

Simon Raywood

From: Marc Eisenstadt [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2026 20:27
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm (EN010147): Response to invitation to comment of 4 September 2026, IP ref [REDACTED]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary of State,
Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147
Interested Party Reference: [REDACTED]

I write in response to your letter of 4 September 2026 inviting comments on the Applicant's late response to the request for further information. I share your disappointment that the Applicant failed to meet the deadline. This has caused further delay and required Interested Parties to respond yet again.

I support the Stop Botley West campaign and fully endorse its submission of 16 July [C2-161]. Having considered the late submissions, I remain of the view that the Application is irretrievably flawed. Too many questions are unanswered, and the Applicant continues to defer important decisions until after consent, when they will be beyond public scrutiny and challenge.

The late submissions illustrate this clearly. The new outline Residential Visual Amenity Plan [C1-108] and Masterplan revision 5 [C1-111] reduce the default buffer from homes to 100m. The Examining Authority recommended 250m, and the Applicant's own masterplan of 9 June [C1-051] showed it. The amended Requirement 15 then makes 100m the starting point, with no transparent test of when a larger buffer would be "needed."

As a retired professor of Cognitive Science, I would expect a claim to be supported by evidence before it is accepted, not afterwards. In this case the evidence is still missing.

The late submissions also leave long-standing concerns unresolved, including harm to the setting of the Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site, flood risk to Cassington and nearby communities, and the loss of productive farmland.

I fully accept that the nation needs more clean electricity, but an application with this many unanswered questions is not a sound way to provide it.

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

Yours faithfully,
(Prof) Marc Eisenstadt
Interested Party Reference: [REDACTED]