

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 comprising ground mounted solar arrays plus battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Battles Hall, Maggots End, Manuden CM23 1BJ because solar panels belong on the roofs of buildings – we should not sacrifice productive land for an industrial development.

The Planning Guidance issued by the Government in relation to renewable energy says that developers should focus large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land which it is not of high environmental value.

The former Department of Energy and Climate Change estimated that there were 250,000 hectares of south facing commercial roof-space in the UK. Why use precious high grade farmland? There is no evidence that Low Carbon has considered the use of rooftops (for example, those at Stansted airport). Clearly, Stansted is not worried about issues of glint and glare because they have applied for planning permission to build their own solar farm. New technologies mean that pencil thin roof top panels are now available so arguments that the roofs were not built to withstand these sorts of loads are no longer credible.

Both Uttlesford and East Herts should make a major contribution to carbon reduction by introducing policies requiring new developments to have solar panels on their roofs, heat pumps or district heating systems.

Yours

MARGARET ANN PALMER

Print Name

4-03-2023

Date

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

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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 comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on farm land adjacent to Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ because people want to walk in open countryside – not along a corridor with fences either side.

There are eight local Public Rights of Ways within and immediately adjacent to the site comprising of one Bridleway and seven Footpaths. I understand that local residents frequently walk along these footpaths.

National Planning policy requires that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland

I understand that Low Carbon are planning to erect fences around the solar panels and that the existing footpaths will become corridors. The 10m wide corridor proposed will prevent walkers from seeing the countryside and enjoying the countryside as they currently experience it.

The countryside is a precious resource and should be left for people to enjoy.

Yours,

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fiona HUDSON

Print Name

.....
4/03/2023

Date



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

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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 between Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ and Brick House End in Berden because I do not accept that this proposed solar development is a sustainable solution.

The useful life of solar panels and farms installed today will be quite limited. In 10, 20 or 30 years' time, solar panel technology will have changed immensely and panels installed at Pelham Spring Solar Farm will be obsolete. In addition other solutions (e.g. wind, hydrogen, even small nuclear) will have progressed greatly.

Depending on that progress, Pelham Spring will become obsolete in the easily foreseeable future. What will happen at that time? Who will remove the panels, etc. so the land can be re-used for its proper purpose (feeding the nation).

The original developers will have disappeared (gone bust or stopped trading). The applicant is a newly formed limited company – it seems very unlikely that they have agreed to pay for the massive task of dismantling and removing the obsolete development. So, responsibility (i.e. the problem) will revert to Uttlesford Council, who will have to explain why they destroyed highly productive “green field land”.

Yours

EDMUND HUDSON

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Print Name

4/3/2023

.....
Date

.....
Address

cc Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road,
Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER (.....)

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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 comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ because of the adverse impact that this development will have if the solar farm is built.

The development proposed by Low Carbon can only be described as industrial. In addition to large numbers of solar PV panels (the exact quantity is not specified) the development will include: 26 containerised inverters; 40 containerised battery storage units a DNO substation and Customer substation.

National planning policy includes an environmental objective - to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

The development is also incompatible with Uttlesford's policy S7 which says that the countryside will be protected for its own sake.

I do not understand how a massive solar farm which is an industrial development can possibly enhance the natural environment. These sorts of developments belong on brownfield land or in an industrial setting.

The site is very close to the numerous listed buildings and scheduled monuments. I do not accept that it can possibly enhance the historic environment.

Yours

LESLIE WICKWORTH

Print Name

4/3/23

Date



cc Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London
Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER



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Dear Sir

**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 comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land between Maggots End, Manuden CM23 1BJ and Brick House End, Berden because of the huge amount of local opposition to this scheme – which Low Carbon have ignored.

The Planning Guidance on Renewables and Low Carbon Energy refers to a speech made by Greg Barker (then Minister for Energy and Climate Change) to the solar PV industry at the Large Scale Solar Conference. In that speech Mr Barker encouraged solar development. However, he also made the following comments:

"not at any cost... not in any place... not if it rides roughshod over the views of local communities.

As we take solar to the next level, we must be thoughtful, sensitive to public opinion, and mindful of the wider environmental and visual impacts".

BRE also issue "Community engagement good practice guidance for solar farms" in which they state that;

"It is very important to act on feedback gathered from stakeholder meetings and events and to follow up on engagement work. Some of the ways in which feedback can be addressed might include: ... not going ahead with the project"

Low Carbon note in their Consultation report that 155 responses to their questionnaire were received plus 74 responses via phone or email. 92% of those responses were negative about to the location of this development. How can Low Carbon now claim that they have "listened to the views expressed by the local community"? This development has no local support and should not go ahead.

Yours faithfully

FREYJA SOMERS
.....
Print Name

4/3/23
.....
Date

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