

From: A J Mell [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 February 2023 17:24
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden -
Application number: S62A/2022/0011

To Planning Inspectorate

I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ on the grounds that this development will result in the UNNECESSARY LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND. Low Carbon have confirmed that the majority of the development site is high quality (Grade 2 and 3a) farming land. National planning guidance indicates a strong presumption against such development on high quality land of this sort. Similarly, the Building Research Establishment 'Planning Guidance for the Development of Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV Systems' specifically states that "the best quality land should be used for agricultural purposes". The Government recognises the importance of reserving the best land for growing food. It is not acceptable for local planning authorities to allow this land to be taken out of food production for the purpose of providing energy. It is wasteful and unnecessary when many other non-productive opportunities (such as putting solar on roofs) exist for solar energy operations. Low Carbon should site their developments in other areas of the country where land is less productive or, better still, concentrate on brownfield sites.

Yours Faithfully

William A James OBE