

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2023 14:02
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: OBJECTION to Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/2022/0011 Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden

S62A/2022/0011 Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden

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 Riikka Berthoud and I live in [REDACTED]

My main objection to this application is that it is not necessary or appropriate use of Grade 2 agricultural land and is contrarary to Uttlesford's Policy ENV5. Best and most versatile land should be used for food production. The applicant has not demonstrated the overriding necessity to install solar panels in this location. It would be very short sighted to allow this development when domestic food production should be encouraged as much as possible and alternative locations for solar panels are available.

The development would have a considrable negative impact on the countryside including ancient monuments, and Uttlesford's Policy S7 states that the countryside will be protected for its own sake. This development would irreversibly change and industrialise the local area. The countryside is an amenity for locals and visitors that contributes to their health and wellbeing. Decreasing the amount of greenspace available for recreation and leisure would be ignoring the needs of those living in the area.

Battery Energy Storage comprising of lithium ion batteries should not be built in proximity of housing on safety grounds. In the event of a fire and thermal runaway a major disaster would unfold. Such fires are extremely hazardous and difficult to extinguish requiring the total submergence of the installation in water. This would be impossible to achieve leaving the surrounding area swathed in toxic gasses.

I am not opposed to solar panels per se, however huge solar developments do not belong on best and most versatile agricultural land. There are many new housing developments, car parks, warehouses and brownfield sites that could be used for solar panel installation. Smaller scale renewable energy development schemes to meet local needs should be supported. The government must decide the balance of land usage in terms of food production, renewable energy generation, leisure and recreational use etc. keeping in mind that land is a finite resource and covering it in solar panels is not the best use of that resource.

I urge you to refuse this application.

Thank you,

Riikka Berthoud