

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 September 2022 22:49  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 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 Berden Solar to construct a solar “farm” on 177 acres of land at Berden Hall Farm.

I approve of solar energy and have installed 32 solar panels on my roof. They are invisible except to aeroplanes and drones. They store energy in my Tesla battery, and feed excess energy into the electricity grid.

As my personal experience illustrates, there are many places where solar panels can be installed, that do not impact our rural setting. Nor do they remove best and most versatile agricultural land for 40+ years from the food chain. They do not risk flooding, and I or my successors in the house will have every interest in either upgrading the panels or removing them if they become redundant.

Our experience in this village is that Section 106 orders do not work. The developer that bought our burned down pub was allowed to build two new houses on the basis that he would restore the pub. The houses are built and sold, but he wriggled out of the Section 106 and after more than 10 years the pub is still not operational: it looks like a house and no doubt one day will be sold as a house. If planning for this solar factory were passed, we have no confidence that a Section 106 would restore the land to agricultural use in 40 years' time. More likely, it would be brownfield site turned over to residential or industrial use.

Berden Solar should be encouraged to seek alternative locations for their panels, as they are required to do under Uttlesford's local plan ENV 5. The Planning Inspectorate may also wish to consider the cumulative impact on the local area and the wider Uttlesford and East Hertfordshire rural community of this planned and similar developments (cf VILL 3 of the East Herts local plan which concerns the cumulative impact on villages like Stocking Pelham). With multiple solar factories of this type in planning at various stages, our village could be surrounded by industrial machinery. This massive development would dwarf our village, transforming a rural setting to an industrial one not just for the “long term temporary” claimed by developers but, we fear, forever.

New sources of energy are helpful and to be encouraged. But they need to take account of the national interest in keeping food production within our country, and the local interest in enjoying the rural environment. Please support us in keeping an active local community and agricultural land in place to grow food by refusing this industrial facility.

Thank you for considering this objection

Colin

Colin Berthoud  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]