

Simon Raywood

From: Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2026 14:14
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm

I live at [REDACTED] Grove Road, Bladon.

Originally the solar panels were planned to be in the field behind us, right up to our boundary. Now that field is designated to be a Community Food Growing PLOT. However

- There is no evidence from PVDP that these plots would all be filled and used productively.
- They have assumed a need and desire for them without consulting the Community.
- The plans include a commercial enterprise. This is not, as claimed, a Community benefit
- The locations do not, as claimed, all have “safe and easy access”
- They could easily be abandoned and left as untended scrub land.

We therefore suggest these options are purely a gimmick which will not benefit the local community and are likely to produce many local issues, not least access, noise levels and long term maintenance. In my opinion there is insufficient evidence for the Secretary of State to make a well informed decision. There are no firm agreements, no safe access, no justification for the loss of good agricultural land. We therefore request that the Food Growing plans be scrapped and these fields be removed from the order limits (Red Line Boundary).

Despite frequent and repeated requests from the Examiners, we understand the Applicant has failed to produce a satisfactory RVAA. We understand the Examiners (ExA) proposed a minimum 250m buffer for all residential properties because PVDP never completed a full and proper property by property assessment as required or produced that frequently requested Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. As the field behind us is now designated as a Community Growing Plot, Grove Road has apparently been excluded from the buffer zone proposals by the developer. Not only have we been excluded from the plans but the plans themselves are misleading because I suspect it isn't what they actually propose to do. Instead they are proposing a minimum of just 100m (instead of 250m proposed by ExA) and to leave the final decisions on buffers to be finalised (with local authorities) AFTER the Development Consent Order (DCO) is granted. This delay is wrong for two reasons.

1. It is undemocratic. We as residents will not have any say in the final decision.
2. It is unworkable. The local authorities state clearly they do not have the time, resources or expertise to do this properly.

As for the substation and panels, we understand National Grid now predicts that the substation will not be ready to connect until the last quarter of 2031 and that assumes that it proceeds through planning process without a hitch since but they haven't submitted an application yet

(or decided the exact location). PVDP still claim a connection date of late 2029. I understand the Examiners proposed a Grampian clause to be added to the DCO. Essentially this means PVDP can't start building Botley West until the substation has planning permission.

The Applicant has effectively ignored this request and used another device to avoid waiting for the sub-station to be approved. This is not acceptable.

Our property is very close to Oxford Airport. 70,000 training flights take off (and land!) at London Oxford Airport each year and there are still concerns about their safety. Several big training

companies have not been consulted before, as they should have been. They and we are seriously worried about glint and glare, insufficient panel removal and turbulence and will be sending in submissions. The added concern for emergency landings is of great concern to us as close neighbours of the airport.

We still have very serious concerns about flooding. The Applicant seems to be sticking to the view that solar panels do not and cannot influence the rate of runoff and cite old scientific literature to back up this claim. However, there is now a large body of more recent literature which concludes that the rate of runoff is influenced by solar arrays because of the drip-line effect. This means that the Applicant has significantly underestimated the amount of water that may flow off the Solar Power Station. Given the vulnerability of Cassington, Worton, Jericho Barns and localities around Cumnor to flooding this is a very serious issue that may lead to increased flood risk as a result of the proposed scheme. It will also destroy land drains further exacerbating the risk.

We have an ancient quarry directly behind our property which has a lot of wildlife, especially wild deer. Proposed cables will run very close to this quarry and ancient trees. I understand several important studies have not been completed by the developer nor results submitted. These include plans to protect habitats and species, damage to tree roots through cable trenching. Where mitigations have been proposed, for example skylark plats, bat migration corridors or translocation of fauna they are flawed, incomplete, experimental or have been demonstrated not to work. The Environmental Management Plan, like many other important issues, is being "promised later".

As residents of Bladon, we are still extremely unhappy about the proposed development. It seems very wrong that the developer, who has been given ample time and opportunity to answer questions, has been given extra time to answer them. Surely if they haven't answered them after 4 years of consultation, they should have simply been refused. It beggars belief that they have been given more time.

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