

Our Ref: 79760

3rd October 2022

University of Reading Arts School – Post Submission Transport Comments Response

This response has been prepared in relation to comments raised by Highways Officers following submission of a planning application for the above scheme and questions regarding car parking capacity in proximity to the proposed development.

Within the Whiteknights Campus there is a large quantum of car parking to support those who may decide to travel by car. This includes Car Park 11 (which has 51 spaces) directly west of the site, Car Park 8 to the north, 1st Avenue and Car Parks 7 and 6 to the northwest. In total, there are approximately circa 330 car parking spaces located within a 5-minute walking distance from the proposed development to be utilised by staff and students.

For both staff and students, a strict car parking permit eligibility criteria is enforced by the University to ensure only those that meet the criteria can travel to site by car. This also ensures that car parking capacity is not exceeded and is supported and enforced by the campus wide University of Reading Travel Plan. The University aims to decrease the number of car parking permits issued each year and is currently undertaking a detailed sustainable travel infrastructure study to improve active travel within proximity of the site and to reduce the number of vehicle trips to the campus.

Those travelling to the new Arts Suite via car are likely to be staff. There are expected to be a maximum of 35 members of staff based at the relocated facility which breaks down as follows:

- Full time Academic staff: 10
- Part time Academic staff: 10
- Seasonal Academic staff: 7
- Technical Staff: 4
- Exec Support Staff: 2
- Research Staff: 2
- Total = 35

The maximum number of staff expected to be on-site daily is 15 and not all are expected to drive independently. This results in a limited demand for car parking (not including the historic demand from the replaced CPU facility).

Modal split data provided by the University of Reading indicates that 37% of staff are likely to travel to work by car. This would equate to approximately 5 additional vehicles per day and would have a negligible impact on car parking capacity surrounding the new Arts Suite.

The proposed site is well located close to high frequency bus services.. This increases the likelihood of staff/students travelling to the site using public transport.

In addition to the cycle parking proposed as part of this development (30 spaces), this area of the Whiteknights Campus has 243 cycle parking spaces located within proximity to the new Arts Suite. This supports staff and students cycling to the site. The University has seen a steep increase in cycling to the campus since the COVID pandemic.



Furthermore, since COVID-19, the demand for car parking at workplaces has typically reduced (often significantly) due to changes in working patterns and significant increases in people working from home.

In light on the above, it is considered that the existing car parking provision and capacity within proximity of the site is sufficient to accommodate the relocated Arts School.