

Dawn Britten
The Haybarn
Southern Green Farm
Rushden
HERTS
SG9 0SX

27th October 2025

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 25/01947/FP, LAND SOUTH OF A507, CUMBERLOW GREEN, CLOTHALL (Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Solar Farm

As a local resident I object to this proposal and my objection is based on the following factors; these span significant practical, safety and aesthetic considerations.

Loss of Agricultural Land and Food Security

If this proposal goes ahead, it will dominate a huge area of productive agricultural land. Solar farms, according to policy, ought to be sited on brownfield land, rooftops or poorer agricultural land.

Biodiversity and Habitat Impacts

The establishment of a solar farm on this site would significantly disturb local ecosystems and endanger the habitats that currently support a wide variety of wildlife.

Noise Pollution and Loss of Tranquility

A solar farm on this site will result in continuous noise and disturb the peaceful, rural nature of the area. Residents will be adversely affected by the loss of tranquility; the current rural soundscape is why current residents have chosen to live here.

The construction period itself will necessarily require HGV vehicles on local roads; ironically the A507 has only recently had a weight reduction imposed on it.

Health and Safety Risks of Battery Storage (Fire and Pollution)

Battery storage units will create fire and pollution risks that will potentially endanger not only local residents but also passing drivers, pedestrians and animals.

Harm to Countryside Landscape and Visual Amenity

This project will industrialise and therefore destroy the beautiful, undisturbed open countryside that is currently enjoyed by residents, visitors and passers-by. In terms of longevity, this project has been termed 'temporary'; the proposal potentially spans 40 years and so for many people this is for the rest of their lifetime.

Policy Conflict

The North Herts Local Plan (2011–2031): Policy SP5 (Countryside) aims to protect the countryside. Section 46 states that 'for rural proposals, the need is to protect the countryside for its own sake, with aspects such as nature conservation, archaeology, landscape and agricultural land in mind'.

A solar development of the proposed scale is in direct contravention with this policy.

Conclusion

While I fully appreciate the importance of managing climate change and with renewable energy a major part of this, proposals for industrial developments must be carefully considered. For the reasons stated above, the proposed development is entirely unsuitable for this geographical location.

I object to this planning application and am asking that North Herts District Council reject it.