

Simon Raywood

From: Ruth Atherstone [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2026 21:47
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar proposal

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

I am deeply concerned that the applicants have been given yet another extension to strengthen their application. From the outset the applicants made clear that they assumed they would be successful and no objections raised by local communities, however valid, would be sufficient. In that vein of confidence they failed to answer many of the queries put to them or to meet your deadlines, not just once, but twice, and yet they have been granted more leeway. Their lack of efficiency and reliability is very problematic in a company undertaking such a project. They have already proved themselves untrustworthy and in this third attempt at sending in an application, there are many things they have still failed to do:

- They have not completed an arboricultural impact study.
- They have still not sorted mineral and waste issues with the OCC.
- Nor have they concluded discussions over roadside verges with the OCC.
- The landscape character assessment asked for by ICOMOS has not been done.
- They have not settled the issue of a decommissioning fund, a vital requirement to protect the communities negatively impacted by the proposed project.
- They have not addressed the issue of compensation to those communities which will be affected, first suggesting a laughable total sum and at some stage talking of offering a small discount on electricity bills, only for those who changed suppliers to a company they planned to set up. Their suggestion of an area for community food growing was ill-considered as it did not advantage anyone in the local community. Adequate compensation should be set at a national level and not left to the whim of the applicant.
- All these issues should be fully resolved before any consent of any kind is given.

In addition flood risk has not been seriously addressed, despite numerous reports submitted on the danger of flooding, in Cassington in particular. If this is ignored, what protections will be put in place to compensate communities if flooding does occur?

Furthermore the advice on buffers has also been ignored. A 250meter buffer has been recommended but the applicant is only guaranteeing 100meters. This is unacceptable. The negative impact on those properties abutting the site should be understood and a 250meter buffer should be mandated. Given the fact that there are currently enough applications waiting for grid connections to more than meet the nation's current projected needs, there is no justification for a project of this size, let alone for the grasping of meters of land so near to people's homes.

Given the applicants' lack of timely, careful and detailed consideration of the issues at stake, I would ask the Secretary of State to refuse a grant of a DCO for the Botley West Solar proposal.

Ruth Atherstone
Cassington resident