

From: Rosina Conen [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 March 2023 20:50
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

Dear Planning Team,

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 Rosina Conen, and I live at [REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

I am keen walker – I don't want to walk through a solar farm

As a local resident I frequently walk along the footpaths and bridle paths in this area. I often do a triangular walk along Brick House End, along the footpath PROW 5_52 and back along Park Green. This walk will be ruined by the appearance of solar panels. I do not accept that the impact can be satisfactorily mitigated by planting hedges – there is no existing hedgerow. The planting adjacent to the existing battery plant adjacent to the Substation at Stocking Pelham demonstrates that hedges do not provide adequate screening.

Access to open countryside is particularly important these days – it makes a significant contribution to my mental well being. I do not want to walk along a corridor! The 10m wide corridor proposed will prevent me from seeing the countryside and enjoying the countryside as I currently experience it.

I am concerned about the impact of the development on the rich variety of wildlife on the site. The site for the development is rich in ecology. Page 36 of the Ecological Impact Assessment concludes that it is possible that Greater crested newts are present on the site given that their presence has been detected in five ponds in close proximity to the site.

A number of red listed bird species noted as being present on the site including skylarks, yellow hammers, yellow wagtails, linnets and song thrushes.

A study carried out in 2016 estimated that utility-scale solar farms around the US may kill nearly 140,000 birds annually. One leading theory suggests birds mistake the glare from solar panels for the surface of a lake and swoop in for a landing, with deadly results.

The Ecological Impact Assessment notes that hares are seen on the site but concludes that they are unlikely to be affected! How can this be true when their habitat is being ruined and the site is being surrounded by 2m high perimeter fence?

I frequently see Roe deer wandering across the site because they shelter in Battles Wood. These beautiful creatures will be lost.

I hope you will take these points into account when considering this planning application.

Regards,

Rosina