

Cottered & Throcking Parish Council

Clerk: Sarah Kubica E: clerk@cotteredpc.org.uk [REDACTED]

Planning
North Herts Council

By email only:
planning.control@north-herts.gov.uk

25 September 2026

Dear Planning

Re: PLANNING APPLICATION: 25/01947/FP: Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), ground mounted solar farm, associated infrastructure, access and landscaping. Land South Of A507 Near Cumberlow Green Clothall Road Clothall Hertfordshire

The council is writing in objection to the plan which illustrates the route of construction traffic from the A10 along the A507 through Cottered High Street as detailed in the Highways Technical Note sent by AMA to North Herts District Council in August 2026, and in addition to its previous objection to this application.

'A Safer A507' weight limit

In February 2023, Hertfordshire County Council's Highway Improvements Group¹ detailed the key expected benefits of a weight limit on the A507 as;

- 'HGV through traffic will be rerouted to more suitable routes, reducing overall HGV traffic in Cottered and along the A507';
- 'The A507 will be a safer route, reducing conflict between HGVs and risk of damage to the highway'.

The proposal, for diversion of construction traffic through Cottered and two-way traffic light controls close to a narrow bend in Cottered on the A507, in its entirety conflicts with these objectives.

Enforcement

Breaches of the 7.5t limit continue with HGVs travelling through Cottered despite the restriction and with police explaining the difficulties of enforcement along a route, (an inherently unsafe route requiring a weight limit for safety), which has no safe places to pull vehicles over.

Traffic volume

The A507 is a very busy route connecting the A10 at Buntingford with the A1(M) at Baldock and is already used by a high volume of cars and commercial vehicles. Real data from applicant traffic surveys and traffic counters for the A507, such as SIDs data from Cottered village should be considered as a start point for measuring existing traffic volume. The potential impact and complexity of the cumulative volume of construction traffic from two major proposals if granted, Westfield Energy Conservation Park (25/01947/FP) and Beane Solar Farm (3/24/2245/FUL), must be considered as part of the planning authority's response, particularly if the construction period for either development overlaps.

Emergency/highway resilience

Local rural roads are narrow or effectively single-track and become seriously congested when A507

¹ <https://www.cotteredpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Consultation-Letter-ITP180012-B-.pdf>

traffic is diverted due to accident or other closure, causing severe disruption, damage to highway verges and the gardens of residents and the safety of pedestrians.

If permission is granted, consideration should be made regarding section 106 payments to fund:

- Routing all Lightrock site traffic along the A1(M) to and from the Baldock direction only and not the A10
- Highways safety improvements; bypass the villages of Cottered and Throcking; maintain enforceable conditions on approved HGV routes and take action where breaches occur; independent vehicle monitoring; strict construction hours; and a residents' complaints procedure
- Local nature recovery

Yours faithfully



John Wiblin Chairman Cottered & Throcking Parish Council

pp Clerk Cottered & Throcking Parish Council