

Interested Party No. [REDACTED]

The Examiners have listened to over 1000 registered as Interested Parties (IPs).

These include local authorities, Oxfordshire Host Authorities (OHA), Historic England, International council on monuments and sites (ICOMOS-UK), professional landscape architects, experts appointed by the Stop Botley West campaign group including a Barrister, Archaeologists, and experts on Visual & Landscape and on Heritage. Their evidence documents a raft of conflicting, and often, misleading information by the developers regarding:

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)

Landscape Impacts

Heritage Assets

Archaeological Assessments

Flood risk scientific evidence

Safety issues at London Oxford Airport (LOA).

Production land for food

Incomplete plans regarding decommissioning

Definitive cable route through Eynsham and across the Thames

Failure to justify how "Community Food Growing" areas benefit

Information on the funding for this project

Clarity regarding the National Grid substation, 3rd party battery storage and cumulative impacts.

The Examiners have not spared their words in criticising the Applicant (PVDP) for their many shortcomings. PVDP has consistently failed to provide sufficient evidence to support the application's claims with inadequate consultation, inaccurate information and a woeful dismissal of concerns raised by IPs and independent experts.

PVDP's dismissive attitude to the serious concerns raised about so many aspects of their solar project seriously disregards the due process of the Planning system. PVDP has either failed to respond in a timely manner to the Examiners' questions or requirements, and in some cases, they have completely ignored them. Just two examples:

1. The failure to carry out an RVAA until the very last minute to determine whether the project would have an unacceptable visual impact on residents' enjoyment of their homes and gardens. PVDP hurriedly cobbled together an RVAA. It contains many errors and omissions, poor photography and mapping. The Examiners have issued a further letter pointing out the many shortcomings of PVDP's RVAA and, because time is now running out, suggesting a 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"

2. The Examiners have already criticised PVDP's assessment of moderate Landscape impacts (e.g views from Public Rights of Way) as being "not significant". The Oxfordshire Host Authorities (OHA), at the request of Examiners, have submitted a very impressive response describing once more the areas recommended for panel removal, explaining the methodology they used to decide these areas and the impacts they feel remain.

This leaves a significant gap in the knowledge and data available on which the Examiner is required to make a robust recommendation.

The Examiners cannot recommend the application be accepted when so much evidence is missing, and the Secretary of State should come to the same conclusion when considering the proposed Botley Solar Farm.