

In my submission dated 7 January 2026 I expressed concern about the risk of flooding due to increased runoff from the proposed solar panels.

As an example, on Sunday 24 November 2024 the area of Sherston where I live suffered particularly significant flooding from excessive surface runoff down Bustlers Hill and Thompson Hill. The main source of runoff on Bustlers Hill is along the Foxley Road from the northern boundary of the Limesdown A site. I attach images of the resulting surface flooding across the River Avon bridge at the junction with Tanners Hill in Sherston. I believe that there is growing evidence that weather events such as Storm 'Bert' may become more frequent and intense in the future.

Having listened to the hydrology section of Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) I have greatly increased concern about these risks. It was apparent from the evidence given that a minimum of 80% grass cover is essential to limit runoff from the proposed solar panels.

During ISH5 the applicants seemed to give the impression that the process of establishing this ground cover is a quantifiable and predictable process not unlike other forms of construction and can be implemented as and when required. Further evidence showed that the planting will need to be scheduled at periods during the year which are suitable for planting, germination and growth. This process will also be heavily weather dependant for successful development of vegetation.

Observation of agricultural methods demonstrates that any crop planting is carried out by mechanical seed drills covering wide areas in large open fields of tilled and prepared soils. Once panel installation is complete it seems highly likely that the soil will be heavily compacted by construction machinery and the panel areas will be heavily obstructed by the panels themselves together with cables, inverters and other infrastructure. I am concerned that seeding on the scale required cannot be carried out effectively and may be haphazard and only partially viable.

Common sense dictates that vegetation must be in place to protect against runoff as soon as the panels are installed but this seems most unlikely. This is the reason for my increased concerns regarding the risk of increased flooding during and after construction.







STOP
LIME
DOWN