

From: [Nick Hare](#)
To: [Lime Down Solar](#)
Cc: [Lime Down Stop](#)
Subject: SLD, Open Floor Hearing, 21st April 2026, Speaker no 62
Date: 24 April 2026 17:19:33

Good morning/afternoon and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

By way of background, I live in the village of Sopworth, some 2 miles north/west of Sherston. I am Chairman of our Parish Meeting, and I am speaking on behalf of the village. We wish to register our strong objection to the proposals in their entirety. This in line with a unanimous vote on the subject at a recent meeting.

Importantly, and of special relevance to our objection, is the fact that Sopworth lies within The Cotswolds National Landscape, formally known, as you will know, as The Cotswolds AONB. 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.

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 maximise 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 natural beauty of the

designated area; it is hard to see how those duties could be met, if this project was to proceed.

We have heard some very compelling arguments today from which I would like to suggest that there are six obvious considerations, or golden rules, for such a proposal, at entry-level viability appraisal stage.

These would be;

1. Good access. Close to a main road.
2. All panels in one place, so as to reduce unnecessary collateral damage.
3. Close to the grid.
4. Avoid flood risk.
5. Avoid villages, residential areas and housing.
6. Away from National Landscapes and listed buildings.

On every single one of the above fundamental and basic tests, the Lime Down proposals fail. That alone, irrespective of the significant number of further considerations that have been mentioned today, are grounds enough 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 is a very obvious reason for that, which, to be clear, is

specific to this site – a flawed design, covering too large an area and therefore, quite simply, affecting the everyday lives of too many people and ruining too large an area of country.

The distress caused is wholly avoidable.

In a nutshell, whilst recognising the need for sensibly situated solar, it is very plain that the perceived benefits of these proposals do not outweigh the long list of disadvantages. It is completely unsuitable, on account of size and location.

It is our strong view that, on that basis, consent should not be granted.

Thank you.

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