

PC & Public Meetings Solar Farm Facts & Stats

The 'headlines' of Blenheim's Solar Farm plan:

- At 840 MW this will be the largest wind farm proposal ever **in Europe**. The current largest is Nunez de Bilbao plant in Spain supplying a mere 500 MW's. It is situated in desert land away from any houses
- This project is over 11 times larger than the UK's current largest solar farm - Shotwick Solar Park, Wales - at a mere 72.2 MW's
- It will cover 1,000 hectares of land (2,471.052 acres). The size of the project is so enormous – equal to 100 international rugby pitches in total – that it would be considered a national infrastructure project.
- West Oxfordshire will, on the above figures alone, provide 8 times its fair share of green energy to the National Grid.
If this goes ahead, as other Counties step up with wind, solar and wave power, history will record that West Oxfordshire lost its rich and unique heritage sites plus we will have lost these fields bio diversity capacity – a preservation policy encouraged by the gvmt and many landowners (except Blenheim) - and we will have reduced our food contribution just as it is officially recognised we have, as a nation, to increase our food production.
- It will NOT feed directly into homes in Oxfordshire. There is no infrastructure to allow this. The output will feed into the national grid providing Blenheim with a sizeable income. There will be no direct benefit to West Oxfordshire residents.
- It will not encourage free roaming wildlife. Each field will be heavily fenced with high stock proof fencing as is happening already at current sites
- The fields that Blenheim have allocated are classified as Grade 3 meaning, by gvmt definition, they are best suited to supply the nations food.
- The **British energy security strategy**, last updated in April this year, encourages “largescale projects to locate on previously developed, or lower value land, where possible, and ensure projects are designed to avoid the impacts of using greenfield sites.” British Food Security in these troubled times is a Government priority
- Sansoms Platt and its adjoining field is a National Heritage site preserved as it contains the remains of a Roman town including a Temple.

Latest Satellite images on Google Earth, taken 2 years ago, clearly show the field across the other side of Akeman street as containing roads, buildings and enclosures which would make the whole area around The Oxford School of Drama (who unearthed Roman Floors when rebuilding Studios) and Sansoms Cottage a site of national importance containing a large and significant Roman town built alongside Akeman Street .

It is of-course illogical to suppose the Roman's only built along one side of a major road !

But, these fields, in an act of irreversible cultural vandalism, are to have solar panels on them meaning, once fields are allowed structures on them, we have lost them forever - possibly, eventually to Blenheim's House building company which is already very active with its plans to add to eight villages and create two new ones in West Oxfordshire.

We must preserve these fields around Sansoms Platt as a National Heritage site for future generations.

In conclusion:

- Our planet faces two main demands upon its resources. Food and Energy.
- The two must be balanced – food security is a priority as is reducing our carbon emissions
- In taking agricultural land out of use Blenheim is cutting back on producing food in favour of energy. This is not a balanced approach
- Also, as custodians of a National Heritage site, we have a duty to preserve the newly discovered extra site for future generations. Anything less is unforgivable vandalism

As a member of Greenpeace, dedicated to Green energy, I ask you to pursue a balanced approach in West Oxfordshire between food, our heritage legacy and solar power. All three can be accommodated.

Blenheim are forcing through their solar plans based on land availability not land suitability

I hope the above outlines a better and more holistic alternative