

Forward J. W Matthews. [REDACTED]

My name is John Matthews and our family have lived and farmed near Sherston since 1947 and indeed my wife was born here (but I am not letting on how long ago !).

Whilst vehemently opposed to the Lime Down scheme I would like to point out that for 13 years we have had a ground mounted PV array which feeds directly into the grid. It is discretely sited and many of the locals are still unaware of it's existence.

So we are supporters of PV and renewable energy but NOT, and so very definitely NOT, on this vast scale especially with the BESS.

There are many highly qualified technical experts involved in all of this. I am not one of those but I would like to make two points which actually have already been mentioned this afternoon.

Firstly, THE COTSWOLDS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE and it's SETTING.

As an ex board member of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Cotswolds National Landscape's predecessor, I know how extremely concerned they were about it's setting. We were flabbergasted when, in the original submission, panels were shown in the fields immediately adjacent to the National Landscape's boundary in Area A.

This was obviously totally unacceptable and some fields have now had the proposed panels removed but I suspect that the setting of the Cotswolds National Landscape is still in jeopardy. I urge you to investigate and protect this.

Secondly, PUBLIC RIGHTS of WAY.

There seem to have been many surveys (some apparently carried out covertly) and much work done on The Rights of Way issue within the scheme.

Whatever these results show I know from personal experience how well used and appreciated the Rights of Way in this area are.

Many have great historical significance such as the much quoted Fosse Way.

Under this scheme their character will be fundamentally changed.

I do not see how a path restricted by high fencing on either side with endless panels beyond as the view and an obtrusive electric hum will give any user peace, pleasure or feeling of well being in “ the countryside”.

We must not loose these priceless valuable assets.

In conclusion this scheme will change and damage our cherished landscape for generations if not forever. It will threaten livelihoods and harm our local communities.

We love this area deeply and owe it our grandchildren and their children to protect it.

I urge the Panning Inspectorate to refuse the Development Consent Order, PLEASE.

Thank you.