

From: David Lynch [REDACTED] >
Sent: 08 March 2023 13:13
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]

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

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

My name is David Lynch, and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have also lived in Manuden.

I have communicated my planning concerns to UTC on 5 March 2021 having received a consultation paper from the developer Low Carbon. Following a second consultation, which resulted in a 95% objection rate from respondents, Low Carbon chose to ignore the views that they had solicited and progress to application which was refused. They have once again submitted an application with zero recognition of valid concerns raised by the local community.

I do believe there is a need to develop sustainable energy sources. Whether Solar power is the most beneficial option is highly debateable when compared to other solutions such as offshore wind turbines. A simple calculation of KWh productivity rate per acreage of plant provides compelling proof.

The proposed location represents the use of up to 190 acres of Grade 2 arable farming land at a time when the UK requires prime farming land to support both economic and climactic improvements. Any reduction in imported food products helps on both levels.

The nearest large Solar site I have seen is outside of Newmarket on the A14. It is an eyesore but it has been positioned next to the road to reduce intrusiveness by not encroaching on rolling countryside. I understand that planning committees in general may have yet to fully formalise local development rules but surely these will include

parameters to prioritise the use of redundant areas ensure minimal ecological disturbance, use of aged or recent landfill sites, maximum solar impact, local infrastructure, aesthetic impact, new build roofing. motorway corridors etc? In this vein, even the Wickham Hall proposal seems to partially utilise a similar location.

The fields are home to pockets of wildlife which are generally in decline in the immediate and wider vicinity. These include Hares which I have not seen as concentrated anywhere locally and nesting Skylarks which, until 2019, we had not seen or heard in the past 30 years.

The lane between East End and Manuden passes through Maggots End and is single track, often needs repair, floods regularly and is entirely implausible for use as an access point to such a development. Equally the road between Manuden and Clavering experiences frequent accidents where roads intersect or join. The addition of a further access point from either route would categorically increase the potential for accidents. The lane is also classified as protected.

Neither route would adequately support Emergency service access in the event of a domestic or industrial life-threatening event.

Even with existing traffic, local roads are subject to extensive tarmac and road verge erosion which both councils are struggling to maintain. Additional traffic will increase associated costs and undermine historical road courses.

On review it appears that at least five public footpaths on which I frequently walk our dogs, are affected . There is a public footpath next to our home the use of which increased a hundredfold during the Covid lockdowns. During that period the UK media indicated this to be a national situation and for many users it was their main, if not only, source of relaxation and escapism. The lifting of lockdowns and current state, has not reduced the numbers of footpath users. Considering the frequently publicised wider national sentiment on the mental and physical health benefits of walking, this form of exercise will continue and probably increase. As individuals seek to restore their wellbeing and Covid changes increase the number of people working from home there is a duty to ensure that areas of exercise are as scenic as they can possibly be whilst alternative development locations are still widely available.

Nothing in the literature published by Low Carbon supports the development location selection other than its proximity to the Stocking Pelham electricity substation. Therefore, maximum profitability, in terms of National Grid connectivity, for Corporate investors with little or no interest in the local community is their primary driver. If Solar Power is truly a potential game changer for the UK's energy demands, site selection is even more critical to ensure that decisions made today are considered to have set down the best precedents for the future. This case scenario is definitely not the best precedent and I respectfully ask that planning committee's act accordingly.

With thanks

David Lynch