

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2023 16:21
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on land East of Pelham substation - Maggots End, Manuden

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06 February 2022

Dear Sir,

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

We are writing to object against the installation and operation of proposed large scale solar farms and associated infrastructure on agricultural land resulting in:

i) Loss of 76.38 Ha of productive farmland

This proposal is contrary to both national and local policy towards the loss of productive agricultural land and with clear harm to the countryside and bridleways and footpaths that are enjoyed by all of us that live in this area.

Also, the location of the proposed solar farm, in an area where there are a number of listed and historic houses and buildings in the immediate surrounding area.

The enormous scale of the development amounts to an inappropriate development and loss of productivity from using such a large acreage of prime agricultural land outweighs the climate change benefit.

The site is entirely surrounded by narrow or single track roads with passing places that are classified as B roads due to low traffic density. The proposed solar sites include public rights of way, bridleways and footpaths. Trees and hedges will be cut down to make way for the solar farm with a consequent loss of wildlife sites. We are aware of several badger colonies on our walks around the village where the location of solar farm is planned and therefore there will be associated culling of wildlife /badger colonies.

We believe that the proposed solar farm is inappropriately sited commercial developments masquerading as a "Community benefit". There is no community benefit as far as I am aware.

In addition, there are other technical and other considerations:

a) The solar farm is associated with a corresponding application to connect new battery installations. These battery facilities are lithium containing and require specialist fire safety precautions and a requirement for emergency services ease of access. This is not feasible in this rural area accessed by minor roads/ single track roads.

b) Road safety – the country roads in this area are narrow with no pavements and HGV access will be a safety risk to pedestrians and horse riders.

c) There is a risk that rainwater runoff from the panels may lead to an additional flood risk for local areas including the lanes surrounding the proposed development. Already at times of heavy rainfall the road is subject to flooding. Additional evidence from the appropriate local Council flood risk or environmental bodies should be requested and generated.

d) We are extremely concerned on the impact to wildlife. Further surveys are needed to assess the potential impact on all wildlife including badgers, breeding birds in the area such as buzzards and red kites and bats and other wildlife.

e) The tranquillity of the countryside will be disturbed with the humming sound associated with solar panels

We suggest that the strategic intent should be to make use of brownfield sites, or already paved areas or polluted land and roofs of houses and farm buildings and not to turn over the use of prime agricultural land.

Yours sincerely,

Ian and Carol McConnell