

Simon Raywood

From: Alwyn [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2026 21:18
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar- applicant's response

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Dear Sir,

I am a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and I have reviewed the applicant's submissions, the Secretary of State's letter to the applicant and the applicant's response.

It is clear to me that the applicant has still failed to provide even the most basic information necessary for the application to be considered properly.

The result of the public inquiry should have been a simple refusal of the application by the Secretary of State since the applicant had not provided the information necessary for its determination.

Yet the Secretary of State chose to write to the applicant inviting the information that should have been provided in the original application.

Interested parties will not have opportunity to cross-examine the applicant on its statements in the response, as would have been the case at the public inquiry.

This seems to me to be an abuse of the statutory planning process.

To give just one example of the basic information that has not been provided. The Secretary of State has given the applicant a further opportunity to explain how and when this scheme will be connected to the grid, but the applicant has still not done so. There is no agreement with NESO or grid undertakings on the location of required substation(s) nor planning applications for them, nor an agreed date for the provision of connection. This is, to put it mildly, a fundamental flaw in the application.

It seems to me that the applicant wishes to obtain planning permission without providing the minimum information required, thus enabling the scheme to proceed without any proper evaluation of its effects.

I know that the Secretary of State wishes to facilitate large solar farms wherever he can, including on green belt and Grade A agricultural land, but granting permission when the applicant still declines to provide even the most basic information would not be a reasonable action.

Yours sincerely,

Alwyn Seeds



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