

# Planning

Head of Service: Adrian Duffield



Peter Gerstmann – Managing Director  
Photovolt Development Partners

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25 July 2024

**Ref: P24/V1325/3PC**

Dear Peter Gerstmann,

## **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008.**

**At: Botley West Solar Farm**

**(Targeted Consultation 14 June to 28 July 2024).**

### ***Introduction***

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 2024, received 14 June 2024 in relation to a formal targeted consultation for Botley West Solar Farm.

This is the response of the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) to the Statutory Consultation and notification pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 to this targeted consultation for the NSIP project for the Botley West Solar Farm, a large solar farm to the west of Oxford within the districts of West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, and Vale of White Horse.

In compiling this response, VWHDC has had regard to the Botley West Targeted Consultation Information Change Note and the Botley West Solar Farm Targeted Consultation Site Location and Order Limits Plan.

For clarity, the following comments relate only to those development proposals within the administrative boundary of Vale of White Horse District Council and are based on the proposal as currently submitted.

### ***Comments on targeted consultation***

VWHDC welcomes the change made at location 50 to reduce the number of cable routes and to avoid adverse impacts on areas of species rich grassland. VWHDC has no comment to make on the other red line changes listed at locations 51 to 57 within its boundary.

VWHDC however wishes to express its disappointment that a proposed document to present the updated design proposals and explain changes and refinements made in response to the second phase of consultation (February 2024) is not included with this round of consultation.

***Summary and Recommendations***

This letter forms the Vale of White Horse District Council's response to your statutory consultation and notification pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

Our comments made previously regarding the proposal, in February 2024, remain to be addressed. As such, whilst VWHDC raise no objection in principle to solar farm development, it cannot support the proposal for the following reasons:

- The case for Very Special Circumstances to develop land in the Oxford Green Belt with inappropriate development has yet to be satisfactorily demonstrated.
- There is concern on the loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land within the Vale.
- There is significant concern the scale of the proposal will lead to harmful landscape impacts that outweigh any benefits of the proposed development.
- The proposal currently provides little benefit to the local community.

A copy of our previous response is appended.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Walker  
Major Applications Team Leader