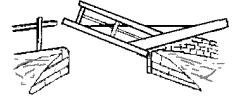




Shipton-on-Cherwell & Thrupp Parish Council



22, Exeter Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2DY

Tel: 07831119533 / 01865 842464

Chairman: Cllr Ian Wylie
Clerk: Mrs Sarah Kearney

Reply to: The Clerk
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8th February 2024

Response from Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp Parish Council to Consultation on Botley West Solar Farm

The Parish Council supports, in principle, the development of non-carbon energy generation as essential in the fight to reverse the impact of climate change. We also acknowledge that our locality must be involved in the decarbonising of our energy supply. We have studied the Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet and attended an online presentation by the directors of PVDP. We make the following comments:

1. We remain concerned about the overall size of the proposals, which is disproportionate to the local environment and infrastructure, particularly taking into account the very significant planned developments west and north of Oxford.
2. We wish to see evidence of measures that will be taken to reduce the visual impact of the solar farm.
3. We welcome the proposed 70% net biodiversity gain (BNG) but, without detailed measures and monitoring, we remain concerned about how will be achieved. The University of Oxford has a world-leading research group (see reference below) focused on BNG and we strongly advise inviting them to participate in the design and monitoring of the BNG actions to be undertaken.
Ref: Rampling, E. E., Ermgassen, S. O. S. E. zu, Hawkins, I. & Bull, J. W. (2023) Achieving biodiversity net gain by addressing governance gaps underpinning ecological compensation policies. *Conserv. Biol.* (2023) doi:10.1111/cobi.14198. [10.1111/cobi.14198](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14198)
<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.14198>
4. We welcome the increase to 15m of distance from ancient woodland and note that Weaveley Furze, ancient parish woodland, with common-law rights that date back centuries, must be included in the 15m measure.
5. We believe it is important that all land used by PVDP for the solar farm remains designated as greenfield land and is not designated brownfield land for subsequent development for other uses.

Kind regards
Shipton-On-Cherwell & Thrupp Parish Council