

Simon Raywood

From: Eva Procek [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2026 17:42
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: Layla Moran MP; clerk; Cllr Chris Westcott; SBW Comms
Subject: Botley West Solar EN10147

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Dear Secretary of State

Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

I am very disappointed that the Applicant's late submissions have been accepted presumably causing this further delay in the decision on Botley West and requesting yet another response from Interested Parties.

I am a supporter of the Stop Botley West campaign and fully endorse the comprehensive SBW submission of 16 July [[C2-161](#)] and those of the Cumnor Parish Council.

I am concerned that despite these new proposals the Application is still irretrievably flawed. Too many questions remain unanswered, and the Applicant seeks to defer too many important decisions until after any development consent is granted when they will be beyond public scrutiny and challenge.

I would like to emphasise and summarise some of the issues that I raised in my earlier submissions.

I live in the conservation centre of Cumnor Village and the fields around the village and the Farmoor Reservoir are much valued public green field amenities. Botley West proposes to fill many of these fields with solar panels and to connect their electrical output through a permanent substation build right alongside the reservoir. A permanent Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) will likely be built next to it. The 800MW BESS would have somewhere in the region of 650+ battery units on 12 hectares of this irreplaceable Green Belt and destroying the visual amenity.

It is unclear what is the real justification for this monstrous Botley West industrial development nor what alternatives were explored in terms of possible other forms of green energy, or of brown field sites before settling on this cherished green belt open space and on such a massive scale. It is unthinkable that any other form of industrial, commercial or housing development on this scale on the Green Belt would ever be proposed for planning permission. One fears that the declaration of the climate emergency has opened the door to opportunist developers, greedy and debt strapped landowners and struggling farmers to profit from the industrialisation of arable land and the Green Belt.

I worry about the lack of detail provided to the public by the developer about the future management of the entire site to ensure it achieves its rather exalted biodiversity claims. Too many issues have been left open, to be filled out only once planning permission has been achieved. I remain unconvinced that the biodiversity net benefits claimed by the applicant can or will be achieved. These will depend entirely upon professional and committed conservation management of the site which the applicant has failed to ensure.

There is no adequate plan for decommissioning the solar panels. Where is all this potentially toxic waste to go? The developer's answer to me was that the technology would have caught up by the time this recycling is required. This seems either wishful thinking or forlorn hope rather than a strategic plan.

This industrial scale development which will impact thousands of households and residents is inappropriate development on the Green Belt. It belongs more properly on brown field sites and on industrial roofs. It is of a monstrous scale and does not meet community needs nor take the community along with it. Most of the area to be covered by Botley West is a very poor site for solar generation. Furthermore, this inefficient mode of power generation in this specific location is being pursued at the price of the destruction of vast swathes of precious arable farmland, green belt and heritage landscape.

I respectfully request the Secretary of State to refuse outright the grant of a DCO for this Application.

Name: Dr Eva Mary Procek

Interested Party Registration No: [REDACTED]