



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Lime Down Solar Project
Hearing:	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)
Date:	30 June 2026

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

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The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:08:00 - 00:00:09:24

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

00:00:13:21 - 00:00:47:22

Before I begin, can I just confirm with the case team that I can be heard clearly and that the live streaming of this event has begun? Thank you. It is now 2 p.m.. And time for this hearing. To begin, I would like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing for the lame down solar project. My name is David Love. I'm an examining inspector and charter town planner, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application. I'm joined by my colleagues, Ben Northover and Janine Leaver, and together we constitute the examining authority for this application.

00:00:48:22 - 00:01:25:03

Now, apologies for those of you who are present at the compulsory acquisition hearing this morning, but I do need to repeat some formal matters for those who may not have been present. I can confirm that all members of the examining authority have made a formal declaration of interests, and that there are no known conflicts of interest with regard to any of any of us examining this application. There are other colleagues from the Planning Inspectorate who are joining us today, both here and online. Our case manager is Deborah Allen, who is being supported by several case officers. It is the case team who you should contact regarding the application process in general and for today's arrangements, including any online connection issues.

00:01:26:15 - 00:01:56:29

There are several other inspectors in the venue today who are simply observing the proceedings. Those inspectors are sitting in the examining authority's separate breakout room and are watching online. In addition, there are technicians from CBS Audio and Visual in the room who are here solely for the purpose of managing the recording and live streaming of the event. This afternoon's meeting is being undertaken as a blended event, meaning some of you are present with us at the hearing venue and some of you are joining us online virtually using Microsoft Teams. You should also be aware that the meeting is being recorded.

00:01:58:15 - 00:02:31:17

I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters. I am advised that there are no planned fire drills, so should the fire alarm sound. We must take it seriously and leave the building. There are fire doors immediately to the left of me. And outside this room to the right of me. The muster point is the EV charging points in the car park. Can everyone please set all devices and phones to silent? Online participants should make sure their cameras are switched off and microphones muted, unless the panel have requested for you to speak. I am not aware of any requests made for any special measures or arrangements to enable participation in this meeting.

00:02:31:25 - 00:03:00:03

If you do need assistance, please speak to the case team. If at any point in the meeting you can't hear us, could people in the room please raise their hands? And could virtual attendees use the Raise Hand function on Microsoft Teams? Please note there may sometimes be a delay before we can acknowledge this. Now, can I ask if there are any media representatives in the room? I'm not seeing any. So does anyone have any questions about the technology or these general housekeeping matters for today's meeting?

00:03:02:16 - 00:03:42:09

Nope. I'm not seeing any online hands either. Okay, now to some notes about privacy. A link to the planning inspector. Its privacy notice was provided in our rule six letter dated 9th of February. That's document. That's document reference PD Dash 006. This explains how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in the data protection laws. Please contact any of the case team if you have any questions about this or regarding the recording of the meeting. If you participate in today's event, it is important that you understand that your comments will be recorded and that the digital recording will be published and retained, usually for a period of five years, from the Secretary of State's decision.

00:03:42:21 - 00:04:17:13

As such, the Planning Inspectorate is subject to the General Data Protection Regulations. If for some reason you feel that it is necessary for you to refer to sensitive personal information, we would encourage you to contact our case team in the first instance before disclosing such information. We would then explore with you whether the information could be provided in written format, which could then be appropriately redacted before being published. Turning now to the purpose of this open floor hearing, open floor hearings are your opportunity to raise anything directly to the examining authority that is important and relevant, and that you think we should know about and consider.

00:04:17:25 - 00:04:49:13

They are not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representation about the proposals is therefore up to you. As per the first open floor hearing, we intend to set a time limit of three minutes per person or five minutes for those representing groups. A timer has been set up to allow speakers to be aware of how long they have left. However, if you run over, we will stop you from speaking. To avoid overrunning the hearing, I will give an indication when the timer is going down, probably about the 32nd mark. Once you have spoken, the panel may wish to ask you questions.

00:04:49:18 - 00:05:02:26

Finally, the applicant will be given an opportunity to respond to any matters raised. Once all speakers have been heard in writing by deadline five, which is Friday the 7th of August. I will now go through the running order timings and get us underway.

00:05:04:12 - 00:05:35:09

So an agenda has not been prepared for this hearing, because its purpose is to hear from representations of interested parties who have registered to make oral representations, elaborating on their written representation to date. The order in which you will be invited to speak will follow the list found in annex A of the Open Floor Hearing Agenda, published on Monday 22nd of June. This is not based on any particular order, but we have sought to group speakers who are representing groups, speakers who are online and speakers who are in the room. We have asked the applicant to attend this open floor hearing to listen to the submissions.

00:05:35:13 - 00:06:10:03

The applicant will not be asked to address questions raised by interested parties at this hearing, and is not the purpose of these hearings to enable the applicant to make its case. A recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Lime Down Solar Project section of the National Infrastructure planning website as soon as practicable after the hearing is finished. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone stating your name and who you're representing each time before you speak. To use the microphones, please press the button on the base to turn it on and off, and the red line means that it's on a link to the planning inspector.

00:06:10:05 - 00:06:26:09

Its privacy notice was provided in the notification for this hearing. We assume that everybody here has familiarized themselves with this document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in the data protection laws. Again, please speak to a member of the case team if you have any questions.

00:06:28:28 - 00:06:51:11

So moving on to item three. I will now invite representations from those interested parties who gave the requested notice to you, to us, to of their intention to speak, to reduce the change over time between speakers. We will call six people up at the table at a time and then invite each of you to make a representation. Please stay at the table until all six speakers have spoken, at which point you are free to leave.

00:06:53:00 - 00:07:26:28

I believe there is a digital clock in front of the table to see how much time you have remaining, but again, I will give an indication when there's 30s remaining. Out of respect for all parties in attendance and for the sake of the timely running of the hearing, we ask that you don't clap or cheer after people speak. Or indeed, depending on the subject or subject matter. Boo! Can I now ask the first six speakers to come to the table? Can I ask Ross Savage, Daniel Gazelka, Toby Sturgis, Debbie lolly, Miguelito and Cristian de colon to come up to the table, please?

00:07:42:29 - 00:07:48:05

Now, can I ask can someone at the top table here. Just advise. Can you see a clock at the front there?

00:07:51:28 - 00:07:55:09

Okay. Just about. You can just about see it.

00:08:05:13 - 00:08:13:03

Before we begin, I'll just ask CVS audio if there is a way of making the clock a bit more visible to speakers at the top table, please.

00:08:35:12 - 00:08:36:15

I can see it.

00:08:43:29 - 00:09:00:13

Thank you very much. So can I just ask people at the top table? Can you just confirm for me? You can see that clock. Excellent. Okay. Okay, so the first speaker I have is, uh, miss Rose Savage. Uh, when you're ready, please. The clock will start when you bid commence.

00:09:02:08 - 00:09:34:27

I'm doctor Rose Savage, member of Parliament for the South Cotswolds. And I'm appearing here today as a registered, interested party on behalf of the communities in the South Cotswolds constituency, who would live with the consequences of this decision for the next six decades. I will say I've been through some soul searching over this. I was an environmental campaigner for 20 years before becoming a member of Parliament. I've campaigned extensively on the nature crisis and the climate crisis.

00:09:35:06 - 00:10:06:01

So I am very keenly aware of the need to transition away from fossil fuels and to renewables. And yet I feel very strongly that the lime down project is not the right way to achieve this goal. I feel it is the wrong size, in the wrong place and in the wrong ownership as currently proposed. It's badly sited, inadequately assessed, and this is not going to serve the energy transition.

00:10:06:03 - 00:10:48:06

And in fact it is alienating many people from that purpose. There are many different issues with this proposal, but in the interest of time, I will just pick up on a few of them here. Firstly, that the scale and detriment to the landscape. The proposed development covers over 3000 acres with nearly 2000 acres of solar PV arrays. It sprawls. It's not a contiguous site, so it is going to result in the long term industrialisation of a sensitive rural landscape close to the Cotswold National Landscape, and also adding to the cumulative impacts of development across Wiltshire.

00:10:49:07 - 00:11:35:01

I believe that the ecological assessment has been incomplete. There are gaps in that, especially along the cable route corridor, including limited or absent surveys for bats, birds and protected species. And I believe that this means the examining authority cannot be absolutely sure that the impacts on biodiversity are being adequately addressed. Thirdly, agricultural land and food security. Around 878 hectares of productive agricultural land would be removed from food production at a time when we should actually be increasing domestic food production in the face of future threats from climate change.

00:11:35:18 - 00:12:07:03

The South Cotswolds is valuable farming country, and I do not believe that the case for removing that land from food production has been adequately made, especially when there are viable alternatives on brownfield land, rooftops and lower quality sites which remain available and underutilized. Wiltshire Council has also identified adverse impacts on the rural economy, including farming and tourism, and I do not believe that those have been adequately weighed against the scheme's benefits.

00:12:08:00 - 00:12:41:14

I could go on to mention the large scale battery energy storage systems and the safety considerations around that, but I'm sure that other people will be speaking about that today. Um, so the final point that I want to make on this is the question of the payback period on this development. The developer's own assessment, as reviewed by Wiltshire Council, indicates that the carbon break even point will not be reached until several decades into the project's operational lifespan.

00:12:42:07 - 00:12:58:26

So if this scheme is basing its legitimacy on the claim of climate credentials, that timeline is highly relevant. And meanwhile, the detriment to local biodiversity is significant.

00:13:00:16 - 00:13:31:06

Wiltshire Council, is your property aware does not support this application. The affected parish councils do not support it. Local communities do not support it. My local party, the South Cotswold Lib Dems, do not support it. And I have to say, despite my environmental credentials, I do not support it. I urge the examining authority to refuse this application as currently submitted, and I thank you for the opportunity to put these concerns on the formal record.

00:13:35:14 - 00:13:45:28

Thank you. Can I just ask for the clock to be reset, please? Thank you very much. And, uh, Mr. Gazelka, over to you, please. Thank you. Sir.

00:13:46:18 - 00:14:21:28

SSD is a community group brought together by the concern that lying down is the wrong scheme in the wrong place. SSD is supportive of Solar Doom, right? It recognises the favourable policy in SN1, including in the critical national priority infrastructure presumption. But that presumption, and therefore government policy, clearly recognizes some schemes will be designed in the wrong way or in the wrong place. That will be where the mitigation hierarchy is not applied appropriately. That will be when there's an unacceptable risk to, for example, human health or flood.

00:14:22:00 - 00:15:02:25

And aside from that, the policy itself recognizes that some schemes should be rejected, notwithstanding the presumption. The presumption is, after all, a starting point, and there will be exceptional cases where the harms of the scheme clearly outweigh the benefit. SSD, supported by its experts, say that is the case here. While time doesn't permit going through all of Slade's case, it's hoped that free illustrations of the effects of the scheme will assist. Formed around something the Cotswolds is known for its walks first walking from Churston to the Fosse Way along Churston Walk to show 3035 and look 57.

00:15:03:04 - 00:15:37:29

This begins in the Cotswolds National landscape, an area of the highest level of landscape protection which the applicants accept some significant adverse effects on SSDs. Experts say there will be major significant adverse effects from running construction traffic through the canal and from building the solar farm in its setting. From there, a walker must choose to walk towards an energy generating landscape along a path enveloped by solar with what is in what is historically a tranquil area, but now faces audible electrical noise in the region of 50dB.

00:15:38:12 - 00:16:14:18

A walk will then join an ancient Roman road connecting parts of the canal, but now beset by panels, a key heritage asset that the applicant has under assessed in both significance and effect. Second, walking from Lavington to Cawston along Hull six, seven and eight well-used routes are borne upon here by large numbers of HGVs with little space to pass. Walkers would walk along a footpath to Cawston, overlooked by 132 kV substation, experiencing what the applicant accepts is significant adverse visual effects on her lights at all stages.

00:16:14:20 - 00:16:47:24

They walk through a floodplain and the Cawston Brook, which as a result of the scheme, including panel runoff, floods more frequently and more severely down into Colston and Third, walking from Norton to Bradfield Manor along North ten and Hull one. Here we pass from a village surrounded on all major exit routes by solar, and with noise from one gigawatt Bess along a footpath enveloped by solar again, which the applicant accepts will cause significant adverse visual effects at all stages of the scheme.

00:16:48:01 - 00:17:22:15

Solar infrastructure will be visible through fencing on what was once used as BMV agricultural land, and the relationship between that agricultural land and Bradfield Wood is severed from a manor itself a grade one listed building, the subject of a most significant planning, protection and a dwelling, and that is a dwelling. The applicant will try to squeeze in just under the sole noise level, instead of mitigating as far as it can in line with MPs, and even then applying an artificially low background noise which will make submissions on at the manor panels.

00:17:22:17 - 00:17:52:22

Ginton to the road, which the applicant dismisses merely because of a number of road users on them, rather than the actual safety risk posed by glint and glare. The reality is that the applicant hasn't avoided significant effects on assets of the highest protection. The scheme is on the longest solar cable route at 22km. To bring the scheme into the heart of what is a sensible location. Sorry, sensitive location, traffic and glints and glare effects such that there is a real risk to human health.

00:17:52:24 - 00:18:30:02

Flood matters are materially increased and ultimately this is a scheme which is exceptional in its harm to rural villages, heritage assets, landscapes of the highest value and ultimately the setting of people's lives. And that affects both those who live here, but also those who visit, and the income and survival of businesses that depend on this landscape. And all of this is for a scheme which the applicant cannot even confirm will exist in full for 60 years, may be decommissioned piecemeal and has a problematic relationship with net 0 in 2050.

00:18:30:21 - 00:18:44:14

This is an exceptional case which calls for the use of a mechanism which government has chosen to put in Mbps n1 SSD, considered a recommendation to the Secretary of State should be to withhold consent. Thank you.

00:18:48:14 - 00:18:56:24

Excellent timing there, Mr. Gazelka. I believe my colleague, Mr. Northover, has a question. Thank you. Can I just ask the different.

00:18:56:26 - 00:19:04:08

Walks that you referred to? If they're not marked up on a plan already submitted into the examination, could you do that for deadline for please?

00:19:04:12 - 00:19:16:29

Daniel Gazelka I'll do. Thank you sir. Yes. So they are represented in annex Z, but we can produce a specific map which shows the three examples that I've used there. That would be and we'll attach it to our hearing submissions. Thank you.

00:19:19:15 - 00:19:22:12

We'll now move on to the next speaker. Mr. Sturgis.

00:19:24:14 - 00:19:25:04

Thank you.

00:19:26:21 - 00:20:02:15

I'm Toby Sturgis, vice chairman of Great Somerford Parish Council, a neighboring parish at the corner of Sea Greenwood. I'm a retired chartered surveyor, farming land either side of the River Avon in the Somerford and Hornsea. I've lived near the River Avon for over 70 years. The whole of the lime down site, except the cable route, will drain into the River Avon, above the Great Somerford Road Bridge on the sea 66 immediately upstream of the Crump, measuring where the soffit of the road bridge restricts the flow.

00:20:02:17 - 00:20:26:16

Once the this level is reached, this is confirmed by the Environment Agency. Results in rapid flooding upstream but back up to the road Bourne Brook. There are no flows to the north or east, as the underpass is on the disused railway line and historical arches under the road were blocked to ensure all water went over the measuring where

00:20:28:04 - 00:21:11:27

this ware was installed with others during major realignment works to improve flows in the 1970s. In recent years in Greece, in peak flows have resulted in more erosion and deposits of silt, resulting in reduction of channel widths, and in other areas, erosion of tree roots resulting in large willows falling into the river. These works were regularly maintained with periodical dredging by the Environment Agency and its predecessors. More recently, riparian owners have been made responsible for

maintenance, having to apply for permits, with restrictions resulting in high costs to repair works carried out by the river authorities in the past.

00:21:13:09 - 00:21:52:09

The changing weather patterns with increased flows and regular flooding are causing more restrictions on our access roads due to the depth of water. The road, Bourne Brook and the Cawston Brook flowing from Lyme down both end to the River Avon within the Somerford above the sea 66. These caused flooding at two locations on the A82. That's the great some of the road Bourne Road. At peak flows the sea 66 Great Somerford to Little Somerford and the sea 77 Great Somerford to Dorset are both impassable.

00:21:53:12 - 00:22:28:13

Great Somerford Parish Council object to Lyme Downs application for only considering flooding within their own site. Even this appears to be left to management plans at a later date. There appears to be a total lack of information on existing flows from watercourses discharging from this site. Lack of information on discharges from the panels and drainage around the infrastructure, with no modelling of peak flows. At times when the water table is high and the fields are at full capacity.

00:22:29:23 - 00:23:02:06

Experience on similar soils in our parish shows high volume discharges from historical land drainage schemes at times of intense rainfall, resulting in rapid rising of water levels in the watercourses flowing to the River Avon. There appears to be no consideration of historical drainage schemes within the site, and the damage that may be done to them, which will result in an increase of surface runoff, erosion and silt being deposited in the watercourses.

00:23:04:01 - 00:23:37:28

The parish council accept other developments, increase the flows on the River Avon, but these are restricted by sustainable urban drainage schemes in Great Somerford alone. Three major developments in the last ten years all have comprehensive sustainable urban drainage schemes. The parish Council therefore request suitable modelling for existing land drainage schemes and protected flows are provided as a projected flows.

00:23:39:10 - 00:24:09:21

Parish Council also requests suitable on site sustainable drainage schemes are installed to protect the flows from the infrastructure, and the third request is that suitable sustainable drainage schemes to control flows entering the watercourses that discharge into the River Avon on the in the parishes of the Somerford. Great Somerford Parish Council also suggest that lime down projects should contribute to the costs of mitigating flooding on the sea.

00:24:09:23 - 00:24:10:19

82

00:24:12:05 - 00:24:20:24

Some maintains its flooding objection until there is evidence there will be no increase in flooding on access roads to the Samford. Thank you.

00:24:23:01 - 00:24:35:28

Thank you, Mr. Sturgis. Sorry, I was I was scribbling notes. Um, at the end there, you suggested the applicant should contribute towards costs. Um, you mentioned a road number, but I didn't catch the road number, I'm afraid.

00:24:36:00 - 00:24:37:19

C 82, C 82.

00:24:37:21 - 00:24:38:13

Thank you.

00:24:42:27 - 00:24:48:19

Thank you very much. Um, let's move on to our next speaker, please, sir. Debbie Lawley.

00:24:49:06 - 00:25:23:01

Examining authority. Thank you. My name is Debbie Lawley, chair of her Lavington Parish council. You have our written representations, so I will not repeat them. Instead, I will highlight the specific evidential gaps that remain because the applicant is not engaged with the issues that we raised. And I'll illustrate those gaps with four concrete examples from our parish. Firstly, following our written representation responding to exam 9.1, the applicant has provided no further response to addressing Harrington's concerns.

00:25:23:06 - 00:25:57:14

There has been no settlement level assessment, no correction of the landscape baseline, no response to our evidence on construction impacts, no engagement with the safety issues on our rural road network and no cumulative assessment at the parish scale. As a result, the evidence we have submitted remains unchallenged. Secondly, walk eight is a named community route. It passes under a narrow railway bridge with no pavement and no refuge. It is used daily by cyclists and pedestrians accessing the only cafe in our parish.

00:25:58:05 - 00:26:29:00

The Independent Roads and Transport report projects 194% increase in HGV movements on routes affecting her Lavington. The applicants answer is a management plan with GPS trackers and contractual penalties. A contractual penalty does not physically stop a 40 tonne vehicle from entering a narrow lane. A driver approaching from the east, facing a long detour, will be sent through her Lavington by satnav at the railway bridge and walk out.

00:26:29:02 - 00:27:14:05

There is nowhere to step aside. This is not a theoretical concern. It's a foreseeable safety hazard on a named route and the applicant has not assessed it. Thirdly, Wiltshire Council, the statutory highways authority, has formally warned this examination of total structural pavement failure on the minor roads in question. That phrase matters. It means the roads were not built to carry the loads required for this scheme. Pre-construction surveys cannot fix that, contractual penalties cannot fix that, and the applicant's modeling does not account for the aggregate volumes required simply to construct the hall roads for the 400 kilovolt cable runs.

00:27:14:08 - 00:27:51:28

This is not just the parish councils view, it is the view of the statutory authority responsible for these roads and the applicant has not addressed it. Fourthly, after submitting their application, the applicant added 15 new land parcels solely to accommodate the abnormal indivisible loads needed to move their transformers. 15 parcels is not a refinement. It's an admission that the original assessment of the landscape and transport network was incomplete, yet no updated assessment has been provided to reflect this change in their responses to relevant representation.

00:27:52:00 - 00:28:32:27

Part one, page 1654. The applicant states that her Lavington is, quote, one of the communities most likely to be affected by the scheme With greater sensitivity to changes in its visual surroundings, and that the scheme will change that character and potentially the quality of life for residents and visitors with effects that are, quote, long term throughout the scheme's construction, operational and decommissioning phases. Those are the applicant's own words, and yet they conclude that these impacts will not be, quote, a significant adverse effect, unquote, on the well-being of the residents.

00:28:33:12 - 00:29:06:06

The gap between those concessions and that conclusion has not been bridged by evidence. It rests entirely on untested consultant judgment. Every school morning, children from her Lovington travelled these lanes by bus to Malmesbury and to Chippenham. Elderly residents rely on the same bus routes for essential services. These are not obstructions in a transport chapter. They are the daily operational realities of a rural community. The applicant has not assessed the impact of construction traffic on these essential movements.

00:29:06:17 - 00:29:37:00

The outline Comp and TMP remain generic and do not address the constraints of our rural road network or the safety of our residents. To summarize, the applicant has not responded to our written representation. Key elements of the evidence base remains incomplete. The Statutory Highways Authority has raised fundamental concerns. The applicant's own documents contain concessions that contradict their conclusions, and the parish specific impacts on Abington have not been assessed.

00:29:37:06 - 00:29:50:01

We respectfully invite the examining authority to give weight to the fact that our evidence stands unchallenged, and to require the applicant to provide the missing assessments so that impacts on Abington can be properly examined.

00:29:51:25 - 00:30:23:14

Thank you. Thank you. And just to mention that tomorrow we do have an issue specific hearing on landscape. And on a Thursday morning we have an issue specific hearing on transport. So just to you might be interested in both of those. So moving on to the next speaker. Now we move on to the remaining speakers. All have a three minute time limit. So moving on to um is it Magali ETA. Apologies if I've mispronounced that.

00:30:23:17 - 00:30:24:29

Um, over to you, please.

00:30:25:12 - 00:30:56:08

Good afternoon. My name is Magali Etter, sustainability manager at Whatley Manor. Let me be clear at the outset. We are not opposed to renewable energy. We have recently achieved Earth Goal Certification, one of the highest global standards in sustainable tourism, and we are among a very small number of hotels in the UK to do so. This represents years of work and significant investment to operate responsibly and sustainably. I say that so you understand the weight of what follows.

00:30:56:17 - 00:31:27:09

This proposal would directly and materially harm the very things we have worked so hard to protect. Our guests come to what we managed to escape. They seek peace, quiet and the beauty of the countryside. And many return with over a third of our business being repaid. Guests. This development would impact the entire experience. The approach from the motorway, the walks and cycle rides and the tranquility that defines their stay. We see this as a direct threat to the enjoyment of our facilities and to the integrity of what we offer.

00:31:27:19 - 00:31:57:25

Let me be specific. Construction on this scale will generate significant airborne dust over a prolonged period. That dust will not remain contained. It will travel across the valley, settle on our gardens, and impact plant health across 12 acres of carefully maintained grounds. It will affect our bee colonies, our homegrown produce and the wider biodiversity we depend on. These are not theoretical concerns. They are well-established consequences of large scale construction in exposed locations.

00:31:58:07 - 00:32:31:03

The noise impact is equally serious. Our guests are not visiting a city hotel. They come for quiet, for birdsong, for stillness. Yes, of construction noise will not pause for weddings, spa guests or couples who have travelled for a peaceful stay. There is also a wider point. Our earthly gold status is not a label. It requires continuous audited performance across energy, water, waste, biodiversity and guest experience. This development threatens our ability to maintain that standard.

00:32:31:15 - 00:33:01:18

It risks the ecological integrity of our grounds, and places an ongoing operational burden on our team to manage the effects of prolonged industrial activity on our doorstep. In effect, we are being asked to absorb the environmental cost of the development from which we derive no benefit. Finally, I must highlight that there has been no engagement with Swati Manor, a leading hotel employing over 100 people and welcoming around 10,000 guests annually.

00:33:01:20 - 00:33:22:22

Contributing significantly significantly to the local economy, has not been consulted. We do not believe that is acceptable, nor do we believe the impacts on properties like ours in direct proximity of the project have been properly assessed. We urge the examining authority to require that they are. Thank you.

00:33:25:20 - 00:33:33:01

Thank you. And the last speaker at the table, Mr. Cristian de colon, over to you, please. Good afternoon.

00:33:33:19 - 00:33:36:22

My name is Chris Coonan. I own Whatley Manor and one. One.

00:33:36:24 - 00:33:45:22

I'm sorry, sir, can you put your microphone on, please? It's just to be able to capture on the recording. Sorry. And the clock has been reset, so I'll let you start again. Thank you.

00:33:46:14 - 00:34:20:11

Good afternoon. My name is Christina Cullen. I own Whatley Manor, one of the region's leading luxury hotel. I sit on the Board of Environmental Foundations, and for many years I competed internationally as a professional professional event rider. My livelihood depends on this landscape, and my experience gives me first hand knowledge of both rural road safety and the value of the countryside. Let me be clear I am not opposed to a set of energy and worldly manner. We have heavily invested and still do, in sustainability, because we believe businesses have a duty of care to reduce the environmental impact.

00:34:20:15 - 00:34:51:06

Renewable energy is essential to our future. This proposal, however, is the industrialization of more than 3000 acres at a southern gateway to the Cotswolds, within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. That designation exists because this landscape is exceptional. Once an industrial development of this scale is imposed upon it, that protection becomes little more than words on paper. The applicant asks you to believe the impact on the rural community will be limited. I fundamentally disagree.

00:34:51:15 - 00:35:27:25

Tourists do not travel here to look at substation security, fencing, CCTV access roads and thousands of acres of solar panels. They come because this landscape is beautiful, tranquil and internationally recognized. That beauty sustain livelihoods. You cannot separate this land from the people whose livelihoods depend upon it. It supports farmers who have shaped and cared the land for for generations. It supports hotels, pubs, restaurants, cafes, holiday cottages, farm shops and countless local businesses whose success depends on people wanting to experience the countryside.

00:35:28:06 - 00:35:58:29

I find extraordinary that Wortley Manor, one of the area most significant hospitality businesses with well over 100 employees, does not appear to have been meaningfully assessed in the application socio economic impact work, nor have we been consulted. If a business of our scale can be overlooked, what confidence should this committee have that the wider economic impact would have been properly understood. As someone who has spent a lifetime, a lifetime on rural roads. I'm equally concerned by the construction impact.

00:35:59:01 - 00:36:30:07

These roads were never designed to sustain heavy construction traffic. The consequences for horse riders, dogs, walkers, cyclists, walkers, residents and visitors are obvious. Road safety is not a theoretical concern. It is a daily reality. This decision today is about more than energy generation. It is about whether nationally protected landscape genuinely deserve protection, whether rural livelihoods

matter, and whether future generations inherit the southern gateway to the Cotswolds or an industrial energy estate.

00:36:30:17 - 00:36:37:13

There are more appropriate places for large scale solar development. I therefore urge you to refuse this application. Thank you.

00:36:39:17 - 00:36:51:20

Thank you. We've now heard from our initial six speakers, so you are now free to leave the top table and stay to listen to the rest of the hearing or to Parton. Whatever you wish to do, thank you.

00:36:58:04 - 00:37:10:23

So our next six speakers at the top table, please are Christine Hamilton, Kim Langley, Piers Durbin, Dermot Farrington, Caroline Moore and Gerald Johnson, please.

00:37:45:13 - 00:37:50:01

Thank you very much. I'll now ask Christine Hamilton in your own time, please.

00:37:53:03 - 00:38:29:29

Christine Hamilton solar has its rightful place in modern society, but lying down is not that place. In particular, the sighting of the beastly bass. Nearly 300 batteries, each the size of a shipping container just yards behind our house, as well as about 38,000 solar panels in an arc around us. We will be subjected to the noise of the bus 24 over seven and see it from upstairs windows and the top of the garden. If that wasn't enough, we will be under constant threat of a devastating and potentially lethal thermal runaway.

00:38:30:03 - 00:39:02:24

Yes, they are rare, but they do happen. And everyone in our house at the time, children and babies would be sitting ducks, overwhelmed by toxic gas and smoke before anyone else, and it would quickly extend to her. Lovington, where just a field away is the primary school of nearly 150 pupils. Even closer is the London South Wales Railway in a deep cutting. The area floods regularly and with gigantic panels nearby. The volume and rate of runoff would greatly increase flood risk.

00:39:03:06 - 00:39:34:08

The applicant has failed, deliberately or otherwise, to give any estimates of potential pollution on the railway, totally ignoring the likelihood of likelihood of toxic gas emissions, which would gravely threaten rail passengers. Depending on wind conditions, all surrounding villages and Malmesbury itself could be affected. There would be total shutdown. It is hard to imagine a less suitable site from the best, an unprecedented 22km from the grid connection.

00:39:34:27 - 00:40:12:19

I was pleased to see your pertinent questions of Wilts and Dorset Fire, but I see no response from them to indicate that they would be up to the task. But we learn from history. This Bess, is roughly the size of Moss Landing, which had a thermal runaway in Jan 25 that needed about 2.2 million liters of water in a closed loop system, all needing disposal as hazardous waste. The applicant proposes

provision of less than half 1,000,000l, not in a closed loop that is less than a quarter needed at Moss Landing.

00:40:12:24 - 00:40:45:20

Even so, this vast volume of hazardous water would run off into already flooded, regularly flooded land and probably through our house as well. I would not wish the horror of the bet on anyone, but it could be anywhere, and it does not have to be adjacent to the railway and a grade one listed building, the origins of which were in Domesday. But let's get real. The attraction of the Bess is not to store electricity from lime down, but to import it from the grid when demand is low and export it at peak times.

00:40:45:22 - 00:41:07:11

When the price is high, it is an obvious money grabbing device. If the DCO is granted, Macquarie will just sell off this windfall. Hop back to Australia before any of the grotesque results descend on us disposable locals. This part of the glorious, higgledy piggledy jigsaw that is rural England

00:41:08:29 - 00:41:33:20

will be lost forever. Sorry to the avarice of distant overseas investors and nine greedy, selfish landowners who care not for their neighbours and erstwhile friends. They don't give a damn. But we do. This is our community and our lives. Lying down has no merit whatsoever in planning terms and must not be allowed to happen.

00:41:35:16 - 00:41:39:27

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. Sorry. No, no, please don't apologize. You appreciate it so much.

00:41:40:11 - 00:41:42:07

It's very stressful. And it is.

00:41:42:29 - 00:41:44:07

But we do understand.

00:41:47:01 - 00:41:55:22

Could I ask you just to turn your microphone off? Sorry. No. Thank you. Um, if we can move on to the next speaker, please. Uh, Miss Kim Langley. Thank you.

00:41:57:12 - 00:42:32:12

My name is Kim Langley. I have a business in leisure and tourism, and I'm concerned over the impact that Lam Lime Down Solar Park would have on my business and other businesses near the proposed siting of Lime Down Solar Park. Firstly, I'm not in a position to clean ways of producing electricity, but I believe it needs to be in the right place, not damaging local communities and farmland. Clients stay at my bed and breakfast for the beauty and tranquility of the area, using it as a hub for walking cycling in the local region where they can unwind and recharge their batteries from hectic lives they visit.

00:42:32:16 - 00:43:07:15

They visit Malmesbury, Ashurst and Norton, where they spend money in shops and restaurants. Lying Down Solar Park has said that footpaths will be a will will have a corridor of solar panels around them, or they will have solar panels down one side. Is this what walkers would enjoy during their relaxing stay? I think not. At present, cyclists who stay with us can enjoy the country lanes and roads and be immersed in the sound of countryside as they cycle. This will change when the roads are flooded with lorries carrying industrial cargo to Lime Down building park.

00:43:08:15 - 00:43:42:06

After the solar park. After the solar park's completion, walkers and cyclists will be confronted by the monstrous, monstrous sight of legions of solar panels and the horrendous humming of the solar mechanisms which you come here as a tourist to face this, I think not. I also run Roca Pottery and run workshops in my studio beside my B&B. People have often said that time spent in the studio, surrounded by countryside, is a balm for their souls and give respite from the onslaught from city life. This tranquility will be destroyed by the erection of Lime Down Solar Park.

00:43:42:16 - 00:44:18:26

I ran the Flying Monk Arts Trail for ten years with over 20 venues aiding multiple artists. The Arts Trail had a huge following, bringing money to spend to both artists and the local restaurants and shops. Would the public come with huge solar panels towering over them as they travel around between the venues? Leisure and tourism is worth 1.5 billion annually in Wiltshire and over 28,000 jobs related to the industry. The impact of laying down solar park on tourist spending power would decline if the very thing they came to see and experience and enjoy it's taken away, meaning loss of revenue of any view to businesses.

00:44:18:28 - 00:44:44:16

And sadly, the casualty will be job losses. The industrial park will have a negative or negatively alter the area, which may sadly have a catastrophic. Has to stop. Can't say. Christopher effect on leisure and tourism business. I strongly asked that Lime Down Solar Park is not given planning permission. Thank you, the Planning Inspectorate, for listening to my petition.

00:44:47:01 - 00:44:48:04

Catastrophic.

00:44:49:25 - 00:44:53:15

Thank you. Sorry, I have a stutter, so.

00:44:53:17 - 00:45:09:22

No, no. Please don't. Don't apologize. Thank you very much. Um, okay, so no questions from from me. I will move on to, uh, Mr. Pierce. Durban, please. Oh, sorry. Microphone. Thank you very much. Over to you, Mr. Durbin.

00:45:10:25 - 00:45:45:18

Good afternoon. My name is Pearce Durbin and I am a local resident and keen cyclist. Over the last 20 years, I've commuted more than 25,000 miles on the roads to and fro work around the proposed lime down solar development. I also cycle at weekends with my friends. During all of those miles, I can remember just one genuinely frightening incident involving a motor vehicle a rushing parent on a

school run. Apart from the regular diversions caused by the closure due to the flooding of Kingsway Bridge.

00:45:45:29 - 00:46:18:05

I can almost count on two hands the number of articulated lorries or other large construction vehicles I have encountered. That is precisely why these roads have become so popular with cyclists. Of course, I meet tractors and farm machinery and local refuse lorries. These are part of the everyday rural life, and they remain a relatively infrequent part of the traffic mix. There is a thriving cycling community. Clubs such as the Gretton Road Racers, Churston Velo, Malmesbury Cycling Club, Chippenham Wheelers.

00:46:18:07 - 00:46:56:14

We all regularly use these lanes for training, rides, club rides and events. Around that has grown a small but important rural economy. Cafes such as the Flying Monk between Lavington and Norton, together with cafes in Malmesbury and Churston, have become recognised cycling destinations. Construction would introduce a level of heavy goods vehicle traffic that these lanes simply do not experience today. Every additional HGV creates another interaction between a cyclist and a vehicle weighing many tonnes, often on roads with no pavements, no cycling lanes, blind bends and very little opportunity to pass safely.

00:46:57:00 - 00:47:39:29

The issue is not whether every cat driver is careful. The issue is exposure. These lanes work together because large, large vehicles are the exception, not they are the exception, not the rule. This isn't an argument against development. It is a plea to recognise that these roads have evolved is quite rural. Lanes shared by cyclists, walkers, horse riders, local residents and agricultural traffic. They were never designed to accommodate sustained construction traffic on this scale. I ask the examining authority to give careful consideration to the impact that this change will have on cyclists safety, on the local community, and on rural business that have grown around this unique and well-established network.

00:47:40:09 - 00:47:41:05

Thank you.

00:47:44:06 - 00:48:11:15

Thank you, Mr. Durbin. I've heard twice now reference to Flying Monk, um, as a cafe and an arts trail. Um, is can can someone just enlighten me? What is flying monk? Is it. Is it an arts trail or is it a cafe? Is it more? Well, yeah. I'm sorry. I know where it is, but is it? I suppose what I'm asking is, is there some more sort of cultural significance to the terms?

00:48:11:17 - 00:48:45:15

Yeah. You'd better basically. Malmesbury Abbey being the oldest abbey and the home of the great King Athelstan. Um. Was that. That's where really the monks are. All were all based. And so the Abbey was obviously a large expo, a large format with lots of cloisters, and it's generally recognized as one of the, you know, a significant sort of landmark. And basically rural business has grown up around that, using the Namaqua monk, really as a as a way, we have Flying Monk beer, Flying Monk Cafe, Flying Monk Potteries trails.

00:48:45:18 - 00:48:46:03

Yes.

00:48:46:05 - 00:48:46:20

Yeah.

00:48:50:03 - 00:48:50:25

Exactly.

00:48:56:16 - 00:48:59:13

Sorry. Just we're just going to bring you a microphone. Um.

00:49:01:13 - 00:49:03:00

Sorry. The flying.

00:49:03:02 - 00:49:03:22

Monk.

00:49:03:29 - 00:49:12:21

All these places. The Flying Monk are named after Elmer, the flying monk who flew from Malmesbury Abbey in the 10th or 11th century.

00:49:16:05 - 00:49:30:08

Can I add that the the Flying Monk Flying Monk Brewery is a particular place which produces flying. Monk ale. The Flying Monk Trail brings in all sorts of Elmer related things all over the place.

00:49:30:10 - 00:50:01:05

Thank you very much. I fear I may have opened a can of worms with asking that question, but that that does help because, like I say, the examining authority. We've come across the term flying monk several times, but now now I understand the significance of it, where it comes from, etc. so that's very helpful. Thank you very much. Um, before we go into any more, um, flying monk related produce places, etc., I will move on to the next speaker, please. Um, Mr. Dermot Farrington. I'm not trying to avoid eye contact. I have a camera in the way.

00:50:01:12 - 00:50:04:06

I will perhaps shuffle across, but over to you in your own time, sir.

00:50:04:11 - 00:50:05:06

Dermot Farrington.

00:50:05:08 - 00:50:38:02

West Park Farm. There's no doubt in my mind that the application is flawed. Where are the equine experts? How is it only now that they're looking for information for me on how this might financially affect my business, yet no mention on any health safety risks to my horses or people alike. Maybe I

have not heard from the Lyme Down equine experts, because anyone that's been around the thoroughbred for more than a wet week will say putting this next to a stud farm is a high is in a highly equine populated area. It's going to produce serious, serious risks to anybody, including the horses.

00:50:38:04 - 00:51:16:12

And the fact is, I don't believe any of their reports as as how can they trespass on my land, leaving a noise monitor in a dangerous place, nowhere near the best possible site. They should be asked and pleased to do these reports again. More recently, probably two weeks ago, for the second time, two guys trespassing on behalf of lime down turned up at the farm at the lower end of Grass Broad Brook, at the opposite end of the site, surveying flood possibilities in the middle of summer two for no permission to let themselves show an electric fence that normally keeps cattle and horses in.

00:51:16:15 - 00:51:25:01

looking for them. It wasn't turned on that morning. Perhaps they were spurred on by the pictures that I sent of the massive flooding during the winter to the planners.

00:51:27:03 - 00:51:28:00

While you weren't there.

00:51:28:02 - 00:51:32:28

During the winter, how many times have they turned up at people's properties uninvited?

00:51:36:22 - 00:51:37:27

Who's making sure.

00:51:37:29 - 00:52:11:13

That these guys are when to do the service are turning up at the right locations? Because on this occasion, it was me who had to show them where the actual site was. They didn't know. How can we trust them to to abide by the rules in the future when they can't even pretend to care about basic trespassing laws? Just a few days ago, I received a questionnaire promised two weeks ago by laying down, asking, basically asking for my financial details of my business, deciding whether it's good enough to stay or go.

00:52:11:16 - 00:52:46:19

It's it was intimidating, stressful and intrusive. They've had years to send me something like this, but basically demanded it by return within five days. I started my business 30 years ago and worked hard with my wife and my family to be able to buy a farm that is now an integral part of my business. They gave me five days to reply while they apply a just reapply lobby so they can blight the country with a heap of solar panels and glass that will probably end up in a landfill anyway.

00:52:47:15 - 00:53:10:26

Have we not learned anything from Thames Valley Water and Macquarie? Don't believe me? Just get on Google. Look up the Moriarty Tribunal in Ireland or the man, the Mohan Tribunal in Ireland, and you'll see the relationship between lime down and the individuals in this tribunal. Are these the characters that we want in charge of our countryside? Thank you.

00:53:14:25 - 00:53:48:22

Thank you, Mr. Farrington. Now, you made reference to your business there, and we are in receipt of your representations, and we've read those. And of course, we came to visit your property and we saw some of the workings of your your stud farm. What what would help the examining authority in terms of having a better understanding of the impacts on your business is knowing sort of the the day to day practicalities of what goes on? Yes, we understand the the big headlines, if you like, of the success of your business.

00:53:48:24 - 00:54:21:28

But actually when we visited you, you mentioned about handling. You brought horses in. You were handling them. You were you were rearing foals, etc.. So if I could ask you as a as an action point for the next deadline to with your your summary submission for the next following this this hearing, just provide a bit more detail about what you've told us on site about how your business operates? Yes. Like I say, in terms of when you're handling a yearling, they're going to be let me use the word skittish, perhaps when they're hearing noises, etc..

00:54:22:05 - 00:54:29:11

Um, so it's that sort of information that would help us understand your business more and therefore the effects on your business.

00:54:29:17 - 00:55:01:15

And yeah, that's no problem. And just just to let you know, even on that day that you were there and those horses, you saw those horses running around. We had to deal with an injury from one. Just from how many people? 15 people walking around with high vis jackets. You saw them yourself running around? That's nothing really. But that evening we're we're there. We're we're fixing a horse's leg where it got caught of pictures and everything there where it was caught. And we have to give it veterinary attention. So that's the what I, I I'll go into more detail as you asked.

00:55:01:17 - 00:55:02:17

Thank you very much.

00:55:02:28 - 00:55:10:03

No thank you. That would be. That'd be really useful. Um, if we can now move on to, uh, Miss Caroline Moore, please.

00:55:10:05 - 00:55:42:12

Caroline Moore, approaching junction 17 on the M4. There's a sign River Avon. For 18 wonderful years, that sign told us we're almost home. With a narrow road. Meanders through six miles of as yet unspoilt South Cotswold countryside. To Churston back home, the Churston Haven bisected our garden, our haven of tranquillity, interrupted only by the screech of kingfishers, daily ducks, more hens and their young broods, herons, egrets, bats, muntjac, stoats, water bowls and even the odd visit from a pair of otters.

00:55:42:14 - 00:56:12:24

All wildlife thrived by the river. Talk about biodiversity. In March 2024, that life changed when this little innocent flyer dropped on the mat. At first glance, it looked like another retirement home for the

over 50 fives. Um, which nearly went straight into the recycling bin. I noticed it referred to a public meeting in Churston a week later. Reading on, we grasp the size and industrial nature of lime down solar proposal and what it would mean to our communities.

00:56:12:26 - 00:56:45:25

It was vast, like nothing seen so far. Joining up with others who also got it. The Stop Lime Dance Steering group all worked tirelessly on getting up to speed on this issue. We knew little about it, consumed every waking moment, and ate away at our souls. Nearly a year later, we realized how it was affecting our mental health. We knew spending three and a half years of our precious decade of our 60s living beside an enormous construction site, watching the destruction of landscape we loved would be devastating to our health.

00:56:46:01 - 00:56:58:15

Even the land recovered after 15 years, our most active years would have long passed by then, and with broken hearts, we made the painful decision to preserve our mental health and leave that magical spot by the river.

00:56:58:23 - 00:57:06:09

Mrs. Moore, do take your time. We know you've got three minutes, but you're rushing and we can tell it's emotional. So thank you for your time.

00:57:06:11 - 00:57:37:02

That really helps. And leave that magical spot by the river, the wildlife we love, the village and the people. The house we'd spent so much hard earned money to afford everything, pressured with what we'd worked our socks off for. But we were luckier than so many of our friends in other affected areas. Justin's on the edge of Lyme, Dan Solas, you'll know we still had the opportunity just about to sell, even if not quite as we'd have liked. We realized we were hardly impacted.

00:57:37:04 - 00:58:14:07

We realized we're hardly impacted compared to others we heard from this morning especially. But there are so many people like us who should be heard. So why am I here if I've left? Although it's no longer in my backyard, we remain committed to oppose a project we feel to believe about money rather than renewable energy. We absolutely need renewable energy if we are to tackle climate change, that's not in dispute. We should all be drawing down from solar panels on our own houses, supermarkets, from freezers, from their car parks, solar panels.

00:58:14:09 - 00:58:53:01

This fight, which none of us wanted and took us by surprise, has always been a horribly unequal battle. IGP is owned by a group with worldwide infrastructure assets in excess of \$200 billion, equivalent roughly to the GDP of Qatar. Against resources of that scale. Volunteer groups relying on donated time and expertise can never compete on equal terms. Serious concerns about the impact of the historical setting of Malmesbury, a flood risk affecting local communities, and potential consequences of fires involving the base appear to have received scant attention.

00:58:53:03 - 00:59:24:15

And what are the benefits to locals? This area is already rich in biodiversity. Technology is advancing at extraordinary speeds, solar panels might be obsolete before this is even completed. How will we all cope then, knowing that the toll it took on our mental health and everything that we've lost was for obsolete industrial infrastructure, ruining what was once some of England's finest countryside. Because once the landscapes like this are lost, who puts them back? Once they're gone, they're gone. Thank you for the discretion.

00:59:26:12 - 00:59:49:07

No, thank you, Miss Moore. And like I say, we do appreciate. It's emotional. It's stressful. It's difficult. We do appreciate that. So thank you to everyone for coming along today and making your your representations. Okay. Um, onto the final speaker at the table there we have a mr. Gerald Johnson, not Gerald Gerard. Sorry. Over to you. Please, sir.

00:59:49:15 - 00:59:50:02

Uh, I'm.

00:59:50:04 - 00:59:50:19

A.

00:59:50:21 - 00:59:52:19

Resident of Churston, and initially.

00:59:52:21 - 00:59:53:06

I've.

00:59:53:08 - 00:59:57:02

Been asked by the angel in Churston, which is the coffee.

00:59:57:04 - 00:59:57:19

House.

00:59:57:21 - 00:59:58:06

If you like.

00:59:58:08 - 01:00:00:20

But with providing food and rooms.

01:00:01:12 - 01:00:01:27

They want.

01:00:01:29 - 01:00:02:14

Me to make.

01:00:02:16 - 01:00:03:04

Representation.

01:00:03:06 - 01:00:37:09

On their behalf. They are now a major hub of the area, providing hospitality and a meeting place for residents of Houston and surrounding areas. A material element of the revenue is derived from cyclists and walkers, who are obviously drawn by the beauty of the area. The walkers are of particular relevance because, via Cotswold walks, they book overnight rooms which are very profitable for cyclists and walkers, provide revenue which creates the difference between profit and loss.

01:00:37:16 - 01:01:10:02

Without their customer, the angel will become uneconomic to the point that it will close. The expectation is that there is going to be a material decrease in this. These cyclists and walkers, we've already heard what people believe will be the effect of cycling or walking through a load of screens rather than beautiful countryside. The angel is actually saying they are at risk.

01:01:10:04 - 01:01:44:03

They do believe they will have to close. That was my first point. My second one is that there is a lot of skepticism that a term of this contract, there will be no money to return the to the current state as it is today. It would really help if the applicant could give some detail of how they're going to fund that asset, which will be needed in 40 or 60 years time.

01:01:44:16 - 01:02:16:07

Is there a capital some set aside today? Will it be from investment funds or will they put up their own money? How will the inflationary element be managed? Will they buy inflation linked bonds or by some other means? And in whose control and name will those funding assets sit? Sincerely hope it isn't IGP or Macquarie, but an independent trust or arbiter. I've got one final throw away.

01:02:17:24 - 01:02:33:13

Given the prospective new government feeling and Mr. Burnham's ideas, what will Macquarie or the applicant think? If the energy industry tends towards nationalisation.

01:02:47:00 - 01:03:10:24

Thank you sir. That concludes our current group of speakers. Thank you again each of you, for coming along and making your representations. I'll now call the next six. We have, uh, Mike Kenwood, Jeffrey Phillips, Steve Harvey, Richard Tanner, Aileen Hood, and John Matthews, please.

01:03:49:00 - 01:03:57:23

So who are we missing? Do we have a mr. Henwood? Mr. Tanner? Thank you. Okay. Is Mr. Tanner in the room?

01:03:59:22 - 01:04:01:10

Okay. That's fine.

01:04:05:29 - 01:04:21:21

Would anyone like to speak on behalf of Mr. Tanner? Miss Ross, who was here this morning, perhaps. No. That's fine. We'll continue as we are. And if Mr.. Mr. Tanner turns up, then we can deal with that afterwards. Um, Mr. Henwood, over to you, please, sir.

01:04:24:18 - 01:04:40:14

Mike. Linwood. Foxley, Wright nurseries. My wife, Carol and I have run Fox Road Nurseries for almost 40 years, taking over from my parents, who started the business in 1948. Many of our customers have been coming to us for decades.

01:04:42:08 - 01:05:19:06

Most of our customers are local and travel by car, but some cycle or walk to us, enjoying the journey of the relatively quiet Foxley Road, which forms part of the Wiltshire Cycleway. We also have many customers from much further afield, such as Redding and Bristol, as traditional nurseries such as ours are increasingly few and far between. If lying down is allowed to go ahead, we anticipate that many of our customers will be deterred from using what would become an extremely busy minor road, particularly for those coming from places such as Churston or Harlington.

01:05:19:29 - 01:05:50:02

Many of our customers are older and could be intimidated at the prospect of travelling down narrow country roads and meeting heavy construction traffic. Our business is extremely seasonal. Traffic disruption at certain times of the year could have a significant impact on the viability of our business. For example, high vehicles occasionally become stuck under Kingsway Bridge on the A49, causing a continuous stream of traffic along Foxhall Road for several hours.

01:05:50:14 - 01:06:12:00

As this is the designated diversion route. Lime down traffic would only exacerbate this problem. Whilst planners may stipulate certain new routes be used. We know from a nearby agricultural business development that vehicles do not always follow the designated routes. Once planned, permission is granted.

01:06:13:17 - 01:06:46:22

The construction phase will have a huge impact on local roads, the effect of which will continue long after construction is complete. In 2019, Foxhall Road was closed for several months for the bridge and Malmesbury to be strengthened and a lengthy diversion was put in place. This had a major impact on our business throughout the construction phase and after the road reopened, people had become used to using other routes and alternative suppliers, which affected our trade for many months afterwards.

01:06:48:13 - 01:07:15:15

We grow a diverse range of plants at the nursery which attract a rich variety of wildlife including owls, bats, foals and many pollinating insects. Our customers often comment there is a very peaceful place and some come in to wander around just to enjoy the tranquility. Having improved someone's day, particularly if they're having a tough time as a key part of our business ethos.

01:07:18:01 - 01:07:41:06

Please compare this with what Lime Dam would do destroying the local countryside, damaging the mental wellbeing of local people and severely impacting the viability of many local businesses purely in pursuit of profit for their unscrupulous and uncaring shareholders who have no interest in the local area. Thank you.

01:07:43:14 - 01:07:46:22

Thank you, sir. Uh, could I now ask

01:07:48:09 - 01:07:49:27

Mr. Jeffrey Phillips, please?

01:07:51:06 - 01:07:52:09

Good afternoon.

01:07:52:18 - 01:08:28:27

I live in Mill Lane, Causton. I am fully retired, spending much of my time in our garden with its 300 metre frontage to the gorse Brook and footpath, Ma lw 51. This allows me to put flesh onto some excellent points raised at the first open floor meeting in April. Reference was made to storm Birt in November 24th. Not an isolated event event. Not even a 1 in 30 year event. The brook flooded some 17 times that winter, using the full extent of the floodplain immediately to the west of Cawston.

01:08:28:29 - 01:09:06:12

On each occasion, I suggest a typical winter. The increased runoff identified by Professor Skeffington will increase the speed at which the waters rise. The A42 nine bridge will be more frequently overwhelmed, raising the flood level and creating increased risk to residents of Cawston. Lying down would render stillborn. Any thoughts on flood alleviation by the local council? Our idyllic rural footpath, with its long open views and grazing livestock, is a significant recreational asset for the wellbeing of locals and visitors alike.

01:09:06:28 - 01:09:40:02

Year round. From my garden, I estimate 20 to 30 groups passed by our garden daily on average. The number obviously varies, with weather and season, exceeding perhaps a hundred on a fine summer's weekend. Families. Dog walkers, cyclists, hikers and horse riders. This footpath leads to whole seven and Hull six, both set to close during construction, eroding the main benefit of Mals 51 and cutting off both 45 minute circular routes back to Mill Lane, which we like.

01:09:40:04 - 01:10:11:13

Others in Causton walk many times a week. After completion, large sections of the footpath will be hemmed in by 2.5m high deer fencing. The Forestry Commission recommends 1.5m for fallow road and muntjac, the only indigenous deer species in this part of the country. So why the necessity for the higher fence? The Alcatraz feeling will be heightened by the proposed hedging, the proper creation and maintenance of native species.

01:10:11:15 - 01:10:48:20

4.5m high hedge is, to say the least, challenging, expensive and takes years to achieve. The tendency will be to cut corners. Those plants that do survive will grow thin at the bottom, rendering any screening ineffective. Add to this the constant hum of tracker panels and inverters, destroying any sense of space or solitude. The countryside around will be turned into a no go area for recreation and well-being. If this project obtains consent, irrespective of it being completed or not, the area will be blighted forever.

01:10:48:22 - 01:11:07:12

There will be no effective incentive for decommissioning. I view lime down as an ill conceived, badly designed and wrongly located without all, without any concern for sharing stakes for local stakeholders and would urge that its application be rejected. Thank you.

01:11:08:23 - 01:11:13:03

Thank you, Mr. Philips. I understand my colleague, Mr. Labour has a has a question for you.

01:11:13:19 - 01:11:43:03

Mr. Phillips. Um, I've just got Google Maps up in front of me because I remembered when I did my UC. Recently, as I passed through Causton, there's solar development just to the north east of Causton. Um, I don't know when that was constructed, and it doesn't seem a particularly large solar farm. I just wonder if there if there's been any experience of local court and residents of any issues with flooding since that development, that solar development is being completed.

01:11:43:05 - 01:11:57:24

I can't give you a straight answer, but that, as far as I'm concerned, is downstream of the A49 bridge. So the backup from the bridge wouldn't be affected by that particular. I think I'm right. Other residents may.

01:11:59:11 - 01:12:00:01

Thank you.

01:12:03:04 - 01:12:21:29

I do have a question, please, sir. You mentioned the Forestry Commission has standards for fencing with respect to different deer. Yeah. Um, with your submission of summary following this event, could you provide a reference to that, that particular document?

01:12:22:01 - 01:12:23:17

I can give you the link. Yes.

01:12:23:25 - 01:12:24:18

Thank you.

01:12:25:24 - 01:12:28:21

Oh, no. Sorry. We'll need the document as opposed to the link.

01:12:28:23 - 01:12:29:16

No problem.

01:12:29:21 - 01:12:30:27

Thank you very much.

01:12:36:15 - 01:12:42:09

So thank you, Mr. Phillips. We'll now move on to Mr. Harvey, please. Thank you.

01:12:42:11 - 01:12:43:13

Steve Harvey.

01:12:43:15 - 01:12:49:20

Representing Houston Velo cycling club. Houston Velo is a local cycle club with over.

01:12:49:22 - 01:12:50:18

70 active.

01:12:50:20 - 01:13:23:12

Members. I'm speaking to you as an active, avid cyclist and ex chair of the club who has huge concerns on rider safety as a result of this project. The benefits of club cycling is not only the companionship but is the safety. As a club, we monitor risk constantly and is the main factor when planning a club ride. Members can be rest assured we have safety at the foremost of our minds. We are going to organise both weekend and midweek rides. All our rides start and finish in the village of Churston.

01:13:23:15 - 01:13:54:27

We are currently privileged to be surrounded by safe roads for cycling. It is with total dismay that the Lime Down project will completely destroy all of that, and will put all of our riders in jeopardy, as well as other riders passing through the village. The altering of the roads leading to Churston, in particular the Fosse Way between Littleton and the old Metal road by Lady's Wood will now mean there will be hordes of large vehicles in the area never seen before. The general traffic will increase.

01:13:54:29 - 01:14:27:21

It will all. It will almost be impossible to undertake rise without fear or trepidation of being involved in an accident. Large vehicles cause a vortex which cyclists can get sucked into. And so, with the vast increase of such traffic in the area, the chances of cycling accidents will significantly increase. There will be a lasting legacy as other businesses see this area as now a rat run that can be utilised. So the danger to cyclists and other road users will be here forever.

01:14:28:02 - 01:15:01:26

This legacy cannot be overemphasized. Cyclists will not want to pass through Churston so readily, and that would affect small businesses such as the Courtyard Cafe, that rely on cyclists for revenue. Our relatively safe roads for cycling will disappear, and cyclists will be faced with white knuckle rides, particularly along the Fosse Way. As vehicles of all sizes fly past at speed, which they could not do before as the road was too narrow, there is a large cohort of cohort of cyclists that pass through Ashurst in commuting to work.

01:15:01:28 - 01:15:12:26

I am one of them. As a result of this project, I may have to stop that and become another vehicle, adding to the country's emissions issue as I would be scared of the inherent danger.

01:15:14:15 - 01:15:37:09

Overall, this project will have a massive effect on the ability to cycle safely in the area. I really believe this could affect the sustainability of our club. This will ultimately undermine the very ethos or ethos of a club, of bringing like minded people together to enjoy their sport, promote fitness in a safe environment. Thank you.

01:15:38:11 - 01:15:39:10

Thank you sir.

01:15:41:07 - 01:15:47:12

As part of your cycling group. Part of the club, do you have typical routes that you would go out on?

01:15:47:23 - 01:16:05:19

Yes, all our routes are advertised before the ride, so we published them on a, um, a platform called Strava. And then we see how many people sign up for them, and then we sort of work out group sizes and stuff like that on the morning of the ride. So yeah, we we do a lot of planning of the rides.

01:16:06:12 - 01:16:07:24

Do you have. Um.

01:16:10:04 - 01:16:16:29

I suppose what I want to I, what I want to know is how popular the routes you do, how popular are the ones?

01:16:17:25 - 01:16:19:01

How many riders do we get?

01:16:19:09 - 01:16:32:26

How many riders do you get? And yeah. How many riders do you get? And do they. Can you provide some route maps that for rides that you would typically do that are going to be impacted by this project?

01:16:32:28 - 01:17:07:11

Okay, I can certainly provide some route maps that won't be an issue. In terms of numbers then it varies a lot, but typically probably about sort of 2020 odd riders. Um, and we split into groups. Maximum group size would be about six riders. Um, and then we obviously have we set off at different time intervals so that we never end up together. Um, so yeah, that would be about the typical sort of uh, admittedly at the weekends is more popular, but we still get quite a few signups during the week as well.

01:17:07:21 - 01:17:24:15

Okay. No, that'll be useful to understand. Sort of. Um, the the route maps. Yes. And, uh, and then you've given me an indication of numbers. So if we just if you just sort of clarify that in your post hearing submission, that'd be very useful for us to, to understand the, the, um, sort of more popular cycling routes in the area.

01:17:24:17 - 01:17:25:15

Okay. No problem.

01:17:25:17 - 01:17:33:17

Thank you very much. Do we have any further questions from colleagues? No. Okay. Um, happy to move on now to Miss Hélène Hood.

01:17:36:20 - 01:17:37:05

Oh.

01:17:38:08 - 01:17:40:24

I'm not switched on. I'm Aileen Hood. I live in.

01:17:40:26 - 01:17:41:17

Malmesbury, so.

01:17:41:19 - 01:18:00:08

You could argue I'm not directly affected by this, but I just feel it's the wrong thing to be doing entirely. The land is farmland. Apparently, it's not the very best farmland. Farmland, but it is good enough to grow crops. According to government figures, we in the UK currently only.

01:18:00:10 - 01:18:00:25

Produce.

01:18:00:27 - 01:18:41:01

54% of the food you eat. That's just over half. We live in an increasingly unstable world, yet we rely on importing nearly half our food, which in itself increases our reliance on fossil fuels for transport. In view of this, I can't see that it makes any sense at all to reduce the land we have available for growing food in order to produce electricity. When we have acres and acres of rooftop space that can't grow food and could support solar panels, and there are surely other means of creating renewable electricity that do not take large tracts of farmland out of production for generations.

01:18:41:17 - 01:19:16:24

Yes, we're told sheep can graze and solar panels, but we'll also be told that we should eat a more plant based diet to save the planet. So having more farm animals doesn't seem to make sense. And we're told the land could revert farmland in 60. Or maybe it was 40 years time, but that can't be guaranteed because we don't actually know the impact of the solar panels on the land until then, because we haven't done it before, nor do we know whether our current food sources will continue to be available to us in an increasingly uncertain world for all that time.

01:19:17:04 - 01:19:55:24

To my mind, this is just Dangerous. Also, I don't come to this as an expert at all, but my understanding is that the grid can't currently cope with any more large solar generating stations, and that some large projects are still sitting unconnected. So don't feel that any further permissions should be granted until the grid is properly ready, and that the grid, in fact, should be the place in which battery storage is designed to. In order for the grid to work sufficiently that the battery storage should be owned and supported within the grid, not within the individual generating stations.

01:19:55:26 - 01:19:56:21

Thank you.

01:19:59:05 - 01:20:03:06

Thank you, Miss Hood and Mr. Matthews.

01:20:05:24 - 01:20:06:20

Thank you.

01:20:07:20 - 01:20:43:08

My name is John Matthews, and as a family we have lived and farmed near Churston since 1978. And indeed, my wife was actually born there. Uh, but I'm not actually going to let 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 grand mounted PV array which feeds directly into the grid. It is discreetly sited and many of the locals are still unaware of its existence.

01:20:43:24 - 01:20:57:00

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

01:20:58:25 - 01:21:31:03

There are many highly qualified and technical experts involved in all of this. I am not one of those, but would like to make two points which actually have already been mentioned this afternoon. Firstly, the Cotswolds national landscape and its setting. As an ex board member of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which was the Cotswolds National Landscapes predecessor. I know how extremely concerned they were about its setting.

01:21:31:26 - 01:22:05:10

We were flabbergasted when, in the original submission by the applicants, panels were shown in the in the fields absolutely immediately adjacent to the National Landscapes boundary in area A. This was obviously 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, and I would urge you to investigate and protect this.

01:22:06:17 - 01:22:09:05

Secondly, public rights of way.

01:22:11:03 - 01:22:35:06

There seem to have been many Surveys, some of which were apparently covert and a lot of work done on the rights of way within this scheme. Whatever these results show, from personal experience and what we've heard already this afternoon, I know how well used and appreciated they are by both locals and visitors.

01:22:37:01 - 01:22:45:19

Many of these rights of way have huge historical significance, such as the much quoted Fosse Way.

01:22:47:23 - 01:23:18:27

Under this scheme, their character will be fundamentally changed. I do not see how a path restricted by high fencing on either side with panels beyond, as the view accompanied with its electric hum, is going to give any user peace, Pleasure or feeling of well-being in the countryside. We must not lose these valuable assets.

01:23:20:06 - 01:23:51:02

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 to our grandchildren and our children to protect it. I urge the Planning Inspectorate to refuse the development consent. Order, please. Thank you.

01:23:52:26 - 01:24:03:06

Thank you sir. Just to let you know, we do have a landscape hearing tomorrow. And on the agenda, one of the agenda items is the setting of the national landscape.

01:24:08:24 - 01:24:27:00

That concludes our current top table. Thank you very much, everyone. Um, if I can now call up, uh, Sarah Payne and Anna Layton, please. Now, we do have someone to remain off camera, and I have a reference number for them. Owing to age, it's GDPR

01:24:28:18 - 01:24:39:08

025. If you could take a seat on the far right hand side, please, someone will bring you a microphone. Our right hand side. Your left hand side. Thank you.

01:25:04:15 - 01:25:09:07

Thank you. So if I can now hear from Miss Sarah Payne. Please.

01:25:10:12 - 01:25:14:04

Hello, my name is Sarah Palin. My family.

01:25:14:06 - 01:25:15:11

Have lived in Wiltshire.

01:25:15:13 - 01:25:16:23

For generations.

01:25:17:13 - 01:25:18:06

Our home.

01:25:18:08 - 01:25:22:28

Is Thorndale in Littleton, where our family enjoys a country way of.

01:25:23:00 - 01:25:23:15

Life.

01:25:23:17 - 01:25:54:09

Including dog walking, cycling, running and horse riding around the byways that surround us. From my house, I had a long pig lane past the horse livery at Talley's, then down hill, Hayes Lane, through her Lavington and back home over the bridleway. One worry I have is the effect that the construction, traffic and the HGVs carrying the panels will make it unsafe to ride around the area that we live.

01:25:55:11 - 01:26:38:19

Additionally, I fear my children will move away from these move away if these arrays of solar panels are erected in all our fields surrounding our home and the idyllic lifestyle would be gone. I am in my twilight years and mobility is key to my health and well-being. And who wants to walk down rows of high, wide security fencing and look at fields of glaring solar panels and listen to listening to whirring inverters and transformers? Recently, my surroundings have become a lifeline as family issues have led me to experiencing huge amount of stress.

01:26:38:25 - 01:27:12:01

I can now say that it has been my daily walks with my girlfriends around the local network of footpaths that have proved far more beneficial to my mental health and physical health. To walk in the fresh air amongst nature, listening to the constant chirping of finches, blue tits and wrens in the trees, in the hedges, then across the fields with the skylarks hovering above. Singing their hearts out. The hairs zigzagging around the the fields.

01:27:12:03 - 01:27:45:15

And we often meet and chat with dog walkers and joggers and horse riders. All enjoying this Paradise. This Paradise will be ruined by hearing inverters, not birds, by seeing arrays of panels rather than fields with wildlife darting in and out of the crops. That's without even considering the impact of the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the project. My favourite walk from my house takes us through my neighbor's farm.

01:27:45:26 - 01:28:09:20

The view from this footpath. Littleton 2122 is a panoramic patchwork of hedges, trees and fields. My fear is that this will be unrecognizable if the line down project gets permission. I ask you, please stop IGP ruining Wilshire. Thank you.

01:28:14:16 - 01:28:19:08

Thank you very much. Um, if I may move on to Anna Leighton, please.

01:28:22:03 - 01:28:24:04

My name is Anna Leighton and I've.

01:28:24:06 - 01:28:25:00

Lived in the area.

01:28:25:02 - 01:28:25:17

For.

01:28:25:19 - 01:28:26:04

Over.

01:28:26:06 - 01:29:00:21

25 years. First of all, I'd like to say that I support renewable energy. We have a heat pump and solar panels that charge our cars. For many reasons, I do not support lime down, mainly because its carbon footprint is so large that it is likely that it will never have produced. It will have produced more carbon than it saves well past 2050 when we are supposed to have reached net zero. Independent reports produced by Derby and Exeter Universities both appear to have come to this conclusion.

01:29:01:06 - 01:29:05:29

If that is the case, how green is the energy it would produce

01:29:07:19 - 01:29:37:29

in chapter three of its environmental statement. Plate three three shows an illustration of tracker panels following the sun position during the summer. However, there does not seem to be a similar illustration demonstrating what the panels do during the winter, when there will be less vegetation, so will be much more visible. From other reports, it appears that they will be at their full 4.5m height from 8 to 10 a.m.

01:29:38:03 - 01:30:15:25

and 2 to 4 p.m., and at 3.5m for the majority of the remaining daylight hours. So much more visible. Although we live in Great Somerford, we do walk around rod borne, an area that would be ruined by Lyme Down. The wonderful long views will be blocked by panels and fences for years to come, and the peace, quiet and birdsong would be replaced by humming. And what about the skylarks and yellow hammers whose nesting sites could be decimated? The same applies through the whole Lyme dine area.

01:30:16:12 - 01:30:50:13

A few years ago, I kept my horse at a Lavington and regularly rode passer Andal along Pig Lane, the Foss and bridleways such peaceful areas that would be changed enormously during construction periods. Riding on the roads will become dangerous. Hooves and horses do not go well together. I would not consider keeping my horse in that area again, and from what I gather, others feel the same. This does not bode well for livery yards or those who earn a living through horses.

01:30:51:20 - 01:31:05:28

I'd like to finish by saying yet again that I cannot support lying down because it seems it will not be helping reduce the UK's carbon footprint or benefiting the local community. Thank you very much for listening to me.

01:31:09:23 - 01:31:22:16

Thank you. It for me now turned to GDPR. 025. If someone could please provide a microphone and just in your own time, please.

01:31:23:09 - 01:31:58:16

I'm not against solar panels. I understand the renewable energy is important and that solar power has a role to play in reducing carbon emissions and helping the United Kingdom move towards a greener future. However, I believe that we need to think carefully about where these developments are built and whether this particular project is in the right place. I'm 16 years old and throughout my life I have regularly used the proposed line down site with my friends and family. When I was younger, I learnt to ride my bike there with my brother. We were on family walks, explore the countryside and enjoy the freedom that these open spaces gave us.

01:31:58:18 - 01:32:35:07

Today, I still cycled through the area to meet friends at weekends and during the school holidays. I feel incredibly lucky to have grown up in Wiltshire, surrounded by beautiful countryside that so many people take for granted. One of my biggest concerns is the loss of productive farmland at a time when food security is becoming increasingly important. I think that we should be producing good farmland wherever possible. Solar panels can be installed in warehouses, factories and rooftops without taking away land that can be used to grow food. This is also about supporting British farmers who are already facing rising costs and many other challenges.

01:32:35:23 - 01:33:07:20

The countryside is also important for people's mental health and wellbeing. Green spaces give people so much to walk, cycle, exercise and relax. They provide an escape from the pressures of everyday life and once they are lost, they cannot easily be replaced. I'm also deeply concerned about the impact of construction that would have on the local people. The significant increase in vehicles on our roads. Especially HGV and construction traffic, would make these narrow country lanes while I still cycle far more dangerous.

01:33:08:03 - 01:33:38:05

These are roads that I, along with many other walkers, cyclists and horse riders, use every day. Instead of feeling safe, peaceful and calm. They would become busy and intimidating. The countryside that I have always enjoyed could begin to feel like an industrial estate, rather than a beautiful landscape that we all cherish. The freedom that I've grown up with can simply disappear with a blink of an eye. What concerns me most is the length of this project.

01:33:38:20 - 01:34:10:14

It could remain in place for up to 60 years. I'm 60 now, and by the time it ends, I could be retired. That means that this development could shape the landscape for my entire lifetime. I'd also like to add that there are plans to put up these solar panels, but there is the absence of plans to take them down. Renewable energy is essential, but it must be developed responsibly. We should use rooftops, industrial sites and brownfield land before sacrificing productive farmland and the countryside.

01:34:10:16 - 01:34:21:06

That makes Wiltshire such a special place to live. My question to you, Lime Down, is why? Why do you want to ruin my memories that I have Wiltshire and my friends' memories as well? Thank you.

01:34:24:08 - 01:34:43:01

Thank you. I now wish to move on to individuals speaking virtually. So I'm first going to call Helen Worthy. If you're online, please unmute your microphone. There's no need to turn your camera on or anything like that. If you can just unmute your microphone and in your own time, please.

01:34:50:08 - 01:34:52:06

We have Helen Worthy on line with us.

01:34:55:06 - 01:35:09:11

Okay. I'm not seeing any indication that we have Miss Worthy. If I may now move on to then, Mr. Fuller. And perhaps once Mr. Craig Fuller has finished, Mr. Miss Worthy might be back with us. So, Craig Fuller, are you with us, please, sir?

01:35:10:06 - 01:35:11:04

Yes, Sam.

01:35:11:10 - 01:35:14:24

Excellent. Your three minute starts when you do, please.

01:35:15:14 - 01:35:49:12

First farm has been my family's home for 55 years. It's where my sister and I grew up. Learned to drive, rode our first horses, and where my own children now enjoy the same countryside and home. Every field, footpath and lane is part of our lives. It's a remarkably quiet, heritage rich landscape, and its soundscape is every bit as important as the landscape itself. When we heard about this proposal, we were devastated and we remained so. We never imagined that an industrial development on this scale could be imposed on this landscape and our community.

01:35:49:29 - 01:36:29:21

A 60 year consent is not temporary. It spans generations. My children will be older than I am today before it ends. I have known several of the landowners for over 50 years, and I do not believe they ever envisaged agreements leading to an industrial development lasting 60 years. It is simply the wrong development, at the wrong scale and in the wrong place. It would industrialise a peaceful rural landscape that families have cherished for generations. The impact on our home will be severe. The May 1st of the major construction compounds for sections A, B and C will sit on one side of our house, while the cable route for all three sections will converge through a field on the other.

01:36:29:23 - 01:37:03:24

We will be surrounded by industrial infrastructure. The local road network is completely unsuitable, although construction traffic will remain on the two principal, albeit challenging, roads. Road closures and traffic management will force residents, riders, cyclists and walkers onto narrow single track lanes never designed for this level of traffic, greatly increasing the risk of accidents. It's not a question of whether accidents will happen, but when. We've always had a steady stream of riders and cyclists passing a house every day throughout the year, enjoying this landscape as it was intended to be enjoyed, that will change.

01:37:03:26 - 01:37:37:24

The first way will be effectively become a no go route for much of the construction period, and beyond the junction that ladies would be behind the booth side, an important stud with young foals would become an extremely busy four way junction. It is already a difficult junction where a single track lane meets the footway, and the additional construction traffic will make it significantly more hazardous. The other route south through to Elvington will also face major disruption from construction traffic from the A49. It's not about construction, maintenance and eventual decommission means disruption that could continue for decades.

01:37:37:26 - 01:38:08:00

Yet there is still no clear explanation of how traffic movements will be monitored or restrictions and conditions effectively enforced. Once this country is industrialized, there is no going back. I ask you to look beyond the promises and plans on paper. Think about the families who live here. The people who use these roads every day, and the irreversible impact this proposal will have on our homes, our countryside. The decision you make today will shape this country not for a contracted term, but forever. Please, I beg you to refuse this application.

01:38:08:21 - 01:38:09:15

Thank you.

01:38:12:03 - 01:38:21:18

Thank you, Mr. Fuller. I'm just going to see if Miss Worthy has rejoined the call. We'll just give it a few minutes. Thank you.

01:38:40:07 - 01:38:41:21

Please hold.

01:38:46:25 - 01:38:52:10

So that was my line. Um, do we have Miss Worthy with us back in the. In the room on the call? Sorry.

01:39:02:19 - 01:39:11:17

Okay. What I'll do is I'll just move on. Is there anyone else in the room or online who's registered to speak but hasn't and wants to?

01:39:14:01 - 01:39:23:17

Okay, so we've heard from everybody who's registered, who's with us? Um, apart from Helen Worthy, I'll just try once more. Miss worthy, are you able to join us, please?

01:39:27:05 - 01:39:27:23

Hello?

01:39:28:13 - 01:39:29:28

Hello? Is that Helen worthy?

01:39:30:04 - 01:39:30:28

It is.

01:39:31:12 - 01:39:39:08

Excellent. You're with us. That's good. Um. Miss Worthy, so in your own time, your three minutes starts when you do. Thank you.

01:39:39:19 - 01:40:13:27

Thank you very much indeed. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm a long term resident of Malmesbury. For more than 20 years, I've worked in the health and wellbeing sector, focusing on the factors that enable people and communities to live healthier lives. More recently, I established an Integrative Health and Wellbeing centre in Malmesbury and my submission today is informed by that experience, together with published studies on how and why nature functions as preventative health care. My particular concern is the long term impact of this proposal on the health of children and young people growing up in the nine villages surrounding the proposed development.

01:40:14:12 - 01:40:51:19

We estimate that over 300 children pass through our local schools each year, which over the 60 year lifetime of the scheme means 20,000 young people's lives, everyday environment and associated cognitive development were permanently altered during their formative years. The scientific evidence is clear that daily access to nature as green space, not fields or solar panels, is more than an environmental benefit. It's a public health asset. Professor Cathy Willis of Oxford, has brought together decades of research showing that regular contact with natural environments improves children's cognitive development and concentration.

01:40:51:26 - 01:41:24:24

It reduces cortisol and stress anxiety. It encourages physical activity and helps regulate blood pressure and heart rate, and therefore supports lifelong physical and mental health. I've got loads of studies to back that all up if you're interested. Much of the research is particularly relevant here in north Wiltshire, where we've chosen to live so our children develop a lifelong connection with the natural world walking, cycling, riding, playing sports, exploring nature, everyday activities that will be severely curtailed if lying down were to proceed as an example in our practice.

01:41:24:26 - 01:41:57:03

We see many children with mental health issues Aspergers, autism. They're extremely sensitive to noise, electromagnetic frequencies and changes to their schedules. All of which will cause significant additional stress and harm. According to some parents, it may force the whole family to move away if they can even find a buyer for their home. The health impact evidence shows these effects on young people should be given proper consideration, particularly if you'd cumulatively with construction disturbance, noise, loss of tranquility, and changes to community cohesion.

01:41:57:18 - 01:42:30:03

These are not abstract wellbeing measures. They're measurable biological responses, which we see daily in our clients and patients might. Submission is therefore simple. This examination is not only considering an energy project, it's considering whether the long term health consequences of fundamentally changing the daily environment of thousands of us, particularly children, have been fully assessed and adequately mitigated. I respectfully submit that they have not, and asked that these health and well-being impacts are given substantial weight in your recommendation.

01:42:30:06 - 01:42:31:02

Thank you.

01:42:33:19 - 01:42:51:16

Thank you, Miss Worley. You mentioned that you referenced some studies about the impact of of the disturbance, noise, etc. on health and well-being. Could I ask you please to submit copies of those? Now, I need to stress it's not links. It's actually. No, thank you very much.

01:42:52:11 - 01:42:54:24

I've got hundreds. How many do you want? A half.

01:42:54:26 - 01:42:55:11

Dozen.

01:42:57:11 - 01:43:00:27

Maybe I'll leave it to you to select. Maybe the headline ones.

01:43:01:00 - 01:43:02:28

All right, I will do. Thank you.

01:43:03:15 - 01:43:04:22

Thank you very much.

01:43:04:24 - 01:43:05:13

Thank you.

01:43:08:12 - 01:43:24:25

Okay, now, that brings us to the end of the speakers. And thank you for everybody who has stayed the course and who has also spoken. Um, I'm now going to pass to my colleague, Mr. Northover to undertake item four, which is a review of the action points arising.

01:43:26:19 - 01:43:59:25

Thank you. So I have, um, Five action points. The first one was for Mr. Cosco of Stop Lying Down to submit a marked up plan of the walks referred to um, and all these action points if they could be done for deadline four, which is Friday the 10th of July. Second action point was for Mr. Farrington to include in his summary submission more detail of, um, what was said at the a company site inspection.

01:43:59:27 - 01:44:13:26

What will help us is to understand how the business is handled, um, day to day. And the effect of the the effect of the proposed development would have on that day to day running of his business.

01:44:16:02 - 01:44:52:28

Third action point was for Mr. Phillips to submit a document he referred to regarding deer fencing. Uh, I believe it's a National Forestry Commission document. Forth action point. Um, I just check. Was

it Mr. Harvey? Uh, from the Churston Cycle Club to provide cycle route maps, um, for popular cycling routes that would be affected, would be impacted by the proposed development.

01:44:53:03 - 01:45:13:09

Um, and finally, um, Miss Worthy on the call just now, uh, to submit a, a selection of the most relevant studies to, um, the effects of the process of development that she referenced in her oral submission. Thank you. I'll pass it back to Mr. Luff.

01:45:14:22 - 01:45:51:10

Thank you, Mr. Northover. So we want to sincerely thank you all for your contribution to this afternoon. The examination run so much more smoothly with your involvement. So thank you. You are free to submit what you've said in writing at deadline four, which is Friday, the 10th of July 26th. If you have been tasked with an action point, as Mr. Northover said, the response should similarly be submitted at deadline four. Thank you to those of you in the room and online for attending and participating in this open floor hearing. A digital recording of the proceedings today will be made available as soon as possible on the project page of the National Infrastructure website.

01:45:51:23 - 01:46:15:24

Should any party still wish to make a contribution to this open floor hearing, but felt they were unable to do so for whatever reason, they can make their contribution in writing the deadline for. Again, that's the 10th of July. For those of you who are returning tomorrow for a specific hearing too, we will see you again at 930. The time is now 346 and this hearing is now closed. Thank you.