

# Written Representation

## Unique Reference # 20030350

I am a resident of Worlington and have been for the last 26 years. Whilst in general I support renewable energy, I strongly object to this application by Sunnica for the following reasons.

**1. Size.**

This is truly an industrial scale project that is far too big. It would use about 2,500 acres of greenfield land in total.

**2. Location & Visual Impact.**

This area in rural Suffolk has multiple villages that provide residents and others with scenic views across open landscapes. The visual impact of what I believe to be over 100,000 solar panels at about 2.5 metres high, security fencing, BESS and Sub Stations (even greater in height) is literally soul destroying and will cause many people stress and anxiety.

**3. Food Security.**

The UK imports about 40% of the total food consumed. We need to make the UK more self-sufficient with food. The war in Ukraine has surely highlighted this. These lands are supplying both arable and/or livestock food and should continue to do so for future generations.

**4. Construction Transportation routes.**

The additional traffic, especially HGV's, the noise and the pollution from a project of this scale will affect me, and many others badly living in Worlington. This being part of the route for the construction transportation etc to Sunnica's East Site A. Also, the Newmarket Road from the A11 to Worlington is a 'C' classed road which is narrow and with no central road markings. I understand Sunnica even want to use the Golf Links road which is hardly wide enough for two cars to pass.

I understand the unclassified road U6006 off Elms Road (known to us locals as Green Lane or Badlingham Lane) will be used by Sunnica's construction transportation. If so, the characteristics of this tranquil route used by walkers, dog walkers, horse riders would be destroyed, I presume at least to the northern tip of Sunnica's area E13. Myself and my family have regularly walked Green Lane with our various dogs from the Newmarket Road end to Elms Road for the last 26 years.

Surely, if local land owners have agreed for Sunnica to site their Solar Panels on their land, then routes across farmland for all construction traffic etc should be used, not Green Lane (U6006), aka Badlingham Lane, whose characteristics at least to E13 (north) would be destroyed.

Green Lane (U6006), aka Badlingham Lane is also mentioned under County Wildlife Sites (CWS) on the following page.

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### 5. County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

There are over 900 CWS's in Suffolk. Four of which are within the Parish of Worlington. Of these four, two are within 'The Order Limits' of Sunnica's application.

The first site, known as Worlington Heath is located in an area designated by Sunnica as 'Native Grassland Planting'. This lowland heathland (Priority habitat) has priority species included within Suffolk's Rare Plant Register. Please seek information from 'suffolkwildlifetrust.org' for full information of this CWS. It is imperative that this CWS remains undisturbed and protected.

The second site, known as Badlingham Lane CWS is a section of Green Lane (U6006). The verges along this section of Badlingham Lane (U6006) support a species-rich flora characteristic of a Breckland habitat including a plant which is listed as near threatened within Suffolk's Rare Plant Register. The southern end of this Badlingham Lane CWS is very close to where solar panels are to be sited, which I believe would put this CWS at risk from any construction traffic etc. Again, please seek information from 'suffolkwildlifetrust.org' for full information of this CWS. It is imperative that this CWS remains undisturbed and protected.

### 6. Safety of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

The energy storage capabilities of the proposed BESS on the three proposed sites are extremely worrying. **It is a scientific fact that energy can neither be created or destroyed.** Of course it can be converted from one form of energy to another. As such, in the event of these Li-ion based BESS systems exploding and / or catching fire, then energy and poisonous gases may well escape into the atmosphere of local residents and beyond. The more energy they store, the more energy that can potentially be uncontrollably dissipated to the detriment of humans, animals and wildlife in general. Based on Sunnica's own maps, within a radius of just 2km from their proposed BESS sites, multiple villages, including schools could face the fall out of vast amounts of energy in the form of toxic fumes being dissipated into their atmospheres.

The proposed BESS system with E18 / E19 of Sunnica's East Site B is only about 700 metres from the Traveller's Site off Elm's Road which has many children. I truly believe the 'jury is still out' when it comes to the fundamental safety of Li-ion based BESS systems.

### 7. Carbon neutral

The reason I object to this application under this heading is that I believe Sunnica have **not** provided all the facts about how carbon neutral this scheme is likely to be over its lifetime. This point really needs clarification by Sunnica.

### 8. House Pricing

I am not sure if this applies in this written representation, but there appears to be no financial considerations to the negative impact on housing prices for those properties in the locality should Sunnica's application be granted. Should this application be approved, many homeowners will inevitably have the value of their properties reduced. Some homeowners may even experience negative equity on their properties. Will Sunnica be liable for this? Is there any recourse against Sunnica on this?

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In summary, renewable energies such as solar have their place and should be used. But not on an industrial scale in an area of rural Suffolk that has so many villages in close proximity to Sunnica's proposed scheme and especially because of safety concerns relating to the Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Chris Hall  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2022