

Simon Raywood

From: ian coy [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 July 2026 18:15
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Regarding Botley West Solar Applicant's answers to the Secretary of State's questions published on 11Th June

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For one of the most significant landscape and planning issues faced in our countryside we are still, after 4 years, presented with an alarming number of red flags, all pointing to incomplete planning and inadequate preparation resulting in an inability to meet deadlines and provide details requested by the planning inspectorate at each stage of the process.

- A thorough Landscape study and full RVA assessment should have been completed before initial submission. Impact on local residents needed to be properly assessed at the outset. It is not surprising, therefore, that impact has not been seen as significant to any real degree. And suggestions of "provisional changes" (to buffer sizes for example) does not inspire confidence, judging by the level of commitment evidenced so far, as to what changes would be made should consent be granted. Such lack of transparency presents a serious risk for residents and is, surely, untenable. I have always considered planning laws to be for the protection of communities. Notable also is the lack of consultation with Parish Councils and Oxfordshire Host Authorities on the matter of property- by -property assessment.
- Failing to comply with the Inspectorate's requests for information on numerous issues to date and PVDP,s claim of not having had ," the time, resources or expertise" to administer the property -by -property assessment required does not promote confidence in successful management of a development of this magnitude and its potential for disruption during construction. Such claims do not support serious intent but rather a disturbing level of entitlement.
- Significantly there is no decision on the exact siting of the substation, or agreement on the date of its completion.
- PVDP continue to be disingenuous on the quality of land used for the site, and on the use and access to land for community food growing
- Flood risk has been, apparently, completely overlooked despite flooding being a serious problem now, and concern frequently mentioned in written responses of residents, especially in Carterton.
- We need sources of alternate energy but it surely does not make sense to destroy a landscape in the expectation that we may, possibly, have solar energy "sometime" in the future, but not enough, it would seem, to off-set the additional CO2

pumped into the atmosphere during construction and replacement of panels, in time, and emitted from the swathes of trees cut down in the process. Trees offer climate benefits beyond CO2 removal yet there is no evidence of PVDP taking on board, in mitigation, genuine concerns regarding the conservation of tree lines, ancient hedgerows and natural pathways.

We have followed this project from the initial planning stages to final revisions, attended consultation meetings and listened to hearings conducted last autumn. Having started with an open mind, red flags have multiplied exponentially.

Ian Coy

Resident of Freeland