

I am a long term resident of Malmesbury.

For more than 20 years I have worked in the health and wellbeing sector, focussing on understanding the factors that enable people and communities to live healthier lives.

More recently I have established **an integrative health and wellbeing centre in Malmesbury**. My submission today is informed by that experience, together with many published studies on how and why **nature functions as preventative healthcare**.

My particular concern is the long-term impact this proposal could have on the health of children and young people growing up in the 9 villages surrounding the proposed development. We estimate that over 300 children pass through our local schools each year. **Over the 60 year lifetime of this scheme, that means 20,000 young people's lives, everyday environment, and associated cognitive development would be permanently altered during their formative years.**

The scientific evidence is increasingly clear that daily access to nature as green space, not fields of solar panels, is more than an environmental benefit; it is a public health asset.

Professor [REDACTED], of Oxford University, has brought together decades of research showing that regular contact with natural environments

- **improves children's cognitive development and concentration; reduces cortisol and thus stress and anxiety;**
- **encourages physical activity; and**
- **helps regulate blood pressure and heart rate;**

and thus supports lifelong physical and mental health.

(I can provide many studies from across the globe).

Much of the research is particularly relevant here in North Wiltshire where we have chosen to live so our children develop a long term connection with the natural world.... walking, cycling, riding, playing sport and exploring nature. These everyday activities will be severely curtailed if Lime Down were to proceed.

As an example, in our practice we see many children with mental health issues, Aspergers and autism. They are extremely sensitive to noise, electromagnetic frequencies, and changes to their schedules, all of which will cause significant additional stress and harm should Lime Down proceed. And... according to some parents, may force the whole family to move away... if they can even find a buyer for their home.

The Health Impact evidence demonstrates that these effects on young people should be given proper consideration, particularly when viewed cumulatively alongside construction disturbance, noise, loss of tranquillity and changes to community cohesion. These are not abstract wellbeing measures, they are measurable biological responses which we see daily in our clients.

My submission is therefore a simple one.

This Examination is not only considering an energy project. It is considering **whether the long-term health consequences of fundamentally changing the daily environment of thousands of local people - particularly children - have been fully assessed and adequately mitigated.**

I respectfully submit that they have not, and **I ask that these health and wellbeing impacts are given substantial weight in your recommendation.**

Thank you.