

From: planningcomments@highpeak.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(HPBC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 04 June 2023 00:08:36

Application Reference No. : HPK/2023/0193
Site Address: LAND AT Marsh Lane New Mills Derbyshire
Comments by: Alison Aldridge
From:
Braeside
Ladypit Road
Gowhole
Furness Vale
Derbyshire
SK23 7QE

Phone:
Email:
Submission: Objection
Comments: Dear Mr Haywood

I would like to object to planning application HPK/2023/0193 ; Construction and installation of an energy storage system (ESS) at Marsh Lane, Gowhole, SK23 7QE.

The reasons I object are:

It's Greenbelt. I don't believe very special circumstances have been demonstrated that justify eroding into and chipping away at our greenbelt. Once it's gone it can never be re-claimed.

It won't benefit High Peak residents ; attendees at the community event were told that any additional electricity supplied would be sent to Altrincham if needed. If the requirement is for a 30MW connection and this is the only one in the High Peak that is not part of Peak Park, why does a battery storage site need to be located in High Peak if it is not to benefit the local residents?

The alternative site assessments identified 4 brownfield sites within 1km of the New Mills sub station but were discounted because 3 of the 4 did not respond to Novus, and the other location was deemed to be too expensive ; i.e. not financially viable for Novus. That is not a justifiable reason for approving a Greenbelt location.

Traffic issues during construction. Anyone who uses Marsh Lane and Station Road knows how bad the traffic is already with the road not being wide enough for 2 cars in many places due to parked cars. To add in HGV's will cause delays both on Marsh Lane/Station Road and on the A6 when trains stop and the barriers are down. It will also increase the likelihood of an accident, even if construction traffic avoids certain times as the road is used as a cut through from New Mills to the A6 all day every day.

Local environment. When there is an existing layby with no trees present, why is the entrance being proposed in a place where 2 healthy Sycamore and Ash trees that are 15m+ high are having to be chopped down? The only reason there is a bio diversity net gain is because they are planting more hedgerows along the boundary, but how can this balance out chopping down trees to gain access?

The ecological survey recognises that otters, bats, Merlins and Red Kites are observed locally and they

would be impacted by this development. I live opposite the sub station so very close to the proposed site and have observed Kestrels in the fields behind my house too.

It also states that 50% of the site is 'improved grassland' and the potential impact will be 'the loss of the majority of the habitat' due to the containers that will be placed on the site.

Noise impact. Noise impact is assessed as 'low' but in order to achieve this a 4m high fence will need to be erected. Is this in addition to the other 3m fences that are referred to in other documents? From what I can understand of the noise assessment it could increase up to 3 times from early 30's DB to 90 db in the daytime (unless a 4m fence is erected).

Fire risk: There is an inherent risk to local residents and the environment from the consequences of thermal runaway, in conflict with the principles of sustainable development. I would be interested to read DFRS's formal response to these plans but they seem to have been left off the list of consulted parties.

Engagement: Novus say they have engaged with the community 'they organised 2 events on one day last summer, if you couldn't attend that day there was no face to face opportunity to meet and the slides on the pack were not available on the website after the event. Questions sent to Novus after the event by email took months to be responded to.

I don't believe the proposals fall within any of the categories of acceptable development in the rural areas as set out in Policy EQ3 of the High Peak Local Plan and the overall effect on landscape character at the site would be adverse, contrary to policy EQ2.

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