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Emailed to Mrs J Matthews
South Oxfordshire District Council
registration@southandvale.gov.uk

10th April 2025

Dear Mrs Matthews,

Re: P24/S1498/FUL and APP/Q3115/W/24/3358132 | APPEAL: 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 | Land to the north of the Culham Science Centre Thame Lane near Clifton Hampden OX14 3GY

Thank you for consulting the Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, as per the above application.

This application has a material impact on the significance of Nuneham Courtenay, a historic designed landscape which is Registered by Historic England at Grade I. The inclusion of this site on this statutory register requires great weight to be given to its conservation.

Nuneham Courtenay is a country house surrounded by an C18 landscape park and pleasure grounds laid out in three phases. The first in the 1760s - the first Earl Harcourt's classical landscape to offset his Greek 'temple' (church); the second, William Mason's picturesque landscape of 1777 for the second Earl; and finally the parkland laid out by Lancelot Brown 1779-82 (supervised by the second Earl and Mason), when he also laid out Brown's Walk in the pleasure grounds. A pinetum and other work was carried out by W S Gilpin, 1832.

We have liaised with our colleagues in Oxfordshire Gardens Trust, a member organisation of the GT which works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites, and their local knowledge informs this joint response: **we reiterate our objection, as laid out in our letters of 21st June and 8th November 2024, and point out again that the setting of the RPG is currently under threat from proposed and approved solar farms to the north as well as this appeal to the south. The proposed development would cause substantial and permanent harm to the Grade I listed RPG and its setting.**

We would be grateful to be advised of your decision, or if further information is submitted.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tamsin McMillan

Acting Conservation Officer
The Gardens Trust

For further information, we refer you to the Gardens Trust publication *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens* (2024), which is available online at <https://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Parks-and-Gardens-in-English-Planning-System-2024.pdf>