

**From:** Juliette Badger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 September 2022 22:12  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/22/0006 Berden Hall Farm, Ginns Road, Berden

**Type of application:** Full Planning Application  
**Applicant name** Berden Solar Limited  
**Site address:** Berden Hall Farm, Ginns Road, Berden  
**Description of proposed development:** Development of a ground mounted solar farm with a generation capacity of upto 49.99 MW, together with associated infrastructure and landscaping.  
**Oppose Application**  
**My Name:** Juliette Badger  
[REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern

I write to vehemently oppose the above planning application giving the following reasons listed below:

I have lived in Stocking Pelham for over 30 years and the proposed land equates to over 177 acres of productive farmland which would be taken out of use to make way for this solar farm. The visual impact will be immense and will effectively have a catastrophic impact on the landscape changing the land effectively from farmland to industrial having a detrimental impact on everyone that lives in this community. Transferring this area into an immense hostile solar factory and it isn't fair that local families should be forced to live in such industrial surroundings. I often go for local bike rides along Ginns Road a road in which I live and go for morning runs along the footpaths between Berden and Stocking Pelham, I love the beautiful views and wide open spaces and views across the farmland and find it helps my mental health. If this planning were to go ahead villagers would only have the option to walk along footpaths surrounded by solar panels with the eeery hum bordered by fences. This is not appealing and not a reason why I choose to live in the countryside.

Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework makes it clear that the adverse impacts of solar farms must be addressed satisfactorily and that the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development must be considered.

The cumulative impact of the hugely visible and poorly screened battery storage facility (built by Statera) and the proposed solar farm will completely industrialise this rural area.

The size of the proposed solar farm is excessive. The location (i.e. next to the battery storage facility) has not been chosen because of its suitability but because it will be cheap for the developer.

I do not understand how a massive solar farm which is an industrial development can possibly enhance the natural environment.

The development is not compatible with Uttlesford's policy S7 which says that the countryside will be protected for its own sake

The land to the South of Ginns Road (between Berden and Stocking Pelham) slopes upwards.

The majority of the site comprises 3 huge open fields – there are no existing hedgerows and the visual impact will be in stark contrast

The small narrow lanes are not suitable for large construction vehicles, they can barely cope with the existing lorries and farm vehicles that frequent these local lanes. I note that the proposed 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.

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. Only this summer, my vehicle was nearly taken out by one of the huge haylage lorries. Imagine what it would be like and how dangerous with this level of increased traffic. I will be scared to venture out and imagine the noise!

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.

There is absolutely no gain for the local community and it would be a terrible destruction of our beautiful British farmland. Liz Trust who has just been appointed our new prime minister relayed back in 2014 when she was a Defra Minister the following: (and has relayed the same message over the weekend)

“English farmland is some of the best in the world and I want to see it dedicated to growing quality food and crops. I do not want to see its productive potential wasted and its appearance blighted by solar farms. Farming is what our farms are for and it is what keeps our landscape beautiful.

I am committed to food production in this country and it makes my heart sink to see row upon row of solar panels where once there was a field of wheat or grassland for livestock to graze. That is why I am scrapping farming subsidies for solar fields. Solar panels are best placed on the 250,000 hectares of south facing commercial rooftops where they will not compromise the success of our agricultural industry”.

To my mind it is atrocious than this planning is even being considered with new technology coming up the tracks for solar panels to be put on all new buildings, industrial units and the like.

Our countryside and its farmland are immensely precious.

Regards

Juliette Badger