

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2023 16:43
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [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 comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with (among other things) battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land east of Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ. My name is Hugh Owen, and I live at [REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

When did you last hear somebody say they're moving to the countryside because they want to overlook rolling fields of solar panels?! The countryside is rolling fields of crops and grass and open space and an escape from industrialisation. So leave it that way. Don't turn our countryside into a solar factory.

The substation and pylons have blotted our landscape for many years. A battery store was then added to the perimeter of the substation. An ugly monstrosity with a huge safety risk to our village and residents. Both these things were built on valuable, high grade agricultural land. And now you want to build a solar factory!! NO!! WE DON'T WANT IT!!

The land on which you plan to install this further monstrosity is high grade agricultural land, for farming and producing food. Handing over our farmland to solar factories will result in us importing more food. We already import 48% of our food. We should be aiming to be more self sufficient, not less. I thought solar energy was supposed to make us "greener". How can importing food because our agricultural land is being used for a solar factory be green?! Government policy states high quality farm land SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR SOLAR FACTORIES. Why are you not sticking to Government policy?

Government Planning Policy recognises the value of the countryside and that it should be preserved. It also says any planning decisions "should contribute to and enhance the NATURAL AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT by recognising the INTRINSIC CHARACTER AND BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE" How on earth can a solar factory do any of that?! Again, why are you not sticking to Government policy?

Conservation strips were created around fields as part of a government policy to draw in wildlife and pollinators. Where do they go when you destroy the fields, the conservation strips and their habitat? The wild animals will be fenced out!

Solar energy is very inefficient. Wind turbines generates a huge amount more energy than solar. A single wind turbine will generate almost as much energy as the whole of Pelham Spring in the course of a year. The Government's Build Back Greener Strategy promotes the use of offshore wind for a reason. Why don't you listen to them?!

Solar panels may have a role to play on the roofs of houses and industrial/commercial buildings. Heaven knows we have enough of those! Why not make use of them? There is no need to create solar factories on our agricultural land and further industrialise our countryside to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Installing solar panels on roofs in already urban or industrial areas will have no

negative impact on the environment. Building solar factories in our countryside will have a serious negative impact on our environment. There is an enormous housing development being built at Bishops Stortford Fields. Why not add solar panels to all those roofs?! Make the whole development power self sufficient. Why not make a government policy whereby all new builds have solar panels and become power self sufficient. We wouldn't need solar factories ANYWHERE!

In 2013, Greg Barker (then Minister of Energy and Climate Change) made the following comments. These are still relevant today:

“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”.

Wise words! You should listen to them!