

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2026 20:04
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Cc: STOP BOTLEY WEST ACTION GROUP
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm

Dear Secretary of State

Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

We are disappointed that the Applicant's late submissions have been accepted causing further delay in the decision for Botley West Solar Farm and requesting yet another response from Interested Parties. As residents who will be seriously affected and disrupted by both the installation and the many downsides of the Solar Farm itself, this further delay has caused further distress and anxiety.

We are supporters of the "Stop Botley West" campaign and fully endorse the comprehensive SBW submission of 16 July. We are 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. We expect and demand a decision to be made by the extended deadline and feel that the developer has been given ample opportunity already to answer the questions posed to them. We are of course hoping that the Secretary of State will see the flaws in the submission and refuse the application.

- Our principal concerns are the introduction of an "outline Residential Visual Amenity Plan" and new Masterplan revision 5 in which the default buffer now offered and drawn is 100m (compared with the 250m default recommended by Examiners and previously shown in the Applicant's 9 June masterplan revision 4 "with additional offsets up to 250m applied where needed". It's not clear how this "need" would be assessed post consent when it will be beyond public scrutiny.
- The Applicant's amended Schedule 2, requirement 15 in the DCO states that the 100m buffer minimum will be used as "the starting point which has been amended to require the final plan to be substantially in accordance with this outline plan." This implies that very few buffers will be increased to anything near 250m. This contradicts the Applicant's 9 June submissions in which the starting point was the 250m maximum to be adjusted downwards in some cases. This is a significant and unjustified change compared to the Applicant's submissions of 9 June in which the Applicant admitted that the Installation would still be viable, albeit marginally, with a panel area using a 250m buffer.

There are still a huge number of unresolved issues and we are very surprised and disappointed that the Secretary of State has given the developer even more time to explain them, which they haven't. They are:

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. This area joins our property and there is still no clear explanation about how this will be managed and most of all accessed. 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
11. **Proposed cycle path** along Lower Rd still shown on Masterplan despite verbal agreement to remove from the Application (during the Examiners' Site Inspection on 7 October 2025).
12. **Minerals and Waste.** Oxford County Council (OCC) are still in disagreement with the Applicant regarding these issues.
13. **Acquisition of roadside verges.** This is another unresolved disagreement between the Applicant and the OCC

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

Roger and Dianne Parker

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Interested Party Registration No: [REDACTED]