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**To:** [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Received from Public Access  
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Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0523

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

Comments by: Delphine Woodcock

From:

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Submission: Objection

Comments: I write to object to the current proposed solar farm at Rownall Farm. I am not opposed to solar power or solar farms in the right context such as brownfield sites, or new housing developments for example. However the use of the greenbelt area for this development would be a gross injustice. With already depleting green areas it must be weighed up considerably the undeniable affects to wildlife, biodiversity, the amenities of the area, and proximity to closely protected areas such as the Churnet Masterplan, Wetley Moor etc.

We must take into account the effects of a solar farms contribution/reduction to CO2 emissions vs the destruction of the greenbelt area.

To bring into context using figures from the Global carbon Atlas 2021 the UK contributes 0.9% of the worlds carbon emissions as opposed to countries such as China - 30.9% India 7.3% USA 13.5%.

Whilst i believe as a forward thinking country we should be leading in examples of carbon neutral energy, we should however be showing the world how to do this, without disrupting or destroying the natural environment, greenbelt areas, farming land, and what is beautiful countryside.

We can see that any reductions in CO2 emissions in the UK is somewhat negligible with larger countries still being so far behind. Yes we should still work on CO2 neutral but we MUST do this with respect for our historical and agricultural landscape.

Regarding wildlife whilst we can see there will be a biodiversity plan, however the nature of wildlife corridors just does not sit well with me. Wildlife does not move in corridors and should have access to its natural environment. Quote taken from conversation corridors:

"This shape creates boundaries between conservation and degraded areas. Species tend to behave differently at these boundaries, or edges, of habitat fragments, and there is concern that in creating habitat patches such as corridors, the high ratio of edge to area might be detrimental to species using the corridor." End Quote

The applicant states that there is environmental need for the solar far as quoted below:

"The proposals would generate approximately 49.99 MW of electricity. In accordance with guidance outlined by the Solar Trade Association<sup>5</sup> this would offset around 19,995 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, and over 1million tonnes over the life of the scheme. This equates to enough electricity to serve the total power needs of around 14,000 average UK households per annum."

End quote

To put this in perspective the UK yearly CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 331.5 million tonnes per year (government figure) and so by introducing this solar farm this will reduce the emissions by 19,995 tonnes which as a percentage of total emissions is a negligible 0.00603%

I do not really need to make the calculations to suggest that in relation to the world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions it will effect nothing! The total of the worlds Co<sub>2</sub> is 37.15 billion metric tonnes. Please note the billion. What is 19,995 tonnes going to do?

However it will effect our biodiversity, the use of the land for rotational agriculture, the amenities of the area, and the land is high up so will be seen from all directions.

So to conclude i am not opposed to alternative energy but we really must consider the benefits of this scheme in the overall management of carbon emissions as opposed to the management of greenbelt agricultural areas. Figures must be taken in relation to what we are really trying to do which is make the world a more greener biodiverse place to protect our animal species. Yet this development seems to fly in the face of that.

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