

[REDACTED]

From: Helen Devenport [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 July 2026 23:22
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: The proposed Botley West solar power station

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Dear Secretary of State,

I note that the decision on the application to construct a solar power station ("Botley West") over three separate sites on largely green belt land around Oxford has been delayed as the applicant failed to respond to questions raised by the Inspectors and others during the examination process by the original deadline.

The applicants were then again unable to answer many of these questions by the revised deadline of 9th June but have continued to submit further materials that have not been subjected to examination or comment by local people. This appears manifestly unfair, as many affected residents have spent much time and effort in reading and responding to vast quantities of planning documents by specific deadlines at multiple stages of the planning process.

This makes a mockery of the whole system – if the applicants had not responded adequately by the deadline, why was the application not rejected out of hand? At various stages the applicants said informally that they would fill in the gaps in their plans once planning permission had been granted (which they seemed to think was a mere formality).

This is presumably because no application for a large-scale solar power station has yet been rejected, despite some recommendations to do so by Planning Inspectors.

This is an opportunity to demonstrate that the planning process for this type of installation is not just a cloak for a stitch-up between the government and developers behind closed doors. Not all locations are equally suitable for large-scale solar installations, and the Oxford green belt, close to the city of Oxford, many historic villages, Blenheim Palace and thousands of concerned Oxfordshire residents is demonstrably the wrong place for such a huge industrial development.

Please reject this incomplete and flawed application.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Devenport (Mrs)