

# Comment for planning application 22/01682/F

<b>Application Number</b>	22/01682/F
<b>Location</b>	Land North Of Manor Farm Noke
<b>Proposal</b>	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.
<b>Case Officer</b>	James Kirkham
<b>Organisation Name</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Pia Key
<b>Address</b>	Dunleah, Otmoor Lane,,Beckley, Oxon
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Objection
<b>Type</b>	neighbour
<b>Comments</b>	<p>I am writing to object to the proposal of the building of a Solar Park on the land at Manor Farm, Noke.</p> <p>I am familiar with the proposed site and have walked the area carefully to establish my own views. I have also read and agree with many of the comments put forward by other objectors; in particular I would add my support to the carefully considered and studied response from Wyvering House, Oddington.</p> <p>I make here just a few points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The proposed solar farm will make a minimal contribution to Cherwell's renewable energy production - the amount suggested in the proposal would appear to be unrealistic.</li><li>2) This will be at the cost of the removal of good arable land from production (I have seen the quality of the current crops), while at the same time, the potential use of both private homes and commercial buildings for mounting solar panels seems largely to have been ignored.</li><li>3) The solar farm, which is effectively an industrial site, will be visible from many places around Otmoor. There will be wide views of it from the Oxfordshire Way which runs near by from Islip to Noke. It will also be clearly visible from the Oxfordshire Way as it crosses Beckley Hill en route to Horton cum Studley (SP569114) - surely one of the most spectacular views in the county. In Beckley itself, the solar farm will be seen at the very least from Otmoor Lane, and Common Road.</li><li>4) There is concern that the solar farm will be exceptionally obvious at night when the security lights are activated by grazing sheep, or if the lights need to be on during hours of darkness.</li><li>5) The proposed site is in the protected Green Belt, yet it does not meet the criteria of exceptional circumstances for this to be acceptable.</li><li>6) Otmoor is a truly special and beautiful resource, not only for wildlife, but also for the physical health and mental well-being of its local inhabitants and many visitors. The solar farm will mar this resource.</li><li>7) The proposed improvements to existing hedgerows and paths etc, may help to improve biodiversity in those areas, but the fact is that the majority of the 44 hectares will be covered in panels and not receiving much light.</li><li>8) If the land were to be taken out of crop production, a better plan might be to adopt a less intensive farming strategy, that would then complement the fantastic work of the nearby RSPB reserve, and the contributing farms around the Otmoor basin. It is clear that these fields are already explored by many species of birds, including Lapwing and Marsh Harrier (in the Ecological Report and personal observation, and evidenced also by the markers on the electricity cables, so placed to prevent bird strikes), and these species and indeed those farmland birds currently absent and in such decline, would use this area as a resource if farmed to their and our advantage.</li></ol>
<b>Received Date</b>	21/07/2022 21:50:51
<b>Attachments</b>	