

**From:** jill nelmes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 February 2023 18:24  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>;  
[REDACTED]

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

Dear Uttlesford Council,

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 CM23 1BJ

My name is Jill Nelmes, and I live at [REDACTED]

There are many reasons for my objection but the main ones are as follows:

### **The solar farm is inappropriate development in the countryside**

- The development proposed by Low Carbon can only be described as industrial.
- In addition to large numbers of solar PV panels (the exact quantity is not specified) the development will include ; 26 containerised inverters; 40 containerised battery storage units a DNO substation and Customer substation.
- National policy includes an environmental objective - to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- I do not understand how a massive solar farm which is an industrial development can possibly enhance the natural environment.
- The site is very close to the numerous listed buildings and scheduled monuments I do not accept that it can possibly enhance the historic environment.
- The development is not compatible with Uttlesford's policy S7 which says that the countryside will be protected for its own sake
- Not only will the countryside affected be devastated but good quality farming land will be lost at a time when we are trying to lower the impact of transporting and importing foreign goods i.e the carbon footprint. This is even more relevant after the Ukraine war which produces so much of the world's grain, bread prices have shot up and a warning as to what could happen if the Essex/Herts/ farming land is destroyed. Land in this area still produces wheat that is of high enough quality to be made into bread flour!!

### **The land will not remain in agricultural use**

- Paragraph 170 of the Planning Guidance on renewable and low carbon energy says where a proposal involves greenfield land it must allow for continued agricultural use.
- Low Carbon have not provided any assurance on this point. They simply claim that "notwithstanding, the development would not result in the permanent loss of agricultural land" and that "Agricultural activities could coincide with the solar

farm, such as sheep grazing, and following cessation of use, the land will be returned to full agricultural use”.

- This is not sufficient and does not satisfy the requirement.
- I have visited a solar farm/several solar farms and I have never seen a sheep on the site
- This is an arable farming area – where are sheep going to come from and who is going to farm them?
- I understand from a local small holder who has sheep that he would never consider allowing them to graze on a solar farm – how would he know if one of his flock was injured? He would not be able to see it underneath the solar panels
- In their consultation Low Carbon stated that they would improve biodiversity on the site by keeping bees. There is absolutely no mention of bees in the Planning Statement.
- Berden has several bee keepers already (one at Brick House End). We do not need more bees at this location!