

## Lynne Baldwin

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**From:** dc.support@cherwell-dc.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 21 July 2022 15:48  
**To:** DC Support  
**Subject:** New comments for application 22/01682/F

New comments have been received for application 22/01682/F at site address: Land North Of Manor Farm Noke from The Revd Hugh Lee hugh [REDACTED]

**Address:**  
64 Observatory Street, Oxford, OX2 6EP

**Comment type:**  
Objection

**Comments:**

I object to Planning Application 22/01682/F for the "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" in the parish of Noke.

Although I live in Oxford, I am the Associate Priest in Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John. I lead church services in the villages most Sundays and I visit them regularly for social and other events. I go walking in Noke, Otmoor and Beckley.

I am also an energy economist, working on ways to reduce the danger of the climate crisis while maintaining energy security and affordability.

I object to the developer's argument that this site is close to electricity supply facilities and is therefore a special case. There are plans to improve the electricity supply facilities locally and across the country so that more carbon-free electricity can be generated and used to reduce the danger of the climate crisis; so this is not a special case.

This solar farm would fall entirely within the Green Belt. Para 151 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that renewable energy projects are inappropriate developments on Green Belt land, and should only be allowed in 'very special circumstances' - which I do not believe applies here.

This solar farm will be mostly on Agricultural Land Category 3B, which is classified as Best and Most Versatile and should not be used for solar farms. There is a food emergency as well as a climate emergency.

This solar farm would be too close to the RSPB Bird Reserve on Otmoor, where. The site is home to bitterns, turtle doves and marsh harriers; cranes bred successfully here for the very first time last year. The solar farm would be less than 400metres away from the Bird Reserve and only just over 1 km away from the permanently flooded area within it. Wetland birds and insect life are attracted to the large shiny surfaces of water bodies. Over 100 acres of shiny panels could disorient migrating and other birds. The Ecological Survey carried out for the developer concentrated on the wildlife recorded within the solar farm area and concluded that "impacts to any off-site designated sites are highly unlikely due to distances and nature of the work". This is an unsubstantiated opinion for which there is no evidence. Both Friends of the Earth and the RSPB recommend that solar farms should avoid wildlife sites.

Case Officer:

James Kirkham

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