

# The Friends of Old Headington

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Mr. Michael Crofton-Briggs  
Planning Control and Conservation  
Oxford City Council  
Ramsay House  
10 St Ebbe's Street  
Oxford OX1 1PT

23 April 2009

Dear Mr. Crofton-Briggs

## **Application no. 09/00548/FUL – Ruskin College: replacement sub-station**

The committee of the Friends of Old Headington have examined the plans for the proposed sub-station. We understand that it is necessary because student accommodation on the Ruskin site is being increased. However, though we welcome the traditional form, we feel that the building itself is too prominent for its proposed position. We recommend that the equipment is set lower in the ground in a building which not only disguises the apparatus within, but which also insulates it acoustically, in order to reduce noise. The ventilation louvres might be a worry here. A lower profile would get more of the building below the top of the adjacent boundary wall.

We also recommend that the building be angled rather than straight on to the track from which it will be accessed by the engineers, as in this position it would be less dominant for local residents, and particularly for those in Rookery Cottage. And we are concerned that the lay-by in front of it may be used for car parking.

The materials with which it is to be built must be carefully selected. Much of its impact on the area will depend on its materials and detailing.

Yours sincerely

Stella Welford  
Hon Secretary

Copies to: Councillor David Rundle  
Councillor Ruth Wilkinson  
Oxford Preservation Trust  
Oxford Civic Society  
The applicant's agent

*President:* Mrs. Penny Richards MBE MA      *Vice-President:* Ray Wilsdon Esq