

From: Deborah Patrick [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2024 17:40
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Solar Farm - Land at Berden Hall Farm, Ginns Road, Berden, S62A/22/0006.

I strongly OBJECT to this project for the following reasons.

I am a great supporter of renewable energy having installed rooftop solar and insulation to my property in support of carbon reduction. Solar energy is indeed very important but this development plan is in the wrong place.

AND — It is an outrageous notion to say that heritage buildings will not be affected by the building of this enormous solar farm development in a very small rural part of Essex. The stipulation that there is no harm to heritage buildings is erroneous. Standing in a part of high ground in Berden one would be able to see The Crump (listed building and scheduled monument) in one direction and in another direction a view of the solar farm. Standing in a lower part of Berden, one can see the Grade 2* Norman Church and Grade 2* Berden Hall. Because the land on which the solar farm will be installed is 'rising' there is no possibility of shielding the view either from buildings or from the roadside. The development will materially industrialise the countryside and contravene the NPPF regulations.

The land in question is 'countryside' between two very rural villages. Statera state that the development is not 'invasive or permanent'. But the fact is it will hugely impact on local residents who will have sight of this project 24/7 for 40 years - half of someone's expected lifetime - certainly not a temporary period as Statera indicate. There is no possibility whatsoever (unless the developer plants 20ft high evergreen trees immediately) that this development can be screened from nearby properties or the roadside in Berden and Stocking Pelham.

Wildlife will be hugely affected.

Current footpaths will be modified such they will no longer be pleasant or possible to use for local people to enjoy. Governments and officials are constantly encouraging us all to take exercise and enjoy the countryside for our mental status and well being - if this development is approved; there will be no local countryside to enjoy between the villages of Berden and Stocking Pelham.

Food security is paramount. More so in January 2023 now that we have unrest in the middle east. Our government MUST protect our fertile farmland for growing food to negate food insecurity.

Statera spend many words in their application justifying the other projects which have been approved advising the reader of many developments which will contribute towards renewable energy. This is even more reason why the small amount of 'countryside' linking two villages should be protected. (It should be noted here that Berden Hall and the development land no longer have any connection).

Statera have failed to justify looking at alternative sites, wasteland etc, thereby contravening policy ENV5.

CPRE indicate that if Government were to legislate for compulsory roof top Solar then half the need for renewable energy in the UK could be met.

Government should insist that all new buildings are inclusive of new developments in solar material, walls, rooftops etc, thereby assisting toward the renewable energy required.

Statera should look to invest in wind turbines - one single North Sea wind turbine provides the same amount of renewable energy as does 200 acres of much needed precious farmland.

The planning refusal by the Inspectorate for the nearby Pelham Solar farm should be noted in this instance - the same processes should apply as the same heritage buildings and countryside landscape are affected.

Within the next 40 years many reports published by successive governments will change radically as our requirements for renewal and sustainable energy gain momentum. We have only to note how fast each Government report published is changing as to what and how we will reach net zero. In 2023 the UK Government increased offshore wind planned by 2030 to 50GW, and has a pipeline of offshore wind power schemes of 100GW. Technology will change rapidly such any solar panel installed today will rapidly become obsolete (it must be noted that a solar panel farm is only 11 percent efficient). Statera doesn't mention this risk. Meanwhile we MUST protect our heritage buildings, our fertile farmland for food production and what little countryside we have left.

We must PROTECT our prime fertile farmland and prevent solar farms being installed in the wrong place with inefficient, hard to hide, solar panels which will soon become outdated.

We must PROTECT the character and appearance of our limited landscape in which important heritage buildings lie and whose character will be destroyed if a 177 acre solar farm were to be installed in this location.

I write to request that you please REJECT THIS PROPOSAL for the reasons above,

Deborah Patrick

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