

Written Representation concerning Sunnica Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm Project

Unique Reference: 20030053

We have now lived in Worlington on [REDACTED] for more than six years.

In that time we have enjoyed an abundance of wildlife on the fields behind our property.

We have seen many migratory birds including goldeneye ducks, Egyptian geese, and lapwings.

We have also seen stone curlews nesting in the same fields and have been mesmerised by the diversity of species on our doorstep. Many birds of prey dine on the small mammal's that proliferate on the high quality farmland. (Kestrels, red kites, buzzards).

In the last 3 years we have also walked these fields rather than just looking from a distance. Again there has been a great variety of animals on view, with hares and rabbits predominating- which is apparently a sign of good, productive farm land- as well as deer and foxes.

All of this is under threat from the industrial sized solar plant planned for so many acres of good, fertile productive land. We've seen potatoes, maize, onions, wheat and sugar beet to name but a few of the crops grown. At a time when our food security is so poor it seems madness to take so much productive farmland out of commission, and with prices rising by the minute and so much concern about food miles and the environment generally, it is difficult to understand how this industrial sized plant can be allowed to put so much at risk.

The construction of the site will completely disrupt and disperse wildlife- most of which will not return as the security fences and lighting that will surround the site will keep them out. The peaceful and idyllic picture of sheep grazing will completely alter the face and nature of the land and change the bio verse currently in place.

The construction will also disturb, disrupt and destroy the topsoil and with no plan by Sunnica about how the land will be returned, it is unlikely to ever be productive farmland in the future- near or far.

Solar panels go out of date very quickly and therefore will be redundant far quicker than the projected 40 year life that Sunnica were purporting in their very unsatisfactory consultation. (Where incidentally we literally had no voice or right of reply as we were all muted).

And so we come to the battery storage systems. Repeatedly Sunnica have brushed aside concerns about the battery storage systems they intend to use to store electricity.

I recently manned a stand at a local event last year and spoke with a former fire health and safety officer. His expert view was that the battery storage alone should prevent this

project from being approved. The gases in the event of a fire (and there have been many such examples) are lethal if inhaled, literally melting bones from the inside and causing much suffering before a painful death. The amount of storage planned is huge, it will be adjacent to the main East Anglian Road artery (A11) and less than a mile from two primary schools, and close to both Red Lodge and Worlington villages. To insult to injury most of the planned storage will not be for solar generated power, but electricity drawn down from the grid overnight at cheap rates and sold back to the grid at much higher prices during the day; whilst they are entitled to make money, they are a business, they seem to be more about that, than producing green energy.

Further away from the fields adjacent to our property there is the risk to the river Lark. One of only a few natural chalk rivers. Again this has a great variety of wildlife with swans, ducks, kingfishers, migratory geese all using the river, not least because of the clear, clean water, abundance of fish and insects. In the summer dragonflies abound as do bees and other pollinators. There is a great concern that there will be toxic run off during construction, that will alter the natural balance permanently and destroy the current biodiversity of the river.

So all in all I would urge you not to approve this project which will drastically alter the nature of this area. An alternative and better idea would be to place more panels on rooftops- whether industrial or domestic- and generate local green energy that can better benefit the local area and its residents, as this plant will in no way benefit those it will most affect.

Yours

Mark and Cecelia Hawley

Worlington residents