

**HOUNSLOW HEATH EDUCATION AND ADVENTURE FACILITY
AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE**

TRANSPORT SCOPING REPORT

CLIENT : LICHEN HOMES

MARCH 2009

[ISSUE 1]

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HOUNSLOW HEATH EDUCATION & ADVENTURE FACILITY
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

COLE EASDON CONSULTANTS (CEC)

DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

Client: Lichen Homes

Project: Hounslow Heath Education and Adventure Facility and Public Transport Interchange

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<i>Prepared:</i>	J A Easdon BSc CEng FICE MIHT			
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Transport Scoping Report has been prepared for the pre-planning application discussion relating to the proposed Hounslow Heath Education and Adventure Facility at the former Garden Centre, 408 Staines Road, Hounslow. We understand that the site is presently used on a regular basis for car boot sales. Refer to Figure 1, Location Plan in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The proposal is to create a self funding multi-use visitor centre, offering recreation, leisure, education and environmental uses. The project comprises of:-
- i) environmental improvements to the Heath through an increased scope of land management programme and relying on enhanced animal husbandry;
 - ii) provision of a 20m rise to provide a landmark feature, enabling views of the Heath and the surrounding area and views back to the Heath, allowing the reading/ appreciation of the Heath;
 - iii) the rise will be multi-functional, providing a contrasting landscape form with varied topography designed to provide an outdoor facility for children, mountain bike terrain, ski slope, rope walking and climbing;
 - iv) in addition, the centre will provide the base for bike hire and horse riding;
 - v) the opportunity for interaction with and learning about farm animals and the management of the Heath;
 - vi) the public transport terminus and intersection which will also be a Police facility.
- 1.3 The site which covers some 4.2ha, is bounded on its northern side by the Staines Road (A315), opposite Central Park Estate. The Heath is located to the site's immediate eastern and southern boundaries, and the Hounslow Heath Golf Course to its west.
- 1.4 The present public car park serving the Heath is located to the site's east, with access and egress to it being taken from Frampton Road.

The Development

- 1.5 The proposed Education and Adventure Facility is to be formed within the former Garden Centre site, which has its own access arrangement off the Staines Road (A315). Access for all vehicles to the proposed car park within the site will be taken from the existing vehicular arrangement. Discussion with the Officers of London Borough of Hounslow Council has resulted in some agreement that egress from the said on-site car park will be via the present Heath's public car park onto Frampton Road.

- 1.6 Delivery vehicles and coaches to the development will access and egress via the existing all-purpose access arrangement, which is to be modified to accommodate the expected vehicle and pedestrian movement, as well as the proposed public transport interchange arrangement.

- 1.7 As indicated, as part of the development it is proposed that a new public bus interchange will be provided, mainly to provide a terminus for the No. 237 service, but will of course cater for all westbound bus movement travelling along the Staines Road. We understand that TfL may provide some financial contribution towards the implementation of this public transport interchange.

- 1.8 The latter will be located adjacent to the development site and as such, will provide an opportunity for easy and convenient travel by visitors to and from the proposed facility by public transport.

- 1.9 The development proposal is also to include the restoration of some 5 acres immediately surrounding the Heath, which will be interwoven with the design of the site to channel visitors into the Heath along the pathway circuits already in place.

Discussion with Officers

- 1.10 Some discussion with Officers on access, car parking, public transport interchange provision and other environmental matters have taken place. The preparation of this Scoping Report will continue this communication in order to ensure that efficient and beneficial pre-planning negotiations have occurred with the aspiration that the actual planning determination timescale will be reduced.

Objective of this Report

- 1.11 The objective of this Scoping Report is to confirm information to the Council's Officers in order that the actual scope of the Transport Assessment required for the formal planning application can be agreed at this stage.
- 1.12 This study considers the following matters within Section 2.0:
- likely number of visitors to the Facility
 - Travel Plan requirements
 - traffic management including access and egress
 - car parking provision
 - public transport interchange and terminus

- 2.6 The goal of the Travel Plan will be to consider appropriate measures to be introduced that will encourage both staff and visitors to travel to the facility by travel modes other than the car. Staines Road is a public bus route and provision of a public transport interchange adjacent to the development offers the opportunity to encourage staff and visitors to use public transport.

Public Transport

- 2.7 As well as assisting in the provision of the public transport interchange, the development will also incorporate a new formal pedestrian crossing arrangement on Staines Road between the site's access and the public transport interchange location. Such a facility will assist both visitors and existing pedestrians to cross Staines Road in a safe and efficient manner, for example to get to bus stops etc.
- 2.8 All pedestrian trips to and from the facility will be via Staines Road. The opportunity is available to provide pedestrian access via a new overhead footbridge from Staines Road into the site. Alternatively, a new pedestrian footway in the form of a ramp to and from the site can be provided via Staines Road. At this stage, the intention is to provide the overhead footbridge.
- 2.9 All ingressing vehicle movement will be from Staines Road via the site's access arrangement. Delivery vehicles and visiting coaches will both ingress and egress via this arrangement.
- 2.10 However, cars will only ingress off the Staines Road access arrangement, this in order to be directed to the 'on site' car park provision. Car egress will be via Frampton Road along a new internal link road to be provided as part of the development. This internal link road will also provide access to the overflow car parking access which will be designed for up to some 200 spaces.

- 2.11 Egress for both the on-site car parking facility as well as the overflow provision will be made via a new junction access arrangement into Frampton Road. It is proposed to realign the existing Heath car park and access arrangement as part of this development scheme in order that a fully comprehensive and integrated facility is proposed for all visitors to the Heath.

Public Transport Interchange

- 2.12 Within the north western corner of the site, immediately adjacent to Staines Road, it is proposed to provide the public transport interchange which will include for the provision of a bus terminus able to accommodate three buses at any one time. The layout of the bus terminus will include for appropriate bus turning manoeuvre, say a bus turning swept path radius of 30m. refer to Traffic Management Plan No. 2704/Figure 2.
- 2.13 The terminus will be served with a minimum 3.0m wide footway and will also provide suitable accommodation for drivers' needs. A facility within the terminus will be provided for the Police.

Summary

- 2.14 The above outlines the transport matters that will be addressed within the Transport Assessment.
- 2.15 The way forward will be to meet again with the Council's Officers in order to discuss this Scoping Report in order to take the project forward with respect to agreeing content for both the Travel Plan and Transport Assessment.

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