

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	Mike Hobbs
Address	Penny Cottage, Church Street, Beckley, OX3 9UT
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I live just outside Cherwell DC at Beckley, from which the proposed solar farm would be visible. In general I support all forms of renewable energy, including solar arrays, but I object to this proposal on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The array would be sited adjacent to the Otmoor RSPB bird reserve and SSI, both of which would be compromised by this development.2. Otmoor is one of the very few open, undeveloped and unspoiled spaces - a wild space - in Oxfordshire, and this invaluable asset should be preserved at all cost for the sake of nature and those who relish it.3. Otmoor is dark, again one of the few dark spaces left in this area, and should be protected from light pollution. It may seem counter-intuitive to suggest that a solar array would compromise the dark space, but solar panels reflect moonlight and starlight. They would be seen at night from Beckley and other surrounding high points.4. The site for the proposed array is high quality and productive farmland. Our growing population needs food, and this farmland is highly suitable for arable farming.5. The argument that this site and immediate area is one of the few potential sites in Cherwell for a solar farm because of its proximity to the necessary electricity route is flawed because this infrastructure will have to be developed extensively in the near future.6. Furthermore there is very extensive brownfield land on military bases in Cherwell, some more of which could be made readily available for solar arrays even within a secure military perimeter. The solar farm at Arncott is an example.7. In summary, the proposed solar array would damage the local environment and remove much-needed arable land from productivity, undermining the proposed environmental case for this development.
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Attachments	