

Application by Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd for the Botley West Solar Farm Project

Case reference: EN010147

Examining Authority's note of unaccompanied site inspection 1 (USI1) to which the application or specified matters relates on Monday 24 February 2025

All members of the Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI1) between 14:30 and 16:40 on Monday 24 February 2025. This note is a brief record to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and other parties of the actions taken by the ExA.

The ExA used a combination of driving and walking routes to experience and record the local area, the details of which are broadly summarised below. All inspections took place from a public highway, public footpath or public place.

The weather was pleasant throughout the visit, with skies clearing and a moderate easterly wind blowing, allowing good long-distance visibility at all times.

On this visit, the ExA congregated at Cumnor Village Hall and took a drive north up Tumbledown Hill to the junction of Little Whitley Road. From there, the ExA proceeded on foot in a westerly direction up to the embankment of Farmoor Reservoir. The ExA took the public footpath south to a position underneath the electricity pylons where the positioning of Upper Whitley Farm was observed.

Returning up the path and along the length of Bushy Leaze Lane, the ExA crossed over Cumnor Road to join onto the Green Belt Way. The ExA followed the Green Belt Way east through the fields to Denman's Lane. From there, a route south past Denman's Farm was followed on Denman's Lane until reaching a permissive pass in the vicinity of the communications mast. The walking route finished by rejoining Tumbledown Hill and revisiting the Village Hall.

The topography of the landscape, views from public footpaths, the drainage conditions of the soil and the general ambience of the locality were observed throughout.