

[REDACTED]

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

30 August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm on land adjacent to Ginns Road, Berden on the grounds that the land will no longer be available for agricultural use.

Statera have made a passing reference in their planning application to the possibility of "sheep grazing within the solar farm if appropriate/practical" but have made no commitment to continue to use the land for agricultural purposes. The land will essentially be changed from rural to industrial use. Chemicals are likely to be used to control weeds and pests and habitats and the nature of local wildlife will be altered. I do not agree that a period of 40 years is a "temporary change" in the use of the land.

I am also concerned about the potential impact on the quality of the soil. Large areas of solar panels will change the way that rainwater falls on the ground, air currents will change and large areas will be permanently shaded from sunlight. I have particular concerns regarding surface water drainage and the consequent risk of flooding.

The earth is our biggest carbon store. We do not know what impact these environmental changes will have on its ability to continue to store carbon and this development could potentially be a counter-productive feature in the battle to reverse climate change.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

30/8/2022
Date

[REDACTED]

cc Laurence Ackrill, Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices,
London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER