

**From:** [planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk)  
**To:** [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Received from Public Access  
**Date:** 18 August 2021 13:56:57

---

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0496 Site Address: Land at Greenfields Farm Thorney Edge Road  
Bagnall Staffordshire ST9 9LA Stoke On Trent Comments by: Alison McCrea, B.Sc., PhD  
From:

Weston Street  
Leek  
Leek

ST13 6EP

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Support

Comments: I strongly support the application on the basis that every community has a duty to become carbon neutral, in the light of the environmental crisis recently highlighted by the latest IPCC report. Since the Staffordshire Moorlands is not well placed for most forms of renewable energy, this application for a solar farm is a move in the right direction and should be supported by the District Council, who after all recently declared a climate emergency and committed to work towards carbon neutrality by 2030.

Some of the objections are likely to point to loss of agricultural land and some to loss of biodiversity. However, the proposed site is on land that has been designated Grade 4, so has little agricultural value. Biodiversity is another matter and could be increased under a solar farm. As a retired ecologist/soil scientist with a specific interest, I undertook a search of recent scientific literature. It has become increasingly clear with developing research that solar farms can have a beneficial impact on both biodiversity and soil carbon sequestration, if appropriately managed, particularly in consultation with local conservation experts (e.g. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, etc.)

The following papers are particularly relevant:

Blaydes, H, Potts, S.G, Whyatt, J.D. & Armstrong, A (2021) Opportunities to enhance pollinator biodiversity in solar parks. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Volume 145, 2021, Article 111065

Authors; highlights

- ¿ Solar parks can provide benefits to ecosystems alongside low carbon energy.
- ¿ Evidence from 185 articles elucidates how site management impacts pollinators.
- ¿ Solar parks can potentially locally mitigate drivers of pollinator decline.
- ¿ Evidence-based recommendations for pollinator solar park management.

Hernandez, R.R. et al. Technoecological synergies of solar energy for global sustainability

NATURE SUSTAINABILITY | VOL 2 | JULY 2019 | 560¿568 | [www.nature.com/natsustain](http://www.nature.com/natsustain)

Our model, framework and assessment serve to demonstrate that solar energy TESs (techno-ecological synergies) are feasible across diverse recipient environments with outcomes that favour both technological (for example, PV module efficiency and grid reliability) as well as ecological outcomes. Specifically, such ecological outcomes support the sustainable flows of ecosystem goods and services (for example, carbon sequestration and storage, water-use efficiency and habitat for species) to mitigate ecological overshoot.

---

Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/YourData>

---