



Hearing Transcript

Project:	Lime Down Solar Farm Project
Hearing:	Transcript of Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) - Part 4
Date:	21 April 2026

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:08:08 - 00:00:17:22

Okay. Good afternoon everyone. It is now 6:15 and we'll resume this open floor hearing.

00:00:19:21 - 00:00:42:23

So our next group of speakers, um, have requested to speak off camera. So they'll be speaking from the back corner. So if I could invite, uh, we have three, three speakers, um, Helen Hood, Claire Stokes and GDPR, LD 030.

00:00:53:06 - 00:00:59:02

And could I get an indication from case team when everyone's ready?

00:01:09:03 - 00:01:19:24

All good. Okay, great. Okay. So if I could first invite Helen Hood to make your representation, you'll have three minutes. And your time starts now.

00:01:20:09 - 00:01:51:16

This is my opinion based on specializing in the conservation of heritage buildings for over 30 years. I live in Rod Borne, described by Sir David Puttnam as the most unspoilt village in England. I cite Rod Bourne, but similar factors exist across all five sites. Rod Bourne has evidence of Bronze Age Roman occupation through to early Christian and in the late sixth century. This land was gifted by royal charter to Aldhelm at Malmesbury Abbey. Mrs. hood, I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I am struggling to hear you a little bit.

00:01:51:18 - 00:02:24:15

So, um. Closer. Better? Yes. Thank you. You want me to go back? If you could, please. Okay. I cite Rod Borne, but similar factors exist across all five sites. Rod borne has evidence of Bronze Age Roman occupation through to early Christian, and in the sixth century this land was gifted by royal charter to Aldhelm, Malmesbury Abbey. Aldhelm pioneered new farming techniques, ridge and furrow, which he employed extensively in rod, bone and beyond, as shown on its own maps.

00:02:24:17 - 00:02:54:26

Yet their death based leader report claims that the land has, in quotes, recently been used for arable cultivation. I wouldn't describe over 5000 years as recent and, like much of it, reports and evidence. It appears light on reality and knowledge. IG heritage report misrepresents by omission. Rod Bourne's 10th century grade two star listed church connected to the abbey is excluded from the scoping, as are listed buildings from which the site is clearly visible.

00:02:55:08 - 00:03:29:04

Also excluded is the Abbey, despite IDPs own maps showing that much of the site will be visible from the Abbey Conservation Areas and Cotswold National Landscape IDPs, selective scoping and attribution of harms should be investigated independently and the harms realistically quantified. The abbey, which is a scheduled monument, must be considered for scoping despite Government and Heritage England guidelines. IGP appears to have entirely ignored the importance context of unique villages such as Alderton, Rod Bourne and gritstone.

00:03:29:06 - 00:04:07:02

These are early 19th century model villages built by owners, demonstrating that their estates were well and responsibly run with their tenants in mind. These each have a unique architectural language, and many buildings in these villages are listed because of the importance of their vernacular grouping and the architects involved. Places like Roadburn are not just agricultural communities, they have religious significance. The entire area is crossed by an important eighth century pilgrimage route to Malmesbury Abbey in 709 was the final resting place for Aldhelm before his burial in the abbey, and is a pilgrimage route still in use today.

00:04:07:13 - 00:04:40:28

Official guidance states that stripping heritage assets of their original contexts and landscape setting is harmful. The site's deep connection to agriculture and faith will be destroyed if this egregious plan is approved. Devastating historic communities into an industrial landscape not just for my grandchildren's lifetime, but potentially forever. The people who live in these villages still far and productively maintain these heritage assets for the nation at their own cost, and more than ever, need the unspoilt piece of this countryside for their well-being.

00:04:41:00 - 00:04:44:14

Please consider this carefully. Thank you.

00:04:45:20 - 00:04:56:20

Thank you very much. If I could next invite Claire Stokes to make your representation. If you're ready. You have three minutes and your time starts now.

00:04:56:22 - 00:05:28:04

Thank you. I'm Claire Stokes. I live with my family at the plane. Eastern grey, right next to the Fosse Way. We moved back from Sydney in 2015, and we chose the house specifically for the piece and the location, surrounded by beautiful countryside. When I first heard that there was a huge solar industrial development being proposed, which would affect the field just on the other side of the historic Fosse Way from us, I couldn't believe that it could be built in such a beautiful area.

00:05:28:26 - 00:06:06:22

As more details emerged, I felt worse. The panels will be enormous, towering above the landscape and surrounded by ugly fencing, thus excluding any of the wildlife which currently lives in the area and which I love to watch. They will also be tracking panels. We will see them and hear them from our house and garden. I'm very noise sensitive. Another reason we chose a house in a rural area rather than a city. The garden has always been a place of sanctuary for me, somewhere to relax and listen to birdsong and the thought of losing this is extremely distressing.

00:06:07:22 - 00:06:40:28

We raised our concerns about the panels ruining our view and our piece at a meeting with the developers. Will Threlfall and Chris Jackson came to our house in February last year to discuss it and to see the impact for themselves as the field opposite our house on which these panels will be built, rises up a hill. Their initial proposal of planting trees to shield us from this development would not work, and even if it did, it will still take years for the trees to grow and we will lose our countryside view.

00:06:43:18 - 00:07:23:16

Our concerns about noise were simply brushed off with the disingenuous line. It will be about the level of rustling leaves. The meeting ended with a vague agreement that they would look at options to shield our house from the sight, if not the sound of the panels. However, since then, it has become clear that they took no notice of our concerns as our house is not even listed as being affected in app 192 on the pins site. Once we were aware of this about three weeks ago, we emailed Will to ask why our house was not listed as being affected, in spite of having had a very clear meeting with him to outline the issues.

00:07:23:18 - 00:07:54:01

To date, we have still received no reply. I urged the Planning Inspectorate to put the local communities well-being above an overseas developer's financial interests. This disastrous industrial complex in an area of natural beauty, will change its character forever and condemn local people to live with ugliness and noise instead of the beauty and peace of the countryside. Please do not approve its construction.

00:07:54:12 - 00:07:55:07

Thank you.

00:07:58:15 - 00:08:13:19

Thank you very much. And finally, from the group at the back. I invite the interested party listed as GDPR 030. You have three minutes. And if you're ready, your time starts now.

00:08:13:21 - 00:09:03:04

Dear. I'm down. I wrote this letter myself when I was nine, and I live in a Lavington near Chippenham. Lots of animals and wildlife will have their homes demolished by solar energy, and the Roman fossil will be ruined as well. We learnt about the phosphate in history. It is very ancient and precious. No one will want to visit it anymore if it is surrounded by giant monster panels. When you were at school, did you learn about doing the right thing? Well, I don't think it's right for anyone to ruin our happy, peaceful place just so they can make giant piles of money, so many flowers and so much nature will be ruined by the big machines and panels, and our fields and animals will die of sadness.

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

Solar panels are supposed to be on rooftops and buildings, not on our beautiful fields that we treasure so much. The panels will be right next to some of my favorite trees that us children love playing under. Me and my family go on lots of lovely walks that we enjoy so much. Please think about it. All we will see is greatness and that will make me feel well. I can't even describe it. I will feel like a lost

and sad shadow. And trust me, you don't want almost all the people in North Wiltshire feeling like that.

00:09:38:14 - 00:10:13:07

It will ruin our beautiful countryside and it will be for 60 whole years, and by that time I will be 69. I do not want to live in a sad grey land until I am old. In our area we are for solar. But my teacher said there are lots of different ways of making energy that do not harm farms, animals and our countryside. Why don't you think about solar on rooftops and solar buildings? Or you could ask whoever's in charge of the see if you could put more wind turbines there.

00:10:13:14 - 00:10:46:13

I would absolutely hate it if you ruin our countryside for ever. Please do not take away something which is so important to us and makes us all so happy. We might even have to do a rebellion. Have you ever read Jack and the Beanstalk? All the giant could think about was money, money, money. And look what happened to him. Please stop thinking about money and think about people and animals. My friends and I would never come to where you live and make you sad.

00:10:46:15 - 00:11:08:28

So why do you want to make us sad? Please be reasonable. Stop lying down and save our countryside. I know I'm only a child and you probably think only grown ups are important. But please take my reasons seriously. Make them count and I'm counting on you to stop lying down.

00:11:19:27 - 00:11:20:28

Thank you very.

00:11:21:00 - 00:11:28:28

Much. To our GDPR speaker. I want to thank you for coming after school this evening and giving up your precious after school time.

00:11:29:00 - 00:11:29:15

To.

00:11:29:17 - 00:11:31:16

Deliver your submission to us. Thank you.

00:11:34:03 - 00:12:01:12

Okay. Next we have individuals that are representing groups of people. So if I could call forward to the r. Sorry, I stand corrected. Uh, can I Before we invite individuals representing groups of people. I'll invite Henry Cottrell, who is online. I believe you would like to make your representation.

00:12:02:09 - 00:12:36:12

Good afternoon and thank you. My name is Henry Jodrell. I've lived in Eastern Gray for the past 30 years, and during this time I have witnessed, um, sorry. I've witnessed firsthand the improved economic activity created through tourism that has helped to regenerate and revitalise towns like Malmesbury and villages such as Charleston. We have heard from so many people from our local area expressing fundamental concerns about the proposal, which I hope you will find you can reject.

00:12:36:14 - 00:13:11:11

My concern about the lime down proposal is its unknown and highly probable negative impact on the future of our flourishing tourism industry, and thus the economic benefit is bringing to this rural area, and Wiltshire Council have already identified a potential £1.8 million impact. Um, and we all know that the location of such a significant development, spanning across the southern gateway to the Cotswolds national landscape, one of our nation's precious AoNB, will undoubtedly lead people to want to avoid this area.

00:13:11:15 - 00:13:50:25

The proposed site is just too close to the edge of the AoNB. I do not believe IGP have fully investigated and understood the true long term impact of this to our community and it spans across the whole of North Wiltshire. The growing tourism industry is creating growth and employment and above all makes so many small businesses viable. Today, if you go into any of our local cafes midweek, you'll find them brimming with visitors dressed in Lycra and walking boots, exploring and enjoying the many footpaths and small country lanes that crisscross this exceptionally beautiful area.

00:13:50:29 - 00:14:22:24

It makes me happy when I go into our village shop, the Co-op in Churston, and see so many bicycles parked outside the Courtyard Cafe or the Angel. If you go in late morning and have a coffee, you'll experience the energy and chatter about amazing experiences people are having by visiting this special area. Our areas about the fantastic walks and views are being experienced, and visitors will then recommend it to others. And the good news spreads and this leads to economic viability for many businesses.

00:14:23:06 - 00:15:03:15

Many bicyclists that stop in Churston enjoy the cafes for refreshments as they explore section 14 of the Wiltshire Cycleway. This will not be the case of the current open countryside as fenced off long term, and the incredible views are blocked out by the 4.5m high solar panels. A few facts I hope you all should know and maybe have read in October 2025. Miles was named one of the most perfect market towns in the Telegraph in April 2026, it was recognized as one of the Best Places to Live in the southwest by ITV news and the Daily Express, again in April this year described it as the place that Brits and tourists love visiting.

00:15:03:17 - 00:15:17:01

So why do we feel we can jeopardise future jobs and businesses by making the southern gateway to the Cotswold National Landscape a place to avoid by covering it in highly visible solar panels? You'll also need more.

00:15:17:03 - 00:15:19:17

Than three minutes, so if you could bring it to a close.

00:15:19:23 - 00:15:20:08

Thank.

00:15:20:10 - 00:15:20:25

You.

00:15:22:20 - 00:15:53:13

My request is for a detailed and thorough assessment of the economic impact on local tourism, to be conducted over a number of years. I do not believe the work that has been done by IGP is satisfactory. Please let's not kill the goose that lays the golden egg before you agree to permanently disfigure the southern gateway to the Cotswolds national landscape. The people's AoNB an incredible, historic and beautiful area. Please conduct a detailed assessment of the future impact on our growing and very important tourism economy.

00:15:53:15 - 00:15:54:11

Thank you.

00:15:55:24 - 00:15:57:00

Thank you very much.

00:15:59:02 - 00:16:33:09

So now I will invite individuals representing groups of people to come up to the table. So can I ask Susan Mellows for Saint Paul Malmesbury without parish council. Leslie Palmer for Littleton parish Council. Nick Haire for Sopwith. Sopwith parish council. Sorry, George Clark for eastern Grey Parish meeting and for North Wiltshire Friends of the Earth. I have Adrian Temple Brown and Stephen Eades listed.

00:16:48:01 - 00:17:05:08

Okay. So as you are each representing groups of people, you're going to have five minutes, um, to speak. So if Susan mellows, if you are ready to speak, turn on your microphone. And your time starts now.

00:17:05:11 - 00:17:25:17

Um, just before the time starts. I'm actually Sarah Sorby, a councillor of Saint Paul Malmesbury without parish council. Susan Mellows could not be here through illness. In any case, she was the clerk who made the registration. So I am Sarah Sara Sorby Sowerby, councillor.

00:17:27:03 - 00:17:58:23

I'm speaking on behalf of Saint Paul Malmesbury without parish Council. That is the council that serves the villages immediately in the surrounding area of Malmesbury. This council repeats its strong objection to the land arm project on grounds of flooding, contamination, visual impact, noise and highways issues. This council finds the project inappropriate in terms of the distance of the site from the grid link up in Melksham.

00:17:58:25 - 00:18:13:13

It also finds the project irresponsible in terms of the use of natural countryside for industrial use. The council's opposition primarily focuses on the impact on the areas around Cawston and Radburn

00:18:15:05 - 00:18:45:07

with regards flooding. As we have heard, many properties in Cawston presently experienced flooding from the gorse Brook on its existing re-engineered course during periods of prolonged rainfall because it is unable to handle the volumes of water delivered during these events. The council has plans, albeit in their infancy, to return the gauze book to its original course, thereby allowing higher volumes of water to be managed.

00:18:45:24 - 00:19:16:19

The installation of large numbers of solar panels on this floodplain would not only prevent this plan being delivered, but by the increased runoff from the solar panels would significantly increase the flooding frequency and impact in question. The best and contamination. Residents are severely alarmed about the intention to locate the best so near to homes and the railway line, because of the possibility of far any harmful chemical leaks from the infrastructure.

00:19:16:21 - 00:19:52:23

Supporting solar farms of this size are likely to contaminate the aquifers that provide water to residents throughout a large area of north Wiltshire. Contamination from firefighting water, as well as the use of herbicides to the substations. And we know that once contamination has occurred, the process cannot easily, if ever, be reversed. Visual impact. By the virtual size of the panels being proposed, effective levels of screening are unlikely to be achieved in a reasonable time scale.

00:19:52:25 - 00:20:42:07

If ever the impact upon the landscape of this area will be adversely affected, with a number of visitors likely to fall, which will impact the many small businesses that offer accommodation in Cawston and Roebourne. The landscape around the villages of Cawston and Robson will become a sea of panels with major adverse impact on the villages using permissible footpaths and bridleways in the area. As we have so eloquently heard before, the noise, the noise and the light reflection from the solar panels as they track the sun will adversely affect a number of high end equine businesses in Cawston and Roebourne because of the highly strung characteristics of the animals under training, and I'm referring to thoroughbreds, inventors, dressage horses and show jumpers.

00:20:42:27 - 00:21:16:00

Highway issues. This is my last point. The 2000 plus HGV movements required in the construction phase are likely to result in damage to local narrow roads and verges, as we have heard before, with a significant increase in the dangers to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. This is particularly relevant to the hamlet of Rob Bourne, which has been designated as a conservation area and as such must be maintained and preserved where possible for future generations.

00:21:16:11 - 00:21:55:05

The presence of the planned significant numbers of these vehicles transiting the centre of the settlement will undoubtedly cause unacceptable levels of damage and hazard. Add to this the daily volumes of workers vehicles using these roads and lanes, and the situation becomes even more critical in the council's opinion. The proposed highway routes are unenforceable and will quickly be bypassed. The proposed new road from the busy A49 to provide direct access to site E and left to site D, will likely cause major holdups on that busy main road.

00:21:55:15 - 00:22:18:03

The proposed route for abnormal indivisible loads ails via signs, sirens, Leicester around Malmesbury bypass and the necessary road alterations to accommodate this will cause disruption to residents journeys. For all these very good reasons. Please do your best to reject this proposal.

00:22:19:25 - 00:22:26:13

Thank you very much. I believe Mr. Love has a question for you. Yes.

00:22:26:15 - 00:22:41:05

Thank you. You mentioned, um, works, uh, plans in their infancy to the Gores Brook to return it to more of a natural state. When you say the council, did you mean the parish council or Wiltshire Council?

00:22:41:15 - 00:23:11:18

Currently it's with. It's a plan with the parish council, but obviously we would have to work with Wiltshire Council and I don't think we've got that far. But what happened was the goes back was straightened and which increases the flow and the speed of the flow. What, what we're planning to do is to make it meander as it used to and create floodplains further back so that we just hold up the flood waters before they get further, further down. But no, they are in their infancy.

00:23:11:20 - 00:23:15:01

We haven't even. We're talking about it. Yeah.

00:23:15:10 - 00:23:19:07

No thank you. And you actually preempted my follow up question. No, thank you very much.

00:23:20:06 - 00:23:33:06

Sir. I do have a follow up question on that. Um, because you suggested that the project would have some negative impact upon those plans. Um, I wonder if you could just explain very briefly how.

00:23:33:22 - 00:23:52:17

Because, um, it would, um, I would have to send you a map, I think, um, where the ghost book runs and where we would want to site these floodplains and and realtor its course back to where it used to be. And the solar panel infrastructure would stop us doing that.

00:23:52:19 - 00:24:07:12

Okay, so, um, if I were to suggest an action for you to provide such a plan, would deadline one a which would be the 8th of May be sufficient time, or would it be later because we could put a later date on that? I'm just interested to receive such a plan.

00:24:07:15 - 00:24:12:12

Madam, we we are having a council meeting tomorrow night, so I will find out and let you know.

00:24:12:28 - 00:24:14:09

Thank you. Appreciate it.

00:24:16:25 - 00:24:29:23

Thank you. Next we have Kristen Parish Council and I'll just check. Is it? Lesley Palmer. Excellent. Okay, so Leslie Palmer, you have five minutes. And if you're ready, your time starts now.

00:24:30:03 - 00:24:31:00

Thank you.

00:24:31:23 - 00:25:12:00

My name is Leslie Palmer. I am speaking on behalf of Littleton Parish Council. A parish with a population of approximately 500, consisting of the villages of Gritstone and Littleton Drewe and hamlets of Southington, Leigh Delamere and the Gibb in October 2025. We surveyed our parishioners prior to our budget precept setting meeting in November. Our aim was to better understand their needs and concerns to enable us to plan accordingly. Analysing the responses, most respondents felt the beautiful surrounding countryside, along with heritage and conservation, were the most important part of living here.

00:25:12:18 - 00:25:45:03

The network of public footpaths and bridleways, the gateways to access the stunning landscapes we enjoy and appreciate, was the next most popular response. These would be destroyed by acres of unsightly panels, fencing and equipment, all totally incongruous in a rural setting. We then asked for any concerns residents had alongside road safety. The Lime Dam project was the most cited and referred to. In the words of one parishioner, Lime Down Solar Park will be a disaster.

00:25:46:04 - 00:26:26:22

Part of Littleton lies within the Cotswold National Landscape, and these areas, defined as sensitive, are afforded the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. The construction of Lime Dome was systematically destroyed cherished views, walks, cycling and riding routes, causing psychological distress and real harm to our residents, visitors and tourists. So the aspects of living in Littleton parish, most valued by our parishioners and the issues that concern them, are all linked to the proposal by Ireland Green Power to industrialize and desecrate the landscape of rural north Wiltshire.

00:26:27:12 - 00:27:08:09

The transport routes proposed would affect all the major roads in the parish, along with some minor ones. Two thirds of homes and businesses in the parish would be directly affected, including homes in the Jib and Aldenham Road in Littleton, which leads on to the historic Fosse Way. Section 14 of the Wiltshire Cycleway runs through the village and is hugely popular, and would see a massive and unacceptable increase in HGV traffic on rural roads, are ill equipped for the size and weight of construction vehicles and the number of journeys proposed, and as such would pose seriously safety problems for all users.

00:27:09:03 - 00:27:44:29

Heavy traffic will also be using the street within the Gritstone Conservation Area to access the proposed construction compound. Sited close to Riddleton Village Hall and Recreation Ground, a well-used local community facility with cricket pitch, muga and children's playground. Historic England shows three grade two star listings in Britain parish and 47 grade two listings, with 28 of

those in the street itself. These include houses dating back to the 17th century, a K6 telephone box, and historic Baptist chapel.

00:27:45:22 - 00:28:20:10

The sheer volume of traffic using the street to access the compound may well cause damage and compromise the structural integrity of the listed buildings. Added to that is the narrowness of the street, exacerbated by necessary on street parking. We are a pragmatic council and understand that strict planning policies for conservation areas, listed buildings and national landscapes are in place to protect our heritage and rural way of life from irresponsible development. What the developers of Lime Down are proposing with their plans shows utter contempt for these necessary policies.

00:28:20:27 - 00:28:55:09

We support local businesses, several farms, pubs, B&Bs and Littleton House, a two star listed family owned events venue. These all offer local employment opportunities and attract many tourists keen to discover the many and varied delights the area has to offer. Littleton parish boasts two successful pubs and a number of accommodation providers, weddings, filming events and domestic and international school activity. Holidays at Littleton House add considerably to the local economy. The lime down plans would seriously impact these businesses and could cause them to become unviable in each of their closure.

00:28:55:11 - 00:29:29:09

This would be devastating not only to the owners, but to local area in general. We understand the need to be self-sufficient with regards to renewable energy, and Wiltshire is already home to a plethora of solar sites. Equally important is self-sufficiency in food production. This requires land in the countryside. So the location of this proposal and the fragmented nature of the solar arrays and ancillary equipment, means that vast areas of our local productive farmland will need to be excavated to accommodate the cable connections. The disruption and loss of productive land this will cause is unjustifiable.

00:29:29:11 - 00:29:45:28

In summary, Littleton Parish Council is of the opinion that the proposed plans will have a significant detrimental effect on the daily lives and well-being of our parishioners, and as such, must uphold our objection to the scheme. We urge the examining authority to recommend its refusal. Thank you for listening.

00:29:50:11 - 00:30:07:11

Thank you very much. And then if we have Kristen. Sorry, that was Gritstone Parish Council. So stop worth parish council. Do we have Nick Hare? Is that correct? If you're ready to go you have five minutes and your time starts now.

00:30:07:16 - 00:30:08:09

Thank you.

00:30:08:22 - 00:30:11:08

Sir. Madam, ladies and gentlemen,

00:30:12:27 - 00:30:16:11

thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I'll be late.

00:30:19:08 - 00:30:51:26

By way of background, I live in the village of Sopwith, some two miles north west of Churston. I'm sure I'm chairman of our parish meeting, and I'm speaking on behalf of the village. We wish to register our strong objections to the proposals in their entirety. This is in line with a unanimous vote on the subject of a recent meeting. Importantly, and of special relevance to our objection is the fact that Sopwith lies within the Cotswold National Landscape, formerly known as we all know, as the Cotswold AoNB.

00:30:52:26 - 00:31:13:12

I refer briefly to the original AoNB title. For the simple reason, that Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty more accurately describes the exceptional qualities of our immediate surroundings. These qualities are, amongst other things, characterised by wide ranging views of the surrounding landscape, including the proposed site.

00:31:14:29 - 00:31:47:04

We feel that a proposal less in harmony with the adjacent national landscape and indeed more likely to ruin its setting, would be difficult to conceive. The hard boundary between the two conflicting areas would serve only to maximize and exaggerate the undesirable aspects of the one, whilst simultaneously and irreparably blighting the unique and positive aspects of the other, in that the Landscape Board have a statutory duty to conserve and enhance the national beauty of the designated area.

00:31:47:16 - 00:31:53:06

It is hard to see how those duties could be met if this project was to proceed.

00:31:55:18 - 00:32:29:22

We have heard some very compelling arguments today, from which I would like to suggest that there are five obvious considerations or golden rules, if you like, for such a proposal at entry level viability appraisal stage. These would be one good access close to a main road, two all in one place so as to reduce unnecessary collateral damage. Three close to the grid, four Away from habitation.

00:32:29:27 - 00:32:42:16

Five. Avoid flood risk on every single one of these fundamental and basic tests. The line bottom line climb down proposal fails

00:32:44:03 - 00:33:06:24

and surely as such, a strong arguments for refusal. Finally, can I briefly reference the human aspect to all of this? This application has proved hugely divisive in our community, causing untold upset, grief and anxiety. There's a very obvious reason for that, which, to be clear, is specific to this site.

00:33:09:15 - 00:33:20:17

A flawed design covering two large an area and therefore quite simply adversely affecting the everyday lives of too many people and spoiling too much country.

00:33:22:03 - 00:33:35:16

It's our strong view that consents should not be granted. Can I suggest and request on behalf of the village of Sopwith, that this application does not receive your support?

00:33:36:06 - 00:33:37:04

Thank you.

00:33:40:24 - 00:33:51:06

Thank you. And next we have eastern grey parish. Is it George Clark? So, Mr. Clark, if you're ready, you have five minutes and your time starts now.

00:33:52:02 - 00:34:08:29

Uh, sirs, madam, I'm George Clark, chairman of the eastern Grey Parish meeting. I've lived in eastern Grey for 24 years. This can only be an inadequate summary of our community's strong opposition to this scheme.

00:34:10:23 - 00:34:49:19

I'd like to speak briefly about disparity of results. The parish has £825 as its annual precept, versus the applicant's £1 billion of spending money. We have one volunteer chairman versus many employees and hired experts available to the applicant. However, the parish has a sound local knowledge of the community, the landscape, the environment and flood risks coupled with common sense.

00:34:50:03 - 00:35:27:00

Accordingly, the examining authority are requested to ask the applicant the pertinent questions we have highlighted in our written comments. Common sense, we think, will be backed by science. Landscape. Parts of our parish will have impacted sightlines. The beauty of Eastern Grey, a conservation area and a parish wholly within the Cotswold National Landscape, will have its setting assaulted by adverse impact of two Story high solar panels.

00:35:28:03 - 00:36:02:01

All residents and visitors to our wonderful village and our scheduled monuments will have to go past these panels without justification. The fails to be covered are high quality and versatile agricultural land. Much loved rights of way used by walking, cycling or horse riding. Members of our community and its visitors will be blighted, not least by the tunnel effect and the noise of the proposed development.

00:36:02:18 - 00:36:37:26

The benefits to mental and physical health and tourism will be severely disrupted, or just plain ruined falls in property prices or an inability to sell will and are already causing mental and financial distress. I'd like to say a few words about heritage, tourism, noise and transport. The applicant makes bold and highly dubious assertions with questionable bases of assessment.

00:36:38:20 - 00:37:01:19

The tourism and employment assertions are at odds with the size and number of communities and businesses affected. For example, we have a country hotel and a local pub whose businesses will suffer adverse, if not existential financial impacts, as will many equine related businesses.

00:37:03:04 - 00:37:35:28

Displaced. Traffic to and from Malmesbury and Churston will be pushed from designated construction routes onto the single track road between northern and eastern grey. This road will not cope with the additional traffic and already witnesses near fatal Accidents. Decommissioning. Absent. For example, bonded guarantees, criminal sanctions, or claims for breach are both toothless and prohibitively costly to enforce.

00:37:36:06 - 00:38:15:26

The bank behind this applicant has a terrible track record. The applicant is just a special purpose vehicle of no worth, and with offshore owners flood risk, the applicants responses demonstrate an ignorance or a misunderstanding of the land impacted. The one point 8,000,000m² of panels seem designed to concentrate runoff towards those areas that are already flooded, or subject to flood risk. All the examples we are identifying are written evidence are and are adverse for the adverse effects of runoff are designated in the highest risk.

00:38:15:28 - 00:38:49:07

Flood zone three the critical rail route to Wales that sits in a cutting through the site is already noted as a high risk due to climate change. Eastern grey already suffers from floods within our properties, and indeed our existing sewage system is also at risk. The applicant addresses the security of their assets with an apparent disregard for the flood risk borne by our communities, that will not benefit from the scheme.

00:38:49:22 - 00:39:02:00

Others have spoken more eloquently than I, but in summary, lime down is the wrong scale in the wrong place. The harm caused will be substantial and permanent. Thank you.

00:39:05:25 - 00:39:16:13

Thank you, Mr. Clarke. You mentioned certain impacted sightlines. Would you be able to provide a marked up map or plan?

00:39:16:15 - 00:39:22:04

Already heard about that from the the lady who spoke who lives at ease at the plain.

00:39:22:09 - 00:39:22:28

Okay.

00:39:23:01 - 00:39:23:16

He's already.

00:39:23:18 - 00:39:24:07

Spoken. Yeah.

00:39:24:12 - 00:39:24:27

Okay.

00:39:24:29 - 00:39:25:15

Thank you.

00:39:26:15 - 00:40:05:20

Um. So next, if we go to North Wiltshire friends PR, is it Mr. Temple Brown that we've got? Yes. Uh, Agent Temple Brown from north Wiltshire? Yes. So our perspective starts from an acceptance that this application will be passed by the Secretary of State on the grounds of its of the of the electricity delivery is proximity to significant compute power beneath uh Corsham um, which is required for our defence also because of the government's current direction on terms of renewable energy, climate and the environment.

00:40:05:22 - 00:40:37:00

And lastly, not legally, but because of national law to deal with the climate. But that said, there is so much more that this project could do for both the climate and the environment. It actually presents an incredible opportunity for carbon sequestration, as well as a large opportunity for harvesting significantly more energy than could be gained from just using solar panels, going right up to the 30,000 foot level.

00:40:37:19 - 00:41:10:20

Macquarie Bank are essentially converting the UK's sovereign solar resources into profits, which will go largely untaxed offshore, and in return the UK will receive some jobs, some tax, some environmental benefits and some energy. But from start to finish of this project, there are a number of things that could be done that are missing from the plan to maximise carbon sequestration and energy harvesting.

00:41:11:12 - 00:41:42:25

I'd like to run through a few of these. For example, there is no carbon costing shown for the plan for actually implementing and running this project. And if there isn't a planning tool, then creating an exemplary one to actually show other people building solar farms how to do carbon costing from start to finish would be really useful. If the plan involved using EVs for all plant machinery, activities, all deliveries, and all future maintenance.

00:41:43:03 - 00:42:13:21

Then the solar farm would actually come, perhaps a little beyond its green wrapping, and actually show that it believes in an energy transition. Moving on from that, from the very beginning of this project, they could install low rate EV chargers to power all of the delivery vehicles in the maintenance as well as the plant, and then leave those there for the community use to use driven by solar power and through their batteries to benefit all of the communities that are affected by this.

00:42:15:07 - 00:42:48:14

It won't be long within a couple of El Nino cycles before we realize we should have done a lot more of this many years ago. There is no plan from this group for the provision of extra infrastructure for the erection of large wind turbines for future installation. When the penny finally drops with this

country. As to how urgent and grave our climate situation is. There is nothing in the plan for the implementation of infrastructure for deep geothermal energy harvesting, which this 2000 acres is very well suited for.

00:42:53:18 - 00:43:23:20

But more than that, I think there's no plan to actually sequester carbon. And we have 2000 acres here which could site and provide a site for living soil to actually generate and create living soil from our organic waste and to, to to distribute that across the site, thereby increasing the soil depth and the soil volume, and massively increasing the amount of carbon that the project could actually sequester.

00:43:24:01 - 00:43:52:17

Bearing in mind that soil generated naturally, which is known as vermiculite or frass, is 30% carbon by volume. There's no plan or commitment to increase the soil organic carbon across this site by perhaps a small 1% per year, and doing these things would provide lots of jobs and employment in a carbon sequestration area for the people who are currently working on the land that won't be able to.

00:43:55:03 - 00:44:36:00

I think there's also no plan for any agri voltaic farming, both for food and for animals underneath the solar panels. So what I'm really leading to is that there are a pile of stacked benefits that this project is completely overlooking. It could enhance energy security much more. It could enhance food security much more. It could enhance carbon sequestration hugely and bring a lot more environmental repair. And it could dovetail perfectly into Wilkie's local plan, which currently intends to emit of about a third of a billion tonnes of CO2 over the next 18 years, with no plan at all for sequestration of carbon.

00:44:36:20 - 00:44:52:20

So what we would like to ask the Planning Inspectorate is if a DCO is granted that a range of conditions are applied to it, that cover off on the number of items that I've mentioned today. And there are a power more as well, which I would like to bring forward in future meetings. Thank you very much.

00:44:53:23 - 00:44:54:27

Thank you very much.

00:44:57:19 - 00:45:10:03

So we will now take a short comfort break for ten minutes. So just going past seven. So let's come back at 7:10. Thank you.