BRIEF PLANNING SUPPORTING STATEMENT

location	School Playing Fields to North of 51 Clare Hill, Huddersfield, HD1 5BS.
application	Erection of 2.4m High Security Fence
client/applicant	Greenhead College
job number	26/1376
date	August 2026

PAUL MATTHEWS ARCHITECTURAL Ltd

ARCHITECTURE | PLANNING | DESIGN

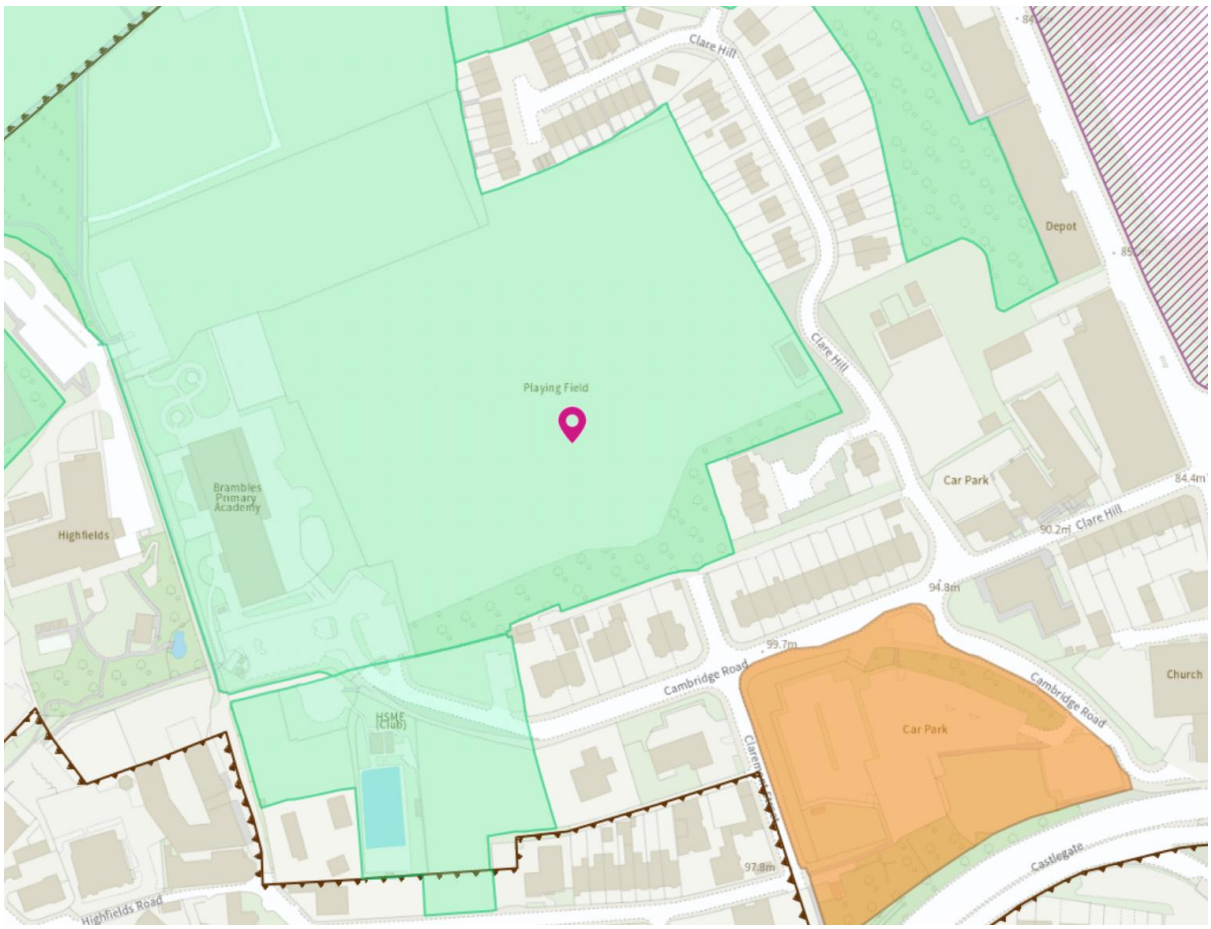
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The application seeks formal planning permission for the erection of a 2.4m high security fence along the Southern side of the application site (the playing fields to the East of Bramble Primary Academy).

The land is known/referred to by the applicants as Highfields Playing Fields.

The site is classed as urban green space on the Kirklees local plan and is **not** within the nearby Huddersfield Conservation Area;



We understand the land was transferred to Greenhead College form Kirklees council in 1997 (13/06/1997).

This application arises following growing levels over the past 12 months of anti-social behaviour on the College playing fields, known as Highfields.

The issues have been caused by the open access to the full site and consequently this has resulted in squatters setting up encampments, some of significant size on the fields. Twice the college has had to have bailiffs come and remove people from the site.

For a College who teach 16-18 year olds this presents a significant safeguarding risk, and they have had to suspend provision of PE and extra-curricular sport at the application site due to safeguarding concerns.

These safeguarding concerns arise due to the mental health of the people who are setting up these encampments, they very often become aggressive but more significantly, the prolific drug use that

takes place and therefore the drugs paraphernalia that is left on and around the playing fields, including used needles.

The College wishes to work with responsible community users and still maintain the footpath through the site but protect the main playing fields so that the young people who use the facility are not put at significant risk of harm.

The proposed solution is to erect a 2.4m high security fence to the Southern part of the application site, offset in from the PROW (Public Right of Way) that runs along the Southern part of the application site.

See KMC map extract overleaf showing the Prows in the immediate locality.

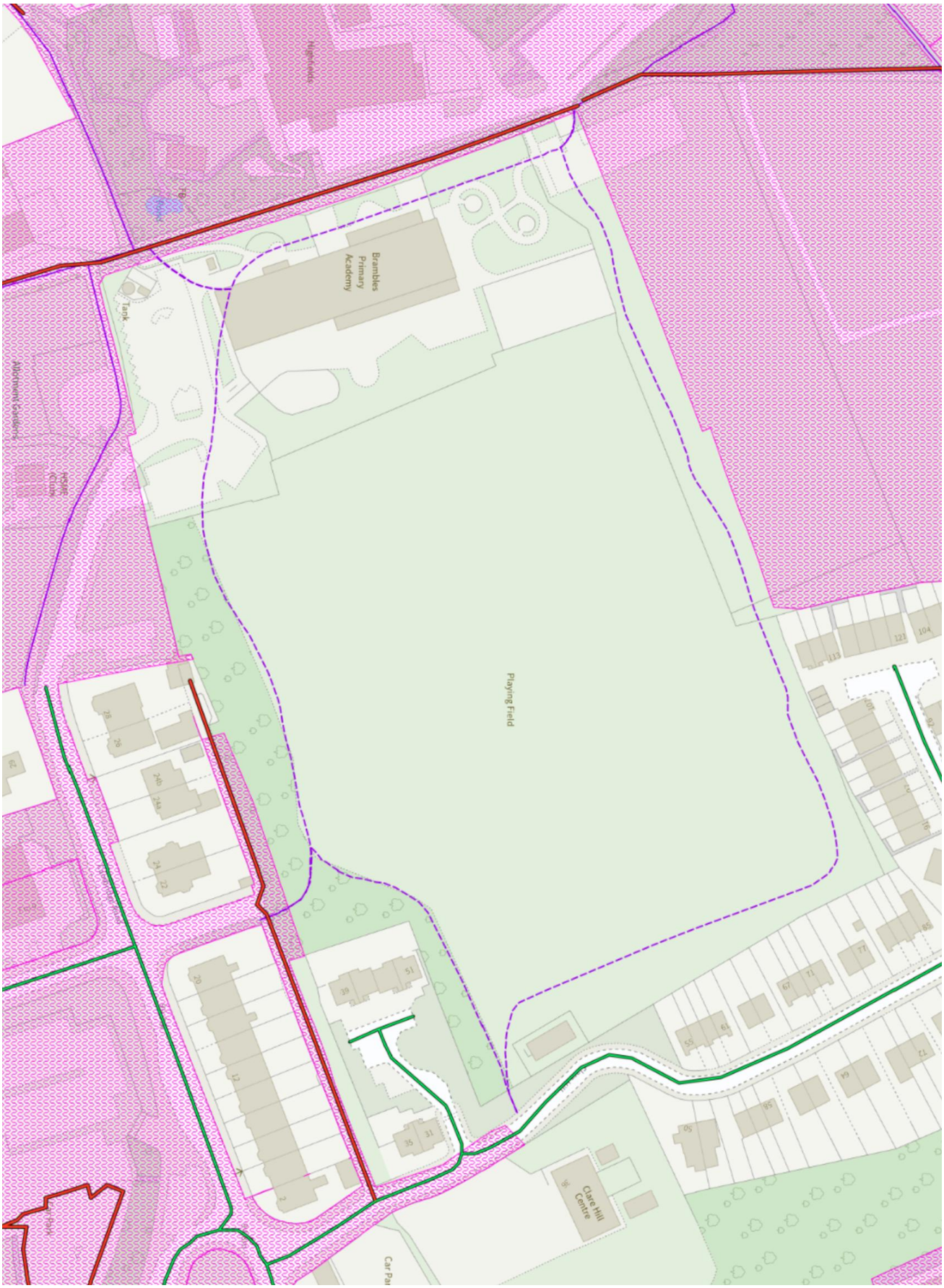
The position of the PROW has been overlaid on the application OS plans to ensure the proposed fence does not block or obstruct the PROW.

It's important to note the other existing fences and gates that obstruct the PROW are not within the ownership of the applicant. its also worthy to note the definitive line of the PROW already appears to be permanently obstructed by the Brambles Primary Academy schools which appears to have been built over the definitive PROW line as indicated on the KMC map.

The existing roadside gate on the East side of the site is to remain unaffected. It is proposed the proposed fence will commence off the left-hand side gate post, when viewed from the highway (Clare Hill) towards the application site.

It is also proposed to install a 3m wide gate opening to the South West end of the fence as demonstrated to ensure adequate access points are provide for evacuation and ground maintenance purposes.

KMC Definitive PROW map;



The proposed fence is to be a mesh type to ensure wind can freely blow through but also to retain openness.

The fence is pre-finished in RAL 6005 (Moss Green) which will blend in with the surroundings.

The fence is known as a '868 mesh fence'. The 868 refers to the wire thickness - two parallel 8mm horizontal wires sandwich a single 6mm vertical wire. It is a security fence that is hard to cut and hard to climb given the spacing/gaps (mechanical tools are required to cut the fence).

As noted above the open mesh design allows for clear sightlines, which are essential for monitoring and surveillance purposes. This design ensures that security personnel/college staff can maintain effective oversight without obstruction.

The fence is regularly used across similar school settings.

USE

The proposed use of the property or land is not subject to any change of use.

PROPOSED APPEARANCE

There will be limited change to the existing appearance as the proposed fence is of a mesh design that enables sight through it. The proposed finish of moss green (RAL 6005) will ensure the fence is sympathetic to its surroundings.

MEANS OF ACCESS

There is no proposed change to the means of access to the site.

LANDSCAPING

There are no changes to the landscaping.

ECOLOGY

There is no impact on ecology as a result of this application.

HIGHWAYS

The proposals have no impact on the highway/vehicular movements and have no intensified use.

LAYOUT

No changes to layout as part of this application.

SCALE

No change

CONCLUSION

Considering the serious risk posed to the college students, public health and safety along with the limited aesthetic changes, we contend that the proposals are acceptable, and that planning permission should be forthcoming.

I would be grateful if you could contact Paul Matthews Architectural prior to drafting up your recommendation for determination.

APPENDIX A

FENCE PHOTOS (EXAMPLES)













