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**From:** planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 13 February 2024 15:42  
**To:** Planning Comments (SMDC)  
**Subject:** Comment Received from Public Access

**Categories:**

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0523 Site Address: Land At Rownall Farm Rownall Road Wetley Rocks  
Staffordshire ST9 0BT Comments by: Frances Litherland 2

From:

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Submission: Neither

Comments: Having looked in greater detail at this planning application I would like to add the following. The National Planning Policy Framework states clearly that Green Belt needs to be protected and Government Guidance says that development in Green Belt is inappropriate. The application for a solar farm is situated on a visually prominent hillside within the green belt, near to a Conservation Area and with public footpaths crossing it is clearly inappropriate development within a Greenbelt and is by definition harmful to the Greenbelt. The proposal would result in harm to the openness of the designated area and conflict with the purpose of the Greenbelt. 1.It would introduce substantial development into a site currently used as farm land and would cause harm to the land scape and the visual impact. 2. The proposal would result in encroachment which would last for 40yrs. the harm to the Green Belt arising from the these matters attracts substantial weight against the proposal. In addition given the slope of the site it would cause harm to the character of the area. In addition it is not near any major roads and the roads and lanes around it are hardly suitable for two cars to pass. The harm done to wild life would have a knock on affect to the near by conservation area of which there are only 14 in The Staffordshire Moorlands and would be horrendous. Finally even the Solar Energy Uk guidance states that brownfield sites etc., are much more preferable to eroding our precious Greenbelt. Thought should also be given to the fact that this area welcomes visitors from the nearby urban areas which have sprawled out from the historically industrialised five towns who enjoy their nearest area of Greenbelt and surely the mental health, ( which I respectfully put is of more importance than solar power) of this urban population should over ride the special circumstances as they will suffer from the industrialisation of the countryside when there are thousands of roofs on city buildings where solar power could be placed. Though renewable energy carries significant weight it does not confer an automatic approval. In this case harm to the Greenbelt and that caused to the landscape not to mention the mental health of people who come to enjoy this area would surely not be outweighed by other considerations identified and therefore the special circumstances necessary to justify this development do not exist.

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