



SOMA
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE MUSLIM ASSOCIATION

A Masjid for Didcot, South Oxfordshire

Building Faith, Unity & Future Generations

South Oxfordshire Muslim Association (SOMA) was established in 2022 to represent Muslims in Didcot and South Oxfordshire. Our vision is to establish and promote Islamic faith through a future masjid, high-quality Islamic education, interfaith engagement, and ongoing spiritual and community support.

Our Vision & Mission – Islamic Centre Didcot (ICD)

ICD Vision

To build a thriving Masjid in Oxfordshire that becomes a centre of worship, learning and community wellbeing, strengthening Islamic faith through accessible education, meaningful service and positive engagement with wider society.

ICD Mission

Our mission is to advance the Islamic faith by establishing and maintaining a Masjid, providing education and guidance, supporting community development, and promoting mutual understanding through interfaith and civic engagement.

SOMA's Strategy House: Building the Future

At SOMA, we think about our work like building a house. Every brick, every pillar, and every part has a purpose. Our Strategy House shows how we move from where we are today to the thriving Muslim community we want to see in Didcot, centred around a purpose-built Masjid.



Our programmes already reflect this vision: we host **daily prayers, Jumu'ah, Ramadan Iftars** and **Taraweeh, Eid Salah** and celebrations, Brothers' and Sisters' **Qur'an Circles, Children's Madrassah** and a **Youth Development Programme**.

Yet we operate without a permanent home, and the time has come to change that.

Our Growing Community

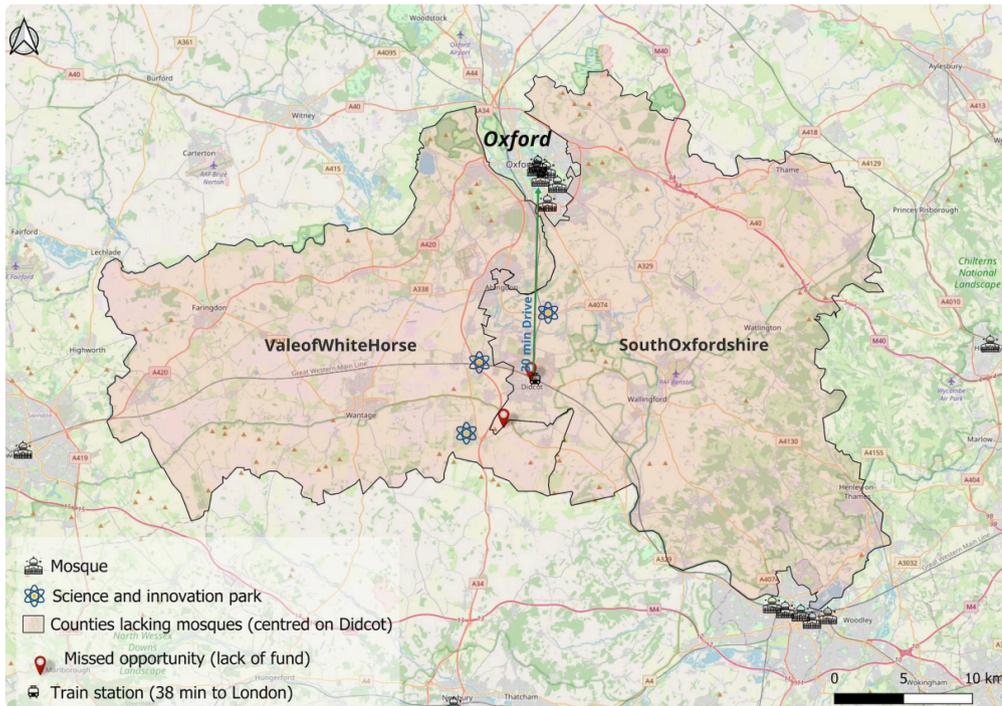
Who We Are

The Muslim community in Didcot began to form before the 2000s and has grown rapidly in the last five years, especially with young professionals and young families moving into the town.

- Around **300 Muslim families** in Didcot from diverse backgrounds: English, Asian, European, Arab and others
- Most are first-generation families building their lives here; what is built now will serve their children, grandchildren and beyond
- Highly educated professionals – graduates of leading universities such as Oxford, specialists in science, technology, healthcare and major multinational companies



Why a Mosque in Didcot, and Why Now?



No Mosque in a Vast Area

Didcot sits in the centre of a large area with no mosque or Muslim community centre.

A mosque here will serve Didcot and surrounding towns, reducing long journeys for basic religious needs.

Young, Growing Community

We currently run two madrasas for ages 4–12 with around **80 children** – and a long waiting list. We lack suitable space for our youth (13–25), despite clear demand.

A mosque will enable expanded classes, youth clubs, mentoring schemes and faith-friendly STEM clubs.

Science & Faith Hub

Didcot's identity as a science and technology hub, supported by its proximity to world-renowned centres such as Harwell, Culham, Milton Park, and RAL, attracts highly educated professionals and has led to the growth of a vibrant Muslim community. This creates a unique opportunity to connect Islam with innovation, enabling young Muslims to see their faith and future careers as complementary while nurturing academic excellence, social responsibility, and spiritual development.

Rising Costs

Regularly hiring community halls creates a financial burden with significant capacity challenges as our numbers have outgrown all surrounding centres.

- Jumu'ah prayers held in community centres with two jama'ats within one hour due to lack of space. Car park management is difficult.
- Taraweeh prayers run 8–11 pm in two different venues, making it hard for working people and families and creating logistical stress.

Supporting New Muslims

Didcot has many converts who struggle to find consistent support. A mosque will be a safe, welcoming reference point for them to study Islam, build friendships and receive guidance.

Community Need

No mosque in Didcot or nearby villages

Immediate Action

Build a strong & ready fund for opportunities to act fast

Youth & Education

Expand madrasas, youth clubs and STEM opportunities

Support & Inclusion

Welcoming hub for converts and families



A Missed Opportunity: A Lesson for the Future



SOMA was recently offered a rare opportunity to purchase 12 acres of land in Upton, a site large enough for a future Masjid and community centre. It was a place where prayer, learning, youth development and family life could have flourished for generations.

We were not ready.

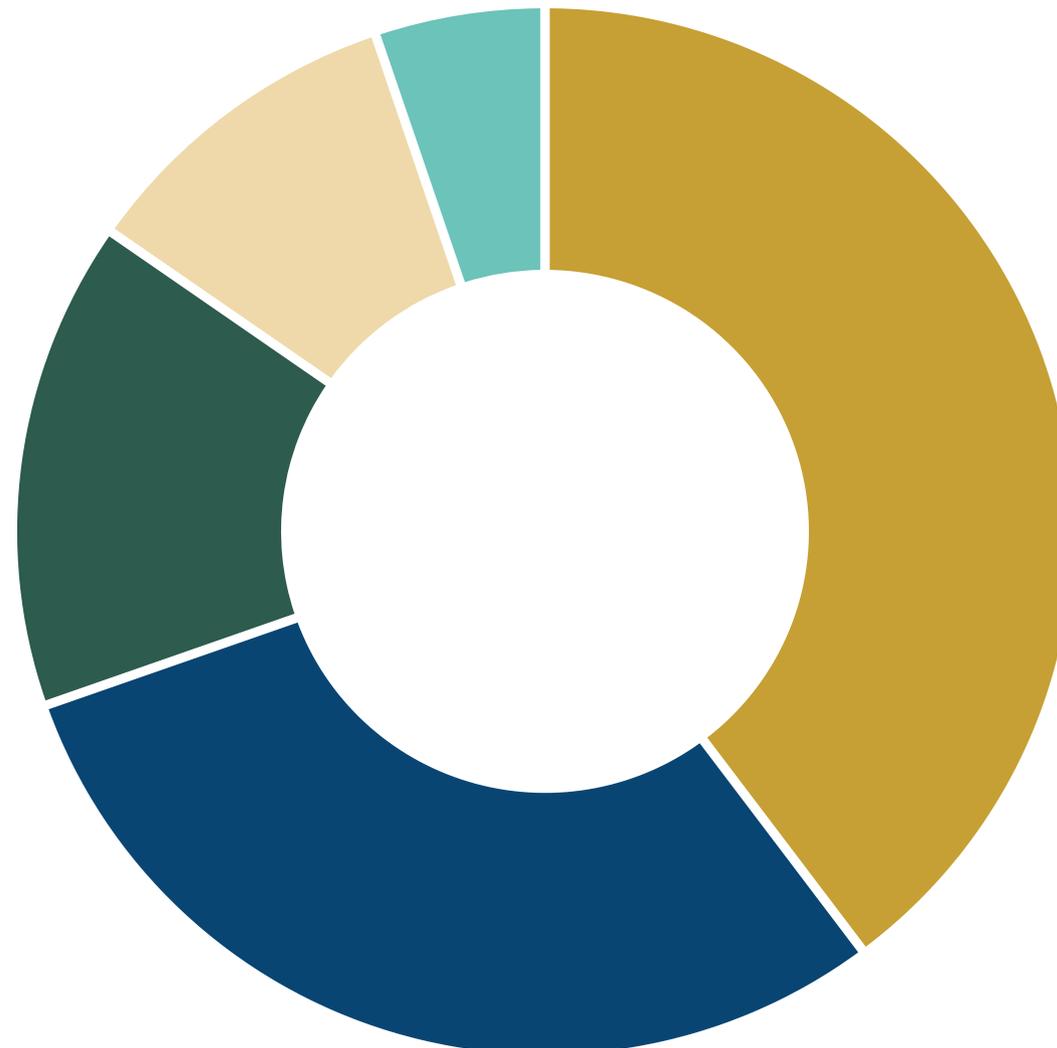
The timeline was tight, interest from other buyers was strong, and we did not have the funds needed to put forward a competitive offer. The required deposit was £250k; we had £120k available. The seller could not wait for us to fundraise, and we lost the opportunity.

We are now turning this loss into a turning point. We are building a **Masjid Readiness Fund** so that the next time an opportunity arises, SOMA can act with confidence and secure a permanent home for our community.

The Masjid Fund: Building Our Future Together

Your contribution helps ensure the community never misses another opportunity. With this **£1M fund**, SOMA will be ready the moment land becomes available, able to purchase, plan, and begin building a lasting home for worship, youth development, education, and community service.

£1M



Construction Phase 1

Land Acquisition

Architectural & Planning

Reserve & Operating Fund

Community Engagement

Potential Property Opportunity: ICD (Islamic Centre Didcot)

This project proposes the acquisition of a residential property and its conversion into an Islamic community centre to support social and Islamic education, cultural, and wellbeing activities for the local Muslim community in Didcot, South Oxfordshire.

Project Objectives

Property Acquisition

Acquire a suitable property for long-term community use

Refurbishment

Refurbish and adapt the building to meet safety and accessibility standards

Legal & Planning

Secure all legal and planning approvals

Community Asset

Establish a sustainable community asset

Property Summary

Property Type: Residential house

Location: 76 Park Road, Didcot OX11 8QP

Current Use: Residential

Proposed Use: Islamic Community Centre

Land plot area: 800 m²

Property Area: 170 m²



Front view of Property

Refurbishment & Planning

Refurbishment Scope

Internal Reconfiguration

Internal reconfiguration to open up rooms to allow extra space for prayers for both men and women. Refurbish bedrooms into offices for Charity meetings and Arabic/Qur'an classes.

Essential Facilities

Kitchen and toilet facilities upgraded to accommodate community use.

Safety Upgrades

Fire safety upgrades including emergency exit for both floors.

Accessibility & Efficiency

Accessibility improvements including ramps. Energy efficiency measures to improve insulation and reduce heat loss in Winter period.

Estimated Cost Breakdown

Cost Category	Description	Estimated Cost (£)
Property Acquisition	Purchase price	£600,000
Legal Fees	Conveyancing and legal checks	£15,000
Planning Permission Fees	Change of use application	£5,000
Refurbishment Costs	Construction and fit-out	£100,000
Accessibility Works	Ramps, toilets, signage	£8,000
Furniture & Equipment	Tables, chairs, IT, security, Carpet	£20,000
Maintenance	Annual estimate	£20,000
Contingency	10–15% buffer	£75,000
Total		£843,000

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Property Images



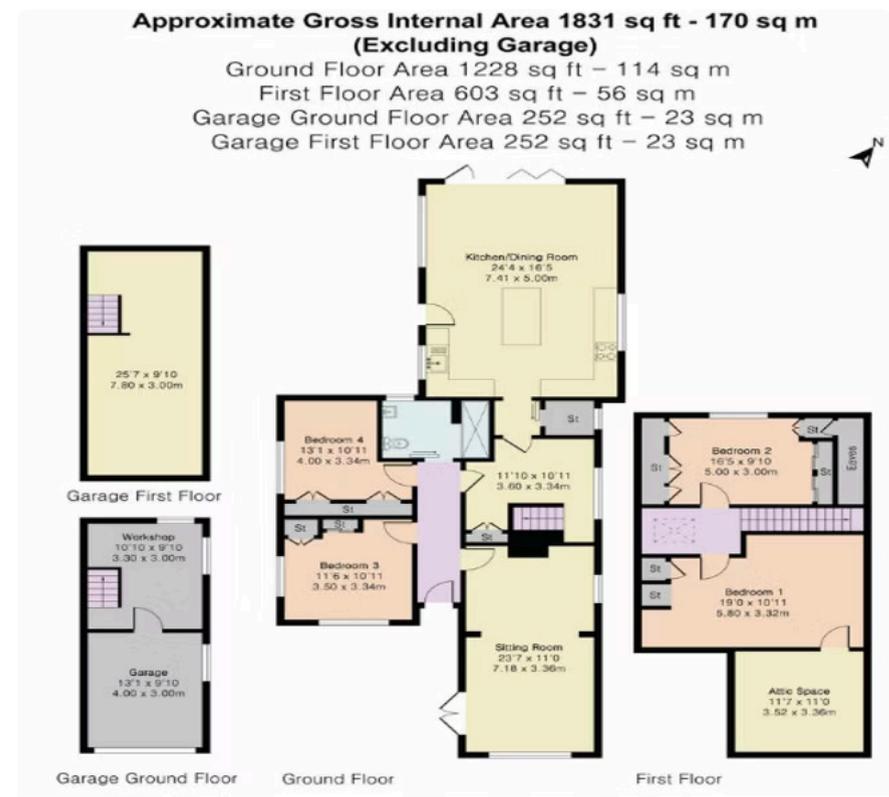
Front view of Property



Rear view/Garden



Land plot



Floor Plan

You Have the Power to Build a Legacy

Give for a Home in Jannah – Fund a Square Metre

You have the ability to turn a capable, active, first-generation community into a permanent, strategic institution serving South Oxfordshire and beyond – and to claim a share of the Sadaqah Jariyah of thousands of prayers, lessons and acts of service for generations.

We are not seeking a quick fix or short-term space. We are planning a permanent asset that will serve generations.

Our vision is to secure land or property that can host five daily prayers, Jumu'ah, Eid and Ramadan, whilst incorporating classrooms, youth spaces and multipurpose halls – capable of expanding as the community grows over the coming decades.

What We're Building



Prayer Space

Host five daily prayers, Jumu'ah, Eid and Ramadan for our growing community and surrounding areas.



Education Centre

Expand madrasas, build youth clubs, mentoring schemes, and faith-friendly STEM clubs reflecting Didcot's science strengths.



Community Hub

Support new Muslims, strengthen family bonds, provide social support, and unite our diverse community from the beginning.

Contact Us

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SOMA Charity No. 1200193