

Application for Planning and Listed Building Consent
Building LO33, University of Reading
London Road Campus, off Redlands Road,
Reading, RG1 5AQ
Proposed Installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels
HERITAGE STATEMENT

0.0 Introduction

This Statement is prepared by Reading Community Energy Society which is intending to install Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels in collaboration with the University of Reading. The proposed Solar PV Panels will be installed on Building Number LO33 at the university's London Road Campus. The property is owned by the University of Reading. The building is used as lecture theatres and teaching space.

1.0 Proposed Solar Photovoltaic ("PV") System

It is proposed to install roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and the required ancillary equipment. The ancillary equipment will be installed inside the building. The PV panels will generate renewable electricity and the ancillary equipment will convert this into alternating current (ac) electricity suitable for use in the building. The large majority of the generated electricity will be consumed within the building. Any excess electricity will be exported to other buildings on the site and any surplus to the local electricity distribution network.

There will be a total of 82 (eighty two) PV panels mounted on a frame which will support the panels at a 15-degree (approx..) pitched oriented East/West. Layout drawings have been provided with the application.

2.0 Conservation Area and Listed Buildings

The site is within the Kendrick Road Conservation Area and in the curtilage of listed buildings.

One aspect of interest that justifies designation of this Conservation Area is the early 20th century planned campus of the University of Reading, the only university established between the two World Wars, on which Building LO33 is situated. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal¹ notes that within the university campus the War Memorial Clock Tower and, more prominently, the Great Hall are important focal points. These are both listed buildings. The Appraisal further points out that as constructed, the laboratory buildings may lack the architectural pretension of The Great Hall or the former library building but collectively they create a place of notable character with particular significance to the 20th century development of English universities.

3.0 Layout and design

The nature of the design of the proposed Solar PV installation does not impact on the structure or look of the existing building.

¹ http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/8386/Kendrick-Full/pdf/Kendrick_Full.pdf

The building is double storey with flat roofs suitable for installing a Solar PV panel system. The proposed array will be installed in such a way that the long-term impact on the roof will be minimal. The installation of solar panels is reversible. In the unlikely case that the solar panels were no longer needed for microgeneration they could be removed with no lasting damage to the roof on which they will be installed. A structural engineer would be appointed to confirm suitability in terms of roof structure.

There is a low parapet around the edge of the flat roofs. The panel layout on the flat roofs of the building ensures that the panels will have no or very limited impact on the characteristics of the wider London Road campus and listed buildings cited in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal.



Building LO33, looking South-West



Building LO33, looking North-East

Plan, Section and Elevation drawings have been submitted with the application.

4.0 Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Both the Applicant (Reading Community Energy Society) and the University of Reading understand the need to balance the benefits to society of responding to climate change with impact on the surrounding area.

The solar PV panels do not present a major visual impact on the site as a whole and their benefit to the University and to Reading will outweigh any minor impacts. It is noted that Reading Borough Council policies strongly encourage the use of renewable energy and in particular solar PV as can be seen in [this document²](http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/3516/item08a-Carbon-PlanJUN15/pdf/item08a_Carbon_Plan_JUN15.pdf)

² http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/3516/item08a-Carbon-PlanJUN15/pdf/item08a_Carbon_Plan_JUN15.pdf