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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Naomi Reynard
Planning and Building Control
North Herts Council
PO Box 10613
Nottingham
NG6 6DW

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

9th July 2025 (by email)

Dear Naomi Reynard,

**Planning application no. 25/01349/FP
Land North of Stevenage Road Titmore Green Little Wymondley
Installation and operation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) facility incorporating
batteries, transformers, inverters, switchrooms, substation, water tank, other associated
infrastructure plus cable ducts, fencing, access track, landscaping and drainage
infrastructure.**

I write with regard to the above planning application to which CPRE Hertfordshire objects for the following reasons.

1. The land identified for this proposed development is designated as London Metropolitan Green Belt in the adopted North Herts Local Plan where development is inappropriate unless very special circumstances are identified which clearly outweigh the harms caused, according to criteria in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
2. CPRE Hertfordshire has previously objected to a series of applications for ground-mounted solar energy generation in this area, by virtue of the designation of Green Belt and its unsuitability for development which jeopardises the open countryside and its rural character. Since the allowing of the appeal for the solar array at Priory Farm Great Wymondley by the Secretary of State, against the recommendation of the Planning Inspector, this area has been subject to additional pressure for similar development.
3. The cumulative impact of the consented solar array at Priory Farm and applications for a major solar array at Sperberry Hill and BESS at Stevenage Road/A602 Wymondley bypass (screening opinion lodged) and this application constitute an entirely unacceptable impact on the villages of Great and Little Wymondley.

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: Peter Waine

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4. The cumulative consents and applications have a significant detrimental effect on the surrounding villages and communities through industrialisation of the landscape and the loss of productive agricultural land including that which is classified as Best and Most Versatile. The proliferation of proposals should be a material planning consideration in the determination of these applications due to their impact.

5. CPRE Hertfordshire notes and supports the recent refusal of permission by East Herts Council for a BESS, reference application 3/22/0806/FUL at Crabbs Lane Stocking Pelham in a similar concentration of solar proposals in The Pelhams on the Hertfordshire and Essex boundary. The reasons for refusal are as follows:

"The proposed development by reason of its location would result in significant increased noise disturbance to neighbouring properties, negatively impacting health, wellbeing and amenities contrary to East Herts District Plan policies EQ2 and CC3(d/e). In addition, the development would harm landscape character in conflict with policy DES2 and CC3(b). These negative impacts are considered to outweigh the benefits of the proposals in terms of delivery of renewable energy infrastructure, having regard to NPPF paragraph 168. As such, the development fails to constitute sustainable development and therefore is in conflict with paragraph 11(d)(ii) of the National Planning policy Framework and Policies INT1, EQ2, CC3 and DES2 of the District Plan (2018)."

6. We believe that similar concerns are relevant in this application and there are also growing concerns with regard to the safety of battery storage facilities in terms of fire risk and damage leading to contamination. Such concerns are elevated in designated protected land such as Green Belt and we urge the Council to refuse this application on the basis of its negative impacts.

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.