



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Laura van der Merwe
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
DIO Head Office
St George's House
Whittington
Lichfield
Staffordshire WS14 9PY

DIO Ref: 10061227

Planning Ref: EN010147

Mobile: +44 (0)7 [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk

David Wallis
National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

30th October 2025

Dear Mr Wallis,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17

Application by Photovolt Development Partners on behalf of Solar Five Limited (the Applicant) for an order granting development consent for the Botley West Solar Farm Project

Thank you for the Rule 17 letter. As requested, I write to confirm the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's (DIO) position to the above application.

The DIO Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

In our Relevant Representation (RR-0724) dated 27th February 2025, we outlined that the application site occupies statutory safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Weston on the Green and RAF Brize Norton. In a subsequent written representation (REP1-082) submitted at Deadline 1, it was again

confirmed that the application site occupies statutory safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Weston on the Green and RAF Brize Norton, and that the development has the potential to produce glint and/or glare to military aircraft operating within the airspace surrounding RAF Weston on the Green and comments were provided on birdstrike safeguarding considerations.

Glint and Glare

In written representation REP1-082, the MOD commented on the findings within the glint and glare assessment submitted as part of the application (*Botley West Solar Farm Environmental Statement – Volume 3 – Appendix 4.4: Glint and Glare Study inc. Technical Aerodrome Safeguarding Report – November 2024*). Our response specified that the MOD requires impacts on RAF Weston on the Green to be modelled in a glint and glare assessment. In response to this submission (REP2-027), the applicant advised that when following FAA (2013) guidance on assessing glint and glare aviation receptors, RAF Weston on Green is beyond the distance of consideration and any impact would be low, requiring no mitigation.

In light of this, the MOD has reconsidered its position in respect of glint and glare and accepts the applicant's response. The MOD therefore no longer requires any glint and glare modelling to be undertaken in relation to RAF Weston on the Green. The MOD has no objections on glint and glare grounds to this proposed development.

Birdstrike

Written representation REP1-082 included comments on birdstrike safeguarding. The MOD has considered the comments made by the applicant in their *Written Summary of its Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 2* document. The MOD has taken the applicants comments on board, and I can confirm the MOD has no birdstrike objections to this proposed development. No habitat restrictions or amendments are required.

Thermal plumes and radar

The proposed development site does not occupy any statutory technical safeguarding zones surrounding Defence Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) infrastructure. The proposed development will not affect CNS sited at RAF Brize Norton. The MOD therefore has no concerns with this development in relation to thermal plumes and impact on CNS infrastructure.

DIO can confirm that the proposed development will not affect the safeguarding of RAF Weston on the Green or RAF Brize Norton. DIO can also confirm that the proposed development will not cause any impediment or infringement to any other safeguarded operational defence sites or infrastructure. Therefore, the MOD has no objections to this proposed development.

As directed to in the Rule 17 letter, the applicant has contacted the DIO Safeguarding team regarding their responses to the MOD's glint and glare and birdstrike safeguarding position. The applicant also

advised of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) being progressed with London Oxford Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority on the safeguarding area, glint and glare, birdstrike, heat induced turbulence and thermal plume impact on radar. The applicant has asked if a separate SoCG with DIO is required. As the MOD has no objections to this proposal, a separate SoCG between the applicant and DIO is not required. The applicant has been informed as such.

In summary, the MOD raises **no objections** to this proposed development.

I trust this letter confirms to the examining inspectors the MOD's position to the proposed Botley West Solar Farm project, however, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Laura van der Merwe

Senior Safeguarding Manager

