

Ben Glover

North Hertfordshire District Council
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 3JF

13 May 2026

Dear Mr Glover,

Landscape visualisations

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

In the most recent comments received on landscape and visual impacts, dated 12 March 2026, Place Services requests the ‘submission of Visualisations to demonstrate the visual relationship between the application scheme (Westfield) and the adjacent East Herts scheme 3/24/2245/FUL [Beane Solar Farm]’ from four viewpoints: VP2, VP11, VP14 and VP20.

We are pleased to be able to provide visualisations from these viewpoints.

In conjunction with their landscape team, the Applicant considered carefully how these visualisations could be represented. As the Applicant does not possess the model data of the Beane Solar Farm scheme, producing photomontage-type visualisations of both schemes would be unreasonably onerous. We have therefore adopted an alternative approach for representing the relationship between the two schemes, whereby a colour wash is applied to the photographs from the specified viewpoints across the areas of each site. With the use of strong colours – blue for Westfield and pink for Beane – the locations of the proposed solar farms are immediately apparent, and stand out more than if a photomontage model had been used.

In the submitted illustrative layouts for both sites, there are buffers at the edges of fields without built infrastructure. For the most part, attempting to represent this with the colour washes would not appreciably improve understanding of the potential cumulative impacts, especially as the aim of these is to represent worst case scenarios to the viewer. However, in the case of Viewpoint 11, the exclusion of infrastructure from the area in the foreground and to the rear of the residential dwellings

is an integral part of the mitigation design for Westfield. The area without infrastructure has therefore been shown in green to differentiate it from the panel area, shown in blue.

Conversely, for Viewpoints 2 and 14, although there will be a buffer within the Beane Solar Farm scheme in the foreground of the photograph, there remains some flexibility as to layout, and a full colour wash of the area is a more appropriate means of showing the maximum potential effects.

The colour wash approach does not take into account the mitigation through landscape planting. The Westfield Viewpoint 2 is at approximately the same location as Beane Viewpoint 16. The Year 1 and Year 10 photomontages submitted for the Beane application are reproduced below. By Year 10, the hedgerow alongside the highway has become well established and screens the Beane development, largely eliminating cumulative visual impacts.





The submitted LVIA for Westfield found that:

“The intervening landform, network of hedgerows, woodland belts, and mature tree groups serve to fragment views and limit the extent to which developments are perceived collectively from most public vantage points. Where intervisibility does occur — primarily from elevated or open locations such as sections of the A507 or selected local rights of way — the character of views remains filtered and discontinuous due to the scale of the landscape and the layering of vegetation.

Within this cumulative context, the Proposed Development is not considered to contribute to a coalescence or concentration of energy infrastructure such that the receiving landscape becomes defined by a solar or industrialised character. Rather, the siting strategy avoids the most visually exposed field parcels, retains key field patterns and hedgerows, and co-locates infrastructure such as battery storage with areas of existing energy presence, helping to maintain the underlying agricultural character of the landscape and avoid visual saturation.” (paragraphs 8.8.2 and 8.8.3)

The requested visualisations that accompany this letter do not alter the conclusions of the LVIA that the cumulative impacts of the two schemes is not significant in EIA terms.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan Van de Weyer
Associate Planner

Encl. Landscape visualisation sheets