



Hearing Transcript

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Project: | Lime Down Solar Farm Project |
| Hearing: | Transcript of Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) - Part 3 |
| Date: | 21 April 2026 |

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

It is not a verbatim text of what was said at the above hearing. The content was produced using artificial intelligence voice to text software. It may, therefore, include errors and should be assumed to be unedited.

The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:11:00 - 00:00:21:11

Hello everybody. We are 425 and we are resuming this open floor hearing. So can I ask everyone to please take their seats?

00:00:34:00 - 00:00:38:21

Complete people, please take their seats and have some quiet in the room.

00:00:42:18 - 00:00:43:18

Thank you.

00:00:46:15 - 00:01:02:02

So next on the list to speak. Fiona. Gypsy, Alex. Frost, Richard. Skeffington, John. Oglesby, Martin. Smith, Richard. Langley, Philip Davie and.

00:01:04:05 - 00:01:07:14

Tony McKelvie and Helen King, please.

00:01:10:16 - 00:01:11:26

I can't see the timer.

00:01:21:18 - 00:01:25:22

Thank you. I'll just wait for everyone to take their seats.

00:01:34:24 - 00:01:40:08

Perfect. So, Fiona, please, you have three minutes and your time starts now. Thank you.

00:01:40:18 - 00:02:11:21

For almost 20 years, I have lived on the edge of Churston site A within the AoNB. I have walked out daily since I moved here. First with the three Wheeler buggy, now with my dog. For me, my walks are a time of quiet reflection when I remove myself from the daily stresses of life, I listen to birdsong, look for wildlife, and watch the trees and fields as they change throughout the seasons. Recently, I have enjoyed looking at the bluebells, spotting a hare and seeing skylarks, as well as the more common deer, kites and finches.

00:02:12:04 - 00:02:46:24

All of this brings me joy. I have to keep moving to ensure my continued mobility and independence. IDPs proposals impact directly on the footpaths I use and the views that I look at specifically. Eastern grey one. Justin 1112, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 35 and 37. All of these footpaths lead directly from the AoNB. They are included in the Churston Walks booklet and so are enjoyed by both locals and visitors to the Cotswolds. I will not be the only one not wishing to walk these footpaths, either during or after the construction period.

00:02:46:28 - 00:03:17:22

In fact, seeing the natural beauty being destroyed and replaced by an industrial landscape will be of serious detriment to my mental health and my quality of life. IGP admits that tree and hedge scaping will take years to grow up and hide the enormous 4.5 4.5m high panels, conversion units and substations. Their images indicate that footpaths that today I enjoy for their peace and tranquility will, in certain places, such as the extension of Commonwealth Lane, feel like a high security fence tunnel.

00:03:18:08 - 00:03:55:24

Moreover, if trees were ever to grow high enough to shield the panels and infrastructure, they would de facto obscure the beautiful views. Fields along the Fosse Way will be dug up for cabling, whilst one end will also be destroyed and used as an extra long vehicle. Turning point. The Fosse Way is an ancient heritage site with lovely delicate verges. Damage to any part of it should not be allowed, let alone almost one and a half acres. This area is also where families and elderly people part enjoy a flat and safe walk. I would like to draw your specific attention to the field of Churston 15, which is on the boundary of the AoNB and affords stunning views of Charleston church tower.

00:03:56:04 - 00:04:28:15

Whilst no longer designated as a site for panels, this field and its neighbour are still in its wickedly retained within the industrial site plan. These fields are used by hundreds of skylarks, a species of conservation concern. I am worried that keeping the fields within the site allows for a future change of use, as it will no longer be designated as cultural land. I am kept awake at night fretting at what will happen to our footpaths and countryside if the project were allowed to go ahead. I honestly don't know how I'd cope with the reality. This proposal is not going to be a temporary hindrance.

00:04:28:17 - 00:04:42:04

Indeed, the life of the project is a human lifespan. The landscape will be changed forever and the birdsong replaced by industrial buzzing, even after the banging from the construction has stopped. There will be no joy for me from walking my local footpaths.

00:04:44:03 - 00:04:45:09

Thank you very much.

00:04:47:10 - 00:05:04:15

Mr. chips, are you mentioned? A Churston Walks booklet? Did you submit that as part of your relevant rep? Because if you didn't. Could you please submit it at deadline one eight? We'll issue it in an action. Thank you. Okay, so our next speaker is Alex Frost, please.

00:05:05:03 - 00:05:36:11

Good enough. Good afternoon. I'm speaking on behalf of a working stud farm that would end up being a small island of green fields surrounded by the proposed site. Most immediately, areas A, B, and C, we strongly object a line down. While today I'm referring to specifically to racehorse breeding, lying down engulfs the entire badminton area, home to equine ventures of all kinds, and hosts the well-attended Horse trials, the most well-attended horse trials in the UK, with over 200,000 people attending each year.

00:05:36:23 - 00:06:15:22

Critical for both our local economy and reputation as a leading global equine centre. Our business turnover is well over 1 million, but like many stud farms, margins are extremely tight and we struggle to break even. Indeed, with the government's recent tax changes, we are due to report a loss this year and like so many rural businesses, we remain very vulnerable to further negative shocks. Our state depends on a quiet, stable environment essential for successful bloodstock breeding. Research shows horses are highly sensitive to noise, with stress responses including elevated heart rate and cortisol.

00:06:16:03 - 00:06:48:06

A peer reviewed study found around 22% of horses show significant noise anxiety behaviors, including agitation and flight responses. These stress effects can be prolonged, meaning even low level continuous noise has lasting impact. In breeding terms, stress reduces conception rates, increases risk during pregnancy and foaling, and puts mares and foals at risk of injury. Earlier this year, we had an injury to a member of our team as a result of noise from traffic.

00:06:48:27 - 00:07:22:25

Silence is not an optional. It underpins whether our business can function. Industrial noise from this development, especially when it comes to the construction phase, is fundamentally incompatible with a stud and the safety of those we are so fortunate to employ. Glinting glare from panels has been well discussed today. Reflected light can startle horses from creating unpredictable and dangerous behaviour, particularly in breeding stock and young animals. Our state is reliant on the bridle ways for educating young horses that travel the proposed live down site.

00:07:25:03 - 00:08:01:11

Our stud supports a wider rural network. Vets, farriers, feed suppliers, racing yards and contract farmers. This area is internationally recognised through the nearby escort stud, famous for housing the family of Frankel, arguably the greatest horse of all time. If breeding operations are compromised, the impact extends well beyond our own business. Battery storage introduces a credible fire risk. We are also very concerned by the impact of water contamination. We have repeatedly asked developer Macquarie IGP to visit and assess these risks firsthand.

00:08:01:21 - 00:08:25:16

They've declined every time. They have not spoken to any local vet. In conclusion, this proposal threatens a financially fragile but vital rural business our staff, our animals and a wider equestrian economy. We respectfully ask these impacts are fully recognised and the application is refused. Thank you for this opportunity.

00:08:29:25 - 00:08:32:12

Thank you. Richard Skeffington, please.

00:08:33:17 - 00:08:35:22

I'm Richard Skeffington.

00:08:39:03 - 00:09:16:03

I'm Richard Skeffington, I'm a retired professor of environmental science from the University of Reading and resident of Houston. But before I was an academic life, I spent 20 plus years as an

environmental scientist in the electricity industry, assessing the environmental effects of power generation and trying to work out ways to mediate them. I never came across anything quite so destructive as lying down. What I could obviously talk about a lot of aspects, but I'm concerned to concentrate on the science of flooding.

00:09:16:05 - 00:09:48:09

You've heard a lot of flooding about flooding now lying down, so I've made an assessment. They've had a flood risk assessment as they required to do, and they without the panels, the um, the environment in the same state as it is, they assess the risk of flooding as a negligible to low. Well, from what you've heard today, this came as a great surprise to the local community. With the panels, the risk is still negligible to low.

00:09:48:28 - 00:10:25:10

How could they get these things so wrong? You have to read a lot of detailed documents to find out. And one reason is that The Fray are sort of overwhelmingly concerned with protecting their own assets. If there's a panel in an area that's meant to be flooded, they move it to higher ground and so forth. There's little or no consideration of the people who live on site. Drive through it, ride through it, walk through it. And there's no consideration of the people who live downstream on the River Avon who the scheme, in my opinion, also puts at risk.

00:10:26:19 - 00:11:00:09

Now the the planning guidance document, the overarching document, the N-1, lists 23 requirements for a minimal flood risk assessment. In my view, the applicant's Fra only meets six of them, but they did do some science. They have modeled the response to extreme rainfall of the small rivers that cross site, and the model shows that flooding would be devastating. Their conclusion was that flood risk was negligible.

00:11:01:11 - 00:11:38:28

If they don't explain how they come to this and there's more science to consider, the panels, um, they increase the deposition of water to small areas of ground because water falls off the bottom edge. The increase factor is somewhere between 6 and 10 fold. Um, in this case, though. However, they're going to use giant panels, which will make this even worse. And they claim that it will have no effect. And the only thing they cite to support this is a 13 year old untested model from the USA.

00:11:39:22 - 00:11:56:07

Well, a lot more could be said. But I just want to conclude by saying that science doesn't support the applicant's conclusions. The phrase inadequate, the methodologies outdated, and the consequences for people outside are unexamined. Thank you.

00:12:01:07 - 00:12:08:11

Thank you, Mr. Skeffington. So moving on to John Oglesby, please. You have three minutes.

00:12:08:16 - 00:12:40:07

Thank you. My name is Doctor John Oglesby. I'm speaking on behalf of myself and my wife, Jane. It's 120 years now. We've lived just south of Houston, in an area that would be surrounded on three sides by lying down area A, like almost all people living locally, we're strongly against the scheme.

Once the natural environment is destroyed, it's gone forever. This is not just about people living, working, running businesses and visiting today. We are the custodians of this special environment for generations to come. Be that visitors or residents.

00:12:41:05 - 00:13:15:01

This proposal will quite evidently destroy countryside. Heritage, landscapes and ecosystems across miles and miles of precious natural environment. Having lived here for decades, we know there's a wealth of indigenous local wildlife that massively enriches our lives the hare, deer, insects, the diverse birdlife including skylarks, the nets, crossbill, lapwings, also the raptors, the barn owls, the buzzards, the kites which had a majestic presence soaring over the fields and next to our house. The argument that biodiversity can be increased with solar here doesn't stack up.

00:13:15:06 - 00:13:48:07

We already have rich specialist farmland inhabitants habits, habitats supporting species that are recognised as being in national rapid decline. These habitats must be protected. London would be the end of the spectacular murmur, as we see over large stubble fields of area eight each winter. Our footpaths, bridleways, cycleways would all be massively degraded. The whole ambience of the environment would be impacted. We make use of the local footpaths on a daily basis, from walking the dog to taking photographs of the beautiful landscapes and wildlife, to visiting local pubs.

00:13:48:09 - 00:14:19:29

Who wants to walk pathways fenced in on both sides by security fencing, maybe with security cameras. Jane enjoys cycling. The local roads offer majestic views across heritage countryside. London would turn those into, at best, tunnels of screening hedges, but more likely brownfield industrial landscape of plastic and metal and 4.5m solar panels to the seven metre tall transformers of the electricity substation that's located within a few hundred metres of our home. This proposal would permanently deface land of considerable natural beauty and historical significance.

00:14:20:01 - 00:14:54:02

It would destroy attractiveness for tourism and impact struggling local businesses such as pubs, hotels and B&Bs, and not just during the most disruptive years of construction, but permanently. I expect our two local pubs that we frequent would not survive London is likely to destroy the heart of our local communities. Our lives have been placed on hold since the London nightmare surfaced. Having planned to spend our retirement living in this currently peaceful environment, now all our future plans are thrown into disarray. This has been a living nightmare for months, which would continue for years if the project is approved.

00:14:54:21 - 00:15:27:06

The existing infrastructure supports the light traffic of our rural communities. We feel relatively safe using local roads and cyclists and back when our children are riding horses. London would mean hundreds of HGVs a day over the years of construction. This would damage the roads and make them unsafe for us. The additional heavy lorry traffic will create congestion. More potholes, damaged verges. Many local roads are already prone to flooding and will be exacerbated with the runoff from the fields. Both will make our commutes down towards the M4 significantly more dangerous and also risk damaging our vehicles.

00:15:27:18 - 00:15:45:29

North Wilts is a very special place in historic English countryside and deserves Protecting it is only the prospect of financial gain that has perversely led to miles and miles of countryside, rich in wildlife and unspoilt for literally hundreds of years, being inappropriately targeted for massive scale industrial development.

00:15:47:07 - 00:15:48:01

Thank you.

00:15:52:01 - 00:15:55:13

I'd like to go on to Martin Smith, please.

00:15:56:00 - 00:15:57:05

Good afternoon everyone.

00:15:57:07 - 00:16:30:17

I'm Councillor Martin Smith, Wiltshire councillor for the Sheraton Division, cabinet member for highways and transport and a board member of the Cotswold National Landscape. I represent the area of Wiltshire most impacted by this project. Let me start with something I hope we can all agree on. We do need renewable energy. And let me be clear our local community is not saying no to solar. We're saying yes. Yes to solar that is sensitive in scale, smart in setting, and sympathetic to surroundings. Yes to solar that works with communities, not against them.

00:16:30:19 - 00:17:00:23

and yes to so that protects the very landscapes that climate action seeks to preserve. Here in Wiltshire, we're prepared to do our bit. In 2023, there were already 42 solar farms across the county, with 12 more in development. This figure has undoubtedly increased since then, but Lyme down and its cumulative impact is unlike anything that's come before, and it will fundamentally and forever change the character of this area. People love this area because of its stunning and unspoilt natural beauty.

00:17:00:25 - 00:17:38:00

It's why tourists in their thousands choose to visit each year, and why so many of us are proud to call it home. But Lyme Dam threatens to transform this picture perfect Paradise into a mechanical maze. The peace and quiet of rural life replaced by the ceaseless clang and hum of electrical machinery. The proposed development is so vast it will take half an hour to drive from one side to the other. I know I do it all the time. and the sea of black glass will be visible from most of our roads, many of our rural footpaths, and from within the Cotswold National Landscape.

00:17:38:03 - 00:18:12:09

But it's not just the aesthetics of it that concern me. It's the logistics, too. We've, we've we've estimated that nearly 60,000 HGV movements will be needed to install the panels and another 13,000 to construct the cable route. Anyone who's driven through this area will know that our narrow country lanes, with their twists and bends, are utterly unsuitable for the size of vehicle or level of traffic. The applicant knows this, which is why they plan to change the road layouts in so many places. As cabinet member for highways, I've seen what happens when road closures and traffic are poorly managed.

00:18:12:12 - 00:18:46:02

Local roads are quickly brought to a standstill. Roads in areas like this are lifelines connecting our rural communities to the wider world, to schools, workplaces, hospitals and other vital services. I could say a lot more, but let me end by saying this. Yes, we need renewable energy, but we must do it responsibly and intelligently. Because if we get this wrong, we won't just damage landscapes, we'll damage livelihoods with damaged communities and damaged trust in the very transition we're trying to achieve.

00:18:46:04 - 00:18:47:17

So thank you for listening.

00:18:52:29 - 00:19:02:19

Councillor Smith, you suggested that I'm not sure if it's you or the council that have estimated 60,000 HGV movements. I wonder if you could just clarify.

00:19:04:20 - 00:19:08:18

Yes. The independent consultant that Stop Lime Down have

00:19:10:13 - 00:19:12:18

used, who has come up with those numbers.

00:19:13:07 - 00:19:21:09

And will stop lying down. I'm assuming you're speaking on behalf of stop and I'm down. Be submitting that as evidence into the examination.

00:19:21:21 - 00:19:22:24

Yes, yes.

00:19:23:25 - 00:19:31:07

Thank you very much. Okay, so on to our next speaker. Uh, Richard Langley, please.

00:19:32:11 - 00:19:33:08

Sorry. On the road?

00:19:34:11 - 00:19:38:12

No. Not here. Um. Philip. Davie.

00:19:38:14 - 00:20:17:11

Yes, sir. Thank you. Okay. Thank you. Uh. Good afternoon. My name is Philip Davie, and I live in the village of Leigh Delamere. This sits approximately three miles to the south of the Lyme Down development. But it is also less than half a mile from the new 220 acre solar farm at Leigh Delamere and just two miles from the new 210 acre solar farm on the edge of Kingston, Saint Michael. So the planning issue I wish to address is cumulative impact, in particular the impact of the development on the landscape and visual appearance of the area within the relevant zone of influence, taken in combination with other solar and battery storage development in the area.

00:20:17:19 - 00:20:50:11

The line down application comes at a time when this area of North Wiltshire is subject to a Proliferation and concentration of new solar and related development. This is reflected in the developer's own evidence on cumulative impact that appears in its environmental impact statement. There is a short list of developments set out in the final chapter of 21, being developments for which planning permission has been granted, which are still at various stages of construction. These are all developments deemed capable of having a cumulative impact.

00:20:50:13 - 00:21:25:17

It lists 38 developments of various types, and of these, 25 or 64% relate exclusively to new solar or battery storage facilities and related infrastructure. I should stress at this point that the shortlist does not include reference to any existing solar or battery storage development in the area. That is to say, developments completed and already in operation. This is unfortunate. The overarching legislation that covers the contents of environmental impact statements makes clear that regard should be added had to both existing and approved development in the area.

00:21:26:03 - 00:22:05:00

The shortlist is therefore misleading, as it doesn't present a true and accurate picture of the concentration of all solar and regulated development in the area. The developer's conclusions on cumulative impact, so far as it relates to landscape, is that the clustering of these developments within the zone of influence is not an issue. Why? To paraphrase, because you can't see one development from another what is known as the inter visibility test, but nowhere in the overarching legislation, nor in the guidance notes, as it state the inter visibility is the sole and exclusive determinant of cumulative impact.

00:22:05:11 - 00:22:41:23

The proliferation and concentration of so much solar development within what is a relatively confined geographical area should be a matter of profound concern. The size and scale of the lime dam development is surely a tipping point. The impact on the landscape and visual appearance of this area of north Wiltshire would be profound. I would therefore conclude by urging the Inspectorate to closely interrogate and scrutinise the conclusions presented by the developer on the cumulative impact of this development on any reasonable examination.

00:22:41:25 - 00:22:50:00

They appear technically flawed, materially misleading and are of questionable objective value. Thank you.

00:22:56:00 - 00:22:57:05

Thank you very much.

00:22:59:09 - 00:23:01:26

Now we have Tony McKelvie, please.

00:23:01:28 - 00:23:32:14

Thank you. I'm Tony McKelvie. I'm a historian, the author of a detailed study of Malmesbury Abbey in the Middle Ages. I wish to comment on the environmental submissions relating to landscape,

archaeology and heritage. These submissions are flawed both in methodology and findings. The impact assessment is framed by the artificial construct of the five lime domed sub sites. The applicant fails to consider a holistic impact assessment based instead on a consideration of the likely damage to the quality and integrity of the whole historic landscape of that part of Wiltshire that lies between Malmesbury and Chippenham.

00:23:32:16 - 00:24:25:08

It is this distinctive, ancient and fragile rural environment that will be harmed massively by the intrusion of great swathes of solar panel. The area is above all agricultural in character and has been so for over 5000 years. The long barrows in Lockington are monuments built by Neolithic farmers who introduced agriculture to North Wiltshire in around 3000 BC. This was the beginning of a remarkable story of an evolving agricultural landscape, shaped and reshaped by subsequent generations of local people. Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and modern local people and it is this beautiful and productive landscape created over five millennia, that the lime Brown project will catastrophically harm the level of heritage damage in covering farmland with solar panels can not be measured simply by a calculation that there are no designated heritage assets within particular fields.

00:24:25:10 - 00:25:01:27

There's a bigger picture. These are fields that were tended by the Bronze Age people who built round barrows at Foxley. These are fields that fed the Roman town at Eastern Grey on the Fosse. At College Farm there was the Saxon royal Estate centre, where produce from these fields was gathered and stored. Land in four of the five sites belonged to Malmesbury Abbey, and was farmed by the monks for hundreds of years. The produce of these fields supported the religious and intellectual life of one of the most important monasteries in medieval England. Much of the Battle of Justin 1016 was fought across the lime, down A, B and C sites.

00:25:01:29 - 00:25:36:27

The applicant's comments on the battle are ill informed. They state that this battle possibly involved Canute, King of Denmark. No serious medieval historian questions the fact that Canute indisputably came to Houston down the Fosse Way and was ambushed by Edmund Ironside, leading to a major battle fought over two days across nearby fields. And this is just one of many examples of the national significance of the nearby section of the Fosse. To conclude the line down, proposals consider old buildings and monuments as if they were isolated.

00:25:36:29 - 00:26:08:28

Islands of heritage are not part of a rich, interconnected historic landscape. The proposed lime down fields currently knit together this important landscape and constitute an essential part of the historic setting for the heritage assets. The solar panel intrusions will make a complex, multi-layered landscape much less coherent and cohesive in heritage terms. In downplaying this issue, the applicant completely fails to evaluate properly the highly damaging synergistic effect of the proposed changes.

00:26:09:00 - 00:26:09:24

Thank you.

00:26:16:13 - 00:26:19:21

Thank you. Helen King, please.

00:26:20:21 - 00:26:57:14

Good afternoon. My name is Helen King, and I've lived and worked in Malmesbury for 40 years. I'm here to object to the lime and solar park proposal. I support renewable energy, but believe this is a wrong project and poses significant threats to the ecology and countryside in our area. The safety, health and wellbeing of our community and the local economy. I'll elaborate on the last few points as the first one has been dealt with by many others. I am dismayed by the negative impact this industrial scale project will inevitably have on the local open countryside that I hold dear.

00:26:57:21 - 00:27:31:04

I rely on walking and cycling the lanes and footpaths which fall within the the project's area. I live with cancer, and access to nature in this calm and peaceful environment is very important for both my physical and mental well-being. If covered in acres of 4.5m solar panels and high industrial style fencing, the countryside would no longer feel like a natural environment. I will feel its loss keenly, as will very many local residents and visitors alike.

00:27:31:21 - 00:28:04:22

Construction, traffic and local traffic. Avoiding the construction areas travelling the narrow, winding roads will pose significantly increased risk of harm to all users. It will also push increased traffic through Malmesbury, a historic town. Which roads date back? Roads layouts date back to the Saxon times are already at capacity. Many of the main routes through Malmesbury, such as Abbey road, Gloucester Road and Bristol Street, are narrow with narrow pavements.

00:28:04:24 - 00:28:40:21

Vehicle vehicles find it hard to negotiate these roads and pose potential dangers to pedestrians, as has been highlighted by residents many times. The project will only compound these issues. Finally, tourism is a cornerstone of our local economy. Having worked as a tourism officer, I know people come to this part of Wiltshire specifically for the open countryside. The heritage, walking and cycling opportunities offered. Many explore the Wiltshire cycle route, the historic Fosse Way and the North Wessex Way.

00:28:41:00 - 00:28:44:03

Parts of which fall within the projects.

00:28:46:12 - 00:29:16:15

Um, if this project precedes the experience of peace, nature and open views will be gone. Ask yourself, would you choose to spend a holiday cycling or walking on lanes dominated by construction vehicles, or walking between acres of tall solar panels and industrial fencing? When the visitor experience degrades, visitors will stop coming. The cafes, pubs, shops and businesses that rely on their custom will suffer for all the reasons stated.

00:29:16:17 - 00:29:40:26

This project asks our community to bear a significant cost and what do we get in return? The benefits flow elsewhere. The energy is not for us. The profits will not stay in our community. They will go to

an overseas corporation. In summary, I believe this industrial scale project will be to the significant detriment of our community. It is a wrong project in the wrong place. Thank you.

00:29:44:21 - 00:29:56:21

Mrs. King, before you leave the table, you referenced three roads. You said Abbey road. Was it road or road? And then you said Gloucester Street. Sorry.

00:29:56:23 - 00:29:57:21

Abbey row, row.

00:29:58:10 - 00:30:01:07

Row W you said Gloucester Street. Gloucester road.

00:30:01:14 - 00:30:02:03

That should have.

00:30:02:05 - 00:30:04:13

Said. And there was the third one I didn't get at all.

00:30:04:15 - 00:30:05:20

And Bristol Street.

00:30:05:22 - 00:30:12:26

Bristol Thank you. Thank you to all the speakers. You can return to the floor, please. And then I'll call up the next date. Thank you.

00:30:42:10 - 00:30:59:28

Okay, so the next speakers, please. Tracy Wooster, Sean McGee, Elizabeth Threlfall, Sue Godwin, Jody Collier, Charles Buchan against Buchan, Isabel Ross and Nicholas Clark, please.

00:31:27:08 - 00:31:40:12

Okay. We've got one empty seat at the table. I'm not sure who's missing. So if I go when I come through the speakers, then we'll work out who's not there. So. Tracy Worcester first, please. Tracy's at the table.

00:31:40:16 - 00:32:19:04

I'm Tracy Worcester, a neighbour from badminton who for over 35 years has walked and ridden in these fields and cycled these quiet lanes in currently unspoilt, breathtakingly beautiful countryside. Though reducing the size of panels from a double decker bus size of 4.5m to three metres could be less imposing. Whatever the height, the 2000 solar panels were fundamentally changed. The character of the area replacing open countryside with shining black panels, high metal security fencing and a constant mind numbing noise.

00:32:19:13 - 00:32:50:04

Tourists will no longer frequent this beautiful area and thereby the local town and village shops, pubs, hotels and Airbnbs will be deprived of customers. Therefore, the local economy will suffer. I am also

deeply concerned about the long term environmental impact. Where will the hundreds of thousands of panels go when they need renewing, both during and at the end of the 60 year project? Current recycling options are limited, and the applicant has not provided a clear or credible plan for how this volume of waste will be managed.

00:32:50:08 - 00:33:31:01

Also, how will we ensure our soil and water are protected when the plastic in miles of plastic coated cabling buried in the soil degrades into micro and nano plastics that will enter the food chain. The lanes are narrow, and so during construction, increased traffic and heavy duty equipment will bring hideous noise disruption and damage to buildings, ancient hedgerows and verges, home to wildlife and biodiversity. Just one example is that researchers have found that solar panels can act like sensory traps for bats, as they mimic the echolocation signature of water.

00:33:31:08 - 00:34:07:15

This illusion can alter bat behavior, leading to reduced activity and habitat avoidance. There is also what is known as fragmentation effect, the breaking up of connections between bat habitats. Large solar arrays can create barriers that disrupt how bats forage and commute across the landscape, effectively fragmenting their habitat. This isn't just about energy, it's about depriving locals of food growing land have destroyed communities and the long term consequences of decisions made today on future generations.

00:34:07:17 - 00:34:14:05

I urge you to take the impact seriously and say no to this extremely unpopular project. Thank you.

00:34:22:23 - 00:34:24:10

You mentioned a couple of.

00:34:24:12 - 00:34:41:26

I think it was perhaps it was two studies regarding the bats about fragmentation of habitat and bats potentially mistaking the panels for bodies of water. Could you submit those studies into the examination, please? By deadline. One at deadline money? Yeah. Thank you.

00:34:44:06 - 00:34:46:20

Okay. Mr. Sean McGee, please.

00:34:48:26 - 00:35:21:16

Thank you. I strongly object to this project. Lime dawn solar farm should not be approved. I retired over 20 years ago to a small hamlet outside Charleston. My wife and I work walk almost every day. One of our favorite walks is along the Frost's way. At the heart of the proposed array of solar panels. The solar park would prevent us walking in the area, as well as damaging the landscape, and is an important part of our national heritage.

00:35:22:17 - 00:36:02:28

I spent most of my career in development finance, so I'm familiar with large infrastructure projects. Having listened to the submissions today and read many of the written submissions, I think I should probably sit down and go home because I think we've heard quite enough to convince any reasonable

panel, which I'm sure you all are, that you should turn down this proposal. But I would not note to talk more about the actual proposal, because that's been well covered, but about something just as important, which is the sponsors and promoters of the Lime Dome.

00:36:03:00 - 00:36:38:03

This, as I'm sure you are well aware, is Macquarie and you will have seen with some horror the channel four television programme Dirty Business, all about how Macquarie destroyed Thames Water. There was a record after that there was a record fine of £20 million for improper treatment of sewage. The judge called it a shocking and disgraceful set of affairs and there has been inadequate investment, diabolical management and poor maintenance.

00:36:39:08 - 00:37:14:26

I should like to mention the following facts. When Macquarie acquired Thames, it took out a £5.8 billion loan to finance the purchase. Before leaving Thames, Macquarie transferred this £2 million debt to Tams in contravention of the terms laid down by the regulator with a devastating effect on Thames, is already poor financial position. My main point is how on earth should, heaven forbid, this project go ahead? You can control a predator like Macquarie.

00:37:15:05 - 00:37:46:08

Um, there would probably need to be a substantial performance bond. And one of the points that has been mentioned is what happens on completion of the project. And I think there should be a plan for Macquarie. How are they going to deal with it? And again, there should be a meaningful bond to ensure that they perform that. So in conclusion, the Thames Water failed because of poor regulation. But that was only a contributory factor.

00:37:46:10 - 00:37:56:29

It was Macquarie and I don't think you should approve this project and I would just be intrigued, intrigued you to turn down. Lying down now. Thank you.

00:38:03:09 - 00:38:04:23

Thank you, Mr. McGee.

00:38:06:11 - 00:38:14:22

I'll move on now to Elizabeth Threlfall. And maybe Elizabeth is the gap. Okay, so Sue Godwin. Yeah, please. Hi.

00:38:14:24 - 00:38:49:20

My name is. My name is Sue Godwin. I have a master of science. I'm a vice chairman of the Lexington Eldritch and Parish Council, and I'm a farmer's daughter. And I've lived in Lexington all my life. I drove the corn trailers for my father and brother, and the land in those areas produce plenty of corn. And it's something that should be stressed is food production. Mister Hawker number one spoke of the importance of local food and local local food production, and it is fundamental to our existence and our, um, existence.

00:38:49:24 - 00:39:21:24

Um, and equally, uh, one of the big, uh, promoters of the lime down lords would always boasted how much corn their land produced and would ring up and tell dad that they've got real good yields. And so I know, hand on heart, that all those fields produced very good quality and very good yields. And they can't say that they didn't. They just in the last few years the land has been allowed to be, um, not tilled and not, not nurtured as it should be for food production and as it has to be.

00:39:21:26 - 00:39:56:15

My brother farms next door of the proposed site and reneged on the proposition. And he drains and nurtures his fields and has very, very good food production. Um, I have migrated into horse business, and my horses won't be able to ride along the roads in the Alderton area. Uh, my clients have 20 horses, and my clients will not be happy riding along the roads with the lorries. We've just had a fatality two weeks ago in the area and it was very sad and unnecessarily.

00:39:56:17 - 00:40:27:21

Um, my blacksmith on about employment, the blacksmith and my own staff and the vets are all going to be, um, out of business. Uh, it should be said also that the good to moderate ground on the panel area, 63% of good to moderate ground used and the good to moderate ground of the cable route is 93%. And that's on the ALC areas of solar PV panels, sites.

00:40:27:23 - 00:41:01:11

And, um, then on the aquifer, I own, um, the woodland where the Bristol Avon Rise starts and the aquifer pumps in to when the water is low, pumped in 2 million gallons a day, when the water is low and it goes down the river and it goes to ship to Moyne, which is then pumped to to Magna which supplies Bristol and I believe part of bath but certainly does Bristol water and and it's a very important and fundamental part. Ship to it passes through ship to mill or ship to mill and that's our flour and that's our food source.

00:41:01:13 - 00:41:11:08

And um, I'm going to say what a legacy for those families are going to leave that are proposing this site. And thank you very much.

00:41:17:18 - 00:41:21:00

Thank you, Mrs. Godwin. Jodie Collier, please.

00:41:23:26 - 00:41:59:29

My name is Jodie Collier. I'm a local resident and I am employed as a gatekeeper. It is very important to me that my perspective is heard for me and my family. I object to the Lyme down proposal because my whole life and my job is rooted in a big area of that land, of the land that could be affected if the scheme gets the go ahead. I was brought up in Littleton and I still live locally and I work in Lavington. The land around here is my home. The fields, footpaths and views aren't just the landscape, they are part of me and my family and the value I contribute to the local area.

00:42:00:01 - 00:42:33:18

This is where I work and walk daily. 25% of the farm I work on is covered by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The land I gamekeeper is directly affected by the cable route. Since 2013 I have supplementary fed wild birds. Since then there has been a dramatic increase in yellowhammer, linnets,

skylarks, grey partridges to only name a few. There has also been a dramatic increase in the hare population. All of this makes my job even more rewarding. Lyme Down will destroy the safety and the freedom he currently has from his own home.

00:42:34:21 - 00:43:10:05

They call the scheme temporary, a lifetime potentially ruined for him. I am told he will consider a severance. Severance has two meanings. Can you quantify the severance of a childhood or a lifetime? This landscape is his childhood, his freedom walking, fishing in the local carp lakes, learning patience in the quiet, unspoilt countryside. When he leaves school, he wants to work on the land here as well as I do. Lime Dale wants to industrialize our countryside. Almost three years of construction chaos over hundreds of acres filled with massive panels and forming a 20 kilowatt cable route scar across our land.

00:43:11:03 - 00:43:42:11

The major pastimes around here are cycling, riding horses and walking. We have friends that travelled down from London specifically to escape the noise and the built up environment they live in. They come for the peace and the unspoilt countryside that has been created by farming over the hundreds of years. They also love this area. Big lorries and first traffic do not mix well with the major pastimes I mentioned. People are easily run over by cars, vans and lorries. This is why we use our country lanes and not use the main roads because they feel safe.

00:43:42:13 - 00:44:13:23

There will be a massive increase in the traffic. It will become dangerous as main roads making these pursuits impossible. I am not a lone voice. Last Saturday the 18th, there was a local community event held in Littleton. It was a farming based family fun day with over 3000 attending. It was amazing. Farmers families with children and dogs. Tractors, farm machinery and animals all together celebrating our rural way of life. Normal people fundraising to fight the Lyme down proposal. No one is against renewable energy.

00:44:13:25 - 00:44:42:15

There are loads of small solar installations in and around this immediate area, but people are against the industrialisation and deconstruction. Lastly, the proposed cable route slices through the best drive on my farm, which will become unsuitable during the construction period. This will have a big effect on my job and could result in me losing my livelihood, as I will not be able to run the job that I need to do. Please refuse this proposal. Let us keep our home. Our land and our way of life. Thank you.

00:44:46:18 - 00:45:03:16

Thank you, Mrs. Collier. You referenced the Countryside Stewardship Scheme on your farm. Is that affected by the proposals? Is any part of that land that's under the stewardship? Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much.

00:45:12:07 - 00:45:13:28

Charles Buchan, please.

00:45:15:12 - 00:45:48:22

My name is Edward Buchan. Charles is my first name. I use my third representing myself and my wife, Fiona Buchan. I've lived in Chesterton and now I live at Kington Langley, less than two miles from Lyme Down Solar. I lived in the area for most of my life. I know it very well. Generally, I support solar energy projects, but I'd like to make three points about the planning application, which I oppose. I'm talking in a personal capacity. Traffic Reference Access Plan app 010, sheet 18. I have recently become a governor of Stanton Saint Queenston Primary School.

00:45:49:03 - 00:46:19:04

The road which goes past Stanton Saint Quintin School, is a link road between Halton and the A4, A29 and junction 17 of the M4. It's used as a cut through. It's my belief that despite signage, no lime down solar access construction traffic heading east will. Instead of turning right at Littleton in order to access junction 18 of the M4, will turn left in order to save time and head towards junction 17 through Gritstone and Stanton Saint Quentin and go past the school gates.

00:46:19:11 - 00:46:36:29

The school is on a blind quarter corner. There is no off street parking traffic. There is already an issue, and it's my considerable concern, as the governor would designate a responsibility to help with health and safety. But it's not just a clear health and safety issue. The risk to parents and children. It's also a disincentive to parents to send their children to the school

00:46:38:17 - 00:47:13:17

hedgerows. Another thing I do in my retirement is amateur hedge laying. It's impressed on me the rich diversity of the hedgerows, and I'm deeply concerned by the impact the development will have on them. According to the Ecological Baseline Report, at 198 there are some 84km of species rich hedgerows. These are designated rightly habitats of principal importance. They are ecologically highly important, providing a sanctuary for biodiversity that open fields simply cannot offer. The actors wildlife corridors, allowing species like hedgehogs and dormice to move safely.

00:47:14:00 - 00:47:55:09

Removing, breaching or damaging hedgerows should be avoided at all costs, but the total length of hedgerows in the 30 pages on schedule 12 parts one and two of the Draft Development Consent Order App 016, titled hedgerows to be removed, qualified as to removal of part is 112km. That's the distance from here to Birmingham. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment report up to 73 claims at 12.31% increase in hedgerow units as a result of hedgerow creation and enhancement of existing ones, but ignores the fact that a lot of very ancient hedgerow will have been lost or breached and replaced with new hedgerow, which will take time to establish.

00:47:55:12 - 00:48:27:19

It is their age which is important. Many could have been planted with Inclosure Acts 200 to 250 years old. Older still, if on parish boundaries their age gives them their extraordinary biodiversity. Finally flawed design. I would contend the design of the proposal is flawed. When one looks at the plan of the project, one is struck by the fragmentary nature, five separate sites and the planting of solar panels and the disruption to the village communities. It's on such a scale it will not be in the landscape, but will be the landscape.

00:48:27:27 - 00:48:43:12

The 22 kilometre grid connection adds to the complexity and expense. Why on earth could the BS not be put next to the grid connection like it is at Monte, rather than close to the Londons, the Swansea mainline railway and a grade 1/15 century manor house?

00:48:43:23 - 00:48:45:00

That's three minutes.

00:48:45:16 - 00:48:59:11

The project would be very expensive. 1 billion. My background is in finance and it's an annual corporate finance. That capital must be rewarded. If this costly project happens, it will only add to the price of our energy, already the second highest in Europe. Thank you.

00:49:07:15 - 00:49:13:12

Okay. Last in this cohort, Isabel Ross. Thank you.

00:49:13:28 - 00:49:52:01

My name is Isabel Ross. I live at Park Farm near Yatton Canal. We are fourth generation farmers on the pathway of the cabling route. Indeed, it encircles our farmhouse. The impact of lime down on us and our lives will be dramatic. The 50 meter wide trench and roadway will come all the way through our farm, through our species rich meadows. Our farm enterprises that depend on our grasslands being productive will have to stop, leading to a loss of farm income of at least £20,000 per year.

00:49:52:04 - 00:50:22:27

We can't bear to stay to watch the destruction of a much loved fields. This is our home. It won't be bearable to continue living here while our farm is being ripped up. We'll have to leave. We farm rare breed sheep. The fields affected are our principal pastures. Aside from the visual, physical and emotional impact on our lives, our ability to keep our flock will be in jeopardy. You can't keep sheep on a construction site.

00:50:23:03 - 00:50:56:12

The constant noise, the large machinery will make our land unusable. And we may therefore have to cut off Loc by up to 80%. With the loss in grassland and digging a roadway through our fields will forever impact that land. You can't just recreate a 60 year old species rich meadow. When we sown, it will forever be full of weeds. We know because we had a water pipe installed through our field, and it has since been a line of poor grass, ducks and thistles.

00:50:57:03 - 00:51:31:05

And these aren't any old grass fields, but species rich fields that haven't been plowed since the Second World War. These grasslands hold a rich soil ecosystem, sequestering lots of carbon and holding thousands of liters of water. They are providing ecosystem services to us all, as well as holding the history of our family. It just doesn't make sense. The miles of cabling alone will wreak disrupt destruction on countless hectares of countryside.

00:51:31:07 - 00:51:41:11

It will come straight through our farm we have lived on for generations, ruining our home and the soils, the ecosystem and the viability of our farm.

00:51:47:25 - 00:51:51:15

Thank you very much, gentlemen. I don't believe we've heard from.

00:51:54:29 - 00:51:58:24

Do you want to introduce yourself, please? Thank you.

00:52:02:06 - 00:52:02:28

Okay.

00:52:03:10 - 00:52:05:06

Good afternoon. I'm Nicholas.

00:52:05:08 - 00:52:05:27

Clark.

00:52:05:29 - 00:52:14:15

I'm a professionally qualified civil engineer with over 45 years construction experience, including numerous highway infrastructure projects.

00:52:14:17 - 00:52:15:23

And I would like to.

00:52:15:25 - 00:52:16:16

Raise a number of.

00:52:16:18 - 00:52:17:09

Objections.

00:52:17:11 - 00:52:51:23

To the proposed development. Firstly, damage to the local highway infrastructure. The planned line down solar farm is located some distance from the existing primary road network, which runs north south along the A49 and east west along the A4 20, in order to access the site. Construction traffic will have to use many of the class B, class C and unclassified road network within Wiltshire. Minor, classified and unclassified C roads amount to some 80% of the highway network.

00:52:52:07 - 00:53:28:25

Why is this significant? Class C roads are used on a daily basis during the construction period. These are generally low standard rural roads suitable for local village traffic. They are not engineered for sustained industrial or construction scale heavy goods flows. C class roads are principally four to 5.5m wide, designed to facilitate 3 to 4000 HGV vehicles per year with limited passing provision, often using verges, farm gateways and informal widening.

00:53:29:11 - 00:54:05:12

The developer has stated that during peak periods there will be 522 way HGV movements per day. Based upon my experience, I believe this is a considerable underestimate and real numbers will be more likely triple that based upon the two year construction period and using the developer numbers. This equates to 13,000 HGV movements per year. That's four times the road design capacity and if my numbers are correct, up to 12 times that road capacity.

00:54:05:27 - 00:54:36:26

If approved at the end of the construction, a significant proportion of the class C network will have structurally failed and would need to be fully reconstructed. Surface patching, which is the usual form, would not be suitable. The proposal for only minor road upgrades is wholly inadequate. It should not be. Wiltshire Council and ultimately Wiltshire residents like ourselves that bear these costs. I'd like to move on to congestion.

00:54:37:00 - 00:54:59:13

If approved, an HGV leaving the A4 20 going to Churston via Yatton kennel would need up to ten sets of temporary traffic lights due to the existing road geometry and the limited passing places. This will add up to 30 minutes to each journey, time for each vehicle travelling both ways along that road.

00:55:01:02 - 00:55:31:14

Finally, looking at safety, the roads in and around the planned development are used extensively by motorists, cyclists and horse riders during weekends and more noticeably at weekends with limited road widths and sharp bends. The development would add a further dimension with more HGVs and associated construction vehicles, inevitably resulting in both minor and major accidents, of which there seems to be little to no documentation provided by the developer.

00:55:31:19 - 00:55:32:18

Thank you.

00:55:33:13 - 00:55:34:08

Thank you.

00:55:37:00 - 00:55:55:07

Thank you to all speakers. You can return to the floor, please, and I'll call the next few speakers before we go to the dinner break. So the next speakers, um, Philip Moore, Mark Horton, Paul Simmons, and Gavin Grant, please.

00:56:19:11 - 00:56:36:27

So we're missing one of the speakers. Can I just check with you, gentlemen? Philip Moore. Mark Horton. Nope. Paul Simmons and Gavin grant. Okay. Thank you. So, Philip. More, please.

00:56:37:26 - 00:57:07:26

Hello. My name's Phil Moore. Until late last year. A long term resident of the village of Churston, but now living in Cheltenham, but still a very active member of the stop mine down group. It's been a very long day, and I'd actually urge everyone here to do something slightly different for the next three minutes and look at Lyme down through the eyes of the so-called GDPR. These are the under eighteens who submitted relevant representations to the Planning Inspectorate.

00:57:07:28 - 00:57:42:17

They can't be named for legal reasons, but they probably represent the generation that stands to lose the most from this project. Reading through the 80 plus representations sent by these youngsters, I was struck by the sheer range of issues that like that, but by lying down that troubled the younger generation. And many were clearly from much younger children who were mainly concerned about the impact on wildlife and the countryside. But many were also from really very thoughtful older teenagers with an impressively mature grasp of the challenges posed by lying down.

00:57:42:21 - 00:58:17:02

One of these had just secured their first job on a farm, and was worried that this would be jeopardised by the loss of arable land. Another was about to start their driving lessons and was concerned about the damage that would be done to the local roads by the sheer weight of traffic during the construction period. There was one submission from a young equestrian who was worried about how their horse would be disoriented by the sunlight reflecting off the solar panels. One was from a history and classics student who was upset by the possible destruction of heritage assets across the affected area.

00:58:17:04 - 00:58:48:21

And another, which I think was my favourite, was from a schoolchild in Alderton who painstakingly listed 28 species of birds that they had identified in their garden, many of which this schoolchild feels will be endangered by the line down project. So we have their five teenagers, um, expressing intelligently and very personally concerns about the economy, traffic, glint and glare, heritage and biodiversity.

00:58:49:09 - 00:59:21:13

Another recurring theme, expressed both by the by the under eighteens and by many of their parents, was the irreversibility of the damage likely to be caused by the line down project, which I think others have touched on today. The recognition that once the bulldozing begins, there will be no opportunities for U-turns, no second chances, no reset button. As one under 18 said, my generation will live with the consequences of those decisions. That is exactly why I care so deeply about how and where developments like this will happen.

00:59:21:23 - 00:59:37:02

Another said if we damage ecosystems now, it's my generation that will inherit a poorer, quieter, emptier countryside. That would be a shameful bequest. Let's not make it ours. Thank you.

00:59:41:27 - 00:59:46:18

Thank you very much. Go back to my glasses. Paul Simons, please.

00:59:47:03 - 01:00:21:08

Hello. My name is Paul Simons. I'm actually support. Well, not supporting lying down. I work in the solar industry. There's a lot of things I've picked up on that have come out today, and I totally support everything that has been said by the local residents. The there's two big issues that I've got. Knowing the industry, knowing the people lying down is a big project. The other big project that has been through national infrastructure is Cleve Hill, which a lot of people have heard about that's owned by private equity partners.

01:00:21:19 - 01:00:54:15

The big issues they have there is workers, immigration enforcement and obviously deliveries. We will expect to see immigration issues on this site, for starters, which goes totally against what IGP have put in their submission of going to the job centers, recruiting local people, training them. It won't happen. You are looking at roughly 200 workers on site, and I will dispute the figures they've put down for the time frame.

01:00:54:26 - 01:01:21:13

I even speaking to a colleague of mine this morning on certain sites, we would be looking at 200 workers if they were doing a 250 megawatt site. It would be two years, 500 megawatt. You're looking at four years. You throw on top of that the deliveries, you are going to have pretty much the higher number of deliveries, I know. I've built 50 megawatt sites, 100 megawatt sites in this country

01:01:23:02 - 01:02:04:25

going down small roads. I've built projects in Cornwall. We've had issues with vehicles slamming into buildings because they're not designed for huge container trucks going in the with all of this, um, the next one I've got is the base bears issues, base fires, um, these reports that I'll be willing to submit to you, uh, was very involved in Carnegie Road, which is in Liverpool, uh, involved with the chief fire officers, um, the company I was working for, I submitted a whole load of recommendations that came out from the chief fire officers recommendations.

01:02:04:27 - 01:02:38:12

Some of them have been included, but the bulk of what I've seen in this submission, it does not include anything. And bear in mind. Carnegie Road had one bears container go up, and they were dousing that site for three days to cool down the rest of it. And that gives you the water outflow right across with lots of contaminants in. So there's an information I will be submitting, and hopefully you consider this whole project as a complete disaster.

01:02:44:06 - 01:02:52:07

Mr. Simmons, will you submit that at deadline one? A thank you very much, Gavin Grant, please.

01:02:53:05 - 01:03:30:25

Good afternoon, and thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to speak. My name is Gavin Grant and I am the Wiltshire Council cabinet member for finance. I am also the Wiltshire councillor for Malmesbury, a role that I've held since I was first elected to that delight in 2017. I have served on Malmesbury Town Council for the past 11 years and I'm a former mayor of Malmesbury. My family and I have lived in Malmesbury for 21 years, and my commitment to the long term well-being of my community and its people is both personal and long standing.

01:03:31:18 - 01:04:06:27

In addition to those responsibilities, I am an unpaid director of the Malmesbury Town Team, a not for profit community interest company established by a section 106 agreement upon the arrival of Waitrose on the edge of our town. The town team's mission is to promote our town and to safeguard the economic health of our town centre businesses. Our work supports local retailers, hospitality and service businesses as well as our key visitor attractions.

01:04:07:01 - 01:04:40:07

And it is from this combined perspective that I urge you to take a very close interest in the significant negative economic impacts that the proposed line down development will have on Malmesbury and of the other businesses made of which you've heard from today. In our rural economy, tourism is the cornerstone of our local economy. And I draw your attention to the submission signed off by the cabinet, of which I am a member of the Wiltshire Council.

01:04:40:09 - 01:05:18:16

Submission of evidence to you estimating the loss of revenue through tourism as a direct impact of lime, down of £1.8 million. Much of Malmesbury appeal lies in our rich history. We are the burial place of the first King of England, Athelstan, whose 11 hundredth anniversary of crowning took place last year, and our mayor walked from Malmesbury to Kingston, the location of Athelstan crowning, to mark that occasion. We are the proclaiming place of Saint Aldhelm, one of the Saxon saints commemorated in Salisbury Cathedral.

01:05:19:06 - 01:05:52:10

We are also the birthplace of Thomas Hobbes, who signed the Leviathan Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury, with a gateway to the edge of the Cotswolds national landscape and surrounded by magnificent countryside. Visitors are drawn to our area by that heritage, by the character of our town, the strength and diversity of its independent businesses, the sheer scale of nature and location of Lime Dam poses a catastrophic threat to our economy.

01:05:52:28 - 01:06:21:03

Let me conclude by saying this. You have not heard from NIMBYs here today. You have heard from well-informed, passionate and proud protectors of this unique part of England and its heritage. I urge you that all that I possess when you consider lying down, recognize it for the wanton act of vandalism that it truly is, and reject the application. Thank you.

01:06:29:25 - 01:06:52:01

Thank you to all our speakers so far. We will be adjourning for food and refreshments for 45 minutes. Um, so if we could come back. For anyone who wishes to still be here for the remaining speakers. After that, we will resume at 615.