

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 04 August 2024 12:05:09

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0568

Site Address: Cellarhead Electricity Substation Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire ST9 0BS

Comments by: NICOLA GALLEY

From:

Tompkin Lane
Stanley Village
Stanley

ST9 9LX

Submission: Objection

Comments: I wholeheartedly object to this planning application. Along with the multitude of other applications in progress for solar and BESS developments in the same greenbelt vicinity. Please view these applications as a whole and assess the immense and irreversible impact on our local greenbelt land.

My personal views on the greedy and opportunistic nature of the 'Net Zero' solar-farm and battery storage agenda will probably not be taken into consideration as they are not necessarily 'planning' objections. But the sheer volume of applications as a whole just about sums up the current feeding frenzy, which, in the end, we, the hardworking taxpayer, end up paying for. 'Nowts for nowt' was a phrase I was told at 18 and it has always been true. The applications aren't made out of the good of people's hearts, it is purely a money-making scheme for those who are knowledgeable enough to be able to manipulate the directives, available grants and schemes to their own end and ultimately profit. The land-grab of our precious greenbelt land, which, if this all passes, will become grey, then maybe even brownfield. Further development will become much easier - it really feels like we are fighting a monster. Also, to pass these applications and then consider bringing part of the Staffordshire Moorlands district into Stoke on Trent, would just be an insult. Stoke on Trent has so much dereliction and brown belt why not develop solar there? Answer: because UK greenbelt fields are cheaper to buy and dig up.

I object to this proposal on the following basis:

The development of our beautiful and protected green belt land 'there is plenty of brownfield land around. How about the miles of awful, graffiti covered mess along the A500?

The impact on the masses of wildlife. Walk the lanes and fields and see for yourself the plethora of birds, insects, flora and fauna. There used to be animals grazing too before the fields were purchased and left to their own devices.

The noise, not only during construction but afterwards. The gentle 'natural' hum of electricity and fans. If you've ever stood under a pylon, as I do every day at work, you will know how noisy they are. How does a BESS facility compare in noise levels?

The visual impact and ugly nature of the application

The traffic - it is already like driving round Nuremburg on some parts of the lanes. Increased vehicular traffic makes this worse, also diversions usually take the rat-run routes through single-track lanes and causes immense frustration and sometimes road-rage in some drivers.

The mess. Who's going to recycle all the batteries and solar panels? That will be easy to get rid of and will be very net zero, I'm sure. That is sarcasm by the way.

The wellbeing of residents who live nearby, those who walk, cycle, ride horses, drive to work.

The well know fire risk

The proximity to houses

Food security & it's not so long ago that the fields were used for arable farming. The land all round Armshead used to have lots of cows too, they would escape sometimes and end up in my mum and dad's drive. We should be encouraging farmers and land management, preserving the greenbelt for future generations, not developing it in such an aggressive way.

There are other means of generating power. How about wind and nuclear?

Thank-you for taking time to read my comments and please, please view all of the applications for this solar and battery industrialisation of our area as a whole.

It is so upsetting and frustrating to 99.9% of people who live in the area. We feel voiceless and powerless and are reliant on you, as our council, to listen to us and create action on our behalf.

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