

Comment for planning application 22/01682/F

Application Number	22/01682/F
Location	Land North Of Manor Farm Noke
Proposal	Development of a ground mounted solar farm incorporating the installation of solar PV panels, associated infrastructure and access, as well as landscape planting and designated ecological enhancement areas.
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation Name	Timothy Wilfrid Fison
Address	1 Glebe cottage, Main St, Killin
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I strongly object to this proposal on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Otmoor Reserve and associated areas are renowned as special places of natural beauty and respite for the people of Oxford, having been protected for a very long time and it has to be wrong to usurp an adjacent area for industrial purposes. Under the Site Viability Assessment, I see that the site falls into the outer impact risk zone of the Otmoor SSSI. Otmoor is a place of national and international importance and merits very careful attention.2 A large area of solar panels will pose a threat to birds migrating to, and around, Otmoor: the effect of arrays of these panels has been shown to confuse birds and bats, leading to fatal attempted landings3 National Planning Policy forbids large renewable energy projects in Green Belt areas4 The area designated for the panels is excellent agricultural land and is classified as category 38, defined as the Best and Most Versatile. England can ill-afford to take such land out of crop production5 I understand that this development will only supply power for some 7000 (another estimate is only 1000 and it is not clear whether the output will be 18 or 25 MW), whereas in the future the whole Cherwell grid will need to be upgraded to meet projected demands6 UK does not have a good track record in protecting such special places so lets try to put this right in the case of Otmoor7 Under the Site Viability Assessment, I read that the site has to be within 1.5kms of the cable route between Bicester Primary Substation and Headington Primary Substation in order to be 'commercially viable'. Does this translate as more profit for SSEN and/or the developers? The Dasgupta report (commissioned by the Government of UK) argues that environmental issues should be taken fully into account in economic policies.8 The Ecology Surveys suggest that the development should not be allowed due to likely impacts on priority bird and other species (I believe that a pair of cranes has attempted to nest on Otmoor in the past 2 years)
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Attachments	