

Principal Planning Officer Gary Osmond
Planning & Environment - Eastleigh Borough Council

By email: Gary.Osmond@eastleigh.gov.uk

10 March 2025

Dear Gary,

Reference: F/25/98808 - Full planning

Site address: POLICE TRAINING CENTRE, ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK,
NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4TS

The Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight has made the planning application for the proposed security infrastructure improvements at the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary training centre in Netley in response to a number of issues raised as part of a site wide review of the sites existing security arrangements.

Overview

Whilst the estate is primarily used for the training of new and existing officers for Hampshire and other force areas, Netley is also home to a number of critical operational policing functions which need to be protected against the risk of external interference. As part of the critical nature of the site, and as customary a counter-terrorism assessment was carried out which further highlighted security concerns about the open nature of the site. This led to the Police and Crime Commissioner's team undertaking a full review with the police force about the best ways to target-harden the site. These security improvements will make the site safer and provide greater protection to the surrounding area. Moreover, members of the public utilising the surrounding rights of way on the perimeter of the site need to be protected. Members of the public have been accustomed for years to crossing the site to reach the country park, despite the 'no un-authorised access' signs. This is a safety and security risk.

The application and proposed security works seeks to adequately protect the site and the public right of way surrounding it. Specifically to maintain the rights of way over the perimeter of the land, and to ensure measures are taken to improve the primary entrance and exit roadway on Hamble Lane by widening to a two-lane road to aid the efficient movement of vehicles in and out of the site onto Hamble Lane.

Use of the site

The proposed security changes are not accompanied by any proposed changes in the use of the site. The same operational functions and training activities will continue as they are today. There is no intensification of the use of the site planned which would increase traffic beyond the expected increase in trainees through the Commissioner's commitment to increase officer numbers for the force area which has been ongoing since 2021.

The Albert Avenue access point will remain as emergency use only.

Hound Road

There is also no change proposed to the management of the access to and from the site, including the rear access point which exits onto Hound Road. The design is required to provide adequate infrastructure at the Hound Road exit to ensure that in the event of it needing to be used, for instance should there be an issue at Hamble Lane which might prevent staff from the Contact Management Centre being able to access the site, that they are still able to do so. The Contact Management Centre is the force control room which is a critical policing function.

This is no difference to the arrangements currently in place. The proposal also moves the site security line away from the Hound Road properties and beyond the existing Hamble Rail Trail footpath.

A number of options were considered in relation to the scheme and it was determined that the most effective measure which would have the least impact on the ability of the Constabulary to carry out its training and operational requirements is to secure the perimeter of the site as oppose to the construction of numerous smaller secure sites. The open spaces on the site are used for operational training and specialist teams. Police training is not confined to classroom learning.

Many of the objections raised relate to a perceived intent to intensify the use of the Hound Road access point rather than objections related to the actual scheme which is to increase security and protection.

As stated above, the application does not signify any changes to the existing management arrangements and residents should be assured that whilst there are planned changes to the physical security arrangements within the site boundary, the improvements made to the Hamble Lane access point will make accessing the site easier for staff and officers accessing their place of work.

Should you require any further detail or reassurance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Mike Ottaway

OPCC Head of Estates and Facilities Management