

Our community has already endured several housing developments in this area and has seen farmland disappear due to this. The scale of this scheme (2,792 acres) is unprecedented in Europe. Our communities are small and will be swallowed up. We value our green space for obvious health and wildlife reasons and have done so for decades. Our roads are already congested, and this scheme will require 2 years of continual HGV traffic (180) carrying abnormal loads, thus creating road blockages and diversions. Baring in mind that these roads are rural and not designed for use of sustained HGV traffic. That in addition to 685 smaller vehicles and over 1,000 staff/workers that will be commuting daily, further impacting our village services.

I understand that lithium-ion batteries 6m high will be installed approximately 1 mile from schools nearby. These batteries are a fire risk and there is no reassurance regarding the safety aspect of these.

I am also concerned about the destruction of wildlife habitat which seems counter productive. Sunnica has stated in their proposal that some protected wildlife may need to be moved. I do not want to see anymore habitat destroyed. As we know, the impact of such devastation also has a profound effect on the environment.

Another important issue surrounds mental health. Currently we have views of farmland and animals across our county and for these to disappear will have an impact on increasing mental health issues, especially as we will have returned to some form of normality following the pandemic. As we know, an appreciation of the countryside can have a positive effect.

I would like to add that I feel that Sunnica wants to use our area as a 'host' for their experiment which has no guarantees of a positive outcome and no direct benefits to the local community, in fact the complete opposite.

This is a small community. All these villages are in close proximity of each other and our rural roads are regularly used for commuting. One particular village (Freckenham) will be surrounded from all sides. Following several housing developments in the area we have seen increased traffic and congestion. The impact of the energy farm will be unthinkable as we try to commute our way to work or school. These roads are especially not designed for sustained HGV use.

We value our green space for obvious health and wildlife reasons and have done so for decades. These are farming communities and lots of wildlife habitat which would be impacted by such a scheme.

It is also my understanding that the solar panels would be situated within inches of private residences and back gardens, using every available green space.

This would require 180 HGVs commuting in and out on a daily basis in additional to 685 smaller vehicles impacting on a small community that is already congested and overstretched. Digging deep into the ground would have a heavy impact on the environment and surrounding country side, severely changing the landscape and requiring the removal of protected wildlife, as Sunnica has stated in their proposal. We would effectively be living within a building site and lastly within a solar farm which is unacceptable.

I am concerned about the destruction of wildlife habitat which seems counter-productive. Our countryside is home to deer, foxes, squirrels, rabbits, hares and badgers, amongst others, which can currently roam our fields. Hedgerows are also important for this. As we know, the impact of such devastation also has a profound effect on the environment.

The installation will consist of inverters, transformers and switchgear for each solar station. Not to mention endless amount of cables going underground. How is this environmentally friendly? This will also be worrying for any potential house buyers, therefore will have a damaging impact on house prices in our area.

This is aside from the major disruption that will inevitable be caused as we try to go about our daily lives. The impact of HGV traffic on our roads and surrounding areas will become a danger to other road users.

The life expectancy of this scheme is a life time for some people, therefore you could say that our

countryside would be lost to this scheme and the farming communities we rely on.

When asked about recycling, Sunnica were not in favour of it for various reasons such as cost and storage, which is another concern for the environment. Disruption for decommissioning will be the same as for installation, and there will further impact on wildlife, habitats and local residents, assuming removal happens. We will be left with a solar graveyard.

There are so many alternatives to the Sunnica Solar Farm, such as covering the unused roofs of commercial property with solar panels. A recent study suggested that covering 61 per cent of the UK's south-facing commercial roofs with solar PV could provide all the energy needed for UK businesses, while saving medium-sized and larger enterprises at least £30,000 a year on their energy bills? It would also reduce the need to cover our green fields with solar farms.

The roof panels not only provide clean energy for the hosting company saving them on average around £20,000 a year, but it also provides the council with an income.

The roof of Unisurge International in Newmarket which manufactures and supplies the NHS with medical procedure packs and theatre products, had over 1,600 solar panels installed on the warehouse roof.

West Suffolk Councils now support 31 organisations through its solar for business scheme, and this currently generates £125,000 per year to support council services, and provides financial and environmental benefits to all involved. Indeed schemes like this, plus the Toggam Solar Farm 2 miles away from Lakenheath, have made sure that the council has a carbon neutral status. But Sunnica will not provide direct benefits to the local community.

The Sunnica proposal is completely inappropriately sited, does not give proper weight to environmental considerations such as landscape and visual impact, heritage and local amenity, and little opportunity has been given for local communities to influence decisions that affect us.