originally.

Therefore, the impact of the setting of the heritage asset is considered to be **Low**.

Overall Impact on Significance

The works to the light fittings are essential and will also provide a positive, lower energy use for the site. Visually the new fittings are closer to the originals in terms of surrounds, whilst giving improved LED lighting to the site.

Overall, therefore, the impact on significance of these proposals is considered to be **Low**.

3.0

Justification and Mitigation:

The proposals will improve the user experience and allow the energy consumption of the library to be reduced. This will also facilitate the ease of maintenance within the library, as all replaced lighting members will allow better ease of access, as well as being able to source materials for maintenance more reliably. This would result in less impact on the visitor and staff experience of the library if future works to the lighting system were to be required.

As all of the existing cut outs are of different sizes, it would not be financially viable to manufacture bespoke recess kits for each cut out. Following a detailed measured survey, it is possible to fully cover the existing ceiling cut outs using only 3 variants of surface mounted plasterboard kit. These will be manufactured off-site, for an efficient installation. This option is fully reversible. At the end of life, the light fittings can be removed leaving the cut outs as they are now. The new light fittings would fix to concealed timber battens and will not alter the existing ceiling fabric.

Heritage Benefits

The proposals do not significantly alter any heritage item within the building or structure, with the design being carefully considered to cause as little disruption to the existing building fabric as is possible. The proposed light fittings would fix to concealed timber battens and will not alter the existing ceiling fabric.

It is suspected that the existing lighting in the library is not original, with Figure 6 showing that the original fitting, the proposals replace the less original looking variants.