

Bagnall Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposed NMA/2025/0009There is a significant risk of fire in a BESS facility.

In the UK we note the fire and explosion which occurred in a Lithium Battery storage (BESS) facility in the Merseyside area in 2020.

Rather alarmingly there have been three reports of fires at three different BESS sites this year!

These are:-

East Tilbury, Essex,

19th February 2025

Rothienorman, Aberdeenshire,

21st February 2025

Cirencester, Gloucestershire,

28th March 2025

The generally accepted method of fighting a fire at a BESS facility is to suppress the flame by using water.

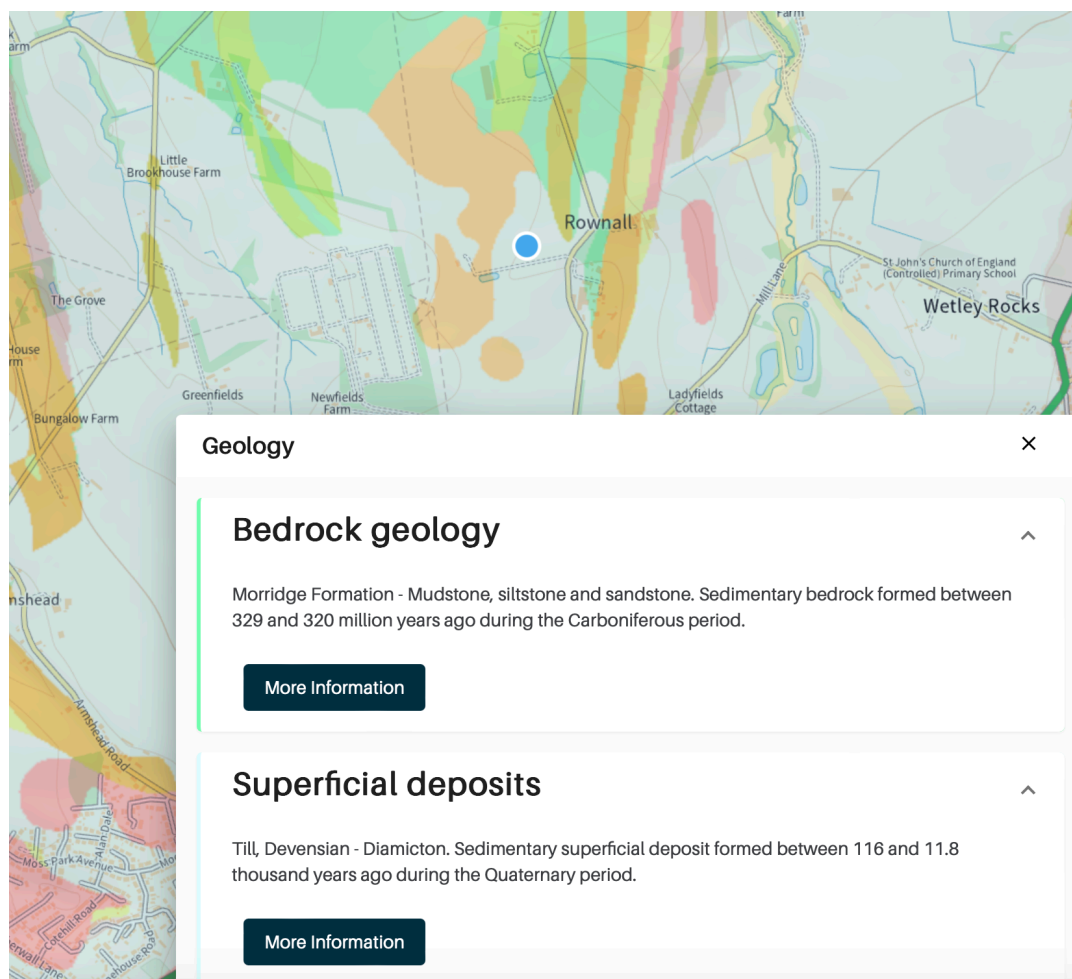
It is reported that the run off water from a lithium battery fire will be heavily contaminated with noxious chemicals.

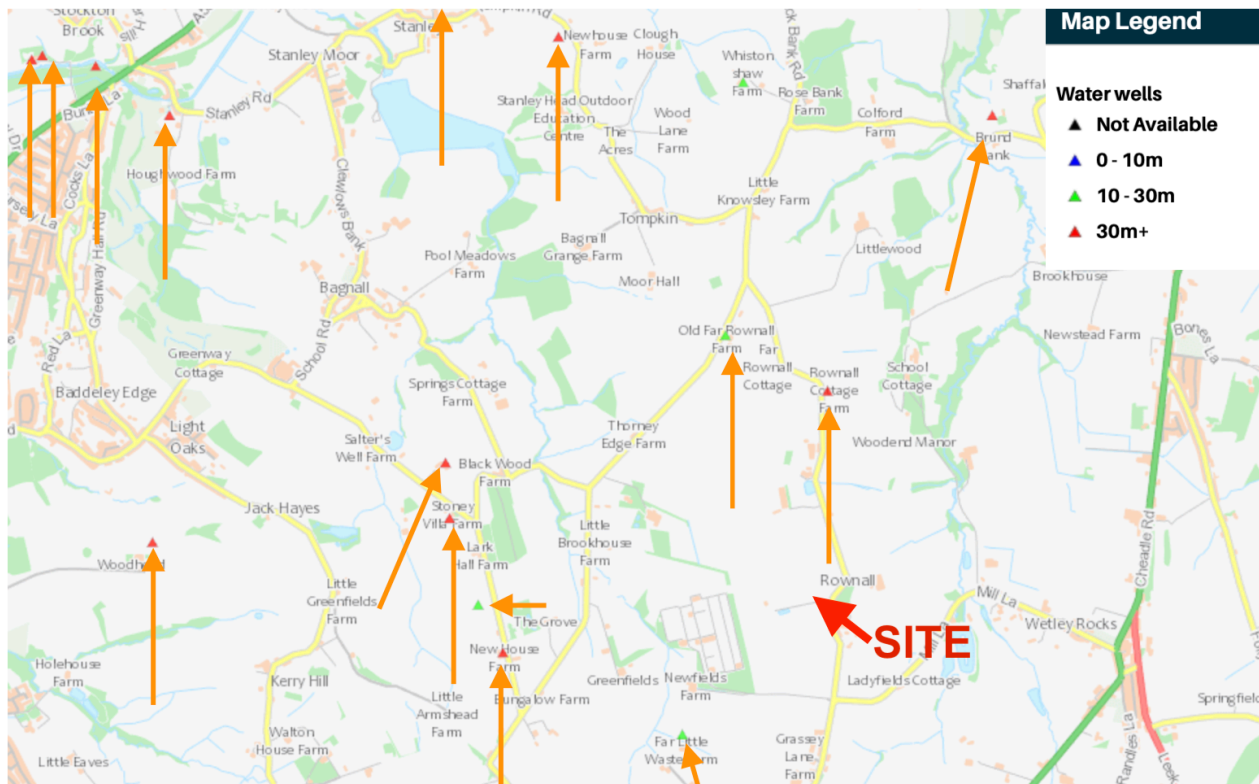
Bagnall Parish Council notes that the applicant is proposing to construct a settlement pond to collect water from the BESS site which will thus also collect run off water from an incident involving any fire at the site.

The pond is excavated into the natural ground and appears to be unlined.

The British Geological Survey indicate that the natural rock contains sandstones which are porous and will naturally allow water to percolate through the strata. It is consequently highly probable that polluted water from firefighting operations would be able to enter the sandstone beneath the pond.

{See the extract from the BGS data reproduced below.}





The sandstones in the locality provide water for several properties and it is consequently imperative that the supply is not polluted. The plan above is produced from publicly available information obtainable from the BGS which record water wells. The subject site is identified with a red arrow.

(The natural dip of the strata in the locality means that groundwater will flow towards the west of the site and towards the water abstraction wells.)

For the above reasons Bagnall Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed amendment NMA/2025/0009.