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Monday 26 July 2021

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House of Commons  
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Oliver Heald MP  
House of Commons  
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Julie Marson  
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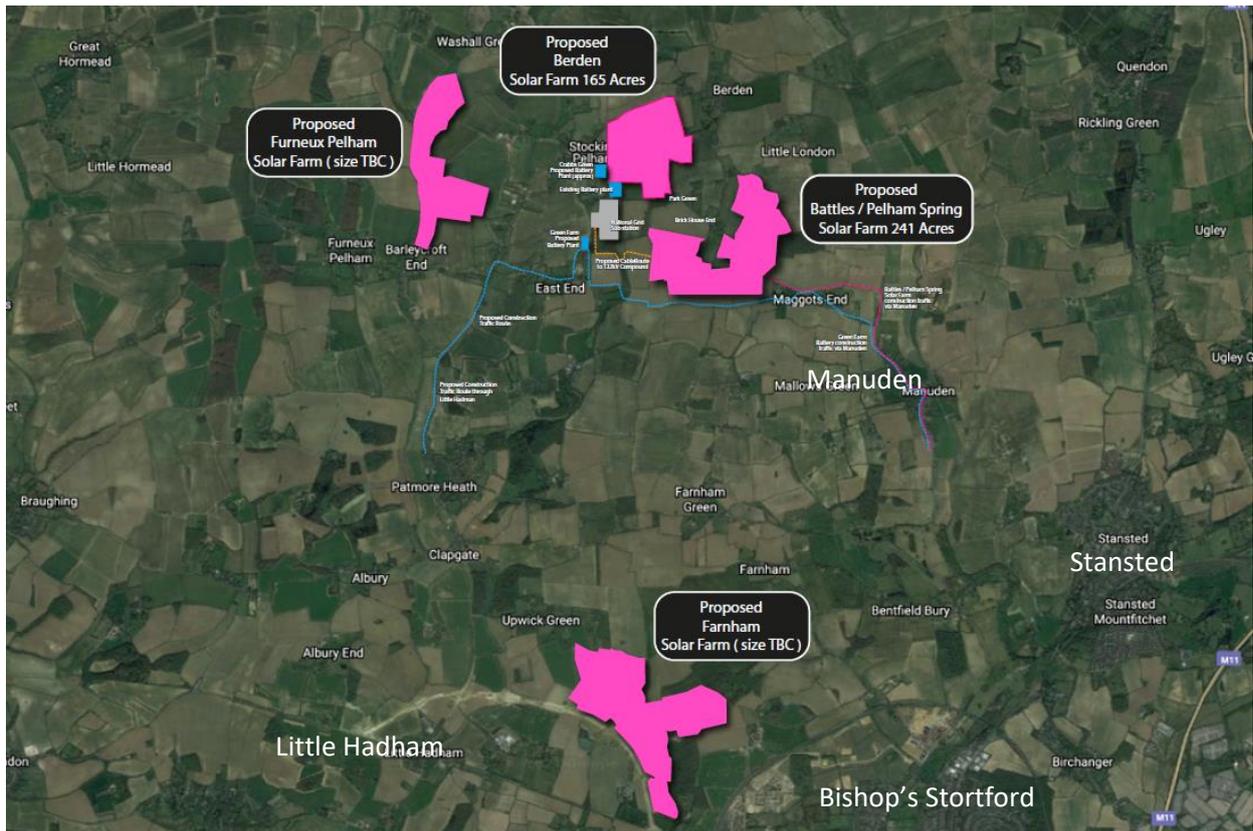
Dear Julie Marson, Kemi Badenoch and Sir Oliver

### Pelham National Grid Substation - Battery Energy Storage Systems and Solar Farms

This letter is jointly written by the above four Parish Council's in response to several past, current and proposed planning applications for electricity generation and storage around the national grid station at Stocking Pelham.

We are not writing this as 'nimbys' but rather raising the urgent and essential need for a collaborative approach to such development in terms of site selection on suitability (not ownership) and well designed visual and landscape screening that otherwise will be overlooked and ignore (as history clearly shows).

The plan below shows the magnitude of these proposals.



To put this into context, the photo from last month below is of the existing battery plant shown in blue in the middle of the above aerial plan. This was approved planning in 2016 and we were promised structural landscape planting and screening that would obscure the visual impact and intrusion into the countryside. We were similarly promised green battery plant and 4 metre acoustic barriers to mitigate noise impact on nearby houses. Yet Uttlesford District Council failed to secure these as planning obligations.

We now have an identical battery proposal to the south which East Herts District Council are deliberating and a further battery scheme to the west (not yet submitted).



In addition to these three battery units we are facing two pre-planning proposals for solar farms of 180 acres and 165 acres and a third awaited at Stocking Pelham.

In planning terms, Uttlesford District Council (who will deal with the two large solar farms) are relying on a dated 2005 Local Plan and no proper planning policies for such ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’.

Given the proliferation of these solar and battery projects around the existing national grid station, there is a clear need for a joined-up planning strategy dealing with both Council’s districts and an overall masterplan led approach to the whole area which takes proper account of visual impact, landscape screening, access and loss of agricultural land. Development should be masterplan led, not follow a landowner’s constrained boundary line.

We would urge you to discuss this with both Councils and the Secretary of State.

We do not object to government policy for the delivery of low-carbon and renewable energy. However, we ask that this is done in an appropriate, masterplan led and properly selected and screened manner.

Yours faithfully,



John Burton  
Chair  
Berden Parish  
Council

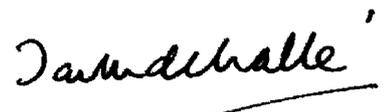


John Archer  
Chair,  
Manuden Parish  
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Michael  
Hutchins  
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Stocking Pelham  
Parish Council



Stephen Bratt  
Chair  
Furneux Pelham  
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Ian Delvalle  
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