

Dear Sirs

Botley West Solar Farm Proposal Ref: EN010147

Comment by ICOMOS-UK Cultural Landscapes & Historic Gardens Committee (CLHGC) on the Request for Information dated 28 April 2026

Though not specifically listed by the letter requesting information, we submit the following comments:

Para 17 p6: Strong support is given to the advice: “In considering any necessary updates, the **Applicant** should consider the need for assessment to take a landscape-led approach ...” and to the subsequent helpful explanatory paragraphs, including paragraph 24 (p7).

Para 19 p6: The Secretary of State requests that the Applicant provides a response to the three technical reviews submitted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (“ICOMOS”) via Historic England (as adviser to the State Party) during Examination [RR-0398, REP4-052 and REP7- 117]. ICOMOS-UK CLHGC requests that the Applicant’s response to all three technical reviews is copied to them.

Para 27 p8: The ExA’s suggested new requirement is firmly supported – “This Requirement was for a 250m buffer to be implemented between the edge of any part of the proposed operational solar array and any residential dwellinghouse ...”. This would provide some mitigation of the worst impacts of the ‘*Areas specially oppressive to local villages*’, which were identified on the plans submitted by ICOMOS-UK CLHGC, a welcome improvement to the submission.

Para 40 p10: This paragraph recommends “that there will be no trenching in veteran tree Root Protection Areas”. Protection of the roots of all mature trees, both along woodland edges and in hedgerows, is desirable.

Para 66 p16: This paragraph records the Applicant’s Offer of “removal of panels from higher slopes in the central and southern areas”. However, it is steeper hillsides which have a particular influence on the quality of the cultural heritage of this landscape. These hillsides have been identified as ‘*Areas especially harmful to this rural landscape*’ on the plans submitted by ICOMOS-UK CLHGC. It is recommended that these areas are excluded from consideration as part of any solar array.

Yours faithfully


Chair. ICOMOS-UK Cultural Landscapes & Historic Gardens Committee.