

Skeates, Stephen

From: Botley West Solar Farm
Sent: 17 August 2023 14:40
To: KSW Acorn Chambers
Cc: NI Enquiries; Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: RE: Botley West Solar Farm - Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Karen,

Many thanks for your below email, and my apologies for the delay in issuing a response to you.

The Proposed Development is currently at the Pre-application stage of the Planning Act 2008 process. At this stage of the process, the way in which the Proposed Development aligns with the criteria for qualifying as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as set out at sections 14 and 15 – 30A of the Planning Act 2008, is for the developer to consider as it develops and refines its proposals. The Planning Inspectorate is not able to adopt a formal view on such matters until an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) has been received from the developer and a decision has been made as to whether it should be accepted for Examination.

The Planning Inspectorate may issue advice to developers and others during the Pre-application stage about applying for a DCO or making representations about a current or proposed DCO application, however this is entirely dependent on the nature of any advice sought by those parties. Advice that is issued under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 in respect of the Botley West Solar Farm project, including records of any pre-application meetings held between the developer and the Planning Inspectorate, will be published where appropriate on the 's51 advice' tab on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

Moreover, I note the concerns you have raised in your original email dated 3 July 2023 relating to understanding and assessing local impacts. Please note that if the proposed DCO application is accepted for Examination, the appointed Examining Authority will invite relevant local authorities to submit Local Impact Reports (LIR) by a given deadline as part of the Examination process. Please refer to the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports](#) for further information about LIRs.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to continue to raise your concerns with the developer, as it is important that the developer is made aware of such comments at the Pre-application stage to enable it to consider the points raised before finalising the proposals and submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

I hope you find this information helpful, however if you have any queries regarding the Planning Act 2008 process or how to engage with it, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning Inspectorate's Botley West Solar Farm Case Team using the contact details at the bottom of this email.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our [Information Charter](#) which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Kind regards



The Planning
Inspectorate

Botley West Solar Farm Project Case Team

National Infrastructure Planning

The Planning Inspectorate

Helpline: 0303 444 5000

Email: BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk



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From: KSW Acorn Chambers [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 July 2023 11:00

To: Botley West Solar Farm <BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>; Jones, Hefin [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; White, Chris [REDACTED]

Cc: NI Enquiries <NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Botley West Solar Farm - Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire

Dear Simon – thank you for your reply. However, it does not address the key issue I was highlighting; a fundamental unfairness is created and incorporated into the PINs process if the fact that Botley West Solar Farm is THREE NSIPs is ignored.

It is to be hoped that even at the Pre-Application Stage, PINs engages with its' obligations of due process. To attempt to rectify such a fundamental flaw at a later stage risks exposing the Planning Inspectorate to ministerial concern.

The issue my query highlights is that disaggregation of the BW proposal must be seen to be considered at the earliest possible stage so that vast amounts of time and money (public and private) are not squandered by commencing the process incorrectly.

Please note that whilst you indicate our comments should be directed to the applicants, they have refused to engage or respond to our comments made to date. This is of course in breach of the guidance.

I look forward to receiving a more substantive response from your office at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Squibb-Williams

Chair - Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire

M: [REDACTED]

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KAREN SQUIBB-WILLIAMS
REGISTERED BARRISTER

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From: Botley West Solar Farm <BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 17 July 2023 at 10:48
To: KSW Acorn Chambers [REDACTED]
Cc: "White, Chris" [REDACTED], "Jones, Hefin" [REDACTED], NI Enquiries <NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>, Botley West Solar Farm <BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Botley West Solar Farm - Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire

Dear Ms Squibb-Williams,

Thank you for your email.

Currently, we are in the Scoping Process at the Pre-Application Stage and are consulting with identified consultees in line with the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations (2009) for this stage. The Scoping Opinion will be published by the Inspectorate on or before 26 July 2023 on the National Infrastructure Website here: [Botley West Solar Farm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

You may find that our [Advice Notes](#) including the [Advice Note 8 suite](#) are of use in becoming familiar with the Development Consent Order Application Process. Any comments you want to make at this point should be with the Applicant. Contact information for the Applicant can be found on the [Botley West Solar Farm Project Page](#) on the National Infrastructure Website. It is also possible for you to sign up to email updates for this case on the Project Page of the National Infrastructure Website.

Kind regards,

Simon



The Planning
Inspectorate

**Simon Raywood | Case Manager – National Infrastructure
(NSIP Reform)**
The Planning Inspectorate



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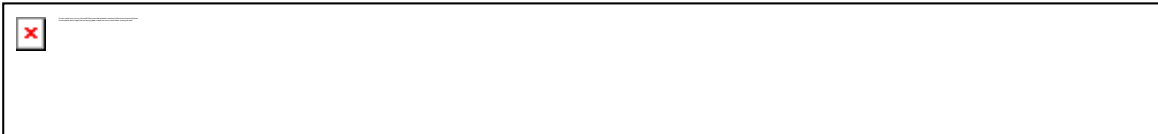
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DPC:76616c646f72



From: KSW Acorn Chambers [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2023 17:33
To: White, Chris [REDACTED]; Jones, Hefin [REDACTED]; NI Enquiries <NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Botley West Solar Farm - Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire
Importance: High

Dear Mr White and Mr Jones,

Re: Botley West Solar Farm (BWSF) National Infrastructure Project.

I understand you are the Operations Lead and Operations Manager (respectively) for the NSIP Planning Inspectorate Office, for National Infrastructure and Energy.

I am the Chair for the Oxfordshire residents' group which objects to this scheme and has adopted the name "Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire" (SBW).; we were mandated in December 2023, with charitable status pending approval. We have approximately 1850 signed up members and a total of around 55,000 residents across the three key sites which would be impacted by this scheme in Oxfordshire.

Please be aware that SBW intends to register as an Rule 6 /"Interested Party" in the DCO process for this project, in due course. We further intend to be legally and professionally represented.

However, at this stage we wish to make a strategically important point in respect of the Scoping Report recently published (15th June 2023)by the Applicants' consultants.

Although described by the Applicants as one scheme, in land use terms this proposal clearly comprises 3 distinct geographical areas. Each of these 3 elements of the proposals will impact on different groups of residents and businesses, different types of built and natural environment and sit within 3 separate Local Authorities, following different strategies, through different plans and policies (albeit through one 'host' authority).

In order for the Inspectors (and, ultimately, the Secretary of State) to understand fully the detailed impacts of the applicants' proposals and hear them being properly debated with those affected and our elected representatives, we believe they need to be described for each of the three areas of the proposals and then aggregated.

The impression given by the Scoping Report is that the Environmental Statement will only provide the aggregated impacts. This would require all other participants to disaggregate these impacts in order to understand and assess the local impacts.

As well as being unfair to the three Local Authorities and local objectors with their limited resources, it would, inevitably waste considerable amounts of pre-Inquiry and Inquiry time trying to separate out the local impacts if they are not detailed in the EIA.

The onus and obligation should be on the Applicants to provide this basic information. Simply providing the aggregated data would give them an unfair advantage. We request the Inspectorate consider this inappropriate inequality and explore advising the Applicants accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Karen Squibb-Williams
Chair - Stop Botley West campaign, Oxfordshire
M: [REDACTED]
www.stopbotleywest.com



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