

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	Margaret Faulkner
Address	Home Close, 7 Church Street, Beckley, Oxford,
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>This is a travesty and cannot be permitted to happen. The area is one of outstanding beauty and no doubt the owners of Manor Farm would be paid handsomely for allowing the destruction of our countryside. My objection is based upon the following grounds:</p> <p>Ecological impact: we are particularly concerned about the proximity of the solar farm to the RSPB Bird Reserve on Otmoor, where cranes bred successfully for the very first time last year. The site is also home to bitterns, turtle doves and marsh harriers. The solar farm would be less than 400metres away from the Bird Reserve and only just over 1 km away from the permanently flooded area within it. Wetland birds and insect life are attracted to the large shiny surfaces of water bodies. Over 100 acres of shiny panels could disorient migrating and other birds. The Ecological Survey carried out for the developer concentrated on the wildlife recorded within the solar farm area and concluded that "impacts to any off-site designated sites are highly unlikely due to distances and nature of the work". This is an unsubstantiated opinion for which there is absolutely no evidence at all. Both Friends of the Earth and the RSPB recommend that solar farms should avoid wildlife sites.</p> <p>Green Belt: the solar park would fall entirely within the Green Belt. Para 151 of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) states that renewable energy projects are inappropriate developments on Green Belt land, and should only be allowed in 'very special circumstances' - which we do not believe apply here. Otmoor is no sunnier than any other patch of land in southern England. Electricity can be generated anywhere and distributed everywhere through the existing electrical distribution network.</p> <p>[Please note: the Green Belt is under assault like never before. SODC has agreed to release 1,900 acres / 770 ha for housing development in its Local Plan to 2035 - and that's just in the SODC section of the Green Belt.]</p> <p>Amenity value of the area: As mentioned above, a stand-out feature of Otmoor and the surrounding area is its open, undeveloped character, a rare haven for wildlife and humans alike. 108 acres of panelling would subvert its character considerably. If a solar farm is allowed here, in such a unique habitat, solar farms could be allowed anywhere. We welcome solar farms as part of our zero-carbon future. Our challenge is to meet that environmental priority while not trampling on other ones: the preservation of precious landscapes and protection of fragile biodiversity.</p>
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Attachments	