

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Fw: You are registered to have your say about Longfield Solar Farm
Date: 15 May 2022 19:51:42
Attachments: [ExA Submission from SCA ref revised timetable.docx](#)

Ref 20031074

Please find attached sent from the SCA.

Prof Mike Alder

Chair

Submission from the Solar Campaign Alliance regarding Sunnica's request for a revised timetable

Dear Examining Authority,

Thank you for seeking views on Sunnica's recent request for a delay to the Preliminary Meeting date to mid-July 2022 and our thoughts on their proposed timetable to consult on the amendments outlined in their letter dated 28 April 2022.

On behalf of the Solar Campaign Alliance, I have read the delay request submitted by the applicant and the changes they are seeking to make. We have the following comments:

- 1) We were surprised to learn that Sunnica have not secured a viable Grid connection, despite submitting their DCO application in November 2021. During the statutory consultation residents had been led to believe that 'Option 1' (building the substation extension within the boundary of the existing substation at Burwell) was the preferred option and we had thought this had been agreed with National Grid. It seems this was not the case. This preferred connection option is no longer viable. We consider it most unusual that such a fundamental part of the scheme was not secured prior to the application being finalised and submitted to the planning inspectorate for examination.
- 2) Since this is unfortunately not the case, it appears that Sunnica are seeking a delay to the Preliminary Meeting and subsequent examination so that they can assess a new location for the Grid extension within the Sunnica West A site. As yet, the technical viability of this new location is unknown. I am not convinced that Sunnica is in a position to propose a revised timetable, since it would seem that a considerable amount of work is required in order to assess and secure this as an option.
- 3) I consider that a delay is necessary to address the current lack of a viable Grid connection. It would not be fair to proceed further to the next stage whilst the scheme is still in flux. Any representations made now will be based on information that we know will be subject to significant change, which would be highly unsatisfactory and unfair to local residents. In my experience, the Examination timetable is rather rapid and would not enable a fair and timely assessment of significant changes to the scheme.
- 4) As for Sunnica's suggested timetable and suggestion of a mid-July Preliminary Meeting, this would appear rather optimistic to conduct all of the specified activities. I do not believe that the suggested timeframe would allow adequate time for local residents to engage with the process. Further, I consider that holding the Preliminary Meeting and examination during the summer holiday period will inevitably prejudice residents and limit their ability to participate fully in the consultation and examination process.

Many thanks for your consideration.