

RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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cc to
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23/02472/PP: Construction and Operation of a battery energy storage system with ancillary infrastructure

Rhu and Shandon Community Council object to this planning application on the following grounds:

- There was inadequate consultation with the local community. At the first meeting the presenters had clearly no idea what the site was like; consequently most answers to questions were unsatisfactory. At this meeting, the presenter said that "the site has good access to the main road". An image of a similar installation in England was presented. The two large water tanks which are on the plans were not mentioned, so the claim made that the English installation was similar was not true. We realise these are not material considerations, but they do not inspire confidence in YLEM.
- This development is located in a Green Belt contrary to NP4 section 8. Its location cannot be justified on the grounds of "renewable energy development" since none of the 5 requirements for an essential development is met.
- Proximity to Duchess Wood. This Local Nature Reserve will be adversely affected by this development. The constant hum from the installation will be heard in the wood and the lights are bound to disturb the animals, bats and birds; there has been no EIA done to assess this. Any run off from the site will be channelled into the burn which runs through the wood. In case of fire this will be seriously contaminated water.
- Access. The access to this site is inadequate on various grounds. Heavy commercial traffic through the narrow streets of Paterson and Macleod drive and via the low railway bridge and Ardencaple Farm track will be dangerous for residents. There are few passing places, so even in the post construction stage the service vehicles will present a danger. The regulations call for such sites to have two Access points; this has only one. In addition, this farm road is part of Core path C276b and connects directly to two other core paths C273b and C275a all well used daily by residents, on foot, horseback and mountain bike and by visitors to the area. The road also provides access to three livery stables.
- Design: The creation of the three flat areas on a hill site will cause runoff. There is plenty of evidence of the problems this causes on hills in this area of the west of Scotland. The final stage of the access route down the hill will act as a channel for the runoff.
- Location: Distance from the substation is 5km, which is outside the recommended distance of 3km. The noise /light from the installation is bound to cause a disturbance to residents in the gardens of the surrounding houses. The BESS documentation says that hydrant supplies for boundary cooling should be located close to the BESS containers. The nearest hydrant is over one kilometre away across land which is not part of the development.
- Service infrastructure. This is inadequate.
To connect to the substation requires the burying of the cable from the site to the substation. This was explained at the meetings but seems to be minimised in the Application. Surely all the residences en route should have been informed that the cable will be buried in the road in front of their houses?
- YLEM claimed at the meetings that every landowner had been contacted. This we know to be false.

Jean Cook.

Jean Cook
Secretary, Rhu & Shandon Community Council