

From: Jo van Riemsdijk [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2024 15:23
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Berden Hall Solar Farm - additional information regarding noise

Dear Sirs

I am writing with further reference to the Berden Hall Solar Farm proposal – which is in very close proximity to my home – [REDACTED].

I have previously referred to the issue of noise and the potential impact on local residents in Stocking Pelham to further noise producing collateral in the local area. Protect the Pelhams and Stocking Pelham Parish Council commissioned RBA Acoustics to undertake our own noise assessment report in relation to how noise is likely to impact the local area should this (and indeed other proposals under consideration) be given permission. I attach the report for your reference and ask that you take into consideration its content.

The issue of noise (particularly low frequency noise) has been highlighted by Environmental Health and neighbours of being of significant concern. During the planning meeting held by Mr Shringley the issue of noise was discussed and Uttlesford Environmental Health made several arguments as to how this could well be a real problem for local residents. I would encourage you to view the footage of that meeting specifically relating to the noise issues. At [REDACTED] and with our near neighbours – we are already blighted by the low frequency hum from the Statera battery and also substation. The concern of other noise producing collateral and developments in close proximity to the village of Stocking Pelham is very worrying. Uttlesford EHO during the meeting said that the ONLY way that low frequency noise could be mitigated would be to cover the noise producing equipment with concrete structures. This would undermine the temporary nature of the development and also add to the industrial impact on such a rural environment. It would also bring into further question exactly how sustainable this development actually is!

RBA Acoustics in their report highlight several areas of concern with the noise assessment produced by the applicants acoustic report. For example, they reference the fact that multiple receptors in Stocking Pelham were not even identified as potentially affected or even as noise receptors in their assessment. 'This is deemed to be a significant oversight in RPS assessment given that many of these receptors are located closer to the proposed invertors and transformers'.

Other areas of concern are highlighted below:

The following key areas of concern have been identified relating to the Berden Hall development:

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This report has outlined that there are a number of issues with the assessments and the enforcement of acoustic mitigation measures such that resulting noise from the now-approved and constructed Pelham Substation is causing disturbance to some residents in Stocking Pelham.

It is recommended that, the issue of noise disturbance is only likely to get worse with future applications, unless serious consideration is given to the concerns raised by the relevant EHOs and those listed in the above tables.

I would urge you please to take into consideration the noise assessment data given in this report and assess the impact that this will have on local residents – particularly those in Stocking Pelham who appear to be unimportant in every way to the applicant to not even have been considered as affected.

I implore you to please to refuse permission of this wholly inappropriate development in this particular location. The local area is already affected by the substation and Statera battery (which should be decommissioned as it will fail to comply with measures required now in relation to safety such as water provision and access set out by the National Fire Chiefs Council). To allow this development to go ahead will prevent neighbouring residents of the quiet enjoyment of their homes and gardens not just during construction but also in the development's lifetime.

Solar Farms are not silent!!

Kind regards

Jo van Riemsdijk