

By email to: [section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto: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 wish 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 at Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ on the grounds that this development will result in the unnecessary loss of agricultural land.

Low Carbon have confirmed that the majority of the site for the proposed development is high quality (Grade 2 and 3a) farming land. National planning guidance indicates that development should not be allowed on high quality land of this sort. Similarly, the Building Research Establishment 'Planning Guidance for the Development of Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV Systems' specifically states that "the best quality land should be used for agricultural purposes".

The Government recognises the importance of reserving the best land for growing food. It is not acceptable for planning authorities to allow this land to be taken out of food production for the purpose of providing energy. It is wasteful and unnecessary when many other non-productive opportunities (such as putting solar on roofs and carparks) exist for solar energy operations.

Low Carbon should site their developments in other areas of the country where land is less productive or, better still, concentrate on brownfield sites.

Yours

Mrs Kathryn Mearing

15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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*Print Name*

*Date*

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*Address*

cc Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden,  
CB11 4ER [REDACTED]

