

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 March 2023 16:01
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Pelham Solar Farm planning application

I am horrified to learn that despite being previously turned down for a multiplicity of reasons, Low Carbon have applied again for planning permission on the site near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ. I write to object strongly to the application.

My name is Lucy Henson and I live at [REDACTED]. I grew up at [REDACTED] - which will be surrounded on all sides if application is passed. My parents still live there and my family and I visit regularly.

My objections to this application are numerous and wide ranging. My principle objections include:

1. The enormous size of the development
2. That beautiful, unspoilt countryside and best and most versatile farmland will be ruined – for ever. Additionally much of this land is on a steep gradient and therefore extremely visible. No hedge or planting of wildflowers is going to hide this vast, far reaching industrial monstrosity. Low Carbon deliberately down-play the permanent impact of this and the permanent impact on the listed and heritage buildings close to the site
3. Food security is the UK is an equally, if not more, pressing concern than that of energy. This land should continue to be farmed. We currently import more than 40 per cent of our food, and many recent examples of issues with supply from abroad vs demand, and rising food prices, only highlight the problems with this and how we must address it as a nation, produce more and import less.
4. The total unsuitability of access. This area is entirely served by narrow country lanes.
5. That Low Carbon continue to ignore the overwhelmingly negative response to the application by all those whose homes and lives they will be ruining and all those who know and love the area. The long term negative impact on the mental health of my parents and their neighbours, plus all of those who use the public rights of way that surround and cross the site, both to this renewed proposal and to how it will change their home and the countryside that they love and value is of extreme concern and cannot be overstated.
6. The catastrophic long term, negative impact on the rich and varied wildlife in the area – the panels, the lighting, the fencing, the cameras, the glint and glare of this many panels, the disruption of buildings and heavy vehicles, the new roads and buildings and infrastructure, the noise.... The facts of how such solar parks decimate wildlife and the peace of the countryside are well documented.
7. What happens when the technology is defunct, as it surely will be in the relatively short term? This lovely area will have been industrialised.
8. To put an industrial development in this particular rural place surrounded by listed buildings is wholly inappropriate – how on earth can it be justified? To ruin such a lovely and valuable part of the environment in the name of trying to defend the environment is madness.
9. The deeply unpalatable impetus for financial gain behind this.

10. The government doesn't even mention Solar – in fact the prime minister has spoken out against it – in their 10 point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Off shore wind, hydrogen extraction and nuclear power are given as the best options. In the East of England we are more than playing our part with all three of these. We should not be covering our countryside in the East of England with solar farms as well.

This is a wholly unsuitable site for a solar farm. Government and councils in this country MUST balance the need for green energy against the vital importance of protecting the countryside and encouraging food production. Solar farms should be being built on brown field/waste land sites and/or close to major roads and other already industrialised areas.

Lucy Henson