

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 20 February 2024 00:55:50

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0523

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

Comments by: michelle BeaumontNew House farm

From:

New House Farm
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Submission: Object

Comments: I have looked further into this application and by doing so i have learned so much about the wealth our green belt. It services Leek, Cheddleton, Werrington, Endon, Milton and all of stoke-On -Trent. It is sandwiched between the A523 and A520. The area is picturesque and a safe haven for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The network of footpaths Bridleways and narrow country lanes is legendary. Local businesses thrive on these attractions.

This amenity is valued by the local people and enjoyed by many from a far.

3 Footpaths are affected

Especially Cheddleton 19 over to Bagnall 38, if ugly security fencing is erected either side the 360 panoramic views will be wiped out and only a feeling of imprisonment would be achieved.

Deer fencing doesn't seem to be used as it is not secure and although it sounds a bit rural, i'm sure the applicant will use a hardcore industrial design. This security fencing all around the perimeter will look alien and the aesthetics of the countryside changed beyond all recognition.

Disrupted equestrian amenity

The British Horses society has raised concerns about safety to horse riders near to solar farms. Glare from the panels and the noise can cause alarm to horses. The area of development is within the bridle path and country lane circulars used by local riders daily.

see photo of Thorney edge road and the equestrian use (to be sent by email)

Light pollution

Affects human health, wildlife behavior and our ability to observe stars and other celestial objects. Light pollution is nonexistent in this very rural setting.

loss of agricultural land.

Whether you say its 3b graded or non SDA land, it has been farmed and produced food. Wheat and fodder are essential primary food sources in all our food chain. Food security is a government concern and the loss of more land puts pressure on reducing our imported food which currently stands at 40%.

Heritage

All five grade 2 listed building are within 179m of this site. Rownall stables are an outstanding example of architecture

A Government protected scheduled monument is only 385.7m from this site on Thorney edge road

Ecology

Curlews, lapwings, willow tits and barn owls are plentiful in this location and i'm concerned about the detrimental affect it will have on their breeding. These are high priority species.

Increasing flooding and soil erosion

The large fields on thorney Edge Road face west and so panels will face south. this means that the panels are positions so all water heads to the road. Rain hits the panels and its like a roof with no guttering- gullies are formed due to the rain washing the soil away. Its referred to as fast water and takes soil with it. i've sourced its final destination via stanley pool and it will eventually go to the River Churnet.

Solar farms don't coexist with farming- Only sheep can be grazed -all other types of farming is lost. Sheep farming entails a lot of foot and fly strike maintenance, daily checks which are virtually impossible due to the lack of open visibility.

Pasture will deteriorate underneath the panels and after 5 years may be regarded as useless.

This application will have a negative visual impact upon our green and pleasant land. Skylines will be destroyed and views from miles around will be destroyed.

Soil

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