

Botley West DCO Timetable - February 2025

| DCO Stage | Action | Developer's Indicative Timetable | Actual / Expected Timetable | Notes |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Pre-Application Stage | Scoping Report submitted to PINS | Winter 2022/23 | 15 June 2023 (Actual) | The developer submitted their Scoping Request to PINS. WODC had until 13 July to respond to the Scoping Report, before PINS issued a Scoping Opinion to the developer. WODC responded to the Scoping Report consultation on 12 July 2023. PINS issued their Scoping Opinion on 24 July 2023 |
| | Consultation with Host Authorities on draft statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) | Winter 2022/23 | July / August 2023 (Actual) | WODC was consulted about the contents of the SoCC and was given 28 days to respond. The SoCC sets out how, when, where and with whom the developer will consult on their detailed proposals for the Botley West Solar Farm. WODC issued a response to the SoCC on 14 August 2023 |
| | Phase 2 consultation on Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) | Spring 2023 | 30 November 2023 – 8 February 2024 (Actual) | Developer undertook detailed consultation on their proposals including design, mitigation and cable routes. Consultation focussed on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which provided details of the likely significant impacts of the development in relation to a number of themes including heritage, ecology and landscape. WODC submitted a response on 7 February 2024 |
| | Further focussed statutory consultation | June / July 2024 | 14 June – 9 August 2024 (Actual) | Proposals have been refined following earlier rounds of consultation. This has resulted in a series of specific amendments to the proposed red line boundary for the project – both increases and decreases – compared to the project boundary presented in the PEIR and for Phase Two consultation. The Applicant is preparing to undertake a further statutory consultation targeted on specific increases to the proposed red line boundary for the project. This is in the region of 60 changes. WODC submitted a response 9 August 2024 |
| | Further focussed statutory consultation | August – September 2024 | August – September 2024 (Actual) | The Applicant undertook a further targeted consultation in relation to a specific change made to its proposals located within the Central Site. WODC submitted a response on 13 September 2024 |
| Acceptance Stage | The application is formally submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, who have 28 days to determine whether an application can proceed to Examination. | Winter 2023 | 13 December 2024 (Actual) | WODC submitted an 'Adequacy of Consultation Representation' on 29 November 2024 |

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| Pre-Examination Stage | The applicant will publicise that application has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate – They will explain how and when parties can get involved in the Examination process. An Inspector will be appointed and preliminary meetings take place | 2024 | TBC (No fixed timetable but approximately 3-5 months expected) Early 2025 | <p>The applicant publicised that the application had been accepted for examination on 7 January 2025.</p> <p>The deadline for the submission of Relevant Representations is 27 February 2025</p> <p>WODC will be required to respond to the invitation to the preliminary meeting as the host authority</p> <p>WODC will consider the draft Examination timetable and provide comments if necessary</p> <p>Interested parties to attend preliminary meeting</p> <p>WODC will continue preparation of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG), Local Impact Report (LIR) and written representations</p> <p>Prepare for Examination including engaging legal and specialist support</p> <p>Continue negotiations with developer</p> |
| Examination Stage | | 2024 | Spring 2025 (Expected) | <p>6 month Examination (Maximum)</p> <p>Submit LIR and SoCG and written representation early in Examination</p> <p>Attend and participate in hearings and accompanied site visits as necessary</p> |
| Recommendation | Planning Inspectorate submit recommendation to Secretary of State for final decision on whether to grant consent. | Early 2025 | TBC | |
| Post Decision | Six weeks for legal challenge | TBC | TBC | <p>Discharge of requirements and monitoring</p> <p>Enforcement</p> <p>Responding to notifications – non material and material change applications</p> |