

Simon Raywood

From: Elizabeth Owen [REDACTED] >
Sent: 12 July 2026 15:46
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Response to latest Botley West submission from PVDP

PVDP have treated local residents, local government, MPs, and the Planning Inspectorate with disdain and disrespect and continue in this manner with the Secretary of State. I fully endorse the grave concerns about the industrial-scale Botley West solar installation raised by Callum Miller MP. To allow the development would be unsustainable, unforgiveable, and undemocratic.

The applicant's (PVDP) assessments are inaccurate, incomplete, and not independently verified. Reports and studies are missing. They have not engaged with relevant parties and many of their statements are therefore simply not true.

Important decisions, such as minimum buffer zones cannot be left until after the Consent Order. PVDP have had years to undertake the residential visual assessment and been requested to do so repeatedly. They have not. Questions about sound disturbance to residents have been ignored. Serious safety concerns remain regarding take-off and landing from Oxford Airport. No environmental management plan has been produced. Plans to protect existing habitats and avoid damaging tree roots with cable trenching have not been submitted. PVDP have ignored recent evidence that water runoff is increased by solar arrays due to the drip-line effect and therefore deny that the proposed development will increase flood risk in already vulnerable areas. The destruction of land drains will further exacerbate the risk of flooding.

PVDP claim the connection to the national grid will be ready in late 2029, but the National Grid give a date of late 2031 providing planning consent is granted without delay. No planning application has yet been made and the location not even decided.

I hold an allotment in Bladon and neither the allotment association or Parish Council were consulted on the need or desire for a community food growing plot in Bladon. There is no need or desire or suitable location. The proposed site is up a very narrow lane, that is the only access to the Primary School, recreation ground, and churchyard (where Sir Winston Churchill is buried) and therefore in daily use by pedestrians, especially children. The proposed site also has no water supply. The plans also include commercial enterprise that has nothing to do with the community. The land proposed should be kept for its current use – farmland which will help provide much needed food security.

That PVDP are talking openly about making major new submissions after 16 July shows their utter disregard for lawful and democratic due process. Their work should have been completed during the Examination Stage, but was so poor that they were granted an extension to 9 June. The Secretary of State has already clearly stated the fundamental necessity of working within the lawful framework and maintaining the integrity of, and confidence in, the planning process. I therefore respectfully request that submissions made by PVDP after the 6 June deadline are not accepted. PVDP have not supplied the Secretary of State with sufficient reliable information to make a fair and balanced decision within the lawful framework, and I respectfully request that the application be refused.

Elizabeth Owen

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