

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 November 2025 13:28
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Closing Statement

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Dear Sir or Madam,
This is my closing statement relating to the Botley West planning application.

Firstly, I would like to say that I fully support all of the submissions and statements submitted by Cumnor Parish Council. In particular I would stress the following;

- Permanent, not temporary, industrialisation of the Green Belt,
- Substantial permanent Heritage, Landscape and Visual impacts, including on Public Rights of Way such as the Oxford Green Belt Way
- Contravention of Cumnor Parish's made Neighbourhood Plan policies on Important Views and Flood Risk,
- Lack of assessment of cumulative impacts of other power station projects in the Parish, including the proposed National Grid substation
- Inadequate and error strewn assessment of the impacts on visual amenity from domestic properties
- Noise impacts from operation and construction on homes and walkers using the many impacted footpaths,
- Many unanswered questions that the applicant has effectively ignored, on everything from traffic and transport e.g. impacts of digging up the B4044 and B4017, alterations to roads in the Parish necessary to accommodate abnormal loads up to 150 tons, and impacts on the proposed B4044 Community Path; through to adverse impacts on the Hill End Outdoor Education Centre and what will happen to protected farmland species such skylarks.

In addition, I have a number of concerns which I have raised with the developers on several occasions and which they have consistently ignored.

1 – on numerous occasions I have asked how long the proposed Solar Farm would take to offset the the carbon footprint that would be created by it's manufacture, transport, construction and maintainence. I was given a rough answer of 10 to 11 years. At no point have the developers shown a breakdown of this, detailing what carbon outputs are expected at each stage of manufacture, transport, construction, upkeep and replacement of equipment over time balanced against expected realistic output. If we are striving towards net zero emissions this evidence is vital to our decision making.

2 – Our home is one of the closest dwellings to the proposed route of high voltage cables along the B4044. At no point has the developer answered my questions about the safety of living in such close proximity to underground cables such as these. We need to see scientifically and medically backed evidence demonstrating safety for health and noninterference/safety with other services such as gas mains and internet cables.

3 - The vast majority of the project is planned within greenbelt areas. I have still not seen any credible "very special circumstances" that require such a huge project to take over a vast area of Oxfordshire's precious greenbelt and food-producing land. The impact on nationally important resources such as the Hill End Outdoor Education Centre could prove to be disastrous.

4 - I have managed to study the very comprehensive wildlife surveys included in the PEIR and commend the efforts that have gone into preparing it. However, at a consultation event that I attended it was claimed that the project would deliver a 70% net gain of biodiversity, but I was then told that there were no details available of how this would be achieved. Given the huge area concerned and the important richness of wildlife highlighted in the PEIR I feel that such claims need to be backed up with some very serious evidence. No such evidence seems to be available, so the claim appears to be an empty one.

Thank you for your consideration of our statement.

Yours faithfully Raymond and Ann Stone