

Simon Raywood

From: Bruce Windwood [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 July 2026 15:39
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Request Not to Accept Further New Material from the Applicant on 16 July

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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing as an Interested Party to respectfully express my concern regarding the prospect of the Applicant submitting significant new material on 16 July.

The work now being proposed should have been completed months ago during the Examination stage. It appears inconsistent with the planning process that the Applicant may now be permitted to disregard the clear direction set out in your letter of 8 June 2026 refusing their request for an extension, which stated:

"The deadline of 23:59 on 9 June 2026 for response to the RFI therefore remains."

The Applicant has been repeatedly asked to complete a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) and has had ample opportunity to undertake and submit this work during the Examination. Despite this, they have still not carried out a comprehensive property-by-property assessment, including site visits, as recommended by the Oxford Host Authorities. It is therefore difficult to understand how any revised RVAA could represent a meaningful improvement on the incomplete assessments submitted in November 2025.

Our hamlet of Shipton Slade Farm is one of the locations where the recommended property assessment has still not been adequately undertaken (please see my previous email of June 22nd). No meaningful site visit has ever been carried out to assess the visual effects on our properties, despite the repeated requests for this work to be completed. Any revised assessment that continues to omit such essential site visits cannot reasonably be regarded as complete or robust.

Your letter of 8 June rightly emphasised the importance of adhering to the statutory process, stating:

"The Secretary of State considers that maintaining discipline within the statutory framework established by the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") is of fundamental importance to the efficient and fair operation of the development consent regimes."

It also stated:

"Agreeing to an extension of the duration sought, and at a late stage within the RFI response period, could create an undesirable precedent and risk undermining confidence in, and the integrity of, the planning process. It may also give rise to concerns of fairness, as other respondents are working to the existing timetable and would not have benefited from an equivalent extension."

These principles remain just as relevant today. Throughout the Examination and subsequent Request for Information process, Interested Parties have responded diligently and within the deadlines set. I have ensured that all responses requested of me have been submitted on time. It is therefore difficult

to understand why the Applicant should be afforded substantially more time to undertake work that should have been completed during the Examination.

Permitting further significant changes at this late stage would not, in my view, be consistent with the Secretary of State's own guidance or with the principles of fairness that underpin the Planning Act 2008 process.

Furthermore, accepting substantial new evidence at this stage would leave Interested Parties with little or no meaningful opportunity to review or respond to it, thereby denying us our democratic right to comment on material that could influence the final decision.

If further consultation were required to ensure procedural fairness, this would inevitably necessitate an extension beyond the current decision deadline of 10 September 2026. As your letter of 8 June made clear:

"An extension would have significant implications for the statutory decision making timetable which has already been extended from 10th of May 2026 to 10th of September 2026."

In light of these considerations, I respectfully request that the Secretary of State does not accept any new substantive material submitted by the Applicant on 16 July and instead determines the application on the basis of the evidence that was properly submitted within the Examination and Request for Information deadlines.

Thank you for considering my representations.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Windwood

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