

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 29 August 2022 16:11

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Objection to Berden Hall Solar Farm, App No. S62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS

Objection to Berden Hall Solar Farm

**Section 62A Planning Application: 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: Howard Farmer and

[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

**We can't eat electricity**

Nobody can: not voters, planners or politicians; not the rich or poor; not the powerful or the weak!

A year ago this Application might have seemed like a good idea. Now it looks like madness! You have seen the growing effects of Global Warming on crop destruction, food security and the beginnings of food price inflation.

Every month and worldwide, we have seen "exceptional" new threats to food security: prolonged droughts, torrential rain and destructive floods, sun baked soil, forest fires and crop fires. In addition there have been massive increases in fuel costs (affecting world food transport costs). Examples include, just in Europe this year, we have poor grain yields now, predictably disastrous root vegetable harvest this autumn and the Italian grape harvest has been decimated. And we are told we are only in the early stages of Climate Change and it will get much worse. Worldwide examples are on the TV news almost every day: floods in Pakistan, droughts in China, wildfires in Australia, and USA and Siberia, over 1.5 million acres of land destroyed by fires in Europe (in 2022 to date), etc, etc..

China is on the brink of climate induced food shortages – when that huge population needs to buy in food – prices and shortages, here (and everywhere) will soar.

You have seen how war in Europe has affected grain supplies and farmer's fuel costs. Both cause food price inflation (and further unrest in the UK). And while our war (Russia vs Nato) continues, we also have the very real threat of a war between China and Taiwan causing further disruption to overseas food supply chains and costs.

Planners must face great difficulties from all this unpredictability. But fortunately, some certainties have emerged:

>Very respected predictions tell us the effects of Climate Change will get worse over the coming years, be that 3, 20 or 40 years.

>It is not possible to be unaware of the impacts of all of this on food security and the already soaring cost of living. And that is just in the last 1 year; think of the impacts on food supplies/costs in UK, when this and worse is repeated for the next 10, 20, 40 years

>The land neutralised under these 177 acres of acres of solar panels will be out of food production for all that time. And the same applies to the many other solar installations already built or threatened for productive land. There are plenty of other sources of green energy (off-shore wind, tides, etc.) and plenty of alternative sites for solar panels (brown field sites, non-productive land, commercial & domestic roof-tops, etc.)

Taking good food producing land out of service simply means “less food”, which means hungry people. While food price inflation will make current fuel price inflation look like a walk in the park.

If land is being used to produce the wrong crops (or no crops), it takes just 1 year to change it and at very little cost. **BUT** if this land is being used to produce solar electricity it will take at least 40 years to change it back and at enormous cost (to whom). Who will rebuild the access roads; who will remove the solar panels, the batteries, the transformers; who will clean the soil and renew the soil structure and nutrients washed away by the torrential rain and flooding events? Will the current applicants still exist and who will stop them from simply walking away, at any time in the 40 years?

Surely it is a responsibility of Planning Departments to protect/support food security. Here we are, only about half way through this year’s harvest and the cost of food is a major contributor to the soaring cost of living. Removing (for 40 years) huge areas of high quality, productive land from the food chain will be an expensive disaster.

Please let us end this lethal madness of destroying food production capability.

**Of course electricity is important to today’s life, in many parts of the world, and a shortage of electricity would be very inconvenient**

**but a lack of food KILLS!**