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From: planningcomments@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : SMD/2026/0326 Site Address: Padwick Farm Bradshaw Lane Ipstones Staffordshire
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Submission: Objection

Comments: We believe that the current scoping proposals under-represent the full range of environmental, social and cumulative impacts expected from a development of this scale. The handbook is clear: scoping must be comprehensive, risk based, and inclusive of all potentially significant effects. The Padwick submission falls short in several areas.

1. Important Topics Incorrectly Scoped Out:

The report excludes several topics the handbook identifies as core EIA considerations:

- Traffic and transport
- Socio economic effects
- Population and human health
- Climate and air quality
- Major accidents and disasters
- Material assets

These are not peripheral issues. They are mandatory scoping considerations for large rural infrastructure projects. They should be reinstated.

2. Weak Treatment of Cumulative and Indirect Effects:

The handbook emphasises cumulative, secondary and indirect impacts. The scoping report merely touches on:

- Cumulative landscape and visual effects
- Combined noise, shadow flicker and amenity impacts
- Indirect socio economic and tourism effects
- Interactions between environmental factors

These omissions risk a material under-assessment of serious impacts.

3. No Clear Alternatives or Risk Framework:

Good practice requires:

- A transparent alternatives assessment
- A structured source-pathway-receptor risk model
- Evidence of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid - reduce - remedy - compensate - enhance)

None of these are adequately presented. The scoping opinion should require them.

4. Minimal Stakeholder Engagement

The handbook stresses early engagement with:

- Local communities
- Parish councils
- Amenity groups
- Non statutory consultees

The scoping report provides no meaningful plan for early consultation or incorporation of local knowledge. This is a critical gap.

5. No Monitoring or Follow Up

Post construction monitoring is good practice and essential for:

- Noise
- Shadow flicker
- Ecology
- Landscape and aviation lighting impacts

The scoping report is silent on monitoring. This needs to be addressed.

The Padwick Wind Farm scoping report does not meet the standards set out in the EIA Scoping Handbook. Key topics have been excluded, cumulative impacts are under considered, and essential elements of good practice EIA - alternatives, risk assessment, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring - are missing.

We would ask that the Council's scoping opinion requires the applicant to address these omissions in full.

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