

Dear Sirs,

I represent R F Tilbrook & Sons. I am Senior Partner. We are farmers who have farmed at La Hogue Farm since 1953. I have lived at [REDACTED].

I wish to express my strongest and deepest objections to the proposed scheme, to build a Solar Farm over my land and the surrounding area.

Firstly, the scheme is far too big, covering large areas of prime farmland. Since Brexit, we should be producing more food for our nation and we should be less reliant on imports from abroad. This simply will not be possible if the land is covered with Solar panels.

I understand that the Contractor's main compound is to be sited immediately opposite the main entrance to La Hogue Farm. This is a working farm with many vehicle movements at different times of the year. As well as serving the farm, the drive serves La Hogue Farm Shop and Cafe. This is a very popular and thriving business. On a daily basis, it is visited by a numerous and large cross section of the general public, including young mothers with their very small children, strapped into their cars and an elderly clientele, whose driving skills are on the wane. This is a disaster waiting to happen.

La Hogue Road, that serves the farm and the Farm Shop, is a very small by road, without any white lines or road markings. As it is, at the moment, it is just possible for two cars to pass with great care. It is totally unsuitable for large vehicles, especially those used by a construction company. Again, another disaster waiting to happen.

I understand that a Battery Storage unit and possibly a Substation would be sited within a few hundred yards from our farm. This is totally unacceptable. Not only would it be extremely unsightly but should there be an explosion or malfunction of any kind, my home and those of my two daughters [REDACTED] would be directly affected by any toxic fallout.

I understand that the Substation is being considered because Sunnica have totally miscalculated how much electricity this scheme might generate. Because of the extra costs incurred to build it, the scheme will have to run indefinitely, not for the forty years that we were led to believe at the beginning. A long term planning gain through the back door?

The land where the contractor intends to establish the main compound will never be fit to return to agricultural land after they have finished because of all the pollution from accidental oil discharges, human excrement and the concrete which will have to be laid, to support the offices and vehicles, during the contract.

I understand Solar panels are notoriously inefficient at generating electricity because of our uncertain climate. This last Summer, during the hottest days, they were unable to function. Obviously, no electricity can be generated on dull days, of which there are many. Solar panels are made from toxic chemicals that are difficult to recycle, once their lives are over.

I totally understand that we should be looking at renewable energy. However, I am of the opinion that more imaginative ways to generate electricity should be considered, like placing Solar panels on the rooftops of Supermarkets and Industrial buildings who, after all, use vast quantities of electricity and leave us Farmers to feed the nation, as we always have.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Yours sincerely,
Heather Tilbrook