

Firstly, I would like to thank the Examiners for their continued thorough and perceptive evaluation of this proposal. I am especially grateful for their recognition that the hamlet of Shipton Slade Farm—where I am a long-time resident—would be severely impacted by the proposed solar development. This important point has now also been supported by the Oxford Host Authorities, who have recommended the removal of Fields 1.17 and 1.18 from the developer's plans.

In light of this, it is concerning that the applicant continues to insist that the proximity of the solar arrays to our hamlet would have only a "negligible adverse" effect. This position seems increasingly difficult to reconcile with the considered assessments of both the Examiners and the local authorities. One is left to wonder whether this disconnect stems, at least in part, from the developer's limited practical experience. Despite claims that their team has delivered a "large number of projects," there appears to be little substantive evidence to support this assertion.

My own early interaction with a key representative of PVDP reinforced this impression. When I first raised the issue of how close the proposed panels would be to our homes, the representative was unfamiliar with the location of Shipton Slade Farm. It hardly inspires confidence when a developer proposing to install over two million solar panels seems unaware of the immediate geography. After I clarified the location, the representative vaguely acknowledged the potential issue and suggested the offending panels might be relocated "if necessary."

As the Examiners and Oxford Host Authorities have since made clear, it is necessary.

Further strengthening the case for removing these fields is the presence of thriving populations of Great Crested Newts in nearby ponds—an ecologically significant and protected species that surely warrants careful consideration.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the applicant to heed the advice of more experienced and informed bodies, and to remove Fields 1.17 and 1.18 from the proposal. For those of us who have called this peaceful hamlet home for many years, such a decision would be both welcome and deeply reassuring.