

PLANNING STATEMENT

**Royal Victoria Country Park - SO31 5DQ
WEATHER MONITORING SYSTEM**

1. Introduction

This statement accompanies a proposal to install a remotely monitored weather station at the maintenance building, situated within Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey, Hampshire, SO31 5DQ. The installation aims to improve site safety by delivering accurate and constant weather data—particularly wind measurements—which are critical for determining whether the public can safely access the site.

2. Site Description

Royal Victoria Country Park is a publicly accessible area managed by Hampshire County Council, offering a blend of natural habitats and recreational amenities. The maintenance building is an industrial style brick building, located within in a small staff-only compound used for maintenance and storage. It is a single story, rectangular building with a pitched roof of approximately 6 metres.

3. Proposed Development

The project involves mounting a Davis Vantage Pro2 Integrated Sensor Suite on a galvanised steel pole reaching a total height of 10 metres above ground level. To achieve this elevation, the pole will be affixed to the North-East corner of the maintenance building and will extend roughly 4 metres above the existing roofline.

Key specifications:

- Sensor dimensions: 363 mm x 246 mm x 368 mm
- Pole diameter: 33 mm galvanised steel, painted to blend with surroundings
- Mounting method: Steel stand-off bracket secured to the structural timber frame
- Location: Gable end opposite the entrance to minimise visual impact
- Power and data: Solar-powered and wireless; no external cabling or utility connections required

4. Planning Context and Justification

Currently, weather assessments at the country park is carried out manually by on-site personnel, resulting in inconsistent and unreliable data. This poses potential health and safety risks to both staff and visitors, particularly during adverse conditions such as heavy rain, strong winds, or snow.

The proposed weather station will:

- Provide accurate, real-time data to support operational decisions
- Reduce health and safety risks by enabling early warnings and informed closures
- Require minimal visual or structural impact on the existing building
- Operate entirely off-grid, with no need for external services or infrastructure

The development supports national and local planning objectives related to:

- Public safety and risk mitigation
- Sustainable, low-impact infrastructure
- Efficient use of existing buildings and land

5. Design and Visual Impact

The weather station is compact and discreet. By positioning it away from the public areas and within the compound area, the visibility is minimised. The pole will be painted to match its surroundings, and the bracket will be fixed directly to the brickwork, ensuring stability without altering the building's character.

Given the small scale of the unit and its functional necessity, the visual impact is considered negligible. The installation will not affect the building's use, access, or structural integrity.

6. Conclusion

The proposed installation of a weather monitoring unit at Royal Victoria represents a practical and low-impact solution to a pressing safety concern. It will enhance operational decision-making and public safety while preserving the aesthetic and character of the site.

We respectfully request that planning permission be granted for this proposal.