

To contact the community relations team:

T: 0808 175 6656
E: info@limedownsolar.co.uk
FREEPOST Lime Down Solar
www.limedownsolar.co.uk



05 March 2024

Dear Parish Council,

Introduction to Island Green Power's proposals for Lime Down Solar Park.

I am writing to let you know that our Stage One consultation for Lime Down Solar Park starts on 14 March 2024. It will run for six weeks, closing on 26 April 2024.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our emerging proposals, the project development process and our approach to community engagement. The meeting would also give us the opportunity to address any questions and comments you might have at this early stage.

If you would be interested in meeting with us before our Stage One consultation commences on 14 March 2024, please could you respond with your availability to our community relations team at **0808 175 6656** or info@limedownsolar.co.uk. This would be a virtual meeting, held via either MS Teams or Zoom. If you're unavailable between now and 14 March 2024, we would be happy to meet with you at another time that fits into your schedule.

We are committed to providing updates to members of the public and community representatives. In addition to writing to key stakeholders such as yourself, we will soon be launching a project website www.limedownsolar.co.uk, which will be regularly updated with project information and details on future engagement opportunities. Those interested will be able to register on our website to receive direct updates on Lime Down Solar Park.

Overview of the project

The project, known as Lime Down Solar Park, could provide around 500 megawatts of solar energy. It would provide enough clean affordable electricity to power around 115,000 homes.

Lime Down Solar Park will provide a significant amount of clean electricity for business and homes in the region, supporting national and regional aims to decarbonise our electricity systems and bolster our energy security. The project will contribute towards Government targets to reach net zero by 2050 and decarbonisation of the energy sector by 2035, and its intention to achieve a fivefold increase in solar power by 2035.

Our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park would comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic panels (PV) and an onsite energy storage system, plus infrastructure to connect the scheme into the national grid at the existing Melksham substation.

It is our ambition to design Lime Down Solar Park in a way that boosts and enhances local wildlife by delivering a net gain in biodiversity. This would result in more wildlife and biodiversity across



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the site area during the lifetime of project than there is currently. As well as providing clean electricity that helps us move away from polluting fossil fuels – solar energy generation can go hand-in-hand in delivering major benefits to the local environment.

We also want to deliver community benefits alongside our proposals and believe those in the local community are best placed to inform what benefits may be best suited. During Stage One, we will encourage stakeholders to feedback on these proposals and share with us their views, recommendations and ideas.

The developer

Lime Down Solar Park is being proposed by Island Green Power, a leading developer of renewable energy projects. Established in 2013, we specialise in the development of utility-scale solar projects and battery energy storage systems, and have successfully delivered 34 projects worldwide totalling more than 1 gigawatt of capacity.

Island Green Power is committed to help the UK meet net zero goals. Our mission is to help the UK increase its solar energy generation, making more renewable energy possible whilst drastically reducing carbon emissions. We are equally committed to responsible land use, developing projects that work in harmony with the local community and environment and delivering bespoke benefits and enhancements best suited to the surroundings.

The development process

Lime Down Solar Park is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because the amount of electricity it could generate exceeds 50 megawatts.

The consenting regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This means we need to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) rather than the local planning authority.

In energy-related developments PINS, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), carry out examinations of proposals and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether to grant consent for developments. Consent is then determined by the Secretary of State.

We anticipate that the development process through DCO submission and examination will take between two and three years. We intend to submit our DCO application to PINS in Q1 2025. Subject to achieving consent, construction would start no earlier than 2027.



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Next steps

Throughout the development of Lime Down Solar Park, we will ensure you receive copies of our consultee information and notices of our events. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our community relations team at **0808 175 6656** or info@limedownsolar.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natasha Worrall".

Natasha Worrall

Project Development Manager

On behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited

