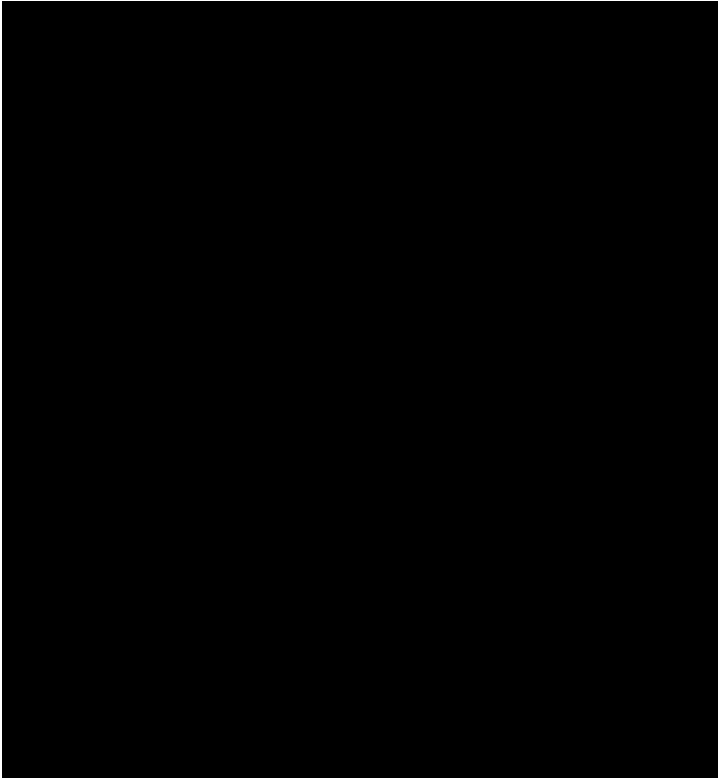


From: johnwfahy [REDACTED] m>
Sent: 25 August 2022 12:47
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Berden Hall Farm (Pelham Solar)



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 Fahy

[REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

The use of grade 2 and grade 3 farmland for extensive Solar Power Station implementation is fundamentally wrong and is against guidelines for assessing the land as suitable for solar power generation.

The loss of public footpath access to extensive views over the local beautiful countryside represents a significant loss of local amenity which is highly valued by residents of the area.

Walking between screening hedgerows is just not the same.

Solar Panel Arrays are just a blot on the landscape in that they are singularly unattractive in appearance.

As a local resident I frequently walk along these footpaths which will now be surrounded by solar panels and border by fencing. I do not want to walk along a corridor monitored by CCTV. Thus these facilities are effectively denied to me.

The current application shows transformers (30) within or closely adjacent to the Solar Panel Arrays, given that Solar Panels are inherently DC generators and Transformers conventionally are inherently AC devices it is of concern that these are more complex and may include local battery storage and inverters as has been proposed at other local sites. Alternatively there must be embedded inverters and possibly battery storage facilities that are not identified on the plan.

In either case I have considerable concerns over the safety of lithium battery banks, would access routes support the attendance of appropriate emergency services in the event of explosion, fire or toxic gas release. They are close to public rights of way which are said to be kept open throughout construction and operation of the proposed facility.

The Solar Farm proposal has grown to be of an industrial scale and is way beyond what can be considered a small scale local development. The land identified as the site for Berden Hall Solar Farm encompasses 177 acres. This is a huge area encompassing or adjacent to many pleasant footpaths.

The UK imports more than 40% of the food we eat, and this seems set to rise, to use prime arable land for inefficient solar power generation does not make common sense, especially as one or two Wind Turbines could provide as much power on average over a year as this whole proposed facility. Use of unproductive land would be so much more sensible and allow us to continue to grow as much of our own food as we can, especially as our food requirement is projected to rise significantly during the 40 years it is said that the land would be out of use for arable farming. This makes no sense at all.

If land based solar photovoltaic generation is really needed there are many areas of lower grade land which could be used, this together with effective use of rooftop installations (both domestic and industrial) is where the attention should be given together with more innovative and distributed connection to the grid. Offshore wind, wave and tidal generation make much more sense.

Traditional views which frame the setting of historic buildings in the immediate vicinity of the site will be destroyed. Much of the site for this development is on sloping land and will be highly visible from the surrounding landscape.

Solar panels belong on the roofs of buildings both domestic and commercial and not in the countryside

John Fahy

Berden