Lime Down solar farm consultation guidance

The second consultation for Lime Down Solar Farm runs from 29 January to 19 March 2025.

Access the feedback form here.

If you wish to respond positively to this consultation here is some guidance to help you complete the form.

The form comprises a series of questions organised by sections which come up one at a time. You do not have to answer all the questions.

Section 1 - Personal details. You should provide your name and address as it is unlikely that anonymous views will be counted.
Section 2 - **General views** on solar energy and the project.
Q1-3 Multi choice
Q4 - Overall comments on the proposal
Section 3 - **Detailed comments** on the proposal
Q5 - Overall site layout
Q6 - Design principles
Q7 - Landscape and visual impact
Q8 - Ecology and biodiversity
Q9 - Environment
Section 4 - Grid connection
Q10 - Cable search corridor
Section 5 - Construction, operation and decommissioning
Q 11
Section 6 - Community Benefits
Q12 - on-site benefits
Q13 - Community Benefit Fund
Section 7- Additional comments
Q14

If you are minded to support the current proposals, here are some valid planning reasons you may wish to give.

- **Renewable Energy Generation** – The solar farm will produce a substantial amount of clean, renewable electricity, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and contributing to the UK's net-zero targets. Currently only half the UK's energy comes from zero carbon sources and the government's Clean Power 2030 plan has a target to fully decarbonise our electricity system by 2020.

- **Carbon Emissions Reduction** – By generating green energy, the project will significantly lower carbon emissions, helping to combat climate change. Wiltshire has declared a climate emergency with a target of net zero by 2030 and currently only generates 6% of energy from renewables.
- **Energy Security** – It will contribute to the UK's energy security, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels imported from abroad, and help keep prices low as solar is one of the lowest cost energy generating technologies, alongside wind.
- **Biodiversity Benefits** – Solar farms are proven to enhance biodiversity through habitat creation, such as diverse grasslands and hedgerow planting. The current plans have 47% of the overall development retained as agricultural land or used for landscaping, ecology mitigation and environmental enhancements. This should generate a Biodiversity Net Gain well above the mandatory minimum of 10%.
- **Economic & Community Benefits** – The project could create jobs and support local supply chains. It will contribute to a Community Benefit Fund in line with government guidance and may also generate community investment opportunities.
- **Efficient Land Use** – The land can still be used for agriculture, such as sheep grazing, as well as contributing to biodiversity net gain.
- **Minimal Landscape Impact** – The site design is separated into five individual parcels with good buffers from local villages, the Fosse Way and other important sensitive areas, which will reduce visual impact. Existing natural screening and topography and new trees and hedge planting are planned to hel;p the development blend in with the surrounding countryside.
- **Grid Connection** – The site has secured a grid connection at Melksham substation at a time when grid capacity is severely limited, and the proposed cable route search area avoids villages and sensitive areas. The cables will be buried underground so there will be no need for any additional infrastructure or new pylons in the area.
- **Time-limited Development** - the solar farm will not be a permanent feature in the landscape and there will be provisions for the land to be completely restored at the end of its life.
- **Construction Disruption -** Construction is short-term, with long-term benefits of clean energy outweighing any temporary inconvenience.