

From: Jane Chetcuti [REDACTED] >
Sent: 25 August 2022 14:57
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Berden Hall Farm - Section 62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS

Application: Section 62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS (Uttlesford)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposal by Statera to construct a solar development on 177 acres of land (named Berden Hall Farm) in the beautiful countryside near my home due to the detrimental impact the development will have locally. Firstly, it will mean the loss of a huge amount - 177 acres - of productive farm land - mostly classified as Best and Most Versatile - therefore a huge loss in arable crops - at a time when UK food security has become an incredibly important issue nationally. This development is not a farm it is an industrial development - it is incongruous and harmful to the proposed area. It will include 100,068 photovoltaic panels to the height of 2.5 metres, 10 inverter units the size of shipping containers, a substation with high steel fencing and deer fencing again to the height of 2.5 metres, together with CCTV units. There will be a significant increase in site and maintenance vehicles, including approx 20 HGV lorries a day, through small pretty villages and lanes - increasing noise and pollution during the construction, ongoing maintenance and operation of the site. Finally - in 40 years time (the proposed timescale) when it is time for the deconstruction of the solar development, the disposal of the hazardous materials will negatively impact the local environment and community further. All this will have a devastating effect on the local ecosystem, the landscape and wildlife habitat. The development will disturb local wildlife and vegetation and involve extensive degradation of animal habitats. Some wildlife are likely to desert the local ecosystem altogether.

- National Planning Policy states that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geographical value and soils.

- The Building Research Establishment recommends that industrial scale solar developments should ideally utilise previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land, industrial land or agricultural land preferably classification 3b, 4 and 5, avoiding the use of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Land should be predominantly flat and not cause undue impact to nearby domestic properties or roads.

The site that has been chosen is BMV agricultural land and includes a large portion of sloping land and is near to domestic properties and roads.

Uttlesford district already has already approved ample ground mounted solar power to power 63,000 Uttlesford households. I feel the very nature and essence of our local villages will be destroyed by this intrusive and large construction; having a hugely negative impact on the wildlife and ecology of the area.

Your sincerely
Jane Chetcuti

