



CONSULTATION ON PLANNING APPLICATION S62A/22/0006: Development of a ground mounted solar farm with a generation capacity of up to 49.99MW

Dear Planning Inspectorate

I am writing **to object to the** planning application detailed above for the following reasons

- Statera are not a company that I, as a Berden resident, feel they can trust to deliver what they propose. The evidence is already there. About 5 years ago they constructed a battery unit in Berden. They promised to paint it green, landscape the surrounds, provide a wildlife pond. None of this actually happened. We are surrounded by a stunning rural landscape which is not marked by the white monstrosity they constructed with no landscaping, no wildlife pond and no after care. It is surrounded by a few dead shrubs and a large dried out hole in the ground.
- At a recent meeting at Berden Village Hall which Statera organised, they once again were displaying questionable propaganda. Looking carefully at their images we realised that they were inaccurate in their dimensions, namely they showed solar panels of 2 metres height instead of 3 metres. Their ability to answer basic questions about noise and access were quite frankly laughable as they stuttered through responses. This is not a professional company with a professional outlook or vision. It is a company that has been formed to make money for all concerned. I do not believe they have any real interest in sustainability at all.
- We are a rural community that produces crops. We are no longer in the EU. There is a war in Europe. All of these factors need to be considered. The land they are proposing for their solar farm is good quality, Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land, which at the moment is growing and harvesting wheat crops. It is not as Statera imply just growing crops for animal fodder. Once again they lie. Have Statera actually taken time to look and source our brown field sites? I think not.
- Greed is the main driver behind this application. The only people who are going to benefit from this are the landowners and companies. I walk the fields where this site is proposed daily with my dog. I see the wildlife which surrounds me. I am very concerned about the effect it will have on the natural world
- We do not have the road infrastructure to access this site. Huge lorries will have to drive through tiny country lanes. This is dangerous to all the walkers, dog walkers, ramblers and bicyclists who come out into our beautiful rural setting to enjoy the peace of nature. What Statera is proposing is dangerous. Highways have already informed Uttlesford council of this fact when considering another solar farm planned in the area and the application was refused.
- With the current battery unit there are already noise issues. Statera decided to explore this and placed a recording facility nowhere near the unit itself. Interesting? I was walking past it wondering what it was doing there as there is no way it could give an accurate representation of the volume of sound coming from the present battery unit

- Battery units are dangerous. They have exploded, caught fire. Local fire brigades are unable to control them. They release toxic chemicals into the atmosphere. So WHY are they being proposed next to two villages where communities live?
- The solar farm construction will undeniably impact upon listed buildings such as our Grade 2 Berden Hall and our Grade 1 Berden Church along with other significant properties in the area. It is my understanding that the guidelines supplied by Government advises that they are not built where it significantly impacts these historic buildings
- China is the main exporter of these units and the making of them often uses forced labour. Why are we condoning this?

As mentioned before, the only people who will benefit from this atrocity are the landowners and the companies who build them. It is a money making scheme where potentially people will make millions of pounds out of this. That is not a reason for allowing this to happen.

