

**Speaker No. 20**  
**Interested Party** [REDACTED]

My name is Charles Purkess, I have led a career in renewable energy.

My family and I have lived in the close-knit community of Rodbourne for 25 years, enjoying its unique rural charms, its beautiful rolling hills, its rich tapestry of hedgerow lined fields, nature, woodland and cycling and walking the bridleways.

It's a very, very special place.

It is heartbreaking to think of the destruction of this rural ideal, to our lives and to our community and future generations if LD proceeds..... I feel so very angry and frustrated at the proposals being presented....

Our community thrives through its agricultural fabric of tenant farms and its extensive local supply chain ranging from vets, feed stocks, seed merchants, mechanics to butchers, which along with the popular local recreational activities; cycling, horse riding, and growing tourism contribute so much to the identity and livelihoods in this local rural economy.

I worry that this agricultural fabric and its capability will be destroyed should LD go ahead, damaging the rural economic health, and in turn the mental health of our community.

Once it's gone, it's really gone.

As a consultant in renewable energy, I find it particularly galling that this is all being sacrificed in the name of reducing carbon emissions, ..... when in fact there are better and faster ways to achieve carbon reduction, WHILST ALSO preserving the agricultural economy and current land use.

The growing of hemp however, will not only sequester between **8 to 22 tonnes of CO2 per hectare**, TODAY but along with flax, can be used for building products, hempcrete & construction materials, so decarbonising the construction industry....providing an agriculturally based solution for our land that supports carbon reduction, whilst also safeguarding the readiness and flexibility for critical food security.

Vast oversized schemes like LD will be technically superseded before they are even built and will in all likelihood never deliver a tangible carbon benefit.

For the sake of our rural communities in Rodbourne, and surrounding villages, please ditch this ghastly industrial confiscation of our land. We can come up with a lot less destructive alternatives to deliver carbon reduction in North Wiltshire AND preserve our rural economy, not to mention our sanity.