

Comment for planning application 20/00574/F

Application Number	20/00574/F
Location	Land North Of Hill Farm Hill Farm Lane Duns Tew OX25 0JJ
Proposal	Installation of a standalone Solar PV array, associated infrastructure, grid connection, access and landscaping
Case Officer	Matthew Chadwick
Organisation Name	Christopher Hall
Address	The Knowle,Philcote Street,Deddington,Banbury,OX15 0TB
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I whole heartedly welcome this application to install a further 8.92 MW capacity Photo Voltaic panels in the valley between Deddington and Duns Tew. I note that the Deddington Parish Council has registered No Objection to the application, whereas they did object when the earlier installation was proposed five years ago. When the Planning Committee considered that application on 1 October 2015, the Planning Officer advised against it. However the District Councillor for Duns Tew, Cllr James Macmillan, proposed its acceptance and was seconded by his fellow Duns Tew Councillor. In the subsequent debate, the then chairman, Cllr Colin Clarke, expressed his reservations, but other speakers all spoke in favour, and the application was approved nem con. The application was for that installation to be dismantled after 25 years; its permitted life has recently been extended to 40 years. Concern was expressed then about the visual impact of the 5MW installation. Now that the panels are in place, they look to be a remote lake seen by drivers towards Banbury on the A4260 - though the story that the local farmer has received requests for fishing licences needs to be taken with a large pinch of salt. The new installation will extend 'the lake' towards the A4260, but driving north it seems that the site will be largely hidden in a dip, in addition to the planned planting. Drivers going south do not see the existing installation, and will not be distracted by the new one. This new application makes thoroughly planned provision for construction traffic to access the site directly from the A4260, thus saving residents in Hill Farm Lane from the disturbance they previously suffered from heavy traffic. Public opinion has changed radically since 2015. This is reflected in the Deddington Parish Council's considered comment, and even more the decision of Cherwell District Council to declare a 'climate emergency'. I trust therefore that the Planning Committee will welcome this new application, and approve it with enthusiasm. Oxfordshire used to be a major exporter of electricity. The decommissioning of the Didcot power stations means that it is now an importer. This Solar Farm will make its contribution to lessening the county's debt to other areas of the country, and do so sustainably reducing our carbon footprint.</p>
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Attachments	