

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2026 17:47
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm

Interested Party Registration No. [REDACTED]

For the attention of the 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.

Despite the extension granted to the Applicant there remain many unresolved issues and I, therefore, fully endorse the comprehensive Stop Botley West 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.

I have attended each phase of public meetings where the only applicant representative was Mark Owen Lloyd supported by Consultants who had been engaged for the purpose. This made it difficult to gain an understanding of the ethos or intentions of the company. My overall impression has been clear that the intention is to gain maximum output and maximum control over the process and project.

Key points of concern:

The principal concern is 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.

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.

Heritage and Landscape. The Landscape Character Assessment requested by ICOMOS has not been undertaken and issues raised by ICOMOS remain unresolved.

National Grid Substation. Location still not decided, no planning Application yet submitted by NGET who say earliest connection date is Winter 2031. No clause in DCO to say BWSF build cannot start until substation has planning consent.

Viability. The Applicant has not justified its claim for a 935MW minimum 'economically viable' size for BWSF and rejected Oxfordshire Host Authority's proposals for a smaller installation.

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

It is not clear why output increases from 840MW to a 935MW as a requirement for viability in this latest submission.

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

Alan Townsend