

From: B Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 February 2023 20:35
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Objection to Solar Farm on land east of Pelham substation, Maggots End, Manuden - Application no. S62A/2022/0011

Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on land east of Pelham substation, Maggots End, Manuden - Application no. S62A/2022/0011

To Planning teams,

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

This land is high grade arable land that should be used to produce food for the UK. The lose of this land will mean more food needed to be imported into the UK to satisfy demand. The argument for solar is to utilise natural resources to power our homes but this would be causing more transportation into the UK to satisfy our need for food. I understand that the government recognises

the importance reserving the best land for growing our food needs. 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.

Lower grade land positioned near roads, motorways and industrial areas would be far better suited positions for a solar farm that will also not be to the detriment of the landscape. There are miles and miles of motorway in the near vicinity that would be far less detrimental in all respects. There is also Stansted airport close by where solar panels within the airport boundaries would not affect the environment.

Also, how many farm workers are going to be put out of work and lose their homes by farmers selling off their 100's of acres of land and then no longer need the workers?

In addition the road infrastructure in rural areas is not designed for and cannot cope with the vast amount of heavy traffic that the installation and maintenance of the solar farm will require.

Solar is not an efficient form of energy and although all alternatives have their place, the countryside is not it.

As the former minister energy and climate change, Greg Barker stated back in 2013

'Solar is a genuinely exciting energy of the future, it is coming of age and we want to see a lot, lot more. But NOT at any cost... NOT in any place... NOT if it rides roughshod over the VIEWS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES. As we take solar to the next level, we must be thoughtful, sensitive to public opinion, and mindful of the wider environmental and visual impacts'

Low Carbon are NOT being 'thoughtful, sensitive to public opinion, and mindful of the wider environmental and visual impact'

They have chosen this site because of the location of the Pelham Spring farm next to the current Stocking Pelham power station making it the most profitable option for them. Money is behind this application. These companies are going to target the most profitable sites for them – not the most environmentally beneficial site. This should be about environmental gains not monetary gain – to situate the solar panels next to major roads would not be as profitable.

I have no objection to environmentally friendly energy sources but I don't believe this is the way forward. I believe that off shore wind farms are a far more sympathetic option with the government claiming 'in 10 years' time all homes will be powered by off shore wind' which will make the solar farms a redundant eyesore in the countryside and have cost the economy vast amounts in food production.

Yours sincerely
Mr Barry Cox

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