

From: Jon Howells [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 February 2023 16:46
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm on land near Pelham Substation, Maggots End Road, Manuden, CM23 1BJ comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with (among other things) battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras.

My name is Mr Jon Howells, and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. We must be sustainable in food production and prevent the recurring food shortages that regularly occur and keep productive farm land for agricultural farming. Most of the site is classified as BMV (best and most versatile) and should be used to grow valuable crops. With 40% if all our food imported its no wonder that we are not resilient as a country, let's try and achieve greater self-reliance on food production and utilise every acre to grow crops. Its generally the poorest of our people who suffer most from these food crises, not the more wealthy land owners and business owners that stand to profit from solar factories. We have had flour shortages and now its salad and who knows what's next? The only thing we can be sure of that there will be another one coming soon
2. Covering agricultural land in silicon is not the right answer to generate electricity – panels should be on new homes and on brown field sites (like disused airfields at Stansted) – there are acres of agricultural land already being lost to housing in nearby area, all of which should be self-sufficient in solar production and save our fields. We need to be self-sufficient in both food and power. It happens in other countries like Germany, so with right government strategy we can make it work in UK. Off-shore wind turbine is the answer to green electricity as it generates far more electricity than solar without loss of land, as our country is famed for its wind and sea, not its sunshine
3. The multiple applications for solar farms that will ring our village are being deliberately broken up so as to slip under the radar in a deeply divisive and cynical manner, the applications should be considered holistically so as to assess the full impact on local residents who will be plagued with massive construction works, congestion, pollution and an eyesore in our beautiful countryside. These solar companies and local land owners have made no effort to listen to local objections and attitude has been deeply patronising, they are only interested in pursuit of easy profit, taking the easy route and failing to see the big picture. It may be harder and less profitable to organise solar panels on houses, but that's what government legislation should be demanding, as our countryside in Uttlesford is being lost at a alarming rate to housing development, let alone massive solar farms
4. Our country is supposed to be a democracy – please give us the right to vote rather than just having the right to complain. If these companies and land owners weren't so focused on profit and thought more about local people and our country we would have a better balance and find the right solutions. There is no reason to allow them to ruin our countryside and put food production at risk when there are far better solutions (like wind power) available.

Please don't fall for the story about green energy these companies propagate – its all about profit and bonuses, as most are private equity owned and we all know that its about shareholder return and making the wealthy more wealthy at expense of the less wealthy.

I hope you listen to my objections and please do not grant this application.

Yours sincerely

JS Howells