

Mr Ben Haywood
Head of Development Services
High Peak Borough Council
Town Hall
Buxton
SK17 6EL



N. FALLON
14 CHARLESWORTH CIRCLE
FURNESSE, VAL
SK 23 7 P.R.

Date: 16.6.23

Dear Mr Haywood

Application No. HPK/2023/0193 – Construction and installation of an Energy Storage System (ESS) at Marsh Lane, Gowhole, New Mills Derbyshire, SK23 7QE

I would like to object to the above planning application.

The reasons I object are:

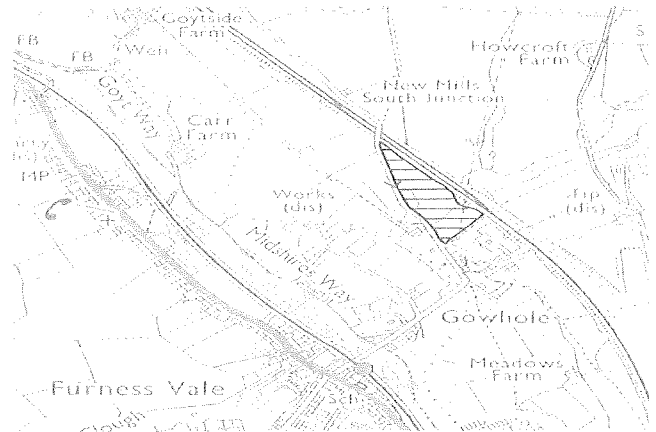
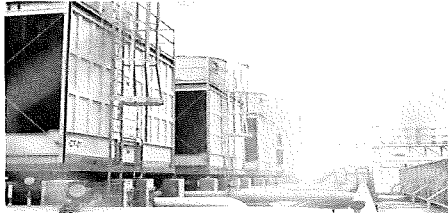
- By definition, this is “inappropriate” development in the Green Belt; “very special circumstances” have not been demonstrated.
- The proposals do not fall within any of the categories of acceptable development in the rural areas as set out in Policy EQ3 of the High Peak Local Plan and the overall effect on landscape character at the site and on adjacent land would be adverse, contrary to policy EQ2.
- 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. (Google: “BESS fire Liverpool 15 September 2020”).
- Road access is inadequate to support construction of this development, increasing the danger and inconvenience to other highway users.
- Novus justifies this as a renewable energy project, yet this installation is not coupled to a solar or wind farm, and Novus has not provided any evidence that the proposals would specifically harness renewable energy for storage.
- There is no justification for these proposals at this location.

Yours sincerely,

URGENT – SAVE OUR GREENBELT

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP PLANNED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE INSTALLATION ON GREENBELT 3.5 HECTARE SITE AT GOWHOLE, FURNESS VALE (OFF MARSH LANE)

Novus has submitted a planning application for the development of an industrial-scale battery energy storage installation on Greenbelt land in this area.



Main objections to this include:

- **THERE IS NO REASON WHY THIS NEEDS TO BE BUILT ON GREENBELT**

The batteries and associated equipment would be housed in fifty storage units (basically very large shipping containers) and the site ringed with a palisade security fence and cameras.

In planning terms, it would be an extensive fenced-off site with an industrialised character, by definition “inappropriate” development in the Green Belt, and contrary to rural development and landscape policies in the Local Plan.

Novus justifies this as a renewable energy project, yet this installation is not coupled to a solar or wind farm, and Novus has not provided any evidence that the proposals would specifically harness renewable energy for storage.

- **ROAD ACCESS INADEQUATE**

Construction would take six months, during which time heavy goods vehicle movements would disrupt the local road network, in particular at the tight junctions at the two ends of Marsh Lane / Station Road, onto Church Road in New Mills and the A6 at Furness Vale.

- **RISK OF FIRE**

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are inherently hazardous. The technology carries the risk of “thermal runaway” where overheating in just one battery cell can lead to a chain reaction across the site with fire, explosion and release of toxic gases and liquids. Such an event would be injurious to those living and working locally (particularly the responding emergency crews) and cause severe disruption from closure of local roads and the Hope Valley main line railway, contamination of surrounding land and pollution of the river Goyt from polluted fire water run-off.

- **IT WILL NOT HELP TO REDUCE LOCAL RESIDENTS’ ENERGY BILLS**

Battery energy storage systems are intended to address imbalances between supply and demand in the national grid. But Novus is not claiming that our local electricity demand and its supply are volatile or imbalanced. Indeed, these installations can be located anywhere that allows a line connection to any substation with sufficient capacity. We understand from the community consultation in August 2022 that the purpose of this installation would be to provide improved supply stability in the Altrincham area. These proposals would not provide lower energy charges for local residents.

If you care about this and want to help, see overleaf for what to do.....