

From: Melissa Sharman [REDACTED]  
Sent: 31 August 2022 14:18  
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 Melissa Sharman [REDACTED]. I grew up in Stocking Pelham for the first 22 years of my life and my father and sister still live there.

The reason for my objection is as follows:

We are living through a cost of living crisis. Since the war in Ukraine we've seen that we cannot rely so much on imports, we need to keep our agricultural land for feeding the country. This area is high grade Agricultural land. We need to be growing our own food. If so many developments are allowed, that's swathes of high quality agricultural land gone, which could further add to the lack of food and high cost of living. It would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework para 170 b which requires that planning decisions should "recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services - including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland".

The development is too big for the area, it is not a small scale scheme. It is 177 acres of productive farm land. The height of the panels, the slope of the land could lead to flooding and the beauty of the countryside that I used to walk through and ride my horses on could be wiped out. The local nature devastated.

How does this planning application abide to the rules above? It doesn't and it's a travesty that such beautiful countryside is at risk of disappearing. The houses and residents survival is under threat, their well-being devastated and their housing stock/prices ruined. No one would want to live there in the future.

This application is inappropriate for the countryside. I also fear for the risk of fire and explosion that have not been considered or mitigated. The proposed site is close to houses and within a mile of another huge battery plant. There have been 35 BESS fires in the past three years, five of which have occurred in the last 18 months. A fire at a BESS site in Merseyside in 2020 took 59 hours to extinguish and debris was blasted 75ft away. Berden and Stocking Pelham have insufficient mains water to deal with a fire. There should be 1,900 litre of water available per minutes for a minimum of 2 hours in accordance with Allianz and the Suffolk Fire Service. There is under half of this available in the area. The villages are also 7 miles from a fire station.

The amount of traffic on the tiny roads will be dangerous as these roads are not suitable for large numbers of lorries, and it will cause huge disruption to residents. In fact all vehicles will pass by the pre-school in Stocking Pelham or the primary school in Manuden and this could be incredibly worrying for parents with small children.

Please do not consider this application in isolation. There are several solar farms and battery plants under consideration in the area. I grew up playing in the quiet countryside of these local villages and walked and rode my horses all around the footpaths and bridleways in the area. It was the most calming and special environment to bring up children in. To think this tranquil beauty could be threatened by greed devastates me.

Please, please protect the countryside and refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Sharman