

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION – WEST PARK FARM, CORSTON
INTERESTED PARTY REF: [REDACTED]

West Park Farm, Bundaberg Ltd, Dermot Farrington Bloodstock - SN16 0HH

West Park Farm in Corston is a thoroughbred stud farm which we operate alongside Dermot's international bloodstock business. This business invests in approximately 50–100 horses per annum, has been active for over 20 years and responsible for Group 1 winners in all major racing countries in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

West Park Farm is integral to these operations and accommodates a changing population of high-value horses throughout the year, including pregnant broodmares, foals, yearlings, and racehorses. We also board valuable bloodstock on behalf of overseas clients with horses regularly in transit to destinations such as Hong Kong, Australia, and the United States, as well as to sales across Europe. As an example, just earlier this week Dermot attended the OBS sales in Florida accompanying a client who spent \$3,530,000 on 5 two-year-old thoroughbreds (just one made \$2,300,000). Any of these horses we would expect to board on our farm in the future.

A core part of our business is “pinhooking” foals. These young horses typically remain on the farm for less than a year and are prepared for yearling sales. This involves daily handling, including walking them in-hand around paddocks, particularly alongside the Gauze brook. Thoroughbreds are highly sensitive animals and are easily spooked, even within a stable environment. The introduction of a large-scale solar development, including construction activity, infrastructure, and associated noise would present a significant and unacceptable risk to the welfare of the horses and the viability of our operations and business.

Since acquiring the farm in 2018, we have made substantial investments in facilities and infrastructure. However, due to the uncertainty surrounding Lime Down and the potential impact, we have had to stop further investment. It would be irresponsible to continue operating or investing under these conditions given the level of risk and potential loss.

In terms of location:

- Our barns and stables are positioned in an elevated position overlooking Area D
- Our grazing land and paddocks are used for both general management and yearling preparation and run alongside the Gauze brook, sitting directly adjacent to the proposed panel areas.
- The proposed substation (previously identified as a second BESS) is elevated and opposite our buildings. We have not been able to find the Environmental Impact assessment for this substation within IGP's DCO application.

We feel our input into the local economy is significant. We employ three full time staff but in addition use many local subcontractors. I noted only last week we had 13 subcontractors on the farm at one point. Our part time/ full time staff totals 11 with many local businesses also benefitting. These include local farriers (£15,000 PA), local vets (£40,000 PA), international transporters (£100,000 PA), domestic and local transporters (£10,000), local feed and locally grown hay & straw (£40,000 at least PA). Our farm accountant is five miles away and all our

farm equipment including tractors, trailers and quad bikes are also sourced locally. We have employed over a dozen school leavers that have had their first job on our farm and the last international client that came to stay ended up investing £5m in the UK racing industry.

We have also experienced a noticeable increase in flooding from the Gauze brook over the past two years, which is a growing concern in itself. The implications on our staff and farm insurance will increase significantly. The first picture is taken from our farm that currently doesn't flood overlooking the proposed site South of us. The second shows our neighbour on the proposed site during Storm Bert in November 2024.

We have already encountered trespassing with a monitoring device chained to our boundary fence in March 2024, prior to any notification of the Lime Down project. We believe this was to monitor sound but no permission was sought, so we requested its immediate removal.

Lime Down sits across an established, very active equestrian landscape which was reflected by the 400 relevant representations specifically raising equine concerns. But despite the number of stud farms, professional yards and everyday equine use in the area, there is no equine specific assessment, businesses aren't being treated as sensitive receptors and rural riding routes are being dismissed simply because they are considered not heavily used.

As prey animals with strong flight responses, horses are neurologically adapted to react to unfamiliar noise and movement. For breeding environments, where pregnant mares, foals and valuable bloodstock are present, maintaining low-stress, stable surroundings is particularly important.

From our review, key gaps in IGP's current equine assessment include:

- No **equine-specific assessment methodology**
- Static solar panel guidance being applied to **large-scale tracking panels**
- No assessment of **movement, angle change, or shifting reflections** as behavioural stimuli
- **Noise impacts** (construction and operational) not assessed in terms of equine response
- Rural lanes and PRoWs **downgraded based on low user numbers**
- Equine businesses (including stud farms) **not treated as sensitive receptors**
- Welfare risks effectively **transferred to riders, handlers and businesses**
- Impacts considered “operationally accommodatable” without evidence

Lime Down Solar does not represent a compatible land use alongside stud farms and I hope this gives you a better understanding of the devastating impact it would have for us and many others. It is no exaggeration to say that our business would have to close if this proposal goes ahead.