

Claire Creese
Red Brick Cottage
Noke
OX3 9TX

12 July 2022

Mr James Kirkham Principal Planning Officer
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
White Post Road
Bodicote Banbury OX15 4AA

Dear Mr Kirkham,

Re Planning application - **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....**

I object to the proposal.

Siting a 93-acre industrial level of build on Greenbelt land, adjacent to the RSPB preserve which is of national importance, is the worst possible use of good agricultural land. Land now much needed for food security. Pylons running through the land is not a good enough reason to destroy such a precious asset plumb in the middle of rural Oxfordshire.

No one is opposed to solar panels per se, but the industrial conversion of this site could not be less in the public interest. The beauty of the sweeping views is under represented in the application. Otmoor is a beautiful area offering huge open vistas onto the countryside, and this so very close to Oxford. With the train station in Islip folk without cars can easily get to enjoy Otmoor. We have seen an increased number of visitors since the pandemic and those numbers have not receded to pre pandemic levels.

From the perspective of anyone walking in or close to the site, the visual impact will be highly detrimental. With 2.8m hedging plus the panels, all sense of place and geographic context will be banished, leaving a deracinated view of industrial panels or high hedges meeting the sky. Gone is all geographic sense of current open horizons and views. And gone is the cultural context provided by historic 12/13th C Church towers (Islip and Oddington especially) and some views of surrounding villages.

The site will provide little benefit in terms of the amount of alternative power. But the cost to the local rural, community and natural environment will be immense.

And what will happen to the farm and farming family currently growing crops on the land? There is a danger it will become unviable which would be a further local loss and potential personal tragedy.

Yours sincerely, Claire Creese

CC: Gemma Coton - gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.org.uk

Angus Patrick - angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.org. Simon Holland- simon.holland@cherwell-dc.org.uk