

**From:** Leni Croker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2023 19:22  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** S62A/2022/0011 - Objection

Hi

I live in Manuden at [REDACTED] and my full name is Eleni Croker. I am writing to object to the above application for permission to build a solar farm.

Taking this application and **S62A/22/0006**, in addition to the East Herts application **3/21/2781/FUL**, it can be seen that a number of villages are about to become completely engulfed by solar farms and the accompanying substations. Manuden is one of those villages. Whilst I strongly support green energy, it is my understanding that this is in fact not the most effective way of delivering it and its damage to our green spaces significantly outweighs its advantages. I understand that the soil quality has been shown to be not suitable for a solar farm and a different application by the same land owners was locally defeated on this point – as a point of precedent, the same view must be applied here. Others will object at length on these and other matters, but I believe there are far better ways of delivering green energy.

In addition, I believe that there are better locations for any provision of solar farms. One of the specific location issues is the problem of transportation. Attached to this email, is a note I have written in respect of the application ending 0006 concerning traffic problems within Manuden. I have attached it to this objection to save re-writing key points in respect of this application – the relevant matters can be extrapolated and similarly applied.

It is my understanding, that the 0006 application has a route where all construction traffic exits via Manuden. It is interesting that this application (0011) recently amended its traffic route to remove all construction traffic from Manuden because it acknowledged the route was unsuitable. Presumably it will now have to do similar with the 0006 application in due course. However, the proposed route remains problematic because:

- It is quite ridiculous to believe that drivers will genuinely follow the really quite significant detour (10 miles) to return to the M11. Many will simply head out through our village. Should the application be allowed, residents must be given quick and easy methods of recourse and the penalties to the applicant should be suitably significant to act as a real deterrent. The issue of enforcement is an important one if the mechanism that allows it is not effective both in terms of reporting and incentive to comply.
- It is only HGVs that will be told to follow an alternative route. The remainder of the construction traffic will still flow through Manuden. You will see all the reasons why that is problematic in my attached letter.
- The proposed car park for workers to the site is significant which suggests the volume of traffic still permissible through our village will also be significant. To simply remove HGVs is insufficient mitigation. Should the application be allowed, ALL traffic relating to the site should have to avoid Manuden.

In my opinion, sites should not be deemed suitable for this scale of solar farm where construction traffic (whether HGV or otherwise) has to pass through villages unable to cope and where doing such causes a risk to residents and is likely to be a breach of duty of care to its residents. Plenty of fields in

this country sit next to A roads and motorways where the impact of construction traffic would not be felt. To take fields only accessible by small country roads with listed buildings containing hazardous overhangs, narrow pavements, parked cars, and where schools and other groups for young children regularly operate is inappropriate. The risks cannot be mitigated sufficiently to allow the application to be granted.

It should also be noted that the same land owners have received planning to build a housing development at the north of Manuden, also on Maggots End. We will already have to put up with construction traffic to that site. Someone should be taking a whole picture view of the amount of development that this single land owner is proposing within a relatively small area and the cumulative impact upon the residents of Manuden. Resident surveys for both the housing development and this solar farm showed a high percentage of residents were against these developments.

I do not believe this application should be granted.

Eleni Croker