

From: David Thomson [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2023 10:07
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden - Application number: S62A/2022/0011

I am writing to Object to the above application.

My name is David Thomson and I live at [REDACTED]

I believe that the proposed location for the development is inappropriate.

It is based solely on its proximity to the facilities at Stocking Pelham to allow the maximisation of profit.

Uttlesford's Policy ENV5 says that development of the best and most versatile agricultural land (which this is) will only be permitted where opportunities have been assessed for accommodating development on previously developed sites or within existing development limits. Where development of agricultural land is required, developers should seek to use areas of poorer quality except where other sustainability considerations suggest otherwise. This is Grade 2 agricultural land and Low Carbon has not demonstrated that this use of high-quality agricultural land is necessary.

In addition to my concerns regarding this use of high-quality agricultural land I am alarmed by the sheer size of the proposed development. Uttlesford's Policy ENV15 says that small-scale renewable energy development schemes to meet local needs will be supported providing it can be demonstrated that they do not adversely affect the character of sensitive landscapes, nature conservation interests or residential and recreational amenity. The land identified by Low Carbon as the site for Pelham Spring solar Farm extends to 196 acres and therefore not small-scale. If approved, this would be the biggest solar farm in Uttlesford by some margin and one of the biggest in Essex. The scheme will not contribute to the energy needs of local residents.

My desire is for this landscape to remain intact and that this productive farmland should continue to be used for farming.