



2 September 2022

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

cc Laurence Ackrill
Planning Department
Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4ER

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

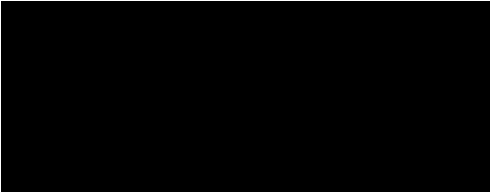
I am writing to object to the application to install a solar installation on 177 acres of farmland outside the village of Berden near the town of Newport, Essex. This is an area my family, friends and I enjoy often for its natural countryside and ancient hedgerows, abundant wildlife and listed buildings. It is a peaceful landscape of natural and historic importance. Whilst I accept and embrace that investment in renewable energy is vital in the context of climate change, it is nonetheless equally vital that we do so in a responsible manner that also protects our natural landscapes, increasing threatened wildlife populations and areas and buildings of historic importance.

There are compelling reasons to oppose this development, in my view the below are most important:

- National Planning policy states that planning decisions should protect and enhance valued landscapes. The proposed site is a peaceful and historic landscape of open views and ancient hedgerows, which my family, friends and I value deeply for its natural beauty, historic importance and for walking and cycling. Large areas developed for solar farms will lose this important countryside and important public amenity, and threaten natural wildlife populations such as ground nesting skylarks and other populations of 'farmland' birds on the 'red list'
- Use of greenfield land for solar instalments should only be considered a last resort, and once all options are exhausted for installations on all new housing, commercial roofs and retro-fitted to existing housing stock, as well as along motorways and on brownfield sites

- Statera is a non-UK based company, has not consulted with the village, and has a questionable reputation locally based on failure to honour prior commitments relating to earlier works; also, profits would not be taxed in the UK, allowing this valuable natural site to be exploited for foreign commercial gain

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Simon J Hollingsworth BSc (Hons), PhD, FRCPath, FRSB, FBPhS