

From:
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 09 January 2024 19:38:56

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0523

Site Address: Land At Rownall Farm Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire ST9 0BT

Comments by: Amanda and Craig Hercock

From:

St Chads Lodge
Old Mill Lane
Bagnall
Stoke on Trent
Staffs
ST9 9JS

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments:

We object to the planning application for solar farm at Rownall for the following reasons:

The scale of this application is huge and seems wholly inappropriate for the area. We can see that it is in a convenient location near to a substation which just because it is so does not mean that it can't be located in a different place, preferably on brownfield land and not on valuable agricultural green belt land that could be used for food production instead. We are concerned about the negative physical damage building these panels will have to the land over the 40 years.

We fear there will be a huge increase in heavy industrial traffic on single track country roads that cannot cope. It is likely to cause a huge amount of noise pollution to a peaceful tranquil area. We fear light pollution will be created from the solar panel farm. We have concerns for local residents' safety as solar farms are renowned for attracting criminals.

We are very concerned about the affect building on green belt land will have on our local wildlife habitats. This is a very rural area and home to many rare wildlife species. It is likely to create a loss of local wildlife. Protected birds are also likely to decrease in numbers due to the scale of the solar panel farm.

There is a significant negative visual impact of building the solar farm in this location. It will affect the skyline which can be seen for miles as well as damage to the immediate landscape. The negative visual impact is that the landscape and skyline will become industrialised instead of the beautiful green natural and historical landscape that it currently is. This industrialised solar panel fields are likely to be surrounded by unsightly metal fencing will also create a negative impact. There will be a negative visual impact for users of footpaths in the area too.

The industrialisation of the landscape will negatively harm the character and appreciation of our local heritage assets. We should protect and recognise the character and beauty of our countryside and our heritage.

We also question if there is a conflict of interest if the landowner is related to any councillor involved in decision making for the application.

Therefore there are far more negatives for the environment / local area than there are positives for this application.

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