Arboricultural Consultation

Proposal:	**Location:**
Installation of ultra-rapid charging hubs and associated infrastructure at an existing car park.	Land West Of 2 Stukeley Road Retail Park Huntingdon
Case Officer:	**Application:**
MR	25/00485/FUL

Observations/Conditions

The site is not within a Conservation Area, and there are no trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders within the Redline boundary of the development. However, there are a number of high value trees growing at the front of the property, that contribute significantly to the Arboricultural Landscape.



As such there will be a need to provide an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Tree Survey (with all of the relevant information from BS5837:2012), Arb Method Statement etc.

It should be noted that the NPPF and Local Policies support development that does not impact mature trees nearby.

This proposal could be located anywhere within the retail park, but is likely to significantly impact several of the mature trees at the front of the site. The trees are important for screening, softening of the landscape, rainfall interception, shading, ecological services, and would be a significant loss to the locale should they decline due to works. An impact assessment of this would need to be provided, and the design amended to avoid the Root Protection areas of each tree.

The design has to take into account the existing mature trees, and any impacts avoided where possible. It would seem fairly straight forward in this scenario to do this, but without information evidencing it, the application should be refused.

The reports will need to detail buffer zones, material storage areas, ground protection areas, trenching, service installations etc. However, I would not advocate any disturbance of the root protection areas, or any pruning to access the site as it is unnecessary and will impact the trees health/integrity.

This may necessitate a change in location, design, or construction method.

The design should take account of mature trees nearby in terms of mature canopy and root spread. I feel that installing expensive equipment underneath the mature crowns of trees creates and issue of management that is likely to result in the degradation of the trees and pressure for removal. Trees are natural shedding systems, that deposit leaves, small twigs, honeydew and other detritus throughout the year, which according to guidance has to be considered when installing equipment (targets) underneath them.

Recommendations:

Refuse pending receipt of AIA, Method Statements, Tree Survey and jusitifcation for not locating it away from the mature trees.

Signed: NS	**Date: 12/05/2025**