

From: John and Wendy [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2024 17:38
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Reference application S62A/22/0006 - Land at Berden Hall Farm Dewes Green Road Berden

We wish to object to the above application on the following basis:-

The refusal by the Planning Inspectorate to grant permission for Pelham Spring Solar Farm (PSSF), should be considered in order to be consistent. PSSF is close to the Berden Hall Solar Farm site and the Inspector argued that PSSF would erode the agricultural landscape and constitute industrial infrastructure that would be present for c. 40 years, which is not temporary. The decision said the scheme would fail to preserve the setting of the listed buildings and other heritage assets, including the Crump scheduled ancient monument. Clearly, many of the factors which led to the refusal of Pelham Spring Solar Farm are also relevant to Berden Hall Solar Farm

72% of the proposal Site is Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land and it would take 177 acres of farmland out of food production for at least 40 years. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has recently changed (December 2023) to give greater importance to Best and Most Versatile land in order to safeguard domestic food production and protect national food security

Beside being close to The Crump ringwork, the site is also close to St Nicholas Church Berden, a Grade I listed building and Berden Hall, a Grade II* listed building

A number of public rights of way (PROWs) would be impacted including several very well-used footpaths

The Applicant, Statera, have failed to produce “compelling evidence” to justify the selection of the Site Statera. They did not perform a proper site selection exercise such an exercise when selecting the proposal site for a large-scale industrial-style development on land currently used for food production, which is contrary to ENV5 of the LP.

Yours Sincerely

John and Wendy Riddell

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