

From: Deborah Patrick [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 August 2022 17:14
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
[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 Deborah Patrick
[REDACTED]

The NPPF is grossly inadequate in as much as it does not call for an **ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT** for any project under 50MW -

Layla Moran (MP) 9 March 2022 - Hansard -

“the problem with the planning framework as it stands is that many large solar farms are being put up that generate just under the 50 MW limit, so they do not require an environmental impact assessment or the level of community input that they so deserve. Does he agree that that would be a welcome addition to the national planning policy framework that the Minister should consider”

“It is notable that Ministers describe a project of 49.9MW as “large”, but developers describe them as “small” - thus developers have no need to provide information regarding the environmental damage.

A project of such magnitude immediately along side a rural community can by no means be described as small. It will have a huge bearing on the environment and landscape.

The construction of a solar farm of such magnitude - 177 acres - has the effect of ‘swallowing up’ and is out of proportion with the local village environment. It will industrialise the landscape and change the environment of the rural countryside beyond recognition for generations to come.

It is impossible to screen over 100,000 solar panels, and associated ugly constructions such as battery storage inverters etc which will be constructed on rising land. The fences are 2.5 metres and the land rises by 10 metres. Any planting proposed will need maintaining on a regular basis, particularly in droust periods. There is no mention of general ongoing maintenance in the developer’s proposal. Hedging and trees cannot grow without regular attending.

Wildlife will be restricted from roaming in their natural habitat.

Public footpaths would be restricted. Walkers would be faced by 2.5m high fencing either side of narrow rediverted footpaths - this cannot be described as pleasing walks in the countryside - necessary for our welfare. This project contravenes the planning policy which protects the countryside.

There are only three access routes to the location, via Albury, via The Street Berden, or via Chapel Hill, Berden . All are narrow winding country lanes for most of their distance, totally unsuitable for HGV’s.

The project has an enormous impact on the setting of Heritage assets, a Norman church - St Nicholas, 16th century Berden Hall, and the Norman scheduled monument at The Crump. Consideration must be given to the medieval landscape and to a further ringwork abutting the boundary of the proposed solar farm, an application for which is being considered for scheduling by Historic England.

No decommissioning proposal has been made by the developer. Who and how will the land be returned to agriculture?

The length of the project - 40 years - cannot be described as temporary. 40 years is equal to 2 generations. It would be extremely irresponsible of this generation to allow the already limited countryside to be covered with solar panels - they are only 11 percent efficient - (information from personal experience of domestic roof solar panels). Uttlesford has already approved solar farms resulting in over 700 acres of much needed land being taken out of production, and have many more in the pipeline. East Anglia is reported to have the ability to supply all our energy sometime soon; in fact it will be a net exporter to the rest of the UK. The area needs no more solar farms when the supply of wind power can supply our requirements for renewables without damage to agricultural land.

This project must be rejected - it is totally unsuitable to locate such a large solar farm amongst small village communities. Agricultural land is required for food production - food security must be taken into consideration. Prime agricultural land must be used to provide more homegrown food for our growing population. We must reduce our reliability on imported food.

Please reject this proposal.

Deborah Patrick