

Planning Committee 9 September 2025
Report of the Planning Manager (Development Management)

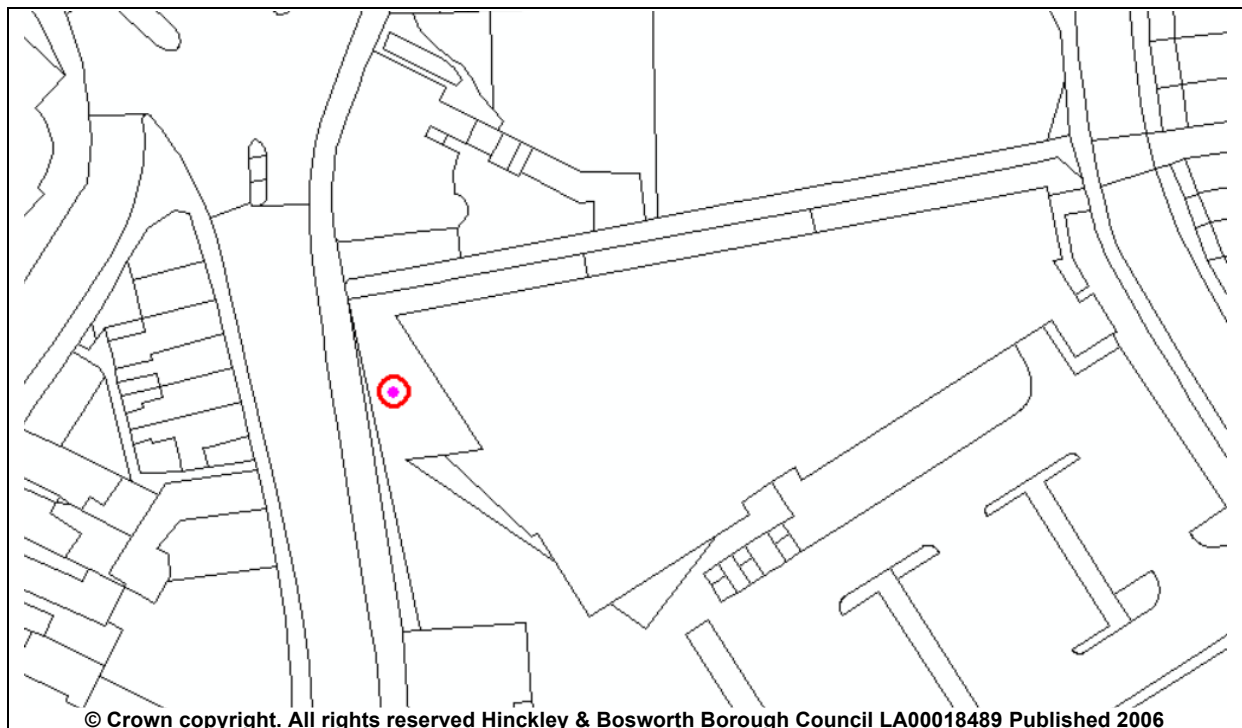
Planning Ref: 25/00681/FUL
Applicant: Mr Stanley Rooney
Ward: Hinckley DeMontfort



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Site: North Warwickshire And Hinckley College, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley

Proposal: Erection of Ada Lovelace statue outside North Warwickshire And Hinckley College, 2.5 metres in height, mounted on a Portland stone plinth 0.5 metres high.



1. Recommendations

1.1. Grant planning permission subject to:

- Planning conditions outlined at the end of this report

1.2. That the Head of Planning be given powers to determine the final detail of planning conditions.

2. Planning application description

2.1. The application seeks full planning permission for the erection of a statue of Ada Lovelace outside North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College.

2.2. The proposed bronze statue would measure 2.50 metres in height and would be mounted on a Portland stone plinth 0.50 meters in height, giving a total of 3.00 meters in height. Inscriptions are proposed to the front and rear of the plinth. The statue would be situated within a slightly raised area adjacent to Lower Bond Street which forms part of a hard and soft landscaped area fronting the college building. The exact location for the statue is within the line of three trees, with the middle tree

being removed (and relocated elsewhere to site) and replaced within the statue. The statue would have a steel mesh reinforced concrete foundation set into the pre-existing excavation for the tree.

- 2.3. The statue is proposed by the Ada in Hinckley Community Interest Company (CIC) as a striking and distinctive physical form of commemoration and recognition of Ada's legacy (which is described in the submitted Planning Statement). The costs of production and installation are to be met by the CIC, with permission granted by the College for installation on their land, and with arrangements made for ownership, liabilities and maintenance requirements for the statue to be formally taken on by the Borough Council following installation.

3. Description of the site and surrounding area

- 3.1. The application site relates to a college, situated in the settlement boundary of Hinckley and located to the east of Lower Bond Street. The application site is not located within a conservation area boundary but is flanked to the north by the Hollycroft Conservation Area, which is defined at its southern end by the grade II listed Hollybush public house. The site is flanked to the south by the Hinckley Town Centre Conservation Area, defined by the grade II listed Atkins Building and the grade II listed Framework Knitters Cottage at 30 Lower Bond Street (now occupied by Hinckley and District Museum) at its northern end.

4. Relevant planning history

82/00050/4

- Removal of window for loading purposes
- Planning Permission
- 23.03.1982

05/01111/FUL

- Mixed use development of dwellings and work units with garages landscaping roads sewers and ancillary works
- Refused
- 11.01.2006

07/01218/LBC

- Demolition of buildings
- Listed Building Consent
- 28.01.2008

08/00691/ADV

- Erection of signage
- Advertisement Consent
- 01.08.2008

09/00141/DEEM

- Re-development of the former atkins factory site for a mixed use development comprising of a new college building and the change of use and conversion of

the existing goddard building for use as a creative industries centre, including associated car parking and public realm improvement

- Planning Permission
- 04.09.2009

09/00142/LBC

- Conversion and adaption of the existing grade II listed goddard building to facilitate use as a creative industries centre
- Listed Building Consent
- 12.05.2009

10/00221/CONDIT

- Variation of condition no.24 of planning permission 09/00141/DEEM to allow a wind turbine on the roof of the building
- Planning Permission
- 18.06.2010

10/00271/DEEM

- Variation of condition no.2 of planning permission 09/00141/DEEM to allow minor material alterations
- Planning Permission
- 11.06.2010

10/00450/LBC

- Amendments to listed building consent 09/00142/LBC
- Called In By Secretary Of State
- 15.11.2010

11/00607/ADV

- Erection of two non-illuminated and one illuminated advertisements (retrospective).
- Advertisement Consent
- 16.09.2011

5. Publicity

- 5.1. The application has been publicised by sending out letters to local residents. A site notice was also posted within the vicinity of the site and a notice was displayed in the local press.
- 5.2. One comment of support has been received which has been summarised below;
 - Excited that Ada Lovelace is finally getting the recognition she deserves. Hopefully, this will help put Hinckley on the map and encourage people to appreciate the area's very special heritage in a whole new light. I also hope it will highlight the role of women in science and encourage more girls to pursue further education and careers in the STEM fields, which - as MIRA illustrates - will be vital to the area's prosperity moving forward. The statue itself is a work of art and the site in front of the college is perfect to inspire those that study

there, as well as those walking and driving past. The town would be very fortunate indeed to have such a wonderful installation, that will add interest and beauty to the college courtyard.

6. Consultation

6.1. LCC Highways:

'There would appear to be no material impact on the public highway and therefore the Local Highway Authority has no comments to make.'

6.2. HBBC Conservation Officer:

'In my opinion the statue is a suitable proposal to commemorate and recognise a renowned component of the borough's heritage and it is of an appropriate appearance, a modest scale, and is sited to ensure that there are no adverse visual effects upon the setting of the nearby conservation areas (Hollycroft and Hinckley Town Centre) and listed buildings (The Hollybush Public House, the Atkins Building, and the Framework Knitters Cottages). For these reasons it is considered that the proposal would preserve the heritage significance of the conservation areas and would be compatible with the significance of the listed buildings and consequently it would comply with Policies DM11 and DM12 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD, section 16 of the NPPF, and the statutory duty of Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) Act 1990.'

6.3. HBBC Town Centre Management:

- No comments have been received.

7. Policy

7.1. Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (2011)

- Policy 3: Atkins Factory Strategic Development Area

7.2. Core Strategy (2009)

- Policy 1: Development in Hinckley

7.3. Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016)

- Policy DM1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- Policy DM10: Development and Design
- Policy DM11: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment
- Policy DM12: Heritage Assets
- Policy DM17: Highways and Transportation
- Policy DM24: Cultural and Tourism Facilities

7.4. National Planning Policies and Guidance

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) Act 1990

7.5. Other relevant guidance

- Good Design Guide (2020)
- National Design Guide (2019)

8. Appraisal

8.1. Key Issues

- Assessment against strategic planning policies
- Design and impact upon the character of the area
- Impact upon neighbouring residential amenity
- Impact upon highway safety

Assessment against strategic planning policies

- 8.2 Paragraph 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies that planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF is a material planning consideration in planning decisions.
- 8.3 The relevant parts of the current Development Plan consist of the adopted Core Strategy, the adopted Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (SADMP), and the adopted Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (2011) (HTCAAP).
- 8.4 The Core Strategy, the SADMP and the HTCAAP are over 5 years old and were adopted prior to the publication of the current NPPF. Paragraph 34 of the NPPF states that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary.
- 8.5 Nevertheless, in accordance with Paragraph 232 of the NPPF, existing policies should not be considered out-of-date simply because they were adopted or made prior to the publication of the NPPF. Due weight should be given to existing policies according to their degree of consistency with the NPPF. Ultimately, the closer the policies in the plan are to the policies in the NPPF, the greater weight they may be given.
- 8.6 Policy 3 of the HTCAAP states that '*Key aspirations of this site's redevelopment are:*
- *Retention and enhancement of the car park to the west of the Atkins Factory Building.*
 - *Retention and reuse of the Atkins Building for mixed uses including office space and a creative enterprise centre*
 - *Redevelopment of the site formerly occupied by modern factory buildings for the occupation of an educational facility, a community facility and/or office space*
 - *Provision of an improved frontage to Lower Bond Street.*
 - *Enhanced visual surveillance of the Druid Place footpath, Druid Street and open space to the south.'*
- 8.7 Policy 3 of the HTCAAP would not be applicable in this case as the proposal would not involve the comprehensive re-development of the site. The site was re-developed shortly after this policy was introduced under original consent 09/00141/DEEM, with no intentions for further re-development foreseen. However, this application would support the provision of improved frontage to Lower Bond Street and so accords with the policy's aims and aspirations.
- 8.8 As such, there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development under Policy DM1 of the SADMP, and the wider policies of the NPPF. Therefore, the

development is considered to be acceptable in principle, subject to all other material planning matters being appropriately addressed.

Design and impact upon the character of the area

- 8.9 Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty on the local planning authority when determining applications for development which affects a listed building or its setting to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural and historic interest which it possesses.
- 8.10 Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides the national policy on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Paragraphs 212-215 of the NPPF require great weight to be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets when considering the impact of a proposed development on its significance, for any harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset to have clear and convincing justification, and for that harm to be weighed against the public benefits of a proposal.
- 8.11 Policy DM10 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (SADMP) seeks to ensure that new development should complement or enhance the character of the surrounding area with regard to scale, layout, density, mass, design, materials and architectural features.
- 8.12 Policies DM11 and DM12 of the SADMP seek to protect and enhance the historic environment. All proposals for development affecting the setting of listed buildings will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposals are compatible with the significance of the building and its setting. Development proposals should ensure the significance of a conservation area is preserved and enhanced through the consideration and inclusion of important features (as identified in Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans).
- 8.13 Policy 1 of the Core Strategy requires that new development to respect the character and appearance of the Hinckley Conservation Areas.
- 8.14 Spatial Objective 4 requires that to development in the town centre is high quality, safe and well designed and environmentally friendly to enhance Hinckley town centre's image to developers, retailers, residents and visitors.
- 8.15 Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace better known as "Ada Lovelace" was born on December 10th, 1815. Ada was a leading 19th century mathematician and daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron. She became the world's first computer programmer, mostly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. Although Ada's birthplace was in London during her early childhood she lived at Kirkby Hall in Kirby Mallory and made frequent visits to Hinckley until age 6, giving her ties to the town. The site was chosen for the locating of the statue as Ada is the figurehead for Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) with the college being the most senior place of learning in Hinckley.
- 8.16 The statue is a suitable proposal to commemorate and recognise a renowned component of the borough's heritage and it is of an appropriate appearance, a modest scale, and is sited to ensure that there are no adverse visual effects upon the setting of the nearby conservation areas (Hollycroft and Hinckley Town Centre) and listed buildings (The Hollybush Public House, the Atkins Building, and the Framework Knitters Cottages). It is considered to positively contribute to the historic character of the area while providing minor tourism benefits.

- 8.17 In light of the above, it is considered that the proposal would preserve the character of the area and the heritage significance of the conservation areas and would be compatible with the significance of the listed buildings and consequently it would comply with Policies DM10, DM11 and DM12 of the SADMP, Section 16 of the NPPF, the statutory duty of Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) Act 1990, and the Core Strategy.

Impact upon neighbouring residential amenity

- 8.18 Policy DM10 of the SADMP states that proposals should not adversely affect the occupiers of the neighboring properties.
- 8.19 By virtue of the minor nature of the proposal there is not considered to be any material adverse impact in the residential amenity of any neighbouring properties and the proposal is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy DM10 of the SADMP.

Impact upon highway safety

- 8.20 Section 9 of the NPPF promotes sustainable transport. Paragraph 115 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should ensure that developments provide appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes, given the type of development and its location and a safe and suitable access to the site for all users. Any proposal should ensure that any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.
- 8.21 Ultimately, development should only be refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe, in accordance with Paragraph 116 of the NPPF.
- 8.22 Policy DM17 of the adopted SADMP supports development that would not have any significant adverse impacts on highway safety.
- 8.23 The size and position of the statue would not give rise to an unacceptable level of pedestrian or vehicular safety as it would be situated a safe distance from the adjacent public highway. The Local Highways Authority concludes that there would appear to be no material impact on the public highway.
- 8.24 It is therefore considered that the proposed advertisement would not cause any material impacts upon pedestrian or vehicular safety in compliance with policies DM17 of the SADMP.

9. Equality implications

- 9.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 created the public sector equality duty. Section 149 states:-
- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 9.2 Officers have taken this into account and given due regard to this statutory duty in the consideration of this application. The Committee must also ensure the same when determining this planning application.
- 9.3 There are no known equality implications arising directly from this development.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. The proposal is considered acceptable as it would respect and complement the scale, character and appearance of the area and would have no adverse visual effects upon the setting of the nearby conservation areas thus preserving its significance. It would not result in any significant adverse impacts on the amenity of the occupiers of any neighbouring properties or any significant adverse impacts on the public highway. The proposals are considered to be in accordance with Policies DM1, DM10, DM11, DM12 and DM17 of the SADMP, the general principles of the Council's Good Design Guide, section 16 of the NPPF (2024), the statutory duty of Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Core Strategy and is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions.

11. Recommendation

11.1 Grant planning permission subject to:

- Planning conditions outlined at the end of this report

- 11.2 That the Head of Planning be given powers to determine the final detail of planning conditions.

11.3 Conditions and Reasons

- 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 2. The materials to be used to the proposed statue hereby approved shall be as specified in the submitted application form as received by the Local Planning Authority on the 11th July 2025.

Reason: To ensure that the development has a satisfactory external appearance in accordance with Policies DM1, DM10, DM11, DM12 and DM17 of the SADMP, the general principles of the Council's Good Design Guide, section 16 of the NPPF (2024), the statutory duty of Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Core Strategy.

- 3. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the submitted application details, as follows:

- Block Plan
- Proposed Photo – Statue

as received by the Local Planning Authority on the 16th July 2025.

- Site Location Plan as received by the Local Planning Authority on the 11th July 2025.

Reason: To ensure that the development has a satisfactory external appearance in accordance with Policies DM1, DM10, DM11, DM12 and DM17 of the SADMP, the general principles of the Council's Good Design Guide, section 16 of the NPPF (2024), the statutory duty of Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Core Strategy.

11.4 Notes to applicant

- a) The approved development may require Building Regulations Approval, for further information please contact the Building Control team via e-mail at building.control@blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 272 7533.