

Design & Access Statement



Hanbury Green, Shobdon, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9NR

December 2018



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1. Introduction

This Design and Access Statement accompanies and supports a planning application made to Herefordshire Council for the proposed relocation of the Parish War Memorial.

The application is submitted by William Stokes Consulting, acting as agent on behalf of Shobdon Parish Council, who can be contacted via the Parish Clerk at The Farm, Ox House, Shobdon, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 9LX.

The location for the proposed relocated memorial is at Hanbury Green, Shobdon at grid reference SO400619. (Postcode: HR6 9LX).

The proposed application site area extends to 176m².

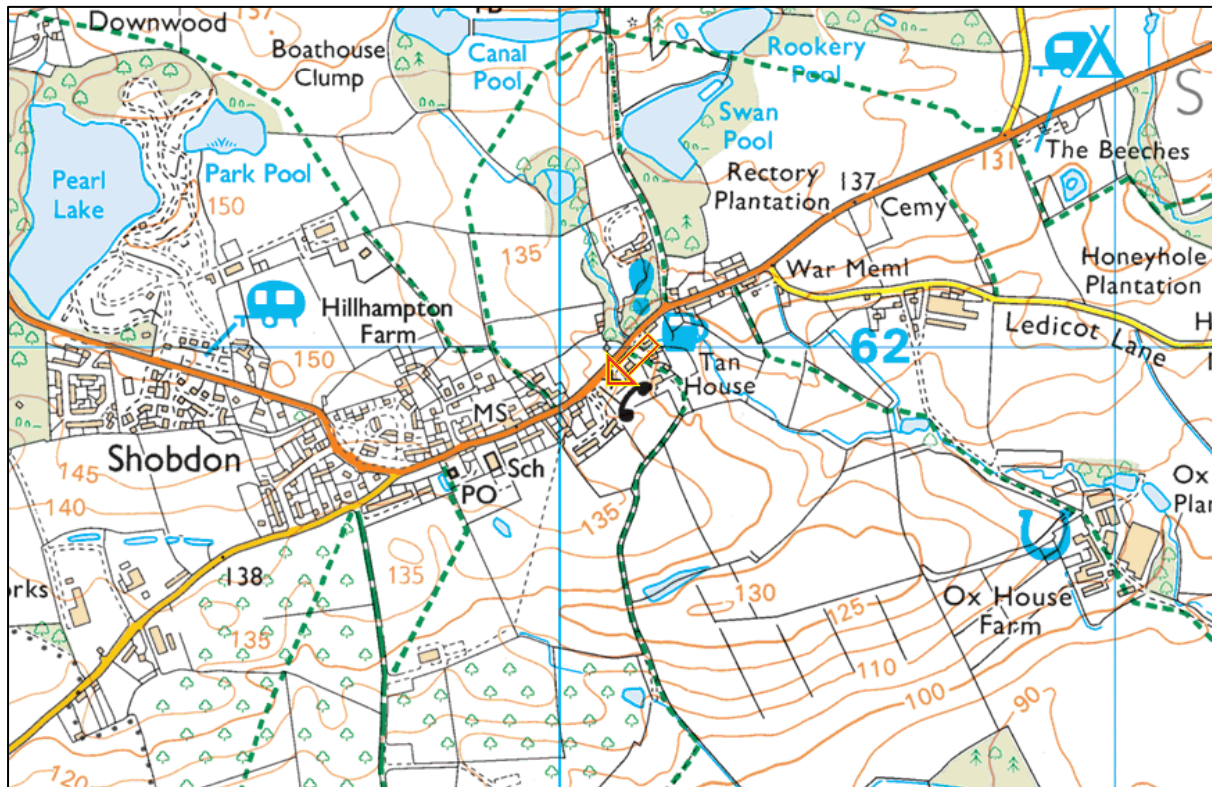


Figure 1 - Outline Location of Site

2. Site and Surrounding Area

2.1. The Location

The proposed site is in the Parish of Shobdon, and within the Herefordshire Council ward of Arrow.

The site is in the centre of the village on the existing village green.

The applicant owns all the land upon which the proposed works are due to be undertaken.

2.2. The Site

The site for the proposed War Memorial is existing green space, in the form of low cut grass. extension is between an existing building to the south, and a poultry site to the north. Until recently the site has been covered in a stand of poplar trees, which were removed when they became a danger to the surrounding buildings.

To the south and south east are properties forming Hanbury Green housing estate. To the east is Shobdon Methodist Chapel, and to the west is Red Brick Cottage. To the north is the B4362 public highway. A photo of the existing site is included in Appendix 1

The site was originally the location of Shobdon Village Hall, which was demolished in 1985, with the opening of a new village hall as part of the new village school.

The site has no special designation and has been reviewed on the government flood mapping service (<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-termflood-risk/map>) and there is no evidence of any flood risk to the site. A copy of this map is included in Appendix 2.

2.3. Planning History

Following a review of available information on Herefordshire Council Planning website, no planning permissions (post 1997) could be located. Furthermore, the memorial had no heritage listing and no other designations have been identified.



3. Application Proposal

The Shobdon War Memorial was erected in 1922, at the junction of the B4362, and Ledicot Lane. It had remained present here for 95 years, but with increasing traffic levels through Shobdon, and the increased popularity of memorial services as part of the WW1 commemorations, it had become increasingly dangerous for those attending.

In July 2018, the existing war memorial, was demolished as a result of a road traffic accident. It had to then be removed off site for repair.

As a result of this, the Parish Council took the opportunity to consult its parishioners on the possibility of moving the memorial to a safer location. Several possible sites were proposed, but the most popular was the site proposed as part of this application. A public meeting was held on the 2nd September 2018 to allow parishioners to share their views on the proposal. Finally, the Parish Council made the decision by unanimous vote to proceed with the relocation.

Prior to submission the residents of all the surrounding properties have been consulted.

The Application Proposal is to install the memorial at a point 9m from the edge of the existing footpath, in line with the current village flagpole. This will be then relocated to a point behind the relocated war memorial.

A stone slab footpath, 1.2m wide, will be installed from the existing footway, towards the memorial. Further stone paving will then be laid 1.5m wide completely around the memorial. All the above paving will be installed with only nominal fall for drainage purposes, and so will be fully DDA compliant.

Since the accident in July, several further names have emerged which would be applicable for inclusion on the memorial. Following consultation with the War Memorials Trust by the Parish Council, it has become clear that it is preferable not to amend the original memorial. As a result, the Parish Council proposes to leave the bottom stone from the original war memorial in situ at the original location (which will serve as a reminder to that effect). A new foundation stone will be obtained, in keeping with the original, and this will be inscribed with any additional names, so complying with the wishes of the War Memorial Trust.

This proposal will allow for services to be attended with a greater degree of safety for the participants, as well as reducing the risk of the memorial being damaged by another road traffic accident. It has also been discussed with Shobdon School, that in the safer location they would be able to attend.



4. Planning Policy

It is not surprising that Herefordshire Council does not have a specific policy for the relocation of War Memorials, although there is precedent with the relocation of memorials at Madley & Bredwardine. A verbal conversation between the Parish Clerk and Andrew Banks confirmed that in principal the project appeared to be a sensible proposal. The proposal also has the full support of Ward Councillor Phillips.

5. Design & Access Considerations

The proposed works will rebuild the existing memorial at the new site. The foundation stone will be replaced on a like for like basis, and so the memorial will retain its original dimensions.

The existing flagpole will be refurbished and relocated to behind the memorial when viewed from the public highway.

It is intended that the memorial will be accessible to all. The relocation away from the public highway will improve and amenity of those wishing to visit, and there is a layby immediately adjacent with parking for 3 cars. The paving details have been designed to be fully Disability Discrimination Act compliant in width, slope and firmness of material.

6. Conclusion

The proposal would provide a much-improved experience for those wishing to remember those from the parish who gave their lives for their country. It will also allow additional protection from collision with motor vehicles for both the memorial and those visiting. Finally, the relocation to the centre of the village with the proposed paving design will allow easier access to the elderly and those with mobility impairments.

The proposal is fully supported by the Parish Council and the Ward Councillor, together with most parishioners.

Therefore, it is felt that the proposal is suitable for this site and should be given planning permission.



Appendix 1 – Photos of Site



Figure 2 – View of proposed site from North



Figure 3 - View of proposed site from West



Appendix 2 – Flood Map

