

Comment for planning application 22/03873/F

Application Number	<input type="text" value="22/03873/F"/>
Location	<input type="text" value="Land North And Adjacent To Mill Lane Stratton Audley"/>
Proposal	<input type="text" value="Installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with a switchgear container, inverter/transformer units, Site access, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements."/>
Case Officer	<input type="text" value="Rebekah Morgan"/>
Organisation Name	<input type="text" value="John Honsinger"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="Stratton House,Stoke Lyne Road,Stratton Audley,Bicester,OX27 9AT"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<input type="text" value="When I first heard of this development, I was amongst those who was generally in favour, because of the current need we have for new sources of energy. But one needs to balance it with the fact that it will be using valuable arable land which will be lost for generations and possibly forever. It may be a low-grade classification but it is nevertheless land on which crops have been grown and can be productive. Sheep grazing under the solar panels is just not going to happen! I think it comes down to this very simple fact that it is agricultural land.
There are other reasons, such as the effect on wildlife and no amount of planting so-called 'mature trees' will offset the loss to nature and the tranquillity of the footpaths in the area. Additionally, there is going to be disruption possibly for up to a year and the digging up of the road through the village to lay the power cable which will permanently scar a recently resurfaced road.
I cannot see any long-term benefits for the community although in the short term the establishment of a community fund, 200k for Stratton Audley and 50k for Godington will provide some benefit
This all comes at a time when the area has experienced disruption from East West Rail and the build phase may coincide with major developments at Bicester Motion on the other side of the village.
Even Central Planners are undecided on the matter of solar development on farmland and Government may quite soon decide to ban all new developments. Surely with this looming in the background, the District Council need to put this type of development on hold until central Government make the policy clearer. It would also give Cherwell DC the necessary time to consider this in-the-round, taking into account all the other potential major developments in the district both on brown and green field sites.
I liken the current situation to that of 'the Gold Rush' 100 years ago though this time it is a 'A Solar Rush' which in the future we may look back on with regret, for the loss of so much farmland. So on a personal basis I am against it.
Of course, views in the community vary and I am aware of many, but my sense is that even if someone is not opposed to it, many given a choice, would rather such solar developments were located on brownfield sites or warehouse roofs, not on farmland."/>
Received Date	<input type="text" value="31/01/2023 20:12:28"/>
Attachments	