Berden Parish Council c/o Martin's Green Berden Bishop's Stortford CM23 1AE parishclerk@berden.org.uk

14 April 2022

Nigel Brown
Development Control
Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4ER

By email: planning@uttlesford.gov.uk

Dear Sir

Statera Energy - Proposed Solar Energy Scheme (EIA Screening Ref. UTT/21/2158/SCO) Land Adj. Pelham Substation Park Green Lane Berden

We refer to above awaited planning application and, having regard to the above screening opinion, we are writing to highlight the archaeology and heritage position and to ensure that the local planning authority are aware and ensure that full geophysical surveys and trial trenching is carried out before any planning application is submitted.

As part of the screening opinion, Essex County Council Place Services have highlighted the significant archaeological remains within the solar panel areas and this includes the Rookery, the 12th-13th century raised earthwork with banked ditch. This was last trenched in 1954 and the proximity and relationship to the neighbouring Crump Schedule monument is important.

Place Services have recommended an initial desk-based assessment and then ground evaluation.

Historic England similarly note the potential adverse impacts on these non-designated heritage assets and ask the District Council to get involved.

When this was queried with Statera at the recent public consultation event, Statera were unaware of the Rookery and indeed the Crump Scheduled Monument and Grade 1 and Grade II Listed Buildings.

We attach details of the Rookery and its location is shown on the attached plan (the red circle).

In addition, crop marks and surface finds have also indicated a second possible location within the proposed Statera site.

Are the District Council involved with Statera's heritage advisors in this regard?

Based on the above, we would request that the District Council ensure full archaeology geophysical surveys and trial trenching are undertaken **before** any planning application is submitted.

We look forward to hearing from you.

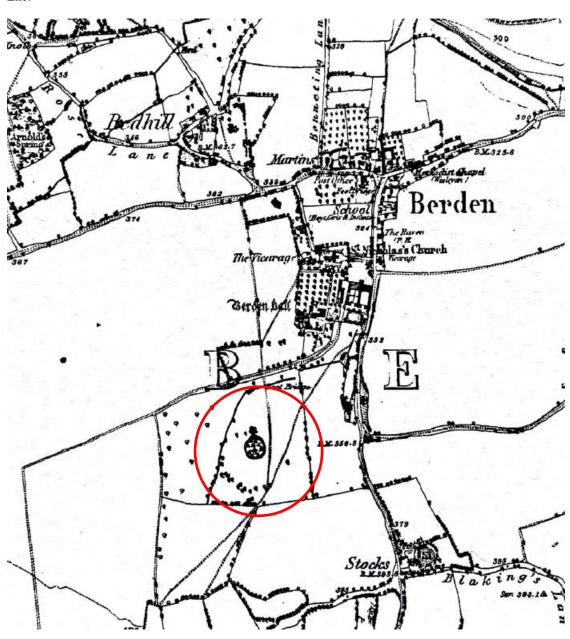
Yours faithfully



Laura Free Clerk to Berden Parish Council

cc Cllr Janice Loughlin

Enc.



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THE ROOKERY: A RINGWORK AT BERDEN, ESSEX.

By GROUP-CAPTAIN G. M. KNOCKER

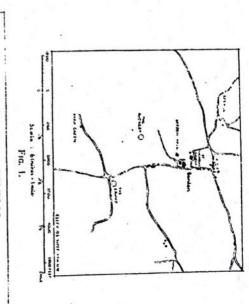
The parish of Berden lies about 7 miles due north of Bishop's Stortford. There is a fine Elizabethan Manor House and within a mile of this were two ringworks (Fig. 1).

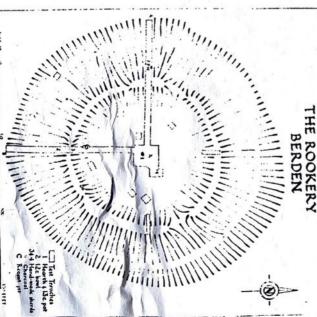
One of these, known as 'The Crump', consists of a circular enclosure, surrounded by a moat containing water, with an overall diameter of about 180 feet. The owner has done a little digging in the middle and found mortared flints, some 12th century cooking-pots, an iron spear head without a socket, the handle going up the inside of the blade, some wavy-edged horse-shoes and 'fiddle-key' nails, and two or three fragments of bronze strips stamped into figures-of- eight!

These finds are as yet unpublished.

The second ringwork, known locally as 'The Rookery' on account The second ringwork, known locally as a field just south of Berden of the copse which once covered it, lay in a field just south of Berden of the copse which once covered it, lay in a field just south of Berden Ifall, on the farm of Mr. A. Watson. The map shows a pond, immediately north of the ring but this has since been drained. The present writer was instructed by the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Works, to carry out a rescue excavation to endeavour to discover the nature and date of the earthwork before it deavour to discover the nature and date of the surrounding a flat 1954.

The carthwork consisted of a banked ditch surrounding a flat The carthwork consisted of a banked ditch surrounding a flat central area (Fig. 2). The overall diameter to the outer edge of the ditch was an average of 180 feet, the central area having a diameter of about 72 feet. Spoil from the ditch had been piled up to form a bank along its inner edge. This bank stood 8 feet above the then ditch bottom but the ditch was originally about 2 feet 6 inches deeper. There was no sign of an entry in the bank nor a causeway over the ditch. The central area was some 18 inches higher than the land outside, indicating that some of the ditch spoil was spread over the interior space.





A similar ricip was found in the outer bodey at Frantinghem Castle, Suffolk, G. M. Roosker, Excussions, at Frantingham Castle, 1984, Proc., Suffolk Intr. of Arch., Noosker, Pr. 2 (1966), p. 80 and fig. 11.3. In this paper Berden is referred to in error as being in Heritoriabile.

Test trenches 4 feet wide were dug along the southern and western radii. The central area was opened up and a series of test holes were dug inside the bank. The latter was examined on the north and east sides by short trenches cut across its crest. The results were not revealing.

sides by short trenches cut across its crest. The results were not revealing.

Natural subsoil consisted of blue clay with chalk, above which was a foot to eighteen inches of light brown clay, capped with a foot of topsoil. As is usual in such cases, it was difficult to say precisely when undisturbed soil had been reached or where the original turf line lay below the bank. Faint indications in the southern trench seemed to show that this lay about a foot to eighteen inches below present ground level in the centre.

Central Area (Figs. 2-3).

Five feet south of the estimated centre was a small hearth of blackish-grey, clayey loam with burnt clay, measuring 2 feet 6 inches

is characteristic of the 13th century! (Fig. 4.1). Associated with the pot were the base sherds of another vessel of thicker ware, less harsh than the cooking-pot and redder in colour, also of this date. Thirteen feet north-east of the hearth a fragment of coarse, buff-brown pottery, apparently hand-made, was found just below topsoil.

by 18 inches, at a depth of 18 inches, just below topsoil and scooped out of the blue and brown subsoil (Fig. 3.b). On it lay the inverted remains of a cooking-pot, made of harsh, buff-brown, gritty ware with a sagging base. The heavily moulded rim with slight internal beading

apparently hand-made, was found just below topsoil.

The remainder of the central area revealed nothing of interest.

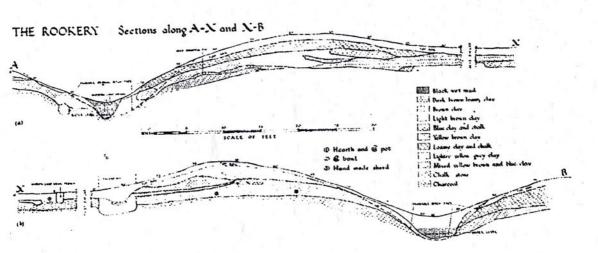
There were no stonework, post-holes or other signs of occupation.

The Bank (Fig. 3a. and b.)

The bank was sectioned in two places down to natural blue clay with chalk. Its composition in general showed the confused stratification to be expected when the spoil from a ditch is thrown up haphazard. In the southern trench (Fig. 3b.) the old turf line appeared to show as a line of blue clay below the inner half of the bank, about 18 inches above natural. South of the crest, the rim sherd of a 12th century bowl in reddish-brown gritty ware, was found in brown clay, 6 inches above natural (Fig. 4.2). (2 on Figs. 2 and 3b.) A single sherd of reddish ware, flecked with flint, \$\frac{3}{2}\$ inch thick, hearing horizontal girth lines and apparently hand-made, was found just north of the crest, 6 inches above natural and 9 inches below the presumed old turf line. (3 on Figs. 2 and 3b.) It was probably part of a

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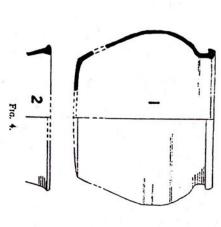
Concern a somewhat similar cooking-pot from Bungay Caule, Suffolk, Proc. Suffolk Inst. of Arch., vol., vol., p. 334.

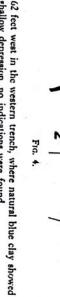


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interest (Fig. 3a). natural in the western trench which otherwise revealed nothing of Charcoal flecks were also found west of the crest and just above

bank and on the outer scarp, but with the very doubtful possibility at A careful search was made for post-holes both on the crest of the





shallow depression, no indications were found.

The Ditch (Fig. 3a and b).

ditch bottom. Nothing of interest was recovered. black, loamy silt. Water level was reached 6 inches above the original original ground level. Its centre was filled with some 2 feet of wet, giving an original depth of between 5 and 6 feet below the presumed The ditch proved to have been originally 2 feet 6 inches deeper,

The nature of the earthwork.

apparent absence of any traces of stonework, post-holes, occupation Nothing however was found to strengthen this supposition. pose that the Rookery, which looked very similar, was another example. the latter was a Norman ring motte and it seemed reasonable to sup-The finds, already described, from the adjacent Crump suggest that

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evidence of ancient occupation. almost certainly hand-made sherd found near the centre gave some level, other than the small central hearth, or means of entry through regular dwelling site or a cattle enclosure. On the other hand the the bank, made it hard to believe that the place was ever either a The central hearth with associated cooking-pot indicated light

ancing map of 1602 in which the earthwork is shown, somewhat found near the base of the southern bank suggests a 12th century date for the construction of the earthwork. From later times, the only known record is contained in a convey-

occupation in the 13th century, and the rim sherd of a medieval bowl

The earthwork has now been destroyed

sketchily, as a rectangle'.

1 Information kindly supplied by LL.-Col. S. P. Plowden, of Berden Hill.

