

**STOP  
LIME  
DOWN**

YOUR  
COUNTRYSIDE



HELP US SAVE OUR COTSWOLD LANDSCAPE

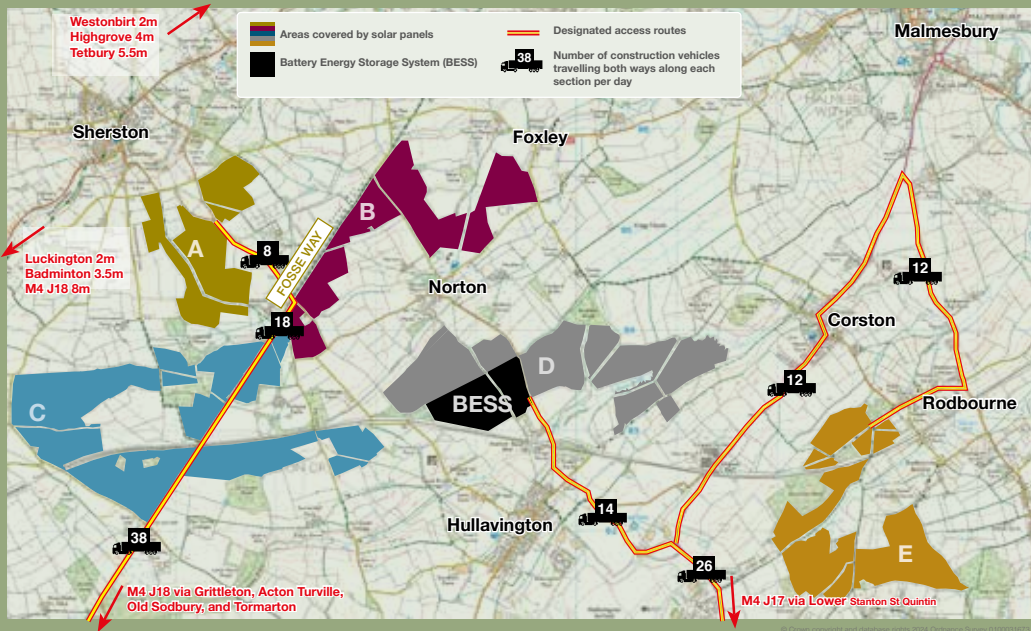


## **We are facing an urgent threat**

A massive solar park development that will cover approximately 2,500 acres of our beautiful Cotswold countryside, impacting nine villages and forever altering the character of this iconic landscape. This industrial-scale project, including huge battery storage plants, represents a serious blight on the region, and we need you to help us stop it.

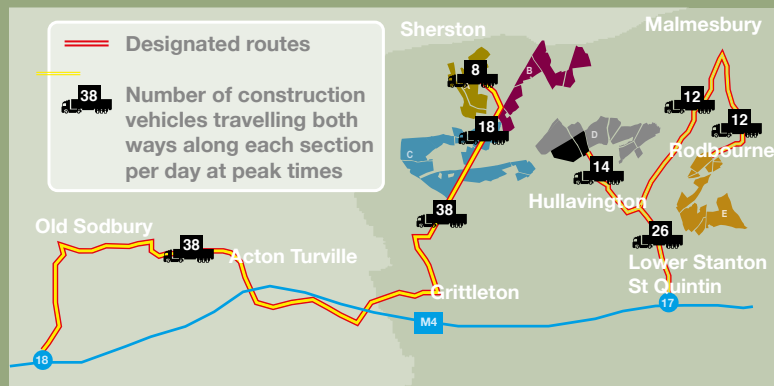
The proposed development will:

- **Industrialise the countryside** The project will not only involve vast areas of solar panels but also over 100 container-size inverter units, 20 electricity substations, and a huge battery storage facility. All surrounded by security fencing, with ancestral rights of way masked for ever by a looming industrial presence.
- **Blight local villages** The development will surround nine villages, drastically changing the way of life for their residents and creating an eyesore that stretches for miles. Many of these will be along the route of heavy construction traffic.
- **Harm biodiversity** The natural habitats that support local wildlife will be disrupted, with long-term impacts on local ecosystems.
- **Ravage the local economy** The first sight visitors to the Cotswolds from the south will encounter is an ocean of solar panels, stretching across multiple villages. The visual and environmental damage would be catastrophic for local businesses, tourism, and the very fabric of the Cotswolds.



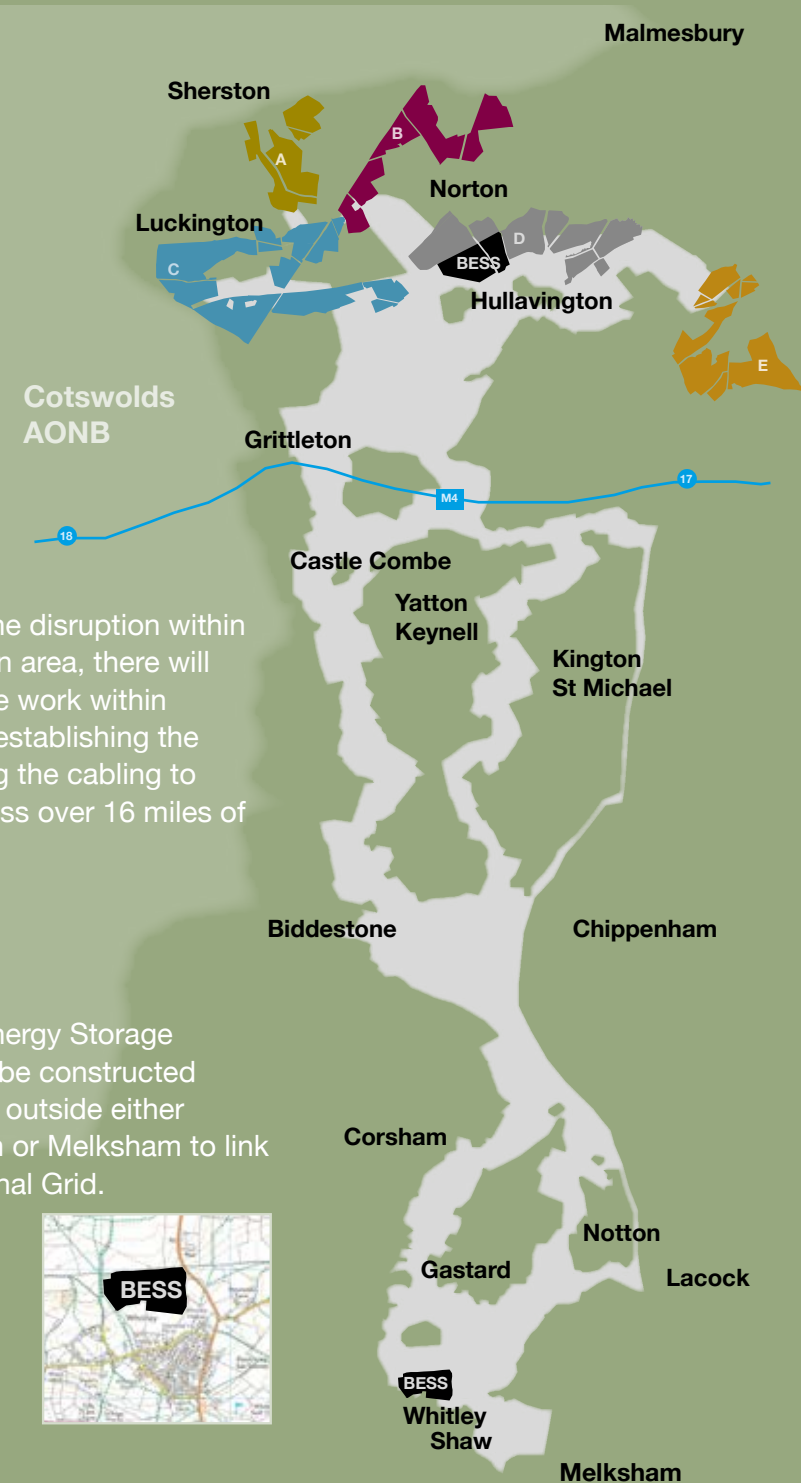
The panels are 4.5 metres (nearly 15 feet) high, over twice the height of an average farm hedge.

Disruption during the 2 years of construction will extend far beyond the site itself, with traffic passing to and from M4 J17 & 18 through villages and fields along totally unsuitable country roads, and intruding on the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



In addition to the disruption within the construction area, there will be considerable work within the grey areas establishing the route and laying the cabling to Melksham across over 16 miles of countryside.

A Battery Energy Storage System will be constructed on farmland outside either Hullavington or Melksham to link to the National Grid.





## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Every pound raised will directly fund the experts and legal teams we need to fight this battle.

- **Legal representation**

Our legal team, led by environmental law experts, will challenge the developer's planning application, ensuring that every possible legal avenue is pursued to protect our landscape.

- **Expert reports and assessments**

Specialists in landscape, hydrology, heritage, biodiversity, soils, transport, and other areas will provide detailed reports to counter the developer's findings, giving us the robust evidence we need to make our case.

- **Community action**

Your support empowers the local community to have a say in how the future of this region is shaped. Together, we can ensure that development respects the environment and heritage of the Cotswolds.



## WHAT WE NEED

### Our costs – excluding VAT – include:

Legal fees	£200,000 - £300,000
Public Relations	£50,000 - £100,000
Hydrology report	£20,000 - £35,000
Landscape assessment	£20,000 - £35,000
Heritage analysis	£10,000 - £20,000
Soil impact study	£10,000 - £20,000
Biodiversity report	£10,000 - £20,000
Transport study	£5,000 - £10,000
Administration and management	£40,000 - £60,000

The members of the Stop Lime Down campaign group have already invested considerable resources in terms of both time and money. We will continue to do so for as long as it takes until plans for the projected solar farm are abandoned, and a more suitable site for clean renewable electric power is found.

Our determination is unbounded, but our resources, especially financial, are limited. We cannot do this on our own.

Our joint future – our lives, those of our children, our landscape and environment, the value of the properties in which we have invested – depends on the success of our campaign.

To this end we have gathered a team of top-tier professionals who specialise in the critical areas necessary to challenge the proposed solar park development.

## LEVELS OF SUPPORT

We are calling on individuals, businesses, and the wider community to step forward and contribute. There are three ways you can support our campaign:

### 1 Major benefactors

We are seeking individuals who can contribute between £10,000 and £250,000 to provide the core funding needed for our legal and expert reports. Your significant support will ensure that we have the best team in place to win this battle.

### 2 Generous local benefactors

For those able to contribute between £1,000 and £10,000, your generosity will fund critical aspects of our campaign, from landscape assessments to hydrology reports. Every contribution brings us closer to protecting our home.

### 3 Community contributions

Local residents and supporters can help by contributing between £25 and £1,000. Together, smaller donations add up to make a big difference. Please remember, this is not a donation; it is an investment in the future of our community, and every bit helps.

**Bank details are on the inside back cover.**



## WHO WE ARE – STOP LIME DOWN (SLD)

Formed in March 2024, Stop Lime Down (SLD) is a volunteer-led group of North Wiltshire residents campaigning against the proposed 500MW Lime Down Solar (LDS) plant. A sprawling project extending across more than 2000 acres of productive land in North Wiltshire, LDS is one of several industrial-sized solar schemes developed by Island Green Power (IGP), which is 50% owned by Australia's Macquarie Asset Management.

**At our core, we are here to give our local community a strong voice in this process.** We ensure that the concerns of residents, who cherish the countryside and the rural way of life, are fully represented and heard by decision-makers.

SLD is committed to continuing this fight, using every available resource to delay and ultimately halt this inappropriate development, ensuring that our countryside and communities are protected for future generations.

## What we have achieved so far

SLD has been proactive in challenging IGP's solar park development by taking strategic actions to safeguard the integrity of the local area.

Here's what we've accomplished so far:

- **Legal representation** We have secured the services of expert solicitors who specialise in environmental law, providing us with the legal support necessary to oppose this development.
- **Collaboration with local authorities** We have actively liaised with MPs, county councils, local parish councils, and other regulatory bodies to encourage them to respond to Island Green Power's scoping report. Through these efforts, we have ensured that the concerns of the community are heard at every level of the planning process.
- **Influencing the Scoping Report** Our involvement led to statutory consultees submitting detailed comments on IGP's Environmental Impact Scoping Report, highlighting errors and omissions. As a result, the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion requires IGP to conduct additional surveys and studies they initially sought to exclude. IGP will also need to finalise decisions on key aspects of the project before proceeding with their application, causing both added expense and delay. Their original target of Q1 2025 for the DCO application has now been pushed back to Q3 2025.

As a result, we have already gained the support of all local MPs and authorities, who join us in strongly condemning this proposed development.

## OUR STANCE ON SOLAR AND NET ZERO

### The right places for solar energy

Solar panels can – and should – be installed in places where they do not detract from the natural environment or disrupt local communities. There are plenty of alternative locations that would allow for the development of solar energy without sacrificing agricultural land or damaging rural landscapes:

- **Rooftops of homes and businesses** There are thousands of buildings – houses, offices, industrial sheds – that could host solar panels without affecting green space or farmland.
- **Brownfield sites** Solar developments can be placed on previously developed or unused land, areas that are already impacted by industrial or urban use.
- **Public buildings** Schools, hospitals, council offices, libraries, hospitals and car parks provide vast areas where solar energy can be generated with minimal environmental impact.

These are solutions that do not require the industrialisation of our countryside. By focusing on existing infrastructure, we can meet our renewable energy targets without sacrificing productive agricultural land or irreversibly changing the face of the Cotswolds.

### Preserving agricultural land is critical

One of our deepest concerns about this proposed solar park is the sheer scale of the development. The area earmarked for the solar panels and battery storage plants is prime agricultural land, which is essential for food production. In a time when the UK already imports over 40% of its food, we cannot afford to lose more of our farmland to industrial developments. This land should be used to support food security, especially as global pressures on food supplies continue to rise.

## Rural landscapes are a vital national asset

Some may accuse SLD of simply being ‘NIMBYs’ – opposing the development simply because it’s in our own backyard.

Of course our local environment matters more to us than other areas. But it’s not selfish. Our campaign is part of a wider movement, one that recognises the importance of green undeveloped land, which is vital not only for tourism and community wellbeing, but also for biodiversity and environmental and mental health; that appreciates the countryside as a refuge and inspiration, a place of solace and comfort.

And during the time we are opposing this proposal, we will also lend our support to others facing similar threats to their communities, landscapes, and heritage.

## A BALANCED APPROACH TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Thus our opposition to this particular solar development does not mean we oppose solar power itself. Rather, we advocate for a balanced and thoughtful approach to renewable energy that takes into account:

- **The right locations for solar installations.**
- **The protection of agricultural land.**
- **The preservation of rural landscapes.**

By focusing on smart, targeted solar installations, we can make meaningful progress toward renewable energy goals while preserving the very things that make our countryside so valuable



**YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO  
PRESERVING OUR COUNTRYSIDE**

## **JOIN US IN THIS FIGHT**

This is a defining moment for the future of our countryside. We cannot do this without your help.

By standing with us, you are making a powerful statement: that the Cotswolds is worth protecting, and that its history and landscape are worth fighting for.

**This development CANNOT be allowed to proceed.** Your support is crucial in ensuring that we have the resources to challenge the developers and prevent this irreversible damage from occurring.

Our account details are:

Account name SLD Wiltshire

Sort code 56-00-03

Account number 27630706

**Please use your name as reference  
when making a contribution**

**THANK YOU**





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