

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0055 Site Address: LAND SOUTH OF CELLARHEAD SUBSTATION AND WEST OF Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire Comments by: Mark Cooper

From:

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Submission: Objection

Comments: As a land owner that neighbours this proposed site, I have to strongly object to this application for a flexible energy facility.

The location of this development which is situated on greenbelt land should not be considered for approval. Combined with all other adjacent applications that are currently in progress or under consultation, the destruction of greenbelt land on mass is a very worrying sign should it be approved. The visual impact on the landscape that this development will have on the natural beauty and landscape that everyone enjoys, will be destroyed and will not be reversible as part of approving this application. Mass industrialisation of the greenbelt should not be considered.

This also involves the moving of public footpaths that will have a major effect on walkers, animals and wildlife. (A report on Great Crested Newts has already been submitted)

Protected trees and hedgerows will no doubt be removed as part of this application.

Open, unaltered access to the country side for walkers, who have been using these paths that are dated back thousands of years should not be compromised. To just remove and redirect a public footpath should not be allowed in this scenario.

Another major concern is the expected noise levels that will be experienced for local residents and businesses that is predicted. I find it strange that a development of this size could even be considered without known levels of noise. Also factoring in adjacent separate planning applications, the noise level will no doubt be much higher than is predicted.

Also the known fire risks associated with BESS developments is another reason the application should be refused. With local residents and businesses in close proximity to the site, reduced living conditions, twinned with the

potential risk of a fire involving hazardous materials, that will produce toxic fumes and danger to life and wildlife; needs to be seriously considered. It has been widely reported that the fire services best approach in the event of a fire is to let them burn, which is not acceptable given the sites location. Also a fire assessment is not present to support any validity for this application.

Light pollution will also damage the local environment. With potential round the clock workings and access to the site, the lighting that will be required for security and health and safety will be an issue. Not just local residents but for several miles given the size of the site.

Any surveys/tests that have been produced to support this application should also be questioned. If paid for by the applicant then a conflict has to be raised and new in depth impartial surveys completed, that are fair which consider all parties.

Thank you.

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