

# Planning Addendum for Solar Development and Associated Works.

**Land at Nuneham Solar Farm.**

On behalf of RES Ltd.

Date: January 2025 | Pegasus Ref: P21-2947 R007v1\_PL

LPA Ref: P24/S1336/FUL

Author: Emma Ridley

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## Document Management.

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**Appendix 1 – South Oxfordshire Graphic**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Planning Addendum has been prepared to address the comments raised by the Local Planning Authority and those raised by statutory consultees following the consultation of the statutory consultation period for Application Reference P24/S1336/FUL.
- 1.2. This proposal is for solar development (PV) farm on land at North-West of Nuneham Courtenay, South Oxfordshire. This development would have the capacity of up to 49.9MW of renewable energy. In summary, the proposal would provide 49.9MW of clean and renewable (low carbon) energy, enough to power over 13,000 homes annually and saving an estimated 800,000 tonnes of CO2 over the lifetime of the project compared to electricity from fossil fuels like gas. The description of development is:  
  
*“Construction and operation of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment, necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains – known as Nuneham Solar Farm.”*
- 1.3. This report addresses the following matters:
  - National and Local Planning Policy Update – Section 2
  - Grey Belt – Section 3
  - Landscape Visual Assessment – Section 4
  - Heritage and Archaeology – Section 5
  - Designing Out Crime – Section 6
- 1.4. This submission provides an update outside of the ES submission to provide clarification to points raised by statutory consultees.



## 2. National and Local Planning Policy Update

### National Policy and Guidance

#### National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)

- 2.1. Since the writing of the previous addendum submission (August and October 2024) the Government published the new National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024.
- 2.2. Paragraph 143 of the the NPPF is clear that the Green Belt serves five purposes:
  - a) *to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;*
  - b) *to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;*
  - c) *to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;*
  - d) *to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and*
  - e) *to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.*
- 2.3. Paragraph 153 of the NPPF confirms when considering any planning application, Local Planning Authorities should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt, including harm to its openness (footnote 55). Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm resulting from the proposal, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.
- 2.4. Footnote 55 states – Other than in the case of development on previously developed land or grey belt land, where development is not inappropriate.
- 2.5. Paragraph 155 outlines that, the development of homes, commercial and other development in the Green Belt should also not be regarded as inappropriate where;
  - a) *The development would utilise grey belt land and would not fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan;*
  - b) *There is a demonstrable unmet need for the type of development proposed;*
  - c) *The development would be in a sustainable location, with particular reference to paragraphs 110 and 115 of the Framework; and*
  - d) *Where applicable the development proposed meets the 'Golden Rules' requirements set out in paragraphs 156–157.*
- 2.6. Grey Belt is defined with the Glossary of the NPPF (Annex 2) as follows:

*'For the purposes of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b) or (d) in paragraph 143. 'Grey belt' excludes land where the application of the policies relating to the areas or assets in footnote*



7 (other than Green Belt) would provide a strong reason for refusing or restricting development.'

2.7. Paragraph 161 of the NPPF states:

*'The planning system should support the transition to net zero by 2050 and take full account of all climate impacts including overheating, water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'*

2.8. Paragraph 164 of the NPPF states that new renewables development should be planned for in ways that:

- a) *avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and*
- b) *can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government's policy for national technical standards.*

2.9. Paragraph 166 outlines that when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:

- a) *comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and*
- b) *take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.*

2.10. Paragraph 168 outlines, that in determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon energy developments and their associated infrastructure, local planning authorities should expect new development to:

- a) *Not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and give significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal's contribution to a net zero future.*

2.11. Paragraph 188 outlines that plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

2.12. Footnote 65 specifies, *'where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.'*



- 2.13. Paragraph 215 states that, where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

#### **Clean Power 2030 Action Plan**

- 2.14. Following the issue of the revised NPPF in December 2024, the Government also released the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity.
- 2.15. The Action Plan highlights that achieving clean power is now a broader goal and key to growing the economy and improving national security and standards of living. The document identifies urgency of enacting policy by “**Sprinting to clean, homegrown energy**”, placing delivering clean power by 2030 at the heart of one of the Prime Minister’s five missions and the Plan for Change.
- 2.16. The Action Plan outlines three major challenges as being “the need for a secure and affordable energy supply, the creation of essential new energy industries, supported by skilled workers in their thousands, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit our contribution to the damaging effects of climate change.” There is a clear link made between the steps to address energy security and climate change and the potential economic benefits from employment and investment in the energy industry, assisting the national plan for growth. The document (at page 20) refers to the Clean Power 2030 action plan “Playing a key part in supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, as part of the wider transition to net zero.
- 2.17. The Government have specifically stated their ambitious target of 45–47 GW solar before 2030 within the Action Plan. It is clear from this document that the Government acknowledged that renewable energy development is going to be increasingly more crucial for national and international targets to reach net-zero.
- 2.18. The plan also outlines the role of a clean power system in meeting net zero by 2050. In this it is noted that “**By 2050, annual electricity demand is likely to at least double as a result of electrification**”.
- 2.19. In terms of the need to act immediately and take the opportunity for renewable energy where grid capacity is present, the Action plan states at page 50 “**There is particular urgency to accelerate the planning process across Great Britain for energy infrastructure since we do not have long for many clean power projects to begin construction if they are to be operational for 2030**”. In relation to existing network constraints and steps to deliver the decarbonised power system by 2030, the Action Plan states (at page 63) “**Wherever renewables can connect to the distribution network, this should be encouraged for reasons of speed and efficiency**.” In this context, it is noted that the applicant has a grid offer with an energisation date of Quarter 4 2027. Therefore, Nuneham solar could play an important role in reaching the CP30 targets.
- 2.20. The Government’s Action plan looks to the planning sector to be one of the key aspects of supporting progress stating that “Accelerating clean infrastructure projects through the planning system is critical to achieving our goal and unleashing investment to support the Prime Minister’s Growth Mission. Our capacity range will ensure that planners and statutory consultees at the national and local level have a clear sense of which projects to prioritise for consideration and, where appropriate, fast-track through the process to enable decisions on consent to be taken sooner”. (Page 36)



- 2.21. The Action Plan includes addressing planning and consenting as a measure for removing roadblocks to enable consenting regimes to bring new projects through the system at pace. It is stated that ***“Our planning system needs to quickly change to enable government’s missions to grow the economy and deliver clean power”***. The plan states that ***“There is particular urgency to accelerate the planning process across Great Britain for energy infrastructure since we do not have long for many clean power projects to begin construction if they are to be operational for 2030, especially networks and offshore wind developments.”*** (pages 49 and 50)
- 2.22. Reform of locally consented decision making is proposed to deliver clean power 2030. The Action Plan identifies that the NPPF does not make clear that local planning authorities should ***“consider the benefits associated with renewable energy generation, and proposals’ contribution to meeting a net zero future when determining applications for these developments”***. (It is noted that the revision to the NPPF in December 2024 incorporates this into the new para 168 (a).)
- 2.23. It is also stated that the Planning Practice Guidance for renewable energy ***“requires updating to reflect new policies”*** (page 54). The Government states that this will be updated in 2025 to provide clarity on the application of planning policy. (Page 56)

## **Local Planning Policy**

### **Net Zero Carbon Study – Task 6 Renewable Energy Spatial Assessment**

- 2.24. It is acknowledged that the Local Authority are currently in the process of preparing the Joint Local Plan 2041 and have recently consulted on the Pre-Submission Publication Regulation 19 Draft. Comments were submitted on behalf of the application as part of this consultation. It is not considered that the policies within this plan will carry material weight during the application process.
- 2.25. The Net Zero Carbon Study – Task 6 Renewable Energy Spatial Assessment forms part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan. This document seeks to identify suitable broad locations for renewable energy development. At Appendix 2 (mapping process) maps are provided for both search areas specifically for ground-mounted solar PV proposals. It is considered with regards to this document, and as set out in representation that applying to these constraints to what is considered to be ‘suitable’ would render large swathes of the District unsuitable. This would not follow the advocated approach of the Council’s own Net Zero Carbon Study and would be contrary to the national requirement for increased delivery of renewable energy generation.





### 3. Grey Belt

3.1. Following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024, the designation of land as 'grey belt' has been introduced. Grey Belt is defined at NPPF Annex 2 as:

*'For the purpose of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any purposes (a), (b) or (d) in paragraph 143. 'Grey belt' excludes land where the application of the policies relating to the areas or assets in footnote 4 (other than Green Belt) would provide a strong reason for refusing or restricting development.'*

3.2. The policy exclusions within footnote 7 (other than Green Belt) relate to habitats sites (and those sites listed in paragraph 189) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Local Green Space, a National Landscape, a National Park (or within the Broads Authority) or defined as Heritage Coast; irreplaceable habitats; designated heritage assets (and other heritage assets of archaeological interest referred to in footnote 75); and areas at risk of flooding or coastal change. None of these matters would provide a strong reason for refusal, therefore it is considered that footnote 7 matters do not negate consideration of the site as Grey Belt. As such, it can be considered conclude that the site falls within the definition of Grey Belt.

3.3. Paragraph 155 of the NPPF outlines that development of homes, commercial and other development in the Green Belt should also not be regarded as inappropriate where:

- a) *The development would utilise grey belt land and would not fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan;*
- b) *There is a demonstrable unmet need for the type of development proposed;*
- c) *The development would be in a sustainable location, with particular reference to paragraphs 110 and 115 of the Framework; and*
- d) *Where applicable the development proposed meets the 'Golden Rules' requirements set out in paragraphs 156-157.*

3.4. Taken in turn, the land can be considered to form grey belt land in line with the definition contained within the NPPF.

3.5. With respect to part (a) of this policy, it is clear that the development can be considered utilise grey belt land. In respect of the five purposes of the Green Belt as stipulated at Paragraph 143 of the NPPF:

- (a) **Unrestricted sprawl** – The development site lies outside of any large built up area, and would not result in the sprawling of an existing built up area. The development therefore complies with this purpose.
- (b) **Merging of neighbouring towns** – The development scheme does not adjoin any of neighbouring towns and it will not result in the merging of neighbouring towns. The development therefore complies with this purpose.



- (c) **Preserve the setting and special character of historic towns** – The development does not offend either the setting or special character of a ‘historic town’ and therefore complies with this requirement and does not harm this purpose.
- (d) **Encourage the recycling of derelict and other urban land** – Due to the large scale and specific grid connection requirements of the development, there are no derelict or other urban land sites available. This is also demonstrated within the submitted Alternative Sites Assessment. Therefore there is no conflict with this purpose.

3.6. When regards to purpose (c) ‘encroachment’ it is acknowledged that the development will result in a degree of harm. However, Within the context of the South Oxfordshire District, it is noted from the Council’s information (Appendix 1) that the district covers nearly 260 square miles, equating to 67,340 hectares. Of this some 70% is either AONB or Green Belt and these designations do not overlap. The graphic states that 42% of the District is AONB therefore it is calculated that 28% would be Green Belt, equating to some 18,855 hectares. The proposed development comprises 56.87 hectares therefore results in a temporary encroachment of only 0.3% of the Green Belt area in the District.

3.7. Accordingly the site meets the definition of Grey Belt and considering the wider Green Belt, when taken together, development will not fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan. Criterion (a) of paragraph 155 is met.

3.8. When considering criterion (b) and the unmet need for the type of development, whilst it is not required that need for renewable energy must be demonstrated, it is evident from recent national publications that there is a clear direction of travel towards a greater reliance on renewable energy generation. The NPPF at Paragraph 168 (a) confirms that LPAs should:

*“not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and give significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal’s contribution to a net zero future”*

3.9. With regards to part (c), transport sustainability, there are no objections from statutory consultees; accordingly the Council accepts that the proposal is satisfactory in this regard. Paragraph 110 of the NPPF states that:

*‘The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.’*

3.10. The site itself once operational will not generate trips, with a smaller number of journeys to the site for maintenance purposes only. Therefore, the effects of the proposal on reducing congestion and emissions and improving air quality and public health as a result of traffic movements are likely to be very limited. With regards to Paragraph 115 of the Framework, this states:

*“In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:*



- a) *sustainable transport modes are prioritised taking account of the vision for the site, the type of development and its location;*
- b) *safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users;*
- c) *the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code48; and*
- d) *any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree through a vision-led approach."*

- 3.11. It is considered in regard to paragraph 115 sub-paragraph (a) that the sustainable transport options have been prioritised, taking account of the nature of the proposal and its location.
- 3.12. Finally, the Golden Rule are applicable more broadly to residential development and paragraph 155 sub-paragraph (d) is therefore not applicable to this development.
- 3.13. Noting the definition of Grey Belt it is considered that the site meets this definition and in accordance with Paragraph 155 the proposal would not constitute inappropriate development and does not require demonstration of Very Special Circumstances as demonstrated in the recent Baird Decision at Great Barr, Wallsall (Appeal Reference APP/V4630/W/24/3347424).
- 3.14. Nonetheless, in the event that it is considered that the very special circumstances balance is demonstrated in previous submissions.

## 4. Landscape Visual Assessment

- 4.1. A consultation response was issued by the Landscape Officer, dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This set out a continued objection to the application, notwithstanding the updates made to the landscape mitigation proposals since the application was originally submitted and also the additional information provided in response to the previous consultation response dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.
- 4.2. The previous consultation response dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 had included a request for an updated version of the visualisations for LVIA Viewpoint 15 to be prepared. This related to the heat haze that was visible in the distance of the original visualisations. When the previous Addendum to the planning submission was issued in October 2024, access had not been secured to collect updated photography required, however this has now been undertaken and the revised version of the visualisations for Viewpoint 15 are included at **Appendix 2**. The revised version illustrates the view from a very slightly micro-sited location when compared to the original version, in order to seek to show the greatest degree of visibility of the proposals. Notwithstanding this, the assessment of visual effects on the viewpoint remains minor, as per that set out in the LVIA.
- 4.3. The applicant was mindful of the feedback in the initial response of the Landscape Officer dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024, and as a result further enhanced the landscape mitigation through the updated proposals which were submitted as part of the October 2024 Addendum. This



included revisiting the proposals having received interim feedback from the Landscape Officer, dated 25th September 2024.

- 4.4. It is noted that in their objection the Landscape Officer suggests that the application would be contrary to Local Plan policies ENVI, DES2 and DES9 in relation to the landscape and visual effects which would arise. The objection also suggests that the application would be contrary to Local Plan policies STRAT6 and DES9 in relation to impacts on the visual openness of the Green Belt. Each of these policies was discussed in the Planning Statement which accompanied the application and it is not agreed that the application would be contrary to planning policy when the application is subject to an overall planning balance exercise which considers all the benefits and harms of the proposals. It is acknowledged that some significant landscape and visual effects would arise, as were set out in the LVIA, but these effects should be judged in the context of the wider need case which has been set out, and the recently revised policy context which places further emphasis on the need for renewable energy.

## **5. Heritage and Archaeology**

- 5.1. This submission is accompanied by a Heritage Addendum that addresses the comments made and supplements the Heritage Addendum of October 2024. As well as the original baseline and ES Chapter. It outlines that the conclusions made by Pegasus Group remain as set out within the ES Chapter.

## **6. Designing Out Crime**

- 6.1. This section seeks to address the comments made by Thames Valley Police dated 19 June 2024.
- 6.2. With regards to the fencing that is proposed (Ref Figure 11 – Typical Perimeter Deer Fence Ref O4531-RES-SEC-DR-PT-002 Rev 1) that is proposed to be installed at the site boundary, it is common practice for the fencing as specified for the purpose of this application to be installed to the perimeter of solar proposals. It is considered that this type of fencing can be maintained in a manner to ensure the security of the site whilst not detracting visually from the views of the local area. The level of security provided by the proposed fencing is considered generally acceptable and needs to be balanced with visual consideration. It is considered that if anything more substantial as to be installed this may not be acceptable visually. It can however be confirmed that the fencing will be installed so that the gap between the base of any fencing and the ground is minimal, and the gap provided within the fencing is to allow for the crossing of a small mammal. It is confirmed that with this type of fencing the client can obtain relevant insurance for the scheme.
- 6.3. It should also be noted that at the substation, the fencing would comprise a 2.4m high wire mesh fence (Ref Figure 11 – Typical Security Fence Ref O4531-RES-SEC-DR-PT-001 Rev 2). This type of fencing has been selected as it is deemed to be less visually intrusive than a palisade fence.
- 6.4. It has been requested that the scheme should be assessed based on the incorporation of the principles of the 'Crime Prevent through Environmental Design' (CPTED). It is acknowledged that some of these principles are geared towards residential development, commentary has however been provided in relation to the Nuneham Solar Farm development.



CPTED Principles	Assessment of Development
<p><b>Physical Security</b>  <i>The measures which are used on individual dwellings to ensure that they withstand attack.</i></p>	<p>Whilst there are no individual dwellings relating to this development. However, there are a number of individual physical security measures discussed below.</p>
<p><b>Surveillance</b>  <i>Design ensuring that residents are able to observe the areas surrounding their home. Surveillance can be facilitated by ensuring that front doors face onto the street; that areas are well illuminated and blank walls are avoided,</i></p>	<p>3.5m high pole mounted CCTV security cameras would be positioned at intervals along the inside edge of the fencing to capture activity within and along the fence line. The CCTV system will be capable of recording clear images that will meet the standards as set out in the Home Office Publication 28/09 CCTV Operational Requirement Manual 2009 as well as the UK Police Requirement for Digital CCTV Systems 09/05. Installation will be in accordance with the relevant British Standards.</p> <p>As detailed on submitted Figure 13 (Drawing Reference O4531-RES-SEC-DR-PT-003 Rev 1) the CCTV poles can be fitted with anti-climbing guards and the lighting installed will be infrared.</p>
<p><b>Movement Control</b>  <i>The restriction of access, egress and through movement. High levels of through movement allow offenders to access and egress an area; permits identification of targets and increases anonymity.</i></p>	<p>All field boundaries within which infrastructure is proposed is enclosed with fencing and gated as detailed within the submitted drawings. This will keep personnel outside of the infrastructure areas unless permitted for the purpose of maintenance. Free movement can still be achieved for users of the public right of way.</p>
<p><b>Management and Maintenance</b>  <i>The processes are in place to ensure that a development is free from signs of disorder. This signals that the area is cared for.</i></p>	<p>It is anticipated that once construction is concluded, there will be a reduced number of trips with these being for maintenance only. Operational visits are anticipated to be 15LGVs per year.</p>
<p><b>Defensible Space</b>  <i>The ownership of space in a neighbourhood should be clearly defined. For example: public (e.g. pavement); semi-public (e.g. front garden); semi-private (e.g. rear garden) and private (e.g. inside the home).</i></p>	<p>It is not considered that this element of the criteria is relevant to this type of development. However, it will be clear by the perimeter fencing where the defensible boundary of the site is located.</p>

6.5. In light of the above, it is considered that the scheme meets the relevant national standards can that they can be maintained in a manner that will ensure the security of the scheme across the lifetime of the development.



## 7. Summary and Conclusion

- 7.1. As discussed within the Planning Statement and within this addendum report, the proposed development supports the UK Government's intention to move to a low carbon economy, which represents a substantial benefit. The impacts of the proposal have been shown to be acceptable and, where necessary mitigation measures have been set out to reduce potential impacts of the proposed development.
- 7.2. The significant benefits associated with this proposal, primarily through the generation of renewable energy to provide low carbon electricity, offsetting carbon emissions and a valuable contribution towards meeting the challenging obligations of the Government regarding renewable energy generation and also in the form of economic investment and ecological and landscape enhancements, are factors which weigh heavily in favour of this development.
- 7.3. This Planning Addendum identifies the additional works that have been undertaken and the manner in which the scheme has been designed to represent a sustainable form of development which addresses all material planning considerations.



## Appendix 1 – South Oxfordshire Graphic



# South Oxfordshire


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## About South Oxfordshire

### The district

The district of South Oxfordshire covers nearly 260 square miles. Its boundary reaches from the edge of the City of Oxford in the north-west along the borders of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to the outskirts of Reading in the south. It has four main towns: Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford, with Didcot becoming increasingly dominant as the main urban centre. Within 10 years, some 25 per cent of the district's population will live in Didcot.

Much of the district is rural in nature, with the land in agricultural use. The main exception to this is the southeast where the wooded Chiltern Hills rise sharply from the Thames Valley. Most of the southern end of the district sits in either the Chilterns or North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The northeast of the district forms part of the Oxford Green Belt. In total, around 70 per cent of the district has a green belt or AONB designation. See below a summary of protected landscapes, nature reserves, important sites for nature and conservation target areas for both South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse.

#### Two nationally protected landscapes:

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty covering ...

**42%** of South Oxfordshire  
**23%** of Vale of White Horse



These are the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONB's

#### Number of Local Nature Reserves:



**4** in South Oxfordshire  
**2** in Vale of White Horse

Despite widespread historic loss of species-rich semi-natural grasslands, Oxfordshire still has some of the rarest and finest grasslands in the country."

"There is continued fragmentation and loss of connectivity across the county's landscapes, effecting the future viability of habitats and species."

'State of Nature in Oxfordshire' report  
(2017)



#### Internationally important sites for nature:

**4** in South Oxfordshire  
**2** in Vale of White Horse



#### Nationally important sites for nature:



**38** in South Oxfordshire  
**22** in Vale of White Horse

#### Locally important sites for nature:

**126** in South Oxfordshire  
**84** in Vale of White Horse



#### Conservation Target Areas:



**15** in South Oxfordshire  
**10** in Vale of White Horse

#### Number of UK Priority Species between 2010 - 2021:

**1.9%** decline in South Oxfordshire  
**2.8%** decline in Vale of White Horse





South Oxfordshire is also a popular place to visit, with plenty to see and do. For more information about the many attractions of the district, please see our [Visit Southern Oxfordshire website](#).

## Statistics about South Oxfordshire

An estimated 151,820 people live in South Oxfordshire (Office for National Statistics: Mid-Year Population Estimates UK, June 2022).

## Oxfordshire Insight and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

[Oxfordshire Insight](#) is managed by Oxfordshire County Council. It provides access to data on Oxfordshire and its districts, including interactive dashboards and maps.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) contains information about the people in Oxfordshire and helps us understand their health and well being needs. The JSNA brings together statistics and data from a number of sources to create a shared evidence base. It is intended to support service planning, decision making and delivery. The executive summary focuses on the headline facts uncovered by the most recent analysis of the data.

- [2022 Full Report](#)
- [2022 Executive Summary](#)

## The Co-op Community Wellbeing Index

[The Community Wellbeing Index](#) was developed by the Co-op to provide insight into the well being of neighbourhoods across the UK. It is designed to help provide users with a snapshot of the strengths of, and challenges facing local communities.

## Interactive maps

We have a range of interactive maps and postcode/area searches available on this website to help you find information about South Oxfordshire.

### My South Oxfordshire Local Search

Use the [South Oxfordshire Local Search](#) to find information about council services in the area, such as rubbish and recycling collection days and council tax rates. You can also find out about local democracy in your area, including who your councillors are and how to contact them. Search by postcode.

### Finding local information by map

- [Find local amenities map](#) – On this map you can search for car parks, recycling banks, public toilets, and waste recycling sites (rubbish tips).
- [Find countryside with public access map](#) – Information on countryside in South Oxfordshire with open access to the public.

### Planning maps

- [Planning application and decision map](#) – Search for planning applications and decisions by location.
- [Planning policies map](#) – will provide details of the relevant planning policies in your area. For example, if the property is in a Conservation Area or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- [Conservation and listed buildings map](#) – find out if you live in a conservation area or if a property has listed building status.

## Related information

→ [Data Hub](#)

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Keep in touch



### Make an enquiry

**01235 422 422**  
(Text phone users add  
18001 before dialing)

South Oxfordshire District Council  
Abbey House Abbey Close  
Abingdon OX14 3JE

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## **Appendix 2 – Revised version of the visualisations for LVIA Viewpoint**









Proposed Grid Tower Location







Proposed Grid Tower Location





Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)  
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

**Leeds**

Pavilion Court, Green Lane, Garforth,  
Leeds, LS25 2AF  
T 0113 2878200  
E [Leeds@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:Leeds@pegasusgroup.co.uk)  
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