

From: Colin Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 August 2022 10:38
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 [Colin Simpson]
I live at [REDACTED]].

The reason for my objection is as follows:

I do not live in this area but I have close family who do and I have been visiting this area and walking over the land for nearly 20 years. I find it completely irresponsible that it would be considered appropriate to build a solar farm covering 177 acres of prime farmland in this place. Yes we have an energy crisis and something needs to be done about that however, we also have a food supply crisis. This land, for all the years I have been visiting, has been used largely for the growing of cereal crops which for several reasons are now in short supply. There are several options for generating energy but there are no alternatives for food . We can't eat electricity regardless of how green it is considered to be. Solar is also a very inefficient method of generation, we do not live in Australia or Saudi Arabia and in the UK solar panels only provide efficiency of around 11% or 12% on average. Yes we have had a few months of good weather but it never lasts very long, therefore, to destroy the food production potential of this site at this time would be ludicrous!

Also, the environmental impact of this proposal on the local residents would be extreme. In effect this proposal would turn what is a pleasant rural environment into an industrial environment and for most of the residents this is totally unacceptable. The proposed location is on rising land and it would be impossible to provide effective visual screening. Also the local roads are far too small to allow easy movement of the vehicles required for the construction. Many of the people who live in the local villages have to commute to work and I could foresee considerable disruption being caused because of this. During my frequent journeys to this area I pass several solar and wind farm sites which are all located alongside major roads which avoids these issues, this is not the case here. The Highways Agency in Uttlesford actually rejected this scheme on these grounds on the original application.

Overall this is an ill considered proposal for all these reasons and should not be approved.

Colin Simpson