

Submitted by [REDACTED]

I've made comments on a few subjects spoken at the Botley West Hearings.

1) Landscape, views, industrialisation and brutal images.

Some were understandably personal and occasionally gave emotional viewpoints. There was a comment on medieval views spoiled and hedgerows changing views. Other comments include 'Visual impact on visitors approaching Blenheim appears to be overlooked'.

I have another perspective - that the views are forever changing. Forests have been removed for farming, etc. Hedge numbers increased over centuries and then later removed to make farming more efficient. Now "we" say we need to plant new hedges to support wildlife, increase biodiversity. There are reports that laying new hedges is much better than planting trees, as the biodiversity gain is many times greater than in woodlands. There are plans for many new homes in all the villages and especially near the airport in Begbroke and many more in Woodstock. Intensive farming methods using fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides have not only been polluting our rivers but have severely eroded the soils and had massive impacts on our wildlife. However, there is a romantic view that this such a green and pleasant land. Valleys are ruined by coal mining and yet many years on they are gradually being returned to green wildlife friendly areas. There are many more examples. Rising sea levels will make a huge change to our views and landscape as the planet warms. Nothing stays the same.

When it comes to having an effect on well-being, etc of course there can be no denying of the change that affects somebody directly. The landscape including noise during operation should be carefully planned, based on experience and knowledge and carefully managed and monitored with people and wildlife in mind. Even then we will get a few things wrong.

2) A comment was made: 'What the developers don't tell you is it never will be 840MW of power into the national grid'.

This comment amongst others is surprising and disappointing from a scientist and demonstrates a misunderstanding of the terminology used in solar farms and possibly an attempt to mislead. The science is proven as part of the solution to net zero in the UK. Very recent facts from Carbon Brief. "For the first time, solar was >10% of UK generation in consecutive months (April/May 2025) In 2025, solar has avoided gas imports that would've cost £600m"

Other comments made include '**The UK really isn't very good for solar**' after referencing a survey by the World Bank. However, the way in which the data is presented is again misleading as the paper while saying that we were poor for sunlight concludes that it is still worth installing as part of the required energy mix. This was missed from the statement made. Ireland were the worst but they continue to install solar farms.

Comments on Issue Specific Hearing 15/5/25

Reference 2005498 - Sustainable Woodstock

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3) Aviation – Oxford airport

Bird numbers were discussed. Possible increase due to displacement. I understand this but what about the large parcel of land in Begbroke where about 500 homes and University labs have been approved. We also see adverts for increasing private jets at Oxford airport that will increase noise and pollution and there was no mention of this.