
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 08 April 2025 16:47
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: Kate Shore

From:

Little Armshead Farm
Eaves Lane
Armshead
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST2 8LY

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I live at Little Armshead Farm and we are on the consultation list. I wish to OBJECT to this application.

The BESS site in the application site directly joins onto my land and will be clearly seen from the front of my property as the site is only 80 METERS away from our home. Please see photos attached showing the site directly in front of my home. The site will be clearly visible from my house.

We have at no point received any correspondence or contact from the applicant to discuss this application and the impact it will have on us, or to discuss our worries and concerns despite it only being 80 meters away from our home.

I am so worried about the fire risk because we are so close to the site. As I type this the wind is blowing in the direction from the proposed site towards my house. The toxic chemical smoke and fumes from a fire would directly affect my family. It would also impact on people using the common and driving through the area. We would be unable to escape it. The chemical fumes and smoke and would affect all my crops once this has settled and will be a danger to my livestock. I want to know what is the applicants plan is to safeguard and evacuate my family if there is a fire? How will we be notified if there is a fire? What happens regarding the fall out of a fire i.e. toxic fumes emitted and ash landing on my crops and livestock. We are 80 meters away from the batteries and there is only one road in and out of my property. No back up plan, nowhere we can go if we need to evacuate this is our home. I feel that this is treatment is diabolical and inhumane, almost like the thought is that we don't matter and are expendable as we are densely populated. This may be the case but there are numerous visitors to the area and the common is heavily used for recreation. I have seen there is only one entrance and exit to the BESS site, due to health and safety the fire brigade would not allow firefighters into the battery site due to the risk of losing their exit and getting trapped. A fire would be left to burn out as is evidenced by other fire incidents in multiple places around the world which again brings me back to what does my family do? There is not enough data on the effect of these batteries to human life.

I am also deeply concerned regarding water contamination.

We get our ONLY source of water from our borehole which is 66 meters deep and only around 100 meters from the site. We had this professionally installed in 2010 by Wyatt Brothers, Whitchurch. We are currently going through the process of getting our borehole registered as we understood it was done at the time of installation and this process has shown it wasn't. We also have a well and this is used to water our livestock and crops and this is shown on plans. A neighbour also uses this well to water his livestock. I have enclosed a plan showing this. I am also aware that there are other boreholes and wells in neighbouring properties near the site. Water from the storage tanks will be used to cool any surrounding batteries in the case of a fire which would then naturally drain into the land along with any rainfall giving the chance for pollutants to enter the ground and water system. The land naturally drains north and ultimately to Stanley Pool. Any contaminants from this proposed development would clearly find their way to Stanley pool polluting the water course all the way there.

I am passionate about the wildlife and my environment which is why I choose to live here which is a valid lifestyle choice as much as choosing to live in a city. I am worried about how the wildlife here will survive. We live here and we see the wildlife every single day. What I see is not done via a desktop exercise but via real life. I have bat and owl boxes and both bats and owls nest here. They fly across our land, over where the site will be and also across to neighbouring land and the common. I have neighbours who say they see the owls as they fly over to them as part of their route. The light from the site will stop this happening. We have started to report and record this wildlife to various wildlife agencies to help build up records. The area is overflowing with wildlife and is currently home to curlews, red kite, bats and barn owls not to mention numerous other forms of wildlife and I have even seen deer on the land. I have enclosed some photos taken from my land. The proposed site lies within a (SSSI) because of Wetley Moor Common which is lowland heath land and only 130 meters from the BESS site. The common is literally outside my back door. It is a known and recorded habitat of wildlife including whitethroat, linnet, skylark, reed bunting, grasshopper warbler and this also comes on to our land and the surrounding areas 18 species of birds have been recorded including Kites, Barn owls, Buzzard, Kestrel, Stone chat, willow warbler. The number of raptors is due to the unspoilt fields and abundance of mice, voles and shrew. The wildlife moves freely over all of the land both common and agricultural. Nothing that the applicant puts in place to support the wildlife will compensate or be effective as the environment already stands. Its just tick box exercise.

The background noise will be heard from our home along with noise from any other equipment. Our front room and bedroom face the site meaning we will clearly hear this. I know that monitoring has been undertaken by the applicant but evidence shows that despite the claims of no noise this is not the case. All the noise from the transformers, switching and substation WILL disturb us and we will be unable to escape this. The peace and rural quiet of the area and will impact negatively on local wildlife and human residents. How will SMDC tackle this when I am reporting industrial noise nuisance that is affecting my households mental and physical health? Once it's the site is approved it's too late. If the noise wasn't enough the site will be lit up which gain will be clearly visible from my home and will cause a nuisance and light pollution. The front of my house directly faces the site and night time this will be even more unbearable.

It can also be seen from the application that this site will be clearly seen from all angles by the public and residents in the area. If you visit the site from my property or go onto the common you can clearly see that the site will be clearly seen from the common. It will also be visible from the roads and the surrounding land. There isn't even sufficient planting in the application for all the way round the site and for any that are planted it will be many years before they are of a size where they could even attempt to provide screening and support to wildlife. No screening will hide this from view. What will happen to the 18,000 m2 of material the applicant has confirmed in their plans that needs to be removed? More so, in 40 years' time how will this amount of soil be put back to return the land to agricultural land. It is simply not possible. There are no plans on how this is even to be done.

This will massively affect the mental health of my household. I suffer from debilitating migraines and I manage this by sleep, food and working outside on our property and managing our livestock. The worry of this site is impacting on my mental and physical health and my wellbeing. I do not know how we will cope with the noise, fire risk and all that comes with this application. Not only will having to contend with this affect me but our home and land will be devalued due to the hazards of living so nearby. I urge SMDC to reuse this application as the area is becoming industrialised due to four other BESS sites being passed within close proximity and other developments in the pipeline. There is not an unmet need here, only greed.

I do not support this application in any way shape or form.

Regards,

Kate Shore

Please note I am unable to send photos via the portal and will email them direct.

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