



The University of Manchester

Bicentenary Way – new paving in Brunswick Park, Oxford Rd, University of Manchester M13 9PL to celebrate notable University alumni for the University's 200th anniversary in 2024

Design & Access Statement

November 2023

The University of Manchester

Directorate of Estates & Facilities, Project Design Team, 4th Floor Beyer Building, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Introduction

Bicentenary Way is to mark the 200th anniversary of the University's establishment in 1824 and is to celebrate '200 years of wisdom, knowledge, humanity' (the University motto).

Bicentenary Way is the name that the University has given to the creation of a new historic landmark that is a long-standing, commemorative instalment to celebrate the range of important people who are associated with the University. A series of engraved paving stones will be installed to form a landmark that will showcase the rich heritage, contributions, and achievements of the University of Manchester.

This proposal is to record in stone (a 'Walk of Fame') in the University's Brunswick Park 200nr notable alumni for posterity in approx. 200nr 400mm wide Kilkenny flamed stone with names laser etched into the stone.

This application is to also apply for Permission to erect a self-supporting interpretation panel to the side of the new paving to provide additional information and QR code links to biographies of the alumni for visitors, and its design and size will match the existing Heritage monoliths already installed around the campus.

The proposed location of the new paving stones & interpretation panel are wholly on the University's privately owned land.

Objectives of the proposed scheme

The names to be included in the Walk of Fame are all to be confirmed but will all be aligned with the criteria, objectives, and key considerations as follows: -

- To create a long-lasting legacy celebrating the University's people past and present.
- To showcase the breadth of activities undertaken, positive impact of the University's people and how they have made a difference around the world.

- To provide a focal point on campus for the University's Bicentenary celebrations in 2024.
- To provide a point of interest on campus for visitors, open days, graduation, museum visitors etc.
- To create a University landmark that can be added to in the future.

The names chosen will reflect the following:

- Disciplines – reflecting breadth of the University's current and past areas of expertise and impact
- Nationality – recognising the University's global impact and multinational community
- Unsung heroes – hidden stars in all areas of the University's activity
- Eras of the University's history – covering the last 200 years
- Pivotal moments in Manchester's history – such as World War II, 'Madchester' etc

Location & design

The proposed location is in the recently completed Brunswick Park on the opposite side of Oxford Road to the Alfred Waterhouse buildings of Whitworth Hall and Manchester Museum, the centre of gravity of the University.

It is proposed to use the Old Visitors Centre in the Old Quad as an Information and Interpretation Centre as the starting point for the Walk of Fame, to cross Oxford Road from the Queens Arch and along the sandstone setts of Brunswick Park to view the new Kilkenny limestone stone paving celebrating 200 years of the University's achievements.

The proposal is to group alumni names in 11nr clusters of 19nr names each, some with the University logo or crest to the central paving stone. The groups are to be laid out in an informal rather than geometric layout to respond to the informal design of Brunswick Park and to enable future additions (subject to future Consent).

Names are of those who are highly significant; notable firsts; Nobel winners; the distinguished and groups of distinguished alumni from the first 200 years of the University's existence.

Context & Materials

The existing finish in the area proposed for the new paving is Tower Sandstone setts, approx. 80x80x80mm. The proposal is to carefully remove the existing stone setts where the groups are to be located and lay the new 400mm wide hexagonal paving stones

The proposed stone is a limestone from Southern Ireland, flamed to permanently darken the surface then laser etched with the graphics to reveal the original lighter colour of the limestone to produce a white on black effect. The stone masons have confirmed that the flaming is a permanent change in the rock surface and will not wear off, and that the graphics and stone flags have an indefinitely long life, minimum of 60 years. A full-sized laser etched Kilkenny flamed hexagon sample has been fabricated and is available for inspection.

A smaller sample has also been produced and photographed; image attached on the drawings of the proposed paving stone (wetted) on the existing Brunswick Park sandstone setts.

The existing Sandstone sett edging design around existing services inspection chambers, inset pavement signs and to the perimeter of the setts is to be copied and replicated for the new edging around the new hexagon groups, re-using the existing setts removed to lay the new Kilkenny limestone paving.

The existing design and layout of the sandstone setts and joints will be replicated with a perimeter band of setts around the groups of hexagons, and the original supplier and installer of the sandstone setts is being employed by the University to carry out this work.

The original sandstone sett specification was for the top flamed 90%, picked 10%, with the sides cropped, laid at a 45-degree angle to the direction of travel, with continuous joints broken after 3 to 5 stones.

Accessibility

The Kilkenny limestone finish is similar to the existing sandstone sett ie with a slightly riven (not polished) finish. The Kilkenny limestone and the sandstone setts are sympathetic in colour, but sufficiently different in colour to be noticeable and to provide a suitable colour contrast for the visually impaired.

The new limestone paving stones and the existing stone setts have similar non-slip characteristics to ensure a smooth transition from one onto the other walking, running, cycling or as a wheelchair user or for those of impaired mobility.

There is existing level access to all of Brunswick Park and to the sandstone setts where the new Kilkenny limestone hexagons are proposed to be laid – all existing dropped kerbs, ramps and gradients are suitable for accessibility and can be accessed by prospective users.

The new hexagons will be laid flush with the surrounding surfaces to maintain the same accessibility.

Existing Utilities, Wayleaves & drainage

Following the closure of Brunswick Street to create the new Park, the Utility Companies retain their existing statutory rights to uncover & excavate to access their services if required and for making good on completion.

New and existing Wayleaves are unaffected by these proposals.

The existing surface water drainage provisions are unaffected by these proposals, the existing stone setts and joints are non-porous as are the new Kilkenny limestone paving stones and joints and will be laid to the same falls as existing.

Interpretation panel

This is to provide information and QR code links to biographies of the Walk of Fame alumni and is to match the design and size of the existing Heritage monoliths on campus. The nearest existing Heritage monoliths are in the Old Quad and outside Beyer Building, John Owens, and Christie Building.

The proposed Interpretation panel graphics, images, design, colour, and finish is to match the existing Heritage monoliths and the existing nearby Brunswick Park sign, the same stainless steel surround, stainless steel plinth, and the same detailing. A photo of the existing Brunswick Park sign is attached.

The new interpretation panel has a black enamelled aluminium display panel with artwork & enamelled white lettering. The sign is finished with a gloss anti-graffiti spray coating.

Top, sides and plinth lower panel are stainless steel shot peened finish, 8mm thick.

Consultations with MCC Planning, Building Control & Licensing Growth & Development Directorate

Email 02/11/2023 to UOM

Please apply for Planning Permission under a Full Planning Permission application, the type of development being 'Other Operations - other than winning and working of minerals'. The fee will be calculated using the site area (hectares or square metres) of the proposed paving slabs.

UOM: site area approx. 25 x 11m = 275m²

Email to Tony Mitchell at MCC Planning 25/09/2023

[Monthly meeting with MCC] booked to see if [MCC] happy with the team's proposals for the new paving, outline proposal attached (Walk of Fame Paving v3), which [the UOM] will be applying for Approval.

The proposal is for all approx. 200nr (400x400mm hexagonal) laser etched either Caithness Riven top or Kilkenny Blue Flamed stone (photo of the stone included in [the Estates Designer's] Walk of Fame Paving v3 design) in 5nr groups of 20nr paving stones, some alternative layouts shown in [the Estates Designer's] document, all to be set into the cobbles in Brunswick Park opposite Queens Arch.

The team also wished to erect a monolith for Interpretation purposes similar to the existing purple [Park Sign and like the Heritage Monolith's] set in the grassed area, exact location to be confirmed.

Would [MCC Planning] department have any objections to these proposals please? Would you have a preference of layout?

Notes of Teams video meeting with Tony Mitchell MCC Planning 27/02/2023

- In principle the Walk of Fame pavement insets would be acceptable to the Council
- Images of Wigan Council Hollywood type stars and names inset into existing paving briefly discussed. Potentially acceptable to MCC, dependant on size and design and how configured.
- Images of sand blasted images into pavings and then left as is or with monochrome or coloured resin infills flush with surface discussed. Potentially acceptable to MCC, dependant on size and design and how configured.
- 200nr names / images potentially acceptable to MCC, again dependant on layout, location, design.
- Metal inlays / inserts to be avoided due to potential vandalism and theft, experienced elsewhere in the city

- Mosaics in footpath similar to the existing ones around Canal St also discussed as a possible option
- Location of the artwork is to be confined to the University Campus, not on Council pavements
- Tony Mitchell's dept would consult other stakeholders – check if any possible conflicts with crossing points with the proposed designs
- Location specific and non-location specific paving plaques to be identified
- Outline proposals and options to be further discussed with Tony Mitchell as scheme develops
- Non-slip finish will be needed
- Old Visitors Centre briefly mention to be used as the Walk of Fame Hub; further proposals to be discussed with MCC

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