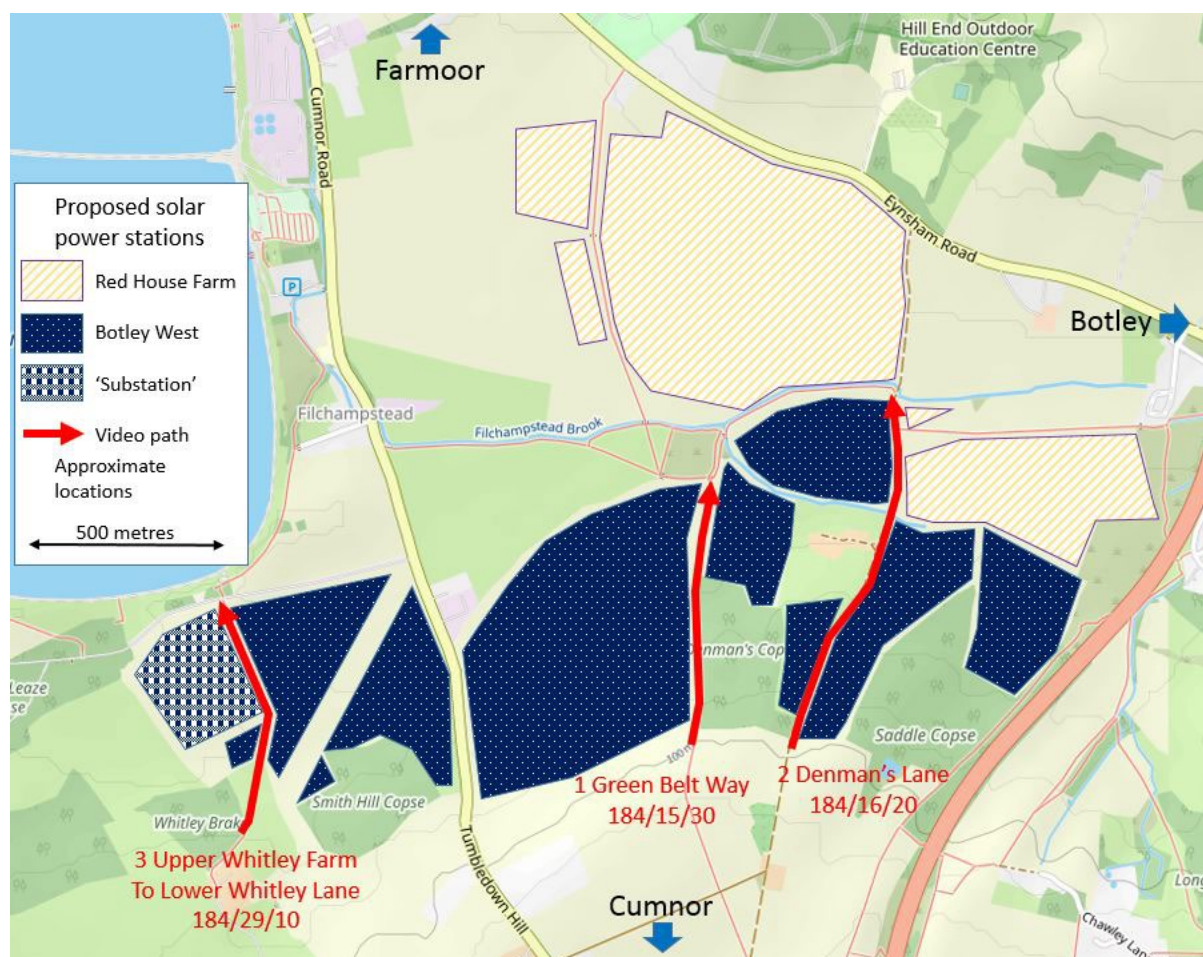


Botley West Solar Farm – EN10147

Material related to Q1.14.6 – inadequate selection of viewpoints and photomontages

The accompanying handheld video clips are of walks along paths in the Cumnor area, where the landscape is more hilly and varying than much of the land further north. They are:

1. “Path_1_184-15-30_OxGreenBeltWay.mp4” - about 800m of the Oxfordshire Green Belt Way just north of the village of Cumnor (Path 184/15/30). Botley West would be sited very close to the left hand (westerly) side.
2. “Path_2_184-16-20_DenmansLane.mp4” - about 1 km of Denman’s Lane (Path 184/16/20) northwards. Botley west would be on both sides of the walk for the first long field, and then on the left all the way to the end of the video clip.
3. “Path_3_184-29-10_WhitleyFarms.mp4” - about 800m of the path between Upper Whitley Farm and Lower Whitley Farm road. Botley West would include much of the first field and both of the second and third. In addition, the supposedly unrelated connection to the National Grid would be behind the hedge to the left in the third field.
4. “East_Hanney_short.mp4” A short clip made at an existing plant completed in 2018 near East Hanney, seven miles SSW of Cumnor.



Mapping using Open Street Map

The map above shows each walk as filmed. Cumnor Parish Council have invited PINS to see the Cumnor area and Video 1 includes points 3.4 and 3.5 as suggested, while Video 3 includes 3.14 and 3.13

They were filmed in May 2025. Each has been speeded up four times, as otherwise they would each be about 9 minutes long – while nine minutes’ walk in these areas is very pleasant, 9 minutes of shaky video might stretch most peoples’ attention spans. They are reduced in size with a low bit rate to make the files smaller. I aim to repeat these videos in the future either to show the effects of the changing seasons, or to show the visual impacts of the solar plant.

Each are currently beautiful walks with views across the valley to Wytham Woods, but Botley West solar power station would impact along the length of these walks. I have included only three paths but other public paths would be affected, including 184/50/20 & 30 (part of the Green Belt Way near Farmoor Reservoir) and 184/22/20 (between the Green Belt Way and Denman’s Lane). I have filmed both of these paths for future reference.

While these cannot show the before and after impact I include a mock up I made in September 2023 below, and also attach a very short video of walks by a solar power plant near East Hanney, on flat featureless land.

Contrary to the applicants apparent assertion that the plant would not be visible or ‘hardly noticeable’ I believe that it is implausible that it would not be very visible and it is difficult to understand how it would not be intrusive, especially on the Oxford Greenbelt Way.

I have used video because still photographs (especially wide angle) cannot, in my opinion, convey the landscape as it is perceived by someone *in* or travelling through that landscape. The selection of stills below show that the hills and relief are not easily appreciated. When something catches one’s eye, it is focused upon, and still photo comparisons need to use somewhat more telephoto lenses.

On the other hand, one can be aware of a much wider vista, especially when walking. I think these videos, which are wide angle, using a 21mm equivalent lens, do show roughly what one would be aware of when looking ahead while walking. They are of low quality and cannot of course show the ‘after’ situation. For that reason I’ve included the short clip from East Hanney.

Photos related to "1_Path_184-15-30 OxGreenBeltWay.mp4"

The photos below are stills from the video of the walk along the Oxford Green Belt Way (Path 184/15/30), showing the distance in metres (roughly) from the start.



0 m



100 m



200 m



300 m



400 m



600 m



700 m



800 m

The two photos below show a possible 'before and after' view from about 100 metres into the walk. The 'after' was made using photos from a site near West Hanney. Because of the lack of existing solar plant on hills with views, flat land had to be used, making the superimposing quite complex. It also shows the proposed Red House Farm site in the far background



Late summer 2023



?

Photos related to "2_Path_184-16-20 Denman's Lane.mp4"

The photos below are stills Path 184/16/20 (Denman's Lane) heading northwards.



0 m



100 m



300 m



500 m



600 m



700 m



800 m



900 m



1000 m

Photos related to "3_Path_184-29-10 Whitley Farms.mp4"

The photos below are stills of Path 184/29/10 from Upper Whitley Farm



0 m



100 m



300 m



400 m



500 m



700 m



800 m