

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 21 March 2024 10:36:56

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0055

Site Address: LAND SOUTH OF CELLARHEAD SUBSTATION AND WEST OF Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire

Comments by: Stephanie Wainwright Wainwrights Coal Merchants

From:

Grassy Lane Farm
Rownall Road
Wetley Rocks
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST9 0BP

Phone:

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Submission: Objection

Comments: I wish to appeal against the proposed Erection of a Flexible Energy Facility, associated works, landscaping and habitat creation on application number SMD/2024/0055.

Reading the reports and statements that have been filed with the application, I have one or two comments.

The first is the wildlife report.

This application is dependant on a report that was based on a desktop review and one single review done in late 2023. The report does state that further surveys are to be completed in order to better identify wintering and breeding bird and amphibians. The report mentions nothing of the Lapwings that nest in our field and the field of the proposed site. They have been coming to nest and breed for at least 37 years that we have lived here. I also have it on good authority that there are more lapwings and Curlews nesting in the field bordering Waste Lane which is at the far end of the proposed site. On this basis alone, I would like to propose that the decision is declined due to protected wildlife.

In addition to this I have been able to have some advice from a noise consultant that has experience with this kind of development. He has said the following:

I've had a quick look at the report. It seems that there are 248 batteries, each emitting 88dBA? If this is correct and it isn't clear in the report to me then that would equate to approx. 110dBA or so inside the bunker. I'm also not clear on the dimensions of the concrete bunker, but it seems to be around 425m x 425m? If these figures are correct then I would ask the developer / council to confirm the overall noise level inside and the anticipated attenuation of the bunker. Without including the fence then I get the following level of 61.3dBA with reinforced concrete at 200m and an addition for reflection inside, which would mean that the fence would have to achieve more than 20dBA of attenuation at night which is not likely to be possible

I would ask that more information, testing or research is done as this level of constant noise is unacceptable and will cause much disruption for the local residents and neighbours of the proposed site.

On another note, I would like to state that the access road plans are inadequate for this size of development. A pool of water is designed into the plans but how is this going to be filled and kept full? Will this drain the water from the neighbouring fields as this may affect the water table which some local properties, many of whom depend on well water.

In addition to this, there is a lot of debate going on within Fire Authorities about how to deal with a fire on a Lithium battery farm. This is due to the fact there have been several fires on developments such as this that have

taken place recently. One in Lincoln took 4 days to get under control and did untold damage to the neighbouring environment and wildlife. That fire was at a facility smaller than the one proposed. I know that a meeting took place between the fire authority and the local councillor along with concerned residents. Can more research be done on this before the application is granted as a pond of water that may or may not be full at the time of the emergency will not quell any fire at the location anyway. A large lithium battery farm would need to be doused with a foam containing Co2, powder graphite, ABC dry chemical or Sodium Carbonate. Water will not extinguish this size of Lithium development.

Finally, seeing as one of the neighbouring businesses contains highly flammable materials, how would any fire or explosion be contained to stop any spread across the 30m gap in between the highly flammable lithium batteries and highly flammable workings of the business yard.

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