

Objection to Lime Down Solar Park – From Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council.

On behalf of Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council, I wish to submit a formal objection to the proposed Lime Down Solar Park.

While the Council supports renewable energy in principle, this proposal raises serious concerns due to:

Its proximity to and visibility from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a nationally protected landscape to which Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 applies. The development would have a significant adverse visual and environmental effect on the setting of the AONB.

We understand that the strengthened “seek to further” duty introduced by Section 245 of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 has been in force since 26 December 2023, and now legally requires all relevant authorities in England—including the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State for NSIPs—to actively seek to further the

conservation/and/enhancement of the Cotswolds National Landscape when exercising

The loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, ALC grades 1,2 and 3a, which undermines national food security and contradicts planning guidance that seeks to protect productive farmland where alternatives exist.

Harm to designated heritage assets, including the setting of the Fosse Way (a scheduled monument) and Bradfield Manor (Grade I listed), contrary to the NPPF and statutory protections.

The cumulative impact of these harms fail to meet the thresholds set out in relevant policy and legislation.

We respectfully urge the Secretary of State to refuse development consent.