



The Hill End Centre  
Eynsham Road  
Farmoor, Oxford  
OX2 9NJ

4 November 2025

**Botley West Solar Farm – application ref: [REDACTED]**

**Closing Statement from the Hill End Outdoor Education Centre (interested party number 20054472)**

The Hill End Outdoor Education Centre (Hill End Charitable Trust) would like to provide a closing summary of our key objections to this planning application, largely relating to the southern site:

**1. Impact on visual and recreational amenity**

This development will have a significant and adverse effect on our local visual and recreational amenity. The view from the top of the hill across the Oxfordshire countryside is at the heart of our site, and an iconic viewpoint enjoyed by generations of people who have visited Hill End for nature-based learning.

Last year we welcomed over 23,000 visitors, with over 7,000 staying overnight, so this will detrimentally impact a great number of adults and children from Oxfordshire and beyond. In addition, we have two families who are permanent residents.

The recently published Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) does not mention Hill End at all, or any areas adjacent to it, which we consider a very serious omission and that this report is fundamentally flawed.

**2. Impact on our business**

As an outdoor education centre, our attractive local environment and rural open surroundings are a key reason for our customers to choose to visit. As a small educational charity, any loss of revenue from visitors would be of great concern.

The approach into Hill End will also be negatively affected. For example, last year over 1,400 of our visitors were taking part in Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. These groups usually walk in via the footpath from Cumnor and Denman's Farm, through what is currently a pleasant

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green landscape and open farmland. The attraction for these groups to use Hill End as their base is very largely our rural setting and proximity to the countryside and public rights of way. Groups of school children also regularly walk to Hill End from Cumnor Primary school.

The proposed development would in our view significantly impact any groups walking to Hill End, to the detriment of both local children and our charity.

### **3. Lack of community benefit**

We are also concerned that proposed community benefits have been very confused and poorly thought out, and we are sceptical that these would actually deliver what local people need and deserve.

Our last response in this regard related to the proposed education centre in Bladon, to which the local community objected to as inappropriate, and was then dropped by the applicant. We have not heard anything regarding this or anything similar since then, and can only presume that this is not being given the priority it should in an application of this size and significant impact on local communities.

Please contact me for any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Centre Director

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