

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** [External] Objection to Pelham Spring Solar Farm - application numbers UTT/21/3356/FUL and 3/21/2781/FUL (East Herts)  
**Date:** 29 November 2021 16:37:55

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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 Jane Crossley, and I live at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

#### **Removal of farmland from food production**

- The reduction of land suitable for food production is a mistake. We currently import more than 40 per cent of our food, and recent economic circumstances and attitudes of traditional trading partners have highlighted vulnerability of food supplies from these countries. With an ever increasing national and global population it is predicted that we will need to produce 56 per cent more food by 2050. Reduction of agricultural land threatens our ability to achieve this. I've not seen evidence that other locations have been investigated - Brown field sites, roofs of houses, warehouses etc. Brownfield sites would achieve negate the need to remove land from food production whilst achieving the goal of renewable energy sources.

#### **Unsuitability of local roads for large construction vehicles**

- The supporting text for Uttlesford Policy ENV15 states development will only be permitted in locations where the local road network is capable of handling any additional traffic generated by the proposal. Low Carbon estimate that there will be a total of 922 vehicle movements during construction. This includes a total of around 749 deliveries by 15 metre articulated vehicles and of 59 deliveries by 10-metre-long rigid HGVs. There will be a substation measuring up to five metres long and three metres wide to be delivered to site individually by a 15 metre articulated vehicle. The road between Manuden and Clavering is a narrow minor country road that currently limits the safe passage of tractors and cars passing. It unsuitable for articulated lorries or large HGVs. The proposed route for deliveries passes 2 local schools, Clavering primary school and Joyce Franklin Academy each with existing road safety and hazards that will be magnified by HGVs serving the proposed solar site. There is the additional hazard of the low railway bridge in Newport.

#### **The size of the development**

- This is not a small scale scheme. The land identified by Low Carbon as the site for Pelham Spring solar Farm extends to 196 acres which is not mentioned in the Planning Statement. Uttlesford's Policy ENV15 says that small scale renewable energy development schemes to meet local needs will be supported providing it can be demonstrated that they do not adversely affect i) The character of sensitive landscapes; ii) Nature conservation interests; or iii) Residential and recreational amenity. If approved, this would be the biggest solar farm in Uttlesford by some margin and one of the biggest in Essex.

### **Visual Impact on the countryside**

- The visual impact of such a huge solar farm would fundamentally change the character of the area. The nature of the topography means that this solar farm will be clearly visible from the adjacent road between Manuden and Furneux Pelham Solar farms that have been approved in and around Thaxted and have visited, are strategically positioned away from any road and take considerable effort to find. This will not be the case for this site. There is limited hedging along the road that will not screen the site due to its slope. New planting will take at least 10 years to have any minor impact on screening, but due to the slope of the site will never be able to hide the visual impact on the countryside
- The scheme will not contribute to the energy needs of local residents

### **The Government does not support large scale solar development**

- In October 2021 (in the run up to COP 26), the Government published its Net Zero Strategy (Build Back Greener). This Strategy does not support the construction of industrial scale solar farms. Its focus on renewable energy is almost entirely on off-shore wind energy with a commitment to generate 40GW of energy from offshore wind by 2030. This target was first set in 2020 in the Government's 10 point plan for a Green Industrial revolution which said that this quadrupling in offshore wind capacity would generate enough energy to power every home in the country.

I would be obliged for confirmation of receipt of this objection

Yours faithfully

Jane Crossley