

From: Jonathan Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2022 14:38
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Lackrill@uttlesford.gov.uk
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 Benedict M Russell

I live at [REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

The solar farm is inappropriate development in the countryside

- The development proposed by Statera can only be described as industrial.
- In addition to large numbers of solar PV panels (the exact quantity is not specified) the development will include containerised inverters and a substation.
- National policy includes an environmental objective - to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a Statera economy.
- I do not understand how a massive solar farm which is an industrial development can possibly enhance the natural environment.
- The site is very close to the numerous listed buildings and scheduled monuments I do not accept that it can possibly enhance the historic environment.
- The development is not compatible with Uttlesford's policy S7 which says that the countryside will be protected for its own sake

The visual impact of this huge development cannot be satisfactorily mitigated

- The land to the South of Ginns Road (between Berden and Stocking Pelham) slopes upwards.
- The majority of the site comprises 3 huge open fields – there are no existing hedgerows and the visual impact will be stark!
- The Planning Inspector must visit the site to understand the full impact that this development will have
- The proposed development cannot be effectively integrated and assimilated into the surrounding landscape.

- The pictures submitted as part of the planning application were taken when there were still leaves on hedges and trees. These plants are deciduous – they will not provide effective screening in winter.
- The planting around the existing battery plant adjacent to the Substation at Stocking Pelham demonstrates that hedges do not provide adequate screening.
- The RHS says that it will take between 20 and 50 years for hawthorn hedges to achieve their full height – this is more than half of the life of the solar farm
- It is unrealistic to expect hedgerows to thrive where low quality plants are planted and then left. Young plants need to be watered in case of prolonged dry spells and/or heat waves, especially during the 2-3 first years after planting.
- During the second year of planting, between February and March, hard pruning of hedges is required to encourage new growth
- Weeding is needed around the base of new plants for the first couple of years to encourage growth
- Do Statera employ gardeners – doubtful!

This is not an appropriate development for the countryside, it needs to be rejected.

Kind regards

Ben Russell