

Planning And Regulation

Assistant Director, Planning & Regulation - Zayd Al-Jawad



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Mr Ben Glover
North Hertfordshire District Council
Development Management
PO Box 10613
Nottingham
NG6 6DW

Your Ref: 24/02455/FP
Our Ref: 24/00785/CONSUL
Contact: Mrs Rebecca Elliott

E-Mail: Rebecca.elliott@stevenage.gov.uk
Date: 18 December 2024

Dear Ben,

RE: PROPOSED SOLAR FARM MEASURING 35.5 HECTARES WITH ASSOCIATED BATTERY STORAGE AND ANCILLIARY INFRASTRUCTURE
AT: LAND OPPOSITE WYMONDLEY GRID STATION AND TO THE SOUTH OF SPERBERRY HILL, ST IPPOLYTS.

I write further to your consultation for comments in respect of the above solar farm, dated 6 November 2024, following the recent screening opinion. I appreciate your consultation response date of 29 November 2024, and apologise for the delay in providing any comment on the consultation. For a matter of record, I can provide the following response -

As the neighbouring Local Planning Authority, Stevenage Borough Council does not wish to raise any objections to the proposals.

Matters which I am sure you will give full consideration as part of the application process, but we would make note of, are the possible impacts on the Impact Risk Zone of Wain Wood SSSI and on nearby Heritage Assets including the close proximity listed buildings at Red Coats Farm to the north east and The Wyck to the south east of the site.

Furthermore, the impact of construction and long term maintenance traffic along the rural connecting roads in this area should be carefully considered with input from the local highway authority. Also, there appear to be several PROW crossing the site, these should not be restricted by the development in the long term.

The scale of the development is obviously extensive so impacts on the Greenbelt and Ecology/Biodiversity will be important, and we trust sufficient information has been provided to allow you to assess the application against these points and your relevant Local Plan policies.

In terms of impacts on Ecology and Biodiversity, this is an important area for Stevenage Borough Council and our members. We would expect any BNG gain to be provided on site wherever possible.

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

RElliott

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Rebecca Elliott

Team Leader, Development Management

On behalf of the Assistant Director of Planning and Regulation