

[REDACTED]

From: helen catherine mortimer [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2026 18:58
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: For the attention of the Secretary of State

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Dear Sir/Madam

(As post holder may change imminently. . .)

I am writing to voice my concern that the developer of Botley West (PVDP - the Applicant) has requested an extension from 9 June to 25 September, indicating there will be some substantial new submissions around 16 June. In my view, no new material should be accepted with a submission date coming *after* the Secretary of State's clear deadline of 9 June for the developer's response to the RFI. The Applicant has been repeatedly called upon to complete an RVAA and had ample opportunity to complete and submit it during the Examination.

I would also like to remind the Secretary of State that the Applicant has still not carried out property-by-property assessment with site visits (as recommended by Oxford Host Authorities) so it is unclear how any new RVAA can be an improvement on the incomplete assessments submitted in Nov 2025.

On 8 June the Secretary of State denied the Applicant any extension, saying, '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.' And that, '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.'

Furthermore, any more consultation would require an extension beyond the decision deadline of 10 September set by the Secretary of State whose letter of 8 June clearly stated that, '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 the light of these points, and the fact that the Applicant has already been made aware that any extension to the deadline could not be granted, I would like to respectfully request that the Secretary of State should not accept the submission of any new material from the Applicant on 16 July.

Yours faithfully

Helen Mortimer