

Simon Raywood

From: lesley sims [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2026 13:42
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: IP 20054910 Submission for 4th October

Dear Secretary of State,

I have been a resident of Kidlington for 25 years, and am a supporter of Stop Botley West. I am deeply disappointed by the way the applicant has played the system and deflected requests and obligations over the last four years.

PVDP have produced no evidence that they have ever installed a solar farm and the Japanese records for projects they sold on in that country support that. There is no track record.

They intend to sell but with as few strings attached as possible.

PINS documents warn that the Rochdale envelope approach *'should not be treated as a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the assessment'* but the recent submissions actually increase the decisions to be deferred, negating some previous undertakings.

They have avoided:

- Making changes to the red line after pulling back panels
- A Grampian clause on the proposed substation,
- An undertaking of 250m for buffer zones
- Meeting the ICOMOS requests in their Technical Reviews
- Setting out the proposed installation capacity
- Responding to the demonstrated issues of flooding

And many other issues listed in IP submissions

and PVDP has now put even more decisions into the dDCO, leaving responsibilities and costs with Local Authorities and local tax payers.

Furthermore the rigour of claims made by the developer does not bear scrutiny.

A. Compare the statement to the Secretary of State in the last untested submissions -
*"PVDP is also in advanced negotiations with Exeter College, Oxford, to supply renewable energy to their 100MW Frieze Farm Data Centre development. The site is 2 km from the project boundary and will comprise a data centre, laboratories, offices and a district heating scheme for neighbouring Kidlington. Exeter College has submitted a planning application to Cherwell DC. **The plan is for the project to use its solar generation and connection at Farmoor substation to supply all of Frieze Farm's electricity.**"*

Compared with the statement in the Oxford mail

A spokesperson for the developer said: "Any electricity that may be supplied directly to Frieze Farm remains subject to commercial agreement and would, in any event, account for **no more than 5 per cent** of the project's generation. **Oxford Mail**

The proposed 100MW Data Centre means it is capable of drawing on 100MW of power, averaging approximately 876,000 MWh per annum. The laboratories and wider infrastructure (including car charging points in a car park for 1800 vehicles) will increase the requirement. (If Botley West was to be a major supplier to a private undertaking, this would seriously undermine planning balance.)

B. Or the claims about installed capacity:

The applicant has submitted many different values for the installed capacity of the proposed development.

Early claims that the PVDP agreement with NESO meant that they would be contracted to supply 840MW were discounted by NESO, who stated that this was a maximum and a right not an obligation.

As Professor David Rogers has pointed out in his submission of 15 July 2026:

All twelve versions of The Guide to the Application state that the installed capacity ... is approximately 1307MWp; in contrast to the above the applicant elsewhere claims the original DCO stated the installed capacity would be 1422MWp (the various dDCOs have never stated the proposed installation capacity of BWSF). This IP has been unable to find the 1422MWp figure in any of the applicant's documents.

Regardless of a number of proposed changes to MWp values an output of 840Mwe is still claimed in the very last column ... of the Change Process Table in C1-087, even though this is associated with a dramatic fall in the 'installed capacity remaining'.

Many more assertions have been made that are incomplete, not correct, entirely subjective or a rewrite of history. What reliance can be put on their application?

In summary we don't know how much electricity would be produced from how many panels on how much green belt and BMV land. It would be connected to a substation built we don't know where, and electricity stored somewhere unknown. We don't know the provenance of the finance or the buyer who will build the project. There is no assurance on the long-term outcome and protection for the historical Blenheim Estate, and no financial arrangements for future waste disposal over the life of the project or the costs of decommissioning.

It would be disingenuous to think that the protection for any decisions relegated to the DCO could not be easily overcome. This application is not fit for purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sims

IP [REDACTED]