

After several months of examination, it is clear that PVDP and Blenheim are not serious about listening to local opinion, expert counsel or probing questions from the Examining Authority. Both parties have demonstrated a cavalier attitude to facts, resisted any material amendments to the proposal, and have not shown the Examination process the respect it deserves.

Sadly, this disappointing attitude has been evident since Botley West was first announced :

At a public meeting in Hanborough Village Hall in December 2022, I asked the CEO of Blenheim, "Is there anything local people can do or say to persuade you to change your mind?" He replied "NO," and the tone was set. It was clear [REDACTED] had already decided that this proposal could be forced through whatever the consequences. More consultation had even started. PVDP, and their advisors have behaved in a similarly dismissive manner throughout.

I wonder if they have taken the Examination process casually because they see it as structured in their favour? Perhaps they have assumed that because the Secretary of State has approved multiple NSIP projects, approval for Botley West is a foregone conclusion and can be taken for granted? Whatever the reason for dismissing the views of those who have questioned the merits of the Botley West proposal, the result is that their performance to date has not generated confidence that they will be able to execute the proposal if approved.

I am confident that the Secretary of State will see this application for what it is - a cynical and opportunistic proposal designed to financially exploit the focus on climate change and energy resilience. The need to address climate change and energy resilience is too important to risk approving poorly conceived schemes that have opaque financial backing.

**The applicant has failed to demonstrate Botley West has sufficient merit and has surely failed to meet the standard the NSIP process requires for ExA to recommend approval. Any confidence the applicant may have that the approval of the Secretary Of State can be taken for granted, is also seriously misplaced.**

**If approved its size would imply that that it will become a Flagship Project for the Government. This is a very risky project and not one that should be given such prestige given its obvious flaws, opaque financing and practical challenges.**

**Botley West remains a poorly conceived proposal. It should be refused.**