

From: Andrew Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2023 13:31
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

From: Mary Nelson
Sent: 06.03.23

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

I wish to object most strongly to the application to construct the above solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with (among other things) battery storage, inverter cabins, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham substation Maggots End Road Manuden.

My name is Mary Nelson and I live at [REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

In the government paper on “A Green Future our 25 year plan” there is a section on “Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment”. Here they state “We will conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment, and make sure it can be enjoyed, used by and cared for by everyone. We will do this by:

- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to consideration of its heritage
- Making sure that there are high quality, **accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas** and still encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing.

The proposed solar farm goes directly against this. Walking along footpaths next to the proposed solar panels with very high fencing is hardly providing high quality accessible, natural spaces where people from our neighbouring towns can spend time to benefit their health and well being.

The Government’s Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land updated 2021 refers to the “Government Paper on a Green Future our 25 year plan” where they state that the Government plans to

- Protect the best agricultural land.

The agricultural land on which the proposed solar farm would be sited is good quality agricultural land which the government is seeking to protect. This project goes against that government policy.

In 'Farming for the future Policy and Progress updated February 2020 published by DEFRA there is a section entitled 'The importance of food production' In this they say

“During the Health and Harmony consultation you told us that food production and food security were important, and we agree. In the policy statement published in 2018 we reassured you that our priority was a productive, competitive farming sector – one that will support farmers to provide more home grown, healthy produce made to high environmental and animal welfare standards. This is increasingly important now we are beginning to see the effects of Brexit. This policy is hardly likely to be met by giving over our high quality agricultural land to industrial usage.

Another of my objections is that commercial solar panels are far less effective than wind generated power in this country. The UK Government has announced significant investments in wind power as part of its clean energy programme. It has for instance announced a £60 million investment in upgrading the country's offshore wind capacity, increasing the target production from 30GW to 40GW by 2030. Such a change would see the UK generate enough electricity from offshore wind to power every home in the country.

Also, rather than use good agricultural land, why not do what other countries have done and put solar panels over airport car parking facilities. One example of this is at the Rivesaltes airport in Perpignan, France. Another is Abu Dhabi Airport (AUH) which has completed the development of a solar powered car park with 7542 solar panels. This 3MW, solar photovoltaic project is said to be the largest solar powered car park in the region. The project is expected to save nearly 5300t of CO₂ annually. This grid-connected project will provide energy to power the car parking space while the surplus energy will be diverted to other areas of the airport. Adelaide and Brisbane airports have solar panels on roofs and car parks. With Stansted Airport on our doorstep perhaps more could be done to encourage similar projects.

One final point, to call these development Farms is ridiculous. They are industrial units. Please can you re-assure me that they will be liable to all the local and national taxes that apply to industrial sites.

UDC's own planning policies preclude 'intrusion into open countryside'. Surely the erection of many thousands of solar panels, with associated inverters and battery storage units, with possible intrusive levels of noise, along with thousands of metres of 2 metre high deer proof fencing and CCTV surveillance cameras, as specified in the proposals cannot possibly be reconciled with our own Council's policies in this area ?

Sincerely

Mary Nelson