

Simon Raywood

From: Tanya Barlow [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2026 11:05
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

Categories: SoS Consultation 3, HEO

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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 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.

Main concern:

- The introduction of an "outline Residential Visual Amenity Plan" (oRAP) [C1-108] and new Masterplan revision 5 [C1-111] 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 [C1-051] "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.

Key unresolved issues:

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. **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
4. **Ecology and Bio-diversity net Gain.** Arboricultural impact assessment still not done. Skylark compensation strategy unworkable.
5. **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.

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

Tanya Barlow

Interested Party registration number: [REDACTED]