

**From:** [planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk)  
**To:** [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Received from Public Access  
**Date:** 23 November 2024 16:20:11

---

Application Reference No. : NMA/2024/0027

Site Address: Land Adjacent Cellarhead Substation Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire

Comments by: Neil

From:

Weston Close  
Werrington  
Staffordshire Moorlands

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: It is my full opinion SMDC are powerless as our local authority and that Bristol Planning department is making decisions without due diligence for the area and population.

I feel the planning department is being negligent in ensuring the Equality of all residents across the county, favouring financial gain and profit over real life risks. Having seen personally the effects of thermal runaway, I do not feel the site is suitable in the protection of human life and the nearby SSSI moorlands should an event take place. The road networks are not fit for purpose for the heavy commercial vehicular access and exit required during the construction and ongoing maintenance of the development. It is my opinion that if the Highways departments at Bristol and SMDC approve this application they are failing in due diligence. With this in mind. I have looked at the NOPAR article which specifically mentions the Cellarhead development, my understanding from what can be read is this development appears to already be a done deal and goes back to 2023 with serious financial players involved. Again, raising concerns of financial gain over actual NPPF green belt regulations. I feel there is a question to the honesty of the process and the authorities and its members. This is green belt land with a vast array of wildlife. It is of agricultural benefit and not low quality, low impact green belt. This land from my understanding does not fall into the category of Grey Belt and there are no valid extenuating circumstances for this development. And, looking at other failed applications of solar and BESS around the country, these appear to have been declined due to vast objections. Here however, the community is more reserved and from local conversations already feel defeated. I feel this could be used as a technical advantage and excuse of poor uptake to push through the application rather than carrying out a full robust environmental and impact assessment by all departments

of SMDC. The separate applications within the 400 acre sites will also compromise green belt boundaries which from reading the NPPF is not acceptable. I do not just object to this and all of the other applications. It is my full opinion there is a genuine question of authenticity by the applicant and other applications in the 400 acre area, and that this is being used for financial gain under the cover of Net Zero. Net Zero should not come at the cost of the destruction of Green Belt and welfare of neighbouring residents. Solar and BESS is not a good enough reason to destroy green belt, risk harm to local residents, congest roads not fit for the development and destroy the natural habitat of the wildlife. Other UK rejected applications support my thoughts and should be considered within the environmental impact studies and set a precedent to reject this and all other applications on the 400 acre development plans. If any of the above points are not correct, you must fully understand my opinion is based on research, and of Bristol and SMDC previous decisions. The fact 2 approved applications to my understanding have now reported as "not deliverable" has to raise a serious question of "Does anyone actually know what they are doing?" Bristol and SMDC must be held to account that after signing off on the destruction of green belt land there is an admission by the applicant that both the developments would not have worked. I mean seriously. That to me screams incompetence. I trust a more suitable location of brownfields site will be recommended by SMDC and if involved Bristol Planning Department.

---

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.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/YourData>

---