
From: Planning For Nature
Sent: 05 December 2022 14:23
To: Curley, Jane; Planning Comments (SMDC)
Cc: Adam Crews; Steve Massey
Subject: SMD/2022/0180 Newfields Farm - Battery Energy Storage System

Categories:

SMD/2022/0180

Newfields Farm, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks, Staffordshire, ST9 0BS

Development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with ancillary infrastructure, security fence, access, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, to provide balancing services to the local electricity grid

3.1 hectares

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been asked to review the above application as part of a service level agreement with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to provide ecology advice regarding planning and development management functions.

SUMMARY – No objection subject to conditions.

Secure via condition should approval be granted:

1. Detailed drainage design with natural ditch and outfall where possible
2. Detailed habitat creation /landscaping plan including site preparation, creation methods, seed and planting mixes, BNG pre and post-development habitat plans using standard UK Habs methods.
3. Long term (minimum 25 year) ecology management and monitoring plan
4. Species protection method statements

Documents reviewed:

- Newfields BESS SWT Objection Response Letter 23rd November 2022 by Third Revolution Projects
- Newfields Farm Biodiversity Metric 3.1 MAN.1807.010 dated 17 November 2022 by Chris Schofield, Senior Ecologist

HABITATS

Drainage

We are satisfied with the response to our drainage comments given in the Response Letter 23rd November 2022 by Third Revolution Projects and suggest that a detailed drainage design, including a natural outfall to the brook, be secured via condition along with the suggested SuDS Operations and Maintenance Plan condition specifying pollution capture membranes.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Policy NE1 in the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan Adopted September 2020, expects that 'all development where possible seeks to deliver a net gain in biodiversity proportionate to the size and scale of the development. In circumstances where adverse impacts are demonstrated to be unavoidable, developers will be required to ensure that impacts are appropriately mitigated, with suitable compensation measures towards loss of habitat used only as a last resort where there is no alternative'

The submitted Newfields Farm Biodiversity Metric 3.1 dated 17 November 2022 addresses our previous comments, and is acceptable. A detailed landscaping plan, in line with this metric, along with a management plan, should be secured via condition.

Regards,

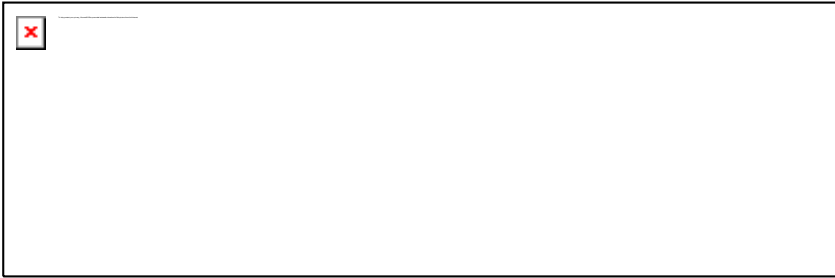
Kate Dewey BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Senior Planning Officer



Please note, ecology advice is provided to SMDC 2 days per week- working days are normally Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Planning consultations- please send to



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