

Stop Lime Down – Community Events – November 2025

Now is the time where you can have your say by telling the Planning Inspectorate your reasons to object to the Lime Down industrial solar facility planned by developer Island Green Power.

The following is an AI generated summary from the Zoom presentation held on 13 November 2025. The same presentation was used at all preceding community events.

Quick recap

The presentation focused on public participation in the planning process for a proposed industrial development in the Cotswolds, with discussions around timeline, registration requirements, and the importance of submitting individual Relevant Representations to the examining authority (The Planning Inspectorate – PINS). A presentation detailed the solar energy scheme's layout, components, and environmental impact, including potential landscape disruption and ecological effects. Concerns were raised about various aspects of the project, including environmental impacts, transport issues, and socio-economic effects, with attendees encouraged to submit feedback to the Planning Inspectorate and spread awareness about the proposal.

Summary

Industrial Development

The presentation focused on the importance of public participation in the planning process for a proposed industrial development in the Cotswolds. Sir Mike Pitt explained the timeline and steps involved in the planning process, emphasising the current registration period and the deadline of January 9th 2026. He encouraged attendees to register and make Relevant Representations, highlighting that these comments would influence the examining authority's work. The presentation also included a presentation by Professor Richard Skeffington on the project's current plans and potential impacts, and a video by SLD appointed Planning Barrister, Dan Kazelko, clearly explaining the process for submitting relevant representations.

Proposed Solar Energy Scheme Overview

Richard Skeffington introduced the solar energy scheme, explaining its layout, components, and environmental impact. He highlighted the industrialisation of the area due to the large-scale nature of the project, including the 4.5-meter-tall tracking solar panels (approx. 650,000), electricity substations, and cable routes. Richard emphasised the scheme's reduction in size due to the Cotswold National Landscape Board's intervention, however, the site red line boundary remains unchanged. He also detailed the construction process, including the use of horizontal direct drilling for cable installation and the establishment of construction compounds and lay-down areas. Richard noted the scheme's potential noise and groundwater implications, as

well as the presence of conversion units and switch rooms, which are significant landscape features.

Solar Panel Project Environmental Impact

The presentation discussed the proposed solar power generation project, focusing on its environmental impact and visual intrusion. Richard highlighted concerns about landscape disruption, loss of Skylark habitat, and ecological effects, including potential harm to protected species. He emphasised the importance of consulting ecological experts to assess the adequacy of mitigation plans and addressed the challenges of converting arable land into species-rich grassland. The discussion also touched on the construction process, including noise, soil disturbance, and the need for careful tree planting.

Lime Down Solar Concerns

The presentation discussed concerns about the Lime Down Solar project, focusing on environmental impacts, transport issues, and socio-economic effects. Participants highlighted the poor track record of NSIPs in tree planting, the potential loss of agricultural land, and the disruption to local roads and public rights of way due to heavy vehicle traffic. They also raised concerns about noise pollution, flooding risks, and the potential impact on local water supplies. The group emphasised the need to submit Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate, explaining why the project should not be approved, and discussed the high cost and inefficiency of the proposed scheme compared to local solar power generation.

Lime Down Solar Opposition

The presentation focused on the proposed Lime Down Solar development, with discussions around its environmental and social impacts. Mike explained that the project involves 9 landowners who have signed secretive contracts with the developer IGP, raising concerns about financial arrangements. Anna-Kate highlighted the need for community involvement and emphasised the importance of submitting feedback to the Planning Inspectorate. Ros Savage, the MP for the South Cotswolds, expressed opposition to the proposal, criticising the developer's disregard for local consultation and the project's negative impact on rural communities. The group also discussed issues such as noise pollution, glint and glare, and the potential environmental impact of the solar panels. They encouraged attendees to spread the word about the project and submit their feedback, emphasising that every response counts in the planning process.

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