

**From:****Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 10:15 AM**To:** Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>**Subject:** Solar farm and Battery storage Padbury Brook

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to lodge my objection to the proposed installation of a solar farm and battery storage power station on productive farm land between Godington and Stratton Audley. I firmly believe that it is essential to protect our valuable agricultural resources for the long-term benefit of our community.

By developing productive farm land, we risk compromising the balance between sustainability and food production. Such a decision will have detrimental consequences for our community. Not only would it reduce our capacity to grow our own food, it would also disrupt local supply chains and heighten our dependence on imported food. The development would lead to the loss of countless jobs and disrupt the livelihoods of hardworking farmers and rural businesses.

Productive farm land serves as the backbone of our economy, providing us with a source of fresh and locally grown food. This land has been cultivated for generations, contributing to the livelihoods of farmers, preserving rural traditions, and maintaining the cultural fabric of our area. Their significance extends far beyond the economic value, encompassing environmental conservation and biodiversity, food security, preservation of our rural heritage and recreational use and wellbeing.

The development by virtue of scale, and the visual prominence from the surrounding roads, residences and footpaths bounding the site on all four sides would result in an industrialisation of a large area of unspoilt countryside which also features protected ancient woodland, in turn a major loss and alteration of key elements and features of the landscape would occur. The development would be uncharacteristic in the surrounding landscape and represent an alien and discordant feature within the rural setting leading to a major adverse impact on the enjoyment of the countryside by public users, food production and the rural economy. For this reason this development does not comply with the NPPF or the Cherwell Local plan.

I implore you to consider alternative options that can achieve your renewable energy goals while preserving our agricultural lands. Brownfield sites, industrial areas, rooftops of commercial buildings can be repurposed for solar use without encroaching upon valuable farmland. By embracing sustainable practices that balance environmental concerns with our agricultural heritage, we can safeguard our future while respecting the principles of responsible development in line with the NPPF.

Developers and Investors have a vested interest in pursuing renewable energy projects, however, it is my sincere hope that you will take into account the long-term consequences of your decisions and the potential harm that converting productive farm land may cause. I urge Cherwell to engage in open dialogue with stakeholders, including farmers, community members, local business and environmental experts, to find an alternative solution that preserves our agricultural resources while meeting renewable energy targets.

Please consider the impact of your actions on our community, our environment, and the generations to come. Let us work together to find a sustainable and equitable path forward that respects both our agricultural heritage and our need for clean energy.

Please see the site plan on the next page with notes below.

- The very close proximity to the Residential Dwellings.
- The Ancient Woodland is directly beside the site, BBOWT Report.
- The licensed wedding venue ceremony locations including 2 outdoor locations are directly against the development site boundary.
- The 2 horse stud businesses are directly adjacent to the site.
- The fire risk from solar panels and battery storage is a major concern given the proximity to local business and the residential dwellings.
- The noise from the inverters is detailed to be 20db above current background noise levels, a health risk according to government guidance.

Meadow View

Ploughley Road

Ambrosden

OX25 2LD

