

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 August 2022 15:38
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 John Walker
[REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

I think it is essential for the Planning Inspector to decide whether the UK has a greater need for food production or electricity generation from solar farms.

This issue (i.e. food vs energy) has been discussed in Parliament on many occasions. Eddie Hughes MP, a Minister at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed in June 2021 that the statements made by Eric Pickles in 2015 are still applicable. Therefore, Uttlesford must consider whether the use of agricultural land has been shown to be necessary.

Uttlesford's Policy ENV5 also says that development of the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted where opportunities have been assessed for accommodating development on previously developed sites or within existing development limits. Where development of agricultural land is required, developers should seek to use areas of poorer quality except where other sustainability considerations suggest otherwise.

As the land identified for development is high-quality agricultural land its use must be justified by the most compelling evidence.

Statera suggest that the majority of the land on the site is Grade 2 or Grade 3a agricultural land which is "best and most versatile" agricultural land.

- This is productive farm land which should be used for farming.

We currently import more than 40 per cent of our food, and recent threats by countries to ban exports of vaccinations have highlighted the threat that

similar bans could be imposed on food if countries are themselves short of supplies in the future.

John Walker