

APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR THE PROPOSED SUNNICA ENERGY FARM PROJECT (APPLICATION REFERENCE: EN010106)

NOTIFICATION OF ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARINGS AND COMPULSORY ACQUISITION HEARINGS UNDER SECTIONS 91, 92 and 94 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND RULE 13(6) INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

Notice is hereby given that the following hearings will be held by the Examining Authority for the examination of the application made by Sunnica Limited of 2 Crossways Business Centre, Bicester Road, Kingswood, Aylesbury, HP18 0RA ("the Applicant") for a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008 for the Sunnica Energy Farm Project ("the Application"). The Application was made to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) under sections 14(1)(a), 15(2) and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 on 18 November 2021 and was accepted for examination on 16 December 2021 (Application Reference: EN010106). The Examining Authority was appointed on 8 March 2022 to examine the Application and the Preliminary Meeting was held on 28 September 2022. The Examination is due to close by 28 March 2023. After the Examination has closed, the Examining Authority will submit a report to the Secretary of State who will then make the decision on whether or not to grant the development consent order. The hearings will be held as indicated below:

Date	Hearing	Start Time	Venue and joining details
Tuesday 14 February 2023 (morning)	Resumed Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	Seating available at venue from: 9:00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 Hearing starts: 10:00	Blended event at: Bedford Lodge Hotel, 11 Bury Road, Newmarket Suffolk CB8 7BX and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered
Tuesday 14 February 2023 (afternoon)	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2)	Seating available at venue from: 13:00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 13:00 Hearing starts: 14:00	Blended event at: Bedford Lodge Hotel, 11 Bury Road, Newmarket Suffolk CB8 7BX and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to

			those who have pre-registered
Thursday 16 February 2023	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) – Environmental Matters to include: Landscape, historic environment, visual and in-combination impacts; draft Development Consent Order; Traffic and transport.	Seating available at venue from: 9:00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 Hearing starts: 10:00	Blended event at: King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8JP and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Friday 17 February 2023 (morning)	Resumption of Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) – to include: Landscape, historic environment, visual and in-combination impacts; draft Development Consent Order; Traffic and transport.	Seating available at venue from: 9:00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 Hearing starts: 10:00	Blended event at: King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8JP and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published by the Planning Inspectorate as soon as practicable on the Sunnica Energy Farm project webpage - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/Eastern/Sunnica-Energy-Farm/> providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel.

To find out how to register to participate in the above hearings and for further details please see The Planning Inspectorate's Sunnica Energy Farm projects webpage: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/Eastern/Sunnica-Energy-Farm/>

The Planning Inspectorate's case team can be contacted on:

sunnica@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

0303 444 5000

If you wish to make oral representations at the hearings, please contact the Planning Inspectorate Case Team using the details above.

Summary of the Project

The Application is for development consent to construct, operate, maintain and decommission ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panel arrays, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and supporting infrastructure, which together comprise Sunnica Energy Farm (or “the Scheme”).

The proposed Sunnica Energy Farm is located in West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire and would be situated across four sites:

- Sunnica East Site A which is located approximately 0.5 kilometres (km) south-east of the village of Isleham, 0.6km south-west of the village of West Row and 3.5km west of the town of Mildenhall;
- Sunnica East Site B which is located immediately south of the village of Worlington, approximately 1km east of the village of Freckenham and 1.5km south-west of the town of Mildenhall;
- Sunnica West Site A which is located immediately north of the A14 at Newmarket and approximately 0.3km east of the village of Snailwell, 1km south of the village of Chippenham and 1km west of the village of Kennett; and
- Sunnica West Site B which is approximately 0.5km north of the village of Snailwell; 1.4km south of the village of Fordham and 2km south west of the village of Chippenham.

The Scheme will be connected to the existing Burwell National Grid Substation, using cables buried underground. The cables will run between Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B and Sunnica West Site A (Grid Connection Route A), and then from Sunnica West Site A to Sunnica West B and onwards to the Burwell National Grid Substation (Grid Connection Route B). The cables will connect the Scheme to the existing Burwell National Grid Substation to allow distribution to the national transmission network

An application to change the Application was made on 13 January 2023. The changes include:

1. Change 1 – Removal of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 2 from the Application.
2. Change 2 – Removal of Sunnica West Site B.
3. Change 3 – Inclusion of additional archaeological offset areas.
4. Change 4 – Removal of Cable Route Access L.

A decision will shortly be made by the Examining Authority whether to accept that application. The application will, if accepted, see changes to the description of the Scheme. These changes are summarised in the application which will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/?ipcsection=docs>

A map showing the location of Sunnica Energy Farm can be viewed on the National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010106/EN010106-001879-SEF_ES_6.3_Figure%201-1%20Scheme%20Location.pdf

Environmental Impact Assessment Development:

The proposed works are environmental impact assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and accordingly an environmental statement accompanies the Application.

Application form and accompanying documents:

The application form and the accompanying documents, plans and environmental statement (ES) and Non-technical Summary (NTS) ("Application Documents") can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Sunnica Energy Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the documents tab: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/?ipcsection=docs>

The Application Documents will be available to view online at least until the Secretary of State makes its decision whether or not to grant the Development Consent Order.

If you require a copy of the Application Documents to be supplied on a USB stick, this can be provided free of charge (one USB stick per household). Please use the contact details for the Applicant below to request for this to be provided.

If you have any questions about the Application Documents, you can email info@sunnica.co.uk, write to FAO Sunnica Ltd, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL, or contact the Applicant by telephone on 0808 168 7925.

The Application Documents can be supplied in hard copy format on request at a cost of:

- Consultation Report, Planning Statement and Statement of Need - £537.42;
- Environmental Statement Report Volumes 1-3 - £1,259.38; and
- Total cost for all documents (including files, covers and spines) - £4,570.44.

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