
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0568 Site Address: New House Farm Luzlow Lane Bagnall Staffordshire ST9 9JZ Stoke-On-Trent Comments by: Ted Connor
From:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I am a homeowner, and the application is directly opposite my land. I have lived here over 40 years. The site will be directly overlooked from both my property and land and the BESS site will be clearly visible. I also run a nursery from here and people come to the area to buy plants from me. If the area becomes industrialised through these applications, then this will put people of visiting the area and some of my trade is passing from visitors to the area.

Batteries onsite will create a considerable fire/explosion risk with hazard to health and life both human and wildlife. The site is by residential properties and businesses. In the event of a fire this would be catastrophic, and my family and home will be immediately at risk, not only from fire but also from the toxic fumes emitted by the batteries causing hazard to life. There is also only one way in and out the site which is dangerous for anyone who is on site or the fire service if they have to attend to put out a fire. I am also aware that the land drains into water supplies that supply Stanley pool causing a risk of water contamination. This could be due to the ditches, wells and bore holes in the immediate area.

The noise levels from the site will disturb mine and neighbouring households. We are rural with very low noise impact at present, and should the application be passed we will be subjected to higher noise levels from the site causing a disturbance and affecting our quality of life. The application states that there will also be fencing, lighting and CCTV erected which will be clearly visible at night causing light pollution which will disturb residents and wildlife. The building of the site will also mean increased traffic in the area. The roads are semi-rural and cannot cope with HGV or other industrial vehicles. The increased traffic volume will cause further noise, pollution, disturbance and wear and tear on roads that already cannot cope. I worry how I will get insurance being so close to such a site and the devaluation of my home.

The site is right next to the common and this BESS will lead to the destruction of Wildlife habitats. The area is currently home to curlews, red kite and barn owls not to mention numerous other forms of wildlife. This area is used and enjoyed by the public for leisure pursuits with walkers, horse riders and cyclists regularly using the area, in particular the roads that run alongside the proposed site. The proposed site lies within a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) because of Wetley Moor Common which is lowland heath land. It is a known and recorded habitat of wildlife including whitethroat, linnet, skylark, reed bunting and Grasshopper Warbler. Parts of the application are extremely close to the common and this wildlife travels across the surrounding land. The site also lies within the National Landscape character 64 Potteries and Churnet Valley. This site application will lead to significant direct threats to the environment. The planting of a few trees by the applicant will not undo the damage that will be caused.

Planning policy states that Green Belt should only be used in exceptional special circumstances yet this isn't an exceptional circumstance. Government policy also states that good quality farmland / Green Belt should be protected. The proposed site is owned by someone who does not live within the local community or area. People who are not part of the community are destroying and financially benefiting from these applications with no consideration to local community.

Prior to the current ownership the land in the proposed application was used to raise cattle. It is still used for hay which is mowed and taken off the land each year by the current owner. This land is both Green Belt and proven good quality farming ground. We need to think about our food security. Government policy states that the cumulative effect needs to be considered on the local area when considering planning for such sites and I urge for this to be done as there are so many in the area I live. The application isn't even close to the substation meaning more disruption and chaos and damage to land when this is done. There are already numerous applications in place over 400 acres of land within the immediate area with sites that have already been passed in 2022. This site will make our home and area we live in industrial.

I urge for this application to be refused.

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