

Response to ExQ 2.13.8 to all IP (4)

I would find it extremely difficult to judge whether greater harm would be caused to our landscape and visual amenity by (a) uninterrupted views of two million solar panels for two generations of people or (b) the obliteration of existing views by high hedge screening for all future generations. Fortunately other, better choices are available.

Harm to the landscape and visual amenity could be avoided by omitting panels and other solar infrastructure from visually sensitive and contoured areas. Such areas have been identified in the representations of ICOMOS and the District Councils, for example.

Harm to landscape and visual amenity could also be reduced and minimised by using a landscape-led approach to ensure the siting and design of the solar farm is sympathetic to the landscape. A successful local example of this is Southill Solar near Charlbury.

The single, simplistic approach taken for Botley West Solar Farm is not landscape-led and is inappropriate for a development of such huge scale across such a varied landscape.