

## **Open Floor Hearing – Christine Macnee**

Members of the Examining Authority... thank you for hearing me today. I am Christine Macnee and live in Corston village.

I want to begin with something absolutely clear. This objection is *not* about opposing renewable energy. We all understand how important it is. What concerns us is the scale... the location... and the cumulative impacts of the proposed Lime Down Solar Park. We believe it is disproportionate, wrongly sited, and would cause lasting harm to our communities, well-being and to the landscape we depend on.

Although the site sits just outside the Cotswolds National Landscape boundary... anyone who lives here knows the character is identical. We are surrounded by classic Cotswold villages... listed buildings... and open, rolling countryside with long, beautiful views. This landscape is closely connected to Malmesbury — recently recognised as one of the best places to live in in the UK

We live a quiet, friendly rural life. Our communities rely on each other... and on the countryside around us. Our churches, village halls, and pubs aren't just buildings — they are the heart of our social life. And the landscape isn't just scenery. It is fundamental to our wellbeing.

I walk locally four or five times a week. Apart from routes north to Malmesbury... every other public right of way I use would be affected. My lovely walks to Rodbourne, Stanton St Quinton, Hullavington, Norton, and Sherston would be changed beyond recognition. They would no longer be a joy... but deeply depressing. These paths are where we meet friends... where we support local pubs... where the social fabric of our villages is held together. This development would break those connections.

And for more than two years now, many residents — myself included — have lived with stress, anxiety, and disrupted sleep because this proposal has been hanging over us.

We are also worried about economic harm. Productive farmland would be lost. Tourism and associated hospitality will be negatively impacted. Stud farms will no longer be viable, and our rural pubs may have to close.

And residents see no meaningful local benefit. The burdens fall here. The financial gains go elsewhere.

So, I ask you to consider the real, human consequences of this proposal. The damage it would cause to our landscape... our communities... and our wellbeing... is serious and far-reaching.

Please reject this application. Allow us to protect the place that is not only our home... but the foundation of our health, our identity, and our way of life.

*Thank you.*