

**President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.**

Planning Department  
Slough Borough Council  
Observatory House  
25 Windsor Road  
Slough SL1 2EL



5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**P/10076/013 Poyle data centre and battery storage proposals**

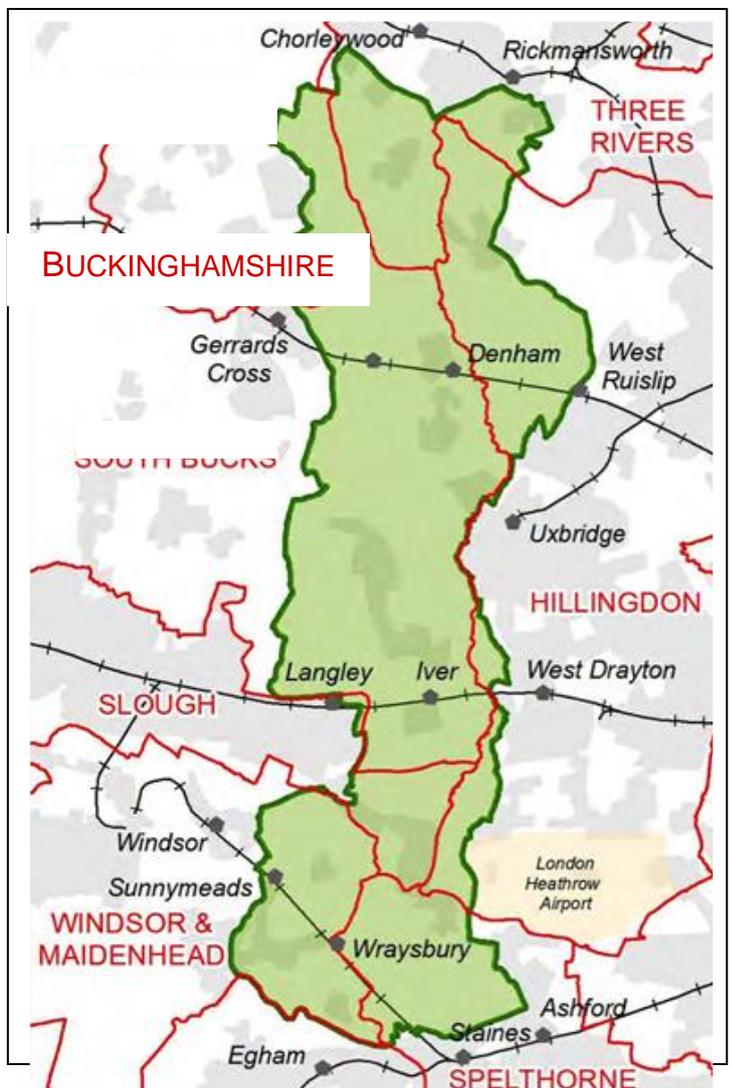
This response is from and behalf of The Colne Valley Regional Park

The Colne Valley Regional Park was founded in 1965 when local authorities – including Bucks County Council – showed great foresight in agreeing to work together to preserve and enhance this precious area for recreation and nature conservation.

It is supported by nearly 100 member organisations including local authorities, businesses, residents' associations, environmental charities and user groups. Groundwork South acts as the Park's managing agent.

The Colne Valley Regional Park has six objectives:

<https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/whats-special/>



**Colne Valley Park Trust**

Charity Registration Number: 1181303

**Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company**

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. Company No. 08131867

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,  
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG  
[www.colnevalleypark.org.uk](http://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk)

## **Landscape**

The Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) covers six local planning authorities. As a result, the valley is rarely, if ever, considered at a landscape scale.

The creation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/green-infrastructure-strategy-downloads/> for the Colne Valley Regional Park aims to bring the green and blue on the map to the forefront of planning policy and decisions, and feature the landscape of the Valley as a whole, rather than from the parochial perspective of its various council boundaries.

These boundaries are an administrative convenience – they don't exist as real barriers to people and wildlife. The Crane Valley has been added to this strategy to provide a truly landscape-scale picture of the area.

This cross-border approach is entirely consistent with Green Belt policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Colne Valley Regional Park is a Community Trust funded by local authorities and donations from corporate sponsors and members of the public.

These comments from the CVRP recognise that data centres are now categorised as critical infrastructure, however the development should comply with Policies CG1 and CG9 of the Local plan. Although there is some existing development on part of the site, most of the site is undeveloped. The Green Belt in this location makes a considerable contribution to the separation between settlements - a key objective of the Green Belt.

In addition, the impact on the Arthur Jacob Local Nature Reserve and the Poyle Poplars Community Woodland both owned and managed by RBW&M as well as the Poyle Channel and Colne Brook should be fully assessed for potential biodiversity impacts.

The Colne Valley Regional Park welcomes the proposed ROW to Arthur Jacobs Nature reserve.

The significant enhancements to the landscaping and proposed pedestrian and cycle connectivity to the site is welcomed. Although it should be recognised that the landscaping will take years to be effective.

## Concerns

Development will be alongside the Poyle channel and will require a sufficient buffer zone following EA advice. Do the ditches also need to comply? There is potential for pollution impacts particularly during construction. Will the data centre need to use the river water for cooling purposes? Or will it catch rain water for cooling purposes? Is water to be returned into the river – if so, any increase in temperature will have a negative effect on fish.

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Landscape and visual assessment. The building is proposed to be at least 23m high. These locations below, all publicly accessible, are vulnerable views that should be taken account of. It is not clear from the LVIA that these locations have been taken into account.

- high points at Harmondsworth Moor Country Park
- high points in the T5 Colne Valley Mitigation land
- Staines Moor (not enclosed by trees so has many far-reaching views)
- Causeway across Staines Reservoir
- Coopers Hill, Runnymede
- Sailing Club, Queen Mother Reservoir
- Colne Valley Trail as it crosses the M4

Yours sincerely

J. Griffin

Jane Griffin  
Trustee

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