

**From:** Diana [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 August 2022 17:55  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to Berden Hall Solar Farm Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS (Uttlesford)

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, outside the village of Berden, near the town of Newport, Essex .

My name is Diana Defries.  
[REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection is as follows:

- The use of high-quality farmland for solar energy is neither necessary or sustainable. Our need to feed our growing population has never been greater, underlined by the impact of the war in Ukraine on supply chains in Europe and the risks to national food security which are the direct result of having to rely on imported food. Solar energy is inefficient. Any carbon savings from energy produced with current solar technology will be eclipsed by our need to import food - a direct consequence of the loss of highly productive arable land.
- The solar technology proposed for this development will undoubtedly become obsolete in just a few years. Once it has been removed, we will be left with a large, weed-infested wasteland scattered with concrete slabs, effectively creating a brownfield site where the land is presently used to grow wheat, barley and beans.
- Solar energy is markedly less efficient than other methods of generating green energy, such as offshore wind energy. 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. All those in the area, and friends of who regularly visit those who live nearby, value the countryside in and around the Newport area for walking and cycling. Development of this area for solar farms will needlessly sacrifice an important and valued local amenity.
- Investing in renewable energy is obviously vital in the context of climate change, however this could be achieved by installing solar panels on all new houses, on commercial roofs and by retro-fitting panels to existing housing stock, as well as placing them along motorways and on brownfield sites. Using any greenfield land should only be a final act of desperation, if all else is lost.

Yours faithfully  
D. Defries

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**Imagination is more important than knowledge.**

**Knowledge is limited.  
Imagination encircles the world.  
~Einstein**