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RECEIVED
05 SEP 2022
MAJOR CASEWORK

cc Laurence Ackrill
Planning Department
Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4ER

Objection to Berden Hall Solar Farm Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS (Uttlesford)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the application to install a solar installation on 70ha of farmland just outside the village of Berden in north west Essex.

I object to the proposed development for the following reasons:

- It will take 70 hectares/177 acres of Grade 2 and Grade 3 Best Most Versatile farmland out of food production when the need to feed our growing population has never been greater. When the more than 100,000 solar panels reach the end of their productive life the land will be almost impossible to return to a fertile state, as so much of it will be covered in the concrete pads used to stabilise the panels.
- I am a passionate supporter of renewable energy and am reluctant to oppose the proposed development as I abhor nimbyism, especially in the context of the climate crisis and the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels. However, the scale of the solar farm proposed for Berden is completely inappropriate for a community of this size. It will dwarf the village and dominate the landscape.
- The battery storage facility needed if this development is approved will pose a significant fire risk to the land and properties around it and to local residents. The fire service have said the local water supplies are totally inadequate to extinguish such a fire, and that there is no evacuation plan in place, should one be needed.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Childs