

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 February 2023 18:04

To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on land East of Pelham substation, Maggotsend Manuden
Application number: S62A/2022/0011

Objection to Solar Farm on Land East of Pelham substation, Maggotsend Manuden – S62A/2022/0011

I am writing to object to the revised application to construct a solar farm on land near Pelham Substation Maggotsend Road CM23 1BJ

My name is Elizabeth Attfield

I live at

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objections are as follows:

Solar farms should not be used on high quality agricultural land. There is, increasingly, a move towards the UK becoming more sustainable and relying less on imported food from abroad. Our land should be used for food production and the rewilding of land to improve our natural environment, the UK being one of the most depleted countries in flora and fauna in Europe. Already under attack and struggling from human activity this solar farm will be another factor detrimental to the rich variety of flora and fauna in the area. The proposed solar farm is next to an ancient woodland and will cut off the wildlife corridor between Battles Wood and Pump Springs, two areas that are so important for maintaining our rich ecology. Solar farms are not appropriate in the countryside. They should be encouraged on previously developed and non agricultural land. Panels can be placed on roof tops, industrial sites, brownfield sites, disused quarries, next to motorways or airfields where there is better access for lorries to reach the site. The road infrastructure around Pelham Springs is totally inappropriate for heavy lorries to be bringing solar panels into the site. All new builds should be built with plans towards a net zero impact and then there would be less need to create solar farms. It is not necessary to blight the countryside that, as well as feeding our nation, is important for the enjoyment, and the mental health and welfare of local residents and visitors. There are many houses that are close to

the proposed site that will be affected, some of them listed and of historical significance. The proposed battery storage units to support the site also raise health and safety issues which have not been fully researched. The solar farm will be unsightly and surrounded by high fencing and CCTV cameras. It is of no benefit to the local community and those houses close to the site will lose value on their properties. Some of these buildings are listed and of historical significance. I have lived in my house for over 30 years and have been privileged to live in the countryside with its many footpaths at my disposal to explore the area and live amongst the community of Manuden and its close associations with Berden and Stocking Pelham. Five footpaths between our villages would be impacted by this project. These villages are also under threat from applications for a further two proposals for solar farms. For outside developers to come in and propose a solar farm within our peaceful beautiful area is scandalous and I would hope that consideration will be made into the impact this will have on our community and relationships with our neighbouring villages. Low Carbon, as a financial institution, and the farmers involved are just in this for profit.

One wind turbine generates almost the same amount of energy as this project. For this and the reasons stated above it is not sensible or necessary to cover our beautiful landscapes with swathes of solar panels. Land that could be used in a much better and productive way.

Regards

Elizabeth Attfield