

Dealt with by: Environmental Health

Our Ref: smd/2022/0076

Direct Dial:

Your Ref: smd/2022/0076

Email:

Date: 5th May 2022

MEMORANDUM: PLANNING CONSULTATION
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LOCATION

**Land Off Bemersley Road
Brown Edge**

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Construction of a temporary 49.35MW battery storage facility, to include a compound, a DNO control room, a customer substation, security fencing, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.

Potential Areas Of Environmental Concern.

1. Construction Impacts (Condition)
2. Noise – Plant and Machinery (Operational)
3. Land Contamination (Condition)
4. Lighting (Condition)

Comments

A noise assessment has been undertaken in compliance with BS4142:2014 and BS8233:2014.

Under BS4142:2014 - The assessment predicts the development would cause exceedance over the existing background sound levels which currently exist at this site. Daytime exceedance at most properties would be low to negligible but at NSR 2 there would be a notable noise impact. All properties would experience significant increases at night time. Although relatively low noise levels there would be a change in the nature of this quiet rural area especially at night. This assessment does not impose an acoustic feature correction on the plant which is a concern as similar applications currently being considered do. The Environmental Health Department advise that plant and machinery noise for new

developments do not increase background noise levels. The condition we generally recommend is set out below –

The rating level of sound emitted from [any fixed plant and/or machinery associated with the development] [industrial activities at the use hereby approved] shall not exceed background sound levels by more than 5 dB(A) between the hours of 07.00–23.00 (taken as a 15 minute LA90 at the nearest sound-sensitive premises) and shall not exceed the background sound level between 23.00–07.00 (taken as a 15 minute LA90 at the nearest/any sound-sensitive premises). All measurements shall be made in accordance with the methodology of BS4142 (2014 + A1:2019) (Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound) and/or its subsequent amendments.

Where access to the nearest sound-sensitive property is not possible, measurements shall be undertaken at an appropriate location and corrected to establish the noise levels at the nearest sound-sensitive property.

Any deviations from the LA90 time interval stipulated above shall be agreed in writing with the local planning authority.

We do not consider compliance with BS8233:2014 as relevant to this development. All houses based on the background levels currently experience low sound levels. It should be incumbent on the developer not to cause adverse impacts to the sound levels they currently experience.

The development is proposed for a quiet rural area. The Noise Policy Statement of England recognises the need to protect the low sound levels found in quiet rural areas. This development would compromise the intentions of that policy in this area.

Recommendation

Environmental Health recommend refusal due to the significant potential for adverse noise impacts to be caused to existing residential properties in the vicinity of the development site. In addition we generally recommend that plant and machinery noise in new developments does not increase background sound levels. It would not be possible to comply with that advice based on the assessment predictions.

Informative/Other Matters

Please be aware that the responsibility for safe development and secure occupancy of the site rests with the developer.

Regards,
Environmental Health