



West Park Farm
Mill Lane
Corston, Malmesbury
SN16 0HH UK

8th July 2026

West Park Farm & Dermot Farrington Bloodstock Farm

Submission to the Examining Authority at Deadline 4

Extra information as requested by planners.

Lime Down Solar Park Development Consent Order (EN010168)

Unique Reference Number: [REDACTED]

West Park Farm is a commercial thoroughbred breeding and bloodstock enterprise and a key part of an international bloodstock business that has been a leading player in the thoroughbred industry for over 20 years. The farm provides specialist services including foaling, broodmare management, young stock rearing and sale preparation to clients across the UK, Europe, Asia, Australia, USA and Japan many of whom entrust horses of very high monetary and sentimental value to our care.

Daily routines include:

Firstly, every morning horses are fed, in the paddocks next to the proposed LD sites. Horses are anxious to eat, and staff have to be careful not to get trampled as keen horses spar with each other and find their pecking order at each feed pot. If they get frightened by noises or activities across the fence there is a real danger that a staff member could be injured.

Horses that have been stabled overnight are let out into paddocks during the day (especially in the winter). These horses are usually fresh (feeling very well because they've been standing in all night) and could easily be spooked by neighbouring activity causing them to bolt, increasing the risk of them kicking out at staff if they get loose and escaping out onto the public roads. Bearing in mind, loose horses with leads attached tend to run blindly with fright and can easily jump 6ft perimeter gates. This alone provides great risk to my staff and the public especially when you consider our proximity of less than a mile to the A429.

During the morning up until lunch time, horses may require vet work including treatments, routine vaccinations & scanning for pregnant mares. Normally most of these simple procedures would take place in the paddocks (where possible) however injecting horses next to an industrial site would provide an unacceptable risk to staff and vets.

Other procedures that we normally try and do in the paddocks is farrier work which would be impossible to do, and our farrier has already told us that he won't continue to be our farrier if this goes ahead as it will be too dangerous.

Generally, in the months of June to October we use our paddocks directly adjacent to the proposed site as it grows good grass and is the flattest paddock on the farm to hand walk our yearlings as preparation to go to public auction. Up to 15 yearlings are hand walked for up to 1 hour each day and then turned out in paddocks that they have been walked in.

As the horses are growing and being prepared for sale, they are on high protein energy diets in order to get them to their optimum and to achieve the best price at auction. The flip side of this is that these young horses can be difficult to handle and due to the change in environment when they actually go to a public auction many yearlings end up on sedation in order to reduce the risk to themselves and others. Sedation wouldn't be possible over prolonged periods.

Once the yearlings have been sold, we generally get an influx of yearlings which we have purchased on behalf of clients, who stay for a short period so they can switch off after the sales. This can be a particularly risky time for these horses as they have been confined on high protein diets and a different routine, so a quite safe environment is essential. Young horses also need a dust free environment. Dust generation during construction and ongoing maintenance will be problematic and present significant risk to respiratory health. Respiratory problems are the number one inhibitor to performance in a thoroughbred racehorse.

Other tasks and depending on the time of year mares and foals or yearlings come into barns for 2 weeks / 3 hours /day every 6 weeks so catching and interacting with horses while machinery bangs and moves across the fence line will cause horses to spook.

Because of the age and the short periods that horses stay at my farm it's impossible for my horses to even begin to adapt. Unlike many equestrian establishments, the majority of our horses are only with us for relatively short periods before sale or movement to training, meaning there is no realistic opportunity for them to become accustomed to neighbouring activity.

Evening Feeding takes place around 4pm with the same risks as the morning feed. Night time checks take place on dusk and it's essential that horses aren't spooked during the night especially mares that are normally heavily pregnant.

One undisputed fact is on occasion our neighbour (where solar panels are proposed) has a pheasant shoot on his land and always calls to notify us so we can bring in all horses, this is only for three days on average per month during the shooting season and requires me to hire extra staff for those particular days. A project like Lime Down will make every day like this & makes our farm unviable with regard to cost and staffing.

In conclusion we run a busy farm with ever changing horses depending on the time of year. The constant need for us to move and interact with horses with the prospect of constant ongoing construction and unpredictable movement from operational activity taking place next to us unfortunately makes our business unviable. Many of these risks would continue throughout the 60 year operational life of the project due to ongoing maintenance, machinery, contractors, security activity and the movement of solar trackers immediately adjacent to our paddocks.

Please find below the list of staff and businesses that we support in the local area and our approx. spend:

Employees:

5 staff members and two part time (previously 6 prior to Lime Down application). On a temporary basis throughout the year a further 6-10 freelance staff are taken to assist at public auctions or on the farm.

West Park Farm suppliers:

- The National Stud ((last 10 years we have been one of their biggest clients)
- John Toomers Feeds
- James Hazell Hay & Straw (Malmesbury)
- Farrier (AP Farriery, Seagry)
- Vets (Rossgates in Lambourn, Tomlinson Equine, Westonbirt)
- Newmarket Equine Hospital
- Accountancy (Grosvenor House Practice, Kemble Airfield)
- Hugo White Fencing and Farm Maintenance (Stroud)
- Local Farm machinery merchants and mechanics
- Hedge cutting/farm maintenance – local
- Mole Valley Farmers (Cirencester)
- IRT international horse transporters
- Ben Greenwood Horse Transport (Cirencester)
- 3 Dee's Builders, Gloucester
- Farm insurance
- Local Hotels and restaurants (client visits)