

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	Edmund Goodin
Address	Yew Tree Farmhouse, High Street, Charlton On Otmoor, Kidlington, OX5 2UQ
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Consideration of this proposal requires thought to be given to two conflicting issues.</p> <p>That is (1) the urgent need to transition to renewable and sustainable energy sources and (2) how we use our finite green space.</p> <p>I am an ardent advocate of point '(1)'. However, the following are also important factors to take into account in respect of point '(2)':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the loss of visual amenity to local communities and tourists, in particular from the public footpath which runs through the site (the site can also be seen from other nearby footpaths);- the loss of green space (and the myriad of associated benefits that come with it) currently provided by the site to local communities and the wider public;- the impact that developing land, used for agriculture and tourists, for solar energy capture will have on the local economy;- the amount of energy that can reasonably be expected to be produced by this solar farm relative to the large amount of space it will use;- the PV panels' limited efficiency in our climate (where in the winter we have less than 8 hours of sunlight a day and where with daylight much light is obscured by cloud cover); and- broader planning policy and the maintenance of green space around Oxford, including within the Oxford Green Belt (within which the proposed site lies): planning policy which addresses 'demand' by increasing 'supply' through the development of greenfield sites fails to recognise the limited supply of those greenfield sites (as with non-renewable energy sources, this lack of long term sustainability should be a serious concern). <p>On balance, and for the reasons outlined above, I believe that a development of 76 acres of rural land (within the Oxford Green Belt and through which a public footpath runs) for the purpose of creating an unreliable and seasonal energy source delivers a poor return to the region and its local communities.</p> <p>I therefore object to the proposed development.</p> <p>Local government would be better placed incentivising and encouraging PV panel installations on rooftops or on brownfield sites. Such developments allow for increases in solar energy capture (when conditions are right) without the many disadvantages referred to above.</p>
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Attachments	