

**GREEN FIELDS
NOT
BATTERY FIELDS**

**BAN THE 'BESS'
SAVE
SOUTH HETTON & HAWTHORN**



DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

A 200MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) COMPRISING OF 140-160 METAL CONTAINERS STORING 1000'S OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES IS ON THE HORIZON!

IF THE APPLICATION IS PASSED, **REWE 8 LTD, A PROFIT MAKING, PRIVATE COMPANY** PLANS TO SITE THEM ON GREEN, AGRICULTURAL LAND AT **CARR'S FARM** - VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD AS YOU DRIVE IN & OUT OF SOUTH HETTON. - **THESE THINGS ARE DANGEROUS!!**
THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY IS WITH UNKNOWN RISKS, BUT BELOW ARE CERTAIN RISKS:

ASSOCIATED HEALTH RISKS:

- TOXIC GAS EMISSIONS
- CHEMICAL EXPOSURE
- FIRE & EXPLOSION HAZARDS
- NOISE & LIGHT POLLUTION
- RESPIRATORY ISSUES

IT WILL DESTROY:

- OUR COUNTRYSIDE
- NATURAL HABITATS
- WILDLIFE EXISTENCE
- BIODIVERSITY
- TRANQUILITY

IT WILL DEFINITELY:

- DEVALUE YOUR HOUSE
- **NOT** GIVE YOU CHEAPER ELECTRICITY
- CREATE CONSTANT NOISE
- AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP



JOIN AND
SHARE OUR
FACEBOOK
GROUP



ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD CAN SUBMIT AN OBJECTION

**TRACK APPLICATION
DM/25/01345/FPA AND EMAIL
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
TO OBJECT ASAP
planning@durham.gov.uk**

If you need help, there is a template on the reverse of this flyer that you can use. All you need to do is print and sign your name and add your address. Then take a photo to email, or you can post to:

PO Box 274, Durham County Council,
Stanley, County Durham, DH8 1HG

To:
PO Box 274,
Planning Department,
Durham County Council,
Stanley,
County Durham
DH8 1HG

From:
Address:
Postcode: Date:

DM/25/01345/FPA

The construction and installation of a Battery Energy Storage System, associated infrastructure, landscaping, fencing, access tracks, biodiversity net gain and underground cable corridor.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application for the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on agricultural land on the outskirts of South Hetton and Hawthorn. This proposal raises several serious concerns relating to public safety, environmental impact, and community wellbeing.

1. Loss of Agricultural Land

The development would result in the permanent loss of productive agricultural land. At a time when food security is of increasing concern, sacrificing valuable farmland for industrial infrastructure is not justifiable, especially given the availability of alternative brownfield sites.

2. Environmental and Wildlife Impact

The proposed site lies in an area that supports a wide range of local wildlife, including protected and priority species. Construction and operation of the BESS will disrupt natural habitats, with risks from light pollution, noise, and chemical leaks. No sufficient Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) appears to have been conducted to understand the long-term effects on the local ecosystem.

3. Risk to Public Safety and Health

Lithium-ion battery storage systems have been linked to thermal runaway events and fires, which can release toxic gases. The proximity of the proposed site to residential areas poses an unacceptable risk to community safety. There is currently insufficient independent, long-term data on the health effects of such facilities, particularly in rural or residential settings.

4. Noise Pollution

Battery storage sites often include inverters, cooling systems, and transformers that generate low-frequency noise. This can be a persistent nuisance, particularly at night, and affect the wellbeing of nearby residents. The applicant has not provided robust noise assessments or mitigation plans for continuous operation.

5. Increased Traffic and Infrastructure Strain

Construction and maintenance of the site will involve increased heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic on rural roads that are not designed to accommodate such volumes. This presents safety hazards to pedestrians, cyclists, and local drivers, particularly in a village setting with limited infrastructure.

6. Inadequate Community Consultation

There has been limited engagement with the local community and parish councils regarding this development. Given the significant risks and lasting impacts, such a development should only proceed with the informed consent and support of local residents—which it clearly lacks.

7. Lack of Long-Term Evidence and Regulation

This technology is still evolving, and current regulations have not caught up with the pace of deployment. There is a lack of clarity around decommissioning, fire management, emergency response protocols, and long-term environmental monitoring. Proceeding without comprehensive, peer-reviewed studies is reckless.

Conclusion

This BESS proposal is not in the interest of local residents, the environment, or public health. It fails to demonstrate that it meets necessary planning criteria, safety standards, and sustainability benchmarks. I urge the planning committee to reject this application and consider more appropriate locations—preferably non-agricultural, non-residential, and brownfield sites—for such infrastructure.

Print name: Signature: