

L/25/100495 – Netley Station, Station Road, Netley Abbey, SO31 5PT.

Context.

The site is situated at the north end of Station Road, the southern end joining with Victoria Road leading south-east to the old Military Hospital site with which this had a close association and north-west through the village centre toward Southampton. The station was opened in 1866 and played a very significant role in the two World Wars receiving casualties shipped into Southampton and transferred by train directly to the hospital site on a short branch line from this site. The heavy casualties of WW1 resulted in this station being for a time the third busiest in Britain apparently.

The nearest conservation area is that of Netley Abbey, but the closest it comes is near the far end of Station Road, where it crosses New Road by the old library half a mile away, although there is a listed building closer, Netley Lodge about 300 m to the south-west. In view of the intervening density of buildings there is no danger of either affecting the setting of the other.

The Proposal.

With a combination of increasing users and updated DDA requirements the time has come to revise the handrails and tactile landing areas of the over-track footbridge to afford safer passage to all users and particularly those with impaired perception. The number of passengers has increased threefold in the last four years to about 75,000.

The existing footbridge handrails are single yellow tubing with similar coloured step nosing's and tactile ground areas. In the overall setting situation the effect of these changes is minimal and really only the handrails notice much, so having double level rails is no great change as they are only visible if one has the footbridge in view at the right angle at the time of perception.

Conclusion.

Any perceived harm caused by this minimal change is only that and will encourage more people to make use of the facility, which can only be beneficial to the health of this heritage asset and generally. No objection.

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