

From: Juliette Badger [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2023 15:04
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

To Whom it May Concern,

Please find below my objection to the above planning:

I get it that local councils are under immense pressure to find solutions to the energy crisis as well as find urgent alternatives to fossil fuels but building solar farms on productive farmland is not the solution.

Unfortunately, due to a succession of governments, there has not been a well-thought-out, long-term UK energy plan, carried out in decades, (or any plan at all, actually), with the last Nuclear Power Plant not authorised since Margaret Thatcher was in government. Also, we are currently facing wind turbines in the north of the UK having to be turned off because they are producing too much energy for the power stations to store, with planning applications for onshore wind farms prohibited by the current government. And in the last few weeks and months, we have had supermarkets facing shortages of fruit and vegetable amid unseasonal cold weather in producing countries of Spain and Morocco.

At what point amongst all of this have we decided that it is a good idea to urbanise the countryside restructuring productive farmland growing crops on classified as 'best and most versatile' into Solo Factories? Someone is having a laugh, here right?

40% of all food consumed in the UK is imported and the majority of our wheat is from the EU. The loss of UK agricultural land to urbanisation has been assessed at 96K acres a year and rising. A recent study by the University of Cambridge, it suggests there will be a shortfall of 4.8 million acres by 2030. Surely it is a stark reminder to us all that with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and year-on-year evidence we are experiencing with climate change across the world, it has never been more important that this country takes urgent steps to become more food sufficient, not less.

Solar farms do not need to be built in the countryside. Their right and proper place is on commercial roofs, new buildings, and brownfield sites to include active and disused airfields. I understand Stansted airport currently has an application in process. Research reveals that there are 600K acres of south-facing commercial roof space in the UK which could provide 50% of our country's electricity.

I have lived in Stocking Pelham for over 20 years and the local road network of these small village lanes has trouble coping as it is. Have you seen the condition of our

