



Dear Inspectors,

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

As far as I can tell from the developers plans, there would be panels on two sides of my property, which overlooks open fields to North and East, currently used for arable crops. To the North of my house the boundary of the proposed solar farm site, veers North-east, so that the immediate view North would technically be partially clear, but to the East of my property the entire outlook would be of panels. There is uncertainty in the developers proposals as to width of projected buffer zones surrounding residential properties, but even if as much as 100 metres, as the land rises gently from my property, the panels would still be very visible. They would be visible as far as the horizon in both directions.

The panels would not only dominate my outlook to North and East – they would be the outlook!

I have planting along all boundaries which in Summer, and from inside the garden, give some screening. In Winter, not so much. I know that the developers propose to plant some screening vegetation, but very few details of this have been given, and if only whips were planted it would be some years before they were sufficiently mature to have any efficacy. If larger trees were proposed, I am not sure that this would improve matters, as it could create shading for the garden. I ironically, we inherited high Leylandii hedges with the property, and removed them so as to achieve an open outlook. If, 30 years ago we had anticipated the current proposal, we might have left the hedge in situ!

There are several PROWs adjacent or near to my property. I myself walk them every day, and I observe many other walkers, riders and cyclists using them regularly. There is one particular FP which diagonally crosses the fields to the East of my property. At present this is not hedged or fenced, it simply crosses the open field and is marked out by the contractors after crop planting. This would presumably be fenced by the developers on either side – thus becoming an alleyway between banks of panels. Not exactly an attractive rural walk. I would like to emphasise that it is the potential effect on the landscape that I regret, almost more than the impact on my property. When one walks/rides around here, you are aware of the distant views and the openness of the countryside. One does not simply plod along looking at the path in front!

I am no nature expert, but I frequently observe deer – both Muntjac and Roe – and hares ranging across the fields. Their range would be restricted by the proposed fencing. There is also considerable skylark presence. I am not convinced that they are going to continue ground nesting neatly and tidily in between panels.

Finally, I should make it clear that I am fully aware that no-one has a legal right to a view. However, it is undeniable that the “USP” of my house is the open outlook. I appreciate that I am only one household, and that in more populated areas such as the Hanboroughs or Bladon, more people are

affected, but nonetheless in terms of impact, my property is disproportionately affected. Its unique attraction will be removed.

Yours faithfully,

Pauline Briggs