

**From:** Rachel Sporborg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 August 2022 20:08  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Berden Hall Farm (Pelham Solar)

Dear Planning inspectorate

**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 Mrs Rachel Sporborg and [REDACTED] which is geographically close to this and other applications in the Uttlesford and East Herts Council localities . - I have a background as a lawyer and separately in landscape design and have studied extensively the effect on local flora and fauna when an area is subject to drastic change. We live close to the recent construction of a local bypass and despite considerable 'efforts' by the developers to protect eg barn owls and bats, they have quite simply disappeared overnight.

We all recognise that there is a climate disaster unfolding but my strong view is that this application is in the wrong location.

**The reasons for my objection are as follows:**

1 Paragraph 155 of the National Planning policy framework states that the cumulative landscape and visual impact of proposed developments and the adverse impacts of solar farms must be addressed.

2 Were this application to proceed, an entirely rural area would be changed irrevocably and turn it into an industrial landscape. The biggest misnomer if ever there was one is the linking of Solar + Farm. A farm should carry its understood meaning and be somewhere that crops or livestock grow. The local plan addresses the need to protect and preserve the rural landscape.

3 Best and most versatile agricultural land should be preserved at all costs. The drought experienced this year together with the Ukraine crisis reinforces the need to grow our own food. I consider it tragic that these applications are even allowed on agricultural land. Unless someone visits this area, it's hard to appreciate how rural this area given its proximity to London.

4 In the event of an emergency - and there are multiple examples where there has been, this solar farm/battery plant would be accessed by wholly unsuitable, narrow country lanes and my understanding is that the water supply nearby is inadequate to quote.

5 I am making this objection on a bank holiday weekend and happened to drive past the proposed site. The loss of local amenity value cannot be underestimated - people were out walking, riding bikes and horses. As soon as this land becomes industrialised it will never revert to its former use and I am deeply concerned by the cumulative effect of all these applications.

6 I made a very detailed objection to another planning application for a solar farm straddling East Herts and Uttlesford land - much of that is germane to that application but there are several points of relevance and I would respectfully draw your attention to the Welsh case referred to within this objection which I think has direct parallels.

[REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Rachel Sporborg