

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	Susannah Peace
Address	Ambergate Barn, Wheatley Road, Islip, Kidlington, OX5 2TF
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Great crested newts are a protected species. Building and development work can harm great crested newts and their habitats, for example if it: changes habitats of other species, reducing the newts' food sources It is well known that shiny black solar panels attract many different polarotactic insects, especially aquatic insects and insects associated with water. These insects detect water by means of the horizontal polarisation of water-reflected light (Horvth and Csabai 2014). This is noted to effect the life cycle of these insects, if they are laying larvae on the panels instead of water will then die which may effect the GReat Crested Newts food sources. With evidence of Great Crested Newts which are protected by law we must ask if this development of over 80 acres of solar panels can guarantee not to effect the Great Crested Newts diet and environment. We can not wait for more studies to prove this as it will be to late the evidence is already there.</p> <p>BSG Ecology in early November 2019 to carry out a range of surveys phase 1 habitat survey, great crested newt eDNA survey, wintering and breeding bird surveys.</p> <p>The eDNA survey of Pond 1. located approximately 55 m from the Site. Revealed that Great Crested Newt is present within this pond.</p> <p>Pond 2, located within the Survey Area, is located approximately 35 m east of the Site, set within the gardens of Manor Farm. This is suitable to support all the amphibians for which records exist locally. The eDNA survey of this pond revealed that great crested newt is present within this pond.</p> <p>On 29 June, John Baker (who holds a Natural England great crested newt survey license - No: 2016- 22258-CLS-CLS) carried out sampling of Ponds 1 and 2. The samples were sent for analysis to SureScreen Scientifics.</p> <p>Natural England and other parties 2017 Report number NEER012 ISBN 978-1-78354-414-1 Evidence review of the impact of solar farms. xii. Solar panels have the capacity to reflect polarised light, which can attract polarotactic insects, which has the potential to impact their reproductive biology. The polarising effect of solar panels may also induce drinking behaviour in some bird taxa, where the birds mistake the panels for water. xv. Governmental and non-governmental organisations that provide advice and guidance that may have ecological implications have a duty to contribute to evidence towards their guidance, especially where evidence is lacking. In the case of solar farms, there is almost no evidence and research into their ecological impacts is urgently (RSPB, 2014). This document states that the RSPB advocate solar technologies, however recommends avoiding deployment in locations close to protected areas, or close to water features (highlighting a potential negative impact upon aquatic invertebrates as a risk, both independently and as a food resource for birds). Blah, M., Egri, ., Barta, A., Antoni, G., Kriska, G. and Horvth, Feltwell, J. (2014a) 'Observations on the effects of photovoltaic solar panels on invertebrates (Horvth et al. 2010b; Blah et al. 2012a; Szz et al. 2016)</p>
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Attachments

