

Melksham Town Council represents the residents of Melksham and has a direct interest in developments that affect the town and its surrounding area, including transport links, local infrastructure, residential amenity, landscape, flooding and drainage. While the Lime Down Solar Project is not located within the town boundary itself, Melksham Town Council recognises that Melksham will experience indirect and cumulative impacts arising from the scale, location and interrelationship of energy and enabling schemes in the wider Melksham area.

The Town Council supports the concerns raised by Community Action: Whitley and Shaw (CAWS) regarding cumulative effects, including the matters identified in Annex A: Energy and Enabling Schemes in Shaw, Whitley and the Wider Melksham Substation Area [REP1A-019].

Melksham Town Council considers that the cumulative assessment should not examine the Lime Down Solar Project in isolation, nor be constrained by parish or town boundaries. Instead, it should fully take into account all known and emerging energy, grid, battery storage, substation, cable routes, highway works, construction access arrangements and enabling works that may affect Melksham and neighbouring communities.

The Town Council is particularly concerned that the combined effect of these schemes could result in significant cumulative impacts on local roads and traffic within Melksham, construction movements through the town, residential amenity, public rights of way used by town residents, landscape character, flooding and drainage, local infrastructure and the overall day-to-day amenity of the town.

These impacts extend across administrative boundaries and should therefore be assessed on a wider area basis.

Assessing each project or component separately risks underestimating the overall effect on Melksham and the surrounding area.

Melksham Town Council therefore asks that the Applicant and the Examining Authority fully review and update the cumulative effects assessment, taking into account the schemes identified by CAWS and any other relevant schemes known to the Applicant, Wiltshire Council, parish councils, town councils, statutory bodies, National Grid, infrastructure providers or other relevant organisations.