

CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

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STATEMENT OFH2 Tuesday 30 June 2026

LIME DOWN SOLAR PARK – EN010168

The Parish Council has responded to all statutory consultations to date and has expressed local concerns on a broad range of issues.

What is unknown is whether Wiltshire Council Highway Officers and others have investigated specific local aspects and arising implications or whether matters of detail have been left to later stages in this process should the Secretary of State consider that the Project can proceed.

With this in mind the Parish Council has agreed that they should be proactive in raising areas of local concern at this time so that all are mindful of Parish views that need to be addressed at the appropriate time.

The Council is concerned about two particular aspects that have severe highway implications for the Parish that relate to the favoured cable route from the solar park to the grid connection at Melksham. This route would run through parts of the western boundary of the Parish affecting also the adjoining Yatton Keynell, Biddestone and Corsham Parishes.

It is understood that to support the cable laying activity it is planned to have two operation support sites for managing the excavations, and the parking and maintenance of plant and trucks.

The Parish Council considers that these are major infrastructure requirements for the whole Project.

One site is within the Parish in the field bordered by Fowlswick Lane and the B4039, the through route from the A420 to Yatton Keynell, with the Golf Driving Range to the North. (DWG. B supplied identifies this)

Access to this field is proposed from Fowlswick Lane about 200 metres from the existing crossroads. The proposed opening serving an access track will require considerable enlargement and metaling, as will the Fowlswick Lane itself, which would need to be widened down to the crossroads. (Identified yellow on DWG. B)

This will potentially require the removal of the mature hedgerow along the 200 metre length with verge and also have highway drainage implications. The existing crossroads is a known accident black spot and is far from ideal for use by plant and heavy vehicles.

The other potential access to this field is proposed to be directly onto the B4039, on the western boundary of the field, which is also a traffic hazard and which will require a large splayed access, with significant visibility splays and signage and a reduction in speed limit. (Identified green on DWG. B)

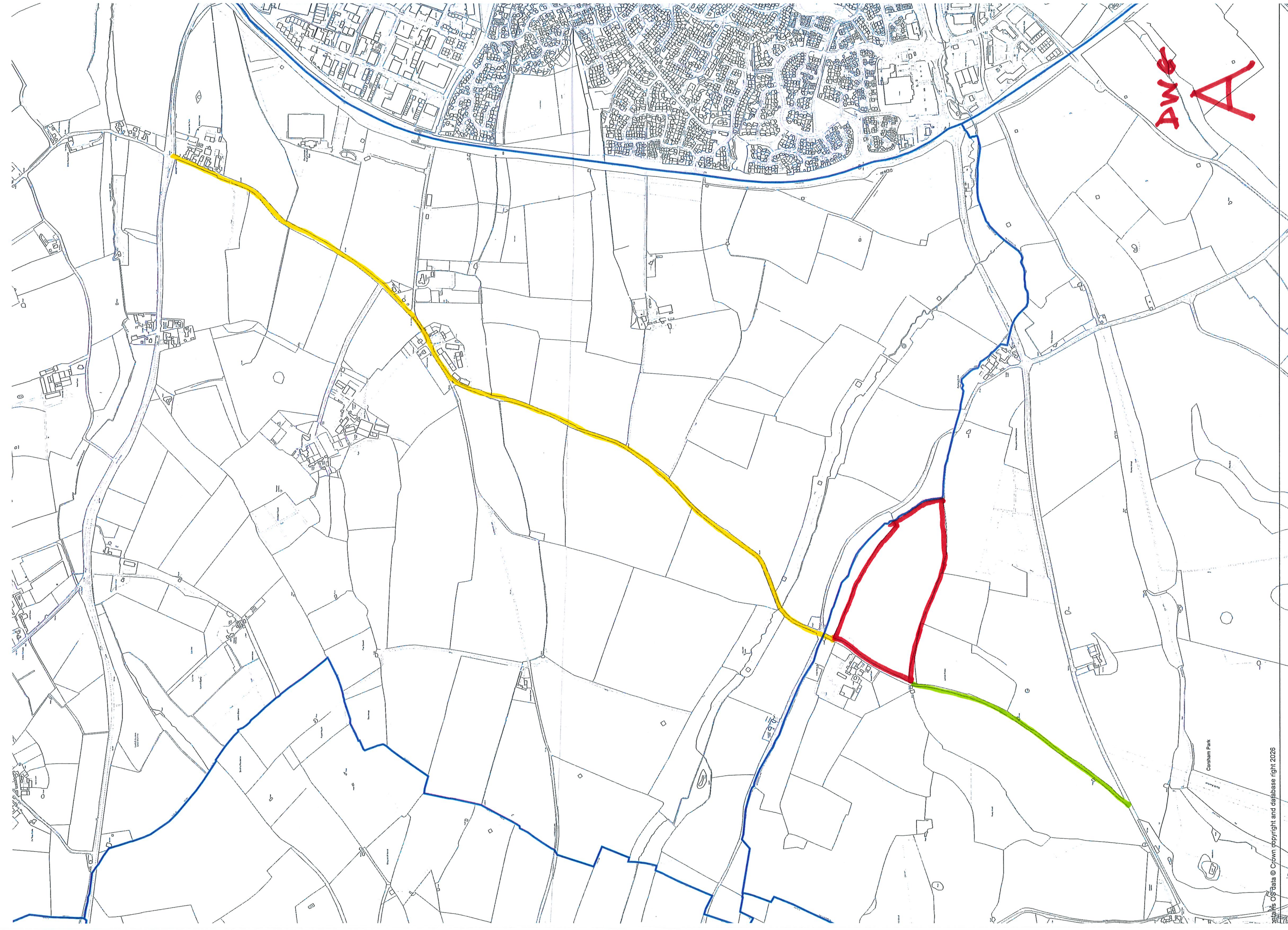
It is considered that if either access proposal was adopted the entire length of mature hedgerow on the B4039 in the northern direction would need removal and replaced along a new visibility line to the crossroads. The change in landscape of this rural area required by these works to facilitate a safe highway arrangement would have significant detrimental impact on the overall character of the area.

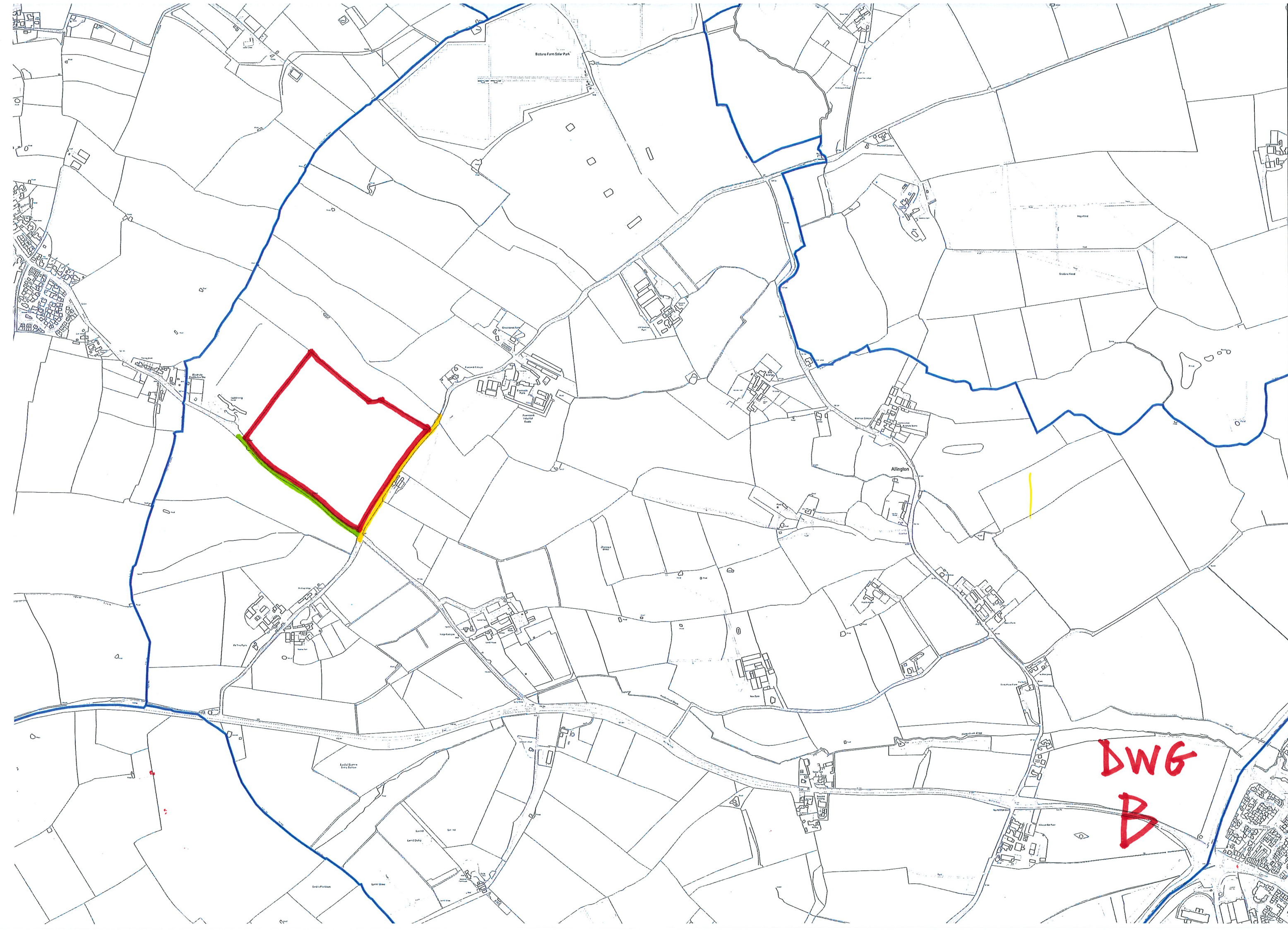
The second proposed site borders the Parish in a field opposite Showell Farm, not within the Parish, but the problem here is again one of access, which will have to be off the narrow Corsham Lane. (DWG. A supplied identifies this)

However, Chippenham Without Parish has a significant interest in that the route to and from the proposed site is likely to be along Corsham Lane via Sheldon Corner and the A420 Allington Farm crossroads. (Identified yellow on DWG. A) The reason being that while the access using the Corsham Lane off the A4 is feasible for large construction traffic, exiting back on to the A4 would be difficult and extremely dangerous. (Identified green on DWG. A)

Consequently, as other narrow country lanes towards Chequers Farm and Biddestone are entirely impractical for heavy use, it is considered that access to this site would therefore have to be through the Parish. Thus, there will be considerable highway safety implications and potential disruption to this often rat run narrow artery of the Parish especially at the joining local lane junctions, the Sheldon Corner blind spot and the A420 Allington Farm crossroads which will be totally unacceptable from a highway safety point of view as all are existing accident black spots.

Thank you for the opportunity of highlighting the Parish Council's specific concerns.





DWG
B