

From: Michelle Jimenez Alder [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 February 2023 13:36
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: OBJECTION TO SOLAR FARM ON LAND EAST OF PELHAM SUBSTATION, MAGGOTS END MANUDEN

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February 13th 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework team
Room 3J Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/Madam,

OBJECTION to Solar Farm on land East of Pelham Substation ,Maggots End Manuden- Application number S62A/2022/0011

we are writing to strongly object to the above proposal on the following grounds and to draw your attention to the unique character of The Crump, which as owners we feel strongly about as those who know and value The Crump and its place in our village's landscape and history.

The Crump is the name given both to a Grade II listed house, 600m south of Berden, and to a 12th C ringwork on the land belonging to this house.

In other words, two distinct heritage assets are represented by 'The Crump':

- a Scheduled Ancient Monument – on our land immediately south of our house
- a Grade II listed house (plus barn, now a room) (list entry number: 1112471) once known as Stocks Farm – our home

The Crump: Ancient Scheduled Monument

We understand that Historic England have objected to the solar farm on the grounds it would cause 'at least moderate harm to the scheduled monument, the ringwork (List Entry Number 1009308).'

We agree with Historic England and disagree with Essex County Council's Historic Buildings & Conservation Advice that the proposals are considered to result in a less than substantial harm to the setting of ... the Scheduled Monument, The Crump.'

Roman coins have been found in the field adjacent to The Crump, so it is likely the land has been occupied for several thousand years: [REDACTED]

As Historic England point out in their report on the solar farm proposals, the ringwork in one of the site fields is of increased importance because of its proximity to the ringwork at The Crump. To us this is like Stonehenge and Silbury Hill, you cannot take one monument on its own and ignore its relationship with the other.

The Crump: House

As the attached photos show, The Crump is a beautiful historic building in a picturesque 'chocolate box' setting. It has been used in the past for filming by film and TV companies, and is one of the buildings listed in the report on the proposed solar farm by Place Services, Essex County Council.

The Crump is also discussed in the developers' heritage statement. We wish to state that we disagree with the developers' consultants that from the Site 'the property is seen in the context of the electricity pylons which cross the land adjacent to the Site. This allows only a very limited appreciation of the listed building's architectural interest.'

In fact, the pylons are a considerable distance from The Crump and do not detract from it in any way, as the attached photos show.

The consultants' description is also misleading in our opinion, as it implies that the main issue is how The Crump will look from Public Rights of Way which cross the solar farm. In reality, if the solar farm is built the majority of walkers are likely to avoid those paths, but when they walk up Brick House End past The Crump they will now be less than 600 metres from an industrial development on a scale just short of a National Infrastructure Project.

Furthermore, the Crump is not fully visible from all parts of the proposed site mainly because the land is upwardly sloping, a factor which will create glint and glare and further spoil views both in the evening and during the day nearby and towards The Crump.

As its owners we are clearly very concerned about the impact of the solar farm on us and our family, but it is important to point out that The Crump is a very well-known local landmark. Many local residents and visitors to Berden walk, run or cycle up the short gentle incline from the village to the fork on Brick House End next to our driveway. Here there is a post letterbox, and those wanting only a short stroll often turn round and return to the village having paused to appreciate both the views of The Crump, the mysterious glimpses of the ringwork behind it, and the views from the field entrance opposite across open countryside back towards Berden. This quiet lane and its views are a precious public amenity, not least because of The Crump. In lockdown there was a constant day-long stream of walkers past our drive!

Moreover, Blakings Lane is a Public Right of Way on the southernmost boundary of our land. It is marked on old maps and is believed to date from the 13th Century. In spring the footpath is carpeted in wild flowers, while it remains relatively dry in winter, and cool and shaded in summer – many walkers, dog walkers and joggers who wish to take a longer route back to the village choose this path. Again, the rural setting of this Public Right of Way will be adversely impacted by the close proximity of a large solar farm on this site.

We hope we have drawn a picture of The Crump and its setting which highlights its aesthetic value, its long history and its importance to local residents, not just ourselves. If the solar farm is built, the rural character and setting of The Crump (house and scheduled monument) will in our opinion be destroyed.

Yours faithfully,

Jason and Kerinda Trigg

Photos showing:

- The Crump

Photos of the moat and the ring work















