

From: Marian Southam [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 March 2023 11:25
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on land East of Pelham Substation, Maggots End, Manuden.
Application Number: S62A/2022/0011

Status: Objection

1. Loss of Rurality;
2. Health and Safety;
3. Cost Benefit Ratio.

Reasons:

1. Loss of Rurality

The Pelhams, Berden, Farnham, Upwick, Little Hadham and surrounding villages/areas are at risk of being encircled with proposed solar panel development and lithium battery storage facilities.

These proposals will have a huge impact on the whole local area and should be considered in its entirety. Some of the proposals are cross-boundary (East Herts and Uttlesford District Councils) and liaison needs to happen with all parties and involved authorities.

These proposals are in opposition of Local Plans.

The loss of rurality will have devastating effects on rural life, biodiversity and ecosystems, probably forever, and any decision needs to consider this. Full environmental impact assessment needs to be carried out before any decisions are made. The proposals will include significant loss of ok agricultural land, green belt and areas of significant beauty resulting in loss of habitat for wildlife, insects, trees and flora, some of which will no doubt be protected, such as bats and newts.

The collective and general loss of agricultural land will impact food production and involve the need to transport and import food, all of which will increase the consumption of fossil fuels and increase emissions, the very thing we are trying to reduce.

To ensure food/agricultural production is maximised, fertilisers and enhancers will need to be used to increase production which already cause emissions and toxins, perpetuating the very problem we are trying to solve.

2. Health and Safety

Solar panels are of questionable use in this climate producing a negligible amount of power. The energy stored in the batteries is soon exhausted. These battery stores are unreliable and have been known to spontaneously combust causing a release of airborne toxins. Where these toxins go depends on wind direction and "what goes up must come down". This will cause land contamination and possibly the evacuation of local residents. Lithium battery fires cannot be extinguished so are left to burn out, releasing toxins as they burn. However, water is used to cool down the surrounding storage banks. For this to happen, there needs to be adequate water pressure and supply; both are poor in this area and probably inadequate. I expect any Planning Application to take this into account and liaise with the Fire and Rescue Services. Alarmingly, it appears that the Fire and Rescue Service did not even know of the existing lithium battery store at the National Grid based between

Berden and Stocking Pelham. How can we expect these Services to effect a emergency response if they do not know what they are dealing with? I reference Grenfell Tower here.

Noise Impact Assessments need comprehensive undertaking, reporting, recording and monitoring, then mitigating, if appropriate.

This Application has not shown any evidence to mitigate the potential possibility of thermal runaway which may explain spontaneous combustion events.

A comprehensive risk assessment needs to be carried out and shared with localities, partners and services that will be or potentially may be involved and there is no evidence in the Application to suggest this has happened.

Who is designing, building and managing the development, what skills, qualifications and experience do they have and who will monitor the developments as they occur?

Highways - roads are unsuitable for construction traffic, hardly wide enough for passing cars certainly not for HGVs

How do these proposals fit local/district plans??

Where is Uttlesford's?

3. Cost Benefit Ratio

I urge the Council to undertake a complete cost benefit ratio before any decisions are made. How does the proposal benefit local residents, the vast majority of whom object to this application?

- Is the proposal worth losing agricultural land?
- Is the proposal worth losing countryside habitat, biodiversity and ecosystems?
- Is the proposal worth spoiling areas of natural beauty and green belt?
- Is the proposal worth the risk of contamination and the health and safety of residents?
- Solar panels contain contaminates. Where will they go as and when replacements are required and what are the effects on landfill?
- How and where are the panels to be manufactured and the effects to the manufacturers' environment, resources and workforces involved?
- The climate in the UK produces negligible amounts of solar energy;
- Has flood planning been considered? Other developments have involved the removal of topsoil. What are or will be the effects of this as it may increase the possibility of run off of surface water.

For these reasons, I object to this application.

Marian Southam

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