

Simon Raywood

From: Frances Platt [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2026 14:20
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Objection to the Botley West Solar Farm Application

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary of State,

I wish to reiterate my objection to the Botley West Solar Farm application.

My principal concern is not simply opposition to the scheme itself, but that the Applicant has still failed to provide sufficient, reliable evidence for a fair and lawful assessment of whether the claimed benefits outweigh the significant harms.

Despite repeated requests during the examination, key assessments and supporting evidence remain incomplete or inadequate. Important matters, including residential visual amenity, environmental mitigation, wildlife protection, flooding impacts and the final buffer distances for affected homes, are either unresolved or deferred until after any Development Consent Order is granted. This would remove meaningful public scrutiny from decisions that should be made before consent is given.

I am also concerned by the uncertainty surrounding the proposed grid connection and substation, where the Applicant's timetable appears inconsistent with National Grid's published expectations. In addition, there remain unresolved concerns regarding airport safety, flood risk, the impact on a UNSECO world heritage sites environment and the effectiveness of proposed environmental mitigation measures.

The Applicant requested additional time to complete this work, which was refused, yet the missing information has still not been provided. In these circumstances, I do not believe the Secretary of State has sufficient evidence on which to make a balanced and lawful decision.

The application should therefore be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Prof Frances M Platt

OX29 [REDACTED]