



Harthill with Woodall Parish Council



Village Hall
Winney Hill
Harthill
Sheffield
S26 7YL

19th September 2025

Planning Department

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

For the attention of Andrew West, Case Officer

Dear Sir,

Reference: RB2025/0240

Amendment to application - Land at Hard Lane, Harthill, Sheffield. Proposed Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) <http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2025/0240>

Additional Comments on Planning Application RB2025/0240

In addition to previous comments submitted by Harthill with Woodall Parish Council (dated 17th April 2025)

We write further to our original objection letter dated 17th April 2025, which remains fully valid and relevant to this planning application.

We note the recent comments made by the Footpath Officer at RMBC, who highlights that:

"The site has very high amenity use and access value for the local community and as a consequence these rights of way are very well used and offer easy access for many."

This further emphasises the importance of preserving the visual amenity of the area surrounding the footpaths. The local community's enjoyment and use of these public rights of way relies heavily on the openness and rural character of the site, which the proposed development would significantly harm.

We also note the revised fencing proposal included in the latest plans. The application now states the use of a Citadel Codi 'M' perimeter fence (or similar approved) with the following specifications:

- Colour: Green
- Mesh panel size: 200mm x 50mm
- Wire thickness: two 6mm horizontal wires and one 5mm vertical wire
- Height: 2.4 metres

While the intention may be to reduce the visual impact, a 2.4-metre-high fence remains a dominant and enclosing feature. It contributes significantly to the industrialisation of the site and further diminishes the openness of this part of the green belt. Combined with the elevated platform for the battery storage system and associated infrastructure, this fencing will be clearly visible from public footpaths and neighbouring viewpoints, and no level of planting or landscaping can sufficiently mitigate its presence.

Additionally, we draw attention to the consultation response from South Yorkshire Police's Designing Out Crime Officer, which raises several serious security concerns due to the growing number of thefts and intrusions at solar and battery storage sites nationally. Their recommendations include:

- Secured gates at the access point with monitoring
- A welded mesh perimeter fence to SBD profile 358 (not palisade, as currently proposed)
- A comprehensive, monitored CCTV system with potential for perimeter intrusion detection
- An onsite security presence

This final recommendation represents a significant change in the operation and layout of the site. The original application makes no provision for an ongoing onsite presence, and the inclusion of this now raises serious planning considerations.

An onsite security presence will likely require parking, welfare facilities, lighting, and potentially other structures, none of which are identified or assessed in the submitted documents. These additional operational needs would further alter the character of the site and worsen its impact on the green belt.

Moreover, the fact that such security measures are now considered necessary highlights the inherent risks associated with the facility. The site's proximity to residential properties, community woodland, and well-used public rights of way makes the potential for intrusion or accident particularly concerning.

In light of the above, we continue to object to this application. The proposed fencing, additional infrastructure, and changes implied by the police recommendations all reinforce the conclusion that this is an industrial-scale development inappropriate for this green belt location. These amendments do not reduce the harm identified in our original response but instead introduce new concerns.

We trust that these points will be fully considered in the determination of this application.

Council ask that this application is **REFUSED**.

Please note that our submission is in respect of the proposed development. While we have taken every effort to present accurate information for your consideration, as we are not a decision maker,

we cannot accept any responsibility for unintentional errors or omissions, and you should satisfy yourselves on any facts before reaching your decision.

Yours Sincerely,

Redacted

Clerk – Harthill with Woodall Parish Council

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