



FAO: John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

3 June 2026

Dear Mr. Wheadon,

I write on behalf of the Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign, an Interested Party in the Examination of the Botley West Solar Farm, regarding your letter EN010147 of 14 April and as subsequently amended and clarified.

We ask that the Examiner`s *Report and Recommendation* in respect of its findings submitted to the Secretary of State on 10 February 2026 be published at the same time as the responses to the questions you pose in your letter.

Even in a straightforward NSIP planning procedure, there appears to be no provision within the *Planning Act 2008*, nor the *Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010*, that precludes the Secretary of State from releasing a report from the Planning Inspectorate earlier than might normally be the case. Furthermore, the process being followed in the Botley West application is no longer straightforward, amended as it has been by an extension of the statutory deadline by the Secretary of State as confirmed in parliament.

Your Clarification letter of 28 April 2026 seeks detailed responses from the Applicant and from specific Interested Parties following your review of the information contained in that Examining Authority`s *Report and Recommendation*. Your questions cover multiple aspects of the developer`s Application for Botley West. It is then proposed that all Interested Parties will have an opportunity to comment on the responses to the questions raised in your letter once these responses have been published.

Our contention is that this is a process that would be seriously prejudicial to the concerns of all Interested Parties unless they have access to the Report from the Examining Authority which has prompted the SoS to raise those questions. It would be quite unlike the normal Examination process where there is full transparency in respect of the information being provided by all parties.

Given the importance of the questions raised, particularly the questions regarding a possible and material reduction in the size of the project which will have wide-ranging significance, we ask that the Examiners' report be published alongside the responses to your questions, proper transparency being thereby maintained.

Yours faithfully,

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Chair, Begbroke & Yarnton Green Belt Campaign (BYG)

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