

Jessica Dunlop

From: helen catherine mortimer [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 June 2026 14:53
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM - Applicant's response to the SoS RFI

Categories: SoS Consultation 2 Response

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

I would like to offer my response to PVDP's responses to the Secretary of State's Request for Information.

- 1) They have not fully completed updates as requested to the Landscape Study. This has resulted in lack of clarity about where buffer zones will be implemented and unilateral decision-making that has not involved affected residents and OHAs.
- 2) There is no clarity on where the NGET substation will be located and no mention of the exact timeline (including application for planning permission).
- 3) Why is information about alternative sites only now being disseminated?
- 4) There is still no clarity on ecological issues (avoiding tree damage, protecting habitats, skylark mitigation strategy etc)
- 5) There is a continuation of the false categorisation of the agricultural area under threat from solar panel installation as 'poor quality land'.
- 6) There is a muddled approach to the proposition of 30ha of 'community food growing' land which residents of my village, Bladon, have raised strong objections towards. We already have sufficient allotment provision - the proposed plots are unnecessary and this area must be removed from the red line boundary to safeguard its status as productive agricultural land.
- 7) As a resident of Bladon, I am particularly concerned about the landscape and visual impact of this proposed development, its detrimental effect on local heritage, including the impact on local businesses who benefit from visitors to our pretty villages, Blenheim Palace, and unique Churchill connections (who wants to visit a UNESCO-listed palace, for example, if it's in the midst of an industrialised expanse of ugly infrastructure?)
- 8) Furthermore, I'm concerned about its threat to the safe operating of Oxford Airport, the elevated risks of flooding, the inevitable (should the project go ahead) damage to trees and woodland, the loss of Green Belt, the sacrifice of productive agricultural land that contributes to vital local and national food security, and the utter disregard for the delicate ecology and wildlife habitats that exist in this area, including protected species such as the Roman Snail (*Helix pomatia*) found around the villa site close to Long Hanborough which is a legally protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

For the reasons listed above in particular, and for the disproportionate scale of the proposed development that threatens this area of Oxfordshire, I would urge the Secretary of State to refuse this Application. It should also be pointed out that the number of currently undecided matters and missing studies mean the Secretary of State does not have all the facts and making any decision without these would be reckless. I understand that the Secretary of State has already informed the Applicant that there will be no further extensions granted and so, on this basis alone, the Application should be refused.

Yours sincerely

Helen Mortimer