

From: Martin Whitby [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 March 2023 15:18
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with (among other things) battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ

My name is Martin Whitby, and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

The size of the development simply too big!

- Uttlesford's Policy ENV15 says that small scale renewable energy development schemes to meet local needs will be supported providing it can be demonstrated that they do not adversely affect i) The character of sensitive landscapes; ii) Nature conservation interests; or iii) Residential and recreational amenity
- This is not a "small scale" scheme.
- The land identified by Low Carbon as the site for Pelham Spring solar Farm extends to 196 acres. This important fact is not mentioned in the Planning Statement.
- If approved, this would be the biggest solar farm in Uttlesford by some margin and one of the biggest in Essex.

Damage to the local environment

- This is an agricultural area and with the recent food shortages seen in our supermarkets and the war in the Ukraine has highlighted the need for this country to become more food self-sufficient
- As noted by English heritage there are 44 grade II and 2 Grade I listed buildings, 2 scheduled monuments and ancient woodland all within 2Km of the proposed site (some adjacent to it) all of which will be negatively impacted by this installation
- There will be a loss of rural amenities such as footpaths, and the open views that we all enjoy. Both local people and people from neighbouring towns visit this area to walk the footpaths that criss-cross the proposed site. They do this for both their mental and physical fitness. Having recently visited the footpaths around the solar farm near Thaxted I can confirm that the proposed site will be destroyed for generations to come!

- I personally walk and cycle in this area almost daily, the construction and maintenance traffic along East End Road will make cycling a dangerous experience
- The habitat that will be destroyed is home to thousands of wild animals. I walk the footpaths that currently criss-cross the site and see regularly deer, rabbits, hares, and birds of prey such as red kites. Nocturnal animals will also be impacted. This would be industrial site with 2 metre fences that will prevent these animals using their regular routes through the countryside, and remove acres of habitat where many rodents live causing loss of hunting ground for the birds of prey

There are more suitable alternatives that have not been exhausted

- With many industrial roofs and brownfield sites available, why use valuable farmland to provide renewable energy. In addition, I have seen many Solar farms constructed alongside motorways in many parts of the country. This is far more appropriate as the open views and peace and quite of the environment have already been impacted by the traffic

Impact on rural safety

- This area is rural and the impact of construction traffic on roads that struggle to support cars and vans is unacceptable. The banks and verges of these roads will be destroyed and take years to recover, the noise and impact of construction will affect many households and with construction traffic passing several schools the danger to children is too much of a risk to tolerate!

No benefit to the local community

- There is no benefit to the local community – no lower cost energy will result
- The original application highlighted that over 95% of people who responded to the consultation were against this proposal

This is not a sustainable or future proof solution

- The panels will not last the forecasted 40 years as panel efficiency reduces significantly over their lifespan, so many acres of valuable farm land will be destroyed for a benefit that will reduce over the project's lifespan
- In the very early lifetime of the proposed solar farm, significant progress of much less environmentally damaging sources of renewable energy will have been developed such as hydrogen and expanded off shore wind farms which are significantly more efficient and much less damaging to the environment as a percentage of the energy they produce vs their environmental impact. With this likely obsolescence we will be left with an inefficient installation which damages our local environment and enjoyment of the area with limited benefits!

Kind Regards
Martin Whitby