

Discover Newmarket is the official tourism organisation and runs a series of guided tours and experiences, showcasing the home of British Horseracing.

As the tourism manager of Discover Newmarket, my concerns are with regard to the impact of the Sunnica Energy Farm on our organisation and the knock-on effect for the area and the local economy.

Newmarket has been the international epicentre of horseracing for over 350 years, and the land associated with the industry has always been protected, even during wartime, when most recreational land was ploughed for agriculture. There has been no significant threat to this treasured land until now.

Many of our guided tours include a visit to the hallowed gallops where we take visitors to see the early morning spectacle of some of the 3,000 horses in training exercise. The Sunnica Energy Farm is set to build a huge site just across from one of these training grounds, the Limekilns which is a gallop renowned for its world famous morning skyline view of the area. As a result, this vista, which visitors travel miles to see will be blighted by solar panels. Views such as these are what makes our area unique.

Tourism in the Newmarket and surrounding area will no doubt suffer if this solar farm is allowed to be built. It will have a serious knock-on effect on the local visitor economy which will affect numerous tourism related businesses in the area which rely on the horseracing industry to succeed.