

L/25/98812 – Police Training Centre, RVCP, Netley, SO31 4TS.

Context.

Victoria House is set on a north-east, south-west axis, approached from the north-east face with a walled garden to the south-west. The site of Victoria House is surrounded by woodland with further and later buildings primarily to the north behind a belt of trees.

Originally constructed in c.1870 as a lunatic asylum within the grounds of the military hospital in a classical idiom of red brick with yellow dressings under a slate roof, it was reorganised and extended in 1986/7 to form the Police Support Headquarters and listed Grade II on 26th August 1997.

The modern, highly glazed courtyard infills and south-eastern extension sit in stark contrast to the original building but still subservient and the north-western walled garden is now one of two car parks, the other to the north within the tree enclosure as one approaches the building from the circuitous site entrance road.

The Proposal.

In view of the increasing level of aggressive behaviour in today's society, it is necessary to safeguard the centres of control, hence this proposal to provide a security ring-fence for the majority of the site. Thankfully the nature of this buildings initial function required security for containment which is now to be reversed, so the immediate surroundings of the listed building are surrounded by a substantial brick wall which will have 'like for like' repairs carried out as needed not requiring LBC.

The greater majority of the new fencing line and particularly that within sight of the heritage asset, is set against a backdrop of vegetation, which will substantially reduce it's impact while still achieving it's purpose. The replacement vehicle sized gates in the garden wall are to have level tops for a greater deterrent effect to match the existing which I suspect only date from the 1986/7 refurbishment of the premises.

The heritage statement shows a photograph of the above gates in Fig12 and refers to a drawing number, which sadly does not appear in the documents. Looking at these it would appear that the replacements could easily be a little higher and would be best at the same height as the wall, giving slightly better security too.

Conclusion.

The only aspect that will detract from the setting of the building is the gating to the north-west of the Victoria House car park which are also shown slightly higher than the brick wall that they abut. While set back to the rear of the splayed corner, their impact would be less if placed a panel or two further back and the height matching that of the wall. Apart from that and the height of the wooden gates, no objection.

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