

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 March 2023 21:17
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

Dear Planning Inspectorate Team,.

I am writing to strongly 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 Roger Conen and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

The huge Impact on the Local area and its surroundings

- 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.
- The visual impact of such a huge solar farm would fundamentally change the character of the area.
- The sheer scale of the destruction of arable farmland to install the Solar Panels, their manufacture, delivery, establishment and end of use destination into land-fill presents a considerable negation of any claimable benefit. The idea that this 'temporary' change of use of land for 40 years would see it return to the beautiful, arable countryside it once destroyed, is extremely unlikely. The original sourcing of raw materials, manufacturing and delivering of the Solar Panels and batteries present their own separate and important questions, around environmental impact and worker welfare.
- Should there be a Lithium battery fire at the proposed facility, many communities will be seriously and dangerously affected for miles around. Lithium battery fires can burn for weeks and release highly toxic gases, contaminating the locality and poisoning local residents and wildlife. The local and surrounding infrastructure could not support any reasonable Civil Emergency plan. The management of the necessary evacuation of residencies

within the affected radius and provision of appropriate prompt medical support, could not be anywhere near being effective.

Low Carbon have not demonstrated that the use of high quality agricultural land is necessary

- Eddie Hughes MP, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed in June 2021 that the statements made by Eric Pickles in 2015 are still applicable. Therefore, Uttlesford must consider whether the use of agricultural land has been shown to be necessary.
- Uttlesford's Policy ENV5 also says that development of the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted where opportunities have been assessed for accommodating development on previously developed sites or within existing development limits. Where development of agricultural land is required, developers should seek to use areas of poorer quality except where other sustainability considerations suggest otherwise.
- As the land identified for development is high-quality agricultural land its use must be justified by the most compelling evidence.
- No evidence has been provided by Low Carbon to demonstrate that there has been consideration of other sites for a solar farm.

The solar farm is inappropriate development in the countryside

- 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 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.
- I do not understand how a massive solar farm which is an industrial development can possibly enhance the natural environment.
- 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.
- The development is not compatible with Uttlesford's policy S7 which says that the countryside will be protected for its own sake
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Yours sincerely

Roger Conen