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National Infrastructure Planning  
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Director Economy and Place  
Robin Rogers

4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

By email:  
[botleywestsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:botleywestsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Botley West Solar Farm (Ref. EN010147) – Local Impact Report of Oxfordshire County Council**

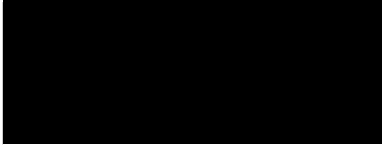
1. In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's Rule 8 letter dated 20 May 2025 **[PD-007]**, this letter constitutes Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) Local Impact Report (LIR) and outlines the overall position of OCC as a Host Authority (HA). Detailed matters are set out in the Joint Local Impact Report (JLIR) that OCC has written with the other HAs (West Oxfordshire District Council, Cherwell District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council); the JLIR should be read in conjunction with this submission.

Overall View of Oxfordshire County Council

2. As set out in our Relevant Representation (RR) [RR-0793], **in principle** OCC support proposals for green energy providing there are no significant adverse environmental impacts. OCC recognises there is a climate emergency and that the expansion of solar generating capacity in Oxfordshire is needed as part of the transition to net zero. However, **in its current form the proposed development cannot be supported** for reasons including:
  - 2.1 Significant impact on local landscape character and views.
  - 2.2 Significant impact on heritage assets.
  - 2.3 Further ecological and arboricultural survey information is required.
  - 2.4 Insufficient landscape and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) mitigation for a scheme of this scale.
  - 2.5 Sterilisation of mineral resources.
  - 2.6 Amendments to the scheme and draft DCO are required.
  - 2.7 Lack of clarity on National Grid substation / grid connections
3. It is felt there has been inadequate engagement on technical matters to date and that a significant amount of further work on the extent of the scheme, the

assessment of impacts, and the necessary mitigation is needed in order to make the scheme acceptable.

Yours faithfully,



Robin Rogers  
Director of Economy and Place  
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