
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 03 July 2025 14:48
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2025/0250 Site Address: Land off Leek Road Werrington Staffordshire ST9 0DQ
Stoke-On-Trent Comments by: Nicholas Fox

From:
Windycote House
March Lane
Cellarhead
Werrington

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Neither

Comments: An independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is essential before the proposal for a BESS development at Leek Road, Cellarhead is evaluated. The reasons for this are:

1. This is a green-field site within the Green Belt, which although adjacent to a small haulier's yard to the north-east is otherwise in an unbroken area of agricultural land and woodlands stretching for many square kilometres to the south and west.
2. The proposed site bordered on its lowest margin by a creek that flows south through the Cresswell's Piece Site of Biological Importance (SBI), and from thence to the east of Weston Coyney and through the centre of the Blythe Bridge residential area and onwards.
3. At least two mature broad-leaf trees will have to be removed to make way for the BESS. These trees will be home to hundreds of species of invertebrates, birds and mammals, possibly including species of bat.
4. There are residential properties that are either spatially close to the proposed site or overlook it. Given the low elevation of the site relative to surrounding properties, the latter will be adversely affected visually and aurally during both construction and operational phases, with little mitigation achieved by screening planting along the borders of the development.
5. The EIA Screening Report prepared by RPS Group for their client Masdar Arlington Energy does not give a fair or complete assessment of the environmental issues.
6. An independent EIA is required because the proposal does not adhere to the Staffordshire Moorlands Adopted Local Plan for larger villages (including Werrington and Cellarhead). This states:

¿Ensure that new development reflects and enhances each village's special character and heritage by:

¿ Giving priority to the reuse and regeneration of existing redundant, underused or surplus sites and premises for new development;

¿ Ensuring that development is of a suitable scale in relation to the role and function of the villages as set out in the Spatial Strategy.¿ (Local Plan pp. 60-61)

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