

From: [Tom Nutt](#)
To: [NEW West 2](#)
Cc: [Jake Farmer](#); [External Email for DM Appeals](#)
Subject: Consultation on NPPF reforms / WMS - Appeal ref: 3344658 - Land on the southwest side of Levedale Road, Penkridge
Date: 10 September 2024 11:22:21
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good morning,

Thank you for your email. Please find the LPA response below to question on the relevance of the WMS and NPPF consultation to the above appeal:

The Secretary of State's written ministerial statement entitled "Building the homes we need" relates to delivering housing but also includes a section titled 'Building Infrastructure to Grow the Economy'. This highlights that policy will be changed to 'make it easier to build growth-supporting infrastructure such as laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, electricity grid connections and the networks that support freight and logistics' and to 'boost the weight that planning policy gives to the benefits associated with renewables.' However, Battery Energy Storage Systems are not one of the types of infrastructure listed and are not strictly classed as a 'renewable' as no energy is created. As a result, the LPA consider that the WMS can only be given limited weight and that the existing National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) is the relevant government policy for BESS schemes and to which applications should be considered alongside the development plan and other material considerations.

In terms of the NPPF consultation, the changes are only in draft form and may change depending on the outcome of the consultation, Therefore the LPA give only limited weight to them. Even if the proposed changes do take place the LPA is of the view that in this case the weight attributed to the benefits and harm would not differ as a result.

Kind Regards

Tom Nutt

Assistant Team Manager (Localities 4 & 5)
Development Management
South Staffordshire Council

Tel: 01902 696000
www.sstaffs.gov.uk