



The countryside charity
Peak District and
South Yorkshire

37 Stafford Road
Sheffield S2 2SF

Tel: (0114) 312 2002
mail@cprepeakandsyorks.org.uk

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Planning Application HPK/2023/0193 Battery Storage.

Dear Mr Stannard,

We are CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire and we wish to comment on the above application. Local residents have raised concerns about the appropriateness of the development with us.

We do not wish to object outright to this proposal as we are supportive of essential infrastructure to achieve carbon reduction in energy supply.

However, we would wish the Local Planning Authority to absolutely establish if it considers that, in line with NPPF paragraph 151, the scheme is justified as having exceptional need such as to be located in the Green Belt. Secondly, we consider that if the scheme is on balance permitted, more robust additional landscaping is required to reduce any harm to landscape quality and to reduce visual landscape impact.

The proposed energy storage facility is approximately 2.4 hectares in size and is sloped upwards from Marsh Lane, making it somewhat visible for people if the development is not well screened by trees/hedgerows.

Policy EQ2 of the Local Plan sets out the requirements for developments to 'protect, enhance and restore' the landscape character of High Peak. This application would have a biodiversity net gain, but the site may not be very well screened from Marsh Lane near the proposed entrance and the south the southwestern site boundaries, especially considering the topographic conditions of the site. The hedgerows and trees there are unable to screen the site from the road. The development only proposed the plantations of six trees to the south of the site facing Marsh Lane, with the rest of the vegetation being existing ones. The site may still be relatively visible in the landscape from the south as the new plantations are insufficient to screen the site as much as possible.

This development could be an important infrastructure for ensuring a stable supply of renewable energy and conserving excessively generated electricity for use when there is a high demand of energy

President: Dame Fiona Reynolds

CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire

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consumption. More hedgerows/trees should be planted to the site boundary facing Marsh Lane to minimise the landscape impacts as its gradient would make the proposed facility relatively visible.

Therefore, we believe if the Local Planning Authority is to decide that this proposal is in accordance with the NPPF, additional landscaping and vegetation should be required to reduce the visual landscape impact and minimise any harm to the quality of the landscape.

Yours Sincerely

Tomo Thompson
Chief Executive

President: Dame Fiona Reynolds

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