

From: Richard Earle [REDACTED]  
Sent: 06 March 2023 13:13  
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
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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 Richard Earle and I live at [REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

This application is almost identical to the one submitted by Low Carbon two years ago, and rejected a year ago, following massive opposition from the public and from Local Authorities. There is no justification for repeating it and for subjecting those whose lives would be devastated by it to yet further stress, worry, work....and expense.

At last year's NFU Farming Conference, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged to protect the best agricultural land from non food-producing development. The site proposed for this development is all top grade...Grades 2 or 3A. At a time when the UK's lack of food self-sufficiency is a matter of major National concern there can be no justification for changing the use of 200 acres of top quality land to an industrial use. Renewable energy generation is highly desirable, but ground-based solar panels are widely recognised as out-of-date and inefficient. There are more efficient means of generation, and sites, that are available and do not require the loss of quality farm land.

The proposed site is environmentally totally wrong for this development. It is an attractive, largely unspoiled area of countryside. It is almost all on rising ground forming the sides of a gentle valley. The development would be visible from miles around, and impossible to screen. It is much enjoyed and appreciated by walkers and riders who make good use of the public rights of way, but without causing undue disturbance.

The area rich in wildlife, being by its nature highly suitable for a wide range of mammals and birds...and also of butterflies and wild flowers. The attractive meadow at Pump Springs..where the sub-station is to be built..is an important sheltered winter grazing area for the resident herd of fallow deer. It is home to the principal badger sett in the area. It is adjacent to the most accessible wildlife drinking pond for some distance. All of this, and more, would be lost. No wildlife would endure the months of disturbance and noise while construction took place, and when it was complete would find themselves fenced off from their habitat.

These are just a few of the objections to this proposed development. It would be a catastrophe on agricultural, environmental, social, heritage and ecological grounds. It must not happen.

Richard Earle