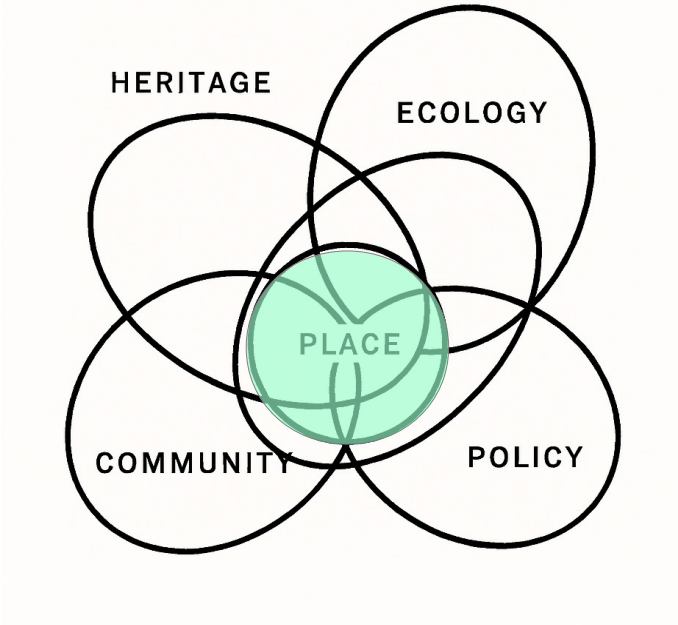
Submission ID: SC6BD0C59

Please find attached the Closing Submission submitted on behalf of Mr John Wynne and Glyme Valley CIC in respect of the BWSF Application.
This submission synthesises evidence presented by Mr Wynne and Glyme Valley CIC during the Examination, including analysis under the Relational Density Index (RDI) framework developed within the Oxfordshire regional planning context. It sets out our position that the proposed Botley West Solar Farm represents a low-resilience, high-impact development incompatible with the principles of distributed renewable energy, regional resilience, and community participation.
Accordingly, the submission respectfully urges the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State to recommend refusal of the Application.
Should the Examining Authority require any clarification or further supporting material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Relational Density Index©



John Wynne

November 4 2025

Relational Density Index (RDI) @ Botley West Solar Farm

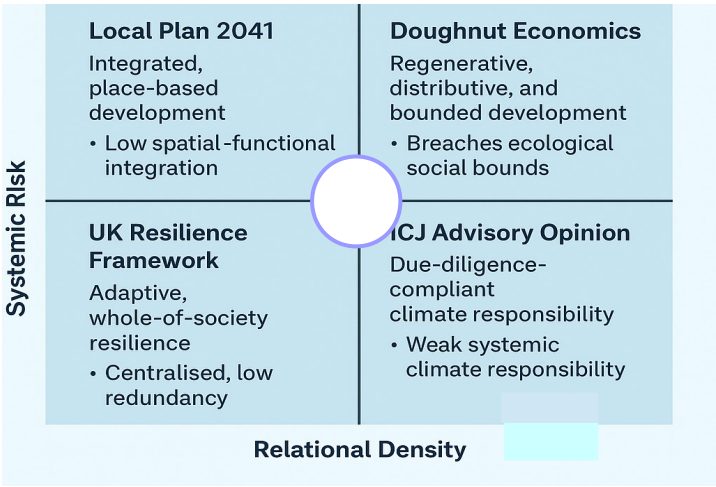
1. Executive Summary

This paper applies the ***Relational Density Index (RDI)*** aka 'Stickiness Index' to evaluate the Botley West Solar Farm within the Oxfordshire planning context. RDI emerges from ongoing regional work under the Parks and Valleys Regional Park initiative Oxfordshire, which frames Relational Density and Warm Data as guiding principles for landscape-based resilience. Rooted in the UK Resilience Framework (2023) and informed by the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Obligations (2025), RDI measures how well local systems connect across ecological, social, infrastructural, and governance domains :

In Mcluhan's 'Medium is the Message' : In Resilience, 'Relationship is the Medium'

Regional resilience depends on the quality of relationships linking anthropogenic systems : hydrology, geology, biodiversity, and civic life. Existing designations in the region such as UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Landscape (AONB) preserve conventional 'heritage' but rarely foster regeneration. Many other areas in the region—such as the Cotswolds AONB—remain biodiversity-poor landscapes. At the same time, large, centralised infrastructure projects like Botley West Solar Farm and the Thames Valley Reservoir (Abingdon) risk deepening fragmentation by clear-cutting through relational density. Each type qulaifies as a 'Green Desert.'

The RDI framework exposes these relational deficits (of resilience) and supports a shift toward distributed, regenerative regional planning. The following chart shows the four RDI lenses :



2. Overview — Relational Density Index (RDI)

Each of the four RDI lenses evaluates a different aspect of how interconnected adaptive local systems are across infrastructure, society, ecology, and governance. It identifies whether developments build resilience or weaken systemic linkages.

Property	High RDI	Low RDI (Botley West)
Connectivity	Multi-nodal, reciprocal	Centralised, one-directional
Diversity	Adaptive, plural networks	Single-purpose monoculture
Resilience	Distributed recovery	Concentrated vulnerability

Finding: Botley West shows low relational density—a large-scale project with limited integration or adaptability.

3. Local Plan 2041 Alignment

The WODC Local Plan 2041 calls for integrated, place-based development. RDI analysis shows Botley West conflicts with this goal through centralised design and minimal local co-benefit.

Local Plan 2041 Theme	Botley West Result
Sustainable Infrastructure	Centralised grid, weak local integration
Connected Communities	Limited co-governance or benefit
Nature Recovery	Habitat severance, poor permeability
Inclusive Growth	Externalised economic value
Governance	Low institutional coordination

Assessment: Botley West is spatially extensive, functionally weak — inconsistent with integrated local growth.

4. Doughnut Economics Alignment

RDI translates Doughnut principles—regenerative, distributive, bounded development—into measurable connectivity indicators.

Doughnut Lens	Botley West Outcome
Social Foundation	Limited local agency
Distributive Design	Outflowing value and data
Regenerative Design	Monocultural land use, ecological loss
Resilient Systems	No feedback loops or microgrids

Assessment: BW is well outside the "safe and just space," breaching ecological and social thresholds.

5. UK Resilience Framework Alignment

Pillar	Botley West Impact
Prevention & Adaptation	Brittle, centralised infrastructure
Public-Sector Resilience	Weak governance/data links
Whole-of-Society	Minimal civic engagement
Nature-Based Resilience	Ecological simplification

Assessment : Limited contribution to regional and national resilience. Non-existent whole of society

6. ICJ Advisory Opinion (2025)

The ICJ confirms states' duty to prevent foreseeable climate harm through resilient spatial planning. RDI functions as a proxy for systemic climate responsibility, indicating whether local choices enhance or degrade adaptive capacity.
Low-RDI developments undermine due diligence and resilience obligations.
Embedding RDI in planning aligns local governance with ICJ principles of equity, prevention, and interdependence.
Interpretation: Approving a low-RDI, high-footprint project would contravene emerging international norms in climate governance.

7. Integrated Overview

Framework	RDI Function	Botley West Result
Local Plan 2041	Connectivity benchmark	Low integration
Doughnut Economics	Regenerative indicator	Breaches ecological/social bounds
UK Resilience Framework	Adaptive capacity metric	Centralised, low redundancy
ICJ Advisory Opinion	Due-diligence proxy	Weak systemic climate responsibility

Shared Finding: Botley West is a high energy yield, very low relational resilience — a governance and climate compliance gap.

8. Strategic Implications

- Adopt RDI as a due-diligence metric linking place-based local planning to climate responsibility and Resilience.
- Require distributed, participatory, regenerative design in infrastructure projects.
- Offset low-RDI impacts via community energy, ecological corridors, and open governance.
- Embed RDI reporting into resilience and climate accountability frameworks.

9. Summary

Botley West represents a low-relational, low-resilience development.
It converts land into output rather than relationships into resilience.
Across all frameworks, it reflects systemic isolation — contrary to Oxfordshire's wellbeing, landscape recovery goals, and international climate obligations.

Closing Submission
on behalf of Mr John Wynne and Glyme Valley Community Interest Company (CIC), Woodstock, Oxfordshire

Re: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) Application – Botley West Solar Farm

1. Introduction

This Closing Submission is made on behalf of Mr John Wynne, local resident, and Glyme Valley Community Interest Company (CIC), an organisation promoting integrated, place-based renewable energy and landscape resilience across Oxfordshire. Both Mr Wynne and Glyme Valley CIC have participated in the Examination to raise serious concerns regarding the scale, siting, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Botley West Solar Farm.

While supporting the transition to renewable energy, the parties maintain that Botley West - by virtue of its unprecedented scale and centralised configuration - represents a fundamental misalignment with the principles of distributed resilience, local participation, and balanced landscape stewardship. The project's design and footprint would preclude more locally integrated renewable energy initiatives currently being advanced across the region and thus diminish Oxfordshire's adaptive capacity for sustainable development.

2. Summary of Objections

1. Landscape and Visual Impact:
The sheer extent and continuous massing of the proposed solar arrays would industrialise a gently undulating, wholly rural landscape. The project erodes local distinctiveness, sense of place, and amenity. The resulting visual dominance is incompatible with both the spirit and intent of the Local Plan 2041, which calls for high-quality, place-based design and protection of valued landscapes.

2. Ecology and Biodiversity:
The Environmental Statement provides inadequate assessment of ecological impacts, particularly concerning connectivity and biodiversity around local water bodies, migratory routes, and field margins. Large, uniform enclosures of photovoltaic panels are inimical to nature recovery, creating barriers to habitat permeability and undermining the Nature Recovery Network objectives.

3. Scale and Industrialisation of the Countryside:

The proposal's 1,000-hectare footprint constitutes a single-purpose industrial imposition on a living landscape. Its construction and operation would displace agricultural use, disrupt local transport and amenity, and fundamentally alter rural character for generations.

4. Policy and Net Zero Claims:
Assertions that the scheme is required to meet national Net Zero targets are unsubstantiated. Current and consented solar capacity nationally already exceeds the deployment trajectories necessary to meet government objectives. The claim that this particular site is strategically necessary is therefore untenable.

3. Analytical Framework – The Relational Density Index (RDI)
Mr Wynne's submission introduced the Relational Density Index (RDI) - a regional resilience tool developed under the Parks and Valleys Regional Park initiative, Oxfordshire. RDI measures how well a project integrates across four systemic lenses: infrastructure, society, ecology, and governance. In resilience terms, relationship is the medium; durable systems depend not on scale but on the quality and reciprocity of interconnections among local assets.

Applying the RDI to Botley West reveals a low relational density:

Connectivity –	Multi-nodal, reciprocal → Centralised, one-directional
Diversity –	Adaptive, plural networks → Single-purpose monoculture
Resilience –	Distributed recovery → Concentrated vulnerability

This demonstrates that the proposal delivers energy output at the expense of systemic resilience. It is a high-yield, low-integration intervention that diminishes Oxfordshire's relational capacity to adapt to climate and ecological challenges.

4. Policy Alignment Analysis
Across multiple frameworks, the project fails to align with the principles of integrated, regenerative development:

• Local Plan 2041: Calls for sustainable infrastructure, connected communities, and nature recovery. Botley West fragments all three.
• Doughnut Economics Framework: The project breaches both ecological ceilings and social foundations by externalising value, excluding local participation, and simplifying land use.
• UK Resilience Framework (2023): The proposal undermines "whole-of-society

resilience” by excluding civic engagement, neglecting adaptive redundancy, and prioritising centralised systems.
• ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Obligations (2025): Confirms the duty to avoid foreseeable harm through resilient spatial planning. Approval of a low-RDI project would contravene emerging norms in climate due diligence.

5. Strategic Implications for Oxfordshire

The project’s scale and siting would effectively obliterate the viability of distributed renewable initiatives currently being developed in Oxfordshire. By monopolising grid capacity, land resource, and planning bandwidth, Botley West forecloses far more sustainable and participatory alternatives - community-led energy generation, microgrids, regenerative land use, and integrated habitat recovery schemes.

Rather than enabling local resilience, the proposal consolidates control in a single, remote ownership structure, exporting value and data while embedding long-term landscape dependency.

In contrast, the RDI approach promotes a future in which renewable energy generation is embedded within living systems - where infrastructure serves community, ecology, and place in reciprocal balance. Botley West, by its very nature, undermines that prospect.

6. National Security and Due Diligence

Given the scale and strategic nature of this infrastructure, it is imperative that the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), when applying the Balance of Harm test, ensures that appropriate national security due diligence has been undertaken. This includes verifying the ownership, financing, and operational control of the applicant entities (Solar 5 / PVDP) and their overseas investors. Publicly reported links between the Applicant and Russian financial interests warrant full transparency and risk assessment before any consent can responsibly be granted. National energy infrastructure must be secure, resilient, and trusted; anything less would compound the governance and resilience deficiencies already evident in this application.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Botley West Solar Farm represents a low-resilience, high-impact development that conflicts with the core objectives of the Local Plan 2041, the UK Resilience Framework, and emerging international standards for climate

due diligence. Its scale and configuration degrade landscape integrity, biodiversity, and community agency while foreclosing regional opportunities for distributed, regenerative energy development.

Approval would not advance Net Zero; it would hollow out local resilience. The Relational Density Index demonstrates empirically that this proposal weakens the very systems upon which long-term sustainability depends.

Accordingly, Mr John Wynne and Glyme Valley CIC respectfully urge the Planning Inspectorate to recommend refusal of the Botley West Solar Farm NSIP application, and to invite Government to pursue an alternative, relationally resilient strategy for renewable energy in Oxfordshire.