

[REDACTED]

From: Eva Procek [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2026 14:45
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: Cllr Chris Westcott; clerk; Layla Moran MP; SBW Comms
Subject: Botley West Solar Submission Deadline

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Dear Secretary of State

As an Interested Party (registration identification number is: [REDACTED] and resident of Cumnor Village I am deeply shocked by the suggestion that the developer of the proposed Botley Solar Farm (*Power Station*) is attempting to submit new detailed information and proposals long after the June 9th 2026 deadline set by the Secretary of State.

All the necessary work should have been completed months ago during the Examination stage, and it seems unacceptable that the Applicant can ignore the advice given in the SoS's "refusal to extend" letter that clearly states: "The deadline of 23:59 on 9 June 2026 for response to the RFI therefore remains."

Given that the planning process is heavily structured to support broader economic and political goals, this could already be seen as leaving local affected residents with somewhat of a democratic deficit.

This developer has consistently displayed an attitude of unmitigated arrogance that this project WILL go ahead. The developer has treated the legitimate views and concerns of the affected parties with nothing short of contempt, no doubt relying upon the well documented structural and political biases favouring large scale infrastructure projects in the UK.

This reliance has led this developer to comply minimally with the regulations and procedures throughout every aspect of the planning process. Most notable in my own experience are the woeful public consultations which were entirely a box ticking exercise to meet procedural requirements with little if any meaningful engagement.

Now it appears that in similar fashion the developer has failed to satisfy the Inspectorate BUT is seeking yet another opportunity to get this project over the bar and without the necessary public scrutiny which the planning process requires. For the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State to consider these late untested submissions would appear to me to be a clear abuse of due planning process and a total disregard for democratic governance.

I have previously made my opposition to this project clear

Cumnor Village with its ancient church and historic core is a designated conservation area. The village and its rural surroundings are irreplaceable heritage assets which have not been given serious consideration or sufficient weight in this application.

This proposal is a de facto industrialisation of the Green Belt. The developer has made little or no effort to justify the project's location nor to convince that it meets the threshold of "very special circumstances" sufficient to outweigh the damage to the Green Belt.

In addition to the proposed "temporary" solar arrays there is the question of the permanent National Grid substation proposed to be located in the Farmoor Valley next to the reservoir. Insufficient clarity has been provided in relation to this, the 3rd party battery storage and their cumulative impacts.

I remain totally unconvinced that the biodiversity net benefits claimed by the applicant can/will be achieved. These will entirely depend upon professional and committed conservation management of the site, which the applicant has failed to ensure.

Serious questions surrounding the funding of this application have not been adequately addressed by the applicant. In light of this I strongly support the written Parliamentary Questions tabled by Calum Miller, MP for Bicester and Woodstock on November 5, 2025, and which was due for answer by November 12 2025.

These are vital issues of local and national importance which have been inadequately addressed by the applicant which now seeks to make amended submissions without any public scrutiny.

The Planning Enquiry is tasked with establishing that the economic and social need for this national infrastructure outweighs the local environmental and community disruption. I contend that there is no economic or social need for this project. It is unnecessary and undesirable and a gross attempt to industrialise our precious Green Belt – the very green environment we are so desperate to retain and protect.

Yours faithfully
Dr Eva Procek