

Lime Down Solar Farm Project Objections

Helen King

Good afternoon,

My name is Helen King and I have lived and worked in Malmesbury for 40 years.

I am here to object to the Lime Down Solar Park proposal. I support renewable energy, but believe this is the wrong project and poses significant threats to: 1) the ecology and countryside in our area, 2) the safety, health and wellbeing of our community and 3) the local economy.

I will elaborate on the last two points, as others I am sure will have much to share on the first.

Firstly

I am dismayed by the negative impact this industrial scale project will inevitably have on the local open countryside I hold dear. I rely on walking and cycling the lanes and footpaths which fall within the projects area. I live with cancer and access to nature in this calm and peaceful environment is very important for both my physical and mental wellbeing. If covered in acres of 4.5 meter solar panels and high industrial 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.

Construction traffic and local traffic avoiding the construction areas travelling on the narrow, winding roads will pose significantly increased risk of harm to all using these lanes.

It will also push increased traffic through Malmesbury. Our historic town's roads are already at capacity. Many of the main routes through Malmesbury such as; Abbey Row, Gloucester Road and Bristol Street are narrow, with narrow pavements. Vehicles find it hard to negotiate these roads and pose potential danger to pedestrians, as has been highlighted by residents. 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 and walking and cycling opportunities. Many explore the historic Foss Way and North Wessex Way, parts of which fall within the

project. If this project proceeds, 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 and the cafes, pubs, shops and businesses that rely on their custom will suffer. This will not only result in the loss of views, but also of livelihoods.

For all the reasons stated, this project asks our community to bear a significant cost. 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 the wrong project in the wrong place.