

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	Rachel Khiara
Address	Shepherds Pit, Stanton St John, Oxford, OX33 1HS
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I wish to register my objection to the planning application above.</p> <p>I believe that the proposal:</p> <p>Will have an unacceptable landscape impact. propose a solar farm at Manor Farm, Noke of 108 acres - the size of 136 football pitches. This will have an unacceptable impact on the landscape character of the area - contravening Cherwell District Council PR51 Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment.</p> <p>Is sited on good agricultural land, which will be taken out of use. An soil classification survey shows that the land is of a good standard, with elements of grade 3a soil. It is productive agricultural land, especially when farmed well - a genuine test of the suitability of the land. Tenant farmers on the land, who are considered responsible farmers, preserving hedgerow and selling produce locally, have traditionally seen good yields. We are facing a food crisis, and this is an excellent way of ensuring that good food is available to the local community.</p> <p>Has not looked at any alternative sites. The proposer has not supplied sufficient justification as to why Cherwell's already overwhelmed electricity grid needs to be overloaded by building a huge solar farm. It would be better for an appropriate area of non-agricultural land connected to better infrastructure than the Headington site, which would serve the wider Oxfordshire grid</p> <p>Is not backed up by a comprehensive Environmental Statement. The information provided within the Environmental Statement is insufficient to demonstrate that safe and suitable means of access can be provided to the proposed site area for the period of construction proposed. Without details provided there are highway safety concerns in respect to conflict with pedestrians and cyclist on the surrounding Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>Will damage local wildlife and tourism in the area. Walkers and wildlife enthusiasts come to the RSPB Otmoor site to take in the beautiful landscape and birdlife. This is a precious resource for the community, and home to many rare and protected birds and other mammals, and reptiles. Kronos Solar claim that solar farms promote ecosystems. This is an unsubstantiated opinion for which there is absolutely no evidence at all. Both Friends of the Earth and the RSPB recommend that solar farms should avoid wildlife sites. I am also aware that solar farms have a lake effect for birds, causing confusion and death. This is particularly pertinent given the site is adjacent to a bird life reserve. The applicant's Ecology Survey does not even consider this issue - a grave omission.</p> <p>Will impact severely on the local green belt.the solar park would fall entirely within the Green Belt. Para 151 of the NPPF (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 we do not believe apply here. It is for the developer to discharge this assumption, which I do not believe they have done.</p> <p>As such, I strongly urge Cherwell District Council to refuse this application on the grounds stated above. The application has not changed significantly from the previous application and should be refused in a timely manner on the grounds cited in the determination of the previous application.</p>

Received Date
Attachments

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