

Duncan Murdoch

From: Duncan Murdoch [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2022 18:33
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; 'John Burton'; 'Parish Clerk Berden'; 'Claire Russell'; [REDACTED]
Subject: Pelham Substation Battery Plant Noise
Attachments: Letter to Chief Executive of Uttlesford Council re Battery Installation.pdf; Letter to Uttlesford Planning Battery Station dated 15 Jun 2021.pdf

Dear Marcus

**Planning Permissions UTT/17/2075/FUL & UTT/16/2316/FUL
Battery Storage Facility, Pelham Substation, Park Green Lane, Berden
Proposed solar energy scheme - Land Adj. Pelham Substation Park Green Lane Berden**

I refer to your email below to Jo. I am a Berden Parish Councillor and I have been dealing with the planning issues arising from the 2017 Statera battery units and the anticipated Statera planning application for the solar farm (further to their EIA screening request under UTT/21/2158/SCO).

I will only deal with noise issues at this time given the emails below.

I am aware that several noise monitoring devices have been in place over the past few weeks which presumably are for Statera by their noise consultant as they prepare for their solar farm planning application. I expect their noise consultants have been in contact with Uttlesford EHOs to agree the scoping of these surveys.

I am aware of the location and timing of these noise surveys.

Firstly, these were carried out during stormy weather with high winds and this will have increased the background noise reading.

Secondly (and more importantly) the background noise surveys will have been again increased by the noise from the existing 2017 Statera battery plant (as highlighted by Jo and other Stocking Pelham residents).

Berden Parish Council have previously highlighted to Uttlesford the error made by the planning officers in the issue of the variation planning permission which regrettably omitted any noise mitigation and no noise planning condition. The original grant of planning permission had highlighted adverse noise consequences and had required a substantial acoustic screen. There is no noise mitigation in place at all.

I attach the historic letters set to Uttlesford in this regard.

The consequence of this is that Statera will be recording a high background base noise level because of the noise from their very own unmitigated and unscreened existing battery plant.

I would ask that this is highlighted now to Statera and their noise consultants take this unacceptable baseline position into account.

Meantime, the local residents will raise compliants as suggested.

Regards

Duncan

Duncan Murdoch BSc (Hons) MRICS

MOULT WALKER Chartered Surveyors

[REDACTED]

From: Marcus Watts
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Jo van Riemsdijk ; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
John Burton ; Claire Russell
Subject: RE: [External] High level of noise from current Lithium-ion battery facility at Pelham Substation

Hello again Jo.

If others consider themselves to be materially impacted by the noise, they should log a complaint and engage and assist with the investigating officer. Please ask them to log complaints with our service individually via environmentalhealth@uttlesford.gov.uk

Many thanks

Marcus Watts
Environmental Health Manager (Protection)

Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex, CB11 4ER

From: Jo van Riemsdijk [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2022 15:21
To: Marcus Watts [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
John Burton [REDACTED] ; Claire Russell [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [External] High level of noise from current Lithium-ion battery facility at Pelham Substation

Hi Marcus

Thanks so much for your response.

My address is:



I would like to log a complaint. I am pretty certain that Berden and Stocking Pelham Parish Councillors will be keen for me to do so. Do you want me to get other people's names and addresses? There are many of us!

Kind regards

Jo

Jo van Riemsdijk

Director

CX Talent Ltd



From: Marcus Watts [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2022 15:14

To: Jo van Riemsdijk [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [External] High level of noise from current Lithium-ion battery facility at Pelham Substation

Good afternoon Jo

Thank you for your e-mail and I apologise for the delayed response.

I am aware that officers from UDC have previously investigated complaints of noise from this site, but this was not considered actionable at the time. You may be aware that for a complaint to be actionable in nuisance law, the noise materially or substantially interfering with the ordinary reasonable use of your property. This was not established on this occasion and the complaint was later closed. I note you state that you believe that the noise has increased and we are happy to take another look at this for you. However, I suspect given that the noise appears to be most audible under certain conditions a detailed assessment may take a little time to conclude. Should you wish to formally log another complaint, please reply to me providing your address and contact number so we may log your complaint. I will then refer your complaint to one of our officers for investigation.

In respect of the value in commissioning an acoustic report, it is important that you need to be clear about what you are wanting to achieve from this. If it is an assessment of nuisance, this tends to be more subjective and for this reason I recommend that you rely on the local authority for this purpose. Officers are trained in statutory nuisance action and look at a range of factors and characteristics when considering noise impact. It is not necessary to obtain noise measurements as part of this assessment, however, noise recordings and measurements certainly have a place and are often taken as part of the evidence gathering process.

Should you be dissatisfied or disagree with the investigating officers conclusions or simply wish to progress your complaint quickly, then commissioning an acoustic report may be to your advantage, particularly if you decide to pursue your own action under S.82 of the Environmental Protection Act. However, you should note that acoustic consultants are more likely to make a formal assessment against known objective standards. These standards do not necessarily apply when assessing statutory nuisance.

Finally, in terms of the neighbouring planning application, I'm aware that colleagues from East Herts have commented on the application. It is not necessarily the case that the proposed application will result in further noise

impact. East Herts officers will be able to advise you further in respect of the proposed noise impacts and any mitigation proposed.

I hope this is of some assistance

Best regards

Marcus Watts
Environmental Health Manager (Protection)

Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex, CB11 4ER

From: Jo van Riemsdijk [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 February 2022 14:52

To: Marcus Watts [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

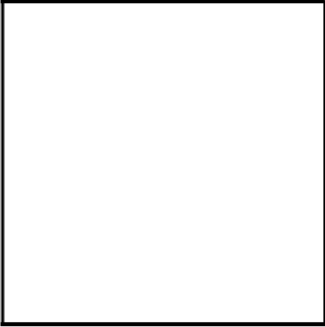
Subject: [External] High level of noise from current Lithium-ion battery facility at Pelham Substation

Dear Dom, Dean and Marcus

I live in Stocking Pelham - [REDACTED]. The Pelham Substation is in our village and has been there for several years. As a village and I include Berden in this as well as Stocking Pelham - we have become accustomed to the low-level hum from the substation. In 2017 Uttlesford District council allowed a 50MW lithium-ion battery storage facility to be erected right on the Uttlesford/ Herts border and it has constantly produced even more of a low-level hum. It is situated on a slight incline and during periods of rainy weather where there is low cloud - this results in a megaphone type of scenario - where the sound from the battery particularly is magnified to those towards the bottom of the slope (my house!) and others in the village. It kept me awake over a number of nights between Christmas and New Year. Other households in Stocking Pelham suffer particularly in the summer - when the nights are clearer. But the hum is definitely audible from someone's house somewhere in the villages at any given time and it has become increasingly louder. I believe that the noise emanating from the substation has increased over the last few months and with the threat of additional lithium-ion batteries being situated around the substation (there are plans for at least another 2 50MW lithium-ion batteries - with one in planning right now - Greens Farm 3/21/0969/FUL. Then the low level hum will become a real nuisance. Today - I was walking past the battery facility which I encourage you whole heartedly to please visit so you know what they look / sound like in situ. I was struck by how incredibly loud it was and so I videoed it. I have put these videos on this Wettransfer link so you can see / hear. This will be live for the period of a week. I then returned to the site about an hour later and took

some readings on a sound recording device that was purchased by the Berden and Stocking Pelham Parish Councils to measure the noise from the Sub-station.





[IMG_5601.mov and 10 more files](#)

11 files sent via WeTransfer, the simplest way to send your files around the world

[we.tl](#)

We are at risk of being totally engulfed in solar panels (which also have inverters that make noise) and another 100MW of battery noise. This is going to have a severe and significant effect on our quality of life as the low humming prevents sleep and also drives you slightly mad sometimes! The noise will surely only become louder and more intrusive the more noise collateral that there is especially as it is all within a very small area around the substation!

Would it be possible for the Environmental Health service for Uttlesford and East Herts to please investigate this before there is even more sound generating collateral in a very small area around the Pelham SubStation? If - the Substation is already emanating too much noise then surely they should A. look for ways to mitigate this and also B. take this into consideration for any future applications?

I am an active member of Protect the Pelhams and we are considering the value in commissioning an acoustic report. Do you have any views on this?

I look forward to hearing from you

Copied in are The Berden and Stocking Parish Council Chairs and members of the Protect the Pelhams and Stop Battles group.

We look forward very much to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Jo

Jo van Riemsdijk

Director

CX Talent Ltd

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