

From: planningcomments@staffs-moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 07 March 2023 16:31:19

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0059

Site Address: Lower Tean Leys Tean Leys Lower Tean Staffordshire ST10 4NS Stoke On Trent

Comments by: Ryszard Jan Kawak Townsend and Renaudon

From:

Autumn House
Withington Lane
Leigh
Stoke-on-trent
Staffordshire
ST10 4SW

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Dear Sirs,

Planning Reference SMD/2023/0059

Installation of a 49.9MW Solar Photovoltaic Array/Solar Farm with associated Infrastructure at Lower Tean Leys, Tean Leys, Lower Tean, Staffordshire, ST10 4NS

I wish to object the above planning application on the following grounds which I believe the Planners should take into consideration and on those grounds should refuse the planning application:

Hazardous Substances The application states that no hazardous substances are to be stored on the site is incorrect, however, we feel this has not been considered as the battery storage unit (BESS) will house a number of lithium batteries which are potentially extremely hazardous to the neighbouring properties and infrastructure.

Lithium batteries contain potentially toxic materials including metals, such as copper, nickel, and lead, and organic chemicals, such as toxic and flammable electrolytes containing LiClO₄, LiBF₄, and LiPF₆.

Rechargeable lithium-ion (Li-ion) and lithium-polymer (Li-poly). However, the regulation of these batteries, the high rate of disposal of consumer products in which they are used, and the lack of uniform regulatory policy on their disposal means that lithium batteries may contribute substantially to environmental pollution and adverse human health impacts due to potentially toxic materials and without adequate controls would lead to serious environmental hazards and in particular to nearby water courses such as the River Tean and the River Blythe which provides a water supply to the nearby reservoir at Blithfield affecting hundreds of thousands of the population should contamination of these dangerous substances work their way to these water courses. The reports fail to address these issues.

I understand that It has been reported within the recent years that the batteries are very likely to encounter faults which results in fires. These fires can escalate into serious explosions. In September 2020, there was a fire at a solar farm battery storage unit (BESS) in Liverpool and the explosion blasted debris 25m away from the site compound. Local residents were instructed to stay in their homes and keep all windows and doors closed for an extended period of time, due to the toxic gas emitted from the lithium batteries. Furthermore, there have been

23 fires of a similar nature recently reported in other countries.

The site is located between the A50 main route between Stoke-on-Trent and Derby which acts as a major route linking the M6 and M1 motorways and main railway line between Derby and Stoke-on-Trent both road and rail line serves local areas of Blythe bridge and Uttoxeter. Disruption or closure of this essential road link would be catastrophic for the local area and neighbouring counties.

The location of the site compound (BESS) shown on the proposed drawings appear to be located along the Southwest boundary closest to the neighbouring rail line, again I feel the occurrence of such a fire or explosion would disrupt the essential public transport between Stoke-on-Trent, Uttoxeter and Derby.

It is not clear in the application document of how such eventualities/risks are to be mitigated and what effect a resulting explosion would have on the local infrastructure and neighbouring properties.

Biodiversity The Design Rationale of the Design and Access Statement says that a buffer zone of 10m has been provided to all ponds to avoid core habitat for Great Crested Newts, however, Great Crested Newts are proven to emigrate between ponds for breeding and foraging purposes. We oppose the proposal on the basis that the application fails to consider the true habitat of the Great Crested Newt and has not been fully considered or investigated properly.

Ornithological Impact Assessment I refer to Item 4.2.2 Schedule 1 and supporting clauses ¿ Listed Bird Species ¿ Observations and/or evidence of two schedule 1-listed species were recorded during the breeding season: barn owl and red kite.¿

It relates to the behaviour of the birds and/or the nature of the construction works being carried out but does not refer to the consequences once building operations have commenced and the effects to the local wildlife.

It also states that ¿No other Schedule 1-listed species are considered to be breeding within the Site or surrounds; however, if any species are detected during construction, works will cease and

an ecologist will be contacted for advice.¿

The Report fails to identify other species of bird, such as the Northern Lapwing whose classification on the Red List for Birds is listed as threatened. The Northern Lapwings has been known to nest in the fields and is a regular visitor to the area. it appears that the surveys carried out failed to identify this migrant visitor.

The Barn Owl and Red Kite are classified in the UK as ¿Green¿ under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: The Red List for Birds 2021. Both are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Lapwing is classified in the UK as 'Red' under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: The 'Red' List for Birds 2021. It is also listed as threatened under the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List.

This item describes the procedure; however, it alludes to this information being provided prior to construction, not approval. I strongly oppose the proposal on the basis that this information should be provided prior to approval, not as a condition as the works, if approved, may not be fully adhered to, resulting in the disruption of the species, habitat and may never return to nest in the site or surrounding area and will appear on another list no longer a visitor to these shores.

Soil and Agricultural Quality Item 6.5 of the Design and Access Statement refers to the Agricultural Classification (ALC) and, according to the assessment, the site falls under ALC Grade 3b 'moderate quality agricultural land'.

Figure 1 'Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, particularly:

- ' Cereals and grass
- ' Lower yields of a wider range of crops
- ' Higher yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year

Having walked in the area for the past 20 years I object to the suggestion as the site has regularly been used for growing crops and not for grazing which appear contrary to the findings of the Agricultural Classification attached in the report and paints a negative picture on the land at a time when there is a greater demand for such crops as wheat and corn to feed the nation.

I would express grave concerns that the reports have only been prepared using a 'light touch' and possibly a desk top study which regurgitates a negative use of the site and it fails to provide any true evidence to fully support its assertions and often draws away from the reality of the site suggesting the land is of low quality and of not significant importance, when, in fact, the truth is wholly the opposite.

Yours faithfully,

Ryszard Kawak

Autumn House,

Withington Lane,

ST10 4SW

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>
