SUSTAINABLE WHADDON ENERGY SURVEY 2026

Thank you for taking part in this survey. It is intended to give a baseline view of current transport use, home heating and insulation across Whaddon. It will also provide insight into the use of newer 'eco' technologies in the village, along with the issues limiting their wider adoption. If not completing the survey via the online link that will be provided on WhaddsApp or in the village email, please complete the survey here (one response per household) by ticking the options given and providing more information in the text boxes as needed. Replies can be dropped off at Spring Cottage, Bridge Street, 54 Cardiff Place or 89 Meldreth Road. Alternatively, if you need to arrange collection please call Ruth on 07581791606.

1. What is the main method you use to heat your home?

- ☐ A: Oil fired boiler
- ☐ B: Propane/calor gas
- ☐ C: Open fireplace burning solid fuel/wood burning stove
- ☐ D: Electric storage heaters/other forms of traditional electric heating
- ☐ E: Heat pump – air source
- ☐ F: Heat pump – ground source
- ☐ G: Wood pellet boiler
- ☐ H: Other – please add below

2. How are your household vehicles powered?

Please tick all that apply.
If you have more than one vehicle in the same category, please state the number/category in the box at the bottom.

- ☐ A: No household motor vehicles
- ☐ B: Petrol/diesel (not hybrid)
- ☐ C: Plug-in hybrid
- ☐ D: Self charging hybrid
- ☐ E: Fully electric
- ☐ F: Other (please state below)
- ☐ G: Number of vehicles in same category if more than

one. Please state number and which category in box below.

3. Do you have an electric car charging point at home?

- ☐ A: No
- ☐ B: Yes

4. Do you use any of the technologies listed here? Please tick all that apply.

- ☐ A: Solar panels wired into house
- ☐ B: Solar panel used independent of house wiring to charge individual items
- ☐ C: Wind turbine
- ☐ D: Battery storage for generated energy
- ☐ F: Solar water heating
- ☐ G: Heat pump – ground source
- ☐ H: Heat pump – air source

Please describe below why you have adopted the ticked technologies.

If you run out of space please include a continuation sheet of your choosing.

5. If you don't use non-traditional/eco technologies to heat your home or run your motor vehicles what are the main reasons why? Please tick all that apply.

- ☐ A: High upfront costs
- ○ B: Lack of Infrastructure and practicality (e,g. limited car charging points, difficulty in retrofitting technology)

- ○ C: Doubt about truth of sustainability claims
- ○ D: Limited availability and awareness
- ○ E: Habit – prefer products that are familiar
- ○ F: Feel that personal action won't make a difference
- ○ G: Restricted by listed building regulations
- ○ H: Other – please state

6. Home insulation – please tick all the options that apply currently to your home. If you know your EPC rating, please add in the box at the bottom of the question.

- ○ A: Loft insulation at current recommended value e.g. 270mm mineral wool or equivalent
- ○ B: Loft insulation, but below recommended value/ don't know
- ○ C: Cavity wall insulation
- ○ D: Underfloor insulation
- ○ E: Double glazing less than 15 years years old
- ○ F: Double glazing older than 15 years
- ○ G: Triple glazing
- ○ H: Other – please state in box below

7. What is the approximate total annual mileage done by your household's motor vehicles?

- ○ A: Not applicable – no household motor vehicles
- ○ B: 0–3000
- ○ C: 3001–10000
- ○ D: 10001–25000
- □ E: More than 25000

8. Does your household use any of the options below as alternatives to using your own motor vehicles? Please tick all that apply.

- ☐ A: Bicycle
- ☐ B: Train
- ☐ C: Bus
- ☐ D: Share Lifts
- ☐ E: Walk
- ☐ F: Don't use alternatives

9. How often do you or someone in your household walk/ cycle/use public transport or share lifts as an alternative to using your own motor vehicle? Please also describe the main barriers to using alternatives more often in the box below.

- ☐ A: Most days
- ☐ B: At least once a week
- ☐ C: At least one a month
- ☐ D: Rarely or never
- ☐ E: Main barriers to greater use of alternatives

10. Please indicate if anyone in your household works from home.

- ☐ A: No one works from home
- ☐ B: One person or more works part time from home
- ☐ C: One person or more works full time from home

11. Are you considering using plug-in solar panels after regulations have been finalised (expected later this year)?

- ☐ A: Yes
- ☐ B: No
- ☐ C: Don't know – need more information

Thank you for completing the survey and contributing to the village results

SUSTAINABLE WHADDON

Opportunities to enhance ecology and biodiversity
Opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint

Farmland Birds Around Whaddon

In the last issue I wrote about garden birds, so this time will look at some of the smaller birds which inhabit the farmland surrounding Whaddon.

Birds of Conservation Concern is a document compiled by a coalition of the UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations. It divides all the birds found in the UK into three lists, red, amber and green. The Red List contains 70 birds which are causing the most concern and, in Whaddon, we are fortunate to have a number of these living on our doorstep.

Some of the small birds don't stay still, and now that the leaves are out the hedges are dense which makes them hard to see. Added to this some species are mainly brown, so it helps to listen as well as look to make a definite identification. I know a lot of you in Whaddon have the (free) Merlin Bird ID app downloaded, and this is a real help in learning birdsong, and it is right most of the time! If you are lucky, you might even see a bird in all its finery at the same time as listening to its song, with its beak moving in time.

I don't know where they get their energy, but the Skylarks seem to sing most of the time. They are hard to see on the ground in camouflage brown with a bit of a crest on the head, but you may see them as they fly higher and higher. Another familiar song is the little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheese of the Yellowhammer. The male is easy to identify with his bright yellow head and chest. If you see a strikingly patterned Yellowhammer with smart black stripes through its eye, under its chin and across its head, then it is likely to be the rare Cirl Bunting. A much more delicate bird with a bright yellow chest and longish tail, will be a Yellow

Wagtail. It has a peep-peep song both when perching and flying.

Although rare in much of the country, we have lots of Corn Buntings, a chunky brown bird with some speckles down the front. The male sings in short bursts with a sound that has been likened to jangling keys. I'm not sure about that, but he does make identification easier by perching on top of a bush or hedge. Walk a hundred yards and you will be in the next Corn Bunting's territory with another bird on another bush. If a Corn Bunting is particularly vocal it might be because he has several mates rather than just one. Linnets have a forked tail and the male has a crimson forehead on its grey head and crimson patches on its breast. They are particularly jumpy and won't sit still to aid identification.

These six birds are all on the Red List, threatened with falling populations, along with the Reed Bunting and Common Whitethroat on the Amber List and Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff and Blackcap on the Green List. I saw or heard all these birds as I walked along field paths within sight of Whaddon today (7th May). We are lucky to have such a variety, and have our farmers to thank for caring for the land and taking up initiatives like introducing wild flower strips along the field margins, planting new hedges and trimming old hedges in rotation. The Skylark, Yellowhammer, Corn Bunting and Yellow Wagtail are ground-nesting, making them extra vulnerable, but they appear to be happy in Whaddon.



Birds of Conservation Concern gives information on an ever-changing situation. For example, the current list was published in 2021 and the Starling, Greenfinch and House Sparrow appeared for the first

time in the Red List, moved from the Amber List. Things taken into consideration include the rate of decrease of a particular species, the distribution of habitats, and the proportion of the worldwide population found in the UK.

Data is continually being collected and reviewed and will be published as a new list in 2027. It will be interesting to see what changes there are.

Jenny Grech

The Big Garden Birdwatch

Sustainable Whaddon hopes to gather information on all species present in the parish and, over time, build up a picture of which species are doing well and which are declining.

Jenny Grech

SUSTAINABLE WHADDON



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