

**From:** Rosie Somers [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 27 August 2022 17:25  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to 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 Rosie Somers** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**I would be happy to speak at any hearing PINS sets up or during a public meeting.**

**The reasons for my objection are as follows: it is too big, the site is not flat, I walk my dogs around these fields and often cycle around this area.**

**Let me expand on these points:**

**The size of the development simply too big!**

- Uttlesford's Policy ENV15 says that small scale renewable energy development schemes to meet local needs will be supported providing it can be demonstrated that they do not adversely affect i) The character of sensitive landscapes; ii) Nature conservation interests; or iii) Residential and recreational amenity
- This is not a "small scale" scheme.
- The area covered by solar panels is even larger than the area which was contemplated at the time of the application to Uttlesford District Council for a Screening Opinion.
- The land identified by Statera as the site for Berden Hall solar Farm extends to 177 acres of productive farm land.
- The visual impact of such a huge solar farm would fundamentally change the character of the area.
- The scheme will not contribute to the energy needs of local residents.

**The site is not flat and is not suitable for a solar farm**

- The majority of the site is sloping and it is not possible to "hide" the solar farm.
- There is a significant slope which rises up from Ginns Road to the top of the site. The OS Map shows the contours of the Northern boundary of the site (parallel to Ginns Road) to be 111m above sea level. However, the top of the site is 125m above sea level i.e. around 12m

higher. As the panels are over 3m high, it follows that the panels will be completely visible to walker, cyclist, rider or road user as they travel along Ginns Road. It will be impossible to mitigate the significant visual impact of this industrial development by planting hedges adjacent to Ginns Road. Hedges do not provide adequate screening in winter.

### **I am keen walker – I don't want to walk through a solar farm**

- There are multiple local Public Rights of Ways within and immediately adjacent to the site.
- I often walk along footpath 25 which runs along the top of the site from Park Green to Crabb's Green and eventually connects with Ginns Road. This path forms part of a popular walk published by the 100 Parishes organisation  
[REDACTED] If the solar farm is built, the path will run between solar panels and fencing to the west and the east.
- I often walk from the top of the site (near Park Green Common) along footpath 26. This path follows the hill all the way down to the track that runs parallel to Ginns Road (and to the South of Berden Hall). If the solar farm is developed it will mean walking this path with a fence and solar panels on all of its western side and some of its eastern side. The solar farm will be visible from this footpath at all times of year.
- 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!
- The planting adjacent to the existing battery plant adjacent to the Substation at Stocking Pelham demonstrates that hedges do not provide adequate screening.
- The corridors proposed between solar panels will prevent me from seeing the countryside and enjoying the countryside as I currently experience it.

### **I cycle/ride/walk along Ginns Road – my enjoyment of the countryside will be ruined**

- I often cycle/walk,/ride along Ginns Road.
- The views along this road will be hugely negatively impacted by the construction of huge numbers of solar panels and the associated infrastructure

Proximity to a sub-station is NOT a reason to use Best and Most Versatile Land for inefficient renewable energy generation when we are heading to a food crisis.

Many thanks,

Rosie Somers