

Planning Department,
East Herts District Council,
Wallfields,
Peggs Lane,
Hertford,
SG14 8EQ

(FAO Fiona Dunning)

Dear Madam

OBJECTION to Crabb's Lane BESS
Application numbers 3/22/0806/FUL (East Herts) and UTT/22/1203/FUL (Uttlesford)

I am writing to object to the application to construct by Renewable Connections for permission to build and operate a Battery Energy Storage System at land off Crabb's Lane Stocking Pelham because I do not accept that batteries of this sort are safe.

Paragraph 97(a) of the NPPF 2021 states that "Planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements Policies for relevant areas (such as town centre and regeneration frameworks), and the layout and design of developments, should be informed by the most up-to-date information available from the police and other agencies about the nature of potential threats and their implications. This includes appropriate and proportionate steps that can be taken to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security"

There have been over 35 BESS fires in the past 3 years, five of which have occurred in the last 18 months. Recent BESS fires have been in new facilities, and have occurred typically during commissioning or shortly after.

A fire at a BESS in Merseyside in September 2020 took 59 hours to extinguish. Debris from the fire was blasted up to 75ft away. A report by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service published this year made a number of recommendations and lessons learned. These are relevant to the Crabb's Green BESS and include (i) the need and recognition of hazardous materials on site (ii) the recommendation to install blast walls (ii) the importance of upwind access; and (iv) the need for on site or nearby mains water and hydrant provision. The current application does not adequately address these points.

Yours

[Redacted Signature]

Print Name

11/9/22

Date

[Redacted Address]

cc Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden,
CB11 4ER (FAO Lindsay Trevillian)