

From: Josephine Hofer [REDACTED] >
Sent: 31 August 2022 20:59
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] k
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 Josephine Hofer.
[REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

The land identified by Statera as the site for Berden Hall solar Farm extends to 177 acres of productive farm land, as the effects of climate change become more drastic, our population will increase due to an influx of climate refugees, shrinking landmass due to rising sea levels as well as the continuous rise in population. This agricultural land will be essential in supplying food and so by taking away its agricultural use, the intention to combat the climate crisis with these solar panels is completely counter productive.

As a local resident I frequently walk along these footpaths which will now be surrounded by solar panels and border by fencing. I do not want to walk along a corridor, furthermore, as a young woman, I am anxious for my safety walking through a long enclosed corridor in a rural area where I cannot escape.

Combatting the climate crisis also includes the protection of animal species and habitats, which will be greatly effected by the solar panels as it will cut off their green corridors and destroy habitats.

I live on the road between Little Hadham and Berden, it is a small country road. At some points, it is barely wide enough to accommodate two regular cars. Cars currently need to stop in order to allow tractors to pass. It is completely unsuitable for articulated lorries or large HGVs. Furthermore, there are many old and listed houses along these roads, including my own old house which certainly could suffer damage from these large vehicles, as well as worsening the road condition causing more damage to our cars.

Finally, whilst there is a low chance the batteries will catch fire, there is a chance and I do not think this should be overlooked. If they were to catch fire, the damage done to the surrounding area could be catastrophic, only in Saffron Walden in July, a fire started by a barbecue caused a 400 acre field fire. As the effects of climate change become more apparent, these extreme heats will be far more common and thus the damage and risk far greater.