

From: Chris Thickitt [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2023 23:33
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 near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ

My name is Chris Thickitt, and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

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- Uttlesford's Policy ENV5 says that development of the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted where opportunities have been assessed for accommodating development on previously developed sites or within existing development limits. Where development of agricultural land is required, developers should seek to use areas of poorer quality except where other sustainability considerations suggest otherwise.
- As the land identified for development is high-quality agricultural land its use must be justified by the most compelling evidence. The alternative sites assessment submitted by Low Carbon tries to justify the location on the basis that it needs to be within 4Km of the grid connection point. However, there is no evidence that Low Carbon has attempted to find another grid connection point. They state that 'It should be noted that the process of securing a viable grid connection is difficult and time consuming.' This difficulty appears to be the driver for selecting the current site rather than a proper assessment of the impact of loss of good quality agricultural land and of visual amenity of the surrounding area.

- As a keen walker I am also concerned about the impact to my enjoyment of the area. There are eight local Public Rights of Ways within and immediately adjacent to the site including one Bridleway and seven Footpaths. As a local resident I frequently walk along these footpaths and on the road to Brick House End. Because the fields slope upwards, the solar farm will be visible at all times of year and this along with the visibility of high security/deer fencing will have a severe negative impact on my enjoyment of the area.
- I am also concerned about the impact on the roads. These are narrow lanes and are not suitable for large vehicles. The verges are likely to be severely damaged by the volume of traffic required during construction resulting in deep and dangerous channels forming on either side of the carriageway. It is likely these will remain for many years and be very expensive for the local council to repair.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Thickitt