

## Simon Raywood

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**From:** Frances Stevenson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 September 2026 11:34  
**To:** Botley West Solar Farm  
**Subject:** Botley West Solar Farm: Community Food Growing

Dear Secretary of State

### Botley West Solar Farm: Community Food Growing

In response to your letter of 4 September 2026 giving Interested Parties the opportunity to comment on the Applicant's most recent submissions, I am writing regarding the Applicant's proposal for community food growing on 30 ha of land in Bladon, West Oxfordshire.

On 14 April 2026, the Secretary of State requested further information on the Applicant's proposal for Community Food Growing (EN010147 Question 50). The Applicant's latest submissions make no reference or response to that request. The questions therefore remain unanswered, as do the comments I made in my response on this subject dated 9 July 2026.

To summarise, the Applicant:

- Has not explained the interest in community food growing adequately or correctly.
- Has not explained how suitable access will be provided for the proposed food growing site in Bladon.
- Has not explained how the proposed food growing site in Bladon would be protected from inappropriate structures or how compliance would be guaranteed. (This is especially concerning because the site lies in the setting of the Blenheim World Heritage Site within sight of the Palace and grounds.)

I would also like to mention that the Applicant's Illustrative Masterplan (C1118 - Response to Secretary of State Consultation 1 - 6.4 ES - Figures 2.1a - 2.4c - Illustrative Masterplan - Rev 5) does not enable Interested Parties to distinguish between 'New planting/areas for enhancement' and 'Land available for community food growing area' because of the choice of colours used. We cannot tell whether changes have been made or what they might be.

As the Applicant is unable or unwilling to provide adequate information to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate or local communities, I respectfully suggest the community food growing proposal should not be allowed to proceed.

Yours sincerely

Frances Stevenson  
IP ref [REDACTED]  
28 September 2026

**From:** Frances Stevenson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 September 2026 11:47  
**To:** Botley West Solar Farm  
**Subject:** Botley West Solar Farm DCO application

Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for your letter of 4 September 2026 giving Interested Parties the opportunity to comment on the Applicant's most recent submissions.

Following the Applicant's latest submissions and a considerable time extension given to the Applicant to make those submissions, the Secretary of State will be well aware that important issues of great concern remain unaddressed in this DCO application.

It is very surprising that four years after the first public consultations, numerous rounds of questions from the Planning Inspectorate during the Examination and from the Secretary of State since then, so many important questions remain unanswered. While it is expected that some issues will be clarified after a DCO is granted, it is surely very unusual for such significant information gaps to remain at this late stage in the DCO application process.

The information gaps include, for example:

- No Residential Visual Amenity Plan has been done, despite the unusual scale of the development and size of the affected population. The Applicant conceded late in the day to produce an outline plan (C1-108) but leaves such crucial issues as the size of buffers unclear and confusing.
- No Landscape Character Assessment has been done, despite the unusual significance of the location and its historic assets and a request for such an assessment by ICOMOS, the international body that advises UNESCO on the protection of World Heritage Sites.
- There is a lack of clarity about the National Grid substation to which the proposed solar farm would connect. The location of the substation has not yet been decided and planning permission for the substation has not yet been sought. However, despite it being proposed by the Examining Authority, no Grampian condition on this matter has been included in the DCO application.
- No decommissioning plan or fund is included in the DCO application, despite the unusual scale of the proposal development, the unusual sensitivity of the landscape and a request made by the Examining Authority.

I would also like to mention that the latest Masterplan (ENO10147/APP/21.7 Revision 1) does not facilitate understanding of the latest changes made. The document offers two buttons (green and blue) to click on to show the existing and proposed masterplans but they do not function.

Public support is essential if the country is to reach net zero by 2050. Properly planned renewable energy developments transparently supported by rigorous evidence are key to public trust. The Botley West Solar Farm proposal does not meet those criteria. I therefore respectfully request the Secretary of State not to grant a DCO for this application.

Frances Stevenson  
IP ref [REDACTED]  
28 September 2026