



13th May 2026

Dear Planning Inspector

Subject: Objection to PL/2026/02134 – unacceptable landscape and visual impact on Stones Lane

I object to PL/2026/02134 because the development would cause unacceptable landscape and visual harm to Stones Lane and the western rural edge of Cricklade.

The applicant's own Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment accepts that close-range viewpoints from Stones Lane and Malmesbury Road/B4040 would experience **major adverse visual effects initially**, reducing only to **moderate adverse** as planting matures. This is a highly significant admission. The harm to Stones Lane is not speculative; it is acknowledged in the submitted evidence.

Stones Lane currently has a rural character, with pastoral fields, hedgerows, trees, ditches and open views forming part of the western approach to Cricklade. The applicant's Design and Access Statement itself describes the site as gently sloping pastoral fields bounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees, with views into the site from Stones Lane and the public footpath.

The proposed development would urbanise this setting. The harm would be immediate and permanent. Planting proposed as mitigation would take many years to mature and, even on the applicant's own assessment, would not eliminate the harm: it would reduce major adverse effects only to moderate adverse effects.

For residents at the end of Stones Lane, this is not a distant or theoretical impact. It is the direct transformation of the rural lane environment into the edge of a large housing estate, with associated access points, lighting, activity, engineered drainage and public recreational routes.

I ask the Council to give substantial weight to the applicant's own finding of major adverse visual impact and to refuse the application.

Elizabeth Vyvyan-Robinson

