

From: johnwfahy [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 March 2023 09:56
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden - Application number: S62A/2022/0011

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 John William Fahy, and I live at [REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

The use of grade 2 and grade 3 farmland for extensive Solar Power Station implementation is fundamentally wrong and is against guidelines for assessing the land as suitable for solar power generation. The loss of public footpath access to extensive views over the local beautiful countryside represents a significant loss of local amenity which is highly valued by residents of the area. Walking between screening hedgerows is just not the same. Solar Panel Arrays are just a blot on the landscape in that they are singularly unattractive in appearance.

The current application includes battery storage . I have considerable concerns over the safety of lithium battery banks, would access routes support the attendance of appropriate emergency services in the event of explosion, fire or toxic gas release. They are quite close to public rights of way which are said to be kept open throughout construction and operation of the proposed facility. In addition to the solar arrays the development will include ; containerised inverters; a DNO substation and Customer substation. These were not identified in earlier proposals to which I originally objected on 8/8/2021 in my email to Uttlesford councillors. The Solar Farm proposal has grown to be of an industrial scale and is way beyond what can be considered a small scale local development. The land identified by Low Carbon as the site for Pelham Spring solar Farm has grown to 196 acres. This is a huge area encompassing or adjacent to many pleasant footpaths.

The UK imports more than 40% of the food we eat, and this seems set to rise, to use prime arable land for inefficient solar power generation does not make common sense, especially as one or two Wind Turbines could provide as much power on average over a year as this whole proposed facility. Use of unproductive land would be so much more sensible and allow us to continue to grow as much of our own food as we can, especially as our food requirement is projected to rise significantly during the 40 years it is said that the land would be out of use for arable farming. This makes no sense at all.

If land based solar photovoltaic generation is really needed there are many areas of lower grade land which could be used, this together with effective use of rooftop installations (both domestic and industrial) is where the attention should be given together with more innovative

and distributed connection to the grid. Offshore and onshore wind, wave and tidal generation make much more sense.

John Fahy

