

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 22 October 2024 13:59:13

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0452

Site Address: Land Adjoining New House Farm Luzlow Lane Bagnall Staffordshire ST9 9JZ Stoke-On-Trent

Comments by: Alison Wood

From:

291

Ash Bank Road

Werrington

Stoke on Trent

Staffordshire

ST9 0JS

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: My concern is the major fire risk to the area and the effect on the beautiful countryside, part of which is a Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Covering nearly 400 acres; equivalent to around 140 football pitches; the battery farm would spread across prime farmland and greenbelt areas.

The batteries used for BESS are Lithium-ion batteries and a fire risk due to a process called Thermal Runaway.

When lithium-ion batteries are stored together, there is a risk of a chain reaction where a single battery's thermal runaway can cause other batteries to catch fire.

This happens in extreme weather such as freezing and excess moisture reaching the batteries if the area floods

All the proposed land is open to the elements and bad weather that we know can be extreme in Werrington and the areas around Wetley Common is boggy.

Strong winds and storms can affect the steel frame structures and there is a heightened risk from lightening strikes. Werrington is known for high winds.

In 2020 a Battery Energy Storage System in Liverpool developed a short circuit and caught fire. It took 11 hours to put out the fire with copious amounts of water.

The Liverpool incident was a relatively small BESS, the fire suppression measures were ineffective, the Fire and Rescue Service were inadequately informed and prepared, and a serious fire and large explosion took place which could have resulted in serious injury or death'.

The batteries will produce noise pollution up to 90 decibels, which will be harmful to the area's residents, pets and wildlife.

The infrastructure around the area is not equipped for this type of industrial scale plan; for the development for the site or for the emergency services in the event of a fire, explosion or spillage from the site.

There are small businesses around this area that rely on tourism; pubs, bed and breakfasts, garden centers, touring caravans.

I am sure this would not feature in Karen Bradley's 'A Year of Reasons to Visit the Moorlands'.

Surely there are industrial/brown sites in the area that will already have the infrastructure to accommodate this, away from homes, and wildlife.

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