
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 07 December 2021 19:54
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0695 Site Address: Land Adjacent Cellarhead Substation Rownall Road
Wetley Rocks Staffordshire Comments by: Ms D. L. Redman
From:

Armshead Road
Werrington
Stoke on Trent

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Having previously lived on Rownall Road for nearly 20 years, I write to voice my objection to this proposed development. I find it impossible to believe that an alternative brown field site cannot be utilised within the curtilage of the existing sub-station rather than stealing more of the greenbelt for development. The fact that the proposed site has been productive farmland for generations only exacerbates the loss to our local countryside. Surely the role of authority in this situation is to control development rather than allow what is an existing blot on the landscape to expand further.

Of further concern is the proximity of the development to the longstanding residents of Rownall and public rights of way which pass so close to the proposed site. The risk of explosion from bulk storage lithium batteries is well documented which, combined with the inevitable severe fire risk resulting from an explosion, puts all those in the vicinity at risk; a risk that is exasperated by the proposed site being unmanned.

The accompanying dark cloud is the impending application for the solar farm which would blanket the surrounding countryside around the proposed battery storage facility (which I understand a screening opinion from SMDC has already been sought). It can only be assumed that the battery facility has been planned as the hub for the aforementioned solar farm. If that is the case, the objection based on the effect on local wildlife and the countryside it will consume cannot be voiced loudly enough. With resident barn owls in the immediate vicinity, visiting Little owls, kestrels and a more recent sighting of a Peregrine falcon (never mind the numerous buzzards!), such a facility would amount to removal of habitat. Whilst no doubt ground-based wildlife would have the opportunity to adapt, the screening of such an area renders it useless for hunting birds of prey which would be a travesty for an area of such special interest.

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