

Response by Michael Brown to Action Point no. 2 from Open Floor Hearing 1.

Key to Map accompanying this note

The map of the Central Site with this note is based on figure 17.5 ‘Public Rights of Way and Other Promoted Routes’ (APP-112) onto which have been marked in pink, viewpoints with photomontages, and in green viewpoints without photomontages both taken from figure 8.10 ‘Representative Viewpoints and Photomontage Locations’ (APP-085).

As well as the pink and green marks the direction arrows and numbering used in APP-085 are shown.

The grey areas correspond to the solar panel areas shown on the Illustrative Masterplan 2.2 (AS-020)

The yellow highlighting along footpaths and the pink highlighting along Lower Road and Burleigh Road are to assist identification.

Examples of inadequate assessments, and factors leading to significant under assessments in the LVIA in the ES Chapter 8 (APP-045 for the Central site – paragraphs 8.9.178 – 8.9.231), include:

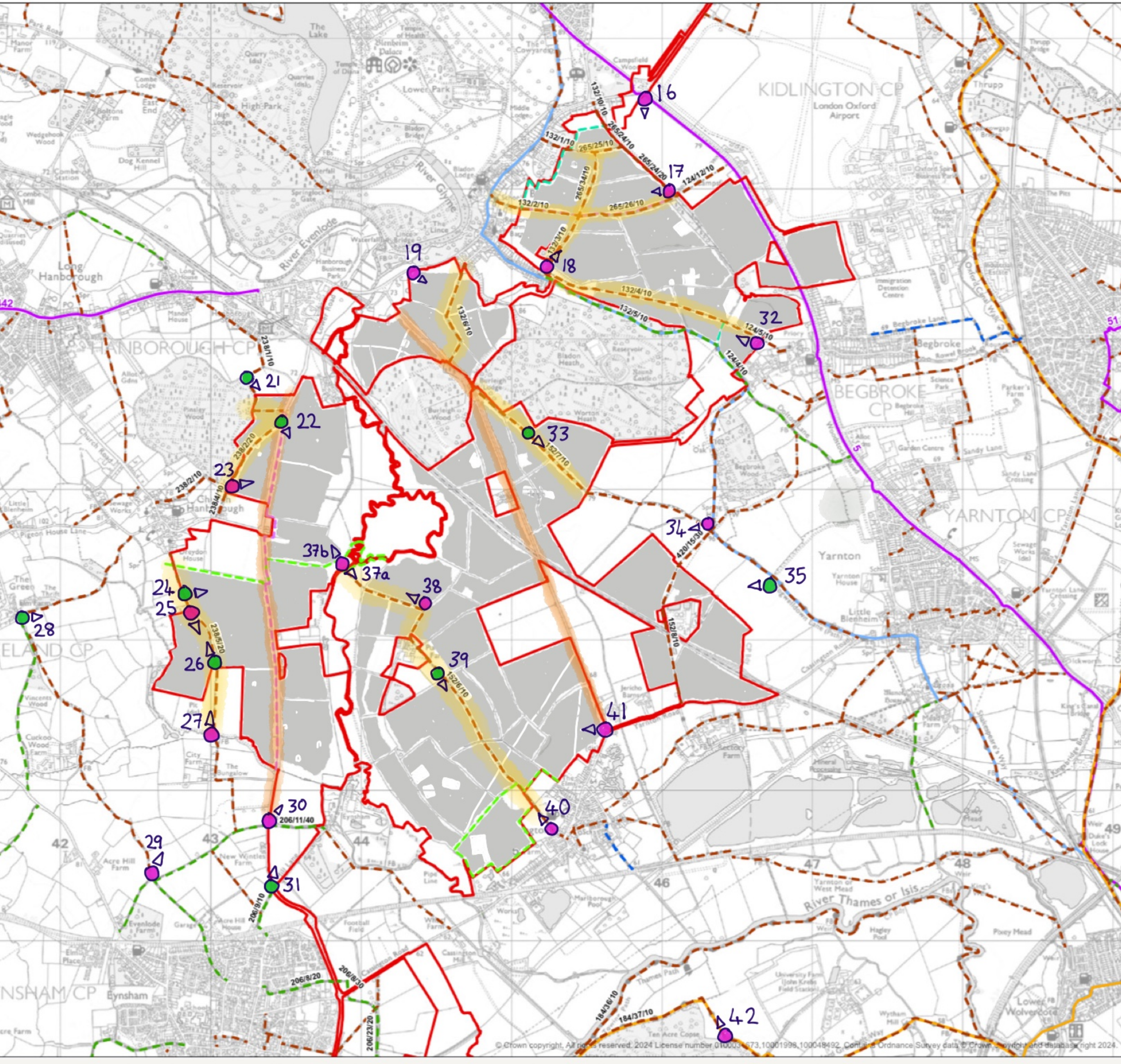
1. The limitation of viewpoints to 55 has inevitably provided only sparse coverage for such a huge triple site project proposed over undulating countryside. For example:
 - 2km footpath 124/12/10, 265/26/10, 132/2/18 only has one viewpoint, 17. The assessment for this viewpoint at paragraph 8.9.180 of APP-045 ignores this footpath but the inadequate or under assessment of the wide foreground view impact is still relevant.
 - 2km footpath 132/4/10 only has one viewpoint, 32. Summer yr.15 assessment of ‘not significant’ is much understated.
 - 2.5km footpath 132/6/19 and 152/7/10 within the Site’s red line limits has only one viewpoint, 33. This viewpoint has not been montaged and is not representative of this footpath which would have many more seriously impacted locations in years 1 and 15.
 - 3.5km of Lower Road has no viewpoints between 22 and 30, and 4.5 km of Burleigh Road has only one viewpoint 41 at the southern end.

2. The failure to provide photomontages for all current viewpoints, in particular: 21, 22, 24, 26, 33, 37a and 39 in the central site has exacerbated the problem. Viewpoint 24 for example provides a major view across the Evenlode valley. (APP-065, Fig. 8.178 summer and APP-066, Fig. 8.62 winter). It will be seriously impacted by fencing and panels. It is not, as claimed, 'a glimpsed view' (APP-045 at paragraph 8.9.195) but a well-known and admired stopping point for the panoramic view across the valley.
3. No winter photomontages beyond yr.1.
4. Only one project sub-station has been montaged. It is in the northern site. Sub-stations will be large and prominent industrial constructions. All should have photomontages with realistic assessments of their impact.
5. No assessment of the 'within project' accumulation of adverse impacts along the whole length of: (a) each footpath or (b) the repetition of impacts on walkers along all the footpaths criss-crossing the site. The same applies to those travelling along Lower Road and Burleigh Road.
6. Lack of recognition of the extent of negative impact on heritage assets including conservation villages and listed buildings. For example: no viewpoints along 3.5km of Lower Road between viewpoints 22 and 30 despite many lengthy gaps in the hedging and at access points providing views up to Church Hanborough and its church steeple even in summer.
7. Poorly sited viewpoints. For example: viewpoint 27 (APP-076 at Fig. 8.314) would show greater impact if moved 200 metres northwards, and viewpoint 40 (APP-078 at Fig. 8.340) would similarly show greater adverse impact if moved 500 metres up the lane.
8. No genuine recognition of the continuous negative impact on walking by or between high metal fences and vast areas of panels. These are under assessed, for example at viewpoints 23, 32, and 38
9. No recognition of the strongly negative impact of corridors creating a 'tunnel' effect on walkers. For example: Yr. 15 viewpoints 32 and 38 (APP-077 and APP-078). Walking northeast from viewpoint 32 would be largely enclosed and towards a wall of panels ahead in the next field (APP-077, Figs. 8.824 - 7), and the panorama view from viewpoint 38 (APP-078, Fig. 8.338) towards Church Hanborough and its church spire would be ruined as shown by the photograph and corresponding photomontage both at Fig. 8.338.

10. The elongation of photographs has reduced the apparent visibility of the extent and impact of panels, fencing and other associated equipment.
11. Many images suffer from low contrast and low resolution photographs many of which appear to have been taken in overcast conditions. This reduces the apparent visibility of panels against green fields. For example: viewpoints 34 at Fig.8.330, 38 at Fig.8.336 and 40 at Fig. 8.340.
12. Overall, the lack of true representation of the negative impact of such a very large three sites project on an undulating high quality rural landscape. This is professionally summarised in paragraph 2.38 of Russell Canning's Relevant Representation (APP-0919) in these terms: *"The use of discrete, static imagery to illustrate landscape and visual impacts which extends over an area, 22 kilometres in length, is largely ineffective in conveying the cumulative impact upon the landscape and highly visual receptor's views of that landscape, including local residents/visitors moving through the area."*

Northern and Southern Sites

If a similar map is required for the Northern and Southern sites this can be provided.



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Legend

- Order Limits
- Proposed PRoW
- Proposed Permissive Path
- Proposed Cycle Path
- Oxford Greenbelt Way
- National Cycle Network
- Shakespeare Way
- Public Rights of Way
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Restricted Byway

VIEWPOINT WITH PHOTOMONTAGE
VIEWPOINT WITHOUT PHOTOMONTAGE
SOLAR PANEL LOCATIONS
FOOTPATHS AND ROADS WITHIN PROJECT
BOUNDARY THAT ARE UNDER- ASSESSED



Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

Client PVDP
Project Botley West Solar Farm
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