

Melissa Whitlock

From: clerk@stpaulmalmesburywithoutparishcouncil.org.uk
Sent: 28 April 2026 12:22
To: Lime Down Solar
Cc: info@stoplimedown.com
Subject: Lime Down Open Floor Hearing
Attachments: SPMWPC Open Floor Hearing.doc; SPMWPC response to PI re Corston flooding plans.doc

Dear Madam and Sirs

I attach the written contribution Councillor [REDACTED] made on our behalf at the Open Floor Hearing on Lime Down on Tuesday 21 April. It was number 59 in the running order.

Planning Inspector Laver asked a question about the plans to mitigate the Gauzebrook flooding in Corston of our parish. I attach notes to clarify the discussions we are having with Hullavington PC and Wiltshire Council on this matter.

Should you need any further clarification please let us know.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Parish Clerk
St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Tel: [REDACTED]

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Open Floor Hearing

My name is [REDACTED] Councillor, and I am speaking on behalf of St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council. We serve the villages in the immediate surrounding of Malmesbury.

This council repeats its strong objection to the Lime Down project on grounds of flooding, contamination, visual impact, noise and highway issues. This council finds the project inappropriate in terms of the distance of the site from the grid link up in Melksham. It also finds the project irresponsible in terms of the use of natural countryside for industrial use.

The council's opposition primarily focusses on the impact on the areas around Corston and Rodbourne:-

Flooding

Many properties in Corston presently experience flooding from the Gauzebrook, on its existing re-engineered course, during periods of prolonged rainfall because it is unable to handle the volumes of water delivered during these events. The Council has plans, albeit in their infancy, to return the Gauzebrook to its original course thereby allowing higher volumes of water to be managed. The installation of large numbers of solar panels on this floodplain would not only prevent this plan being delivered but, by the increased runoff from the solar panels, would significantly increase the flooding frequency and impact in Corston.

BESS & Contamination

Residents are severely alarmed about the intention to locate the BESS so near to homes and the railway line because of the possibility of fire. Any harmful chemical leaks from the infrastructure supporting solar farms of this size are likely to contaminate the aquifers that provide water to residents throughout a large area of north Wiltshire and contamination from firefighting water and the use of herbicide to the substations. Once contamination has occurred the process cannot easily, if ever, be reversed.

Visual Impact

By virtue of the size of the panels being proposed, effective levels of screening are unlikely to be achieved in a reasonable timescale, if ever. The impact upon the landscape of this area will be adversely affected with the number visitors likely to fall which will impact the many small businesses that offer accommodation in Corston and Rodbourne. The landscape around the villages of Corston and Rodbourne will become a sea of panels with major adverse impact on the villagers using permissible footpaths and bridleways in the area.

Noise

The noise and the light reflection from the solar panels as they track the sun will adversely affect a number of 'high end' equine businesses in Corston and Rodbourne because of the highly strung characteristics of the animals under training (thoroughbreds, eventers, dressage horses and showjumpers).

Highway Issues

The 20,000+ HGV movements required in the construction phase are likely to result in damage to local narrow roads and verges with a significant increase in the dangers to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. This is particularly relevant to the hamlet of Rodbourne, which has been designated as a conservation area, and as such must be maintained and preserved, where possible, for future generations. The presence of the planned significant numbers of these vehicles transiting the centre of the settlement will undoubtedly cause unacceptable levels of damage and hazard. Add to this the daily volumes of workers' vehicles using these roads and lanes and the situation becomes even more critical. In the council's opinion the proposed highway routes are unenforceable and will quickly be bypassed.

The Proposed "new" road from the busy A429 to provide direct access to site E and left to site D will likely cause major hold-ups.

The proposed route for abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) via Cirencester around the Malmesbury by-pass and the necessary road alterations to accommodate this will cause disruption to resident's journeys.

To Planning Inspectorate for Lime Down
from St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Response to Planning Inspector re submission from St Paul Malmesbury
without PC 21/4/26, no 59

Madam and Sirs

You commented on our submission made about Flooding in Corston.

You asked me to send you details of the plans the Council has for returning the Gauzebrook to its pre re-engineered course. The previous meandering course was straightened and thereby abnormal flow is speeded up downstream to Corston.

Perhaps "plans" was the wrong word. The Council has the aim of reducing flooding and, with partners, is currently reviewing the most effective means to achieve this. We are working with Hullavington Parish Council, our neighbours upstream of the Gauzebrook, and the Flood Resilience Officer at Wiltshire Council (Renate Malton, Highways Asset Management & Commissioning and the Drainage Dept. at Wiltshire Council) to partake in the Wiltshire Wildlife Flood Management who are organising walks to determine how to alleviate the flooding of the Gauzebrook.

We are registered to partake in the walk of the length of the Gauzebrook with these parties. This will be the important ground work planning.

We can then put together a plan to perhaps re route the Gauzebrook to its original meandering course (as seen on old parish boundaries which followed the course) and set up points where flood pools can be created to catch and mitigate abnormal flow.

Unfortunately the Lime Down siting of the BESS and surrounding infrastructure would prevent us from carrying through this plan.

I presume you have maps of the course of the Gauzebrook and where any proposed flood pools would interact with their infrastructure but if not we are happy to help provide these.

Naturally we are some way from definitive plans, as I said they are in their infancy but already in collaboration with other parties, but it would be a great shame if this important alleviation to flooding in Corston was to be denied by any Lime Down infrastructure in the immediate zone we determine.

Please let us know if you require any further detail and we can keep you updated with results from subsequent research.

Councillor [REDACTED]
St Paul Malmesbury without Parish Council