

05 SEP 2022
MAJOR CASEWORK

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

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 comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Ginns Road, Berden because this is not the right location for a solar development.

Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy requires Planning Authorities to have a positive strategy for renewable and Statera energy which maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts).

No such strategy exists! If solar is to form part of a local response to climate change, panels should feature on all new domestic and commercial buildings. If there is a still a need for industrial scale solar, it should be located on brown field sites (such as former airfields). If a need for solar remains, site should be selected which utilises poor quality land and minimise the visual impact of the development. In Europe, it is common to see solar developments beside motorways or in areas where there is existing industrial development.

Solar does not belong on productive agricultural land – especially where the site is sloping as is the case at “Berden Hall Farm”. The site has been selected by an opportunistic developer and the impacts of this development – if approved – cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.

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30/8/22

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Date

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