

From: Thomas Wood [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 March 2023 22:07

To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: Application : S62A/2022/0011 OBJECTION to Pelham Spring Solar Farm Land east of Pelham substation, Maggots End, Manuden

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Team
Room 3J Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
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Dear Sir

**Application : S62A/2022/0011
OBJECTION to Pelham Spring Solar Farm
Land east of Pelham substation, Maggots End, Manuden**

I am writing this letter to beg and implore you not to allow the application 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 between Maggots End, Manuden CM23 1BJ and Brick House End, Berden because of the huge amount of local opposition to this scheme – which Low Carbon have ignored.

The thought of such a development alongside what already exists is upsetting beyond belief for myself and my neighbours in this idyllic part of the English countryside.

Spoiling the countryside alone is only a small part of the bigger picture of what would occur should this horrific application be accepted. Here are my main concerns: -

1. We are facing a world food crisis. Eighty-seven percent of life forms on this planet – microbes, worms, insects, birds, animals, human beings, plants, trees and every other vegetation on the planet is sustained by an average of thirty-nine inches of topsoil. This is in grave danger right now. In the last forty years, forty percent of the world's topsoil has been lost. The United Nations says we have soil left only for approximately eighty to hundred harvests, which means another forty-five to sixty years of agriculture. After that, we will not have the soil to produce food. You can imagine the suffering that we will unfold in the world. Every arable field within the United Kingdom requires to be kept that way and the farmers, as announced by Boris Johnson only on 13 June 2022 regarding the Government's new food strategy. To support and assist farmers to utilise their green space for food production. **Food Security for the UK has to be the number one priority.** We have rewilding strategies ongoing throughout the country to bring back quality land for food production. The climate crisis needs to be tackled but not in this way, inefficient photovoltaic cells to replace farmland will only increase emissions in the long term. Having to rely on imports from further afield due to reduced crop yields (due to fertiliser price increases, reduction in what seeds and crops can be grown and pesticides/insecticides) and on top losing the land to a plethora of awful, hazardous battery and solar cells. There can be no argument - this cannot be taken away from our farming community.

2. **What are the three things we need to do to prevent an ecological disaster? The three things are, 'Soil, Soil, and Soil.'**

3. Low Carbon and other such companies should be encouraged to search elsewhere for brownfield sites on industrial barren land and on the industrial buildings themselves together with the thousands of miles of motorway roadside and unsightly areas. To destroy the ecosystem of a beautiful landscape for short term gain, and it will be as alternative far more eco-friendly alternatives will be introduced within a relatively short time frame, makes no sense. By then our beautiful fields containing such biodiversity will have been lost for ever.

4. Lithium Iron Batteries are known to be dangerous. There have been over 35 BES fires in the past 3 years. One such fire at a Bess in Merseyside in September 2020 took 59 hours to extinguish. How can you possibly approve the siting of such volatile a storage unit within a small village community? We already have to listen to the daily, often intolerably loud hum of our current storage system. No one would choose to live so close to a lithium battery storage unit that has the potential to explode, catch fire and pollute the surround area, its beyond belief this should even be considered. The threat of the potential chemical fires is ludicrous, with only air sapping foams to try and tackle them that can't be used to extend of what size the fires can get to and will keep spreading to the surrounding countryside and villages
5. The immense disturbance to the local life of the villagers should not be underestimated. With no footpaths and narrow lanes, they have no option but to walk, cycle, run and ride along the road. Lorries thundering through from the A120 right into the depth of the villages will create a huge risk to life of the local inhabitants as well as the pollution both of noise and air that will inevitably arise.

6. Choosing to locate such a site is an easy option for Low Carbon to keep their shareholders happy. The cost to them is far less to use land given up by farmers rather than to research and make use of brownfield land. The money in the shareholders' pockets should not be put ahead of the adverse effects as stated above of such an installation.

Once again, please consider the arguments raised and make the right decision for our village, our county and also our country.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Wood