

[REDACTED]

From: Anita Joice [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 June 2026 12:53
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Concerns about the solar farm and buying in Eynsham

Categories: SoS Consultation 2 Response

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Hi,

I'm buying a house in Eynsham, but I'm really concerned about the scope of the solar farm planned for the area and whether I want to live in an area that may be spoiled by it, and that carries significant risks.

The area is beautiful, and I'm shocked that the ancient rural landscape with a view that lifts the spirit between Eynsham and Bladon could be so blighted in an area with so much ancient and recent historical heritage. It's the destruction of historic memory, cultural heritage and cultural identity, and for what purpose?

This seems an unbalanced decision driven by the interests of a powerful few, market forces, foolish 'green' incentives, and the exploitation of the British landscape for the material gain of a few. The impact far outweighs the benefits. This is not a sensible place to locate an industrial scale solar farm, and in time, if it goes ahead I think will be seen to be a clear abuse of the land, the rivers, the ecology, the struggling bird species such as skylarks, the lives of the people and the soul and spirit of the villages around. The company has no track record of cleaning up, has a track record of disappearing and moving on.

It seems foolish to conduct such an experiment in a place of intangible cultural heritage: the ancient town of Eynsham and the important Eynsham Abbey 1,000 years ago; the prehistoric neolithic settlements of Yarnton and Cassington; the 18th century landscape design of Capability Brown, and the Marlborough history of Blenheim Palace; the site of Woodstock as the hunting grounds of the Norman kings; Bladon and Churchill and WWII history. The area has so much potential for learning about so many eras of the British past. It is a palimpsest of British history, layer over layer of human civilizations, that one can tap into by connecting with a sense of place, visiting sites and hearing the stories.

My intention is to develop a small business offering art, history and tours, involving connection to place and landscape. The area is a perfect storied landscape, much like the wider Stonehenge landscape is now recognized as revealing a larger pattern of human activities and gives us insight into ancient cultures. The industrialization of this landscape would be the destruction of intangible heritage and culture. I don't think people realize how central this area was to the history of the nation. It's an untapped resource and can be put to multiple use in much more appropriate ways, as both farmland, landscape, living cultural heritage, place that more people can connect with.

The risks in an already turbulent world make it seem very foolish - I'm really concerned about proximity to it through fire risk, EMF concentration, flooding in localized areas affecting people's homes, the high level of reflection from the air - for birds and planes, the run-off of degrading materials on the waterways and ecology, the inability to use the land for other purposes, the loss of

the landscape in our living memory, the contamination for the future with the remains of the industrialized landscape.

It's a great shame. I truly despair that projects like this could get so far, causing such distress to so many people, for all these years fighting for their homes and peace and environment. I just hope this project can be cancelled or minimized. It has weighed heavily on me for years, amongst many pressures that we all face in our rapidly changing country and earth climate. All of these pressures affect our mental health. There's a bit of a mental health crisis in our country and culture it seems, and often spending time in nature is recommended as good for our mental health, and what is not good for our mental health is seeing our beloved environments destroyed.

I hope that elected authorities and central government could focus on a more sensible and joined up energy plan to use the wind farms we have more efficiently, and concentrate on long term plans that would enable capture and distribution of overproduction of energy from the wind farms, which may provide greater rewards in the long term.

I am keen to know the final scope of the project, to what degree it is going ahead, so I can plan accordingly whether I want to live in Eynsham and whether and where I should develop my work offering connection to place through art, history and tourism.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

All the best,
Anita Joice

