

**From:** rosina conen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 August 2022 20:53  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Berden Hall Farm (Pelham Solar)

Re: Application number on S62A/22/0006 (and UTT/22/2046/PINS)

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal by Statera to construct a solar farm on 177 acres of land at Berden Hall Farm.

My name is Roger Conen  
[REDACTED]

The principle reasons for my objection are as follows:

The sheer scale of the destruction of arable farmland to install the Solar Panels, their manufacture, delivery, establishment and end of use destination into land-fill presents a considerable negation of any claimable benefit. The idea that this 'temporary' change of use of land for 40 years would see it return to the beautiful, arable countryside it once destroyed is extremely unlikely. The original sourcing of raw materials, manufacturing and delivering of the Solar Panels and batteries present their own separate and important questions around environmental impact and worker welfare. The recognised low efficiency of the panels that requires the huge land grab is also further reduced as ambient temperature increases

Should there be a Lithium battery fire at the proposed facility, many communities will be seriously and dangerously affected for miles around. Lithium battery fires can burn for weeks and release highly toxic gases, contaminating the locality and poisoning local residents and wildlife. The local and surrounding infrastructure could not support any reasonable Civil Emergency plan. The management of the necessary evacuation of residencies within the affected radius and provision of appropriate prompt medical support could not be anywhere near being effective.

Chapter 22 of the East Herts District Council Local Plan 2018 states categorically the importance in "maintaining the special countryside character of the rural area". The introduction of a Solar Development is in direct conflict with this policy. The sheer scale and destruction of arable farm land to install the Solar Panels, their delivery and end of use destination of land-fill presents a considerable negation of the original claimed benefit. The original sourcing of raw materials and manufacturing of the Solar Panels present separate and important questions around environmental impact and worker welfare

Policy CFLR3 of the East Herts District Council Local Plan 2018 states that development proposals must not adversely affect any Public Rights of Way. There is such a right of way in the vicinity of the proposed battery unit, the experience of the existing open countryside will unquestionably be compromised by these proposals.

In the East Herts District Plan 2018, the 'Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt' covers land which is "highly valued by the district's residents and visitors alike, particularly for its open and largely undeveloped nature. As such it forms an important part of the character of the district". We question whether the adopted Policy GBR2 - which aims to maintain the area as a "valued countryside resource" and lists the type of development that may be permitted "provided that they are compatible with the character and appearance of the rural area" - will be complied with.

As a consequence , I must request that this proposal is rejected in full

Roger Conen