



The Hill End Centre  
Eynsham Road  
Farmoor, Oxford  
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8 Sept 2025

**Botley West Solar Farm – application ref: EN010147**

**Comments from the Hill End Outdoor Education Centre**

These comments relate primarily to the proposed community educational facility in Bladon, as described in the original application and Change Request Notification 2.

In common with many other local stakeholders we are concerned that the purpose, location, and also the long term staffing and management of this facility has not been properly considered. From our decades of experience in outdoor education, it is clear that the facility as currently described is very unlikely to attract the visitors planned and provide the environmental education intended. This appears instead to be a token 'community benefit' item that will ultimately become a white elephant for the local area.

If outdoor education for schools - focussed on green energy, sustainability and inspiring the citizens of the future - is to be an integral part of the project then this needs to be rethought.

If the applicant is serious about achieving this aim, then, rather than creating a new facility for the sake of it, they should look to developing this with Hill End. We are an established outdoor education centre in the proposed Botley West southern site welcoming around 24,000 visitors each year, largely from local primary schools. We currently offer wide range of day and residential nature-based and sustainability teaching. We would welcome a discussion about a new green futures programme that would build on our expertise and reputation, and mitigate some of the adverse effects of the development for our charity.

Please contact me for any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Centre Director

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