

MEMORANDUM

From:	Stuart Ryder Landscape Architect (Consultant)		
Service	WBC Landscape and Trees	App No:	251827
Address:	University Of Reading Library, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG6 6EB.		
Proposal:	Full application for the proposed installation of a new substation, standby generator and associated below ground cabling to serve the Library and Park House, plus removal of end of service life substations to Library and Park House.		
Type of Development:	Minor All other developments		
Site Visit Made:	/No		

Summary Of Recommendations

- ☐ No comment
- ☐ No objection
- ☐ No objection subject to conditions (and reasons) **stated below**
- ☒ Request further information before determination as **stated below**
- ☐ Objection due to the reason(s) **stated below**

Comments On Proposal

These proposals see the replacement of a modest kiosk building set adjacent to a small amenity area replaced with a larger, fenced in substation with a standby generator and associated fuel tanks. The fenestration is provided both for security and to act as a screen.

The site of the old kiosk style sub-station would be demolished and replaced with planting as indicated on the Hard and Soft Landscape Plan – 18201 Rev A. Unfortunately there is no detail of this planting provided with the application that I could see. There is a note on Page 4 of the DAS referring to the use of native planting but this might not be appropriate in this location given wider amenity style character of this part of the University's campus.

The AIA prepared by Challice Consulting Ltd ref AR5725 dated 22/7/25 indicates that T1 and part of G4 need to be removed for the works to commence. T1 is identified as a 3m high shrub but no species is given to it, nor re any photographs provided that could possibly aid identification. This shrub may be worth retaining e.g specimen magnolia, or it may not e.g overgrown dogwood but I am not in a position to confirm either way.

The G4 beech hedge is identified for part removal and replacement prior to the works. This should be specified in terms of length and the position marked on a plan to understand how much is to be removed and from where. The tree schedule appears to suggest its replacement prior to the works which is not advised given potential damage to the new stock during the works.

The tree fencing proposals outlined in the AIA appear appropriate.

To summarise the following information is considered outstanding;

- Soft landscape plan and plant schedule detailing the replacement stock to fill the location of the demolished kiosk building.
- Identification of T1 and ideally a photograph of the large shrub in its current context.
- Location and extent of G4 that is proposed for removal.

Conditions & Reasons (if required)

Subject to the submission of the listed landscape and tree information I will likely not objecting but would likely be adding a tree retention and protection conditions and depending on the nature of the submitted soft landscape plan a landscape condition with 5 years post planting maintenance and replanting of failed stock.

Date:	5/9/25	Signed:	Stuart Ryder
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