

From: Ben Sheppard [REDACTED] >

Sent: 20 March 2023 20:12

To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Pelham Spring Solar Farm - application numbers UTT/21/3356/FUL and 3/21/2781/FUL (East Herts)

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 Ben Sheppard, and I live at [REDACTED].

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

My in-law's family home is in Furneux Pelham and strongly believe the Solar Farm application to be inappropriate.

Impact on Wildlife

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.

The local population of Hares on the site is higher than seen elsewhere in the surrounding area but the claim is 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 a 2m high perimeter fence.

I frequently see Roe deer wandering across the site because they shelter in Battles Wood. Deaths of deer as a result of the removal of established pathways increase significantly when removed or fenced.

Alternative locations and use of existing structures

Low Carbon make no reference to any review of alternatives they have considered.

Why are roof tops not being considered? Household or Industrial warehouses should be used before considering the corruption of prime agricultural farmland. In 2016 the Building Research Establishment announced there were approximately 500,000 rooftops facing in the right direction for solar panels. New lightweight panels are available to obviate weight concerns.

Existing largescale areas such as motorways or even Stansted Airport buildings could be used.

Remote less productive farm land or aged landfills are obvious preferred candidates for developments of this nature

Local community impact

There is no benefit of this development to the local community. Local residents will not get cheaper solar energy but will have all of the associated detrimental visual downside together with the risk of traffic or development malfunction

There will be a loss of rural amenities such as footpaths with open views which will impair daily life from both a visual and mental health perspective.

Many residents have chosen to move from towns and live in the countryside to avoid the prevalence of built-up areas. Consent of this application will entirely ignore lifestyle choices, together with the associated expense, made by many.

Regards

Ben