

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

23rd August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

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

My objections are based on the lack of a coherent plan for the area. As Uttlesford District Council are in "special measures", there is no current district plan against which these proposals can be judged.

There are three proposals in this geographical area in various stages of submission, totalling over 600 acres of prime farm land to be given over to solar panels. This is administered by two district councils which means the total picture is not represented in any of the individual proposals. There are also proposals for two substantial, 50MW, battery energy storage units which are quite a danger. In total, a truly industrial scale proposal.

The Berden Hall proposal is a substantial part of this and must really be considered in the context of the other proposals as the impact on the locality will be very serious.

These solar farms are all going onto prime grade 2 farm land which will impact our ability to produce the food we need. We already import well over 50% of the food we require which makes us very vulnerable to the increased prices of imported food and the cost of transporting it to this country. This at a time when we are facing the highest inflation for a lifetime.

Our nearest town, Bishops Stortford has seen enormous housing development in recent years, over 2000 houses have been built in the last 5 years, all on prime farm land again, and none have solar panels on the roofs.

Only by having a full and detailed review of all these proposals can a sensible decision be arrived at on any one of them.

On a broader scale, wind powered turbines are several times more efficient, are offshore and have little or no impact on our ability to produce the food we need.

I am also concerned that no appeal is possible against this proposal because it is not being dealt with by Uttlesford District Council. They are the organisation that represent the local district and should be best placed to represent the impact on the locality.

I urge you to reject this proposal until it can be properly considered by reference to a plan for the area and in the light of other proposals of a similar nature.

Yours faithfully,

John Arnell

Copy to Uttlesford District Council, Planning Dept