

[REDACTED]

Lime Down Solar

Dear Examination team,

I write as an Interested Party in the above examination to raise procedural concerns about the equine sector questionnaire recently issued by the applicant (IGP/Lime Down Solar Park) in response to the Examining Authority's question SE1.9.

I would be grateful if the ExA would consider the matters set out below before the questionnaire responses are submitted and relied upon as part of the examination record. I do not raise these matters to obstruct the process, but because I believe the questionnaire as currently constituted cannot produce a reliable or complete picture of equine receptor impacts, and because I believe the ExA is best placed to address this before that evidential gap becomes embedded in the record.

1. Named Interested Parties have not received the questionnaire

The most significant concern I wish to bring to the ExA's attention is that I have already been informed by three registered Interested Parties, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] have received no questionnaire at all. All three are existing IPs in this examination and are therefore known to the process. Their non-inclusion is not a question of being difficult to identify; they are already on the examination register.

A fourth registered IP, [REDACTED], has confirmed she received a hard copy of the questionnaire only not the email version sent to others. The inconsistency in delivery method is itself notable and suggests the applicant's contact methodology was not applied consistently.

This confirms that the applicant's contact list is incomplete in a demonstrable and verifiable way. It also raises the question of how many other equine businesses and users less visible than registered IPs have similarly been overlooked.

The ExA is respectfully asked to require the applicant to provide an explanation of the steps taken by the applicant addressing the ExA's first questions.

2. The contact list has not been disclosed

When asked to share the names of businesses contacted, IGP declined, stating that non-disclosure was to ensure responses are provided "independently and directly." I do not accept that this is a sufficient justification. Knowing who has been asked does not compromise the independence or integrity of anyone's response.

Transparency about who has been contacted is essential for the ExA and for Interested Parties to have any confidence in the completeness of the exercise. Without it, there is no way to identify gaps.

3. The questionnaire scope does not reflect the nature of the equine sector in this area

IGP has confirmed the questionnaire was sent to equine businesses and practitioners within approximately 5km of the scheme. This is inconsistent with the ExA's own question SE1.3, which challenged the applicant's use of a 20km study area for socio-economic assessment, and appears designed to produce a more limited picture than the examination requires.

More fundamentally, the questionnaire as framed reflects a misunderstanding of the equine sector it purports to assess. I would respectfully draw a distinction the applicant appears not to have made, between two very different categories of equine user:

First, there are **commercial equine businesses**, breeding studs, training yards, livery operations and specialist experts all whose turnover depends on the ability to exercise horses safely and whose business model would be directly undermined by years of heavy construction traffic on narrow lanes. The impacts on these businesses are economic, for safety reasons and not merely amenity-based. The proprietors of West Park Stud, Ladyswood Stud, Park Farm and other registered equine IPs fall into this category.

Second, there are **private households** who keep horses at home, for family use, pleasure riding or competition. These households rely on the same bridleways, the same farriers and vets, and the same quiet lanes as commercial operators. They represent, in all likelihood, the majority of equine users in this area. They have been wholly excluded from this questionnaire.

The questionnaire conflates these categories without distinction. The result is that the most materially significant category, commercial equine businesses whose viability is at risk, is being assessed using the same framework as recreational amenity, which is an inadequate basis for the examination's purposes.

3a. The equine supply chain has been ignored entirely

There is a further dimension of economic impact the questionnaire does not address at all: the businesses that exist to service commercial equine enterprises. A breeding stud or training yard of any scale generates substantial and regular income for equine vets, farriers, feed and forage merchants, bedding suppliers, equine transport contractors, and specialist equine equipment and tack retailers. They are not registered as IPs so have these businesses been asked to complete questionnaires? Vets and other specialist services may be outside this 5km radius yet still very active within the area.

Were West Park Stud, Ladyswood Stud or other local equine enterprises to reduce or cease operations as a direct consequence of the construction period and because horses cannot safely handled, exercised, because clients withdraw animals due to welfare and safety concerns or because the commercial viability of the business is undermined, the economic consequence would ripple outward through this supply chain. The applicant has made no assessment of this secondary economic impact. The ExA should be invited to note that the socio-economic assessment is incomplete in this respect.

4. Whether this questionnaire is a proportionate request

The questionnaire asks respondents to provide detailed financial information including business income and operating costs. This information is by its nature highly commercially sensitive. Recipients have been given no assurances about how this information will be used, who will have access to it, where it will be stored or for how long. There is no precedent in my experience of planning applications for neighbouring landowners and businesses to be required to disclose this level of financial detail to an applicant.

I would ask the ExA to consider whether the request for sensitive financial information of this nature, directed by a private company to neighbouring businesses without any stated data-handling framework, is a proportionate exercise in the context of this examination, and if so, to provide guidance on what protections respondents can expect.

5. The timeframe has been unreasonably short

The initial questionnaire email gave recipients five working days to respond. The deadline has since been extended to 13 July 2026, but this remains a tight window for what is being asked, particularly given the volume and sensitivity of information requested, and the fact that the applicant has demonstrably been preparing this questionnaire for some time (the questionnaire was referenced in conversation with Dermot Farrington and Andrew Privas during the applicant's accompanied site visit, prior to its circulation).

I would be grateful if the ExA would:

1. Require the applicant to explain how the contact list was compiled.
2. Confirm whether it considers the 5km, businesses-only scope of the questionnaire to be adequate to address SE1.9, or whether a broader exercise is required, in particular whether commercial equine businesses, private equine households, and the equine supply chain should each be assessed as distinct receptor categories.

3. Consider whether the request for sensitive financial information is proportionate, and provide guidance on data handling protections for respondents.
4. Note for the record that the household equine community and the equine service supply chain appear to have been excluded from this exercise and have not been assessed as receptor categories.

I intend to engage with the questionnaire process and will submit a response before the 13 July deadline. However, I believe these structural issues with the exercise need to be addressed at the procedural level before the results are treated as a complete or reliable evidential basis.

I am happy to provide further information if that would assist the ExA.

Yours sincerely,

January Farrington West Park Farm

[REDACTED]

Attached is the questionnaire and letter from IGP:

Begin forwarded message:

From: "info@limesdownsolar.co.uk" <info@limesdownsolar.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Lime Down - Equine Sector Business Questionnaire

Date: 29 June 2026 at 11:21:10 BST

To: [REDACTED] >

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear January,

Thank you for your reply.

The questionnaire has been issued to a range of equine businesses and practitioners identified within approximately 5km of the Scheme, including businesses located near the proposed Solar PV Sites and the Cable Route Corridor.

This includes a broad range of equine uses and supporting services, such as stud farms, livery yards, riding schools and training providers, eventing and competition yards, equestrian centres, equine veterinary services and farriery services.

At this stage, we are not sharing the names of individual businesses contacted. This is to help ensure that responses are provided independently and directly by each business, so that we can gather accurate information.

The purpose of the questionnaire is to gather up-to-date information from businesses and practitioners in the equine sector, including information about business operations, employment, income and operating costs, site-specific uses, potential concerns, mitigation, and future engagement.

If there are any equine businesses or practitioners that you consider should be contacted as part of this work, please let us know. We would be happy to check whether they have already been included and, if not, consider whether they should be contacted.

Kind regards,

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Community Relations Team

Lime Down Solar Park

- ■
 - E: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
 - FREEPOST Lime Down Solar
-

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 4:22 PM
To: info@limesdownsolar.co.uk <info@limesdownsolar.co.uk>
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Lime Down - Equine Sector Business Questionnaire

Dear [REDACTED]

Please could you provide the list of equine establishments who have been sent this questionnaire?

I would be grateful for a prompt response.

Many thanks

January

On 26 Jun 2026, at 12:34, info@limesdownsolar.co.uk wrote:

Dear Dermot and January Farrington,

Please find attached a letter and Equine Sector Business Questionnaire relating to the Lime Down Solar Park Development Consent Order application.

The questionnaire has been prepared to support the Examining Authority's request for further information on potential impacts on job losses and business viability within the equine sector and its supporting industries.

We would be grateful if you could complete and return the questionnaire by Friday 3 July 2026 to info@limesdownsolar.co.uk.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire or would like to discuss any of the information requested, please do not hesitate to contact the project team using the details below.

Kind regards,

Community Relations Team

Lime Down Solar Park

- T: 0808 175 6656
- E: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
- FREEPOST Lime Down Solar

To contact the community relations team:

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Lime Down Solar Park Development Consent Order – Equine Sector Business Questionnaire

Planning Inspectorate Case Reference: EN010168

Part 1: Overview

Name	
Business Name	
Type of Business	
Business Location	

Please may you provide a plan or map showing the location of your business, with any key features or areas (such as stables, or paddocks) labelled?



To contact the community relations team:

T: 0808 175 6656

E: info@limedownsolar.co.uk

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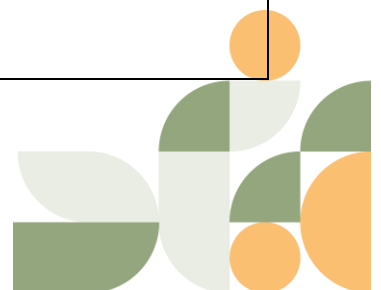


Part 2: Operations

Please describe the services that your business offers.

Please describe, in as much detail as you are comfortable, the scale of operations at your business.

For example: number of horses kept, breeding stock quantity, clients served per month, current occupancy rates



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Please set out which suppliers your business uses for operations.

For example: feed providers, farriers, vets or health specialists, transporters, contractors, machinery.

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Part 3a: Employment

Please provide as much information as you are able to on employment at your business. Add as many roles as required for each type of employment. When listing quantity of jobs, please specify

Roles	Employment Type Please specify full-time, part-time, or seasonal	Quantity Total number of workers For part-time or seasonal roles: please also specify either hours per week or days per year



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Part 3b: Employment

Please describe what trends you have seen in staffing levels over the last two years. If there have been any increases or decreases in staffing, may you please set out if there have been any reasons?



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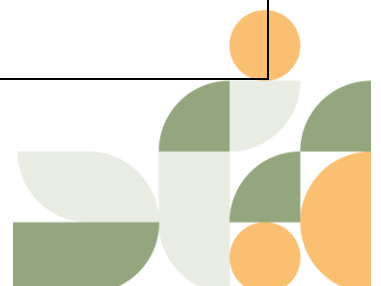


Part 4: Income and Operating Costs

Please set out, in as much detail as you are comfortable, the business' annual turnover and operating costs.

Please describe, in as much detail as you are comfortable, what your main sources of revenue are. This can be as a figure or percentage of annual turnover.

For example: livery charges, breeding fees, events and training fees



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Please describe, in as much detail as you are comfortable, what your main operating costs are. This can be as a figure or percentage of annual costs.

For example: feed, staff, vets, farriers, equipment, marketing, utilities.



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Part 5: Site Specific Uses

Please set out, in as much detail as you are comfortable, commentary or information about times, or periods in the year, where any horses being kept on site are out in paddocks versus being kept in stables, and any underlying reasoning.



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Please describe, in as much detail as you are able, what parts of your business facilities are used at each time of year.

For each location you describe (specific paddocks, runs, stables, training areas), please specify how often these are in use during a year, and the flexibility of provision you have for these services on different parcels of land (such as alternative paddock space or stables).

If the described parcels or facilities have not been included on the map or plan in Section 1, please can each described are be described so they can be located.



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Part 6: Site Specific Concerns, Mitigation and Future Engagement

Notwithstanding any commentary on the Scheme in principle, are there any location-specific concerns about onsite infrastructure proposed near to your business facility, or any specific concerns about impacts during construction, operation (or decommissioning)?



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Are there any location-specific mitigation measures that would be beneficial to the ongoing operation of your business, if the Scheme were to be consented? Please set out if this includes requesting further information about proposed mitigation you have already seen or discussed, or if there is any additional mitigation measures that you would want the Applicant to consider.



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If the Scheme were to go ahead, what form of engagement and liaison between your business and the Applicant would be most helpful ahead of, and during the Scheme's construction.

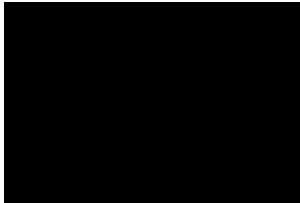


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West Park Farm



26 June 2026

Dear Dermot and January Farrington,

**Lime Down Solar Park Development Consent Order – Equine Sector
Business Questionnaire**

Planning Inspectorate Case Reference: EN010168

Further to the publication of the Examining Authority's First Written Questions **[PD-010]** for the Lime Down Solar Park Examination, the Applicant has been requested to "provide a more detailed assessment of the impacts on job losses in and business viability of the equine sector (and its supporting industries) beyond the information presented." The relevant question is set out at SE1.9 of PD-010, which can be viewed [here](#).

To support this work, please find attached an Equine Sector Business Questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire is to gather up-to-date and detailed information from business owners and practitioners working in the equine sector, so that the Applicant can provide a robust assessment in response to the Examining Authority's request.

The questionnaire asks for information about your business operations, employment, income and operating costs, site-specific uses, any concerns relating to the Scheme, and any mitigation or future engagement that may be helpful. Please provide as much information as you are comfortable sharing.

We would be grateful if you could complete and return the questionnaire by Friday 3rd July to info@limedownsolar.co.uk.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire or would like to discuss any of the information requested, please do not hesitate to contact the project team using the details below.



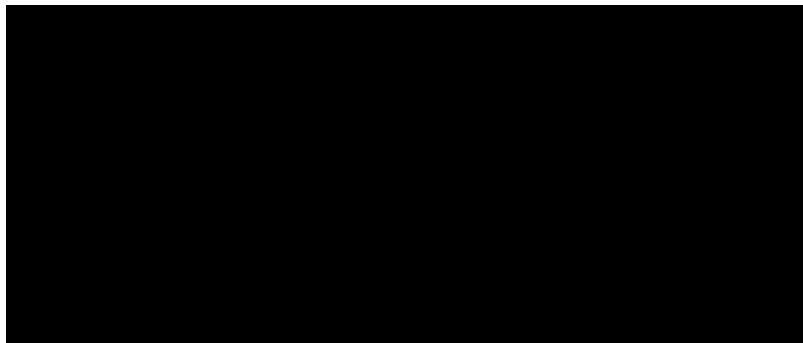
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Senior Project Development Manager

On behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited

