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Sent: 22 June 2026 10:55
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm

Categories: SoS Consultation 2 Response

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [ant](#)

To whom it may concern,

It appears that the developer's portrayal of its experience differs considerably from the evidence available to the public. The impression given is of an organisation with extensive expertise in delivering large-scale solar developments comparable to Botley West. However, closer examination raises questions about the depth and relevance of that experience.

For example, under the "Previous Projects" section of its website, the company states that it has "successfully developed solar projects in Spain, Germany, Italy and France." Beyond this brief assertion, no further details are provided regarding the location, scale, nature, or outcomes of these projects. Despite repeated requests from interested parties for greater transparency and supporting evidence, this claim remains largely unsubstantiated. Given the importance of demonstrable experience in a project of this scale, the lack of detail is concerning.

More troubling, however, is the developer's repeated failure to provide satisfactory responses to information requests within the required timescales. On two separate occasions, deadlines have been missed and important questions left inadequately addressed. It is difficult to understand why the Secretary of State continues to consider the application when such significant deficiencies remain unresolved. A project of this magnitude demands a high standard of competence and diligence from its promoters.

My own experience with [REDACTED] did little to reassure me. He was personable and approachable, but appeared unfamiliar with the local area and initially struggled to identify our hamlet on a map. Once he understood the location and recognised that the current proposals would effectively surround us with solar infrastructure, he suggested that the panels might possibly be moved further north. The suggestion appeared tentative and lacked conviction. Rather than inspiring confidence, the meeting reinforced the impression that insufficient preparation had been undertaken and that [REDACTED] was "winging it". Unfortunately, this appears to be part of a broader pattern in the developer's approach to the project.

Turning to the substance of the application itself, the developer's assessment of the impact on our hamlet (Shipton Slade) contains factual inaccuracies. The conclusion that several properties will not have views of the proposed solar field is demonstrably incorrect. Residents of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] all have direct views towards the proposed development.

[REDACTED] has four principal windows facing the site, together with views from both its front and rear gardens. Our own property has clear views from the side and rear gardens. The kitchen at [REDACTED] looks directly towards the proposed field. [REDACTED] has views from both upper and lower floors, as well as from its garden. These are matters of fact, not opinion, and they cast significant doubt on the reliability of the assessment process.

The visual impact of the principal field has also been understated. The site is extremely large and occupies sloping ground, making it visible across a considerable area. From the field itself, one can see the Column Of Victory and substantial parts of Woodstock. Yet public statements have repeatedly suggested that the development will be largely hidden from view once constructed. Such claims are difficult to reconcile with the physical characteristics of the landscape and with the observations of those who live locally.

This application has already consumed an enormous amount of public time, money and energy. It has also caused significant anxiety and distress for many Oxfordshire residents who would be directly affected by the scheme. The developer has been afforded ample opportunity to provide robust evidence, accurate assessments and timely responses. They have obviously completely failed in their efforts.

I therefore respectfully urge that no further resources be devoted to prolonging consideration of this application. It is time to bring this matter to a close and allow affected communities to move forward.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

All my best,

Bruce Windwood ([REDACTED])