

From: Janis Trantum [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2023 12:45
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Mitigation plan for Skylarks Berden

Ref 62A/22/0006 Berden Hall Solar Farm application, Ginns Rd, Berden

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to add my name to all those highly concerned about the threat to resident Skylarks under the above proposal. I was born and have lived in the local area for 61 years. I am not against solar farms per se; have recently added panels to my own home, however I strongly feel that any development must not be to the detriment of wildlife, least of all protected species such as this beautiful bird and especially when there are recommendations for mitigation which have been disregarded.

I understand that pairs of Skylarks, a species under steep decline in the UK, have nested on the fields of Berden/Stocking Pelham for at least the past 30 years and possibly centuries. National guidance to farmers (itself still proving a challenge to halt the decline) stipulates a range of specific requirements for this species. These include 200 plots per square km; in open space not field edges to protect from predators and with certain plants left available over winter. The developers, I believe, have shown very little regard for this however - first suggesting, erroneously, that the birds might be able to nest between the panels and now, upon correction, only adjusting their mitigation to a mere 28 plots and some distance from the pairs of birds established nesting grounds. Their lack of understanding and empathy is very worrying and must not be allowed to prevail. I really do ask and hope that the planning authority will do the right thing in this matter.

The birds cannot speak for themselves but as it is are very will likely fail to nest successfully further adding to the decline of this beautiful songster alongside so much of our natural world because of our doing.

Yours faithfully
Janis Trantum