

**From:** Jon Howells [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 August 2022 12:37  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Berden Hall Farm (Pelham Solar)

Application number on S62A/22/0006 (and UTT/22/2046/PINS)

I am writing to object to the proposal by Statera to construct a solar farm on 177 acres of land at Berden Hall Farm.

My name is Mr Jonathan Howells  
[REDACTED]

This planning application is fundamentally flawed in many ways and I list the reason for my objection as follows:

- Destruction of high quality agricultural land that should be used to produce food to make the country less dependent on imports and more resilient to grain shortages like we have experienced in recent years. As grain prices rise it's the poor that suffer most and they will, given the instability in the World. We must be self-sufficient in both food production and green energy. The UK has plenty of sea and wind and off-shore wind farms are a better solution as they can generate electricity through the night. The UK and particularly the south east has enormous loss of agricultural land through massive new housing which all should be self-sufficient with solar panels. There is thousands of acres of roof space that can be used and retain the agricultural land – the reason its not be pushed is lack of government regulation and corporate drive for easy profit

- Unnecessary industrial profiteering – its just not necessary - these so called 'green' companies have shown their colours by failing to listen to local populations and blatantly getting around planning restrictions (e.g. failing to put in hedging around huge scale battery factories that was in the original application at Pelhams). Their communication to locals was deliberately inept and deeply patronising peddling all sorts of half-truths and showing their contempt for us in order to make profit. Solar generation does not need to be concentrated in huge factories – it can be distributed fairly – that's the beauty about electricity – it can be moved around and does not need to be concentrated. Large battery installations are intrinsically unsafe with reactive chemicals and have a poor safety record, but probably are cost efficient to manage at scale. There probably is no profit if each house is made self sufficient in solar generation and battery storage. The UK government should be enforcing builders to make homes sustainable and that would preserve our fields. Its this lack of strategy and joined up thinking that creates in-equity. That's the real reason why companies like solar factories. Also the wealthy land owners can make more money out of solar factories. Its worth noting that the wealthy land owners don't offer up their fields around their houses and offer those nearest the less well off. So sadly its all about money and not saving the planet. Most of these companies are private equity or vehicles to avoid paying tax for the rich, its all about bonuses and money for wealthy land owners who just don't care about our country. They dress up profiteering with a green flavour and unfortunately some people fall for it. We should not condone this behaviour, the UK is supposed to be a democratic country – but we don't get a vote and all we can do is complain that the wealthy get more wealthy. It's just wrong.

- Environmental considerations - Solar panels are a massive environmental contamination of the landscape, siliconizing our green fields and creating eye sores where just not needed. We have a green and pleasant land that is under threat from all angles. Adding siliconizing to the land will not help in spite of all the half truths these companies peddle. Please, lets not fall for it. Its about profiteering

- Safety – it will need massive lithium battery installations to manage solar to smooth out demand as it can't be generated at night. Our farms will have to have these massive battery factories which concentrate hundreds of tons of highly reactive chemicals in one place. This is madness. Any risk assessment (like COSHH) will show that to reduce risk you must minimise concentration of chemicals and distribute them widely. Preferably people should store their electricity they generate in their homes – but were back to lack of profit for companies again and lack of government strategy. This rural part of Essex and Herts is not set up for massive industrialisation and the impact of all the trucks and building will be enormous. Fire services will not be able to cope in chemical fire on this scale. Pollution will be enormous and it will happen one day, in spite of all the half-truths the companies will peddle. It will be the local people that pay for this and its extremely unfair not to have a democratic voice.

These companies have already shown their contempt for us and failure to work with us and listen to our concerns and we should make a stand for better values – it should not be all about money. The discussion should be about important things about reducing waste with better housing insulation, grants for air source pumps, houses built with solar, more investment in off shore that is more efficient etc. Lets hope the Government and councils can listen to the people and not just help make more money for the rich.

Yours sincerely

JS Howells