



PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
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## DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

### INSTALLATION OF HISTORIC DE HAVILLAND BEACON ASSOCIATED EXTERNAL WORKS AND LANDSCAPING

JULY 2010

## INTRODUCTION

This statement has been prepared in support of the University of Hertfordshire planning application for the installation of an historic de Havilland 'Beacon' at their de Havilland Campus, Hatfield.

Before the invention of radar, aircraft travelling between Paris and the de Havilland airfield were guided by a series of beacons. It had been thought that these beacons had all but disappeared, however in 2009 the University was fortunate enough to obtain the last known remaining beacons.

With the assistance of Heritage Lottery Fund Grant and donations from local Hatfield companies, the University is seeking to repair the Beacon and re-site it at a prominent location adjacent to the main campus entrance.

It is envisaged that the Beacon will become a public monument to the contribution Hatfield and its people have made to Britain's aviation industry – presenting a focal point for the achievements of the community.

The University are therefore seeking planning permission for the installation of the beacon and associated external works and landscaping.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the other application submissions including the sustainability statement and the following drawings:

Location Plan	Drawing No. F(PL)000
Landscape Plan	Drawing No. 09403-B-PA-001
Block Plan	Drawing No. F(PL)000-1
Elevation	Drawing No. F(PL)400



## **DESIGN STATEMENT**

### **Context**

#### Physical Context

The application site is situated south east corner of the de Havilland Campus bounded by Mosquito Way to the east and the main campus access along the northern boundary. The campus gatehouse, a single storey building, is situated immediately to the west of the application site.

The application site is wholly grassed. There are several young trees planted within the site. An informal track runs diagonally across the application site between the South East and North West corners. There is relatively mature planting along the along the boundary with Mosquito Way.

It is proposed to situate the Beacon towards the north of the application site.

#### Social Context

The application site is in a prominent location at the main entrance of the de Havilland campus and is also very visible to those travelling through Hatfield Business Park.

#### Policy Context

The application proposals are subject to the following policies from the 2005 Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan: D1, D2, D4, D8 and D10.

## **Design**

The proposals are for the installation of an historic de Havilland Beacon which is to be fully repaired. As an existing historic structure there is no scope or desire for changing its design. Therefore the main elements of design comprised:

### Beacon Location

It is important for the beacon, as a public monument, to be in a prominent location. The location selected is highly visible to those entering and passing the campus. However the beacon has been situated sufficient distance from the highway not to distract drivers when lit.

In addition the beacon is situated in a location which already benefits from coverage by the University CCTV system (in addition the Beacon is situated adjacent to the manned Gatehouse which therefore provides a further level of security).

The Beacon will be situated on a concrete plinth to ensure is at an appropriate level.

### Beacon Lighting

Ambient lighting sources will situated within the base of the beacon to sensitively light the structure without distracting passing vehicles.

### Associated Landscaping

An existing footpath will be formalised (re-surfaced with sealed/bonded gravel) as part of the development; this will improve the appearance of the application site and thereby improve the setting of the beacon.

## ACCESS STATEMENT

The widening and resurfacing of the existing informal footpath and the works to improve the campus crossing will improve accessibility for all campus users including those with disabilities.

