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Sent: 09 November 2025 11:33
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botlet West Solar Farm Application advocating rejection for cause

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This is to communicate displeasure at the Solar Five Botley West Blenheim Estates (BWSF) Application for an industrial scale solar generation plant in West Oxforshire's rural setting.

While there is clearly a need for solar energy production in the UK, so many are the possible non-invasive sites throughout the countryside, that great care must be taken to select these so as not to either obstruct other crucial policy concerns nor wantonly to despoil valuable historic countryside and rural life. These criteria are significant because the change of use of land from farming to energy production so vastly increases the returns to landowners as to put other important considerations of the common good in real peril. For these reasons the interest of short term personal advantage, all applications and particularly those of vast scale must be well considered, carefully prepared and be sound as to its partners, its source of funding and the security of national energy supply.

It is my submissions that by these necessary criteria, the present Application is evidently so deficient as to be unacceptable for recomendation to the Secretary of State.

The scale of the proposal the site is on the one hand so vast yet on the other so inadequately documented as to be incapable of full and proper assessment and hence is unacceptable after fair evaluation by the Examining Authority.

The partnership of the lands of Blenheim Estates, Solar Five and the international source of funds is obscure enough to have given rise to five articles in the publication Private Eye which has a high reputation for the courageous journalistic exposure of official, professional and financial impropriety. Moreover, Calum Miller MP has under Parliamentary privilege raised important Questions with the Secretaries of State of the Departments of Energy Security and Net Zero and Culture, Media and Sport.

These clearly question the risk from this Application to the security of UK energy supply at a time when we are at threat from disruption of e.g. undersea cables, air traffic control, AI based fake information, industrial disruption to national firms including Co-op, M&S and JLR and bank fraud at an alarming level. The Questions raised by Callum Miller and Private Eye are therefore incorporated here by reference.

The probably greatest immediate risk BWSF provides is to the frustration of the planned growth of the hinterland of Oxford as part of a Golden Triangle of intellectual property spin off development already well advanced in planning for housing, research parks and the infrastructure necessary to its realisation. At Eynsham, for example there is already a Park and Ride with bus lanes to Oxford to be built, and in Salt Cross five to six thousand homes with a research park. These and further critically important economic investments for which there are funds set by in e.g. Oxford Science Opportunities, are incompatible with a neighbouring land pre-empting vista of solar panels.

Another invasive impact is the failure to protect such heritage sites (with their impact on the important economy of world tourism) as Blenheim Palace and the Churchill burial, many villages, historic churches and landscape, its paths and walks and the rural life generally often protected by the Green Belt. That this becomes an industrial site spread over thousands of acres seems incredible after its long survival from medieval

times. In this context the ploughing of Long Mead a thousand year preserved meadow for an underground cable beneath the Thames seems wantonly careless of any interest but BWSF's own.

The inadequacy of the BWSF Application has been evidenced in their inability or refusal to answer the Examining Authority's questions or to take account of any interest but their own. This then reflects on the serious matters of the national security of energy supply discussed above. How much international due diligence has even been possible if so little has been undertaken on local matters if they can be so criticised.

This Application seems another stage in the unfolding tragedy of the Blenheim Estates.

The severing of the Dukedom from its lands seems to have put them in the hands of an opportunistically conceived, woefully administered, internationally brokered management disregarding local character and input while possibly, putting national security and energy supply at risk.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eynsham resident