

[REDACTED]

Professor Keith Gull CBE DSc(Hon) FRS FMedSci

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The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
The Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero.

3rd October 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM (BWSF). I am in full support of the Parish Council's documents and submissions.

There have been numerous points raised in the processes of the past years and the response from the company can only be described as inadequate. Major issues such as flooding, quality of the environment to be lost, lack of possible mitigation because of the present inadequate road/sewerage infrastructure and destruction of greenbelt/green field environment next to the internationally acclaimed city of Oxford are just a few of the issues.

The plan itself is faulty, it ignores huge amounts of evidence on flooding and infrastructure inadequacies. Moreover, the planning and consultation process has shown that the companies involved have responded in a totally inadequate manner to the evidence that residents, expert advisors and the parish council have provided. Responses have ignored factual points made and there has been a continued unwillingness to gather primary data or conduct critical surveys at particular timings.

Since I last wrote to object some of the issues have become even more evident:

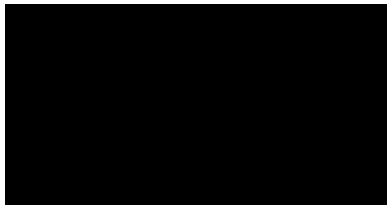
1. The first of these is the flood plain that this site encompasses. I, and others, have provided long term evidence of flooding in this Cumnor/Farmoor area. I attach another PDF document that shows the flooding that occurred throughout the winter of 2025/26. This complements evidence I have sent for previous years. Flooding is a constant feature of this site over decades and is getting worse.
 2. Any argument that this flooding could be mitigated by improvements to infrastructure is just false. The infrastructures in the plan are totally inadequate. The drainage system in the area of the plan is already overloaded. My house and garden, which is actually on higher ground than the development, has been flooded by sewage because the drainage system in the surrounding area has not been maintained by Thames Water. Direct evidence of the state of the drainage and water infrastructure on the actual site can be found by a series of major floods caused directly adjacent to Farmoor Reservoir this summer. This is precisely in the area of the proposed development. These pipe failures and leaks led to flooding of roads and adjacent fields to depths of several metres and led to extended road closures. These were widely evidenced:
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

3. The responses from the company to these issues, which were raised at the very first meetings, have been to ignore the evidence.

4. In a similar manner the assessments conducted of the value of these sites as territory for wildlife especially protected raptor species such as Buzzard, Hobby, Red Kite, Sparrow Hawk, and Kestrel are inadequate.
5. Engagement of the developers with the community has been inadequate such that specific issues cannot be raised face to face with them and responses gained and challenged.
6. Finally, this proposed area contains well used footpaths, recreational areas for local residents and those living in Oxford. It is a natural green-belt of good agricultural land that links Oxford to the area of recreation at the Farmoor Reservoir site. A judgement that allowed a company speculation to turn green field and agricultural land into industrial brown-field sites (hence enhancing land values and enabling decades ahead future industrial planning) would be a national tragedy.
7. I would ask you to look at the evidence on why this site is so inadequate. There are plenty of existing brown-field sites for such developments. However, it might also be useful to ask yourself this question....if such a development were needed in this location and could be returned to green-field purposes decades hence – why are the developers not interested in a plan whereby the community would gain in a massive financial settlement if that was not to happen? The answer, I and others, believe is that this is not about electricity generation on this site but long-term conversion to other uses and financial upgrading of land values in the proximity of Oxford. None of this benefits the local community or the nation.

I hope that you will take a specific interest in these issues.

Yours sincerely,



16th January 2026



Flooding of Valley between Farmoor and Cumnor 2026

7th February 2026



7th February 2026



16th February 2026



13th March 2026

