Supporting Statement

The proposed additional use is for D1 – non-residential educational use.

I plan to run Industrial Rope Access training courses in line with the Training, Assessment Certification Scheme of IRATA International (Industrial Rope Access Trade Association).

I plan to run 2 courses per month. Each course takes place over 4 days with an independent assessment by an external examiner on the 5th day. Generally they will run Monday to Friday though I hope to offer bespoke courses over weekends and holidays to fit around the candidates work schedules.
The IRATA system consists of 3 levels of qualification. People with no experience are required to attend a level 1 course. After set periods of time and verified work experience they may return for further training and assessment to level 2 and eventually to level 3. The courses are aimed at novices who want to get into the industry and also at trade specialists who wish to further their career prospects with an in demand qualification. Rope access has been widely used in construction, oil and gas and offshore wind energy for decades.

The candidates generally come from within an arc stretching from Poole to Hastings. Our proximity to Gatwick means we are increasingly looking to overseas markets. I travel to the unit by bicycle and approximately 50% of the trainees travel on the train to Shoreham from where they walk or by bus.

IRATA stipulate the maximum instructor to student ratio is 1:6. Therefore the maximum number of people in the unit will be 6-7 (including the external assessor on day 5).

IRATA rope access qualifications can lead to careers in engineering, building maintenance and even film or TV. I am trying to encourage more young people from our region and those leaving the military to consider this exciting career option. The industry continues to grow and especially with the development of offshore wind farms in the English Channel the demand for trained personnel is increasing.

ADUR & WORTHING
PLANNING SERVICES

PLAN	AWDM/ 0022/15
DATE VALID	10 FEB 2015