

Objection to:

Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/2022/0011 Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden

Dear Planning Inspector,

I am writing to object to the application for this large ground mounted solar installation in an inappropriate setting, on our precious resource of best and most versatile farmland, that would require access via narrow country lanes that are unsuited to the necessary traffic to develop it.

This is not "land of least amenity and value" Paragraph 175 of the NPPF

On the grounds that views both from and to local listed buildings will be seriously diminished and industrialised. That no level of mitigation the developers might propose would be able to stop this as the land is undulating.

That open and beautiful countryside will be industrialised and views for public rights of way will be diminished, changing the nature and benefit of the environment. Again, the undulation will render any attempts at mitigation impossible.

That the development is sited on Best and Most Versatile farmland, leading to a loss of food production and greater food security issue for the future. This is unnecessary when there are better, less damaging alternatives like the 250,000 hectares of south facing commercial roofing in the UK ( BRE ). Solar roofing is much cheaper than it used to be and technology is improving all the time. Cumbersome equipment on high grade farmland will be seen as a folly in the near future. Uttlesford ENV5 policy "developers should seek to use areas of poorer quality land"

There are many pinch points and constraints along the proposed routes. Some include stretches of route where accidents have occurred. Such as the stretch between Manuden and Berden from Hazel End. There are also primary schools along two of the routes where the road is reduced to one lane with a great deal of pedestrian movement. These are both in Manuden and Clavering.

Our country lanes are full of dog walkers, school attenders, horse riders and cyclists. Our way of life will be seriously affected by the services needed to attend this development.

There is a pinch point in Berden adjacent to the village Hall, an access route proposed by more than one developer of GMS currently in planning, that is one car width with high banking. The village Hall is used daily by the home education community who is access the Hall on foot via this pinch point. The hundreds of huge HGVs, dumper trucks and commercial traffic needed to supply this development would put local road users under unnecessary risk.

Please consider the cumulative impact on our local communities. There are currently four very large development applications in planning with East Herts, Uttlesford and PINS. If all four of these applications were to coincide the traffic would be a serious risk to safety. Our countryside would be, permanently to many of our lifetimes, industrialised and our heritage, ecology, and environment would be unrecognisable.

Intelligently we can have both solar renewable energy and all the beauty of our green and pleasant lands. We can keep our land for food and our road users safer just by placing our solar energy developments in a better more sustainable place, one that does less damage so we reap benefits rather than lose precious amenities and resources.

I ask you to reject this application on the grounds that the negative impact of all the things I have mentioned here far outweigh any net gain.