

From: Madeleine Russell [REDACTED] >
Sent: 31 August 2022 19:17
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [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 **Madeleine Z. Russell**

[REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

There is no benefit to the local community

- There is no benefit of this development to the local community. Residents do not wish to be “bought off” by the offer of modest amounts of funding. The loss of the countryside is irreplaceable.
- Local residents will not get cheaper solar energy
- There will be a loss of rural amenities such as footpaths with open views

The Government does not support large scale solar development of this sort

- In October 2021 (in the run up to COP 26), the Government published its Net Zero Strategy (Build Back Greener). This Strategy does NOT support the construction of industrial scale solar farms. It’s focus on renewable energy is almost entirely on off-shore wind energy with a commitment to generate 40GW of energy from offshore wind by 2030. This target was first set in 2020 in the Government’s 10 point plan for a Green Industrial revolution which said that this quadrupling in offshore wind capacity would generate enough energy to power every home in the country.
- The focus on wind power explains why there are very few references to solar power in the Net Zero Strategy. Where solar is referenced, the focus is on “unsubsidised rooftop solar”, retrofitting solar on houses and small scale community solar projects.
- The East of England (including Uttlesford) has a key role to play in

National renewable energy plans because 60% of the current offshore wind projects will come onshore along the East Coast. In fact, National Grid's Electricity 10 year Statement (published in 2020) says that the large amount of generation to be connected in the East of England means that power generation in the East of England will exceed local demand; so the East of England will be a power exporting region. We do not need more renewable energy in Uttlesford!

- The fact that Uttlesford DC declared a climate emergency in 2019 is irrelevant. This is not a planning policy and is not relevant for the purposes of determining planning applications.

40 years is not temporary

- 40 years is not temporary.
- There are several planning appeal decisions where the Secretary of State has rejected this argument. For example, in an appeal against a solar farm at Five Oak Green near Tonbridge (ref 2226557) the SoS said that 25 years was a considerable period of time and the reversibility of the proposal was given no weight. There is another appeal which relates to Huddleston Farm near Horsham (ref: 2218035). In this case the Secretary of State commented that just 30 years was a considerable period of time and he gave no positive weight to the claimed reversibility of the development.

Yours Sincerely

Madeleine Russell