

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 March 2023 15:51
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to Berden Hall Solar Farm Proposal - And Related Proposals Around Pelham Grid Station

Good Afternoon PINS,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Barry Sullivan and I have lived in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Back on the 30th August last year I sent the attached message, via email, to the Uttlesford District Council Planning Committee, and others, raising my concerns and objection to the proposal that was in front of them for consideration, related to the so called "Berden Hall Farm, Dewes Green Road, Berden Solar Farm." The application was unanimously rejected by Uttlesford.

I wanted to make sure that my previous objection to the application had been included, on a carry forward basis, in any decision-making process that the Inspectorate will be making, so can I please be assured that it has been so included?

I also feel strongly that I need to go on the record with PINS to table a further significant point that I would like to raise with you, as more proposals come forward for consideration.

There are now several other proposals around Pelham Grid Station in the offing (for various solar factories and battery units). To consider the Berden Hall proposal in isolation means that there is a real danger that the massive impact that all these will have on the local environment gets missed. If all of these proceed and are approved, there will be three solar factories (they are not farms in my view) and three battery units. Notwithstanding the points raised in my original objection to the Berden Hall Farm proposal, can I please provide some specific real-life experience that we've been experiencing locally for some time now.

There is currently one battery facility in place that Statera Energy operate. This has a very high level of night-time noise pollution associated with it. This permeates the night air every night. It's like somebody is leaving a diesel truck running at the bottom of your garden, all night. Now currently this is topping up batteries when demand for electricity is low during the night hours. It doesn't bear thinking about how much sound pollution there will be if the proposals for similar units at Greens Farm and Crabb's Green are approved, when they will be operating during the daytime hours, and I guess at night when the sun hasn't shone enough.

So in closing I hope that I've been able to convey not only my original concerns and objection, but the emerging ones that the broader communities of Berden and Stocking Pelham will face, were these various planning applications allowed to proceed. I reiterate my ongoing objection to this proposal.

Yours Faithfully,
Barry Sullivan

COPY OF MY EMAIL SENT ON 30TH AUGUST 2022 TO UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE, OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED BERDEN HALL FARM SOLAR FACTORY

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 August 2022 10:22

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: AGENDA ITEM 6 - PLANNING MEETING 31.8.22 - Planning Application S62A/22/0006 (UTT/22/2046/PINS) LAND AT BERDEN HALL FARM, DEWES GREEN ROAD, BERDEN.

Good Morning Members of the Uttlesford District Council Planning Committee.

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Barry Sullivan and I have been a Berden resident for the past 39 years. Below I will try to outline a few of my own observations about the report submitted to the Planning Committee by the Case Officer, Laurence Ackrill, and provide you with my perspective, not only on this application but the totality of what is being considered for the areas surrounding Berden, Stocking Pelham, and the adjacent residents of this area.

At the Planning Meeting to be held this coming Wednesday, August 31st you will be considering under Agenda Item 6 the above application for a Solar Panel facility to be built on land to the west of Berden, so directly opposite Gawlers and Benskins Close in the village. The 70+ hectare facility consists of over 100,000 solar panels, ten 2.3-metre-high inverter units – think a shipping container size - all surrounded by a 2.5-metre-high perimeter fence. That feels like a significant industrial facility to me, being proposed to be placed a short distance from existing residential properties.

Yet the report seems to treat this application in isolation and makes little cross-reference to the fact that there have been several other applications, for not only solar facilities but potentially dangerous battery storage facilities that, when all are taken as a whole, have the potential for surrounding Berden and the adjacent homes with potentially high-risk factory type industrial facilities. Surely there must be consideration given in a much fuller overall Impact Assessment that looks at the totality of the planning applications that are coming to UDC or direct to the PINS Planning Inspectorate? There are or have been proposals for solar facilities locally in Violets Lane, Stocking Pelham and Low Carbon in Berden, and battery storage facilities at East End Furneux Pelham and Crabb's Green Farm in Stocking Pelham. Who is taking account of the bigger picture here? In that regard we residents need your help please.

One specific in the report which didn't ring quite right to me relates to adequacy of access roads for construction traffic and the number of vehicle movements expected over the six-month construction period. It says the roads are adequate. My observation is that the entry and exit route west and south from the construction site back through Stocking Pelham and Albury down to the A120 at Little Hadham, which is partially a single-track road through The Wash, is unlikely to be suitable to the 650 HGV movements indicated in the report. That suggests to me that this additional HGV traffic is all going through Berden. I'd also observe that I feel that the 650, or a stated average of 2.2 per day, somewhat understates what would really be required to bring 100,000 solar panels, 10 inverter unit, 3400 metres of 2.5m high fencing, cabling, hard landscaping materials and the like. Even at the stated level of 650 HGV movements it feels massively intrusive – as in noise levels, pollution, dust and the like, yet I cannot see you can do all that construction with an average of 2.2 HGV's a day anyway, which would just add to an already bleak outlook from this proposal.

The report comments that the development is not invasive. This facility will be in place for 40 years – that's two generations in my money, nearly as long as I've lived in Berden and that most definitely feels invasive. It is surrounded by 8 feet high security fencing, all 70+ hectares, that feels invasive. It takes away public footpaths that I have been able to walk on for the past 39 years. Isn't that invasive? When you consider all the other applications being made in the local area, isn't that invasive?

I really do feel as a Berden resident of many years, that somewhere along the way somebody needs to be looking after the rurally based residents who are facing the prospect of living in the middle of an industrial estate. I chose to live here with my late wife and young family, away from all the hustle and bustle that a town has. I traded off the benefits they bring to live in the countryside. This planning proposal feels like it is all being taken away from me and the other residents here.

For the avoidance of doubt, I wish to register with you my objection to the granting of this application and to ask if there is some way that there could be a more holistic "Master" /Impact Assessment taken of the entirety of the many and various applications being proposed and/or considered for our area.

Yours Faithfully,
Barry Sullivan