Comment for planning application 22/03873/F

Application Number | 22/03873/F

Location

Land North And Adjacent To Mill Lane Stratton Audley

Proposal

Installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station comprising groundmounted 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

Rebekah Morgan

Organisation

Name

John Iball

Address

Chase House, Bicester Road, Stratton Audley, Bicester, OX27 9BT

Type of Comment

Objection

Type

neighbour

Comments

I object to the Padbury Brook Solar Farm proposal.

I understand the need to provide energy security and that renewable sources such as solar have a part to play in this. However, the production of food is far more important. The siting of a solar farm on 160+ acres of productive grade 3b land cannot be justified. There are numerous more suitable sites including brownfield sites in and around Bicester. It may be more expensive in the short term but that is a better price to pay than losing the potential to grow crops on the land for decades to come. There has also been some reports from Government that the definition of "best and most versatile" land (BMV), will be changed to include category 3b. Under these circumstances any move to rush through this application would be highly questionable.

The area surrounding Stratton Audley and neighbouring villages has been decimated by HS2 and East West rail developments. The impact on wildlife will be felt for hundreds of years. The installation of this solar farm will cause further damage to the ecology of the area.

Residents have suffered the damaging effects of the rail developments with road closures and damage to road surfaces that is not being rectified. The solar farm proposal will undoubtedly cause further damage with insufficient provision for rectification. The council is clearly unable or unwilling to repair the highways which are becoming dangerous, particularly for cyclists.

In conclusion, the use of 3b land ahead of potential reclassification, the impact on flora and fauna, the damage to the highways and the disruption for local residents makes this application unconscionable.

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Attachments