

Simon Raywood

From: Richard Tyler [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2026 18:44
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Submission re EN010147

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Dear Sir, Madam

As a local resident and interested party I would like to raise the following points for consideration by the SoS in assessing the merits of granting or withholding planning permission on the proposed Botley West Solar Farm development.

1) Pollution: PVDP will not commit to use SF6-free 275kV switchgear despite this technology being available and the commercial scale of this development nulifying cost arguments. The SoS is required as per the national policy statement to reject applications on this basis:

“The Secretary of State should grant consent for an electricity networks development only if the applicant has demonstrated either: i. That the development will not use SF6; or ii. (a) that there is no proven commercially available alternative to the use of SF6; and (b) that a bespoke SF6-free alternative would be grossly disproportionate in terms of cost.

2) Document C1-050 - illustrative master plan: This map does not include the recent development of c300 homes on the edge of Woodstock at Park View, nor the land owner's plans for a further 500 homes on the adjacent site, around which the proposed PVDP cable is to be laid.

House building is important in Oxfordshire and should continue. But omitting it highlights that this solar power infrastructure planning application is being taken in isolation from other significant construction projects that residents in Woodstock and Bladon are also living with, which impact road congestion, amenities and the views of place.

3) Importantly PVDP is an unknown entity, with no track record of developing even small sites of solar panels in the UK.

The risk of placing trust in such a company, whose financial backers and ultimate beneficiaries are also unclear, is significant and we would not want to see another HS2 disaster, with the project half built and never completed.

Planning permission for projects of this scale should only be awarded to developers with a proven track record, who have been 100 per cent transparent in their ownership structures and financial backing, and that have signed up to specific milestone deadlines, including mitigation work.

As PVDP have shown throughout the assessment of their planning application they have little regard for transparency or accountability.

4) PVDP have also not adequately addressed the visual impact, heritage, airport safety (to homes close to Bladon and Begbroke), flood risk (particularly on Main Road heading out of Bladon towards Witney), and tree destruction/damage in their latest response to the SoS's questions.

5) PVDP also admit they have not consulted residents on their plans for 30 hectares of "Community Food Growing" land, including around Bladon.

As a local resident, and existing allotment food producer, if consulted I would call for this land to either be removed from the red line boundary and returned to professional agricultural production (which is efficient and effective) or carefully planted with drought tolerant native species of trees to create more woodland, capturing more carbon.

6) PVDP's stipulation that panels will be installed only 25m from residential properties is completely unacceptable.

7) The sound pollution from the 156 power convertor stations is unacceptably high for an area of countryside regularly used by walkers. PVDP states they will emit "approximately 92 dB", which is above the level where noise-induced hearing loss can occur (at or above 85 dB).

8) Privacy: the inclusion of "up to 174" CCTVs on poles up to 4 meters high, as well as motion sensing lighting, in areas used by the public is unacceptable

9) The scale of the planned solar power plant remains inappropriate in a populated part of the country. PVDP has failed to address legitimate concerns of local residents on this point throughout the consultation and application process.

Kind regards
Richard Tyler
Bladon resident

Sent from my iPhone