

# NFU – Response to the Ox-Cam Arc Vision Consultation

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# Who are the National Farmers Union?

- The NFU is the largest representation body for agriculture and horticulture in England and Wales.
- We have 55,000 farmer and grower members and represent 46,000 businesses
- Our purpose is to champion British agriculture and horticulture, to campaign for a stable and sustainable future for British farmers and to secure the best possible deal for our members.

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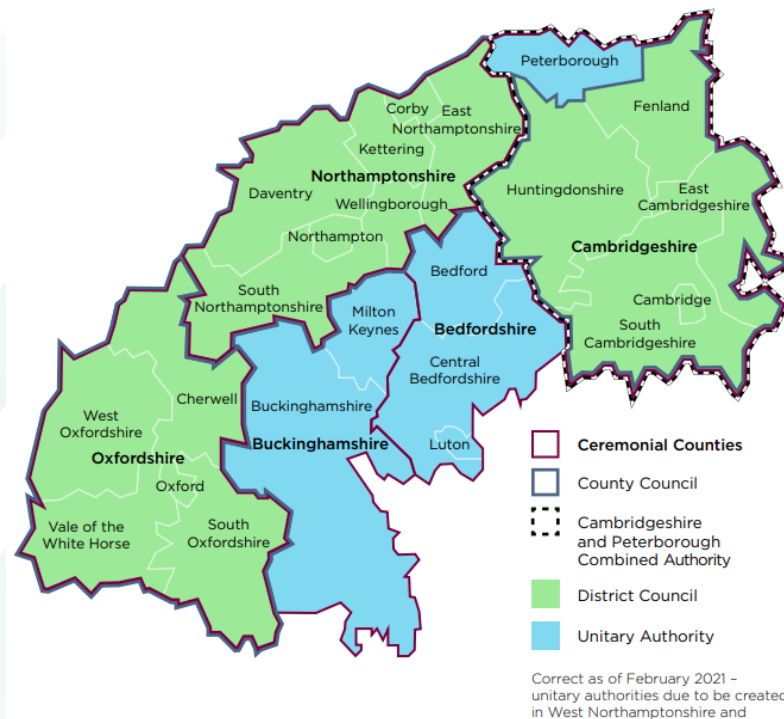


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# Key Local Context

- The NFU represents 2695 Farmer and Grower members across the Arc.
- Arc members directly employ 21,000 people. Support X3 in the supply chain
- Combined they maintain around 825,000 hectares in production
- 8% of all ag land in England



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# Substantive Issues

- Agriculture undergoing its most significant transformation since the second world war.
- The Arc vision presents many opportunities through improvements to digital connectivity, improved water and transport and energy infrastructure and access to affordable rural housing.
- The Arc demands a potentially unsustainable volume of agricultural land to support its aims.

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# NFU Consultation Responses

## Arc Vision Key Words:

- Urbanised
- Unequal Gains
- Loss of Land
- Business Closure
- Better Connected

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# Green Spaces and Biodiversity

- Farmers have a key role to play in the delivery of environmental goods and services within the Arc.
- Decisions are seldom binary
- Agricultural and recreational land uses should not be separated but should remain integrated and managed through farming activity.
- Farmers are the key custodians of the countryside

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# Air Quality and Waste

- Significant loss of land will see a greater concentration and intensification of agricultural activity.
- Increase in population will result in greater pressure of food supply chain
- NFU fully support a circular waste economy

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# Water

- Strategic regional water plan is key
- 1 million new homes and business will require more water than is actually available (100m litres/day)
- SuDS and Blue infrastructure (20,000Ha)
- Farmers are ready now to play their part but are not represented in the Arc Vision at all currently.

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# Jobs and Business

- Agriculture has a GVA of over £3bn per year
- 60,000 jobs in supply chain
- Ag wages struggle to stay ahead of inflation and have been static in Bucks since 2010
- Investment for infrastructure to support productivity, supply chain resilience and food security measures are vital.

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# Infrastructure

- Minimising the impact of transport infrastructure on rural businesses
- Construction site for 30 years
- Agricultural sector must be part of the decision making process at all levels.
- Communication technology roll out must be a priority

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# Location of Growth

- LPA should determine the most suitable location of sustainable growth and deliver through local plan policies.
- Rural communities must not be overlooked when allocating land for affordable housing.
- Maintaining the critical mass of grade 1 and grade 2 agricultural land.

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# Homes in the Area

- Housing is a crisis concern in rural locations.
- New entrants to farming, agricultural workers and those retiring from farming.
- Climate resilient and Net Zero homes from this point
- Develop a rural voice through the effective use of neighbourhood plans

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