

RECEIVED  
05 SEP 2022  
MAJOR CASEWORK

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

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: 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, Essex.

The reason for my objection is as follows:

For the first time in several generations, our food security is at risk as a result of the war in Ukraine, yet we've seen a 100 fold increase in the loss of our best farmland to development since 2010. Maintaining agricultural land for domestic food production is critical and this has been shown by the recent war in Ukraine and the difficulties of obtaining grain supplies.

Climate change is likely to have severe consequences for our most valuable farmland and an increased threat to food security. Protecting our most productive agricultural land from development now is vital if we are to maintain a secure food supply in future.

Liz Truss, candidate for the Conservative Party Leader and potentially our future Prime Minister has recently stated: "We need food security...our fields should be full of our fantastic produce. They shouldn't be full of solar panels...I will change the rules to make sure we're using our high value agricultural land for farming."

This is an industrial development which has no place in the countryside. We need to protect nature for future generations and protect our food security. We need to reconcile food production with better management for our natural and cultural heritage and for public access.

I am not against solar panels per se. We have solar panels on the roof of our house. What we need to do is ensure that all new builds, houses and industrial buildings, have solar panels on their rooves and not use our precious agricultural land for solar panels. In Germany 50% of solar generated electricity comes from roof mounted solar panels. We should do the same.

Yours faithfully  
Kathleen Merino (Mrs)

