

**From:** Helen Lukies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 March 2023 11:24  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** S62A/2022/0011: Land East of Pelham Substation, Maggots End, Manuden: OBJECT

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for taking the time to read my objections to the proposed Solar Farm on the Land East of Pelham Substation, Maggots End, Manuden.

My name is Helen Lukies and I live on [REDACTED].

### **The Government does not support large scale solar development – why should Uttlesford?**

- In October 2021 (in the run up to COP 26), the Government published its Net Zero Strategy (Build Back Greener). This Strategy does NOT support the construction of industrial scale solar farms. It's focus on renewable energy is almost entirely on off-shore wind energy with a commitment to generate 40GW of energy from offshore wind by 2030. This target was first set in 2020 in the Government's 10 point plan for a Green Industrial revolution which said that this quadrupling in offshore wind capacity would generate enough energy to power every home in the country.
- The focus on wind power explains why there are very few references to solar power in the Net Zero Strategy. Where solar is referenced, the focus is on "unsubsidised rooftop solar", retrofitting solar on houses and small scale community solar projects.
- The East of England (including Uttlesford) has a key role to play in National renewable energy plans because 60% of the current offshore wind projects will come onshore along the East Coast. In fact, National Grid's Electricity 10 year Statement (published in 2020) says that the large amount of generation to be connected in the East of England means that power generation in the East of England will exceed local demand; so the East of England will be a power exporting region. We do not need more renewable energy in Uttlesford.
- Low Carbon make frequent references to the fact that Uttlesford DC declared a climate emergency in 2019. But this is not a planning policy and is not relevant for the purposes of determining planning applications.
- The Planning Guidance on Renewables and Low Carbon Energy refers to a speech made by Greg Barker (then Minister for Energy and Climate Change) to the solar PV industry at the Large Scale Solar Conference. In that speech Mr Barker encouraged solar development. However, he also made the following comments:  
*"not at any cost... not in any place... not if it rides roughshod over the views of local communities. As we take solar to the next level, we must be thoughtful, sensitive to public opinion, and mindful of the wider environmental and visual impacts"*

### **The local roads are not suitable for such large construction vehicles**

- The supporting text for Uttlesford Policy ENV15 states development will only be permitted in locations where the local road network is capable of handling any additional traffic generated by the proposal.
- Low Carbon estimate that there will be a total of 922 vehicle movements during construction.
- This includes a total of around 749 deliveries by 15.4 metre articulated vehicles and of 59 deliveries by 10-metre-long rigid HGVs. There will be a substation measuring up to 5 metres long and 3 metres wide that will be delivered to site individually by 15.4 metre artic vehicle.
- The road between Manuden and Clavering is a small country road. It is barely wide enough to accommodate two regular cars. Cars currently need to stop in order to allow tractors to pass. It is completely unsuitable for articulated lorries or large HGVs.
- Access point off the road is simply not suitable for vehicles of this size.
- All vehicles will pass directly in front of the primary school in Clavering – I am concerned about the safety of primary school children
- One of access routes will also pass directly in front of a secondary school – Joyce Franklin Academy - – I am concerned about the safety of secondary school children.
- I understand that one of the routes away from the site will be through Manuden. My son is at the school there and I would say that on average 3 out of 5 days there are problems around the school because of volume of traffic, this can only be exacerbated, and the safety of children put at risk, if additional large vehicles are travelling on the small roads through Manuden. The roads surfaces are already very poor in places with deep potholes, which would also be impacted by movement of vehicles to and from the site.
- Lorries cannot possibly get under the low bridge in Newport.

### **The size of the development simply too big**

- 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 scheme will not contribute to the energy needs of local residents, we get all of the negative sides of the development without any upside for the local communities that are impacted.

### **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

### **Low Carbon has ignored the views of local residents**

- Low Carbon says that it has listened to all views expressed by local people during the pre-application consultation and has made appropriate changes to the proposed development to address and mitigate concerns raised where possible. This is not true.
- Low Carbon received 133 comments on its proposal on its consultation website. Only 7 of those comments supported the development. Therefore 95% of the people responding were against the development. In addition Low Carbon received 69 emails objecting to its proposal.
- In the Consultation report which accompanies the Planning application Low Carbon admit that 5% of respondents were positive toward the proposals, 4% neutral and 92% negative. However, this does not reflect the comments sent by email.
- Low Carbon claims to have given "meaningful consideration" to the feedback received from the local community and has made a number of additions and changes to the design of the proposed development. There is no evidence of this.
- The 7 visual assessment submitted as part of the planning application were not shared as part of the consultation.
- Low Carbon claim that the evolution of the proposal is significant – it is not. It will still have an overwhelming impact on the countryside and on enjoyment of local residents.
- The overwhelming feedback was that the development should not go ahead, however, this has clearly been ignored.

Yours faithfully

Helen Lukies