
INTERNAL CONSULTATION

To: Hazel Evans **Date:** 30 July 2010

From: Arthur Cullen – Senior Tree Officer

Ext: 2675

Planning Application No: 10/01695/COMIND

Proposal: Replacement hydrodynamics research facility including an operations building with lightning protection system, a support building, an electrical substation, and associated landscaped areas including a Sustainable Drainage System together with construction related infrastructure including access roads, construction compound, fencing, gates and ancillary facilities.

Address: AWE Aldermaston, Aldermaston, Reading, Berkshire

Case Officer: Hazel Evans

Comments with Regard to Trees and Landscaping.

The application has been supported by several documents which refer to trees, these include the following (RPS Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plans MER-110-011438 & RPS Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan MER -110-011952).

The tree report includes a tree survey of the site, a constraints' plan and a tree protection plan, all in accordance with BS5837:2005, and is a good reflection of the current tree stock at the site and which trees will need to be removed to facilitate the development and those trees which can be retained and protected throughout the development.

All this information is covered on plans JSL 1692 001 Amenity Tree survey MER-110-011438, JSL 1692 002 Tree constraints plan MER-110-011438, & JSL 1692 001 Tree removal and protection plan MER-110-011438, the trees to be lost to facilitate the development are of various grades, with 1 A grade, 1 B grade several C grade and 1 R grade, whilst the loss of A&B would normally be an issue, due to the limited public amenity value the loss of the trees can be mitigated through new landscaping.

Overall the tree constraints have been considered and the loss of trees clearly identified, the trees to be retained can be protected throughout the development and managed corrected if the details in the tree report are adhered to.

The landscaping details provided within the Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan MER -110-011952, appear to be very comprehensive, the planting proposals plan MER-110-016751 Rev clearly shows the proposed level of landscaping for the site, and propose to plant large areas of mixed native species around the site to provide a degree of screen.

The major view into the site is from the Manor house (Aldermaston) to the North, but considering the large tree screen, this view will be limited, the proposed level of landscaping and species is very much in keeping with the surrounding area and is very good.

Conclusion

The level of information provided to determine the application is very comprehensive and gives a detail explanation for the proposed removal and retention of trees at the site, the landscaping will mitigate the loss of the trees and provide a more structured landscaping around the building for the future.

I have no objection to the application subject to the following conditions being attached to any proposed consent.

1. Implementation of the approved landscape scheme

ZL2 All landscape works shall be completed in accordance with the submitted plans, schedule of planting and retention, programme of works and other supporting information approved by the Local Planning Authority in report **MER-110-011952,(JSL 1664/100 Rev I)** Any trees, shrubs or hedges planted in accordance with the approved scheme which are removed, die, or become diseased within five years from completion of this development shall be replaced within the next planting season by trees, shrubs or hedges of a similar size and species to that originally approved.

Reason; To ensure the implementation of a satisfactory scheme of landscaping in accordance with the objectives of policies DP5 and EN1 of the Berkshire Structure Plan 2001 - 2016 and policies OVS2 (a & b) and OVS 3 (b) of the West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 - 2006.

Tree Protection Scheme (Implementation)

ZL6 Protective fencing shall be implemented and retained intact for the duration of the development in accordance with the tree and landscape protection scheme identified on approved drawing(s) numbered **MER-110-011438 (JSL 1692)**. Within the fenced area(s), there shall be no excavations, storage of materials or machinery, parking of vehicles or fires.

Reason; To ensure the protection of trees identified for retention at the site in accordance with the objectives of policies DP5 and EN1 of the Berkshire Structure Plan 2001 - 2016 and policy OVS2 (b) of the West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 - 2006.

Arb supervision condition.

No site works/ demolition/ development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of an arboricultural watching brief in accordance with a written scheme of site monitoring, to cover the details contained in tree report **MER-110-011438** which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the protection of trees identified for retention at the site in accordance with the objectives of West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 - 2006 Policy OVS 2.

Arthur Cullen
Senior Tree Officer