

I fully endorse the comments made by Parish Councils at the open floor hearings but have two investigative requests along with submitting comments I made at the hearing:

Sunnica's nod to human health is cursory and only sufficient to meet minimum process yet this is a vast first for UK scheme with grid scale batteries and I request that the EXA satisfies itself of the two following points:

Sunnica be made to evidence proper two-way engagement with PCN that demonstrates discussion has taken place on the mental health needs over construction and the longer term. How these will be supported and resources in the event of catastrophe. (Sunnica has failed to identify a key primary care surgery in Soham serving 3 villages)

Secondly, that with their internationally connections they provide desk research on impact on human health of other commissioned mega-schemes elsewhere in the world. Specifically indicating to you, proximity of designs to residential settlements

My submission:

Health and wellbeing policy and strategy nationally and locally is built on maintaining resilient communities to support mental health - this is broadly underpinned UK-wide by encouraging practices such as;

- **connecting with others**
- **connecting with nature,**
- **community led participation.**

All currently exist here and make it the place I chose for my family to live, for me to support and to invest in emotionally and practically.

This scheme presents significant harm to all three principles:

- **The poor design dissecting our connectivity, and with physical structures for many years**
 - **Changing the natural appearance and access to nature of the area long term – 40years - beyond my lifetime**
 - **Disrupting our community cohesion, possibly irrevocably**
- We are socially inter-connected villages, not small, isolated settlements. For example, I regularly enjoy meeting people on Snailwell dog walk (Icknield way) often my source of finding out what's happening in the town, via Park Farm track to Snailwell to my grandchildren or the George & Dragon. I choose to go Fordham across the Fen, to enjoy my nature-fix and meet friends for example, however I walk on the road to get to the fen entrance. I also look after [REDACTED] [REDACTED] traveling frequently via Elms road and Worlington, sometimes with an urgent need. Construction will impact on driving and longer term the paths will look drastically changed, nature "moved elsewhere" and paths open by permission, not law.
 - Last Friday community participation excelled, volunteers fundraising almost £5k to the upkeep of our Grade 1 listed Church –preserving our heritage. This event in its 12th year brings people from across the villages and beyond, it could be harmed - construction will deter visitors travelling here, with loss of funds. If we take a break, we will not be able to re-establish the event. Our punters will have gone elsewhere, as they say! This building provides peaceful refuge to locals and visitors and a shared history.
 - Nearest amenities may actually be in the next village, they are valuable point of contact with other people - Fordham & Isleham Co-ops, Kennet Post Office, La hogue shop and café. Our Five Churches are one Three Rivers group -shared services, socials, music in any one venue. Poor mental health can be both isolating without contact opportunity, and some (as we've heard) will be isolated by fear of construction and catastrophic change.

- The distinction between physical and visual contact with nature is equally important as stated in landscape planning AND mental health research.
Looking across the open fields for example, to Freckenham I see buildings, a neighbourhood and Red Lodge natural wooded landscape. The Snailwell-Chippenham avenue of trees, lifts my heart as I have watched it grow over the last 30 years.
We have an established visual connectivity with our near villages, **giving us our sense of place and belonging which helps mentally ground us.**
- It should be noted that the avenue of trees will be interrupted by a gateway into the power plant – impacting this natural treasure
- My own wellbeing is preserved by my after-work cycle, not far, but I watch the changing seasons and food crops, the ploughing, the sowing. My best wildlife delight to blow the cobwebs away is catching hares boxing in the corn.

I have no doubt that Sunnica will harm our mental health (we have stories that it has already) – our open views obliterated by acres of panels above horizon height. The majority of **routes** in and out of each village will be disrupted by construction and flanked long term by 35miles 2m high deer fence.

I fear, after two years of being encouraged, indeed mandated, to get outdoors for my wellbeing, that Sunnica will shut us off from our countryside, we will be looking at industrialisation and no longer the nature and unique aspects of this particular area that help to sustain our mental health and wellbeing.