

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Sunnica planning application EN010106 -Objection
Date: 24 March 2023 17:58:35
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

I am submitting the following points as an in objection to the Sunnica application.

Yours Sincerely

Bruce Knight

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission from Bruce Knight, Unique Reference: 20030522

I have a life long career in agricultural technologies and farming developments both in employment and as a consultant. I have objected to the proposed development from Sunnica as it is making inappropriate use of versatile and good quality agricultural land. I also fully support the objections put forward by Reading Agricultural Consultants and the Action Group.

In my objection to the Sunnica development submitted in November 2022 I presented some data on the crops grown in the areas of land covered in the Sunnica application based on the annual Defra Basic Payment Scheme returns. This showed that root crops or vegetables were grown on 23% of the area in 2019, 35% in 2020 and 30% in 2021 (*For convenience the original data submitted is attached*). Such crops would not be grown on low quality land. Indeed Natural England data indicates that on 80% of the total area, at least 60% of the area is categorised as 'Best and Most Versatile (BMV)' land, or around 50% of the total area. It is therefore very misleading that the soil survey data referred to in support of the Sunnica application indicates that only 37 hectares of BMV are present on the 981 hectare area.

The need for the UK to produce more electric power from renewable sources is clear but the United Kingdom has many regions where such a surface area of solar panels could be sited without using productive crop land in the country's prime agricultural region.

On a global scale the UK is a relatively minor producer of food, feed and energy crops. It is therefore essential that its agricultural and farming industry is able to build on its high reputation and skills in maintaining and enhancing high yields and quality of produce. According to the World Economic Forum: "Sustainable agricultural practices must triple in order to prevent climate change." The agricultural industry has enough challenges ahead without losing important areas of land for non-agricultural purposes.

Crop code	Area sqm	CROP	Ha
AC66	2347182.936	Winter Wheat	235
AC44	1704100.749	Potatoes	170
AC03	1431445.634	Beet	143
PG01	1372779.595	Grass	137
AC17	796852.7828	Maize	80
AC63	664775.5455	Winter Barley	66
AC01	606142.8628	Spring Barley	61
FA01	500439.0676	Fallow	50
AC68	356968.1508	Rye/Triticale	36
TC01	268498.8862	Permament	27
LG07	211334.4393	Peas	21
NA01	72070.95007	Non Agricultural	7
LG20	61554.91761	Winter Beans	6
LG03	34906.20006	Spring Beans	3
WO12	34014.95365	Trees	3
WA00	8313.756	Water	<1
AC67	8313.756	Winter OSR	<1
AC16	8313.744	Linseed	<1

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