

Ian Stumpf [REDACTED]

5 August 2022

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

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 Berden Hall Farm, Ginns Road, Berden [OBJECTION]

We write to object to the solar “farm” facility proposed by Berden Solar Limited (a dormant company with a balance sheet value of £1).

If approved, the development will destroy a huge area (appearing to measure in the region of one square kilometre) of open countryside which is currently used as arable land.

Developments of this nature do not meet with the guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, where the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities.

The proposed site is completely inappropriate for such a scheme and the NPPF makes it clear that this is not the preferred location for developments of this kind, and accordingly other locations such as those mentioned in the Framework should be considered first – i.e. focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non agricultural land.

The proposed development has clearly been designed to fall just below the 50MW threshold in order to avoid being treated as a “nationally significant energy infrastructure project”, but is, nevertheless, a development of substantial scale that will have a considerable cumulative impact on the landscape and ruin a large area of unspoilt countryside. It is axiomatic that this scheme will cause industrialisation of the countryside.

Additionally, our reasons for objection include:

- Impact on nearby listed buildings and sites of historical interest.
- Impact on the habitat of wildlife.
- The sacrifice of BMV land – which is in itself counterintuitive to reducing the impact of climate change.

Government policy makes it clear that the use of arable grade land for this purpose should be avoided and brownfield sites are to be preferred.

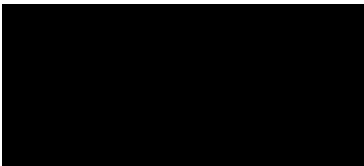
The local Parish Council of Berden (which is also opposed to the scheme along with neighbouring Parish Councils) has established that there is an overwhelming objection to this kind of development.

There is no practical way that the impact of this development can be made acceptable due to its location and scale.

As well as environmental and landscape impacts, the site encompasses a number of public rights of way which will also be affected – some of which we understand have been discussed with the Local Planning Authority with a view to having them formally diverted for the benefit of the scheme.

Sites for renewable energy forms such as this should be driven by a properly considered master-planned approach and not led by private developers making speculative applications of this nature.

Yours faithfully



Ian Stumpf

For and on behalf of:

(Ian Stumpf

(Charlie Stumpf

(Edward Stumpf

(Beverley Stumpf