



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Sally Robbins
Planning & Development
Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum, Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. HP1 1DN

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

26th January 2024 (by email)

Dear Sally Robbins,

Application no. 23/02955/MFA

**Land Near Horse & Jockey PH, East of Watling Street, West of Milfield Lane, Caddington
Hybrid Planning Application for a Solar Farm (Full) and associated Electric and Hydrogen
Vehicle Charging Service Station and Battery Storage (Outline, other than access)**

I am writing with regard to the above application which relates to the portion of a larger ground-mounted solar installation which is mainly located on Central Bedfordshire. I attach the submission made by CPRE Bedfordshire with regard to the main part of the proposals (ref. Central Bedfordshire Council application number CB/23/03583), which identifies specific objections which we believe are equally relevant to the portion of the proposal which lies in Hertfordshire as well as the proposed development as a whole.

We support fully the objections of CPRE Bedfordshire to the above planning application. We also reiterate our support for renewable energy sources on rooftops and land which is not designated as protected, such as Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

CPRE Hertfordshire is particularly concerned at any incursion by development into the River Ver valley, which is an endangered chalk stream of international importance. The effective industrialisation of open countryside through the installation of photo voltaic cells, associated equipment and infrastructure has considerable long-lasting impacts on landscape and directly affects the use and enjoyment of public rights of way, wildlife, biodiversity and agricultural use.

Hertfordshire, like Bedfordshire, is presently subject to a proliferation of planning applications for ground-mounted solar installations which are determined individually by the councils concerned. This is leading to increasing impacts on the open countryside and we would urge the Council to take account of the cumulative effects of developer-initiated proposals.

It is not appropriate to use protected open countryside for low intensity development such as energy generation and we urge the Council to refuse this application.

CPRE is working nationally and locally for a beautiful and living countryside

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO
Chairman: Allan McNab

Registered Charity 1162419



Yours sincerely,

Chris Berry
Planning Manager

NOTE: We would request that this letter is published on the Council's website as a document relating to this application and should be grateful if you would notify us of the date of the appropriate meeting if it is to be determined by planning committee.