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Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing to formally register my strong objection to the proposed Wester Hermiston AI Data Centre Campus. This development represents an inappropriate industrial encroachment into the Green Belt that contradicts both Scottish and UK national policy frameworks.
When reviewing this objection, I ask the planning department to specifically note the following critical concerns, which necessitate a full **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**:

- **Traffic and Air Pollution:** The significant impact of HGV movements for construction and fuel, alongside emissions from 60+ industrial diesel generators.
- **Loss of Greenfield Land:** The permanent destruction of the Gogar Special Landscape Area and prime agricultural land.
- **Noise Pollution:** The 24/7 low-frequency drone from industrial cooling fans and constant generator testing.

My objection is further based on these fundamental planning failures:

1. Breach of "Brownfield-First" and Soil Protection Policies The proposal directly contradicts the UK Government's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) "AI Growth Zones" policy, which explicitly mandates a preference for "de-industrialised areas" and "brownfield land". Wester Hermiston sits on Grade 2 Prime Agricultural Land, violating **NPF4 Policy 5 (Soils)**, which protects high-quality land from industrial sprawl.
2. Violation of Green Belt and Landscape Integrity (NPF4 Policy 8 & 1) The site is part of the Gogar Special Landscape Area. The introduction of massive, windowless "grey boxes" fails to prioritise the climate and nature crises as required by **NPF4 Policy 1**. This development would permanently sterilise carbon-sequestering greenfield land and destroy the character of the western approach to Edinburgh.
3. Absence of a Mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Given the 213MW scale and proximity to Ancient Woodland and the Union Canal (a Scheduled Ancient Monument), it is procedurally irresponsible to proceed without a full EIA. National guidance suggests such sites eventually scale to 500MW; the cumulative impact on our local power grid, water table, and air quality must be scrutinised now.

4. Severe Environmental and Health Risks (NPF4 Policy 23 & 3) * **Toxic Emissions:** The planned 60+ industrial diesel generators will release **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)** and **Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)**. These pollutants will settle directly onto nearby homes and schools without natural filtration.

- **Noise Pollution:** The constant, 24/7 low-frequency drone from cooling fans is a proven pollutant linked to chronic sleep deprivation and mental health issues.
- **Ecological Damage:** The project threatens the biodiversity of the Union Canal and Ancient Woodland, violating **NPF4 Policy 3**, which requires developments to restore—not destroy—nature.

5. Infrastructure Strain and Lack of Local Benefit Data centres act as "water vampires," threatening local aquifers. Furthermore, as these facilities hijack the grid for massive energy draws, residents risk skyrocketing utility bills to fund necessary infrastructure upgrades. With "few long-term jobs" created, the permanent environmental cost far outweighs any questionable local benefit.

Conclusion NPF4 Policy 26 emphasises that digital infrastructure must be in the "right location." The refusal of the Gyle data centre in December 2025 set a clear precedent: speculative, high-energy industrial hubs are incompatible with this sensitive region. I urge the Council to uphold its commitment to the Green Belt and refuse this application.

Yours sincerely,