

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2022 11:02
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
[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 Statera to construct a solar farm on 177 acres of land at Berden Hall Farm.

My name is Graham Newell
[REDACTED]

The reason for my objection is as follows:

Farmland should be used for farming!

- Statera suggest that the majority of the land on the site is Grade 2 or Grade 3a agricultural land which is “best and most versatile” agricultural land.
- This is productive farm land which should be used for farming.
- We currently import more than 40 per cent of our food, and recent threats by countries to ban exports of vaccinations have highlighted the threat that similar bans could be imposed on food if countries are themselves short of supplies in the future.
- It is predicted that we will need to produce 56 per cent more food by 2050 due to increasing populations. We have not increased food production by 56 per cent in the last 30 years, and if we continue to build on farmland we have no hope of achieving it in the next 30 years either.
- New research from the CPRE has found almost 14,500 hectares of the country’s best agricultural land has been permanently lost to development in just 12 years. The research has found that there has been a huge rise in BMV agricultural land set aside for housing and industry between 2010 and 2022, from 60 hectares to more than 6,000 hectares per year.

The local roads are not suitable for such large construction vehicles

- I note that the construction period will run for 6-months and an average of up to 50 construction workers are forecast to be on site during peak times.
- The supporting text for Uttlesford Policy ENV15 states development will only be permitted in locations where the local road network is capable of handling any additional traffic generated by the proposal.

- Statera state that construction traffic will travel west on the A120 up to Little Hadham, and through Clapgate and Patmore Heath on Albury Road and that vehicles will turn onto Ginns Road and travel through Stocking Pelham before arriving at the site access point just before the entrance to Berden. There could be up to 20 lorries per day arriving and departing during the peak construction period. These road as not suitable for large numbers of lorries.
- This is EXACTLY THE SAME access route that it proposed for the construction of (i) a new battery storage plant at Green's Farm (see the application to East Herts DC 3/21/0969/FUL) and (ii) a new battery storage plant at Crabb's Green (see the application to East Herts DC 3/22/0806/FUL).
- The road between Little Hadham and Berden is a small country road. At some points, it is barely wide enough to accommodate two regular cars. Cars currently need to stop in order to allow tractors to pass. It is completely unsuitable for articulated lorries or large HGVs.
- Access point off the road is simply not suitable for vehicles of this size.
- All vehicles will pass directly in front of the pre-school in Stocking Pelham
– I am concerned about the safety of primary school children