



Botley West Solar Farm – Response to SofS’s Invitation to Interested Parties to Comment on the responses provided - 11 June 2026

In our previous submissions we have expressed our concerns that due to the size of the proposed solar farm there would be a major adverse visual impact to users of some of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) throughout the period of the project ie for decades to come. We estimated that around sixty PRoWs cross the proposed solar farm with a total length of 28 km. Our view was that the negative visual impact and associated adverse health effects outweighed the benefits of the project.

The Applicant has been given the opportunity to provide additional information and to address some of the concerns raised by Interested Parties. However, for PRoW, the additional information has just caused more confusion.

The visual impact and the claustrophobic feeling when walking along the “Green Ways” will be very dependent on the width of the corridors through the arrays of solar panels. The further information provided by the Applicant on 10 June 2026 relating to this is both confusing and contradictory.

Referring to Document C1-087 - Response to Secretary of State Consultation 1 - 20.3 Botley West SofS Response 9.6.26:

On Page 67 it discusses the PRoW corridor width and states that “a minimum 5m PRoW corridor has been adopted for the Project....”.

On Page 76 under Section 4.3 Mitigation it states – “PRoW routes/corridors are to be 15m, in width (including hedgerows) throughout the Proposed Development....”.

It is therefore very difficult to further assess the visual impact and associated adverse health effects when the information provided by the Applicant is so confusing. A far more detailed response to the submissions of 10 June 2026 has been submitted by our local Group – West Oxfordshire Ramblers. The proposed solar farm would have a huge negative impact on the enjoyment of walking the PRoW within their area. Oxfordshire Ramblers therefore continues to strongly object to this proposed solar farm and urges the Secretary of State to reject the application.

Dr Richard Birch
Chair, Oxfordshire Ramblers