

Simon Raywood

From: Hilary Owen [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2026 17:47
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Further comments on PVDP's application

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Dear Sir

BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM (BWSF)

I am writing in support of letters sent by my local MP (Callum Miller) to the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero (dated 12 February 2026) and to the Minister for Energy Consumers (dated 27 March 2026) and agree with him that the level of developer (Photovolt Development Partners, PVDP) engagement, transparency and community benefit on offer has fallen far short of the scale of the impact. I am also expressing my astonishment and dismay that PVDP has failed to provide the information requested by the deadline (which had already been extended). It would seem that that PVDP has shown the same disrespect to the Ministers that it has previously done to the Inspectorate and to local residents. A large number of issues remain unresolved and the project should not be allowed to proceed any further.

The manner in which local residents have been treated is disgraceful and the proposed destruction of the countryside is not acceptable, especially given the level of development (houses and science parks) already proposed for the area. Solar panels should not be on farmland or on the rapidly diminishing area of green belt land around Oxford but on the roofs of buildings. In future, food scarcity will probably become a greater issue than energy supply - and food crops cannot be grown on roofs. The developer claims that BWSF's electricity will generate renewable energy for approximately 300,000 homes in Oxfordshire but this is misleading, BWSF (with its 2 million solar panels of steel and glass covering nine sq. km of the Oxfordshire countryside) will connect to lines that run the length of the country and its electricity will go to whichever part of the country currently demands it (i.e. not of special benefit to local people). It should also be noted that there is no reference as to how all this equipment will be disposed of at the end of its life, given that the amount of available landfill is limited.

I note that PVDP has not given a promise that there will always be a 250 m buffer for houses and neither has it completed studies to ensure wildlife and ancient trees are protected. This company appears to show the same disregard for nature as it does for local residents.

It is also not correct that local residents have been consulted with regard to Community Food Growing Plots (CFGP). As a resident of Bladon I can assure you that we already have allotments and that currently there is no waiting list. Moreover the access suggested for the location of these new plots is totally unsuitable. It would be up a steep, narrow, private lane used by local children to walk to the adjacent primary school and the village recreation ground. This lane also provides access to the local church and to the village orchard. The land area proposed for this CFGP should remain productive farm land, especially given its proximity to London Oxford Airport.

As so many of the applicants assessments are deeply flawed, inaccurate, incomplete or insufficiently verified, this application should be rejected.

Yours faithfully

Hilary Owen

(PINS Reference [REDACTED])