



# EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: KATHERINE DOUGHTY,

VILLAGE HALL, 46 BACK LANE, EYNESHAM, OXFORDSHIRE OX29 4QW

Telephone: 07956 901622 Email: [epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) Web: [www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

The Planning Inspectorate

Sent by email – [BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

6 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

<b>Proposal</b>	Botley West Solar Farm – Photovoltaic Development Partners (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd
<b>Location</b>	1400 hectares across Oxfordshire - the 'Middle Section' is closest to Eynsham.
<b>EPC Response</b>	Strongly object

Eynsham Parish Council strongly objects to a solar farm development of this magnitude and locations in Oxfordshire.

## **Cumulative Effects and Inter-relationships (section 7.12)**

It is unclear whether the Scoping Report sufficiently addresses the cumulative impacts of the proposal when considering developments included in West Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan 2031 (and subsequent revisions). Please see Appendix A for details of proposed and existing developments that will/do impact on the residents of Eynsham and beyond.

Whilst a planning application for Salt Cross Garden Village (2200 homes) has been registered but is not yet determined, the majority of planning applications for West Eynsham Strategic Development Area (1000 homes) have not submitted and will therefore not be included in your Environmental Impact Assessment (7.12.2. refers). The Council consider that the cumulative effects of the Solar Farm proposal in conjunction with all the Strategic Development Areas and Strategic Locations for Growth contained in the Local Plan, should be scoped in.

## **Oxford Green Belt**

It is noted at 2.1.15 that the majority of the site is within Oxford Green Belt. The Council consider that this application is totally inappropriate as it will not preserve the openness or purposes of land contained within it. The application will cause an urbanising effect of the Green Belt and Public Rights of Way and will therefore cause substantial harm if approved. We call on the Planning Inspectorate to refuse this application as there are insufficient 'special circumstances' associated with it – it's scale and massing do not make it 'special', but rather wholly inappropriate.

## Human Health (section 7.10)

In consideration of the potential substantial impacts of the proposal to existing residents, it is recommended that comprehensive, location-specification, impact assessments of human health are scoped in. Assessments should scope in physical activity, housing, social participation, water quality/availability and the built environment. It seems that when considering human health, the applicants are considering the project workforce only as opposed to existing residents who will be impacted by the proposal. (There are c.11,000 residences within 1.5k of the proposal solar farm). It is suggested that bespoke human health surveys are required as part of the assessment (7.10.6. refers).

## Summary

It is not disputed that the Country needs to generate green energy and move away from fossil fuels, however this proposal seeks only to seize an opportunity to maximise profits for its landowners. Blenheim Palace appear to be gambling its World Heritage status by offering up its land for the proposal as opposed to the recommendation that it should protect it<sup>1</sup>.

PV panels should be mounted on all properties before taking agricultural land for growing food. The wholesale development of this scale is tantamount piracy of our natural environment, farmland, residential amenity and biodiversity. The proposal as it is currently designed, has such adverse impacts that it will significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits and is considered contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Katherine Doughty  
Clerk to the Council

CC Andrew Thomson, West Oxfordshire District Council

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO (2023) Blenheim Palace:- 'The integrity of the property is well protected by its enclosing wall but important visual links do exist between the gates, the parkland buildings, buildings in the surrounding villages and landscape, and care needs to be taken to ensure these key visual links are protected.' Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/425> Accessed: 04.07.2023.

