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

Categories: ██████████

Application Reference No. : SMD/2026/0326 Site Address: Padwick Farm Bradshaw Lane Ipstones Staffordshire ST13 7NN Leek Comments by: Sue Giddings

From:
Sheepshades Farm

Bradnop
Leek

Phone: ██████████

Email: ██████████

Submission: Objection

Comments: My husband and I are residents living in close proximity to the proposed wind farm and, as such, are likely to be affected to a large degree by the proposed wind farm but I hope that my comments and objections are based on the effects that the project will have on the area as a whole.

Padwick Farm Wind Farm development is a large scale infrastructure which will change the perceived character of the land and make a significant impact on the views for residents, visitors to the area and from sites at considerable distances from the development. This will be a key concern for those having to live with the changes and for those whose income is dependent on tourism.

It is a statutory requirement to consider secondary, indirect and cumulative impacts as a result of proximity of other land use. Surely it is appropriate, for a project of this size, to consider the cumulative effects of the combined impacts on the environment created by eight separate, widely spaced wind turbines compared to the impact of a single one. For aspects such as visual impact, noise, shadow flicker and the effects of aviation lights (especially when combined), the impact will be considerably greater for eight turbines than for one. Assessing the impacts individually will not address cumulative issues.

As well as identifying key issues and qualifying and assessing impacts, scoping should also identify and evaluate alternatives. This has not been considered at this stage so it will need to be incorporated in the EIA together with the main reasons for the choices made.

The impact of traffic has been scoped out, but the increase in the volume of traffic and the size of vehicles on the local roads during the construction phase, forecast to last about 18 months, with the potential to damage the local road surfaces, is of concern to local residents and will impact on other road users as well. It is important that the Traffic Management Plan will provide effective and acceptable solutions.

The assessment of air quality as having a potential environmental impact has not considered ionising radiation, including naturally occurring radon gas. This is known to be present in the area and is an important detail that should be included.

It is good practice to consult with stakeholders, including the public, early on in the scoping process. Although consultation with relevant groups is covered, there is no mention of how they intend to communicate with residents around the site who are likely to be most affected, to inform and give opportunities to provide feedback. This should be made clear.

The Council should require a comprehensive EIA that also includes the details omitted or minimised in the scoping document including ;

The cumulative impacts of the eight turbines

Clarity on how they will consult and inform individuals likely to be affected at each stage.

An assessment of the likelihood of radon gas being released.

The submission of an effective traffic management plan.

Full details of alternatives assessed with explanations of the decisions made.

Details of all mitigations and how the effectiveness of these will be monitored and assessed at all stages.

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