

As a resident of Shipton Slade Farm hamlet, I am encouraged by the Oxford Host Authorities' support in opposing this development. Their recommendation to remove solar panels from boundary fields 1.17 and 1.18 affirms what we have long argued: that installing panels in this vale would severely damage the character and setting of our community. It is disappointing, however, that the applicant continues to resist making changes, despite the Planning Examiner's own assessment that the impact on our hamlet would be "severe." Field 1.17 alone spans 100 acres, lies on a visible slope facing Woodstock's new estates, and borders a well-used public footpath. Crucially, it adjoins land containing three ponds, home to a large population of Great Crested Newts—a protected species whose habitat would be at risk. The developer's repeated claims that much of the installation will be hidden are simply not credible. Fields like 1.17 cannot be screened by a few hedgerows. As someone who works from home, I am also deeply concerned about the prolonged noise and disruption this project would cause, especially from pile-driving equipment operating six days a week for months. We've already experienced this from a smaller installation near the old Banbury Road, and the idea of such disruption right on our doorstep is immensely distressing and would certainly be detrimental to my mental health and my business. In closing, I would like to thank the Planning Examiners for their detailed and thorough assessment of this proposal. I greatly appreciate your recognition of the real and lasting impact this development would have on our community.