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## **Response to Planning application from Hertfordshire County Council (T and CP GDP Order 2015)**

### **Director of Planning**

East Herts District Council  
Wallfields  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
Hertfordshire  
SG13 8EQ

District ref: 3/24/2245/FUL  
HCC ref: EH/23424/2024  
HCC received: 23 December 2024  
Area manager: Matthew Armstrong  
Case officer: George Fermer

### **Location**

Land To The West Of The A507 Between Cottered And Cromer Hertfordshire SG9 9PU

### **Application type**

Full Application

### **Proposal**

Installation and operation of a solar farm including co-located energy storage facilities, onsite substation, ancillary infrastructure and landscaping

### **Recommendation**

Notice is given under article 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 that Hertfordshire County Council as Highway Authority recommends that permission be refused for the following reasons:

1) The application lacks sufficient information to correctly assess the highway matters for the site to ensure that it meets standards and is acceptable and safe. This therefore means that it has the potential to conflict with policies stipulated in Hertfordshire County Councils Local Transport Plan (Policy 5) (adopted 2018) and the National Planning Policy Framework (Policy 116).

### **Reason**

The proposal is for the installation and operation of a solar farm including co-located energy storage facilities, onsite substation, ancillary infrastructure and landscaping on Land To The West Of The A507 Between Cottered And Cromer. HCC Highways at this stage would like to recommend refusal for the site owing to a lack of information regarding the surrounding highway network which has the potential to cause conflict on the highway network without additional information provide

Hertfordshire County Council has reviewed the site and surrounding area along with the provided documents and found the following points missing;

### **Construction management plan (Sections at beginning of points) and Highway Drawings**

#### 3.8

- This section states "Delivery vehicles are likely to attend the site for approximately one hour per vehicle. There will be sufficient space within the site along the access track as well as the curtilage of the temporary construction compounds to ensure that no vehicles would have to wait on the surrounding highway network."

However, Drawing number 05003-RES-ACC-DR-PT-001 Rev 3 (Site entrance layout) illustrates a 4 metre internal access route width which is not wide enough to even allow two vans to pass one another let alone large HGV's. This causes grave safety concerns that vehicles may have to wait within the highway network to enter the site when vehicles are exiting which is not acceptable.

#### 4.9, 4.16, 4.17

- Any temporary signage to be installed on the public highway will require prior approval from the HA this needs to be included in wording

#### 4.21

- Extra information is needed on the use of stop/go boards including frequency, times they will be used, is there a proposal to hold traffic, how will operatives communicate?

- If accepted the use of stop/go boards will require an approved permit from the HA.

#### 5.5

- information needs to be provided on measures that will be in place to protect the PROW

- There needs to be before and after photos.

- The CMP lacks information around delivery times.

- As per figure 3 the largest vehicle to the site will be a 17.8 metre crane which would need to be tracked using a swept path to ensure that it can reach and access the site.

- Drawing number 05003-RES-ACC-DR-PE-003 Rev 1 and 05003-RES-ACC-DR-PE-004 Rev 1 illustrates a 16.5 metre lorry entering from Cromer Heath which is not suitable for such a vehicle. The CMP says that this access will not be used by HGV's - this needs to be clarified.

- There is significant concern with construction vehicles exiting the site and driving North West along the A507. Parts of this route is deemed to not be acceptable for large HGV's such as 16.5 metre lorries. Significant concern is Baldock town centre and the Clothall road Junction with the A507 both of these along with this whole route west out of the site will need to be swept pathed.

Therefore owing to the points raised within this response for the lack of information provided, HCC Highways must recommend refusal for this proposal until such time additional information has been provided. This is to ensure that the proposal does not conflict with policies stipulated within Hertfordshire county Council Local Transport Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to ensure that the site does not greatly impact the safety of the highway network during the construction phase.

**Signed**  
George Fermer

23 January 2025