

Simon Raywood

From: Susan Oldfield <sue.oldfield@outlook.com>
Sent: 06 July 2026 16:54
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Please, finally, reject the Botley West Solar farm proposal

My registration identification number: 20053368

Dear Secretary of State,

It is very troubling to be writing yet another submission concerning this wholly unjustifiable project. I, like so many others, wrote a "closing statement" last November (3.11. 25), after many other earlier submissions.

You granted the developers (PVDP) yet further time, in which to address the many, serious issues which still remain after the careful examination process. Their answers to your further questions are still incomplete, misleading and evasive. They go no way towards meeting the requirements put forward by the Oxfordshire Host Authorities, ICOMOS, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and by many other institutions and individual experts.

Serious questions remain, among others, concerning:

- the initial choice of site, and the awkward cobbling together of three separate areas, each of them unsuitable in its own ways.
- the financial basis of the scheme, concerning, both, its dubious sources and its adequacy.
- the failure to produce a serious assessment of the major negative impact of the project on thousands of homes, as well as on historic and heritage sites, including Blenheim Palace and local churches and villages.
- the failure to make any effort to remove panels from visibly sensitive areas,,,. This vast solar farm would irretrievably damage wide areas of the Oxfordshire landscape.
- the failure to show how ancient woodlands and veteran trees are to be protected. Generous buffer zones, at the very least, are required by the arboricultural experts.
- the absence of any justification for the use of Green Belt Land and of wide areas of good, productive farmland. No "exceptional circumstances" have been established to justify encroachment on the Green Belt, and the quality of the agricultural land involved has been persistently under-valued.
- the failure to address serious concerns about aviation safety. The developers agreed to remove panels from the bare minimum of land required by London Oxford Airport, immediately south of the runway. They have, however, not addressed, or, even, sought serious discussion about, issues raised by the flying schools concerning the prospect of wide further areas being covered with glass and steel. This would increase the dangers for emergency landings, which may occur not only immediately after take-off, and also risk their increasing occurrence, due to glint and glare and thermal disturbance.
- inadequate efforts to mitigate the increased flooding risk produced by the project.

-prevarication as to the likelihood of a successful and timely connection to the National Grid.

The developers have offered some weak assurance that they would address some of these concerns "post consent", including a detailed assessment of the negative impact on homes, and consideration of the wide buffer zones that might a little mitigate against the inevitable damage to them and their surroundings. There seems to be no reason to trust that this would be seriously undertaken. It would also require assistance from the Host Authorities who say they have neither time nor resources for such a process.

If adequate protective measures were to be secured this would require a massive reduction in land taken for the solar arrays. For example, all the land between Begbroke and Bladon would have to be removed. This land is demonstrably unsuitable for almost all the reasons outlined above. It is questionable whether the area remaining after the essential reductions would represent a practicable or viable project.

In the light of these concerns, and the many others which other people, authorities and institutions raise, I ask you, once again, to reject, finally and completely, the Botley West Solar farm proposal.

Susan Oldfield
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July 6th, 2026