

How and Why to register as an Interested Party

The screenshot shows the Planning Inspectorate website with the title 'Find a National Infrastructure Project'. A 'Beta' banner indicates it's a beta service. Navigation links include 'Home', 'All projects', and 'Detailed information'. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Project information', 'Documents', 'Register to have your say' (highlighted), 'Get updates', and 'Section 51 advice'. The main content area is for the 'Botley West Solar Farm' project, titled 'Register to have your say about a national infrastructure project'. It states: 'You are registering to have your say about the Botley West Solar Farm'. Below this, it says: 'Use this service to have your say about a national infrastructure project. We need your personal details and your comments about the Botley West Solar Farm.' At the bottom left, there is a 'Related guides' link.

In a nutshell - how to register.

1. Click the button above when you're ready to register and choose "Start now".
2. Once in the form, pick whether registering for yourself, an organisation or another person
3. Enter your name, address, phone number & email. Add your comments (your relevant representation) in a text box. There is no word limit.
4. Check and submit your registration. **Only names and comments are published**
5. You will receive a registration number. Keep it safe, you'll need to quote it in any future communication.

If you can - especially if you have a lot to say - compose your comments in a word processor then copy and paste them in. NB The text box will strip any line breaks or formatting so best to use numbers or stars for each new point.

The PINS Guidance says: (read in full here:

The relevant representation should include full details of the issues that you want to be considered, including evidence where necessary. This means that it should not just say 'I support' or 'I object' to the project. It should give detailed reasons for those views and should not just be an outline of the issues you want to raise.

General Advice:

- Give sufficient but succinct details about your concerns
- Factual evidence of any claims you make is especially valuable
- It's fine to mention the overbearing nature of the proposal over the whole area - especially from public viewpoints - but don't dwell only on the view from your own house.
- It's fine to talk about the economic impact on the whole area but not about loss of **your** house value (unless eg you've actually tried and failed to sell your house)
- Do not mention applicant's or landowner's' motives, personal conduct, greed or Russian funding!

Examples

✗ I object to the size

✓ I object to the size because of the overwhelming impact of so many adjacent fields, very close to my village of [], being covered in panels meaning every one of the footpaths that I use would be surrounded by panels and fencing. Hedgerows offered by the applicant in mitigation will simply turn paths into tunnels with no views.

✗ I object to the location

✓ The location is within the setting of a World Heritage Site, on good agricultural land, 75% of it in the Green Belt, in an area already prone to flooding, closely surrounded by 15 villages with nearly 11,000 properties within a mile of the site. Why has the applicant not offered more appropriate alternative?

The main issues of concern that people raised in the public consultations last year were:

- The lack of alternatives regarding the size and location of the site
- Over dominance due to scale, visibility and density of infrastructure
- The visual impact on the landscape/countryside
- The impact on local historical heritage including Blenheim Palace
- The ecological impact, wildlife, important trees and hedgerows
- The impact on agricultural use of the land and food production
- The impact on amenities for recreational activities such as footpaths for walking and other exercise, playgrounds and communal spaces
- Traffic and construction impacts (including cable trenching, noise, congestion)
- Danger due to proximity of Oxford Airport
- The impact on flood risk.
- The loss of Green Belt and important open spaces
- Noise disturbance, obtrusive lighting or other impacts on amenities

This list is not exhaustive but gives a clear idea of the sort of comments to include.

Why register?

After the relevant representation period

PINS will set the timetable for the examination itself. Once registered, you will be an Interested party and able to send any further comments through the 'Have your say' form on the project information page of the PINS website. You will need to give your interested party reference number.

SBW will send mailers round with a **direct link** to this form whenever there is a new instruction or deadline from PINS regarding examination topics. This is the easiest and most efficient way to make sure your additional comments are seen and considered by the Examining Authority.

So if you've not already getting mailers, please ask to do so today. On the [StopBotleyWest.com](https://www.stopbotleywest.com) Home page, select "Get regular Updates"



REMEMBER! THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING YOUR REGISTRATION IS 27th FEBRUARY 2025