

We moved to Isleham in 2004 from a village on the outskirts of Cambridge, we moved here for a number of reasons but mainly because we wanted to be in a rural community where we could enjoy the countryside and breathe healthier air as both myself and my son [REDACTED] and all the building work and traffic around us was making us ill.

We enjoyed watching the changing seasons in the fields and the variety of crops grown here throughout the year. We buy our fruit and veg from local producers and our meat from the village farm and butchers. We love being part of the local community, always take part in Farm Sunday and enjoy eating a picnic watching the tractors in the fields trying to work out what they are planting, potatoes, maize, sugar beet etc. My husband and I both teach [REDACTED].

As dog owners and cyclists we have made great use of the local areas and public right of ways, especially between here and Red Lodge where my mother currently lives. We often cycle there to visit her and my father who [REDACTED]. Our grandsons live nearby and are also [REDACTED] and so we thought we were in the ideal location.

Since Covid I have shifted the focus of my teaching and now use my dog as part of my teaching. I am also working with local students who have mental health issues and anxiety so are struggling to leave the house or attend school, we aim to get them out of the house and into the local nature reserves and walking along the Public Right of Ways (PROW). Once we get them outside, we can work on getting them back into school.

Then the Sunnica plan happened! There was a lack of consultation, the webinars were not very helpful, I asked questions, but they were ignored. There were not at times that most of us who work could attend. Those who struggle with technology were not able to attend which effectively excluded the elderly, those without laptops and the children affected by this which will greatly affect them growing up and into their adult lives. We returned the questionnaire from their booklet to Sunnica with our objections in plenty of time, but they were sent back in the January saying that they arrived too late! That was untrue! How many others had theirs returned or ignored.

Because of this proposal our whole world has come crashing down. If it goes ahead our beautiful countryside will become an industrial landscape. The wonderful views and fields that we moved here for will be gone forever. In 40 years' time it will not be returned to what we see now but will be polluted land only fit for industrial units, possibly housing? This is good quality farmland necessary for food security, we should be protecting our farmland not removing it from use. Where will we produce the food we need and our children to survive?

If we were to continue to live here there would be no escaping the solar farm. We live in an elevated area here in Isleham and so not amount of hedging to mask it from the road would work here. Sunnica have said it will take up to 15 years for the to begin to be effective subjecting us to industrial views from the start of the project for the rest of our lives.

All we will see as far as the eye can go will be solar panels or giant batteries. Add to that the pollution and disruption of building this from the large number of trucks needed to make this thing happen and the pollution will be far more than when we were living in Great Shelford. Our health will sadly decline, I understand [REDACTED] that there are a lot of people living in this area with asthma so the impact could be huge.

I have looked into moving away but the plan is having an impact on the value of our properties already. Our homes will be worthless once this is built. People condemned to living in an industrial landscape where once we grew food. What use will the PROW's be if this is allowed to go ahead?

Who will want to walk among these giant panels and fields of giant batteries? What about the chalk aquifers that provides our water to drink and chalk streams that will be polluted by the runoff? Sunnica admits there will be pollution but have deemed it 'acceptable' we already know that there assessment of the grade of land is not accurate, how can we accept that this report is accurate and that it won't be damaging to our health? How is this proposal carbon neutral? These panels and the batteries will not be able to be recycled but will cause our children to have to deal with another environmental disaster.

Who is going to want to move here and live in a powerplant? What are the health implications for those of us that have to live so close to the solar farm? What about the danger to life from the giant batteries in such close proximity to our homes and schools? The safety hazards are well known, there is insufficient legislation classifying a giant battery the same as a phone battery when we have seen the devastation if one of these catches light and the suppression units are totally ineffective. Despite all of these genuine concerns we have been given almost no information so that we can assess the impact this will have on our land and our lives? and who will compensate us for the loss of property values, productive farmland, jobs and loss of business?

We already have 15 solar farms near here and we are not against solar, they are situated well away from residences and generally out of sight but this proposal is too big and totally wrong for this area. The only ones of an equivalent size are in the Arizona desert and the Spanish Steppes, a long way away from the local population. and all new properties seem to have solar panels on them, I understand that if we were to put solar panels on the roof of 60% of industrial buildings facing south then there wouldn't be any need to touch another field. We need to protect our planet and our children's future including their ability to grow their own food. Please do not let this inappropriate plan gain approval what is the use of energy if you cannot grow enough food to survive.

Sam Lee-McCloud