

I would like to put forward my views on the sunnica energy farm

The areas that will be filled with solar panels are very beautiful fields, undisturbed by development, where I like to go on long walks with my family. If Sunnica is built, the calming nature of these fields will be ruined and I highly doubt we will be allowed to walk in these areas at all. This will heavily disrupt our lifestyle and routine as an active family.

I very strongly object to the proposal of the battery energy storage compounds due to the risk of toxic fumes emitted in the case of a wildfire. The fact that east Anglia has almost half the recorded rainfall of the UK average means that it is one of the most risky places in the UK to install battery energy storage compounds due to the dryness. If these are installed, I will not feel safe in this area because of this (they are actually banned in Arizona for this reason). It just doesn't make any sense to me. From what I have seen these compounds look incredibly ugly and industrial too.

This scheme is being planned on entirely greenfield areas, considering how little food the UK is self sufficient with, this would make it even worse. It also makes no sense to me because solar panels can be put on brownfield sites or even roofs which uses up far less of our country's precious space. The loss of farmland in the UK may contribute to rising food prices due to oil required to import food (and due to the planet's situation with biodiversity and climate change we also cannot afford to chop down any more of our woodlands to make farmland.)

I am not affected by the compulsory land acquisition but I feel it is highly unethical that farmers should be forced to give up their land to development. On the whole Sunnica would be unfair to the local residents and landowners. I have been told that Sunnica Ltd is a Spanish company and none of the employment will be local. If true, this is basically other people (who aren't being forced to live in the power plant) earning (stealing?) money off where we live.

I am also concerned about possible noise and dust (air) pollution.

I am very worried about the potential damage there could be on our wildlife. I do not trust that enough effort has been made to ensure this will have a minimal impact on our wildlife. For instance, I know there are some endangered species living in this area.

Calculations show that Sunnica will create more carbon emissions than it will ever save. I feel that any renewable energy schemes must have calculations that mean they will cause more good than harm – otherwise they are no better than the greedy and destructive oil and coal industries. I also think as a country we should have more emphasis on reducing our energy demand in the first place.

What will happen to the solar panels when they stop working? Will they be recycled? Or will they be thrown in landfill or dumped in the environment?

Overall, I am opposed to the proposition of Sunnica. I would much rather it was built on already developed land and if the current land must be changed due to our situation with the climate and oil costs, I would much rather it were turned into a nature reserve - a balanced ecosystem is a very effective carbon sink... or regenerative agriculture - applying techniques such as minimal soil disturbance (tilling soil releases CO₂) mixing crop species (making it more difficult for “pests” to target crops), and generally regenerative agriculture need less input from machinery (reducing our oil demand)... or even perhaps orchards because they require less machinery use but are still as productive as an annual crop. They also soak up more carbon. what about nut orchards? ... Or perhaps a sustainable source of biomass to heat people’s homes (such as a sustainably managed woodland).

I must also mention that recent circumstances (covid-19, energy crisis) have made it very convenient for the planning authorities to not listen to residents’ views as much as they should.

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