

From: Ellie Armstrong-Mortlock [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 August 2022 15:31

To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: OBJECTION to Berden Hall Solar Farm Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 and UTT/22/2046/PINS (Uttlesford)

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 express my objections to the application by Renewable Connections for permission to build and operate a Battery Energy Storage System at land off Crabb's Green, Stocking Pelham.

My family moved to Berden several years ago, and I immediately fell in love with the beauty of the local area. Returning home from university would see me as excited to walk on the footpaths and explore the area as much as I was to see my family again. I plan to get married in the historic church within the next few years, and regularly return to the village to visit my family and relax after work and on the weekends. Berden has a distinct and unique character, and the thought of this development ruining the landscape, risking the wildlife and potentially breaking down the sense of community and respect for the natural world that is so prevalent to the village is unimaginable.

This development would impact negatively on a public amenity, one of the few in this remote area, namely several public footpaths on the land around Crabb's Lane and the villages of Berden and Stocking Pelham. We cannot predict how future generations will use such footpaths, but in lockdown they were in heavy use throughout the day for months. A 60-metre long metal barn-type structure on a five-acre industrial site will render the footpaths in this area effectively unusable – who would go for a walk if this is the view? These footpaths were so vital during the COVID-19 lockdowns, particularly in terms of supporting those who may have poor mental health.

In addition, there are significant safety concerns about this proposed battery. The fire services have visited the site and say they would not be able to put out a fire if one were to break out there, as local water supplies are too low pressure to make this possible. The area would have to be evacuated, and there is no evacuation plan in place. The past two or three years have shown us that we cannot rely on events of low risk to not happen – instead, we need to plan for the worst case scenario. Wildfires were a substantial risk to the area during the recent heatwave, and if one took hold in the fields and copses around Berden and Stocking Pelham and spread to this battery there would be a catastrophe. It is simply too far from the nearest fire station to increase the existing risk of this happening.

The existing battery installation is an eyesore visible for miles which was supposed to be painted dark green – instead it is glaring white and the trees planted to screen it have not been managed and are mostly not growing. It is often noisy and the noise again can be heard as far as the middle of Berden

village. There is no reason to think that the proposed additional battery will be any less intrusive and inappropriate – this is an otherwise beautiful peaceful area of farmland used to grow wheat and feed the UK population. It is just dreadful to think that it may become an increasingly industrial site which furthermore threatens the wellbeing and health of local people.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Armstrong-Mortlock

