By email to: section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
The Planning Inspectorate,
Major Casework Team,
Room 3J Kite Wing,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Bristol,
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/Madam

**Objection to Pelham Spring Solar Farm**
**Application No. S62A/2022/0011: Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End, Manuden**

I am writing to object to the application made by Low Carbon to construct a solar farm on land at Maggots End, East End Road, Manuden CM23 1BJ on the grounds that the land will no longer be available for agricultural use.

Low Carbon have made a passing reference in their planning application to "Agricultural activities which could coincide with the solar farm, such as sheep grazing" but have made no commitment to continue to use the land for agricultural purposes. The land will essentially be changed from rural to industrial use. Chemicals are likely to be used to control weeds and pests and habitats and the nature of local wildlife will be altered. I do not agree that a period of 40 years is a "temporary change" in the use of the land.

I am also concerned about the potential impact on the quality of the soil. Large areas of solar panels will change the way that rainwater falls on the ground, air currents will change and large areas will be permanently shaded from sunlight. I note that Essex County Council objected to Low Carbon's original application for this development due to concerns regarding surface water drainage.

The earth is our biggest carbon store. We do not know what impact these environmental changes will have on its ability to continue to store carbon and this development could potentially be a counter-productive feature in the battle to reverse climate change.

Yours

7th March 2023

E Hudson ……

……..

*Print Name* *Date*

[redacted]

……

cc Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER ([redacted]