

PLANNING REF : 262274
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 33 Sonning Meadows
: 33 Sonning Mead Sonning, Reading
: RG4 6XB
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Eric Rumble
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/10/2026

COMMENTS:

Planning Application 262274 Data Centre

We wish to strongly object to this proposal on the following grounds
:

In general the adverse effects of living near a data centre are well known :

High power demands stressing the local electrical grid .
Huge Water consumption.

Massive source of continuous external heat , this is of particular concern after this summer's multiple heat waves , so any extra unnecessary heat must surely threaten the health of local nearby residents . Section 8.7 in the 'Statement of Community involvement' references this but supplies no hard details of actual plans whatsoever . We note also that the tenuous 'actively exploring' option of capturing just some of the waste heat for heat networks is being discussed with Reading council ... we actually live in the Wokingham Council area so this is of no local benefit at all (assuming it is ever actually progressed).

Constant unrelenting industrial noise . The original Microsoft offices being demolished were just that , offices , the Data centre will be a change to an industrial application.

Air quality and pollution. Section 8.2 in the 'Statement of Community involvement' mentions that emissions of pollutants will be at elevation (ie chimneys) to reduce exposure . We note that our property is on Shepherds Hill due east of the proposed development (prevailing wind direction is West to East) and is already in an elevated

position compared to the site . We have a serious concern that our (and our neighbours) properties will be in a constant 'ground zero' location for pollutants from the site. I've examined the statement and can see no consideration of this fact at all, which could be a major health issue.

There is a comment about backup power generators only being used in the case of power outages (and we assume regular testing) . We have learned however that some existing data centres stretch this definition to include 'times of increased demand' - so effectively the generators are running 24/7 ...

Trivial economic return , as few as 40 full time positions on site . There seems to be no reason to suggest that a Data centre is going to incentivise or stimulate any other local businesses .