



# Paul Butler Associates

Planning, Development & Heritage Consultants

27 August 2025

Jen Atkinson  
Principal Planning Manager  
Manchester City Council  
Planning,  
P O Box 532,  
Manchester,  
M60 2LA

24.1992/ldt02ja

Dear Jen,

**University of Manchester: Land to the north of John Garside Building, 131 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 7DN: Application for construction of Temporary NMR Liquid Nitrogen Storage Compound**

## Introduction

On behalf of our client the University of Manchester (Directorate of Estates and Facilities Project Group), please find enclosed an application for planning permission for the '*Construction of a new Temporary NMR Liquid Nitrogen Storage Compound*'.

As you are aware planning permission 141496/FO/2024 was granted on 20 January 2025 for the '*Construction of a new above ground Energy Centre and associated below ground plant, landscaping, revised access road, boundary treatments and building on land adjacent to the John Garside Building*'. This approval allowed for the relocation of the existing NMR liquid nitrogen storage compound from the site where it is intended to build the Energy Centre to the northern car park to allow the Energy Centre to be constructed.

The NMR liquid nitrogen store is utilised for processes within the adjacent John Garside building and this provision must be retained throughout the construction of the Energy Centre thus ensuring the work is without impact on the uses within John Garside Building.

This current application is necessary to accommodate an increase in the size of the storage vessel to that previously consented. The total capacity of the storage vessel proposed in this application is 10,000 litres, an increase of 2,000 litres on the vessel consented by 141496/FO/2024. As previously the compound will accommodate associated ambient air vaporizers used to convert the liquid nitrogen into gas. On completion of the Energy Centre the temporary NMR storage compound is proposed to be relocated to a permanent location, which will be the subject of a future planning application.

## Submitted Plans and Reports

Information submitted as part of this application includes:

- Cover letter 24.1992/ldt02ja;
- Completed Planning Application Form;

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- Location Plan Temporary NMR, MEC-WMA-XX-ZZ-DR-A-00-014 D2 prepared by Wilson Mason;
- Temporary NMR Gas Storage Site Plan, Drawing Ref MEC-WMA-XX-XX-DR-A-00-013 D2-PO6 prepared by Wilson Mason; and
- Temporary Gas Storage Plan and Elevations, Drawing Ref MEC-WMA-XX-ZZ-DR-A-10-103 D2-P02, prepared by Wilson Mason.

### **Assessment/Policy Compliance**

The application proposes an increase in the size of the consented facility although the design, aesthetic and appearance of the temporary compound will remain similar to the temporary compound approved previously. Materials for the proposed compound are specified on the elevational drawing.

The relocation of the John Garside NMR storage facility from the south of the building currently to the north of the building as proposed by this application is for a temporary period. The application works will facilitate the development of the Energy Centre approved under 141496/FO/2024. The Energy Centre is a significant element of the University of Manchester building decarbonisation programme with buildings across the University estate programmed to benefit from retrofitting measures to improve energy efficiency. The new Energy Centre will assist the University of Manchester decarbonise their North Campus estate and support their long-term goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2038 across all areas of their operation. The temporary compound and storage vessel will be removed after occupation of the Energy Centre.

The driver for this present application is to facilitate the Energy Centre development and which will maximise long term carbon savings for the North Campus estate with immediate operational benefits being delivered to the John Garside and George Begg buildings. The Energy Centre has the potential to secure an immediate 82% reduction in operational carbon emissions from the John Garside and George Begg buildings, equating to a saving of 1,148 tonnes of carbon each and every year. Thereafter the Energy Centre can be linked to other retained buildings within the North Campus as part of future phases of extension. The principle of the Energy Centre deploying decarbonising technology is supported by Places for Everyone Policies JP-S1, JP-S2, JP-S3, JP-S6, JP-P5 and Core Strategy policies SO6, EN4, and EN5 which seek to reduce CO2 emissions by enabling low carbon development. The temporary relocation of the John Garside NMR compound is considered to be policy compliant and an important part of a larger strategic project.

The scheme has been developed by a Team with substantial knowledge and experience of infrastructure development and is led by RECOM on behalf of the applicant. Other team members include Wilson Mason Architects and Tetra Tec. The Team looks forward to continuing working closely with the Council's officers in progressing this application through to submission and determination.

Yours sincerely



**David Tye MTPI, MRTPI**  
*Director*

CC Simon Jones (University of Manchester, Directorate of Estates and Facilities Project Group)  
David Fitzgibbon (Recom)  
Keith Cheshire (Wilson Mason Architects)