

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Byers Gill Solar](#)
Subject: Concerns following issues raised at The Open Floor Hearings
Date: 13 August 2024 21:11:49

Dear Sirs

Following on from the recent Open Floor Hearings at The King's Head, Darlington we have a few issues of concern that we would like to raise.

My husband and I reside [REDACTED] in extremely close proximity to a large array of Battery Storage Units and the other major issue of concern is our close proximity to the on site Substation. On various maps we have seen it is impossible to determine the exact location of the above and on the most recent map it would appear that the substation has been moved so that it is even closer to our dwelling and could be within 100m of our boundary.

We are assuming that due to the fact that the original proposed area for the site is always extremely water logged as well as the fact that there are watercourses which run alongside Square Wood RWE have decided to move the substation closer to us. We understand that the substation itself will be 70m x 70m and there will be parking facilities in front of 70m x 30m as well as an access road of 4.5 to 5m therefore the depth of the complex will be at least 105m. The height is stated as being 8m however there is a communications mast of 15m!!! This complex will be extremely visible from our property yet no consideration appears to have been given to our livelihoods and any possible health implications of living so close to the above. I notice that the EXA have raised concerns with the applicant (LSV 1.5 concluded that views of the substation beyond 3km study area would be limited) but as we have mentioned our property is within a few metres not km!!! We would really appreciate it if the EXA would look into this siting and the proximity to our dwelling and ask RWE to clarify its exact location.

LSV1.11 mentions clarification from the applicant on the location of panels from Great Stainton village but yet again no mention is made of the location of the panel area from our dwelling.

We are very concerned about the area directly behind our boundary where the panels will start 3.6m from the hedge line as that part of the field is prone to flooding and we are aware that the stakeholder has recently made a trench from the flooded area into our land which resulted recently on the flood pouring into our stream and thus entering the land drain. There appears to be a large deep hole dug in that vicinity and on looking down the hole a drain is visible with a crack in it enabling the flood to drain away. This has not been covered which potentially could lead to an animal or person seriously injuring themselves. As we are in a dip and the panels over our boundary are on a slight incline potentially any run off or contamination from the site will drain into our land, our pond which is classified on ordnance survey maps as an SNCI (only 11m from the start of the panels), the stream and land drain. Should that happen a lot of fish and wildlife would be adversely impacted.

We note that on the visit made a few weeks ago there appears to have been no mention on the list of sites visited of the proposed substation site and as this we would have assumed would be the main aspect of the whole development wonder whether the site will be viewed on the next visit?

When JBM as it was originally held their first public consultation meeting it became apparent to us that the proposed main site access was to be the track directly behind our house which would lead directly to the substation site. This route would have been literally 6' from our house and we were understandably I'm sure you will agree extremely concerned. We approached Michael Baker and raised the matter. We had actually mentioned the access to the stakeholder who has a right of access down the track and had suggested that route be used but he simply commented that he 'didn't want all that heavy traffic going down my drive' yet he had no qualms about us potentially having to have all the site machinery and traffic passing our window all day every day during the construction period and maintenance staff working at the substation for 40 yrs. Michael Baker emailed me after I made several enquiries asking for clarification on the matter and his email stated that they would agree to move the site entrance a little further from our property.

We are concerned that should the application be passed that Compulsory Acquisition be brought into play and the site entrance and access route to the substation may end up directly behind our property. We would very much appreciate clarification that this in fact would never be the case as the impact on our foundations, our [REDACTED] dogs (I am a Kennel Club Assured Breeder as well as a 5 Star rated Licensed Breeder

through Defra) would be extremely detrimental.

We would also like to raise the point that there does not appear to be any clarification or maps showing any cable routes to or from the substation or the route the cables will take from the substation which we assume will come straight down behind our property in readiness to cross the road. Clarification would be appreciated as to whether there would be pylons outside our property should the highways not agree to the under road route. Any access onto this stretch of road by the proposed volume and type of machinery / vehicles would we hope be given very careful consideration by all the relevant parties.

Finally we hope the EXA appreciated our heartfelt concerns mentioned above and are able to give the matters the utmost serious consideration. We might add that to date not one member from RWE has made a visit to our property or site to establish the noise levels we will be subjected to nor has any consideration been given to the visual impairment upon us and more importantly the effect the close proximity of the BESS, substation and panels will have on all the wildlife and mammals in this area and on our site.

Yours faithfully

Suzanne & Paul Springett

Sent from my iPhone