

Summary of content in the attached submission:

This is a major scheme that would have a very significant impact on residents and communities in my constituency. We need successful renewable projects in our area that combine low-carbon energy production with suitable community benefit and engagement. I believe there is a more appropriate scheme that could be proposed by the Applicants, but I regret that the scale of their current proposal is not appropriate and does material harm.

- We need to transition our energy supply towards low or zero carbon sources, including solar power.
- Where solar schemes are proposed that bring national benefits in supporting this goal, they should be clear on how they will mitigate any impact on the local environment and community.
- Botley West is a huge scheme, and its proposers have not done enough to engage with the concerns of local residents, communities and councils around scale.
- I strongly support the representation made by WODC on 9 June and draw particular attention to the concerns shared with me by my constituents around landscape and visual impact, flood risk and impact on the historic environment.
- I do not support the proposed scheme at its current scale. The developers should be pressed to justify the 840MW output target and whether any given output could be achieved with less land by using more efficient panels.
- The level of community benefit proposed (£625/ MW) remains far too low. It should be revised to a level more consistent with the examples set by South Hill Community Energy (£10,000/ MW) and the Scottish Government (£5,000/ MW), taking account of the consultation by the UK Government launched on 21 May.
- Inspectors should satisfy themselves over the financial structure of the scheme in order to have confidence that the undertakings given by the developer and by Blenheim Estates to the local community can be delivered and/ or enforced over the lifetime of the project.