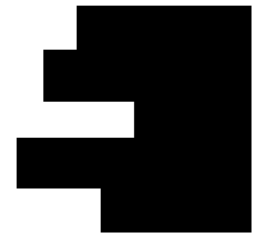


From: Lucinda Armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 August 2022 12:00
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: S62A/22/0006 Development of a ground mounted solar farm with associated infrastructure on land at Berden Hall Farm Dewes Green Road Berden



August 18 2022

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

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 177 acres of farmland outside the village of Berden.

My close family live in Berden and my own village lies less than five miles to the east, so I visit Berden often and frequently go for walks in the area where the development is proposed and know it very well.

There are a host of reasons to oppose this proposed development, in my view:

- I do not believe that industrialisation of high quality farmland is necessary or sustainable. Our need to feed our growing population has never been greater than now, when the war in Ukraine has highlighted the dangers of relying on imported food.
- The solar technology proposed for this development is very likely to be superseded within a few years, and if the development goes ahead and the technology becomes obsolete it will leave behind a large area of once productive farmland infested with pernicious weeds, carpeted in concrete pads – a brownfield site where once the land was used for growing wheat and other valuable crops.
- Solar energy is vastly less efficient than offshore wind energy, and in any case, Uttlesford already produces far more solar energy than any other rural district in Essex.
- National Planning policy states that planning decisions should protect and enhance valued landscapes. There are listed buildings and a scheduled monument visible from the proposed site, which is a peaceful and historic landscape of open views and ancient hedgerows.

To summarise: investing in renewable energy is obviously vital in the context of climate change, but installing large-scale solar installations on prime farmland makes no sense. Instead, in my opinion solar panels should be installed on all new housing, on commercial roofs and retro-fitted to existing housing stock, as well as being placed along motorways and on brownfield sites. Using greenfield land should be a very last resort.

Yours faithfully,

Lucy Armstrong