

From: David Nicholls [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2023 12:19
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

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I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with (among other things) battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden

My Name is David Nicholls, [REDACTED].

For 20 years I was the Agronomist for Robert Carmichael who was the tenant of Battles Farm and have a detailed knowledge of the soils and capabilities of the land in question. I am passionately against good agricultural land being taken out of production for Solar Farms as land is needed for food production and with climate change and ever-increasing populations that is paramount. The proposals for further Solar Farms in the area, albeit in Hertfordshire gives further mega concerns. The expansion of Harlow and Bishop's Stortford and acres of Solar Panels would mean much of what is very attractive countryside lost to those who live here. I cannot believe that any local councillor would want to countenance any such decision, 196 acres of glass !

Of concern is the amount of water that could, in wet seasons, flow off the glass panels. 1 inch of rain on an acre is 64000 gallons and I know that the ditch on the Battles Farm is small and unable to manage the flow. It is quite narrow and as it flows under the road it already floods after heavy rain. This is certain to be exasperated with torrential rain and when field capacity is reached water will runoff. Figures presented have shown that this is not a level site and the danger of run off must be considered.

The industrialisation of the countryside, particularly in an area where such as Uttlesford and East Hertfordshire, is concerning and for the health of the population who use country walks for relaxation is essential, recent events has demonstrated this.

I cannot see any Natural Environmental improvement from a solar farm, on the contrary it is more in the other direction. Regarding soil health land put down to grass for 40 years will gain little compared to well managed arable land, of very little benefit as stated by Low Carbon.

The possibility of having four Solar farms in the Pelhams, Albury, Manuden, Berden is quite frightening to those of us who live in the area and the worry to the community is bringing anxieties unknown. Losing the countryside to industrialisation is incredibly frightening and effecting the health of those in the area.

I would like to support all the other objections that have been put forward as the many reasons why this project cannot be approved.

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