

I do not feel that my original concerns have been fully or adequately addressed. I would therefore like to provide further clarification and request that the following points are given more detailed consideration.

Firstly, the proposals have a direct and tangible impact on my business operations. My work involves regular travel between multiple locations to clients premises in my role as a farrier. The disruption to local traffic works during periods of construction is inevitably unmanageable, evidence of which is regularly seen when there are closures to access roads around the M4. Closures to any feeder routes to the main motorways leads to grid lock for miles. In my professional role, animal welfare is key and I remain unconvinced that the proposals have outlined how to circumvent these issues. Having spoken to many local residents this is a view shared by many small business owners who worry about our future due to the Lime Down proposals.

As a registered farrier with Farriers Registration Council (FRC) - (a statutory corporate body established by Parliament under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975) I follow and adhere to the practising standards set out for the protection of equine and owners. As a registered business I follow strict health and safety measures to ensure the safety of myself, employees, clients and those around me.

Set out within the FRC guidelines to owners, a safe working area for both farrier and horse free of distractions should be provided. There is no doubt that the development of large scale solar farms will prevent my ability to provide a service safely in the surrounding fields. This work is essential to the welfare of these horses in both the long-term development of the horse and the short term in occasions when first aid is required. Any increase in traffic congestion or delays will significantly affect my ability to meet scheduled commitments, maintain reliable service, and ensure continuity of care. In addition, there are clear animal welfare considerations. Horses require consistent daily care, including exercise, feeding, and monitoring. Delays caused by traffic or restricted access to bridleways may compromise the standard of care. This is especially critical where time-sensitive care is required.

I would also like to raise concerns regarding ecology and flood risk. Any development or changes to land use have the potential to disrupt local habitats, wildlife corridors, and biodiversity. It is important that a thorough ecological assessment is undertaken, with appropriate mitigation measures clearly evidenced. Furthermore, alterations to drainage patterns, ground permeability, or watercourses may increase the risk of surface water flooding in surrounding areas. Given the rural nature of the area and existing pressures on drainage infrastructure, I request that a detailed flood risk assessment is reviewed and that robust safeguards are put in place.

In addition, I remain concerned regarding fire risk, potential toxic hazards, and the loss of agricultural land. Any proposal that introduces increased fire risk, whether through construction, operation, or associated infrastructure; must clearly demonstrate how such risks will be prevented and managed, particularly given the proximity to rural agricultural land and livestock. The potential for toxic substances, emissions, or runoff also raises serious questions about the safety of animals, land, and water sources. Furthermore, the permanent loss or degradation of agricultural land would have a detrimental impact on local farming viability and the wider rural economy, as well as reducing available grazing and land used for equestrian businesses that I rely on.

Finally, I would emphasise that my role falls within the scope of essential services relating to animal care. As such, any disruption to access routes or travel reliability has broader implications beyond personal inconvenience, potentially affecting the welfare of animals under my responsibility.

I would ask that these points are reviewed in more detail and that the impact on equestrian activities, rural businesses, animal welfare, ecology, and flood risk is more thoroughly assessed. Where possible, I am happy to provide further information or evidence to support these concerns.