

BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM EXAMINATION

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION BY BEGBROKE AND YARNTON GREEN BELT CAMPAIGN (BYG) IN ADVANCE OF DEADLINE 1: 4 JUNE 2025 IN RESPECT OF COMMENTS MADE BY MR RAWLINGS DURING THE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 3, CULTURAL HERITAGE

In RR 0092 that was submitted by BYG Section 5 dealt with Cumulative Impact specifically in respect of the A44 corridor between Oxford and Woodstock. In this respect a relevant question was raised by Mr. Tom Lewis of Church Hanborough (Transcript ISH1 Part 2. 00:14:47:14-00:15:08:04) who asked, in respect of tourists visiting the site, “*do they really want to be coming through an industrial site?*” In response, Mr Rawlings, for the applicant, claimed that the approach to Woodstock had been carefully considered and gave the impression that no panels would be visible to tourists travelling to Woodstock along the A44. BYG believes, to the contrary, that between Begbroke and the Woodstock/Bladon roundabout, the panels will be visible. This is demonstrated in the attached photomontages prepared by BYG. It is suggested that the ExA requires the applicant to provide detailed photomontages of the views to the West that tourists travelling on buses and coaches will have as they approach Woodstock on their journey to the town and WHS.

The visual impact of the Botley West development for those approaching Woodstock and the Blenheim WHS.

Coming from Oxford, tourists and visitors to Blenheim approach Woodstock on the A44. From Begbroke to the Woodstock/Bladon roundabout is the final stretch before reaching the edge of Blenheim Park. The purpose of this document is to highlight how visible the Botley West solar development will be for those travelling on this road in cars, coaches and particularly buses; the use of buses being strongly encouraged by Blenheim on their website. All original images were taken from an S3 bus travelling to Woodstock.

The three viewpoints chosen are shown below. The Botley West application fails to highlight the very negative visual impact that the Botley West development would have on tourists and visitors to Blenheim. It should be noted that these photomontages are not professionally done but we believe they accurately illustrate a selection of the land that will be covered by panels and which will be visible from the A44.



Viewpoint 1. The view to the West from the A44 towards Spring Hill - as seen today.



Viewpoint 1. The view to the West from the A44 towards Spring Hill - as it would become.



Viewpoint 2. The view to the West from the A44 towards Bladon Heath and the site of Bladon ‘Round Castle’ - as seen today.



Viewpoint 2. The view to the West from the A44 towards Bladon Heath and the site of Bladon ‘Round Castle’ - as it would become.



The view to the West from the A44 towards the north of Bladon Heath and the village of Bladon - as seen today



The view to the West from the A44 towards the north of Bladon Heath and the village of Bladon - as it would become.



The application documents contain a photomontage with a similar view (APP-075 fig. 8286 [EN010147-000407-EN010147 APP 6.4 ES - Figure 8.248 to 8.371 Photomontages \(Winter and Summer\) Part4 of 9.pdf](#)) but with a distinctly different result.