



James Gray MP

Member of Parliament for North
Wiltshire

An end to Lime Down?

Dear Constituent,

Having campaigned long and hard against unsuitable solar farms across Wiltshire, I am delighted by [this morning's announcement from Energy Secretary, Claire Coutinho](#).

I am pleased that she will strengthen the argument which I and so many in this campaign have been raising against using good agricultural land for solar energy, and the need for food security. The Minister's statement accepts our arguments that solar should first and foremost be on brownfield sites, in remote locations, and of course on roof tops. The agricultural land proposed for Lime Down solar park would definitely now be inappropriate.

The Minister's statement also puts into planning law the ability of local authorities and the Planning Inspector to consider the cumulative effect of solar on a county or local area. Wiltshire already has 54 solar farms covering 3000 acres either under construction or in operation, which makes us one of the largest clusters of solar farms anywhere in the world. I am therefore confident that Wiltshire Council and the Planning Inspector will take that into account when considering any new applications like Lime Down.

The campaign against Lime Down has been a huge community effort. From the 750 people that attended my public meeting in Malmesbury Town Hall, through to the letter writing and petitioning, poster and leaflet campaigns - local people have come together to oppose what would have been a monstrous carbuncle in the middle of our Wiltshire countryside. It would also have meant an 20-mile connection to an unsightly battery park near Melksham. I very much hope that the developers will see the error of their ways and withdraw this application which now has a diminishing likelihood of success.

James Gray MP

Member, Mr Speaker's Panel of Chairmen

Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Armed Forces

Chairman, Armed Forces Parliamentary Trust

Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Polar Regions

Convenor, Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly 2019, 2021

Member, Commons Procedure Committee

Member, Environmental Audit Committee

Commander, Order of St John

Freeman of the City of London

Younger Brother, Trinity House

Veteran Member, Honourable Artillery Company

Member, Royal Wootton Bassett Royal British Legion

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society

Patron, Operation Christmas Box

President, Chippenham Constitutional Club

Author, Poles Apart (2014); Who Takes Britain to War (2016); Full English Brexit (2018) and Wiltshire to Westminster (2020)

Advice Surgeries

Saturday 25th May

10am-11.30am Cricklade Jenner Hall, Parish Hall, Bath Rd, Cricklade SN6 6AX

12pm-1pm Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ

Saturday 15th June

10am-11:30am The Corn Exchange, Calne Town Hall, The Strand, Calne, SN11 0EN

12pm-1pm The Church Croft, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7BJ

No appointment is necessary - just turn up.

Political Supper Club

Every month I hold an informal Supper Club in North Wiltshire. The aim is to discuss political issues and for me to get feedback from constituents.

For further details, please contact Peter Gantlett via northwiltssupperclub@gmail.com



I am happy to give you the chance to tell me whether you still wish to receive updates on my work as your Member of Parliament. I send weekly updates on the basis of democratic engagement in the public interest of my constituents. You will always have an option to unsubscribe from further communications in the future.

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My postal address is:

