

From Professor P J Dobson OBE

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To the Secretary of State

Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

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, this is disrespectful and indicative of incompetence.

I am objecting on several grounds

- 1) The most important point is that the entire project is based on a misconception that it will provide power for 330,000 homes. It will not! This is a lie because the sun does not shine at night and the output in daytime in winter is very low. Even with energy storage, the capacity factor in the UK is only 10% meaning that the average output for the planned size of 840 MW will only be 84 MW. The UK is the second worst country in the world for solar energy so the entire National policy is deeply flawed.

[REDACTED]

- 2) A large area of fertile land will be destroyed by this proposal (around 1300 hectares). The developer has not undertaken a proper scientific study of the soil quality in the area, that includes the soil microbiome. The UK has to put food production first in this unstable geopolitical time and aim towards self-sufficiency and this is Govt policy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-roadmap-2050/farming-roadmap-2050-growing-englands-future-accessible-version>
- 3) The large solar array will actually warm the local climate by conduction and convection from the hot panels in summertime, thus counteracting the very intention of reducing climate warming. The developer has not made any attempt to model this.

This application should be rejected outright.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]