



Heritage Statement (HS715)

In support for the application for the
Carpark and access road lighting to the Senior School
at
Hurstpierpoint College,
College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9JS.

Heritage Statement

In support of the planning application for the installation of new LED ClearFlood lighting units within the car park at Hurstpierpoint College, Mid Sussex, utilising existing lighting posts.

Introduction

This heritage statement has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) to assess the potential impact of the proposed alterations on the setting of local heritage assets. The aim is to demonstrate that the proposal will not detract from the historic and architectural significance of these assets. A proportionate and structured approach has been taken in line with Good Practice Advice Notes 1 and 2.

Site and Context

Hurstpierpoint College, established in 1849, occupies a historic site with significant architectural and educational importance. The application site lies within the southern part of the campus, encompassing an access road and car park adjacent to the outer southern quadrangle. Currently, the area is unlit, creating challenges during winter months when pedestrian and vehicle traffic increases significantly during school drop-off and pick-up times. These areas form a critical component of the school's daily operations.

Site History

The College site has a long planning history of development associated with the educational use of the site. The full extent of planning history is available on the online planning register. The following applications are relevant to the application site:

- **03/00136/FUL:** Provision of ultra-low glare floodlights on 8 No. 13m high columns around the existing astro sports pitch.
- **DM/21/1755:** Variation of condition no. 4 to allow the cut-off time for the floodlights to change to 9pm.
- **DM/24/1602:** Change southern astro existing floodlights with new LED floodlights.

Application **03/00136/FUL** was refused but subsequently allowed under Appeal (Appeal Decision APP/D3830/A/03/1133005).

Proposed Alterations

The proposal seeks to upgrade the lighting infrastructure by installing energy-efficient LED ClearFlood units on existing lighting posts within the car park. The new units will:

1. Enhance pedestrian visibility and safety by improving lighting conditions.
2. Address specific safety concerns during high-use periods in winter months.
3. Ensure minimal light spillage and no adverse effects on the surrounding heritage assets.

Lighting will be activated only during dark periods at peak traffic times (e.g., drop-off and pick-up hours). Usage restrictions, if required by the planning authority, can be agreed upon.

Energy Efficiency and Environmental Considerations

The proposed lighting system will:

- Increase luminance levels to an average of 51 lux for the access road and 15 lux for the car park.
- Feature modern LED technology that reduces energy consumption by approximately 57% compared to traditional halogen systems.
- Minimise light spillage to preserve the setting and ensure compliance with conservation principles.

Settings and Views

In evaluating the planning application, it is recognised that the context of historical assets is always evolving, influenced by their environment and intrinsic qualities. The environment can either enhance, detract from, or have no impact on the asset's value and perception. The light spillage contour drawing SJB-24-064-01 attached to the application indicates that the boundary of light spillage at 5 Lux or less is 4.5 metres from the listed buildings. Therefore, the proposed installation of modern LED floodlighting for the southern astro pitch will not detract from the asset's value, influence its perception, or impact the assets.

Impact on Heritage Assets

The proposed works have been carefully designed to respect the heritage significance of the site. Key considerations include:

1. The retention of existing lighting posts ensures no new structural elements are introduced.
2. The LED ClearFlood units are designed to minimise light spillage, adhering to modern standards of uniformity and focus. As seen in similar cases, light spillage boundaries are tightly controlled to prevent adverse impacts on heritage settings.
3. The proposed alterations will not alter or detract from the heritage value of nearby assets, as supported by previous assessments of similar installations.

Conclusion

The proposed development complies with the relevant policies of the Mid Sussex District Plan and the Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Neighbourhood Plan. By addressing operational safety concerns and preserving the historic character of the College, the application represents a sustainable and heritage-conscious improvement to the site.

The proposal has been carefully designed to integrate seamlessly into the existing site:

- Existing lighting posts will be retained, avoiding new structural interventions.
- The lighting design prioritises focus and uniformity, ensuring no unnecessary light spill onto adjacent listed buildings.
- The operational approach limits lighting to essential times, mitigating potential impacts on the surrounding rural environment.

Overall, the proposed development represents a thoughtful response to operational and safety challenges while respecting the historic and architectural significance of Hurstpierpoint College. The installation of LED lighting aligns with planning policies and demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, safety, and heritage conservation. By upgrading existing infrastructure, the proposal ensures minimal environmental and visual impact while enhancing the functionality of critical campus areas.