

Q2.1.5 It appears that the design of the substation is not settled and to be resolved. How then can the Applicant say that it will have no visual impact and how can we comment on its effect?

Light and noise pollution will be substantial. Visually, the substation area can be seen from footpaths regularly used by a large number of people from Cumnor and Botley. Any substation in this location would be visible at the top of Tumbledown Dick. It is not clear what is happening with the Red House Farm application. The area already has a planned new town development at Salt Cross near Eynsham with further major loss of green, quality agricultural land for the local population. The fields adjacent to the bottom of Tumbledown Dick are often waterlogged or flooded already. I am a regular walker on the paths here.

Q2.3.3 Given the long queue for existing national solar projects to be connected to the grid, why is this huge scale solar park plan required at all ?

Q2.4.7 There is serious concern about the risk of fire as the substation is close to housing and the densely urban area of Botley and West Oxford. Given climate change and the dry, hot climates we are experiencing, it would be difficult to contain a significant fire from spreading to Oxford

Q2.5.9 The funding is unclear and the applicant does not appear from their answers to be planning to manage the whole project themselves. Is it to be sold onwards ? Where does this leave local voices which are already shut out of the process via their local authorities.?

Q2.5.10 There has been very poor engagement and lack of answers for the local community. The size and boundaries of the project have constantly changed, making it difficult for local people to follow what is happening and new changes have not included local consultation

Q2.6.4 Green Belt's aim is to preserve the setting and special character of the area. This project would completely destroy the setting of Cumnor and Farmoor villages. There are sweeping open views of countryside from Cumnor and Gee's Farm with views of Wytham Woods, a scientific nature research station. Mitigation suggested will in no way reinforce the character of this landscape . The impact on the character of the landscape has been inadequately acknowledged. There would be significant variance in the existing character. It is untrue to suggest otherwise.

The Eynsham Road from Farmoor to Botley is a major route into Oxford. It is a narrow B road with no cycle lane. There have been cycling fatalities along this road and a long running campaign for a safe path for cyclists. Swinford Toll bridge is narrow and has a weight limit. How will large lorries access the sites in the South area? Cumnor has a narrow one way system. People living in the Botley/Cumnor area have had major disruption to travel into Oxford due to the prolonged closure of Botley Road thanks to a disastrous rail infrastructure project since April 2023. The rail project is not set to finish until August 2026. Nobody believes this date as the project was supposed to take 6 months and has been a catastrophic failure. To add to the miseries of travel by digging up more vital roads would be an unreasonable burden to add.

Community compensation offered is pathetic. As Layla Moran points out: we are being offered £524 per MW. In Scotland, other similar projects have offered communities £5,000 per MW.

High fences and hedgerows to separate the solar farm from footpaths would result in tunnel effects and make the area less open, rendering it less safe for women walking on their own. It would make it an oppressive walking environment .

Who would pay for local waste removal sites? Is it coming from our taxes? What route would waste lorries take?

As far as I am aware, the applicant has never built a project on this scale. It will be one of the biggest ever built and none on this scale have been built so close to an urban area. It is highly dangerous to do so.

Q2.11.13 Oxfordshire and Oxford do not have an unemployment problem, quite the opposite as people cannot afford housing. New labs in Botley are already being built to offer yet more jobs and draw people into an area with an appalling housing shortage.