



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Urban Design Consultation Response

The following notes are associated with Urban Design aspects only and do not include comments on wider Planning matters.

Reference Nos.	UTT/24/1417/PINS S62A/2024/0045
Applicant	Endurance Energy Wickham Hall Ltd
Site Location	Land To the North-West Of Bishops Stortford Farnham Road Farnham
Proposal Description	Consultation on S62A/2024/0045 - Erection of a Solar Photovoltaic Farm with supporting infrastructure and battery storage, inverters and transformers, fencing, landscaping works and connecting cable

General

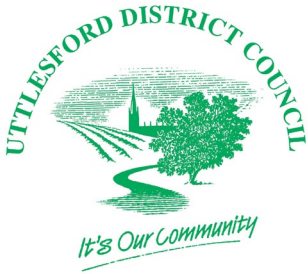
The proposal is for a solar farm on an arable field on the outskirts of Bishops Stortford, adjacent to Bloodhounds Wood and Bailey Hill. There are number of listed buildings in the vicinity at nearby Wickham Hall and the site is not in a Conservation Area. The site is within the metropolitan green belt.

It is noted that the site has been the subject of a previous unsuccessful application, UTT/21/3108/FUL in 2021 for a similar but slightly larger scheme.

Character & Appearance

The proposals will impact the character and appearance of the site. However, this impact is proposed to be mitigated by a 30m wide woodland belt and planting that will screen the site, primarily from the historic cluster of buildings at Wickham Hall. It is noted that the site sits adjacent to existing overhead electricity pylons.

I have limited comments to make on this proposal from a design perspective, as this is a piece of utilitarian infrastructure with limited proposed access, other than planned and occasional maintenance, and the applicants have endeavoured to mitigate visual and noise impact by screening with planting and locating noise generating elements away from buildings or regularly used footpaths. The benefits of renewable energy generation and uplift in biodiversity net gain are additional factors in the overall consideration of the scheme.



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Summary

The proposals are a significant element of infrastructure that will provide local renewable energy with efforts made to mitigate the visual impact through screening planting and biodiversity gains. I have no specific comments to make in respect of design matters.

Prepared by

Nick Phillips
Principal Urban Design Officer

Date

11 July 2024