

I am not against solar panels. I understand that 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 we need to think carefully about where these developments are built, and whether this particular project is in the right place.

I am [REDACTED], and throughout my life I have regularly used the proposed Lime Down site with my friends and family. When I was younger, I learnt to ride my bike there with my brother. We went on family walks, explored the countryside and enjoyed the freedom that these open spaces gave us. Today, I still cycle 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 we should be protecting good farmland wherever possible. Solar panels can be installed on warehouses, factories and rooftops without taking away land that can be used to grow food. This is also about supporting British farmers, who already face rising costs and many other challenges.

The countryside is also important for people's mental health and wellbeing. Green spaces give people somewhere 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 am also deeply concerned about the impact that construction would have on local people. The significant increase in vehicles on our roads, especially HGVs and construction traffic, would make the narrow country lanes far more dangerous. These are roads that I, along with many other young people, walkers, cyclists and horse riders, use every day. Instead of feeling safe and peaceful, they could become busy and intimidating. The

countryside that I have always enjoyed could begin to feel like an industrial estate rather than the beautiful landscape that we all cherish. The freedom that I have grown up with could simply disappear.

What concerns me most is the length of this project. It could remain in place for up to 60 years. [REDACTED], and by the time it ends, I could be retired. That means this development could shape the landscape for my entire lifetime.

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 that makes Wiltshire such a special place to live.

My question to you is, why.