

23 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Proposed Changes to the Botley West Solar Farm DCO Application**

I am writing to you regarding proposed changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Botley West Solar Farm (the Project).

The Applicant submitted its application for a DCO on 15 November 2024. This application was accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 13 December 2024, and the Examination subsequently commenced on 13 May 2025.

Following the submission and acceptance of the DCO Application, Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd (the Applicant) has continued to engage with affected landowners and key stakeholders. This has informed a series of changes the Applicant is proposing to make to the DCO application. These changes are intended to, amongst other things, alleviate concerns in relation to potential environmental impacts and reduce land take where suitable alternative proposals are available.

The Applicant has also used this as an opportunity to further refine some minor extents of land falling within the Order Limits that, upon further design refinement in relation to the proposed layout of the Project, are no longer considered necessary. The Applicant is also proposing other scheme refinements that have become available as a result of the other refinements which are being sought in response to stakeholder feedback. These refinements will be included in full as part of the Change Application.

The changes will be formally sought by the Applicant by submitting a Change Application to the Examining Authority. The Applicant intends to submit this Change Application in September 2025. At this stage we are seeking feedback from relevant consultees prior to submitting this Change Application.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of these proposed changes and your opportunity to comment on them ahead of a Change Application being formally submitted to the Examining Authority. This letter explains how you can find out more information about the proposed changes and how to provide any feedback you may have. We are asking for feedback to be submitted on or before Friday 22 August 2025.

## **About the Project**

The Application is for development consent to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a capacity of 840 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.

Botley West Solar Farm is considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project due to the amount of renewable electricity it would generate. This means that – in order to be



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consented – it will require a DCO from the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, under the Planning Act 2008.

The Project will accommodate ground mounted PV generating stations (incorporating solar arrays); grid connection infrastructure; cable route corridors; accesses and environmental mitigation and enhancement measures. It extends from an area of land in the north, situated between the A4260 and the Dorn River Valley near Tackley and Wootton (Northern Site Area), through a central section, situated broadly between Bladon and Cassington (Central Site Area), and connecting to a section further south near to Farmoor Reservoir and north of Cumnor (Southern Site Area), where the Project will connect to the National Grid transmission network.

### **Proposed changes to the DCO Application**

As set out in the Applicant's Change Request 2 Notification **[REP2-045]**, the proposed changes include:

1. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to reduce the solar installation area south-west of Bladon, and removal of solar arrays on land south-east of Bladon and north of Heath Lane;
2. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to reduce the solar installation area near to Oxford airport;
3. Refinement of Project layout and design to reposition the main Project substation as shown on Sheet 13b of the Works Plans **[AS-005]**;
4. Refinement of Project layout and design to reduce solar installation on land east of Lower Road;
5. Refinement of Project layout and design to remove installation areas overlapping with Flood Zones 2 and 3;
6. Refinement of Project layout and design to include an additional installation area within Southern Site;
7. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to remove small parcels of land owned by Oxfordshire County Council (Estates);
8. Refinement of Project layout and design to reposition the Public Rights of Way currently proposed to be stopped up and diverted back to definitive alignment;
9. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to remove an area of land along Wharf Road;
10. Clarification of the role of the community educational facility; and
11. Refinement of Project layout and design to secure the latest design parameters for the new National Grid substation.

Please find enclosed a Site Location Plan showing the location of the Project and the newly proposed Order Limits that would exist if the Change Application is accepted by the Examining Authority.



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## How to find out more information and respond to this consultation

An Explanatory Note has been published to provide more details on these proposed changes, including annotated plans to present their location and scale.

The Explanatory Note can be accessed in the Document Library page of the Botley West Solar Farm Project website: [botleywest.co.uk/document\\_library.html](http://botleywest.co.uk/document_library.html)

Questions regarding these proposed changes can be asked of the Applicant's Project team using the contact details below.

Any feedback on these proposed changes should be provided to Applicant on or before **Friday 22 August 2025**. Following this period, the Applicant will finalise its proposed changes having regard to comments received. The Applicant will then submit a formal Change Application to the Examining Authority which, if granted, would amend the DCO application in accordance with the changes proposed. The Examination of the DCO application would then proceed with the revised Order Limits (as shown on the enclosed Site Location Plan) and other minor amendments that are proposed.

Feedback can be provided by:

- Emailing: [info@botleywest.co.uk](mailto:info@botleywest.co.uk)
- Writing to: FREEPOST BWSF

Feedback is requested in writing, however you can also contact the Applicant's Project team to discuss any questions by calling 0808 175 3085.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Christopher Lecointe

(On behalf of the Applicant)

Photovolt Development Partners GmbH (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd.



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