

I am a 25 year old who is very concerned about the state of our climate, however I believe IN logic and reason in addressing climate concerns. Huge solar schemes such as Sunnica, taking large amounts of high performing arable land is not the answer. There are specific provisions set out by the government to avoid good arable land being taken out of production for these infrastructure projects, and I believe this strongly applies to the Sunnica application. With increasing concerns over food security with the war in Ukraine and the unpredictable weather, land such as that in East Anglia is ever more important. Our local area is able to grow high yields of many varieties of crops, this would not be possible if the land was as poor as Sunnica suggests. We have potatoes, onions, Sugar Beet, Parsnips and carrots all growing around the area.

This application is made up of four isolated sites due to many local farmers not wishing to engage in such a scheme. This scheme, therefore, spans two counties, effects two towns, 10 villages and impacts thousands of peoples homes and livelihoods. The countryside we all love will change irrevocably and the ability for people to enjoy the area in which we live will diminish. Many people live in the area to take advantage of the countryside, I personally run, cycle, horse ride and take my dogs on long walks around the pretty bridleways and footpaths. These healthy and mindful activities would not be possible if you are have large fences and Solar panels flanking the ways, all enjoyment will be lost. What is even more alarming and heartbreaking is the timeframe, by the time Sunnica is decommissioned I will be in my late 60's so this area I have grown up in and loved will be lost for a majority of my active lifetime. Furthermore, once completed, this scheme will not be returned to arable land, it will become a brownfield site and lost to the community forever.

The impact of this scheme goes so much further than just the loss of beautiful and productive countryside, housing prices will decrease , local businesses will move away and wildlife will be lost forever. Many people will move away from the area, few people will move to live here. I am a keen rider and I know a number of people who will move their horses from the area because of the damage Sunnica will cause.

There is also a large amount of concern about the instability of the huge Battery Energy Storage sites that will be located close to peoples homes. These lithium ion batteries can be unstable and release toxic fumes if they catch on fire. The 77 acres of batteries will be capable of storing far more energy than the solar panels could produce. These batteries will be used

by the scheme to trade energy with the National Grid, buying and storing energy in the day when it is at its cheapest and profiting off the increased demand in the evening. This does not require sacrificing huge amounts of very productive arable land for private profits. Batteries should be close to the National Grid connection not 15 miles away. Significant losses of electricity occur if you are dragging electricity backwards and forwards over 15 miles.

I strongly oppose this scheme. If allowed to go ahead, it will set a dangerous precedent for a small number of land owners to plunge our beautiful countryside into vast solar projects, with the sole objective of making money from batteries. Sunnica is too big and inappropriately placed.