

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Team
Room 3J Kite Wing, Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN

26th August 2022

Dear Sir / Madam

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

Please note our objection to the above planning application to construct a solar farm on land beside Ginns Road, Berden, as we don't think it contributes to a sustainable future.

Our main concerns are that the developers will maximise their profits whilst leaving a burden of cost on Uttlesford council and the local residents.

We object to the destruction that will be caused to the rural routes that the HGVs will be taking to and from site:

- The Construction Traffic Management Plan estimates that during a 6 month period approximately 350 HGVs, will drive through the country lanes from the A120, via Albury Road to Ginns Road and then return along country lanes back to A120.
- The carefully chosen Google pictures (pages 11 to 17 of the CTMP) fail to highlight the reality of that route. The pictures don't show any oncoming traffic or any of the many places which narrow to single traffic, (often with residential dwellings and their boundaries directly roadside).
- This high level of traffic will damage the roads and will erode the margins. So who will pay the millions it costs to repair them or will they be left in that state? Even if alternative transport routes are suggested, the HGVs would still have to travel through narrow lanes to the A120.

The industrial scale of the proposed 177 acre site of solar panels is counter-productive to a sustainable future. Oil and precious metals will be used in manufacturing the panels and then there is the fuel to transport them to site. In a comparatively short period of time the panels will be obsolete and will end up in landfill. The original developers by then will be long gone, so it will be left to Uttlesford council to absorb the decommissioning costs. The site will be deemed to be returned to its original use as if it hadn't been developed, which is ironic considering this application is to construct something.

We understand the need for more sustainable energy, but the alternative suggestions (eg solar panels on new houses / industrial space / land surrounding airports / or low grade land) should be explored, rather than permitting a 177 acre blanket of solar panels which will have a detrimental impact.

Currently the majority of the site is BMV grade land, ie high value for production of arable crops. This is more beneficial to a sustainable future, as crops grown in the UK will travel less miles to the table.

From Sue & Dave Hennell, [REDACTED]

Cc: Laurence Ackrill, Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER