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**From:** planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk  
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**Subject:** Comment Received from Public Access

**Categories:**

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0556 Site Address: Land at Newfields Farm Rownall Road Wetley Rocks  
Staffordshire ST9 0BS Stoke On Trent Comments by: Ian Podmore Private freehold resident

From:

Rownall Ridge formerly Rownall Hall  
Rownall Road  
Rownall, Wetley Rocks  
Stoke on Trent  
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ST9 0BT

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments:

SMD/2024/0556 Newfields BESS ( copy of my objection 3 minute speech given in the application hearing )

Rarely a week goes by now without another report of a Catastrophic explosive Lithium-Iron battery fire in the UK. America now imposes an additional compulsory £mitigation charge£ to BESS applications to cover the enormous added costs of managing these high temperature wildfires and the German National Insurance Federation will not insure any properties within 500 metres of any BESS installation.

Meanwhile, in the Staffs Moorlands, this Council have so far approved 4 major BESS installations at Rownall, all extremely close to each other, with another four neighbouring major BESS applications pending, including this one, all without any accumulative risk assessment.

This renewed modified application follows its earlier refusal, and still the Newfields Farmhouse is completely exposed to the north and faces directly on to the southern side of the proposed battery bank no more than 50 yards from it, with the revised earth bunding stopping well short of protecting it.

This site shares its north and east perimeter on both sides directly with the National Grid's western and southern perimeter being only feet away from the continually operating oil cooled National Grid transformers, and only a few hundred yards away to the east, are 236 shipping container sized battery banks as already recently approved in application SMD/2024/0055.

This location being so highly compromised surrounded by dangerous major transformer installations is surely reason enough, why the Government Directives to consider applications in isolation is, in these circumstances, completely inappropriate and should absolutely not apply here, where 4 associated major installations have already been approved so close together, without any accumulative impact fire and rescue risk assessments and without any rural community welfare consideration.

This proposal also still only provides for one emergency approach route, which not only passes right by the side of Newfields Farmhouse, but goes between existing farm buildings, and infact, right through the farmyard.

To approve this application again in isolation, would be very wrong and highly dangerous and for the very same reasons, this application should again be refused.

Thank you

Ian Podmore

ST9 OBT on behalf of the Rownall/Bagnall, Save the Green Belt Campaign

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