

From: samantha fallon [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2022 11:15
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 Berden Hall Farm, Ginns Road, Berden

Date 15th August 2022

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I wish to register my objection to this planning application in the strongest possible terms.

Whilst I acknowledge the climate challenges facing our planet and the need to increase the sustainability of our energy production across the UK this application for a huge solar farm will engulf the area and cause obvious harm to our countryside, heritage assets and agriculture.

It proposes very little by the way of community benefit to mitigate this harm. I therefore OBJECT for the following reasons:

1. **Loss of good quality agricultural land.** I refer you to the Government Written Ministerial Statement dated 25th March 2015 which says in the light of continuing concerns about the unjustified use of high quality agricultural land, "... we want it to be clear that any proposal for a solar farm involving the best and most versatile agricultural land would need to be justified by the most compelling evidence."
2. **Detrimental change to the character of open fields and farmland.** The character of this area is one of open fields between two individual villages. The solar farm will dominate the area and change the character of this part of the countryside. I have no objection to small sensitively placed solar farms potted around the area that are occasionally glimpsed. However this large installation will blight this highly desirable countryside.
3. **The impact on the local wildlife.** Building solar farms will mean displacing large numbers of mammals, birds, insects and other wildlife. These vast open fields are used by herds of deer and Red Kites. Kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the loss of such a large area of their natural hunting ground will impact on their numbers.
4. **Harmful to human health.** Living next to a solar farm **could be harmful to human health.** Solar power plants give out electromagnetic radiation which may reduce life expectancy! This radiation doesn't come from the panels themselves, but rather the industrial equipment used to store the energy the panels produce.
5. **Increased risk of flooding.** It is undeniable that structures such as the battery containers, concrete supports, foundations for fences and other impervious equipment will result in less land that can take up excess water. The existing fields are regularly ploughed and this helps let rainwater soak

down through the surface. This flooding mitigation will be lost if covered in panels and the areas around the solar panels are likely to become trodden down from being used for maintenance access and are less likely to soak up water. The panels will deviate heavy downpours and result in a greater risk of flooding to neighbouring properties and land.

6. **Impact on setting of listed buildings** . There are numerous cherished listed buildings within close proximity to the Solar Farm as noted under 4.9 in the Heritage Statement. The setting of these buildings and their curtilages will be seriously harmed.
7. **Risk of the farm land not being reinstated.** The reinstatement of the land will be a costly exercise and an enormous risk should the company go bust (which also opens up the possibility of the site being eventually developed for housing) not to mention that it is imperative the works to remove all the equipment is costed and put into a bond so the council can ensure the land is reinstated should the company go into liquidation or not have the finances after the planning consent expires. Without this the removal of the equipment will be unenforceable.

Overall the serious harm caused by this unwelcome development outweighs any benefits the Solar Farm does or can possibly offer.

Regards

Samantha Fallon

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