

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	
Name	Louise Edwards
Address	38 North Street,Islip,Kidlington,OX5 2SQ
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>1. The proposed solar power plant will put black solar panels on 93 acres of green belt agricultural land next to a unique wetland habitat which is a protected environment, the Otmoor. The development industrialises the green belt which is a community asset. The Oxfordshire Way footpath will be disrupted and permanently affected. This path is the only pedestrian link between Islip and Noke, and links up to footpaths and bridleways around the Otmoor and to other communities.</p> <p>The Cherwell Local plan states 'We will cherish protect and enhance our distinctive natural and built environment and our rich historic heritage (p30)' and 'Cherwell's countryside, landscape and green spaces are important natural resources. They form the setting of our towns and villages, contribute to their identity and the well-being of Cherwell's communities, and provide recreation opportunities. The countryside's intrinsic character and beauty is important to the quality of life in Cherwell . . .(p59). This development does not comply with these statements.</p> <p>2. Just because there are convenient power links does not provide a reason for this large development. This is reverse thinking and means that the historic position of power lines will override considerations of community value, environmental assets and destroy 'intrinsic character and beauty' for the sake of saving some cabling.</p> <p>3. The reflective panels have been shown to confuse migrating birds who mistake the panels for water and result in fatality and injury - which in turn will deter future migrations from coming to the Otmoor reserve.</p> <p>4. The Otmoor wetland is unique and contributes to the biodiversity of the area and local amenity. Viewing starling murmurations encourages families into the area in the cold and dark - few other activities are so popular in these conditions. There is no other wetland reserve of such scale in Cherwell's area. It cannot be recreated elsewhere, whereas a solar farm can be built on other sites. In the Otmoor Cherwell have a precious jewel, valued internationally and locally - this development will undermine any claims Cherwell have for respecting and valuing the natural environment, and contradicts their own Local plan.</p>
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Attachments	