

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 (UTT/22/2046/PINS)

I wish to register my concerns and objections for the above proposal and list my reasons below:

I attended the Statera presentation @ Berden Village Hall in March 2022, **by chance** of a neighbour informing me of this event. I had no notification directly that this was being held.

I took the opportunity to speak to one of the uninterested Statera representatives in regard to a possible **Fire Risk** to the proposed Berden Hall Solar Farm.

I was informed by a Statera representative that there was "no fire risk at all".

I know this not to be true.

On pressing the very unhelpful Statera representative he eventually admitted there **was** in fact a Fire Risk associated with this proposed development. Although he initially lied, he could not or would not offer me any further information in this regard which I found very worrying. Misleading and very economical with the truth appears to be very apparent within this company.

My property and my family are located in close proximity /directly adjacent to this proposed site and given the vast development of a ground mounted solar farm with a generation capacity of up to 49.99MW, and that the development would comprise of the installation of approximately 100,368 photovoltaic solar panels - I felt it of utmost importance that a fire risk assessment would have been completed as routine.

Surely this is a fundamental importance to ensure that any potential fire risk has been assessed, documented and managed— what provisions or documentation have been prepared?

Witnessing the numerous and frightening field fires we have experienced in our local area over these summer months, we became very aware of the pressure the fire services were under and worryingly they had to make their own assessments and decisions to prioritise on the risks of threat to life.

It is hoped that the history of failing to realise the significance of any potential risks as was the case of the Grenfell tragedy, that lessons would be learnt and any future projects receive the necessary, responsible research to be carried out in relation to risk and to avoid any repeat mistakes.

Statera used inaccurate illustrated pictures and posters for their event - it would seem an obvious attempt to mislead residents, using the posters from their last project showing the battery facility images illustrating **Green** battery units and landscaping for which this proposal was approved.

Reality is, we now have an eyesore of **White** battery units which has zero landscaping and no follow up by any responsible planning officers that approved this lie of a development leaving our small, country rural village looking unsightly.

I understand that the location has been chosen due to its (convenient) proximity to the existing Pelham Substation. This would clearly demonstrate that this is purely a project of profit to the developers, commercial successors and existing wealthy landowners - taking total disregard to the existing heritage, the landscape and the good quality arable farm land!

Berden is not an industrial environment and the local area is largely rural with a dispersed population.

The solar panels do not need to be placed in the beautiful countryside, they should be placed in suitable accommodating commercial sites, roof spaces and motorway corridors. Brown field sites have been recommended to accommodate solar farms and off-shore wind turbines can generate much larger amounts of power. Our British farmland should not be full of industrial developments such as solar panels - Agricultural land for farming is a precious asset and needs to be protected now more than ever before since it has now become so necessary to be self-sufficient after exiting the EU.

Another solar farm in our village area has received a refusal from Uttlesford to the nearby Low Carbon planning application UTT/21/3356:

The comments and conclusion from the case officer in relation to Low Carbon site are detailed below - **these exact reasons apply to "Berden Hall Solar Farm" application too!**

The proposal would introduce a sizeable new development to an area of open countryside and would result in an unnatural extension of built form in the locality. The proposals by reason of its sitting, size and scale would have a harmful impact upon the rural character and appearance of the area. The proposals would significantly harm the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside resulting in landscape and visual effects from a number of publicly accessible viewpoints and failing to perform the environmental role of sustainability, contrary to policy S7 of the Adopted Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework

The huge impact on our local, narrow country roads are not suitable to withstand industrial traffic. It will have a negative effect and high risk to all road users and pedestrians in our area.

For these concerns I wish to object and would hope that a well-educated and correct decision will be made in regard to this particular site.

Yours faithfully

Robert Clark

