

**Reference: Botley West Solar Farm
(Ref. EN010147)**

**Oxfordshire County Council
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4 June 2025

Dear Case Team

**Re: Botley West Solar Farm (Ref. EN010147)- Written Summary of Oral
Submission- Preliminary Meeting 13.05.2025**

Please find below Oxfordshire County Council's Written Summary of Oral Submission
for the Preliminary Meeting (13.05.2025).

Yours faithfully,

██████████

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Principal Planner

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Written Summary of Oral Submission- Preliminary Meeting (13.05.2025)	
Item Number	Comments
Item 1- Welcome and introductions	1. Oxfordshire County Council has no comments to make on this agenda item
Item 2- ExA's Remarks about the Examination process	2. Oxfordshire County Council has no comments to make on this agenda item
Item 3- Initial Assessment of Principal Issues	<p>3.</p> <p>3.1. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) would like the Examining Authority to consider Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) a Principal Issue throughout the examination.</p> <p>3.2. In OCC's Relevant Representation [RR-0793] we outlined our concerns around the ecological surveys which had been carried out by the applicant, their assessment of the impacts on protected species and around their proposed mitigation. We also raised concerns around their assessment of the impact on Veteran Trees and Ancient Woodland (including two SSSI).</p> <p>3.3. We also note that Cherwell District Council, Vale of the White Horse District Council, and West Oxfordshire District Council raised similar concerns in their Relevant Representations ([RR-0164], [RR-1086] and [RR-1102] respectively).</p> <p>3.4. The Host Authorities will expand on these issues in a joint Local Impact Report to be submitted at Deadline 1.</p> <p>3.5. Given the potential for significant impact on protected species, and priority habitats Oxfordshire County Council would like the Examining Authority to consider Ecology and BNG a Principal Issue both throughout the examination and in the ExA's recommendation to the Secretary of State.</p>
Item 4- Draft Examination Timetable	<p>4.</p> <p><u>Issue Specific Hearing Agendas</u></p> <p>4.1. Oxfordshire County Council would like to request that the agendas for future issue specific hearings contain sufficient detail to allow the council to determine which specialist officers will be required to attend.</p> <p>4.2. Like all Local Authorities, Oxfordshire County Council has many demands on its limited resources.</p> <p>4.3. The Agenda for ISH1 that was released on the 30th of April 2025 only contained topic headings with no indication of the specific issues which the ExA wished to consider within these headings.</p>

	<p>4.4. This lack of detail meant that it was difficult for Oxfordshire County Council to plan its resourcing requirements for the hearing, especially where the topics broached several of Oxfordshire County Council's internal teams (such as Traffic and Transport where OCC has multiple teams that would fall under this topic heading).</p> <p>4.5. Given this Oxfordshire County Council would welcome a greater level of detail in the agendas for future hearings to give the council a better indication of the officer resources likely to be required.</p> <p>4.6. <u>Statements of Common Ground</u> OCC and the other Host Authorities outlined that Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) were unlikely to be agree by Deadline 1.</p> <p>4.7. The applicant provided the host authorities with draft statements of common ground in relation to Heritage, Transport, Planning Policy, and Noise at 19:34pm on Friday 30th of May. As such the host authorities have not had sufficient change to review these SoCG.</p> <p>4.8. A meeting has been scheduled for the 10th of June between the applicant and the host authorities to discuss a draft SoCG on Landscape.</p> <p>4.9. The host authorities will continue to review the SoCG with the applicant and hope to have agreed SoCG by the end of the examination period.</p>
Item 5- Procedural Decisions	5. Oxfordshire County Council has no comments to make on this agenda item
Item 6- Any other matters	6. Oxfordshire County Council has no comments to make on this agenda item