

From: David Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2023 09:26
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
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 proposal to construct a solar farm on farm land at Maggots End, Manuden.

My name is David Williams
I live at [REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

The land identified for this solar scheme covers prime agricultural land. This is grade 2 agricultural land, the most productive land in East Anglia. This means that the value of the electrical energy produced will be of less value than the agricultural crops currently produced.

The proposal includes a boundary security fence and cameras around the site. This will give the appearance of a semi-industrialised area rather than the beautiful countryside which it currently is. A 6ft mixed native hedge would be far more in keeping and be far more effective in shielding the unsightly development.

The company, in all their communications, have not demonstrated that the use of high quality agricultural land is necessary. I do not believe alternative sites have been sought. Solar panels are best placed on poor quality land, on domestic and commercial buildings and should never replace the production of valuable food crops. Research from CPRE shows that 14,500 hectares of this country's best agricultural land has been lost to development in the past 12 years.

This proposed development is not compatible with the Uttlesford District Council's policy S7n which says that the countryside will be protected for its own sake.

I urge the Planning Inspector to visit the site to understand the full impact of this proposed development on the area, the loss of high quality land to food production and the impact it will have on two small country hamlets.

David Williams