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September 22nd 2026

Dear Secretary of State

Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

I am disappointed that the Applicant's late submissions have been accepted causing further delay in the decision for 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]. 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.

One major concern is that the National Grid substation has not yet been planned and the location not yet decided. The solar installation should not happen until this has been agreed, which is by no means a foregone conclusion.

I am very concerned that there would be a substantial effect on the local landscape and heritage and I understand that despite being asked to provide this, the applicant has not completed the Landscape Character Assessment. This part of the world is very popular with tourists and many come to visit Blenheim and Bladon, as well as other local beauty spots all of which would be impacted by this proposal.

From the start, I have been upset to think of agricultural land being used for solar farms. I have now put solar panels on my roof, and I believe this is a better way forward. As a nation we should be more resilient and not just in relation to generation of electricity – we should also be better at growing our own food. I think that this proposal is the wrong thing in the wrong place.

Moreover, I understand that the applicant's new proposal suggests a buffer zone of 100 metres, even though the Examiners recommended 250 metres. This gives the impression that the applicant is not taking the whole process seriously and rushing everything. It does not inspire confidence.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Smith