



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Sarah Kasparian
Planning and Building Control
North Herts Council
PO Box 10613
Nottingham
NG6 6DW

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

12th January 2024 (by email)

Dear Sarah Kasparian,

Application: 22/03231/FP
Land North East of Wandon End
Proposed solar farm within 106 hectares with associated access, landscaping,
battery storage and ancillary infrastructure (Amended plans received 29.11.23)

I write with reference to the above amended application, to which CPRE Hertfordshire made a previous objection, dated 25th January 2023. We note that the area proposed to be covered by solar panels has been reduced from 65 hectares to 45 hectares together with several other amendments to reduce the immediate impact of this large ground mounted installation.

Our objections remain due to the principle of development on land designated as Green Belt which should be protected from inappropriate development according to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Large ground mounted installations directly affect the character of the land by introducing extensive built elements which result in the loss of highly valued open countryside.

The Applicant's consultants make reference to recent planning appeal decisions relating to proposals in the Green Belt and you will be aware of the recent appeal decision at Little Heath Lane, Berkhamsted (Ref:APP/A1910/W/23/3317818). The Inspector cited directly Green Belt issues for dismissing the appeal and we believe that similar conditions apply in this case.

It is not necessary in our view to utilise protected land for development which prejudices the reasons for its designation. Large-scale developments of this nature pose a major challenge to the rural character of protected areas which are not replicable elsewhere and we urge the Council to refuse this application.

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.

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

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