

Environmental Health Consultee Comments for Planning

Application Number: UTT/22/1203/FUL - Construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure. Cross Boundary Application in conjunction with East Herts District Council (ref. 3/22/0806/FUL) - access only in Uttlesford District

Pelham Road
Berden

Consultee

Name: A Luck
Title: Senior EHO



Date: 30th May 2022

Response Summary

This service has reviewed this application and the supporting documentation and in particular the Acoustics Report ref A1690 R01B dated 6th April 2022 prepared by ion acoustics.

We are currently not in a position to support this application as there is insufficient information available to fully consider the potential environmental implications on the future occupiers of the site with regard to noise. I therefore object to the proposal and recommend refusal at this stage pending further clarification and assessment being provided.

Comments

This service has some concerns regarding the methodology and conclusions of the noise report. These will need to be addressed in order for the potential environmental impacts of the proposal to be adequately assessed.

- The proposed site lies in a rural location and previous surveys for development in the surrounding area have measured the background noise levels to be very low in the region of 19dB. The supporting report for this application quotes measured background at significantly higher levels of 34dB. This needs to be explained but could be due to the existing BESS site which is in the surrounding area. If so, consideration needs to be given whether it is more appropriate to consider this application on background levels which exclude the contribution from the existing BESS site. This would ensure that background noise levels in the area were not subject to 'creeping'

increase in line with the NPPF guidance which seeks to maintain areas of tranquillity.

- The report needs to fully consider a worst-case scenario that takes in account not only weather conditions but also the demand caused by the fluctuating demands of the National Grid.
- There is no mention of whether the proposed acoustic barn will require air conditioning units. This requires clarification and if relevant assessment
- The assessment has been based on generic transformer noise data and specific assessment needs to be made based on the exact proposed plant and equipment. There needs to be a full spectrum noise assessment of predicted noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive residential premises, both internal and external, compared to the existing levels. This should include a comparison which excludes the existing BESS facility.
- The revised report should detail any necessary noise mitigation measures that are needed to achieve the required noise levels.

Should this application be subsequently approved this service recommends that a post completion noise survey should be conditioned to undertaken to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority. The post completion testing shall assess performance of the noise mitigation measures against the noise levels as set. If the post completion survey reveals that the required noise levels are exceeded, additional noise mitigation measures shall be installed and tested to the approval of the local planning authority prior to the operation of the approved equipment.

Should any plant fail to comply at any time, it shall be switched off and not used again until it is able to comply. The use of the equipment must not commence or re-commence until a fully detailed noise survey and report has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and approved mitigation measures such as acoustic screening or silencers have been implemented.

The plant shall be serviced regularly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and as necessary to ensure that the requirements of the condition are maintained at all times. Should the plant and equipment fail to comply with this condition at any time, it shall be switched off and not used again until it is able to comply.