STOP THE & ARC

The drive to expand Banbury, Peterborough, St Neots, Northampton, Luton, Kettering, Bicester, Beaconsfield, Oxford, Cambridge and Milton Keynes is part of the vision for five counties, by Arc enthusiasts, to create a single city region, bigger in size and population than Greater Manchester, the largest built-up area in the country.



The wrong plan, in the wrong place

The Arc vision is for 1.1 million new jobs, which might or might not need 1 million new houses and a reinstated East-West rail link from Cambridge to Oxford, to supposedly grow the regional economy by £163 billion by 2050². There is no need for such an overwhelming amount of development that risks devastating the greenbelt, natural environment and agricultural land that form the bedrock of residents' preferred way of life.

Despite the expected government investment being omitted from the most recent spending plans, including the Levelling Up White Paper, local authorities, developers and landowning universities are determined to press ahead with what they believe to be a magic money-spinner.

How to stop the Arc

The future of the controversial Ox-Cam development project lies in the hands of just over 40,000 voters in seven wards at the elections on May 5th. *If just 1,900 vote against the seven members of the Arc leadership Group the project will be rejected*. The result will be the lasting gratitude of millions of people, the conservation of wildlife, and the preservation of 250,000 acres of farmland.

STARC's Ten-point Action Plan contains bold approaches and policies for national and local government, and actions for STARC itself, to take forward in preference to the outdated and misconceived build-build-build and car-dependent strategies.

1	Stop the Arc project.
2	Demand the right for individuals to appeal to the Government against planning approvals.
3	Insist local housing needs are based on the latest ONS data and levelling-up policies.
4	Demand full infrastructure provision for health, educa- tion, transport and leisure for all new developments.
5	Mandate eco-friendly, less car-dependent housing to higher densities. Maximise the use of brownfield sites.
6	Build 10,000 social houses every year across the five counties.
7	Increase the powers of the Environment Agency and Ofwat to veto or modify plans that threaten sustainable water supplies, sewage treatment capacity, water- course quality, or that increase flood risks.
8	Demand immediate publication of the complete busi- ness case for the Bedford-to-Cambridge section of East- West Rail. Electrify the service from day one.
9	Make public transport affordable and coordinated. Minimise road investment except for safety improve- ments and environmental benefits.
10	Demand that Defra produces a national food security strategy and fundamentally overhauls the Biodiversity

Net Gain strategy.

