

Simon Raywood

From: sam hall [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2026 11:19
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Botley west

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Dear Secretary of State

I am particularly concerned about the above development part of which has been planned in the Filchampstead valley where we live.

We have lived here for over 25 years and in that time flooding has gone from a very rare event to our property being flooded 5 times in one year. This has been in part due to climate change, but also development with the subsequent increased runoff.

Evidence suggests that solar panel farms increase the risk of flooding and the construction of a Botley West development in the valley will undoubtedly exacerbate this problem. Photovolt Development Partners has not shown sufficient mitigation measures in their application to prevent the situation from worsening. I urge you to read our local councils (Cumnor Parish) extensive response to the development especially the part regarding Flood risk.

Flooding aside I would also like to point out that it is inappropriate development for the area which is on Green Belt land. Surely solar panel farms should be sited near areas which have already been developed. Alongside motorways or busy dual carriageways where noise pollution is already blighting the environment would be a good alternative.

Another less intrusive alternative (and certainly less likely to exacerbate flooding) would be a wind farm.

I would like to end by referring to your recent speech at the Labour Party conference where you state "What type of country will our children inherit? " In our case it would appear to be one covered in solar panels. Not only has the huge Botley West development been applied for in our valley, but we also have the Red House Farm solar panel application which is currently with the planning inspectorate.

The flood risk associated with these two developments on land already in flood zones 2 and 3 doesn't bear thinking about. Who do I come to when our house floods even more frequently than recent years, the developer who built it, or the Secretary of State who approved it? Again I quote from your recent speech " we have a duty to protect our communities."

Regards

Sam Hall
Sent from my iPad