

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0452 Site Address: Land Adjoining New House Farm Luzlow Lane Bagnall
Staffordshire ST9 9JZ Stoke-On-Trent Comments by: Samantha Plant

From:

8
Southlowe Avenue
Staffordshire moorlands
Werrington
Staffordshire
ST9 0JA

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: My objections are based on the following grounds:

The Greenbelt serves an important purpose in protecting the countryside from urban sprawl, preserving the character of rural areas, and maintaining open spaces for future generations. According to national and local planning policies, developments on Greenbelt land should only be permitted in very special circumstances. The proposed BESS development does not meet the threshold for such circumstances, and there is no evidence that the public benefit of this project would outweigh the harm caused to the Greenbelt. It is vital that this designation is respected to avoid irreversible damage to the natural environment.

The proposed development would result in significant and harmful changes to the local landscape. The scale and industrial nature of the BESS is entirely out of character with the rural and agricultural surroundings. The installation of large containers, electrical infrastructure, and security fencing will detract from the scenic beauty and visual openness of the area. This is particularly concerning in an area that should be protected for its natural and unspoilt character.

The environmental impact of the proposed BESS development, particularly in relation to biodiversity and local wildlife, is of serious concern. The Greenbelt provides a vital habitat for various species, and the disturbance caused by the construction, operation, and maintenance of the BESS could have detrimental effects on local ecosystems. The potential risk of fire or leakage from the batteries poses a hazard to the surrounding environment, particularly to any nearby watercourses or nature reserves.

Battery storage systems are typically accompanied by transformers, inverters, and cooling systems, all of which can generate continuous low-frequency noise. This could severely affect the tranquillity of the surrounding area, impacting local residents and wildlife. The proposed location, being in a rural and otherwise peaceful setting, is particularly unsuitable for such industrial noise levels.

The construction and maintenance of a BESS will likely require heavy vehicles, which will increase traffic on local roads that are not designed for such usage. This could lead to congestion, damage to roads and increased safety risks for local residents, pedestrians, and cyclists. The surrounding roads are ill-equipped to handle the additional burden imposed by this type of industrial project.

There is a strong case for exploring alternative locations for the BESS that do not encroach on protected Greenbelt land. Brownfield sites or industrial areas are more suitable for this type of development, offering less visual and

environmental impact. I urge the council to consider more appropriate locations where such a development would not conflict with Greenbelt policies.

There is a growing number of industrial energy projects proposed or under development in this region, and the cumulative impact of these projects on the local environment and quality of life must be considered. Allowing a BESS development on Greenbelt land could set a precedent for further inappropriate developments, gradually eroding the protections afforded to these areas.

While I recognise the need for renewable energy storage solutions as part of the transition to a sustainable energy future, this must not come at the cost of our Greenbelt and rural heritage. The proposed BESS development on this Greenbelt site is inappropriate and harmful to the local environment, landscape, and community. I therefore urge the planning authority to refuse this application.

Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/YourData>
