

Planning Design and Access Statement

The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & Isle of Wight (OPCC) has instructed Hampshire County Council (HCC) to undertake a review of proposals to improve security to their Southern Support & Police Training Headquarters, near Netley.

The Site

Southern Support & Police Training Headquarters covers an area of over 20 hectares, sitting to the South East of the village of Netley and North East of Royal Victoria Country Park of which it was historically a part.

The site contains a listed building in the form of Victoria House, list entry number 1072597, and the Southern side of the site falls under the listing of the wider Royal Victoria Country Park, a listed Park and Garden, entry number 1001584.

To the Northern edge is an active railway line with the local Hamble station a short walk to the Northeast. The Hamble Rail Trail footpath runs just between the railway and the site boundary to the North.

Police Usage

Southern Support & Training Headquarters houses critical departments and infrastructure, it is the secondary Strategic Coordination Centre for the Local Resilience Forum and a police mobilisation and deployment base. It houses critical business functions required to maintain operational policing and business continuity. This site requires access 24/7 but currently has poor security measures and is a very porous site.

Proposal

Protecting the site by utilising the combination of a new secure fence, together with existing walls to the South around the curtilage of Victoria House which will form a new secure perimeter within the wider legal site area.

Providing vehicle gates to the main Hamble Lane and secondary Hound Road entrances, utilising access control systems to control and monitor access.

Additional vehicle and pedestrian gates will be provided at various locations around the perimeter where there is an existing route used for access or maintenance.

The area enclosed amounts to just over 13 hectares with the works affecting just over 1.02 hectares of it. There are no public rights of way within this area.

The main access road from Hamble Lane will be upgraded to allow two way traffic along the entire length rather than the current single lane with passing places. This will ensure that egress for emergency services will be maintained at all times.

The OPCC understands that the area around the site is popular with local and regional visitors for recreation, from dog walkers and runners to camping and live events in RVCP. The proposal looks to minimise the visual impact of the works with the bulk of the changes occurring to the existing site main access road.

The walls to Victoria House will be used as part of the secure perimeter with sympathetic like for like repairs undertaken where necessary. The fence elsewhere is proposed to be 3m in height with a spiked top to protect against climb over attempts. It will be formed using panels of 358 mesh, see image 1.

Low key illumination will be provided along the Hamble Rail Trail footpath where the new fence line will run adjacent to the footpath, helping users traverse the footpath in the hours of darkness. Elsewhere illumination will only be installed where necessary at entrances where for practical reasons some discreet lighting may be required. The fence line will sit generally on or inboard from the site legal boundary and will be largely screened from outside by the existing tree and vegetation line.



Image 1. Example of 358 mesh fence.

Benefits

Providing a safe, secure environment for staff and visitors. Helping employees and officers recognise and respond appropriately to real and potential security concerns.

Securing critical operational assets that could be seen as a key target to criminal and terrorist organisations.

Improvements to the access road will be designed to avoid pooling of water currently experienced adjacent to the pedestrian road crossing.

Access / Highways

The proposals do not include any changes to buildings, parking areas or loss of amenity to the site.

Whilst the majority of site users arrive by car the proposals maintain and improve on the existing routes for pedestrian and bicycle access by improving the footpath to the access drive and the pedestrian crossing which crosses the drive North to South from the Hamble Rail Trail into the Park.

The proposals do not change the activities undertaken or the vehicle numbers using the site and as such there will be no changes to air quality, odour, noise levels and suchlike.

The proposal gives rise to only very minor changes to the landscape, mostly limited to the entrance road and main entrance. These areas are screened by the varied tree and vegetation cover which will be largely unchanged.

Ecology

A specific ecology appraisal has been commissioned to establish whether the site is used by protected species.

The findings are included as *24.0145 Netley Police Training College Ecological Appraisal REV2*, which should be read in conjunction with this report.

The installation of the fence will lead to a disturbance along the length of at most 4m, although in most cases this will be reduced where the fence follows the edge of existing clearances (roads, paths etc). A number of trees will require crown lifting and low level brush will be cleared.

An arbocultural advice note has been produced following survey of the proposed route and is included as *20241125 Netley Police Training Centre fence SS23671-arb advice note v1.1*. There are no trees with preservation orders on them within the proposed site.

The widening of the road will cut into grass sports field areas which offer limited habits or biodiversity.