

[REDACTED]
7th June 2025

Dear Inspectors

We would like to request an Accompanied Site Inspection to our property which is adjacent to the proposed Botley West Solar Farm.

Name and Address: Simon and Dawn Leedham

Phone [REDACTED] or +44 [REDACTED]

We have significant concerns about the current proposal, and these concerns have not been addressed despite recurrent raising of the issues at public consultation events

1. Visual amenity – as planned our house and garden will be directly adjacent and overlooking the solar farm, with panels reaching to within 50 metres of our boundary. The panels will dominate the view to the horizon and will be visible from the kitchen, living room, garden and all bedrooms. We currently have a low hedge that will be completely insufficient to screen the panels from view.
2. Public rights of way – our property is able to access a network of footpaths criss-crossing the 5km square area between Bladon and Begbroke and up into the ancient woodland of Bladon Heath. We use this path network directly from our back garden twice daily, everyday, and the paths are in frequent use in all daylight hours. Access to this green space has been vital for our mental health.
3. Nature Conservation – the fields behind our house are frequented by iconic British wildlife. We regularly see Red and Muntjac deer, the fields are used as hunting ground for Barn and Tawny Owls, Red Kites, Buzzards and Kestrels. We have skylarks resident in the fields and in the autumn they host migrating geese. Pipistrelle bats are seen nightly. Rowel Brook has populations of threatened water voles.
4. Flooding – the field directly behind our house has a low-lying area that floods every winter, this extends into our neighbours garden. This is likely to be significantly worsened by abnormal run off with solar panels.
5. Airport – our house and the fields behind it are in the flight path for Oxford Airport, which is home to a busy flight school. We see planes and helicopters crossing our house and surrounding fields frequently. The fields around Bladon Heath have been the site of two plane crashes during our 15 years in Bladon.
6. Historical significance – archaeological trenches revealed significant findings in the fields behind our house, with Saxon ruins identified to the side of the Bladon quarry and Roman ruins in the fields beside Rowel Brook.

7. Access roads – we live very close to Orchard Lane which is used as an access point to the fields. We think the development will lead to very heavy traffic down this lane which is frequented by dog walkers.
8. Loss of productive arable land – the fields behind our house are land grade 3a making them best and most versatile land. We witness these fields producing two crops a year include legumes, wheat, barley, maize, root vegetables and rapeseed.

We enclose a panoramic photo showing the fields in question from our land boundary.



We are not the only people along [REDACTED] similarly affected by this development. None of the houses between [REDACTED] have been assessed for glint and glare from panels. I would also like to point out that reassurances from the developers at the public consultations that these fields neighbouring our house would be preserved for wildflower meadows, have not been honoured in the latest plans available online.

We thank you for your consideration of this request

Yours sincerely

Professor Simon Leedham
Dr Dawn Leedham

Raywood, Simon

From: Simon Leedham [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2025 10:41
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Request for an accompanied site visit
Attachments: Unknown[51].jpeg; Unknown-1[31].jpeg; ASI request Leedham [REDACTED].docx

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear Planning inspectorate

We enclose a letter requesting a site visit for the planned Botley West solar farm project as a resident of Bladon that will be profoundly affected by the proximity of the panels to our land boundary

We look forward to hearing from you in due course

Yours sincerely

Simon and Dawn Leedham



