

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 Solar Farm (BWSF) and requesting yet another response from Interested Parties.

I am a supporter of the Stop Botley West (SBW) 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. For example:

- The default distance of panels from housing in the 9 June BWSF submissions was 250m and is 100m in the latest submission. Why has this been changed? Why has the Examiners recommendation of a default of 250m ignored?
- What level of noise pollution will be caused by thousands of solar panels and associated electrical equipment?
- Why is land BWSF now claim will not be used for panels still within the red line boundary on BWSF maps?
- Areas for community food growing (not panels) were emphasized in previous submissions, but are now not mentioned, yet the proposed land is still within the red line on BWSF maps. Why? What will it be used for?
- The location of the National Grid substation is not decided, and no planning application has been submitted. A huge solar installation on agricultural land without a connection to the grid will not help energy security, but will damage food security. The cabling route cannot be decided until the location of the substation is known.
- BWSF have not submitted a plan for a decommissioning fund, contrary to the Examiners recommendation. Are we content to leave more problems for the next generation?
- There is a complete lack of evidence as to why BWSF needs to be so large, or for the rejection of Host Authority plans for a smaller installation.
- The landscape assessment requested by ICOMOS has not been done.
- Arboricultural assessment have not been done and plans for biodiversity gain are not workable.
- The Applicant has ignored evidence of flooding risk caused by solar arrays.
- The Applicant has ignored evidence of danger to trainee pilots using Oxford airport.

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

Name: Elizabeth Owen

Interested Party Registration No: [REDACTED]