

**From:** Bruce Windwood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 November 2025 16:57  
**To:** Botley West Solar Farm  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Botley West

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As a resident of [REDACTED] within the [REDACTED] Farm hamlet, I have been deeply disappointed by the applicant's assessment of the impact that the proposed solar development would have on our community. Throughout the examination process, the applicant has consistently downplayed the detrimental effects on our hamlet. In stark contrast, both the Examining Authority (ExA) and the host local authorities have acknowledged how severe these impacts would be, with the latter even recommending that panels be removed from both fields adjoining our homes.

This disregard for local residents has persisted until the very end of the examination process. The applicant's "Residential Visual Amenity Assessment" excluded [REDACTED], [REDACTED] from consideration, on the grounds that "the main orientation of these properties is inwards to internal courtyards." This statement is simply inaccurate. From the gardens of both Amhurst and [REDACTED] there are clear, unobstructed views of the project site. [REDACTED] has four ground-floor windows directly overlooking the site, [REDACTED] has a view from its kitchen, and [REDACTED] has a clear line of sight from its kitchen as well. The ExA has also explicitly stated, in its document dated 23 October, that "*Residential Visual Amenity means the overall quality, experience and nature of views and outlook available to occupants of residential properties, including views from gardens.*" It is therefore wholly inappropriate that these properties have been omitted from the assessment.

I would urge the Secretary of State for Energy to scrutinise the applicant's credibility very closely. Their approach throughout this process has appeared inconsistent and unconvincing, and it is evident that they lack experience in delivering a project of this size and complexity. This does not inspire confidence in their ability to successfully construct or manage such an ambitious site.

It is also worth highlighting the current challenges being experienced in the Netherlands regarding renewables and "grid congestion." While I am not an expert, it seems clear that with the rapid expansion of solar and wind energy in this country, the UK could be heading down a similar path unless careful consideration and planning are applied.

Finally, I would like to stress that I am a strong supporter of renewable energy and the transition to net zero. However, this transition should not be driven by opportunistic developers such as PVDP, who were welcomed with open arms by an estate burdened with debts reportedly approaching £200 million. The pursuit of net zero must be led by competent, experienced, and responsible organisations that respect both the communities they impact and the wider environmental objectives they claim to serve.

Kind regards,

Bruce Windwood ([REDACTED])