

From: Katrina Shirley [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2023 21:08
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Section 62A Planning Application S62A2022/0011

Dear Major Casework Team,

Application Ref: s62A/2022/0011

Site Address: Land East of Pelham Substation, Maggots End, Manuden

I am writing to object to the application by Low Carbon Solar Park 6 Limited to construct and operate a solar farm together with associated development at the above site.

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. The proposed solar 'farm' involves a significant level of infrastructure development covering a large surface area that would be out of keeping with the local rural environment. Whilst I understand the importance of moving to renewable and low carbon energy, I do not believe it is necessary or appropriate to develop prime agricultural land to achieve this.
2. I am concerned that this is just one of a number of solar farm proposals in the area, which, if approved on an ad hoc basis, would have a damaging cumulative effect on the overall character and visual appearance of the local Essex and Hertfordshire countryside. I would like to see such decisions being based instead on a strategic, planned approach that firstly considers whether there is a need for more solar farms in the district, and secondly identifies appropriate locations for this type of land use, prioritising the use of previously developed/poorer quality land.
3. The development would be situated very close to a number of properties in the village and I do not believe that enough is being done to minimise the potential visual and noise impacts in the neighbourhood.
4. The proposal will have an adverse effect on the visual amenity currently enjoyed by residents (including myself) who use the public footpaths in the area.
5. The traffic management proposals can be expected to cause significant disruption on the local country roads. This would be further compounded if this scheme was to go ahead at the same time as the Berden Hall Farm scheme that is also currently under planning consideration.
6. I do not believe that Low Carbon Solar has responded adequately to the concerns expressed by local residents during its original consultation exercise, nor to the significant number of representations made at the time of its first planning application in relation to this site. Furthermore, there do not appear to be any community benefit/community ownership proposals for this scheme.

Kind regards,

Katrina Shirley
[REDACTED]