



Property Services

Park Community School,
Middle Park Way, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 4BU

**Design and Access Statement
for the
construction of a footpath along the
Hermitage Stream.**

March 2014

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Design and Access Statement (DAS) is submitted in support of a planning application for the construction of footpath link from Park House Farm Way to Middle Park Road.
- 1.2 The proposals reflect an on-going wider investment and landscape strategy for the School and its grounds, which include a joint funded proposal with Havant Borough Council and the Environment Agency (EA) to enhance the Hermitage Stream which passes to the south of the School. The proposals for the Stream are being developed by the EA have been coordinated with the proposals for the STP which was granted consent HCC HVE025.



Figure 1: Site Plan (nts)

2 Involvement

- 2.1 Before the design process commenced, key personnel and the governing body of Park Community School were consulted. In addition, the Development Control Team within Economy, Transport and Environment, Hampshire County Council (HCC) was approached at the outset to discuss the proposals and to highlight any planning concerns which might be raised. Possible areas of concern included the loss of grass pitch, possible flood risk, impact on environmental health on local residents, and impact on landscape, ecology, and archaeology.
- 2.2 Throughout the design process, there has been close liaison with, and support from Park Community School's Head Teacher, its Director of Community, Site & Facilities, Havant Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, and the Environment Agency. Support for the project has been acknowledged by HBC.
- 2.3 A public exhibition was held at Park Community School on 26th July 2013 to which surrounding residents were invited. Details of the proposed footpath were displayed, together with the Environment Agency's proposals associated with the Hermitage Stream. Approximately 34 visitors came to the exhibition who discussed the proposals with the applicant and key personnel; and a number of 'comment' forms were filled in by visitors.

Comments and discussion points raised during the exhibition regarding the footpath are summarised below.

- Flood risk

- 2.4 Local residents recognised that the path would greatly benefit the School and local community.
- 2.5 The nearest property to the footpath is 124 Park House Farm Way, which belongs to Mr and Mrs Jeffrey. To make the scheme possible, Mr and Mrs Jeffrey have agreed to sell part of their garden to Hampshire County Council should consent be granted for the path. An Article 11 Notice was served to them on 24 Feb, 2014

3 Assessment

3.1 Existing Site

- 3.1.1 The site is generally flat and runs immediately adjacent to a channelized storm water sewer (The Hermitage Stream.)
- 3.1.2 To the north, an existing floodlit multi-use games area provides the school and community with a valuable facility.
- 3.1.3 A number of residential properties are located to the south of the site along Keyhaven Drive.
- 3.1.4 The site and its immediate surroundings are illustrated in the photographs Figures 3 and 4 below.

3.2 Ecology

- 3.2.1 The site is currently used as a playing field therefore the area affected by the footprint of the pitch is currently of little ecological value. However, a small group of trees lie along the route of the path. No trees are to be removed, thus there will be no impact on ecology.

3.3 Drainage

- 3.3.1 The path runs along the southern boundary of the school playing field adjacent to the Hermitage.
- 3.3.2 An Environment Agency Flood Defence Consent Application was submitted on 30 January 2014, and subsequently approved on 03 March 2014.
- 3.3.3 Due to the nature of the proposals no positive drainage is proposed for the path. The path is to be cambered to disperse surface water run off either side of the path allowing all water to percolate naturally to ground.

3.4 Trees and hedgerows

- 3.4.1 There are no trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders within the site, but existing small groups of trees to the east and west provide a reasonable landscape feature. A visual inspection of the trees around the site was initially carried out prior to developing the proposals, then a detailed topographic survey was commissioned to accurately plot levels around the site including tree positions.
- 3.4.2 The proposed footprint of the path was then plotted onto the site survey to minimise the impact on existing trees along the route of the path. No significant trees are to be removed as part of the proposals..

3.5 Archaeology

- 3.5.1 Following consultation with Hampshire County Council's archaeology team (HCC Economy, Transport and Environment Department), it was considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

3.6 Construction Activity

- 3.6.1 It is intended to construct the path as part of either the current major rebuilding works of the school, or during the construction of the synthetic turf pitch which is due to commence in May.
- 3.6.2 Access for construction traffic and materials will be through the school, so local residents will not be adversely affected.

3.7 Noise

- 3.7.1 As the path will only be used during the day, there will be no significant increase in noise when the path is in use.

4 Design

4.1 The Path

- 4.1.1 The path is to be 2.5m wide, constructed of concrete asphalt (macadam) and dressed with a buff stone aggregate. The aggregate is to match the path gravel used along the Hermitage Stream.
- 4.1.2 To maintain security for the school, a new 1.8m high vertical bar fence is to be incorporated immediately to the north of the path. This fence is to match the style and colour of the fence that exists currently along Middle Park Way.
- 4.1.3 For safety, the existing fence that runs along the top of the bank of the stream is to be retained. The need for this fence will be reviewed in the future once the Environment Agency's proposals for the Hermitage Stream are concluded.
- 4.1.4 The path will be fully accessible and is to provide a new link towards the main school buildings.
- 4.1.5 A number of gates are to be incorporated. One is to provide access off the path to the school and to allow access for maintenance. Two other gates are to be incorporated at each end of the path where the path meets Middle Park Way (to the east) and Park House Farm Way (to the west). These are to match the style of the gates where the path continues to Leigh Park.
- 4.1.6 All gates are to be lockable and are to be managed by Park Community School.

4.2 Lighting

- 4.2.1 No lighting is proposed along the path.

5 Access statement

- 5.1 Access off Park House Farm Way has been detailed by HCC's Engineering Consultancy. The footpath is to be constructed to be fully accessible with a slope not exceeding 1:20.