

Comments on Written Representations

There is much consistency in the views being expressed in the WRs, including:

- a widespread degree of frustration caused by the Applicant's failure to engage properly;
- the need for more visualisations/photomontages;
- the downplaying by the Applicant of the assessment of impact on landscape and heritage assets in particular;
- the failure of the Applicant to recognise its own evidence about the extent of Grades 2 and 3A BMV land;
- the need to provide much larger buffers both for residences and PRoW;
- the proposed new mitigation hedging being a mixed blessing;
- the Applicant's weak Green Belt submission;
- the need for much greater importance to be given to the wider setting of the WHS and the settings of numerous Grades 1 and 2 properties as well as conservation villages;
- the disingenuousness of denying the fundamental destruction of the historic landscape character.
- The cumulative effect and impact of the sheer vastness of the proposal on all those living within, walking along its PRoW, or travelling through the 3,400 acre industrialised site.

There is also rightly a general recognition that renewable energy generation in general and solar power in particular has a very important part to play in future whilst at the same time also a recognition that there must be a limit to the amount and type of destruction that can be justified in the process.

The WODC Written Representation is a tour-de-force of common sense supported by properly researched evidence. Many of the same points are also well expressed in WRs by, for example ICOMOS, CPRE and Marrons on behalf of Stop Botley West. And much of it is brought together in the powerful WR by Stop Botley West's 'Heritage Alert'.

My underlying comments therefore are to first to thank the ExA members for their very considerable attention to the detail of this matter, not least shown by their extensive First Written Questions, and second to ask them not only to give weight to the expert and professional views expressed in the WRs but also to continue their forensic work so they can provide strong advice to the Secretary of State that the proposal as submitted in the draft DCO Application should at least be much curtailed.