

From: Tim Pottle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 November 2025 21:22
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk; Layla Moran MP
Subject: interested party reference number - [REDACTED] - Botley West Solar

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Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I tried to submit this through your website but twice it returned an error. This is my response to Deadline 7.

This statement is from Mr Timothy Pottle

Starts:

From the very beginning of this process, the applicant has not engaged in a manner befitting the scale and potential detrimental impact of the proposed solar power station. Their attitude to the whole process has been gung-ho and disrespectful, to say the least. Three years into this application's progress, I remain firmly of the view that it is the wrong answer/technology, in the wrong place, for the wrong reasons. The Botley West Solar Power Station (it is NOT a "farm" and, indeed, it's not in or very near Botley) proposal represents a permanent and inappropriate industrialisation of Oxfordshire's Green Belt, with particularly damaging consequences for Cumnor Parish.

I therefore endorse the Oxfordshire Host Authorities' request for the removal of the proposed southern site from the application.

This portion, which lies entirely within Cumnor Parish, is especially sensitive and ill-suited to development.

I also support the Examining Authority's proposed conditions that:

- No construction may commence until National Grid's application to VWHDC is granted, and
- The applicant, PVDP, must demonstrate how they intend to fund decommissioning in 42 years' time.

In addition, I wish to reiterate my opposition to Botley West on the following grounds:

- Permanent, not temporary, industrialisation of Green Belt land — including large areas within Cumnor Parish.
- Substantial and lasting Heritage, Landscape and Visual impacts, notably on Public Rights of Way such as the Oxford Green Belt Way.
- Contravention of the adopted Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan policies, particularly those concerning Important Views and Flood Risk.

- Lack of assessment of cumulative impacts, including those arising from the proposed National Grid substation and the adjacent Red House Solar Farm.
- Inadequate and error-strewn assessment of visual amenity impacts on domestic properties.
- Noise disruption from both construction and operation, affecting homes and walkers across the parish's extensive footpath network.
- Numerous unanswered questions — including:
 - Traffic and transport impacts, such as repeated disruption to the B4044 and B4017, alterations to roads to accommodate abnormal loads up to 150 tons, and adverse effects on the proposed B4044 Community Path.
 - Ecological concerns, including risks to protected farmland species such as skylarks and the impact on the Hill End Outdoor Education Centre.

I'm also struck by the volume of detail that PVDP has yet to provide. Many questions, posed by the Parish Council, by residents, and by others, remain and will, by the look of things, remain unanswered, with the applicant asserting that these matters will only be addressed after planning permission is granted. This is an insult to the planning process.

To say that I am deeply sceptical is an understatement. This scepticism is rooted in the applicant's conduct and evasive responses over the past three years. The Planning Inspectorate's own hearings have revealed significant shortcomings in the application, and the Examiners have expressed clear frustration at the lack of clarity and rigour.

In conclusion, I urge the Planning Inspectorate and ultimately the Secretary of State, to reject the Botley West Solar Power Station application in its current form. I stand with Cumnor Parish Council, our neighbouring communities, and the Stop Botley West campaign in calling for a more transparent, sustainable and locally appropriate approach to renewable energy.

Ends