

I am a local resident writing to object as strongly as I possibly can to the Sunnica scheme.

I am not opposed to solar energy but this is an entirely inappropriate proposal based on its size and location. It is a vast scheme which weaves fields of solar panels through 7 villages and includes 3 vast battery sites. It horseshoes around our home in Badlingham.

I moved out of London deliberately to live in the countryside. I am bringing up 3 children here: I and my family walk, ride horses, jog and ride bikes and will see the solar panels in every direction we go in. Obviously seeing farmland is a pleasure every day and what I enjoy on my outings from my desk. Our closest bridle path off Elms Road will be utterly ruined by having solar panels on both left and right and we certainly wouldn't be happy or safe to ride horses in the event of panels coming. I have always seen vegetables growing (rotated with pigs) all year round. Walking in this area I meet up with friends from Freckenham and Worlington to walk our dogs and our linking routes would be ruined. I also walk on the Links bridlepath just out of Snailwell where a lot of us often meet up to enjoy the unique views north of Newmarket over the gallops and down to the racecourse.

Right handed away from our house we would also have one of the three battery energy storage systems with substation at the end of our lane. At up to 10 meters tall there is no way that any landscaping will help to disguise this installation as anything but an enormous industrial site.

Covering farmland with solar panels would be a strong contradiction to two of the most pressing issues of our current times - firstly our need to be producing home grown crops and secondly that we are working towards becoming carbon neutral. All the proposed acres for the solar panel sites are currently farmed in a vegetable rotation and I understand there is no possible way that this vast scheme (with battery storage systems) can be built and maintained and remain carbon neutral.

The roads around us are all narrow and cars have to slow down to pass one another - if there is a lorry or any large vehicle we have to slow often to a standstill in order to pass by. At the end of our lane is Elms Road which is one of the roads sited for all the lorries to come in off the A11 for Sunnica East site A and Site B. This would include the building of the BESS on Site B. Based on figures for lorry movements Sunnica have given so far to construct these sites it is unimaginable how it can be proposed that hundreds of large vehicles can use Elms road and the small Worlington village roads beyond every day for more than 2 years.

There has been no indication of how the panels will then be maintained to their maximum efficiency not to mention the decommissioning. This is obviously also making us all very upset and untrusting of the scheme. Currently we are a rural community of small villages just out of Newmarket, famously home of the racehorse and just south of the Fens farmland which will then be left as brownfield site for development. Driving in the area the scheme feels even more endless in that it is split in to 4 sections. This has clearly come about as Sunnica have failed to find a continuous area of willing landowners. We farm at Badlingham in the middle of this link but based on the amount of unhappiness there was immediately we declined to be part of such a vastly inappropriate scheme. We have however been informed that we will be forced to have the energy cable running through our fields. I find this utterly distressing.

I and so many others feel very nervous and so upset that this totally misplaced scheme has been proposed. There is absolutely no local benefits or consolations for our houses losing value and countryside being significantly compromised, farmland being misused and views ruined. How can a scheme so vast (the largest in Britain by so far) be proposed in a rural community with villages all around. No scheme this large should ever take up farmland - solar should be primarily

on industrial roof space as in Germany. If Britain wants to advance with solar it should at least keep up with the wiser developments on the continent. Please don't let this happen.