

From: Annie Haight [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2026 15:09
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Letter to SoS: Please deny further applicant submissions

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

The Honourable Ed Milliband
Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero

14 July 2026

Dear Mr Milliband,

As a registered interested party, I am writing respectfully to request that you deny permission for PVDP, the applicant for Botley West Solar Farm, to violate the original deadline of 9th June 2026 in order to submit new information in support of its application. I am a resident of Cumnor Village, which would be directly and adversely impacted by both the construction of the proposed solar farm and (should it be completed) by its continuing negative impact on the environment, wildlife, agricultural land, public rights of way, views and general quality of life in this part of Oxfordshire.

Over the past three years I have written a number of times outlining my arguments against this ill-advised application on a number of grounds, including the sustainable production of carbon-neutral energy. I have always met the required deadlines for these submissions.

There has always been a Goliath *versus* David aspect to the lavishly-funded applicant's pursuit of imposing its goals, and its quest for profit, on the local population, the little people who actually live here. Local people and their representatives, both from every level of the political system (MPs, local authorities and parish councils) and from the voluntary sector (including experts in the areas of heritage and the environment) have struggled valiantly for years in opposition to this proposal, on a variety of substantive and legitimate grounds. Even now, at this late (and already extended) stage, the applicant has failed to answer a number of our questions, and the questions asked by the planning inspectorate. It feels as though, by requesting yet more time, the applicant, with its deep pockets, is waging a war of attrition against an increasingly exhausted local opposition.

In my view, it would be exceptionally undemocratic to allow the applicant yet more time to submit additional material to answer questions they have already had ample time to respond to. As you yourself point out in your letter of 8 June, '[M]aintaining discipline within the statutory framework...is of fundamental importance to the efficient and fair operation of the development consent regimes.... Agreeing to an extension ... may also give rise to concerns of fairness, as other respondents are working to the existing timetable and would not have benefitted from an equivalent extension.'

I respectfully urge you to not to agree to PDVP's request.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Annie Haight
Cumnor, Oxford