

## **LAND AT BERDEN HALL FARM DEWES GREEN ROAD BERDEN – REF. S62A/22/0006**

Whilst being very firmly in favour of renewable energy and recognising the urgent need for us all to move away from a life style that relies too much on the burning of fossil fuels, we cannot see any sense in using Best and Most Versatile farmland for such, primarily, profit making ventures, such as this proposal, in any part of the United Kingdom.

There is no doubt to us that this venture, and the many nationwide proposals like it, have little to do with repairing the environment but much more to do with profit making by already wealthy landowners and seeking good returns for share holders in the various developing companies.

It is beyond our understanding that by now Government has not legislated to ensure that all new housing and commercial developments are duty bound to include as much self sufficient energy as possible. With regard to housing, whether it is just one property or one thousand homes, all should be required to have solar panels as standard as part of the planning approval process. Not only would this protect our valuable farmland but it would make people more aware of the need to protect our environment and, moreover, it would create jobs and enhance the solar industry.

We think we all recognise now how vulnerable worldwide food and transport lines have become as a result of the hideous wars in Eastern Europe and the Middle East and the developing shipping crises in the Red Sea. We, in the U.K., can never be self sufficient with regard to food and other essentials but we could do more, not less, to look after ourselves and other less fortunate countries, than we would be able to if all these numerous applications for solar farms, throughout the U.K. were permitted to be approved.

We have read extensively the proposals for the solar developments which are threatening the country side in this area and, somewhere, we have read that in this particular case it is being stated, by probably the developer, that the land in this instance is only used for growing animal feed. We do not believe this to be the case but even if it were accurate would it not be best if we produce our own home grown fodder rather than, for example, importing soya from South America at the expense of the shrinking Amazon jungle and the burning of fossil fuel as a result of bringing it across the Atlantic?

One last thing before we close: The developers, Statera, have chosen to call this site Berden Hall Farm and state that it is sited in Dewes Green Road. Berden Hall Farm is a private residence in the middle of the village of Berden and the site is not in Dewes Green Road at all. Nor is it associated in any way, apart from historically, to the grade two listed Berden Hall, a completely different property from Berden Hall Farm, that will have the misfortune to overlook the much of the site.

Past experience, relating to Statera's existing development of a battery facility, has caused us to be very suspicious of their intentions. This battery storage facility is technically within Berden, Essex, where it sits along the county boundary, but it is much closer to homes in Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire.

**We, and the vast majority of the people living in Berden and Stocking Pelham, are very much against these community damaging proposals.**

**John & Bronwen Burton,** [REDACTED]

**6 January 2024**

