

I am an occasional visitor to Oxford and Church Hanborough where my wife has an uncle living in a house which is within a stone's throw of the planned solar farm. I live in Australia where we have plenty of quite unremarkable land upon which to place solar farms and wind turbines. I have followed your evaluation process with interest but also with frustration because it is so clear to me that all this work being put into the width of paths, the height of hedges, etc etc is simply obscuring the main issue and that is that the entire concept of putting an array of solar panels in this part of England is unbelievably crazy. Yes, the world needs more renewable energy and I'm all for that. But we also need to preserve and improve our living environment and that is made up of the actual plants and animals but also the intrinsic culture and history of a region. I suppose you could sum all this up as "the feel of the place". The planned project massively violates the "feel of the place" for tens of thousands of people who live in the many small towns there and those who visit the region to enjoy its beauty. In addition the project would impact on the historical values inherent in Blenheim Palace which is such an important part of English history. I cannot believe there is not a tract of land somewhere in England which is much more "unremarkable". Of course there will still be impacts, but the challenge is to find a location where the total impacts on English society, history and natural environment is of a much smaller magnitude.