



Reg Identification no 20054324

20 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re- Botley West Solar Farm

We are writing this letter to express our deep concerns over the recently submitted planning application for the development at the above site: specifically, the planned provision of a visitor education centre adjacent to the recreation centre in Bladon.

This extract has been taken from your Applicant's Response to the ExA's First Written Questions July 2025

Q1.16.21

Applicant Education facility building Please confirm how the possible location for the education facility was selected? What level of consultation was undertaken with local stakeholders in respect of the possible location? The Outline Operational Management Plan [APP-234] confirms that further detail in respect of the education facility is to be set out in the detailed Operational Management Plan. Please confirm why such detail is to be confirmed post-consent, rather than during the Examination. The Project Mitigation Measures and Commitments Schedule [APP-129] states that the provision of such an education facility to be additional mitigation. Given that limited information has been provided in respect of this facility, please confirm what weight should be given to this by the ExA.

Through discussions with the OCC team, an Education Facility was identified as an opportunity. Chapter 16 [APP-053] paragraph 16.9.133 includes the statement.

"Provide open and covered space in the solar farm for use by school field trips. An educational area could provide local schools with the basic facilities – benches and a covered area to undertake their own learning activities. Potential to walk to the educational site and potential for guided access to array areas would support both physical activity and learning outcomes for population health. Indicative layout (as set out with Outline Operational Management Plan [EN010147/APP/7.6.2]) includes toilet (compost) **and minibus parking (either provided or existing)**. Secured as a requirement of the DCO - via oOMP [EN010147/APP/7.6.2].

Location, size and scale will be finalised during detailed design phase and included within the detailed Operational Management Plan. The educational area is illustratively shown in Figure 16.2: Illustrative 3D Views of Educational Facility [EN010147/APP/6.4]. The expectation is that there will be postconsent community involvement in the refinement of design and selection of an appropriate location."

A potential location was identified to the east of Bladon, on land adjoining existing community facilities (land next to a playground, MUGA, and Botley West Solar Farm Applicant's Response to the ExA's First Written Questions [EN010147/APP/12.2] Rev P0 July 2025 Page 174 ExQ1 Question to Question Applicant's Response allotments) and ***where there is a suitable vehicular and pedestrian access, which also serves the Bladon Primary School and the Parish church.***

If you have visited this site, you will have noticed that the vehicle access from A4095 Grove Road, is restricted to one vehicle only with very poor visibility along its length, resulting in vehicles only seeing oncoming vehicles at the last minute. This results in vehicles having to reverse backwards uphill with limited visibility or reverse back onto the main A4095- this is clearly extremely hazardous and against the highway code.

This narrow lane is used by small children and their parents for pedestrian access to school twice a day. These children ride bicycles and have limited control particularly coming downhill towards the main road. Also, we have coach visitors to Winston Churchills grave, so during the day this lane becomes very busy with pedestrians.

There is NO parking within school lane and no vehicles beyond the church car park, due to resident's properties. Where you have stated "there is suitable vehicular access and minibus parking" needs to be questioned.

Conclusion.

Due to restricted visibility onto the A4095 (Grove Road) School Lane is entirely unsuitable to take the traffic that would be associated with the proposed development. Why an education site has been earmarked in Bladon needs questioning. There can be no guarantee of safe emergency vehicle access to the facility and the local Ambulance staff have advised the school an Ambulance cannot get to the school due to this lane's width in providing limited access. Having this education centre with more school children will be tempting fate.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]