

From: Michelle Norris [REDACTED] >
Sent: 31 August 2022 19:45
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

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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

By way of introduction my name is Michelle Norris [REDACTED].

You will be aware already of many of the local residents' concerns regarding the proposed solar farm, such as the loss of 177 acres of productive farmland, loss of Public Rights of Way, changing the visual character of the area, and industrialising the countryside. I would like to make you aware of some specific concerns of mine.

I attended the Statera meeting held in Berden Village Hall back in March 2022. The purpose of this meeting was for Statera representatives to speak with local residents about their proposed solar farm, however a number of Berden residents, including myself, did not receive any invite or notification of this meeting from Statera. I pointed this out to a representative on the evening, who couldn't give me a reason for this. I later found out that my closest neighbours at Mayberry, The Street, Berden, whose house will also be very much affected if the development goes ahead, had not received an invitation from Statera either.

I informed the Statera representative that I live at Berden Hall, which is a Grade II* Elizabethan Country House built in the 1580's, and that their proposed solar farm will completely surround my home and destroy the unique countryside views from and of it for generations to come. The representative, who has never been to my home, told me that I wouldn't be able to see the solar farm from my property, which is a lie as it would be located at the bottom and side of my garden.


He also stated that they could get even closer to Berden Hall if they wanted to, which I found to be a threatening comment. I also informed the representatives from Statera that I believed

they were going to call the project 'Berden Hall Solar Farm,' which they denied. Despite their denial, the proposed development is now referred to as Berden Hall Solar Farm in all the documentation Staterra have submitted in support of their application. This was done without my permission and indeed after I had raised my concerns at the meeting. Having this unpopular development named after my home puts me in a very compromising position amongst local residents and makes me feel incredibly vulnerable despite my strong opposition to the proposed site. I worry that residents will think I am in some way behind the proposed development, whereas the truth is that I am strongly opposed to it.

The impact on the heritage significance of Berden Hall will be absolutely huge. Tithe maps dating from 1838 show that the land being proposed for the solar farm site used to belong to the owner of Berden Hall (Nicholas Calvert) and it was farmed by Isaac Hodges who lived at Berden Hall, so there is a significantly close connection between the Hall & the land which dates back for centuries.

The law is very clear. The settings of historic buildings and monuments must be protected, as well the structures and landscape of these buildings and monuments. This proposed development would ruin the setting of Berden Hall for the next forty years, possibly forever, destroying beautiful views of the Hall from the fields outside Berden and destroying views of the landscape from the upper storeys of the Hall.

I wish to state clearly that Berden Hall is an important building, historically and architecturally. It is described by Heritage Gateway as 'a good example of a late 16th century brick-built house.' It has a 'fine late 16th century staircase,' '17th century panelling and overmantel and 17th century windows.'



Pevsner describes Berden Hall as 'an outstanding 16th century brick-built house.' Its beautiful seventeenth century granary, now converted into a domestic dwelling, stands close by, and just beyond them, lie its barns, also converted to dwellings. The Hall is at the heart of Berden village, and I know that local residents value it and appreciate the many events such as Bonfire Night that are held here in our garden for everyone in the village to enjoy. The Hall is important to me and my family but also to many others.

I have had absolutely no correspondence from Staterra with regards to the impact of the proposed solar farm on Berden Hall. The only correspondence I've had is from Essex Highways informing me that an application has been put in to them to extinguish a section of a public footpath on my land that currently connects to a public footpath on the proposed solar farm site which will be diverted. I have opposed this.

I am deeply concerned that a corporation which clearly cannot be trusted due to the lies they have told me and their lack of correspondence with me and other locals could operate such a huge scale project in this area, a project which will only serve to detriment the landscape, natural life and the people who live here. This is clearly a breach of Uttlesford's Policy ENV15 which says that small scale renewable energy development schemes to meet local needs will be supported providing it can be demonstrated that they do not adversely affect i) The character of sensitive landscapes; ii) Nature conservation interests; or iii) Residential and recreational amenity.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Norris