

Simon Raywood

From: Daniel Farnell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 01 October 2026 21:57
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

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Dear Secretary of State,

Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

I am disappointed that the Applicant's late submissions have been accepted, causing further delays to the decision on Botley West and requiring 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 remain concerned that, despite these new proposals, the Application is still fundamentally flawed. Too many questions remain unanswered, and the Applicant seeks to defer too many important decisions until after development consent has been granted, when they will be beyond public scrutiny and challenge.

1. Areas of concern arising from the new submissions

The principal concern is the introduction of an "outline Residential Visual Amenity Plan" (oRAP) [C1-108] and a new Masterplan Revision 5 [C1-111], which now show a default buffer of just 100m, compared with the 250m default recommended by the Examiners and previously shown in the Applicant's Masterplan Revision 4 of 9 June [C1-051], which stated that "additional offsets up to 250m [would be] applied where needed".

It is unclear how this need would be assessed after consent has been granted, when the process would be beyond public scrutiny.

2. Unresolved issues that remain unaddressed

These include:

Heritage and Landscape

The Landscape Character Assessment requested by ICOMOS has not been undertaken, and the issues raised by ICOMOS remain unresolved.

National Grid Substation

The location of the substation remains undecided. NGET has yet to submit a planning application and has stated that the earliest connection date is Winter 2031. There is no clause in the DCO preventing construction of the Botley West Solar Farm from commencing before the substation has received planning consent.

Red-line Boundary

The Applicant has now stated that at least 300 hectares of land will not be used for solar panels. The certainty that this land will not be used for panels should be secured by removing it from the red-line boundary, allowing it to be returned to agricultural use.

Flood Risk

There has been no further withdrawal of proposed solar panel locations to mitigate flood risk, despite the well-evidenced responses from Cassington and Cumnor Parish Councils and their hydrology experts. See REP7-068, REP7-077, C2-162 and C2-169.

I respectfully request that the Secretary of State refuse the grant of a Development Consent Order for this Application.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Farnell