

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 14 November 2024 19:36:12

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0055

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

Comments by: Emily Lockett

From:

Crosshill
Cotgrave
Nottingham

Submission: Objection

Comments: [Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, Postal Code]

[Email Address]

Plan

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Solar Farm Development in Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent (Planning Applications: 177424, 177108, 178928, 176705)

Dear Planning Department,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed solar farm development in Werrington, Staffordshire, covering nearly 400 acres of valuable greenbelt land and farmland from Wetley Rocks to Werrington. The scale and impact of this project raise serious concerns about the preservation of our rural environment, public safety, and the sustainable use of agricultural resources.

Environmental and Habitat Concerns

The transformation of expansive green fields into an industrial solar farm will have devastating effects on the local ecosystem. These fields support diverse wildlife, which will be displaced or lose its habitat due to the development. The large-scale removal of greenbelt land is contradictory to the preservation goals in Staffordshire, undermining efforts to maintain local biodiversity and natural habitats that have evolved over

generations.

The installation of over 650 battery storage units, each nearly 40 feet in length, will introduce significant disruption to the landscape. This setup will detract from the rural character of the area, transforming natural fields into an industrial zone that will adversely impact wildlife corridors and habitats. The loss of these green spaces represents not only an aesthetic degradation but also threatens the integrity of the area's ecosystem.

Public Health and Safety Risks

One of the most alarming concerns is the potential fire risk posed by the proposed battery storage units. Lithium-ion batteries, often used in large-scale energy storage, are prone to overheating and, in extreme cases, can result in uncontrollable fires. In a rural area such as this, firefighting resources and infrastructure may not be sufficient to contain such a fire, posing an unacceptable risk to both residents and the surrounding environment. The consequences of such incidents can be devastating and carry lasting impacts on public health.

Additionally, the noise pollution generated by battery cooling systems, inverters, and other mechanical equipment associated with solar farms can have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for nearby residents. Many people have chosen to live in the area for its peaceful and scenic environment, and this development would introduce persistent noise and disruption that would compromise the wellbeing and tranquility that is integral to the community.

Misuse of Valuable Agricultural Land

The proposal involves the conversion of nearly 400 acres of productive farmland and greenbelt space, critical resources for sustainable agriculture and local food production. This area serves as an important agricultural resource that should not be sacrificed for industrial purposes, especially at a time when local food security and sustainable land use are more vital than ever. By allowing this project, we risk losing prime agricultural land that could serve future generations, in exchange for a solar installation that may only have a limited operational lifespan.

Conclusion

In light of the aforementioned concerns, I urge Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to reject this planning application. The scale, environmental impact, and health risks associated with this proposed solar farm are incompatible with the values and needs of the local community. Alternative sites with less environmental and community impact should be considered, ensuring that renewable energy development does not compromise our landscape, local agriculture, and public safety.

Thank you for your attention to these critical concerns. I trust that the Council will recognize the unsuitability of this project for Werrington and prioritize the welfare of its residents and environment in making its decision.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Lockett

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