

From: Deborah Patrick [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 March 2023 12:34

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

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 Deborah Patrick, and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are:

This is blatant INDUSTRIALISATION of prime fertile productive agricultural land.

This rare natural chalk landscape will be destroyed by the application of hundreds of thousands of reinforced concrete piles driven deep into the ground, thereby preventing proper restoration of this site in 40 years time.

In addition, the sound effects of the "pile drivers" during the construction period of four/five/six months will be a constant daily mental torture for all residents within a five miles radius, let alone all those residents who live within 100 metres of the solar panels. There will be no mitigation of this noise from traffic or aircraft.

The wildlife - fallow deer, badgers, birds, will all be driven off the land from lack of access to wildlife ponds and their natural habitat.

The sight of the Heritage assets, the scheduled monuments, the ancient woods, the ancient lanes, the ancient hedgerows will all be affected by the visual impact of thousands of ugly solar panels.

Because the vast majority of the proposed solar farm is clearly visible from all the residential properties closest to the solar panels then it follows that this whole acreage forms the 'setting' for ALL of the listed buildings and heritage assets. These assets will suffer substantial harm at the very top of the spectrum, through the desecration of the fertile farmland within the site and by the installation of solar panels. The human gaze on each heritage asset will see the asset in one direction and see desecration in the other. The severity of the desecration is so extreme it will sour the appreciation of the heritage asset in the eyes of the viewer and seriously harm the perception of such asset irrespective of its physical position or status.

This proposed solar farm will seriously harm the heritage significance of the listed buildings and ancient scheduled monuments which are distributed around the perimeter of the site in clear view of the desecration which will be wrought by the installation of this solar farm.

Paragraph 199 of Uttlesford local plan state — 'when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the

assets conservation (the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be)'. Clearly Low Carbon have failed to take account of any importance of heritage assets.

Best and most fertile agricultural land MUST be saved for food production.

We don't need to be technical to appreciate that food products are grown on this land - we see it every year from our residential properties just 100 metres from the proposed development site.

As well as Blakelings Lane, Brickhouse End is part of our historical "Drove Road" network for providing London with food - "on the hoof". This is demonstrated by the lane borders comprising two hedgerows surrounding one ditch on both sides. Further, there is a small 'green' for "overnight" stops as shown on historical maps. Interestingly, the pond is located in a pre- 18C field with evidence of 'strip' farming which had mostly disappeared in England by 1700. This demonstrates the connection between Brickhouse End and the local farming communities in earlier centuries. The unlisted timber framed farmhouse was built in about 1530/1550 with unglazed mullion windows and lies about 100 metres from the proposed solar farm which can be clearly viewed on the steadily rising land up towards the ancient "Battles" wood.

The solar panel development would destroy the setting of all the heritage buildings in Brickhouse End, Battles, and Maggots End, because of the multitudes of viewpoints around the perimeter of the site. No amount of hedgerow planting can hide this solar farm industrial development.

I strongly object to the proposed Pelham Spring Solar Farm - it should not be approved.