

Simon Raywood

From: Peter Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2026 18:14
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

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Dear Secretary of State,

I am extremely 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.

Of the many unanswered questions I would like to specifically draw attention to the 10 most pertinent:

1. **Red-line Boundary.** At least 300 hectares of land stated now by the Applicant not to be used for panels. The certainty that this land won't be used for panels should be secured by moving the red-line boundary. It can then be returned to agricultural use.
2. **Heritage and Landscape.** The Landscape Character Assessment requested by ICOMOS has not been undertaken and issues raised by ICOMOS remain unresolved.
3. **National Grid Substation.** Location still not decided, no planning Application yet submitted by NGET who say earliest connection date is Winter 2031. No clause in DCO to say BWSF build cannot start until substation has planning consent.
4. **Decommissioning fund.** ExA recommended DCO should ensure a decommissioning fund (as well as a plan) is in place before construction starts. Not done.
5. **Viability.** The Applicant has not justified its claim for a 935MW minimum 'economically viable' size for BWSF and rejected Oxfordshire Host Authority's proposals for a smaller installation.
6. **Flood Risk.** No further panel pull-back to mitigate flood risk despite well evidenced responses from Cassington and Cumnor Parish Councils and their Hydrology Experts. See REP7-068, REP7-077, C2-162 and C2-169
7. **Ecology and Bio-diversity net Gain.** Arboricultural impact assessment still not done. Skylark compensation strategy unworkable.
8. **Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).** A large part of the central site is now on the list of SSSI designation proposed development, named The Three Rivers potential SSSI site

based on the presence of the rivers and river valleys in the region. This needs to be considered.

9. **Community food growing** - no further mention. These areas should be removed from the red-line boundary. See REP5-072, REP5-093 and REP6-076
10. **Trainee pilot safety** is at risk with the current panel layout. Further panel removal near the airport is essential. See C2-210 and C2-176

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

Kind Regards,

Peter Douglas

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