



Reg Identification no 20054324
18 July 2025

Date: 18 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 (p

We write with our knowledge of the site, and the previous concerns expressed by both the District and County Council`s, particularly towards the vehicular and pedestrian access along School Lane. Progression of this project is highly detrimental to highway and pedestrian safety both on School Lane and in the wider locality. In the following paragraphs we expand upon our objections to the proposed development:

Highway and pedestrian safety.

i) The submitted proposals.

The only vehicular and pedestrian access to the site, as shown on the site layout plan forming part of the application is along School Lane from the A4095 (Grove Road). There are no adjacent parking or turning facilities within the site.

ii) The School Lane access.

School Lane is a very narrow, single track carriageway, approximately 3m in width, which rises up from the A4095 between the side and rear gardens of Nos. 2 and 4 Grove Road, from which it is separated by 1.8m high close boarded fencing. The narrow, enclosed nature of the lane and its sinuous alignment mean that visibility along its length is very restricted, 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. School Lane is on Blenheim Estate but its surface receives no maintenance and its condition is the responsibility of the users. Increased usage will inevitably cause further deterioration in the surface. Recent emergency vehicle access up the

lane has been declared impossible this makes development of additional resource a known additional public health hazard.

iii) Visibility onto the A4095 (Grove Road).

The access from School Lane onto the A4095 is very narrow with high walls and hedgerows restricting visibility in either direction. The access itself is very difficult to spot and is dangerously positioned directly adjacent to a pelican crossing across the main road. This area is already a documented accident blackspot with a fixed traffic camera nearby. Cars waiting to turn into the lane obstruct traffic on the main road and block the vision of the pedestrian lights. This 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, Crucially it is not possible for cyclists to see the cars and *vica versa* until both are within the high fenced area.

School Lane is also used by up to 500 pedestrian visitors a day to Winston Churchills grave. These visitors disembark from coaches on the A4095 and they are usually elderly with limited mobility. It is not possible to have both a pedestrian and a moving vehicle safely side by side in the lane.

iv) Absence of local parking facilities.

Not only is School Lane totally sub-standard in terms of highway criteria, but there are also no opportunities for safe and convenient on-street parking in the vicinity of the lane. Due to double yellow lines along the A4095, the nearest on-street parking is hundreds of yards from the proposed visitor centre.

v) Blenheim's historic status

as this is adjacent to a sites of historic interest Blenheim and St Martins, there is a planning permission restriction on use of electricity and nocturnal lighting.

Conclusion.

In summary by reason of its width, alignment, and restricted visibility onto the A4095 (Grove Road) School Lane is entirely unsuitable to take the traffic that would be associated with the proposed development. There can be no guarantee of safe emergency vehicle access to the facility and in addition the absence of nearby on-street parking would exacerbate on-street parking in the vicinity of School Lane to the further detriment of highway safety..

Yours faithfully,

Professor and Mrs A. Banning,