



Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable Future

2110 – Forest School, Reading

Community Involvement Statement

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STATEMENT

The Forest School

Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5NE
Salix PSDS Phase 4 Heating Replacement

1 Introduction

This Community Involvement Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the installation of low carbon heating infrastructure and associated electrical works at The Forest School.

The proposed development comprises:

- External air source heat pump compounds
- New DNO substation enclosure
- New LV main switchgear enclosure
- Underground service infrastructure
- Associated landscaping works

The development relates solely to operational infrastructure within an established secondary school campus.

2 Nature of the Proposal

The works are technical infrastructure upgrades required to replace life-expired gas-fired heating plant and facilitate transition to electrically driven heat pump technology under the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

The proposal does not:

- Introduce new teaching accommodation
- Change the use of the site
- Increase pupil capacity
- Alter site access arrangements
- Create additional traffic generation once operational

The development is ancillary to the established educational use of the site.

3 Stakeholder Engagement

3.1 School Engagement

The project has been developed in close consultation with:

- The Forest School senior leadership team
- Site management and estates personnel
- The appointed energy consultant (ESOS Energy Ltd)
- Design engineers

Engagement has focused on:

- Positioning of external compounds
- Maintaining safe pedestrian circulation
- Minimising disruption during construction
- Phasing works around school operations

The design has been refined to ensure infrastructure is located within operational areas and does not compromise pupil safety or site functionality.

3.2 Statutory and Utility Consultation

Early engagement has been undertaken with:

- The Distribution Network Operator in relation to supply upgrade requirements
- Metering provider
- Design team in relation to electrical capacity and infrastructure siting

The planning application allows statutory consultees and utility bodies to formally review and comment on the proposal as part of the planning process.

4 Public Consultation

Given the nature and scale of the development, formal pre-application public consultation has not been undertaken.

The proposed works:

- Are contained entirely within the operational school site
- Do not materially alter the visual character of the wider area
- Do not introduce new land uses
- Do not affect neighbouring residential access or parking arrangements

The statutory planning consultation process will provide neighbouring occupiers and interested parties the opportunity to review and comment on the application.

Site notices and neighbour notifications will be administered by the Local Planning Authority in accordance with statutory requirements.

5 Construction Management

Construction activity will be temporary and managed to minimise disruption.

Measures will include:

- Controlled contractor access
- Phased trenching and reinstatement
- Coordination with school operations
- Safe segregation of construction areas

No long-term operational disturbance to neighbouring properties is anticipated.

6 Conclusion

The proposed development is a technical infrastructure upgrade necessary to support decarbonisation of an established educational facility.

The scheme has been developed in consultation with the school and relevant technical stakeholders.

Given the limited scale, operational nature and contained location of the works, pre-application public consultation was not considered necessary.

The statutory planning process will provide appropriate opportunity for public comment.



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