
From: planningcomments@highpeak.gov.uk
Sent: 26 June 2023 22:33
To: Planning Comments (HPBC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : HPK/2023/0193 Site Address: LAND AT Marsh Lane New Mills Derbyshire Comments by:
Sue Beswick

From:
Hillcroft

Earl Sterndale
Derbyshire
SK17 0BS

Submission: Objection

Comments: I am supportive of essential infrastructure to achieve carbon reduction in energy supply however, I am concerned regarding the appropriateness of the proposed development at this Green Belt site and therefore object to the proposals.

The HPBC Local Planning Authority must absolutely establish the justification that the proposed scheme carries exceptional need to be sited within the Green Belt, in line with National Planning Policy Framework at paragraph 151.

The proposals do not comply with any of the categories of acceptable development in rural areas as detailed in Policy EQ3 of the High Peak Local Plan. The overall adverse effect on landscape character at this proposed Green Belt site would be contrary to Policy EQ2.

The batteries and associated equipment would be housed in 50 storage units/large shipping containers and the Marsh Lane site would be ringed with a palisade security fence and cameras. In planning terms, this would represent an extensive fenced-off site with an industrialised character, which by definition is deemed to be 'inappropriate' development in the Green Belt and contrary to rural development and landscape policies in the Local Plan.

This development has been stated by the developer, Novus, as being a renewable energy project however, the proposed installation would not be coupled to a solar or wind farm and Novus has not provided the necessary evidence to show how the proposals would harness renewable energy for storage.

A major concern is the risk of fire. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are inherently hazardous and 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 cause injury

to those living and working locally, including the emergency response services, and cause severe disruption from closure of local roads and the Hope Valley Line railway, contamination of surrounding land and pollution of the river Goyt from polluted fire water run off. The proposed installation is therefore in conflict with the principles of sustainable development (Google:'BESS fire Liverpool 15 September 2020').

Road access is inadequate to support construction of this major development, impacting other highway users and increasing risk of road traffic accidents during the construction phase.

The proposed installation would not be of benefit to High Peak residents and communities and would not contribute to a reduction in local residents' energy bills. The purpose of this installation is to provide improved supply stability in the Altrincham area as was understood from the community consultation in August 2022.

The site may still be visible in the landscape from the south as the proposed new plantations would be insufficient to screen the site effectively.

Although I am not a resident within the local area of the proposed site at Marsh Lane, I have concerns for both the residents, local communities, local environment and the Green Belt.

The proposed development should be located at a previously developed brownfield site, of which there is an ample supply and where such locations are ideal for recycling ie. exactly this type of venture.

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