

From: Richard Tyler [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 November 2025 21:44
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Final comments as an IP, [REDACTED]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am submitting my final comments on the Botley West planning application examination period via email because my submission to via the portal keeps receiving an error message when I try to submit it.

Interested party number: [REDACTED]

Many thanks,
Richard Tyler

I am making my final comments to the updates (and lack of them) from the applicant.

I remain unconvinced that the applicant has been sufficiently transparent with the ExA or local residents about both its financing of the Botley West solar farm and its long term intentions.

The applicant has no track record of developments of this size in the UK. Experience should be a prerequisite for any applicant proposing a project of this scale. The risk of something going wrong is too great for its application to be granted.

The applicant's approach to the public consultation throughout the process has been poor. It has not responded to concerns raised by local residents or their local representatives. Omissions to this examination such as the lack of flood report are evidence of its unwillingness neither to engage seriously nor to mitigate the huge social and environmental impact of this proposed project.

In addition, to requesting the inappropriate scale of the proposed power station is addressed - removing panels from fields close to where more to 10,000 residents live and walk - I agree with the examining authority's queries for further information on the following:

1. 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. Details regarding fencing and other means of enclosure must have been subject to a design review process carried out by an independent design review panel to the satisfaction of the relevant planning authority.
3. No part of the authorised development may commence until [Planning Permission and a construction programme for the National Grid Electricity Substation] have been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State [Ref. PC001 dDCO proposed by ExA]

4. No phase of the authorised development may commence until a decommissioning fund has been submitted to and approved by the Local Authority. [Ref. PC002 dDCO proposed by ExA]

5. The authorised development must not begin until the undertaker completes development consent obligations with all local District and County Councils. [Ref. PC003 dDCO]

I do not agree with the applicant's response to the ExA's question on its rationale for removing some panels from fields and not others. ie Reduction of panel area on Landscape grounds. 1.1. In ExA's Rule 17 letter: "Please can you explain why you were prepared to undertake the reductions in panel area that have been submitted in relation to the World Heritage Site (WHS) but are not prepared to give consideration to other areas that have been suggested by professional landscape architects and by the local authorities that have a deep understanding of their local area?"

I also question why the applicant has not addressed OCC's requests regarding the Width of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). The applicant continues to insist that PRoW should be just 5m wide and that "narrow greenways are characteristic in the area". The ExA states that "it has been indicated by several IPs, and confirmed through the ExA's own site visits, that these instances are the exception and not the rule".

More broadly, the loss of recreational land on sections of the proposed project are significant and are being underplayed by the applicant. The fields between Bladon and Begbroke are used daily by local residents for walking, cycling, dog walking, and enjoying the natural environment. These free, accessible activities are vital for our community's mental and physical well-being. Replacing open fields with fenced solar panel corridors cannot reasonably be considered an equivalent amenity or public benefit.

I remain concerned that allowing panels to be installed in the fields adjacent to Bladon's Main Road, heading south west out of Bladon and before the Cassington Road, will accelerate the water run off that has repeatedly seen the road flood during storms, delaying access for emergency services and making it impossible for those trying to use the footpath between Bladon and Hanborough. I am unaware of any mitigation proposed by the applicant.

Finally the applicant's proposed level of funding for any community benefit fund, if they project is approved in a revised, smaller scale form, remains insufficient in comparison to funds set up to support communities affected by much smaller projects elsewhere in England.