

Further to the latest round of hearings, the 1.6 overplanting needs to be addressed, removed, or reduced. It just isn't right or fair for RWE to do this. Technology will certainly advance by the time RWE will have a connection to the grid, be it in 2029 or 2031, which is still either 4 or 6 years away. Has it even been confirmed yet which one of these it is and that they do have a guaranteed connection?

Overplanting and new technology advancements will mean that the output / stored energy will be much higher than what RWE has applied for on this application, hence the requirement for so many battery storage containers, it is all about profit for RWE, they do not care about the community or indeed the landowners on the scheme. The number of battery storage units should also be reduced in quantity so RWE can not produce more than they have applied for. If the application is to be allowed the overplanting should be removed completely.

This project has no benefits for our area whatsoever apart from a tiny community fund, this will not make up for ruining people's lives and livelihoods or make up for all of the time and effort the community has put in to try and fight this.

It is very frustrating that until Darlington Council found out that they were not getting the business rates from this project in August 2024, they had very little opposition to it. They should have been looking out for the majority of people in the area more than for just a few landowners, this needs looking into as it now means that if this is approved, our area will be desecrated for the benefit of Stockton Council and a German company, it is utterly ridiculous.

Stockton Council has had millions in Government funding to sort its town centre out without getting another approximately £300k a year in business rates from this. The huge business rates they would receive if approved would explain why they have never had any questions at any hearings and didn't even bother turning up for the latest ones. Stockton Council's lack of interest, followed by handshaking and laughing with the RWE team at the end of the hearings can't have gone unnoticed by the EXA.

It is very frustrating that had the landowners applied for smaller individual projects through the LPA they would have had much less opposition than this, as the additional battery storage units and substation would not have been required. If this scheme gets approved around 22% of the land around us will be covered in glass panels, which is not fair for anyone. On top of the large housing estate and relief road, it is just too much for one little area.

I am sure with the recent changes to inheritance tax for farmers many of the landowners will now fully regret the decision to be in this scheme. For now, they have to fight the Government against the higher taxes, whilst secretly hoping the same Government passes this project, whilst surviving long enough until at least the next budget. You couldn't make it up!

It is also odd that my planning application has not once been included as a receptor whilst ones much further away have, with the only opposition to mine being by two of the landowners on this scheme.