

Andy Watt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 October 2026 16:56
To: Andy Watt
Subject: BESS Land East of Wineham Lane regarding Forever Chemicals

Dear Mr Watt,

We are writing in reference to Planning Application DM/21/2276 and Conditions in DM/26/2007, DM/21/2156 and DM/26/2159 for the proposed BESS site east of Wineham Lane.

We wish to support our neighbours residing in Wineham Lane who recently commented and had their letter added to the MSDC Planning Portal, on 'Forever Chemicals' in relation to BESS sites.

We too are extremely concerned about forever chemicals in relation to BESS sites and have read about their huge negative impact on the environment let alone their massive impact on human health.

Battery Energy Storage Systems rely heavily on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS's) known as 'forever chemicals.' We have read that large scale lithium-ion BESS installations use these highly resistant chemicals to provide thermal stability and high voltage durability required for energy storage. We have also read that emerging scientific data, environmental studies and landmark lawsuits, show that BESS technologies pose distinct risks regarding PFAS release during their lifecycle and manufacturing process. The chemicals are located within the individual lithium-ion battery cells that make up a BESS unit. A severe threat to the environment is when a BESS unit experiences thermal runaway and consequent fire runoff. We have read that the intense heat vaporises the liquid electrolytes and degrades the fluoropolymers releasing fluorinated gases and toxic vapour clouds.

Surely there needs to be a thorough check to mitigate the risk of this happening in Wineham, is there a secondary containment infrastructure for the proposed BESS site in Wineham?

This year, the Suffolk County Water Authority sued the BESS developers and manufacturers (LG Chem/LG Energy Solutions) after testing confirmed that firefighting runoff water had successfully carried burned electrolyte chemicals into the local drinking water aquifers (which is the biggest overall source of PFAS exposure in the UK).

The residents of Wineham need to be assured that the developers of the proposed BESS site on the land east of Wineham Lane, that this scenario does not happen, we need assurances. We are concerned about the risk of waste disposal and storage as this also poses a chronic threat to the environment, we believe this is planned to be removed and taken away.

I'm sure we don't need to tell the developers of the BESS site that PFAS's are linked to cancers, birth defects, liver disease, thyroid disease, plummeting sperm counts and a range of other associated serious health problems.

What about the impact of this runoff and existence of PFAS's on BESS sites on wildlife? PFAS's build up in the tissues of exposed organisms and therefore travel up the food web leading to high concentrations in apex predators.

We are assuming that PFAS's will be used in the manufacturing and operational processes of the proposed site in Wineham.

We ask MSDC to seriously consider whether the land east of Wineham Lane, is suitable for a BESS site. Given its situation in a country lane, opposite a Country Park, local pub, and fields bursting with wildlife, is this rural area really best placed for BESS units?

Please can you add our concerns to the planning portal in respect of these applications, thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Caeburn,
Wineham Lane,
Wineham. Henfield.
BN5 9AY