

**DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT TO SUPPORT THE LISTED
BUILDING CONSENT APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
LIGHTNING PROTECTION**



at

CAVERSHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHURCH STREET

READING

RG4 8AU

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Site Background
3. Design Statement
4. Access Considerations
5. Conclusion

1. Introduction

This Design and Access Statement supports the application for the installation of a lightning protection system to Caversham Library, situated on Church Street, Reading. The proposed works are to help preserve the building in the event of a direct lightning strike.

2. Site Background

Caversham Free Public Library is a red brick and stone with a tiled roof. Asymmetrically gables - one with the inscription PUBLIC LIBRARY and the date 1907 above. A central lock tower which is capped by ball finials and a small copper domed stair turret.

3. Design Statement

3.1 Rationale

The installation is proposed to mitigate the risk posed by lightning strikes, ensuring the safety of the building's occupants and the protection of its infrastructure, particularly its electrical systems and archive materials.

3.2 Proposed Works

The lightning protection system will consist of the following:

- Air termination network installed at appropriate high points of the roof and finials.
- Down conductors routed discreetly along building corners or other visually unobtrusive locations.
- Earth termination systems, safely buried and located to minimize visual and physical disruption.

3.3 Visual and Heritage Impact

As the building is Grade II listed, care will be taken to ensure the installation is discreet and aesthetically pleasing:

- Use of materials and finishes to match existing building fabric where possible (e.g., brown PVC-coated conductors on the roof).
 - Reversible fixing methods where appropriate to avoid permanent alteration to the historic fabric.
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4. Access Considerations

4.1 During Installation

- Self-supporting temporary scaffolding will be fitted and not tied into the building.

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- Access routes will be managed to ensure public safety and minimize disruption.
- Installation works will be scheduled to avoid peak library hours where feasible.

4.2 Post-Installation

- The lightning protection system requires minimal maintenance and does not impact general access to or around the building.
 - No changes will be made to existing public access points or internal layouts.
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5. Conclusion

Consideration to limit damage to the fabric and the overall aesthetics have been given to the design of the Lightning Protection System. The proposed design has been developed to provide the least possible impact to the historic fabric of the building.

The function of the lightning protection system is to intercept, conduct and disperse a lightning strike safely to earth. To protect the building's structure, electronic systems and the people around and within the building.