

This is a summary of my oral representation.

I live at [REDACTED] on the Lower Road on the north western edge of the Central Section of the solar farm. Incidentally the house and mill are 300 years old, listed grade 2, mentioned in the Domesday Book but not listed as a heritage asset in the applicant's submission.

I look down the Lower Evenlode valley which features the river meandering through the flood plain with rising ground on both sides. The landscape is completely rural.

My main concern is with the loss of visual amenity and the number of people affected.

Firstly, because of the steeply rising ground to the East of the Evenlode, the solar panels will be visible from a considerable distance.

Secondly, it will be visible to the large number of vehicles passing down Lower Road each day and to the passengers on the 3 cathedrals line from Oxford to Worcester and Hereford. It will also be visible to the proposed bicycle track along Lower Road which is promised with the proposed Salt Cross new town .

Effectively any resident of any of the villages surrounding the solar farm will be passing through this semi industrialised landscape whenever going to another village for shopping, taking children to school etc,. This is in contrast to the completely rural landscape that exists at the moment.

In summary then, I suggest this solar farm is far more visible to far more people than other large solar farms and that therefore the deleterious effect on visual amenity should be given considerable weight by the inspectors.

As an aside , the land in this area is also part of the Oxford Green Belt and of excellent agricultural quality being grade 2 or grade 3a. It is worth mentioning in response to another oral representation which suggested the land was of poor quality and that yield had dropped by 25% over the last 2 years that ,of the 2 main farmers in this area , David Henman [REDACTED] and Michael Cook [REDACTED]. The land is just as high yielding now as it has in the past.