

SN15 5EX

20/08/2026

Dear Sir Madam

Following the release of the Equine Business Report relating to the proposed Lime Down Solar Park, I feel once again that the developers have somewhat missed the mark in regards to the impact to the local community and in this case specifically, the local equine community.

As a practicing farrier based less than three miles from a proposed site, I am hugely disappointed that I have not been included in further impact evaluations to the industry. I not only service clients at every property on [REDACTED]. Not only will the solar farm have an economic effect to my business but I also breed and graze young stock bred for showjumping on [REDACTED]. The report fails to mention the entire sports horse sector, which in itself contains showjumping, dressage and event horses.

Supporting evidence in the report is poorly researched and shows a distinct lack of understanding of the industry leaving the author with little to no credibility on the matter.

The report uses Christensen J. W. 2005, (Fear in Horses) to incorporate the idea of a 5-30m flight zone. It is worth noting that the stimuli in this case was a 75cm stationary traffic cone placed next to the equines feed source and data was primarily collected using heart rates as a gauge of fear. Christensen J. W. 2005 also mentions other studies where the stimuli include artificially produced boar smell, and eucalyptus oil!

None of the studies include the heavy industry construction site practices involved in the development of a solar farm. Nor do they use the uncontrolled environment of a herd in a paddock.

There are many studies that will go on to show that there is little in the way of predictability in the horse when scared. I would suggest that the report should have looked into studies carried out on Belgian police horses that indicate that there is no limit to the flight zone of the frightened horse.

Studies using sound frequency as stimuli quoted in the report offer no supporting evidence to support the theory that horses will become accustomed to site works, given that the report offers no indication of previously tested sound frequencies from this type of development. The studies concentrated on repetitive habitual or white noise. Not the varying levels of noise associated with heavy industry.

I find it disappointing that the report used Equine Canada, and sought to so heavily quote from their hand book "Equine Canada, National Farm Care Council". The United Kingdom has an enviable wealth of knowledge in the equine industry and industry specific guidance could have been gathered through the British Federations and associated bodies. All of which have a far greater understanding of the management practices of horses in this country.

In the acquisition of poorly selected evidence, the report has done nothing to ease any concerns of both human and equine safety during the period of construction. Furthermore, it highlights the authors lack of understanding and their will to circumvent real issues with the development by using poorly selected literature sources and quotes.

In regards to the practical issues I face as a business owner, as I explained to Will Threlfall on his site visit to West Park Farm on 11th June 2026. I base my financial forecasts on the basis that each horse is worth between [REDACTED] per annum to my business. The destruction of local equine businesses around the selected sites will have a crippling effect on my own business.

During the site visit to West Park Farm the sight of the visitors spooked the horses I was working on resulting in them getting loose and left one mare with an open wound that required treatment. Suggestions that horses in these numbers can be managed in a way to avoid issue is both naive and disingenuous.

I remain concerned about my own safety in trying to maintain the welfare of horses in the close proximity of heavy industrial construction site, I do not believe there is president for having large scale development in such close proximity to equestrian properties of this kind.

As a priority I hope that those involved in the development of the Lime Down Solar Park realise the seriousness of the impact to the local communities and with particular attention to the

equine industry which has a vital role in the local community in this area. Thus far the report looks written thin in expertise with little in the way of facts and understanding to both human and equine welfare.

Yours Faithfully

Andrew Pivars