

I would like to reinforce my initial statement (Feb 2025) which expressed deep concerns about the Botley West Solar Farm (registration identification number: [REDACTED]) with some further remarks.

The lack of evidence and reasonable engagement from the Applicant (PVDP) has been shockingly disappointing, given the clarity of the questions and issues raised by residents and experts. I sincerely hope that as this application continues, proper process be followed – I cannot see how any Examiners could possibly recommend the application be accepted. I hope it as clear as it is to me that this proposal does not merit acceptance and must not be granted.

An example is the poor quality, very last minute Residential Visual Amenity Assessment which is shoddy to say the least and does nothing to convince. The project would certainly affect our living conditions as I described in my initial statement and I am pleased to note the examiners also see this and make a sensible suggested requirement that “there shall be a distance of no less than 250 m between the edge of any part of the proposed solar array and any residential dwelling house” but really it would be better to go back to the drawing board entirely and scrap this particular project. As I explained in my initial statement, I am in favour of sensible, scientifically justified measures to address the climate crisis, but this project is NOT that and a bad idea remains a bad idea.

The Oxfordshire Host Authorities response regarding the Landscape impacts is worth re-reading please, I won't recreate it here but suffice to say that I am sure that the impact would certainly be significant! On views and our precious heritage sites.

I also remain very concerned about many of the other issues raised, including flood risk (my commutes to/from work and my leisure walks in the countryside are already frequently impacted by floods so this is key risk in our area); the safety issues brought to light regarding the airport (the Applicant is ignoring the information provided on this, that is surely unacceptable?!); impact on bird-life which we have all witnessed (again, the Application appears to be ignoring hard facts here); and what will happen at the end of the project – they don't seem have bothered to think this far ahead! The funding also still seems very dodgy, as does the entire set-up and proposal.

I will end on a personal note. As described in my initial statement, walking in the fields / rural landscape that would be destroyed by this massive project are incredibly important to my mental and physical health. This has always been crucially important to me, and the main reason I moved to Long Hanborough 11 years ago and do not ever wish to leave, but what makes me feel particularly emotional about this is that I am still recovering from an illness [REDACTED] and it has been the opportunity to slowly get back out, tramping these muddy footpaths that nursed me back to health and gave me the chance to feel like myself again.