

31st July 2024

Planning Department
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Stockwell Street
Leek
ST13 6HQ

FAO Declan Cleary (sent via email only to [REDACTED])

Dear Declan,

Development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with ancillary infrastructure, security fence, access, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, to provide balancing services to the local electricity grid.

Application Ref. SMD/2024/0019

Battery Energy Storage System at Newfields Farm – Use of the Farmhouse

I write to you in relation to the above application and associated proposed development on land at Newfields Farm. I am the landowner of this site.

Newfields Farm consists of a collection of buildings, including cow pens, storage areas for vehicles and equipment, hay stores and a former farmhouse, alongside associated agricultural fields.

My family and I live off site at a separate dwelling. I have recently started letting the farmhouse out on a month-to-month basis with the understanding of the tenants that when the application is approved, we will give them a month's notice and they will vacate the premises.

We intend to proceed with our farming business at Newfields farm and once the BESS project is up and running, the farmhouse building at Newfields Farm will be used for purposes ancillary to the operation of farming activities at the farm. For example, the building provides storage space, cleaning facilities, toilets etc.

The building will remain unused for purposes as a dwellinghouse and / or rented out throughout the operational lifespan of the development; a legal agreement has been signed between myself as the landowner and the Applicant to ensure this is the case.

The proposed BESS development would generate clear financial benefits to ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of the farming enterprise at Newfields Farm. There would be no negative impact on either the upkeep of the farm, nor the future viability of it, arising from the development and the fact that the farmhouse will remain unoccupied as a dwelling during the development's operational lifetime.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Anthony Beardmore