

Application by Lime Down Solar Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Lime Down Solar Project

Agenda for issue specific hearing 2 (ISH2) dealing with matters relating to landscape and visual impact.

| Hearing | Date and Time | Location |
|--|---|---|
| Issue specific hearing 2 Landscape and Visual Impacts | Wednesday 1 July 2026 Hearing starts at 9:30am Registration and seating available at venue from 9:00am and virtual Registration Process from 9:00am | The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UB and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams |

Agenda items

| Item | Matters to be covered |
|---------------|--|
| Item 1 | Welcome, housekeeping, purpose of the hearing, participant introductions |
| Item 2 | Landscape fabric The impacts on the landscape fabric within the order limits will be discussed with the Applicant, Wiltshire Council and Stop Lime Down. The discussion will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The assessment of landscape fabric and how that is differentiated from the assessment of landscape character within the order limits. ○ The scope of what should be quantified as tangible physical change to the landscape fabric. |
| Item 3 | The Cotswolds National Landscape The impacts on the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and the setting of the CNL will be discussed with the Applicant, CNL Board, Wiltshire Council, Stop Lime Down and Natural England. The discussion will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whether there is agreement between parties on what constitutes the setting of the CNL. |

| Item | Matters to be covered |
|----------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposed layout of the solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, including in lime down C where parities have raised specific concerns, but also in relation to wider concerns raised about the impact on the setting of the CNL and the relationship of the fosse way to the CNL. ○ The effects of the proposed development on the special qualities of the CNL. ○ The duty to seek to further the purposes of the CNL as well as how the duty applies to land outside the CNL but within its setting. |
| <p>Item 4</p> | <p>Landscape character</p> <p>4.1. Landscape character receptors</p> <p>The assessment of effects on the separate landscape receptors, in particular the limestone lowland landscape character type and the setting of Norton village, will be discussed with the Applicant and Wiltshire Council and Stop Lime Down.</p> <p>4.2. The legacy landscape</p> <p>The Applicant will be asked questions regarding the locations where it has taken the approach to prioritise the legacy landscape (the landscape that will be left following the decommissioning phase) rather than provide mitigation for adverse landscape and visual effects in the operational phase.</p> <p>4.3. Cumulative landscape character effects</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on the landscape character will be discussed with the Applicant, Wiltshire Council, Stop Lime Down, the CNL Board and Natural England. The discussion will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the appropriate scale of landscape receptor for the consideration of cumulative landscape character effects; ○ whether the list of cumulative projects is agreed; and ○ the extent to which existing Landscape Character Assessments for impacted receptors might need to be altered in any future revisions as a result of the cumulative effects on the landscape character. |
| <p>Item 5</p> | <p>Visual impact</p> <p>5.1. Visual impact in the construction phase</p> <p>The Applicant will be asked to provide further detail on the visual impact in construction for the solar PV sites and the cable route corridor, including questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ material stockpile parameters; |

| Item | Matters to be covered |
|-------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the proposed construction programme; and ○ the impact of concurrent multi-site working on transient receptors. <p>5.2. Sequential visual effects</p> <p>The assessment of sequential visual effects of the proposed development alone and cumulatively with other solar developments will be discussed with the Applicant, Wiltshire Council and Stop Lime Down.</p> <p>5.3. Residential visual amenity</p> <p>The impact of the proposed development on private residential receptors will be discussed with the Applicant, Wiltshire Council and Stop Lime Down. The discussion will include questions in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ whether a full residential visual amenity assessment should be provided; and ○ the assessment of effects on specific receptors such as the properties at Grain Store Barn, Pig Lane. |
| Item 6 | <p>Design and parameters</p> <p>The Applicant and Wiltshire Council will be asked questions in relation to the level of detail within the design principles and parameters document in the context of establishing whether it would lead to the proposed development achieving an appearance that demonstrated good aesthetic as far as possible.</p> |
| Item 7 | <p>Review of the issues and actions arising</p> |
| Close of hearing | |

Purpose of ISH

The main purpose of ISH2 is to clarify and get views on matters relating to each of the subjects set out in the agenda above.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing.

- Applicant
- Wiltshire Council
- Cotswolds National Landscape Board
- Natural England
- Stop Lime Down (and if possible, its Landscape and Visual expert Carly Tinkler)

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. However, while every effort will be made to ensure that the items set out above will be discussed on the day, if there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are some items that take a considerable amount of time at the hearing, it may be necessary to prioritise those and defer others to written questions or to a subsequent hearing.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Registration process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at **9:30am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9:00am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

Procedure at ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

Any questions about this hearing

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the hearing or how to participate.

Email - limesdown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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