

From: [Pippa Blessington](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Re: Comment submitted for Planning application
Date: 27 March 2024 01:44:56

D/2024/0055

Hi

I have to withdraw this comment due to a typo in the first line which should read:

This is the same greenbelt where the SMDC local plan acknowledge the requirement that 'renewable energy schemes are of an appropriate scale, type and location' and others cannot get...

Thanks

Pippa Blessington

On Wed, 27 Mar 2024 at 01:14, <> wrote:

Thank you for submitting your comments on the planning application.

This is an acknowledgement to confirm they have been received by the planning department and will be processed within the next 5 working days.

Please find a copy of your submitted comments below.

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0055

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

Comments by: Pippa Blessington

From:

Lawn farm
Thorney edge Road
Bagnall
stoke on Trent
Staffs
ST9 9LE

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: This is the same greenbelt where Renewable energy schemes are of an appropriate scale, type and location; (SMDC Local Plan) and others cannot get a modest extension in their back garden because of the Greenbelt restrictions. We are clearly being played here with 7 applications up till now (how many more to come?) which have a cumulative impact and really should be considered as one big impact.

Taken all together this scheme is larger than any of the top five UK solar farms (see nxtgenenergy.co.uk), with all of them being on flat land where they are not overseen and very readily screened - mostly on airfield/ex-airfields and none to my knowledge on Greenbelt.

The general argument in these applications seems to be each new application is justified by the previous one, and before that by the fact that in bygone age, with no interest in the environment or local communities, the CEGB imposed lines of pylons and large substation in just about the most visually obtrusive locations possible. The logical conclusion to this is that the whole of the greenbelt becomes one huge solar farm and collection of Battery Energy Storage systems (BESS).

Use of the Greenbelt exploiting its development limitations for others (and hence lower land prices), maximising private profit at the expense of costs to the community cannot be an acceptable principle. Yes, connection to the grid is cheap here too in a further boost to private profits, but the grid is old and set up for a previous era and needs appropriately upgrading to bring on-stream all the great opportunities for offshore wind, solar where it should be, and the various other forms of sustainable generation which are not in the same locations as the old fossil fuel power stations. Yes we need sustainable energy, but good schemes in the right places.

Schemes that do not carry support will simply give green energy schemes a bad name and make it more difficult to get good schemes accepted in the right places. Planning needs to do its job here and balance private profit with public cost.

The applicants need to play fair accept this piecemeal way of producing a mega development is unacceptable and agree to the necessary assessments of the cumulative impacts all these intimately connected schemes have. By any standards 5 BESS applications here is surely pushing it, with these systems not being without their risks and these multiplied by the concentration here. Such a concentration would also make a tempting target for any with ill intent towards key infrastructure.