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Sent: 24 May 2025 16:20
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm

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12th May 2025

Botley West Solar Farm

This statement is ancillary to the statement reproduced at RR-0723 in the Relevant Representations part of the Examination Library.

First, I wish to make one correction to that statement: the majority of the proposed scheme ie. 75% ,is actually on Green Belt land not 70%, to accord with the figure in the Adequacy of Consultation Report.

I live at [REDACTED] in Wootton, a Grade 2* listed house on the edge of the proposed scheme with views across enclosure 1.12. We are therefore in a good position to judge the effect not only on our house but also on the surrounding area. I am therefore not only an AP (Affected Person) but also an IP (Interested Party).

I disagree strongly with the statement in the PEIR that “ the Solar Farm would have a minimal or low adverse impact on designated heritage assets”.

I also disagree with the other PEIR statement that “ no residential properties have the potential to experience a degree of harm over and above substantial”.

I have had opinions from two national firms of estate agents confirming that there would indeed be a serious adverse impact and that the degree of harm would be more than substantial.

The PEIR does not regard Grade 2 listed buildings as of significance but, by not including Grade 2* listings, it must be assumed that they are of significance. I contend therefore that enclosure 1.12 should be taken out of the scheme altogether because the panels would also badly affect the Oxford Drama School and Sansomes Cottage.

It also contains a high proportion of Grade 2 soil and a Veteran Oak Tree which must be protected.

My second concern is the effect on the local public rights of way. The popular bridle way and footpath from Wootton to Woodstock will be shrouded in fencing on both sides. This also connects with Akeman Street an ancient Roman Road. The footpath, Dornford Lane, will be similarly affected.

My third concern is the effect on the local road network, particularly the B4027, during the construction period . This is an extremely busy road much used as a shortcut between the A44 and the A4260. It is likely to be the main access point for much of the land in the northern sector and is totally inadequate for that purpose. It serves both the village of Wootton and the minor road known as Stratford Lane. Both routes should be designated out of bounds to construction traffic if the scheme goes ahead.

The B4027 has already been the access route for Blenheim Estate's existing solar scheme at Weavely Farm but this is a minor project compared to the one under discussion. Nonetheless, many of the neighbours reported serious nuisance from the piledriving during the installation of the panels.

Lastly – photographs. The lack of appropriate photographs showing the likely effects of the scheme on the local environment has been well described in the Adequacy of Consultation Report.

The views from the B4027 are a case in point. There are no adequate photographs of the surrounding countryside from this road in an east/west direction. That area is open land, much of it sloping downhill towards the road which cannot be hidden by planting of trees or hedges.