

Inquires and Major Casework Team  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Our ref: ECC/S62A/Berden  
Your ref: S62A/22/0006

9 September 2022

Dear Leanne

**RE: Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 62A Applications) -  
Development of a ground mounted solar farm with a generation capacity of up  
to 49.99MW at Berden Hall Farm, Ginns Road, Berden, Essex.**

Thank you for your consultation dated 4 August 2022 in relation to the above  
planning application.

ECC is a key infrastructure and service provider and is responsible for delivering and commissioning a wide range of strategic and local infrastructure requirements and public services to support and shape inclusive and healthy communities. ECC's role covers a wide range of statutory services including (but not limited to) highways and transportation, education, early years and childcare, minerals, waste, surface water management, passenger transport, adult social care, and public health. ECC also advise on, and have a material interest in, several other related place-making matters to assist in the determination of planning applications.

After reviewing the proposed development and submitted planning application, ECC makes the following general comments:

Energy generation

It is not clear if the energy generation capacity of the proposed photovoltaic (PV) installation could generate 50MW+ or has been capped precisely at 49.9MW? Therefore, ECC request that the applicant provide further explanation in relation to this question. Should energy generation have been capped, justification as to the reason why is also sought.

### Planning reform

ECC understand that as part of its review of the National Policy Statements for Energy, the Government is considering removing the 50MW threshold for solar PV installations that define a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). However, in the interim, ECC would expect very careful consideration to be given to development that comes close to the threshold of national significance to ensure that the proper planning process is followed.

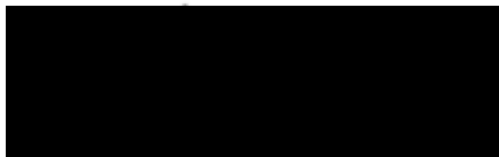
### Environmental Impact Assessment

ECC notes that the proposal has been screened negatively by Uttlesford District Council for likely significant effects and so does not require an environmental impact assessment. However, if planning permission is approved then energy output from the site should be monitored and managed to ensure that the 49.9MW threshold is not exceeded.

ECC would like to be kept informed about the progress of the application.

If you require further information or clarification on any points raised in this response, please use the contact details below.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Thomas  
Growth and Development Manager

