

Simon Raywood

From: Lucy Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2026 12:28
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 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.

The following issues are of particular concern to me.

The great size and density of the proposed solar farm will destroy a well-loved, rural landscape into an unattractive, industrialised one. This will negatively impact local people, and those who visit the area as tourists – **tourism being a significant source of income for many businesses** in and around Woodstock and Bladon, and other villages close to the site. Blenheim is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and Sir Winston Churchill's grave is at St Martin's Church in Bladon.

The solar panel-filled fields and infrastructure, will **overwhelm the village communities** that it surrounds because it is so large.

In Bladon, the solar farm will be directly alongside:

- Bladon C of E Primary School (founded in 1858)
- Saint Martin's Church (a religious site dating back to the 11th or 12th century)
- Recreation Ground, only recently acquired
- Community Orchard
- Allotments
- Houses

Local Communities

Our villages are places where communities have grown over many, many years and people feel connected and proud of the areas surrounding them. The Bladon Recreation Ground has only recently been established. **It has sports facilities and play equipment and it is a space where people of all ages come together for social events throughout the year.** The proposed solar farm will be right alongside it, with its glass panels, fences, solar panels, CCTV cameras, power converters, and other hardware.

Views will be dominated by this as far as the eye can see. Alternatively, the fields and hills that we currently enjoy seeing from our houses or when we are out and about, will be closed-off from our view, behind new, tall hedging or trees, in an attempt to conceal the ugly infrastructure.

Public footpaths & wildlife

Public footpaths that criss-cross the fields will no longer have attractive views that give walkers a sense of well-being and calm. **They will be no more than our 'legal rights of way', edged with fences and security cameras.** A grim prospect. Wildlife forage, graze and hunt freely in the areas that are potentially to be developed. **During the process of construction of a solar farm, their territories and/or habitats will be destroyed.** When construction is complete, because of the fencing-off of huge areas, few animals will return. Many people will move away also, as they will no longer be able to enjoy any of the benefits that drew them to such a lovely location in the first place. All in all a depressing prospect.

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

Lucy Allen