DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY PLANNING APPLICATION FOR:

Additional boundary fencing

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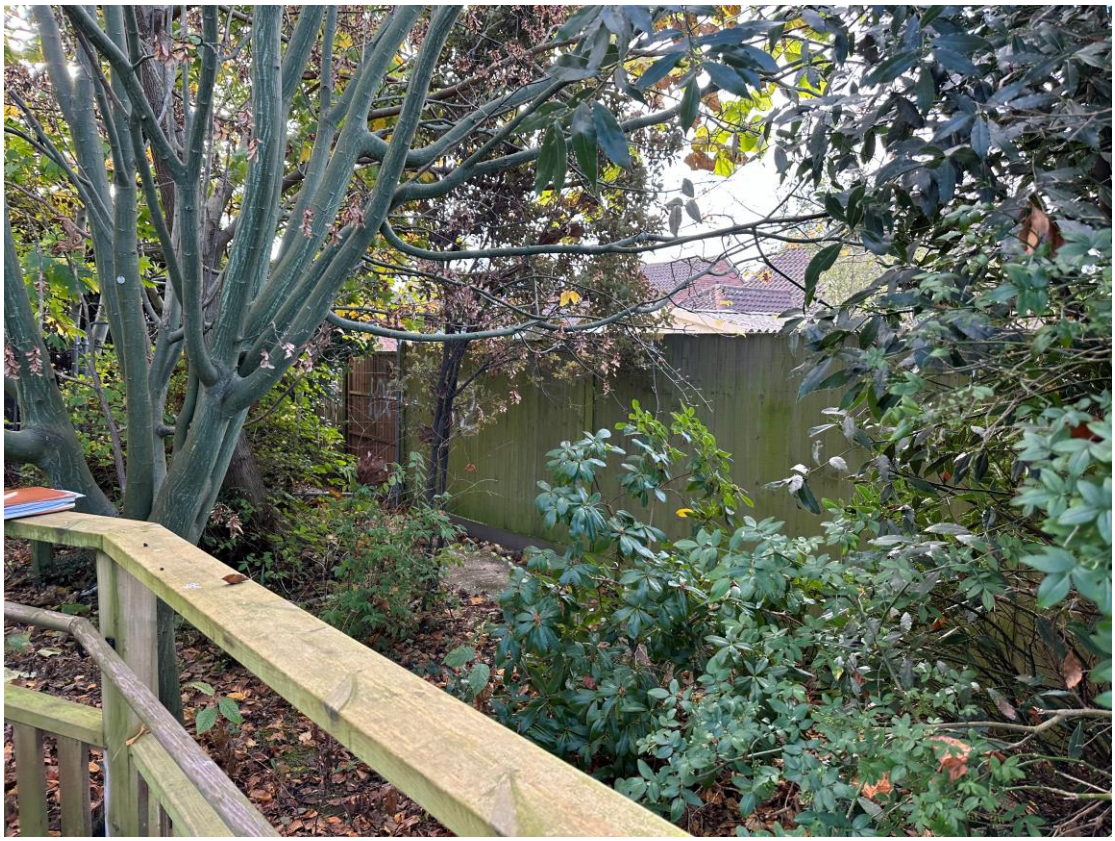
PALATINE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WORTHING



INTRODUCTION

This Design & Access Statement has been prepared by Abbott Surveyors Ltd, on behalf of Palatine Primary school & West Sussex County Council to support the following proposed works:

Full planning consent for the installation of additional high level boundary fencing, at the above school

The purpose of this is to provide a secure site for the protection of pupils at the school, who have Special Educational needs. The breach in fencing was highlighted when a pupil climbed over the neighbours fence, through their garden and onto the public highway.

Pupils at the school are likely not to have any awareness of the dangers this presents and therefore represents a serious risk to pupil safety whilst attending the school. Temporary measures have been implemented following this incident, but this means that pupils are unable to access the memorial/sensory garden adjacent to this area.

BACKGROUND

This SEN school was originally built in the 1950's and has been extended and developed since this time

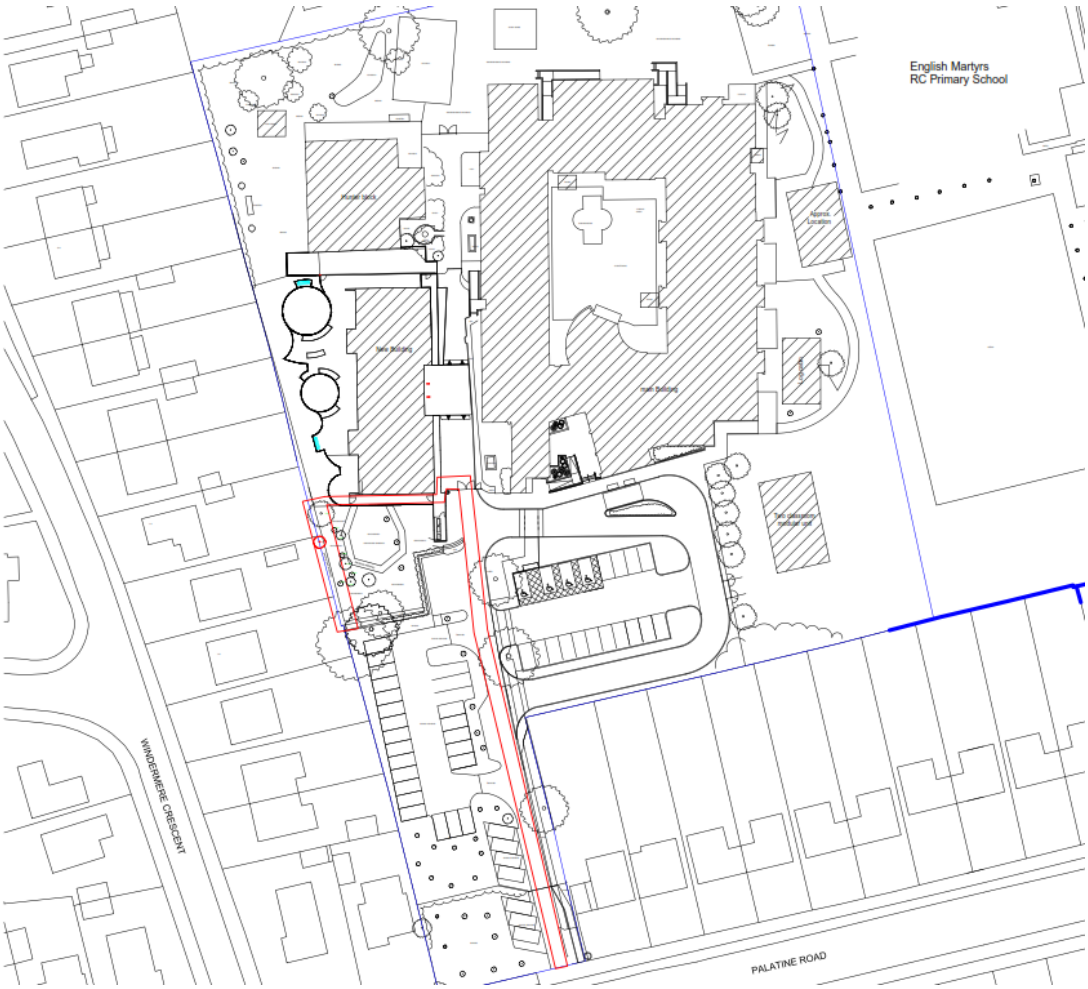
This school provides education for pupils with additional needs both educationally and physically and feeds into Oak Grove College, based on the Durrington High school campus.

The gap in high level fencing is approximately 22m of fencing along the western boundary of the school. The remaining fencing to the school consists of high level fencing, original chain link fencing, but has recently been renewed with weld mesh fencing.

As there is a gap in the fencing it is highly likely that high level fencing was existing to this location during the life of this school, but no evidence of this is apparent at this time. Currently the neighbours 1.9m high close boarded fencing forms the boundary between the school and its neighbours (for this 25m stretch). This will remain and the proposed fence will be erected on the school grounds only.

SITE & LOCATION

The school is located within the Durrington area, to the east of Worthing. Most of the boundary is flanked by domestic properties, however the Eastern elevation abuts another school, which WSCC own the land but the school building is owned and maintained by the Catholic Diocese.



CONTEXT

The school has a duty of care, not only to the pupils who attend the school, but also to the neighbours that occupy properties around the perimeter of the school.

AMOUNT

The total length of 2.4m high fencing (same as the perimeter fencing provided either side of this area of missing fencing) required to be provided. The posts are to be set approx. 3m to 3.5m apart and approx. 600mm deep. The post holes excavated will be approx. 300mm in diameter and hand dug, due to the restricted area and the scale of works.

Therefore, no mechanical plant will be used to facilitate these works. All post hole excavations will be completed by hand and be agreed to minimise any disruption to tree roots of neighbouring trees (see Environmental issues for further information).



This photograph (taken at Palatine school) shows the current fencing & boundary orientation, adjacent to this location. It is proposed that the new fence will be installed in the same fashion and fencing design/height.

LAYOUT

The proposed fencing is located on the western boundary and the school has had discussions with the neighbours regarding this issue, following the incident previously noted. The area effected within the school boundary is currently a memorial garden/sensory garden. Many trees to this area have been planted in memory of previous students who have passed away.

SCALE

The proposed development will have little impact to the character of the existing school site and will align with other fencing provided around the perimeter of the school site.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

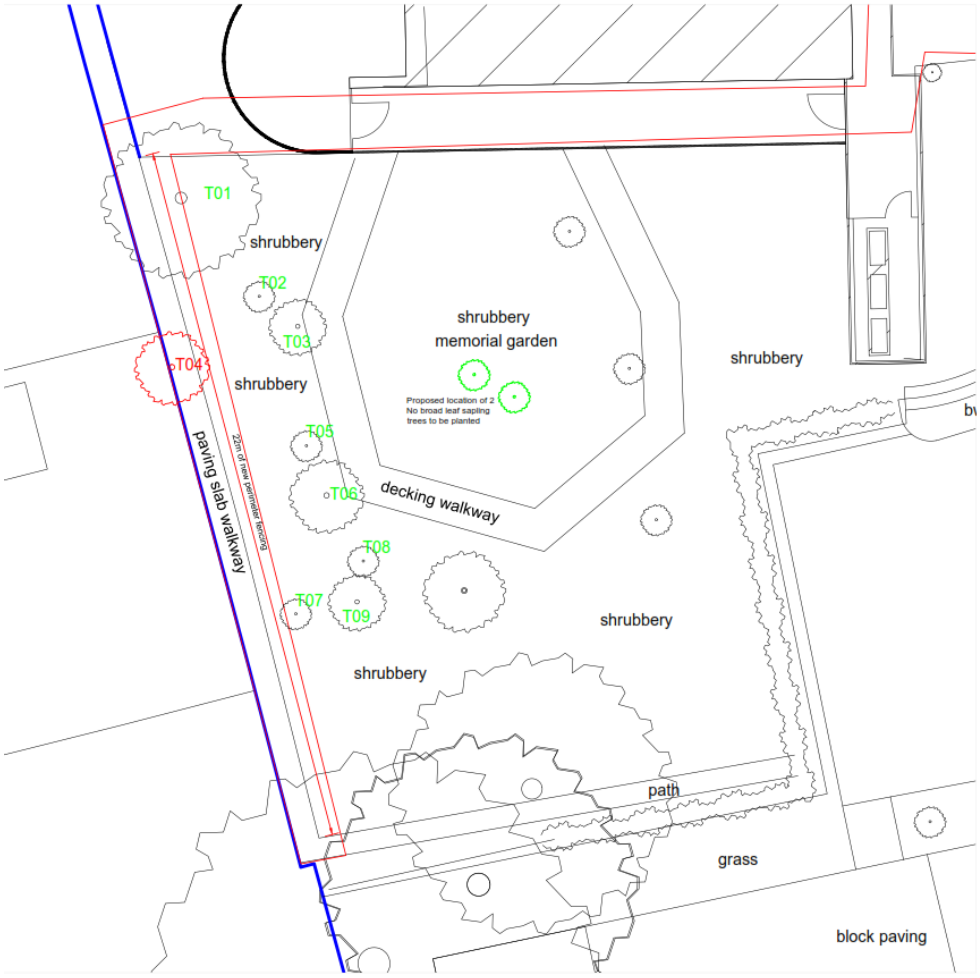
Arboriculture – Although there are trees located within the locality of these works, many of which are classed as "semi mature group of trees" not individually identified, as "mixed species, broad leaf. I have provided details of trees adjacent to the boundary as follows:

T01 – Bay leaf tree, 120mm diameter trunk, located 2m away from the boundary
T02 – Broad leaf tree, 25mm diameter trunk, located 3m away from the boundary
T03 - Broad leaf tree, 30mm diameter trunk, located 3.5m away from the boundary
T05 - Broad leaf tree, 30mm diameter trunk, located 3.5m away from the boundary
T06 - Palo Verde tree, 120mm diameter trunk, located 3.5m away from the boundary.
T06 – Sycamore tree, 30mm diameter trunk, located 5m away from the boundary
T-07 – Silver birch tree, 30mm diameter trunk, located 3m away from the boundary
T-08 – Silver birch tree, 80mm diameter trunk, located 4.5m away from the boundary
T-09 – Silver birch tree, 140mm diameter trunk, located 5m away from the boundary

Other larger trees located to south of this are over 6m away from the boundary and will be unaffected, due to the minor scale of these works.

T04 – Bay leaf tree, 120mm diameter trunk, located on the boundary line, will need to be removed to facilitate these works. However, the school are willing to plant two further samplings within the memorial garden, or elsewhere within the school grounds, to offset the loss of this tree. This is addition to trees being planted in the memorial garden.

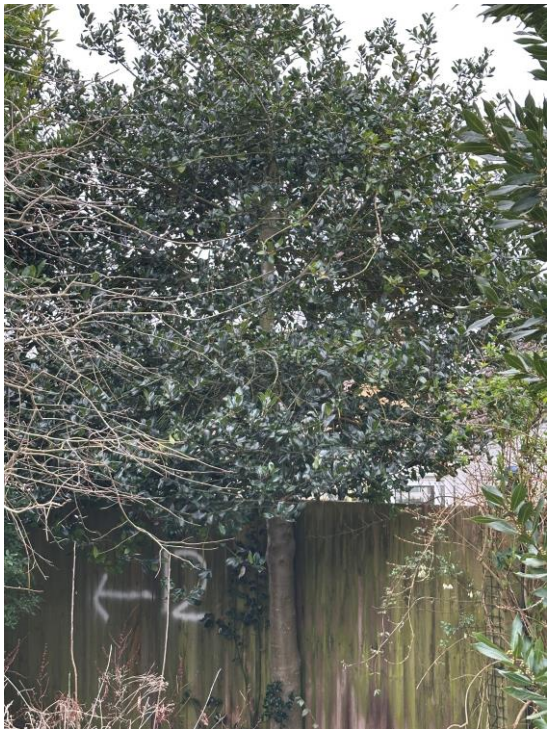
The school have checked to ensure that this tree is not a memorial tree.



Photographs of the area in question for reference:









Tree T04 to be removed

Flood – No part of the school site is located within a flood zone or flood risk area, therefore there is considered to be no risk of flooding to the school.



Biodiversity (BNG) – The area to which these works are required is 22m x .6m max, therefore is below the 25m2 threshold for BNG requirements.

APPEARANCE

The proposed fencing will align with the remaining fencing along the boundary of the school, coloured green

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Access will be provided via the main entrance of the school on Palatine Road. Vans will require access up to the front of the school and manual tools and equipment will be used to complete these works.

These works can only be completed whilst the school is not open to pupils and therefore will be completed during the Easter break or the summer holiday period.

Produced by Martyn Abbott, Abbott Surveyors Ltd (February 2025, Rev B)