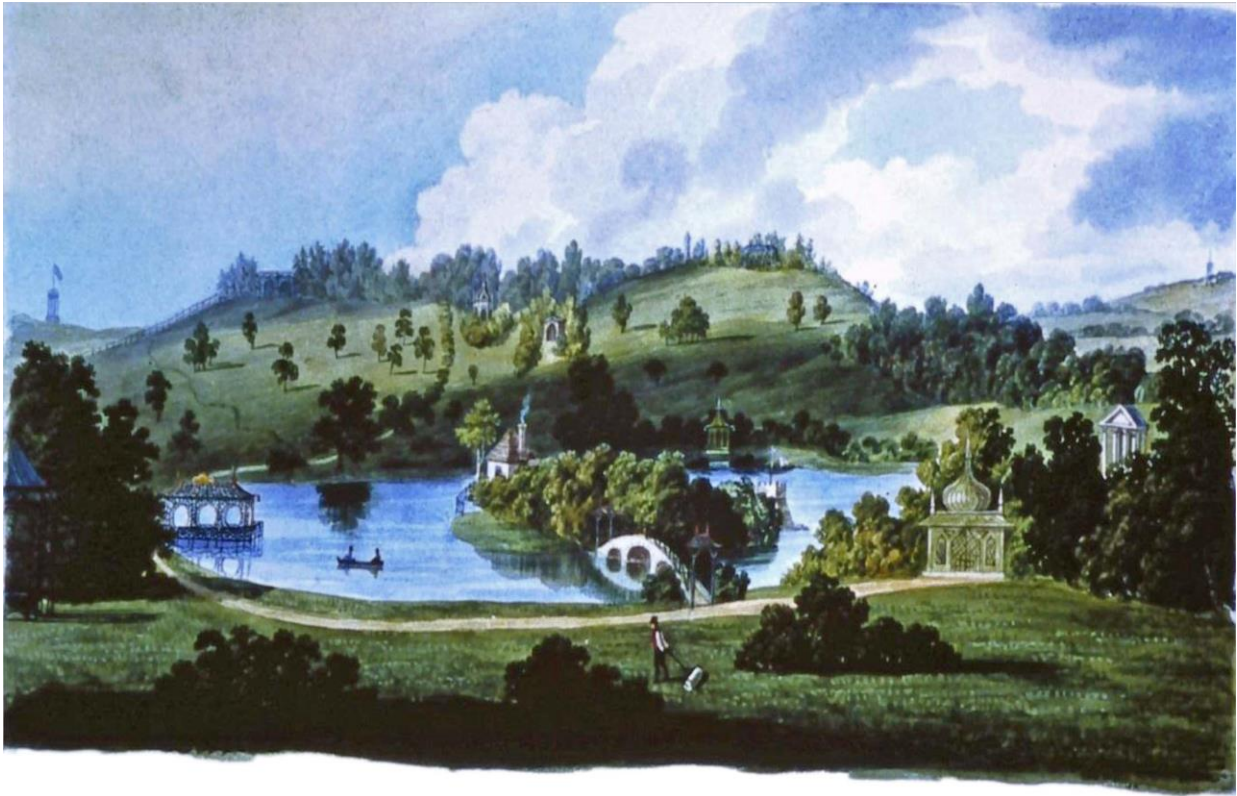




Staunton Country Park

**Planning Supporting Statement
Read in conjunction with the Heritage Statement**

STAUNTON



heritage
lottery fund



LOTTERY FUNDED



roperity Services

Planning application – Design, Access & Supporting Statement

Property name Staunton Country Park

Property address Middle Park Way, Havant PO9 5HB

Works The erection of a 21st century folly, in an updated location.

1.0 Existing Building and Site

Site Description

Staunton Country Park covers 400 hectares of land and is divided in two by a road, Middle Park Way. It is a conservation area deemed to be of national importance, and is registered Grade II* in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Within the park there are ten listed structures (of Grade II and II*).

The area south of Middle Park Way is the paid farm attraction which includes an ornamental farm (Ferme Ornee), walled garden, glasshouses, Gothic Library and Regency farmhouse.

North of the road is the free to access parkland where the works will be focused. Much of the Regency heritage is found here, including the pleasure grounds, lake, follies and 100 hectare park (the project area occupies 67 hectares as outlined in red). It also contains the last remnants of the ancient Forest of Bere including diverse and valued habitats and species. An extensive network of paths meanders its way through the parkland and this was the venue for fashionable promenades of the Georgian period.

The park is located on the edge of Leigh Park housing estate, home to 27,000 residents. It is a wonderful resource for residents and for many a quiet oasis on their doorstep.

Historical Context

In 1819 the Estate was purchased by Sir George Staunton, with whom it has become chiefly associated. He added to the land and began the process of designing the Pleasure Grounds, remodelling the landscape on a grand scale. He renovated and extended the house, adding the Gothic Library to accommodate the many books and Chinese manuscripts collected on his travels.

The structure of the landscape is in the tradition of 18th century natural landscapes overlaid with a picturesque approach, which reflects the new aesthetic concepts which emerged in the early 19th century. Of particularly high quality is the lake and its adjoining landscape. The lake has retained its character of water, tree belts, woodland and undulating grassland, with the beauty of the grouping of its remarkable natural and man-made features unchanged. Over time, most of the follies have been lost, and only the Chinese Bridge, the Shell House, the Beacon, and the Island Fort survive today. Present proposals for the restoration of these will add significantly to the quality of the landscape, and raise it to a higher level.

Following the death of Sir George Staunton in 1859 the estate was purchased by William Stone. He

demolished Staunton's Georgian mansion and built a new Gothic style mansion overlooking the lake, which in turn was demolished in 1959. However the terrace remains and occupies the most stunning location in the Pleasure Grounds. The handsome Victorian coach house also remains intact, and is a lasting reminder of the Stone period.

Stone sold the estate to Sir Frederick Fitzwygram in 1875. Fitzwygram's high standards ensured that the estate was very well maintained. Following Sir Frederick's death in 1904 the Estate remained within the Fitzwygram family until it was purchased by Portsmouth City Council in 1944. Prior to this the Estate had been requisitioned by the Admiralty Mines Department (1940 to 44). By this time most of the original range of glasshouses had disappeared and large tracts of estate land had already been sold to Portsmouth City Council for development (West Leigh and Leigh Park (1936)). By the 1950's the South Gardens were separated from the North Pleasure Grounds by the construction of Middle Park Way.

In 1987 Sir George Staunton Country Park was officially opened to the public. The Park was managed as a partnership between Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth Water Company and East Hampshire District Council. During this time a series of restoration projects were undertaken. These included the Terrace (1988); footpaths and gates (1990); the Coach House and some of the glasshouses (1992); Tea Rooms and the Regency Farmhouse (1994); and the Gothic Library roof (1995). In 2003 Portsmouth City Council withdrew from the partnership arrangement selling its freehold interest to Hampshire County Council. A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2001 enabled the restoration of the South Gardens and the Ferme Ornee. The area of the park north of Middle Park Way was not included, and this is now the subject of the current application.

Landscape Relevance

Staunton Country Park, also known as Leigh Park, is a rare example of a Regency ornamental landscape. The Park is recorded in a series of watercolours by Joseph Francis Gilbert depicted in its heyday. Some of these paintings are included within this document for reference.

Sir George Staunton employed no professional landscape designers but his garden reflects his own interests and expertise. It is therefore the expression of one man, a gifted amateur. The park is a rare example of an early 19th Century landscape, with the structure of a traditional 18th Century natural landscape combined with the picturesque introduction of small specialist gardens and follies. It is this fusion of styles which guarantees Staunton Park its position of national importance.

2.0 Brief

21st century folly

In Staunton's time the parkland had numerous follies and a new, 21st century folly has been designed to be installed as part of the park's renovation process.

3.0 Design Principles

21st century folly

In Staunton's time the parkland had numerous follies, and a new, 21st century folly has been designed to be installed as part of the park's renovation process.

The 21st century folly will be a piece of public art and will also be a form of interpretation, introducing the important stories of the park through the use of icons.

Each section of the folly structure is an icon represent part of the park's story – for example, a Chinese junk to represent Sir George Staunton's travel's to China, a flower of the Stauntonia plant to represent his success as a plant hunter and a teapot to show that he was responsible for the

introduction of Earl Grey tea to the UK.

These icons will then be used in other park interpretation and visitors will be able to follow the stories through and learn more.

The folly will be located so that it is visible to visitors who are entering the park as pedestrians from the farm and also for those parking in the new car park making their way around the parkland or across to the farm.

4.0 Design Solutions

21st century folly

An artist has been commissioned to design and fabricate the folly and will work with a structural engineer to ensure safe installation.

The solution

Site visit by designer and artist in late January 2020 confirmed that the location for the 21st century proposed and approved in APP/19/00472 – April 2019 is compromised by the proximity of a large tree.

It is proposed that the location 21st century folly is moved a short distance to the other side (eastern side) of the main Serpentine path into the park.

The new location, away from large trees will allow the folly to have a greater visual impact for visitors moving in both directions along the Serpentine path and will mean that the folly will have less impact on mature trees

5.0 Access and Inclusion Principles

One of the key project goals has been to improve accessibility within the park and the project team has benefited from continued guidance from Hampshire County Council's Access Officer through the design process. A site workshop was held in October 2016 with The Gosport and Fareham Access Group to examine the detail of the proposed works on the ground and in the buildings. The feedback from this workshop went on to inform the development of the proposals which are now submitted for planning approval.

Detail

Property: Staunton Country Park

Access Officer: Shona Forsyth

Review date: 10.02.17

Project description: Staunton Country Park is situated in the Borough of Havant, just north of Portsmouth and to the east of the A3.

The Country Park is bounded by residential housing, private farmland, forestry commission land, the B2149 and Middle Park Way.

The Country Park generally consists of an ancient woodland, a landscape parkland, a lake, a series of heritage buildings and structures, a visitors farm, a series of connecting walkways / footpaths, a playground, a series of gardens for growing plants and food and car parking facilities. This appraisal deals with the accessibility for disabled people to the existing country park and provides a proposal to increase the accessibility for disabled visitors to the area of the country park which will include new refreshment facilities, toilets, interpretation and improved access routes. An access workshop was held in November 2017 with members of the Gosport Access Group and Disability Forum which involved looking around the existing historic buildings and landscape. The feedback gathered during this exercise has been used to develop the project proposals and it informs the commentary below.

Legal position: The Equality Act 2010 brings together, harmonises and in some respects extends the current equality law. It aims to make it more consistent, clearer and easier to follow in order to make society fairer. The Equality Act replaces the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 (DDA). The changes include new provisions on direct discrimination, discrimination arising from

disability, harassment and indirect discrimination. The Equalities Act 2010 and the duties of the owner and service provider will take into account of factors such as the nature of the site, its historic status, and what is 'reasonable' in terms of a fixed budget.

The Building Regulations (2010) Approved Documents M (2013) & K (2013) are the minimum standards of construction that should be achieved in terms of accessibility as part of this project, BS8300: Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people, offers some alternative and higher standard design solutions which may also be referred to.

Further documents

Refer to separate document "Design and Access strategy".

7.0 Buildings & Plant/Serviceing

The 21st C folly will not be illuminated. The site of the proposed polytunnels, will not require power, water or drainage. A water point is available at the adjacent open barn.

8.0 Highways

The park development includes an improved pedestrian crossing on Middle Park Way, for the safety and convenience for visitors. The measures, will make it quicker, easier and safer to cross the road.

Increased car parking is being provided by the previous planning application APP/17/00735, which also provides cycle parking stands in key locations and improvements to the pedestrian connections with surrounding footpaths to encourage visitors to make sustainable transport choices.

A detailed technical appraisal of the highways matters relating to these works is included within the Transport Assessment document submitted with by the previous planning application APP/17/00735

The transport for the construction processes is standard delivery and offload methods, which will be managed to avoid busy times.

9.0 Environmental Protection Including Ecology and Biodiversity

The park features a wonderfully diverse range of ecological habitats and the environment is home to many different plants and animals including several protected species. The presence of bats has long been known to the site team and a comprehensive ecological consultation was commissioned at the start of this project to ensure that the ecology within the park will be protected and enhanced where possible. Evidence of bats, badgers, and several species of reptiles has been identified by the survey team and there is a good understanding of the measures that are necessary to ensure the development is properly undertaken with due regard to the wildlife that inhabits this site. The Ecology Survey Report submitted with the previous application APP/17/00735 explains in detail the range of surveys that have been undertaken to assess the site and the mitigation that is proposed along with details of ongoing plans for further survey works.

The chosen location for the proposed folly and polytunnels will not impact on the above

10.0 Landscape Design

The site development will see the Grade II* Registered landscape of Staunton Country Park restored to reflect its former glory and shared with the thousands of visitors who will understand the story of the unique Regency park. The hidden and under appreciated heritage of the park will be revealed through urgently needed landscape restoration works and conservation of the park's key historic

features. Improved access combined with new interpretation and facilities will welcome visitors and users: encouraging them to explore, enjoy, understand and become involved with the park. The project will connect local residents from the surrounding housing estate with their shared heritage of the Estate, placing the park at the centre of their community and providing a range of new activities and opportunities for them to become engaged and involved with Staunton, creating a park that will be as vibrant in the future as it was in the past.

The proposal for the new 21st century folly will be a piece of public art and will also be a form of interpretation, introducing the important stories of the park through the use of icons.

11.0 Arboricultural Assessment

11.1 The proposed folly is located so that it is visible when entering the park adjacent to the path connecting Serpentine to Temple Lawn, It has been positioned to be outside of the RPAs of the retained tree lining the Serpentine Walk, T201. During excavation and construction care will be taken to avoid any interference with this tree.

11.4 TREE PROTECTION

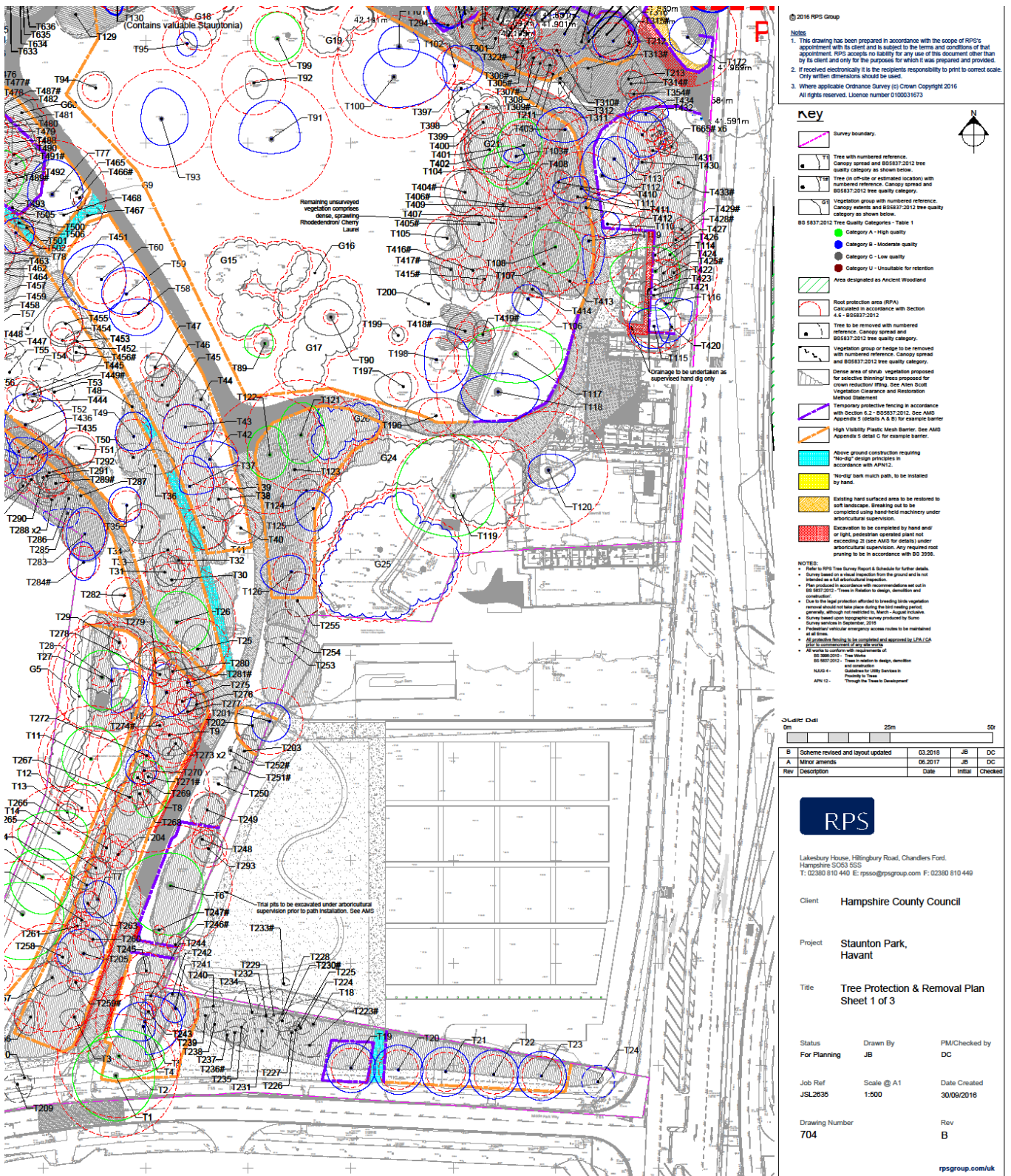
Construction Exclusion Zone

11.4.1 The Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) as defined by a protective barrier during the construction process.

11.4.2 Within the Construction Exclusion Zone there must be no mechanical digging or scraping, no alteration to existing ground levels including soil stripping, no earthworks, no handling or discharge of any chemical substance, concrete washings or of any fuels.

11.4.3 Furthermore vehicular or pedestrian access and the storage of any materials is prohibited within the Construction Exclusion Zone.

11.4.4 Additionally no materials that may contaminate the soil such as concrete mixings, diesel oil and vehicle washings shall be discharged within 10m of the stem of any tree and no fires shall be lit within 10m of the maximum extent of a trees crown.



Extract from Tree Protection Plan produced for the full development planning application APP/17/00735.

12.0 Economic Impact Assessment

	Folly
Information on potential economic impacts, opportunities and benefits associated with the proposed development	None
Details of any associated community benefits (where relevant). Information on economic impacts may be provided as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment where applicable.	Folly elements/icons (top hat, tea pot etc) chosen as part of community consultation to reflect the historical stories of the park. The icons will be used in other interpretation throughout the park to signpost further information about the stories, revealing the park history to the local community and other park visitors.