

Sunnica Written Representation

Fiona Maxwell, Resident of Chippenham

Interested Party Number: 20031317

I write to express my concerns about the proposed Sunnica Energy Scheme.

The Inspectorate will be familiar with many of the arguments opposing this scheme. For me, the most important issues are:

1. The blight that of the view from the Limekilns and Waterhall. These are precious training grounds and the outlook has remained virtually unchanged for hundreds of years. The continued health of the horse racing industry is potentially damaged by this blight as these are the very grounds to which investors and owners flock from all over the world. My interest stems from Waterhall being in Chippenham Parish, and my family working in the racing industry.

Many areas of the proposed Sunnica scheme will be ruin the local landscape. With the life of the scheme expected to be 40 years, this is not a 'temporary' use of the land. It is more than a generation and it is unlikely that the land will ever be returned to its former glory.

2. The safety risk posed by the large BESS which form a significant part of the scheme. Battery safety is coming under increasing scrutiny, as more and more battery fires are reported. These fires are impossible to put out, require evacuation of surrounding areas and huge amounts of water to control, which is then contaminated and goes on to contaminate the ground.
3. The misuse of good agricultural land. Sunnica have insisted that most of the land affected is not best and most versatile land (BMV). This is challenged by those who farm this land, and those of us who live here are used to seeing this land producing a variety and abundance of crops. It is telling that Sunnica have not allowed any independent assessment of the quality of the land. In a time of increasing food insecurity, it seems madness to take this much land out of food production.
4. The unsuitability of the road infrastructure during the construction period. Most access roads are small B roads, routing through villages.
5. This scheme will not contribute Net Zero. Mining the minerals, manufacturing the parts, transporting across the world, build and running on site and decommissioning at the end of the scheme's life (solar panels and batteries) will all contribute more carbon into the atmosphere than the scheme saves. I believe this is called 'greenwashing'. I also share concerns that the parts will be sourced from China, where most solar panels are made by Uyghar slave or forced labour. Buying and importing goods that have been manufactured in such circumstances is illegal.

In summary, this scheme promises much harm to our landscape, agriculture, safety, and peaceful enjoyment of our ancient countryside. There is no benefit for local residents but plenty of money to be made by the operators.