

SPEAKER 28

Stewart Dobson, resident of Grittleton for 40 years.

I object to the Lime Down Solar Development because of the harm it will cause to:

- The physical and mental wellbeing of me and my family.
- The local community.
- The ecology and biodiversity.

Let me share some detail on just two aspects.

Firstly, wellbeing.

My principal form of exercise is walking at least twice a day, directly from my house on local footpaths.

Every morning I walk through the village with my wife and dog to path ref GRIT20. This provides at least 40 minutes exercise without having to drive. It also includes conversations with friends and neighbours and indeed daily conversations with my wife which might otherwise not happen.

If the Solar development goes ahead, path ref GRIT20 will be blocked by the site of a building compound and by the cable route, so I shall lose that amenity.

Walking through the village will be accompanied by the noise, pollution and physical danger of HGVs, so I shall be forced to find alternative walks which will necessitate driving.

Secondly, ecology and biodiversity.

I know the network of local paths well because I walk extensively in pursuit of my hobby of birdwatching, conducting wild bird surveys for local farmers, and contributing to citizen science. Including path ref GRIT 20, another 9 paths which I use weekly or monthly will be adversely affected if the solar development goes ahead.... aesthetically... physically.... and in terms of species of birds harmed or lost.

To reference just one species, Skylark, I would like to quote from the applicant's own report on Ecology and Biodiversity (PI ref EN010168) which estimated a density of 164 territories at 0.19/hectare and which represents more than 4 times the national average.

QUOTE:

*In the absence of additional mitigation, (Skylark) would be permanently (for the lifetime of the Scheme) displaced which would likely constitute a **significant adverse effect at District level.** (Para 9.10.256, p140).*

UNQUOTE.

Additionally, near Grittleton I know of a density of Skylark of over 1 territory/hectare which is among the highest in the UK, which will be displaced by the cable route.

The applicant may say it can mitigate for Skylark to recover, but for many years I shall have to drive further afield to hear their song.

With these examples, I hope to have shown that the proposed development will bring harm to me, my family, the community and to the local ecology and biodiversity. THANK YOU.