

To: Photo Volt Development Partners

By email to info@botleywest.co.uk

Re: Botley West Solar Power Station

We write in response to Preliminary Environmental Information Report for this project.

Our principal objection to the project is that it will result in the industrialisation – in all likelihood permanent – of a large portion of the Oxford Green Belt, particularly when taken together with the proposed Red House Farm and Cumnor Hill solar projects, which would also be located in our parish. This is contrary to the principle, set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), that the Green Belt should be kept permanently open. We do not believe that you have shown that there are 'very special circumstances' which would justify overriding that principle.

The project also conflicts with various other provisions of the NPPF, as well as the applicable Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan, concerning protected views, heritage, biodiversity, ecology, flood risk and drainage. More generally, it will inevitably have an enormous and negative impact on the lives of local residents in both the short-term and the long-term. The proposed level of community funding, at £50,000 per annum, is derisory and would merely add insult to injury.

At this stage, given the vagueness of the PEIR (notwithstanding its great length) with regard to many of these aspects, and in particular the 'very special circumstances' issue, we will refrain from commenting further, but will do so as and when your application to the Planning Inspectorate has been submitted.

Cumnor Parish Council, 6 February 2024