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From: ANTHONY THOMPSON [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2026 08:16
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reference EN010147

For the attention of

[REDACTED]
Head of Planning
Department of Energy Security & Net Zero

Reference your Letter dated 11th June 2026 to PVDP and all Interested Parties

The broad range of fundamental questions asked by the Secretary of State in respect of the application for Botley West Solar Farm demonstrates that the applicant has failed to meet the threshold for approval.

The Botley West proposal is flawed. It is an ill conceived scheme promoted because the land belongs mainly to one landowner. In other words it was adopted by the applicant as an 'easier' prospect to exploit, rather than being the 'right' proposal to promote.

The Secretary of State is right to be ambitious with the net zero agenda. However, this does not mean that all proposals are good proposals. This application is proving to be a challenge to approve because the applicant has failed to provide the information necessary to make a considered decision. They assumed that current law and the ambition for green energy trumps logic and common sense. This has resulted in a poorly designed scheme that fails to meet the high standards of development the NSIP process and the Secretary of State is looking for.

It is now time to stop allowing the applicant to submit revisions. Otherwise there is a danger that a poor precedent will be set and confidence in the NSIP process will be irreparably damaged. Their application is not ready and does not meet the criteria for approval. This is the fault of the applicant, not the process.

Ultimately it will be a decision for the Secretary of State who is under enormous pressure to approve. In this context I would say that It takes just as much courage to say no to a poor proposal as it does to say yes to a controversial one.

I hope is that the Secretary Of State is brave and refuses the proposal. In doing so it will add credibility to the decision to approve schemes in the past and the future and restore faith in the NSIP process.

Anthony Thompson