

From: Katherine Armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 August 2022 11:25
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

[REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Berden Hall Solar Farm - further information

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August 26th 2022

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Team
Room 3J Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/Madam

OBJECTION to Berden Hall Solar Farm
Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS (Uttlesford)

I have already submitted a letter objecting to the above proposed development, but since then additional information has come to light regarding two matters:

1. An ancient ringwork motte on the proposal site, historically known as The Rookery or Cumber Hills. I wish to draw your attention to the following information, which will also be explained in greater detail by Jess Tipper from Historic England in a report he is currently writing re the proposal to build and maintain a large-scale solar installation on the edge of Berden.

As of this week I have applied to Historic England for scheduled monument status for the ringwork, which would lie mainly within the red line of the proposal site. It is a crop mark clearly visible on Google Earth and is within a few hundred yards of another ringwork motte at The Crump, formerly Stocks Farm, Brick House End, Berden which already has scheduled monument status. The proximity of the two sites adds to their joint and individual historical importance, though the one in question is thought to be even older than the one at The Crump (11th-13th century). LIDAR evidence has been captured of the ringwork on the proposal site, and a cooking pot and potsherds were found there during a professional excavation in

1952. The entryway to the ringwork appears to point towards the village, suggesting it was used for defence in times of attack. It appears on several old maps of Berden from, e.g., 1777 and 1896.

Historic England have advised me that there is a case to be made for scheduled monument status for the ringwork motte, that an application for Scheduled Monument status has already been submitted for the ringwork prior to my application, and that the planning inspectorate should not approve any development of the site until Historic England have ruled on whether to grant the ringwork SAM status.

2. In addition, I wish the Planning Inspectorate to be made aware of an application to move a Public Right of Way on the proposal site. CPRE Essex have been made aware of this and advise that a PRow should not be permitted to be moved on land which is the subject of a proposed development until there has been proper public consultation re the PRow – instead, Essex County Council, possibly unaware of the situation, have given the public until August 27th to object to the change. So far several of those of us who have objected have not received acknowledgements of our emails from Essex CC.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr) Katherine Armstrong