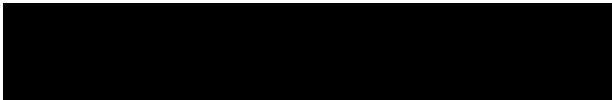
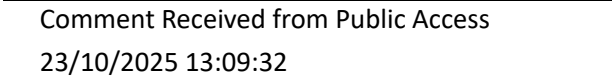


From: 
To: 
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 23/10/2025 13:09:32

Application Reference No. : SMD/2025/0354
Site Address: Land off Leek Road Werrington Staffordshire ST9 0DQ
Comments by: Lynn Cantlay
From:

Weston Road
Weston Coyney
Stoke-on-Trent

Phone:
Email: 
Submission: Objection
Comments: I wish to object to this planning application on the following reasons

1. Cumulative Impact of Multiple BESS Developments

There are already multiple approved energy storage facilities in close proximity to the proposed BESS at Cellarhead and if approved this facility will add to the already over-concentration of industrial developments in area. This is in conflict to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 185 and 187, which mandate that planning decisions consider cumulative effects on community well-being, noise, pollution, and to ensure developments are appropriate for their location. The addition of this facility will undermining its rural character and residents' quality of life with the saturation of such facilities risks transforming the local area into an industrial hub,.

2. Over-Intensification of Development

The rapid increase of approved BESS facilities in the Armshead, Werrington and Cellarhead areas constitutes over-intensification, fundamentally altering the rural character of this landscape. The concentration of industrial infrastructure is at odds with NPPF paragraph 130, this requires developments to respect local character and distinctiveness. This size of development will take away the area's rural identity, meaning the industrial presence of the BESS will not be in harmony with the rural surroundings.

3.Noise Pollution from BESS Operations

There will be continuous operational noise from the proposed facility, which is characterized by persistent humming, meaning it will be incompatible with the tranquillity of residential areas around Cellarhead. Residents' quality of life will be significantly impaired, breaching NPPF paragraph 174(e), which prohibits unacceptable noise pollution, and Local Plan policies safeguarding residential amenity. Independent noise assessments are essential to evaluate the true impact on nearby homes, particularly during quiet hours.

4. Incompatible Hours of Operation

The proposed BESS will be operating 24/7 totally incompatible with the residential character of Cellarhead, where residents expect peace and quiet, particularly during evening and night time hours. The constant activity and associated noise would disrupt local amenity, conflicting with NPPF paragraph 185 and Local Plan policies Light

designed to mitigate adverse impacts from operational disturbances and protect residential well-being.

5.Pollution from Floodlighting

Extensive floodlighting for security will be required at the proposed BESS, there would be generate significant light pollution generated by these floodlights which is detrimental in a rural residential setting. This is totally unsuitable, and it would disrupt residents' night time amenity and harm local wildlife, including nocturnal species. Such impacts contravene NPPF paragraph 185(c), which emphasizes minimizing light pollution to protect health, living conditions, and biodiversity, as well as Local Plan policies on environmental protection

6. Public Safety and Security Risks

Significant public safety concerns are raised because of the proximity of the proposed BESS to residential areas it also encapsulates a diesel refuelling station, large-scale energy storage systems could potentially attract security threats, including vandalism or terrorism. This conflicts with NPPF paragraph 97, which prioritizes the creation of safe and secure communities. There is a lack of robust, site-specific risk assessments which further exacerbates concerns about the suitability of this location for such a facility.

7. Inadequate Monitoring and Emergency Response

The proposed facility will be reliant on remote monitoring for the BESS, there will be no on-site staff, this poses serious risks to resident safety and effective emergency response. In the event of a malfunction, fire, or other incident, the absence of immediate on-site oversight could delay critical interventions, endangering nearby communities. This is contrary to NPPF paragraph 92, which emphasizes the creation of safe and healthy environments, and raises significant concerns about the facility's operational safety.

8. Harm to Rural Landscape and Character

The proposed BESS represents an inappropriate industrial incursion into the open countryside, requiring extensive concrete hardstanding and infrastructure that would permanently degrade the rural landscape's aesthetic and ecological value. This conflicts with NPPF paragraph 174(b), which seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes, and Local Plan policies aimed at preserving the countryside's intrinsic character. The development would erode the visual and environmental qualities that define Cellarhead's rural identity.

9. Transportation

The increase in traffic during construction if approved will have considerable impact on the A520 and A521 which already have high volume of traffic. There will be vehicles constantly removing the extremely large amount ground soil etc that will have to be cleared off the site before any construction starts, the number of heavy vehicles that will be required to do this will mean that traffic going down the A520 to the A50 will have to travel through Weston Coyney and Meir, the road is flanked by houses and an increase in heavy vehicles will have detrimental impact on properties and their residents. The applicants do not seem to have taken this issue into account and needs addressing otherwise the A520 will be a constant traffic jam.

10. Drainage from the land

This runs off into an area known as Cresswells Piece and from there it enters the water course, which is the start of the River Blythe, this river eventually feeds into Blithfield Reservoir, a source of drinking water, therefore any contamination from the site will contaminate this water.

11. Contamination of water and soil

This can be caused by 'thermal runaway', an uncontrollable self-heating process that occurs when heat generation exceeds heat dissipation and can have dire consequences and as stated in point 10 above have a detrimental effect on drinking water.

Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/YourData>
