

By email to: section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The Planning Inspectorate,
Major Casework Team,
Room 3J Kite Wing,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Bristol,
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/Madam

OBJECTION to Pelham Spring Solar Farm

Application No. S62A/2022/0011: Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End, Manuden

I am writing to object to the application made by Low Carbon to construct a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ because this is not the right location for a solar development.

Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy requires Planning Authorities to have a positive strategy for renewable and low carbon energy which maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts).

No such strategy exists! If solar is to form part of a local response to climate change, panels should feature on all new domestic and commercial buildings. If there is still a need for industrial scale solar, it should be located on brown field sites (such as former airfields). If a need for solar remains, site should be selected which utilises poor quality land and minimise the visual impact of the development. In Europe, it is common to see solar developments beside motorways or in areas where there is existing industrial development.

Solar does not belong on productive agricultural land – especially where the site is sloping as is the case at “Pelham Spring”. The site has been selected by an opportunistic developer and the impacts of this development – if approved – cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.

Yours

Peter Wilkinson

Print Name

14.3.23

Date

Address

cc Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER (FAO Nigel Brown: [REDACTED])