
From: Christina Duckett
Sent: 09/08/2010 10:50:35
To: Hazel Evans
Subject: AWE 10/01695 Hydrodynamics Research Facility HYDRUS

I have been closely involved in the evolution of the design of this project.

A number of pre-application meetings have been held between the agents and Clive Inwards, Bettina Kirkham and myself and the scheme accords with that presented at the last design meeting.

I have been pleased with the response of the design team to input from the LPA, both in general design terms, and in relation to impact on the nearby Listed Building, Aldermaston Manor (Grade II*) and the adjacent Registered Park and Garden, Aldermaston Park (Grade II). The design process is documented in Chapter 4 of Volume I of the documents submitted.

Matters such as location, form, massing, articulation of the buildings, landscaping, materials and detail have been discussed at length, and the design has, in my view, improved considerably as a result. I note in particular the relationship of the proposed building with the historic setting, notably the avenue of oaks; and the efforts made to minimise the visual impact of the buildings and catenary structure required for lightning protection.

Important views have been agreed with the applicants and the site has been viewed from these key viewpoints.

I have seen samples of and am happy with the materials proposed. These should be conditioned as necessary.

I would agree with the agents summary that the impact on the designated heritage assets is likely to be 'minor adverse' relative to baseline conditions (both are already compromised). Given the scale of the proposal this is quite an achievement. Chapter 14 of Volume I of the documents submitted addressed issues in detail.

The achievement of an 'Excellent' rating under DREAM is to be welcomed.

The proposal has my full support.

The opinion of the landscape consultant should ideally be sought at this stage.

Please note that I will not be contactable at this email address from August 5th 2010. Correspondence after that date should be directed to the Team Leader (Gordon Currie) or to another member of the conservation team (Denis Greenway or Debra Hammond).

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