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From: Penelope Marcus [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 July 2026 14:21
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm

Dear Simon,

My reference [REDACTED]

The Secretary of State and Inspectorate will have received thousands of critical comments in relation to the impact of the general and detailed plans submitted by PVDP for the proposed Botley West Solar Farm, but I would like to emphasise the some of the most outstanding.

1. The proposed Solar Farm would be one of the largest in Europe, but without plans for the transmission of energy.
2. It occupies 2,471 acres across Oxfordshire.
3. Virtually all of 2471 acres comprise currently of active farmland.
4. 40%-45% of the land is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMW) agricultural land (Grades 1,2,3a).
5. NPPF safeguards all BMW agricultural land from significant non-agricultural development.
6. 11,000 homes within one-and-a-half-mile radius would be directly affected by the proposed Solar Farm.
7. Many thousands of homes would be affected by the construction of the solar farm.
8. An inland location for such a large solar farm is ineffective and uneconomic in terms of land cloud, haziness, overcast weather, and short sunlight hours in the winter.
9. Considerable damage to wildlife, to trench cabling under or near ancient and vintage trees.
10. No satisfactory plans for skylark plots or bat migration corridors.
11. Water flowing off the solar panels will exacerbate the already existing severe flood vulnerability and risks at Cassington, Worton, Jericho Barns, and around Cumnor. It will also destroy land drains further increasing the risk.
12. The proposal for the proximity of solar panels in fields close to London Oxford Airport is extraordinarily dangerous because of glint and glare blinding pilots. The Airport handles approximately 50,000 aircraft movements a year and is licensed to deal with 160,000 movements a year.
13. It is the major pilot training hub, which means that young people from the age of 16 can start flying solo.

The proposal is ill-considered, disgracefully, and inadequately prepared and submitted.

The submitted Botley Solar Farm proposal is geographically, agriculturally, environmentally, economically, and socially in the wrong place.

Meanwhile, the North Sea could and should be hosting many more wind farms.

I respectfully urge the Secretary of State to reject the Botley West Solar Farm proposal, completely, 'lock, stock, and barrel'.

Best wishes,

Penelope Marcus