

My name is John Arnell. I have lived in Berden for over 50 years.

There is no technical need to connect a solar farm directly to the national grid. Solar farms of this size can be connected to the high voltage network. A solar farm which is more than 4 kilometres away from the point of connection remains financially viable. The recently approved 40 megawatt solar farm at Cutlers Green in Thaxted illustrates this point.

Government policy promotes the generation of renewable energy on rooftops. This is evident from recent changes to permitted development rights in relation to rooftop solar on commercial buildings.

A recent report by CPRE confirms that installing solar panels on rooftops and car parks could generate up to fifty gigawatts of energy thereby contributing more than half of the national target for solar energy.

Recent changes to the NPPF confirm that the Government now places increased emphasis on the use of BMV land for food production. National Policy Statement EN 3 also stresses the need to avoid the use of BMV land. The applicant has given no consideration to using poorer quality land which can be found in abundance to the South, West and East of Uttlesford.

This development will provide no benefit to the local community. The reverse is true. The community will lose the benefit of the views across open countryside which can be enjoyed from footpaths that cross the site.

According to the applicant, its development will produce enough electricity to power 15,200 homes. On this basis, one MW of installed capacity can power 304 houses. Uttlesford has already approved 203 megawatts of ground mounted solar. This is more than any other local authority in Essex. Based on the applicant's calculations, this is enough to power 66,700 homes - but in 2021 Uttlesford had only 38,700 homes. [] Uttlesford does not need more ground mounted solar.

The temporary nature of the Proposal should also be given no weight. I refer you to the comments of Mr Parker who refused Pelham Spring solar farm. He notes that 40 years is a considerable length of time for the solar arrays to be present. Given this duration Mr Parker

concludes that the proposed development would be seen as permanent feature rather than as temporary. Based on the recently recovered appeal in relation to a solar farm at Gayton, Northampton it is evident that the Minister agrees with this view.

Please refuse this application

