

## Raywood, Simon

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 June 2025 08:55  
**To:** Botley West Solar Farm  
**Subject:** Invitation to visit property  
**Attachments:** A.jpg; B.jpg; C.jpg

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Property : [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Dear Inspectors,

In order to enable you to judge the impact that the proposed scheme will have on the landscape and community in these parts, I would like to invite you to visit our property and see for yourself.

From our viewpoint here [REDACTED] you would be able to see the countryside right across the expanse of Farmoor Valley to Wytham woods on the hills opposite. 'Wytham Woods' is a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)' and is actually the most studied woodland on Earth.

Farmoor Reservoir, with the Thames behind, would be off to your left and Denman's Copse and the rest of the valley below you to the right.

You would be able to see the extent of the power station and its egregious effect on the landscape and views.

You would also, incidentally, be able to see the extent of some of the proposed 'Red Hill Farm' solar power station, which is planned to adjoin it.

As you no doubt know, Farmoor Reservoir is the largest single area of open water in the county, and is probably its most-visited bird watching site. It is home to an amazing array of permanent and migratory birds, flocks of whom are to be seen on the valley floor in the appropriate seasons. You would be able to imagine how the carpeting of the solar panels would affect this as well as how they would affect the local wildlife, which move between Denman's Copse and South Hill Copse.

You would be able to judge, at first hand for yourselves, if the solar panels can, indeed, be effectively screened in this topography by planting hedges as [REDACTED] claims. Given the north-south sloping nature of the land, you will also be able to personally estimate the problems of Glint and Glare on local householders and on traffic using roads such as the B4017.

You would be able to trace out the paths of some of the many walks in the region. I, like so many others, very often walk from Cumnor down past Denman's Copse and over to the Thames. I always meet many happy people on the way. Some just walk their dogs, some want to keep fit with daily exercise, some are hikers, walking long distances from far off. In summer there are very large groups of young people seeking to achieve their 'Duke of Edinburgh Awards'. They walk down the Thames Path and then join the Oxford Greenbelt Way at Farmoor. This section is most important as it is the nexus of a whole web of pathways. The ways come together in order to join the Thames at Farmoor or to cross it, over the weir, at the picturesque Pinkhill lock (built 1791) just behind Farmoor.

Ramblers enjoy the peace and quiet of Nature. Very few would want to walk through the proposed, electro-magnetic landscape of solar panels with its two metre fences, cameras and lights and the constant hum from the inverters, transformers etc. Were this scheme to go ahead, the excellent amenity value of these paths and rights of way, some of which have been in existence for centuries, would certainly be lost.

One, most important, ancillary point, which I am sure you would like to investigate, is that, in the event of this very large solar power station proceeding, it would require the provision of a large electrical substation and lithium battery station. This would be built near the Farmoor Reservoir west

of the B4017. You would be able to see approximately where the site would be. It is accepted that lithium battery fires under thermal runaway are almost impossible to extinguish quickly and produce very toxic fumes, which are exceedingly dangerous to those in the vicinity. As well as being a threat to all the local people, with our preponderance of Westerly winds, these fumes would be driven along the valley towards the more built up areas in Oxford with possibly disastrous consequences.

In addition to the immediate human and animal health risks, the environmental impact of burning lithium-ion batteries is considerable. The resulting contaminants coat surfaces and remain for a long time. They seep into the soil and waterways, affecting local ecosystems.

They are seeking permission to build this solar power station on good agricultural land in the Oxford Green Belt among habitations and busy traffic. It is in a valley which runs east-west with fairly steep slopes, making it impossible to hide the panels and also to shield those to the north from glint and glare. There are particularly fine views across the valley which have been cherished for centuries and remarked on by luminaries and poets such as Mathew Arnold.

This site would seem to me to be about the more unsuitable location possible for this sort of development.

I have attached three, sadly inadequate, photographs. 'C' was taken in winter and shows how water logged the valley becomes then. On occasion, the B4017 is flooded at Filchampstead. I would have thought that this would be a factor in judging the suitability of the site for this sort of development.

I can imagine how busy you must be, but I am sure that if you could possibly take the necessary time to visit our property, you would find it worthwhile.

With Best Wishes,

Bill McGill

Registration Identification number 20054977





