

APPLICATION WEB COMMENTS FORM

Information available for public inspection and available on our website

Location : Land to the north of the Culham Science Centre Thame Lane near Clifton Hampden OX14 3GY

Proposal : The development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), comprising a 500 megawatt (MW) battery storage facility with associated infrastructure, access and landscaping, with a connection into the Culham Jet National Grid substation. (A hard copy of the Environmental Statement can be viewed at South Oxfordshire District Council, Abbey House Abbey Close Abingdon OX14 3JE). REPRESENTATIONS IN WRITING BY 28 JUNE 2024

Application Reference : P24/S1498/FUL - 10

Please complete

Your name :	Forestry Officer (South and Vale)
Your address :	SODC & VOWH
Date :	29 May 2024

Use the space below for your comments

In principle I have no objections to the development in respect of trees. It seeks to remove very few trees to facilitate a major development of key local importance and offers a significant increase in tree planting by way of mitigation and improvement in line with Policies ENV1, DES1, and DES2 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 and the Council's Joint Design Guide 2022, promoting the integration of the proposals within the context and character of the landscape.

However, there are some apparent discrepancies within the Arboricultural submissions as follows:

1. The list of trees affected or removed in the AIA excludes G12, T8, T48, T49, T50, T51 & T52. But these trees are then shown as having a new below ground electrical supply laid through their RPA including a change of direction within the RPA likely requiring an open trench methodology.

This conflict should be resolved by moving the new cables south into the road and outside of the RPA of the trees before turning North as needed once past the group. At the very least the route should be kept outside of the RPA of the Cat B T8 & T48-T52.

2. Additionally, it isn't abundantly clear why the proposals seek the removal of T17 & T18 English Oak and this should be better evidenced.

3. Lastly, I found no mention of methodology surrounding the installation of new fencing within the RPA of retained trees. As there appear to be great lengths of fencing required all of which, independent of design, require concrete footings, this should be provided for as a note within the Tree Protection Plan stating that all fence post footings will be dug by hand and sleeved to prevent the egress of leachates within the RPA of retained trees.

These alterations and subsequent resubmission should be sought prior to determination rather than via condition.

Ben Morgan (Area Tree Officer).