

Submission - Norton and Foxley Parish - 13 October 2026



This submission should be read in conjunction with Norton and Foxley's original RR. It is informed by the further information made available during the Examination period and the Parish remains absolutely opposed to the application.

1. Landscape and Visual

You will be aware that significant parts of Foxley are actually within the National Landscape area. The Applicant's proposals have evolved but, from the Parish's point of view, not for the better. We remain concerned that solar infrastructure, including substations, will still be clearly visible from our homes. No Solar NSIP should ever be located so close to a National Landscape, especially when the proposals are for 4.5m high panels.

2. Flooding

As previously reported, the local roads are prone to regular flooding and if anything flooding has been even more of a problem over the last 12 months. On occasions the roads to Malmesbury (our local town) are completely impassable in the average car. Following the research and evidence prepared by SLD, there is no doubt that the solar infrastructure will speed up the flow of water and exacerbate our flooding problems.

3. Road network

It is alarming that the Applicant has so seriously underestimated traffic flows. Even under existing traffic conditions walking, cycling and riding are potentially dangerous pursuits. Many of the roads to be used by the Scheme's heavy traffic are not A, B or even C classified roads. They are unclassified and have no kerbing or footway. We regularly experience pedestrians, cyclists and riders in the narrow carriageways which form parts of the Applicant's proposed lorry network.

4. Noise

As previously reported, we have doubts about the information and estimated noise contours provided by IGP. Based on evidence from other solar developments, noise will be a big problem for Norton and Foxley during construction and a potential problem thereafter.

5. Walking and Cycling

As previously stated, many of us in Norton and Foxley are keen dog owners, walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. The prospect of using rights of way

caged in by security fencing and unable to appreciate our surroundings is worrying. In practice, we would refuse to make use of such alien pathways and would be deprived of the familiar countryside we love. This reduction in our enjoyment and freedom to choose must be taken into account.

6. The loss in the value of our property

Norton and Foxley are traditional Cotswold villages, containing many characterful buildings of predominantly limestone construction. Up until recently the villages were sought after locations. However, the threat of Lime Down Solar Park (LDSP) has had a marked negative effect on property values and sales as borne out by recent transactions. For personal reasons, some vendors have sold and could not wait for a decision on LDSP. The degree of loss has varied from one property to the next depending on orientation and proximity to LDSP. Discussions with estate agents (who prefer not to go on the record for commercial reasons) indicate reductions in selling prices from 15% to 30%. It is an injustice that, should LDSP be approved, a handful of big landowners and foreign investors would make vast profits whilst the local community suffer both the environmental impact and financial loss. The possibility of this unfair outcome deserves detailed consideration.

NORTON VILLAGE - A very special case

7. Island Green Power's (IGP) Site Selection report is flawed

Now that we can see the Applicants latest proposals, the Parish remains very concerned by the implications for Norton. Having committed itself to Lime Down, the developer has discovered that there is insufficient land to deliver a tolerable layout. The consequences of this are **adverse cumulative effects** and the concern described in the next paragraph.

8. Norton would be virtually surrounded by solar infrastructure.

If LDSP were approved, life within the village would become intolerable! No respectable developer would contemplate locating major industrial development in such close proximity to an existing rural village community. Despite the obvious impact of LDSP on Norton and the views expressed during statutory consultation, the application's layout immediately adjacent to Norton remains unchanged.