

Closing Statement – Botley West Solar Farm (Deadline 7 Submission)

I object to the proposed Botley West Solar Farm on the grounds of inadequate evidence, flawed process, and disproportionate landscape, heritage, and community impacts. I fully endorse the Stop Botley West (SBW) Written Summary of Oral Case (19 October 2025) and adopt it as evidence for my objection.

Despite repeated requests from the Examining Authority, major information gaps remain: landscape and visual impact, heritage setting (including Blenheim Palace WHS), archaeological protection, flood risk, agricultural land loss, cabling routes, National Grid substation impact, and decommissioning. A project of this scale cannot be properly assessed or recommended when so much critical evidence remains incomplete.

The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment was submitted late and is not credible. I strongly support the ExA's proposed requirement of a minimum 250m buffer between the solar array and any dwelling.

The landscape assessment continues to understate effects of what is, in reality, industrialisation of rural Oxfordshire. Best and Most Versatile farmland will be lost without convincing justification. Promised community benefits have been vague, redefined or commercially oriented.

I also wish to support the Written Parliamentary Questions tabled by Calum Miller MP on 5 November 2025 concerning the financial viability and provenance of the developer and associated funding. Given the scale of capital required and reports of overseas financing links, the absence of transparent funding information is a serious concern. Until the Government confirms that proper national security and financial due diligence has been carried out, this project cannot responsibly proceed.

Conclusion: On merit and process, the DCO should be refused.