

Simon Raywood

From: Annie Haight [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2026 12:02
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 a longstanding resident of Cumnor village in Oxfordshire and for the past four years I have followed with dismay the proposal for the Botley West Solar Farm, and for the past two years its progress through the formal planning process. I have written a number of times opposing this proposal and observed with astonishment and anger the latitude allowed to the applicant to repeatedly avoid direct questions on a raft of crucial questions. These questions and issues are detailed in the submissions of the Stop Botley West campaign and of Cumnor Parish Council, and a number of other Interested Parties. I am disappointed that the Applicant's late submissions have been accepted, causing further delay in the decision for Botley West and requiring yet another response from Interested Parties.

I reiterate, as I have consistently done in my many submissions against this proposal, that I am deeply concerned by global warming, support the goal of net zero in the UK's energy production and encourage the government to seek and authorise truly sustainable renewable sources of energy. However, I believe this can be done without the drastic destruction of heritage and human environments, agricultural land, and natural habitats. For this reason, I oppose the proposed Botley West Solar Farm and encourage the Department of Energy and Net Zero to deny permission to this destructive proposal and seek better options.

I am a supporter of the Stop Botley West campaign and fully endorse the comprehensive SBW submission of 16 July [C2-161] as well as the detailed submission of Cumnor Parish Council of 15 July (available [here](#)). I am concerned that despite the Applicant's new (late) responses to the Department's questions, the Application is still irretrievably flawed. Too many questions remain unanswered (as detailed in the above two submissions) 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.

Having watched this process unfold over such a long time has given me a synoptic view of the Applicant's strategies for dealing with detailed, reasoned and evidenced opposition. I believe that their pattern of evasion, dismissal, misdirection and delay (to the point of violating official deadlines) in responding to the crucial concerns put to them by the community and Interested Parties during the course of the consultation and Planning Inspectorate's examination, points to one stark truth. The objections are fundamentally unanswerable.

It is in fact not possible to mitigate the destructive effects the building, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of this massive construction would inflict on such an intricate, historic rural landscape in which precious heritage sites, agricultural land, fragile ecosystems, villages and already inadequate road systems are interwoven.

It is extremely significant that the Applicant's other projects have been located in unpopulated areas, such as the remote Japanese island of Ukujima, where cabling is situated underwater. The

Applicant lacks experience of siting their solar facilities in inhabited areas, and certainly not in an area with the complex character of this part of rural Oxfordshire. Perhaps their unwillingness or inability to address valid concerns stems from this fact. They are out of their depth planning a project such as the one proposed, and are unable to mitigate the deleterious cost to the local community and environment that it would entail. In effect, Botley West Solar Farm is a gigantic, unprecedented and ill-conceived experiment. Should it be approved, it would be at an unprecedented and possibly permanent cost to the local environment and communities.

I respectfully request the Secretary of State to refuse outright the grant of a DCO for this Application, and hope that this will allow the Department to move on to the consideration of more sustainable options.

Name: Dr Annie Haight, Cumnor, Oxford

Interested Party Registration No: [REDACTED]